

## Lifejacket lockers

The RNLI have been installing lifejacket lockers in the West Country. At Buckler's Hard they have eight lockers, each able to take four lifejackets. The aim is to encourage people to wear lifejackets until they are fully ashore but then not to have the problem of what to do with them when they go to a restaurant or other attraction. Presumably they could be used to hold other valuables as well.

## Show dates

The Northern Boat Show in Liverpool is to change to a four day format and run over May 25-28th to tie in with the Mersey River Festival, Tall Ships Liverpool and start of the Biscay Tall Ships Regatta, also including canoe polo and stand up paddleboarding. The Western Boat Show over Jul 20-22 will tie in with Bristol Harbour Festival. Liverpool attracted over 200,000 visitors to this year's show and Bristol regularly draws 250,000.



Nick Grundy

*This canoe was photographed about 1898 at Raby Mere on the Wirral. Its builder was Reginald Grundy, who lived at Colne in Lancashire and was to be one of the founding fathers of the Inland Waterways Association. Any information on the design, materials or other aspects of the canoe would be appreciated.*

## Inflatable pontoon

Do you ever have problems transferring between dry land or a large floating vessel and the water. Getting between a mothership and a sea kayak in a swell can be fraught with difficulties. The situation can be made somewhat easier by using an eight man inflatable paddleboard as a floating pontoon to move between the two.



## Occasionally correct

Over the years there have been many unsuccessful attempts to define the difference between canoes and kayaks, such as birchbark/sealskin, sitting/kneeling, single/double paddle. There is always someone who spoils it by using a double blade while seated in what is apparently a canoe, using a single blade in a kayak, sails it or turns up with a wave ski, a dragon boat, an International Canoe, a sit on top, a paddleboard, a squirt boat, an outrigger, a sailing catamaran or something equally outrageous which defies the definition. Perhaps no definition is less accurate than the Collins one online of Canoeist as 'A canoeist is someone who is skilled at racing and performing tests of skill in a canoe.'

## Foggy Phillips

Mark Phillips, better known as Foggy, has died at 56 of the rare sporadic CJD. A Royal Marines paddler, he won the DW Race in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997 mostly with Richard Lewis, taking 2nd place in 2002. His best time of 15:42 was only 8 minutes off the record and has still been beaten only four times. He was also awarded the MBE.



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## Tony Bushell

Tony Bushell has died from a rare form of cancer. He was an early member of the BDA, helping to form Winchester Dragons and then Notts Anaconda. At various times he was on the BDA executive, a helm, a race official, a coach, an event organizer and a party animal. Son Mike follows in his father's footsteps in dragon boat racing.