

# INCIDENT FILE

## Hypothermic swimmer needed support canoe

An open canoe accompanying two men on a 5km swim in the upper Thames in October for charity was needed when one suffered from hypothermia. The 60 year old was pulled into the canoe with assistance from his colleague but had to be airlifted to hospital after becoming unconscious. The pair were surprised at the coldness of the water. They raised £1,000 for a nursing home but the emergency evacuation and hospital stay took the shine off their achievement.

## Award for young rescuer

15 year old Gareth Farrow has received the St John Wales' Young Lifesaver of the Year Award. He was one of a group on the River Rheidol when Joe Newbold became pinned on a weir. Gareth got a

throwline to him but he was gradually forced below the surface. Gareth then gave rescue breaths below the surface until the group finally freed Joe. Gareth had recently attended a St John Ambulance first aid course and a Canolfan Tryweryn River Safety Day. This experience, taken with his quick thinking, undoubtedly saved Joe's life.

## Ship may have hit sea paddler

3km off Rye, police recovered the body of a 42 year old paddler from Sandgate in September. His boat was recovered further east between Dungeness and Folkestone. The coastguard suspected from his injuries and the boat damage that he had been hit by a ship. Sea conditions were calm, if a bit murky. The victim was still wearing a spraycover over his drysuit.

## Paddler drowned on Calder weir

A paddler from Leeds was drowned on the Calder at the beginning of March and his three colleagues suffered hypothermia. They were using an early slalom kayak and three inflatables on a day when all the rivers in the area were running well. The Calder weirs are often V'ed the wrong way with bricked in ends, making escape difficult. The weir in question was not one of the bigger ones. It is suggested by local paddlers that there could easily have been more fatalities in the circumstances.

# Byde your time

I had a shock of recognition this very morning. You know all about my dedication to the notion of keeping unwanted water out of kayaks? Much good it did me but it was lively. Recently, a new acquaintance in NZ has been pressing me to revisit my records.

Over a year ago I fitted a solar water heating system to this house, strictly against Govt edict that none but qualified and registered electricians and plumbers may do that. I was a radio mechanic in Royal Signals 1947 to 1949. I have some knowledge of high energy power and I've plumbed several houses.

A problem developed and is continuing. In the early morning the panels suffer from condensation which appears as silvery dew on the inside of the glass and that reflects energy. It seems that this is widespread in NZ. The life of this system, a good one, should be 15 to 25 years. It looks as if it lasts 5 years I'll be lucky.

The panels act as slow motion pumps to balance pressure, air out

during warm days and air in during cool night. Night air is damp. This accumulates in the base insulation layer which here is rock wool which collects and retains unwanted water. Volume of air transfer is around 4 litres per panel on my roof.

I made this connection an hour ago! My bloody doom. I am on this Earth in this life to pursue unwanted water and get rid of it from volumes that ought to be dry.

A chance conversation last week revealed to me that what the panels need is dry air, not moisture laden night air. Where does one find warm and dry air? In the roof space immediately below the panels. Sealed panels bar one 15mm connection to a pipe to the air inside the roof is all that is needed. The executive officer of the Solar Industries Association in NZ has invited me to write up my system for his association to discuss. Déjà bleedin' vu, mate. Been there, done that.

**Alan Byde**

## Memories to share?

Do any of the trips you have done deserve a larger readership than your club newsletter alone can give? More space? More coloured pictures? We are pleased to hear from those who wish to share memories of their trips with others.

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