

LMC Kayaking Meet
2nd – 4th August 2019

The first LMC kayaking meet for a very long time took place in August. Around a dozen members, young and old, based themselves at Cae Ysgubor for a couple of days paddling on the estuaries at Porthmadog.

The Meet Leaders had begged, borrowed, ferried, inflated and loaned an impressive array of boats, from sleek sea kayaks, white-water kayaks, inflatable kayaks, sit-upon kayaks and Canadian Canoes. After allocating crews to the various craft, we found that we even had a spare boat!

The tides were good – very high in the middle of the day – and the weather was mostly kind, with not much wind, some sunshine and only a short interval of rain. Day One (Saturday) was spent getting used to being on the water and exploring the rocks, caves and the island in the Glaslyn estuary. (The Glaslyn is the river that flows past Cae Ysgubor). Lots of fun was had, nobody fell in and we had a picnic on Ballast Island in Porthmadog harbour. In the evening there was a barbecue at Cae Ysgubor whilst people became aware of muscles that don't usually get such hard use wielding paddles.

Sunday was 'expedition day' and we left the slipway at Borth-y-Gest on the incoming tide and used this to help us across to the other river that joins the sea near Porthmadog – the Dwyryd that starts near Blaenau Ffestiniog. The voyage took us past the iconic village of Portmeirion to the remote uninhabited island called Ynys Gifftan. From there we threaded the tidal channels up to the road & rail crossing at Briwet Bridge for a rainy picnic! The drama of the day was the deflating of the inflatable kayak – with the Lenehan family on board! An emergency stop on a sandbank was required – the sinking boat was rolled up and placed on a sit-on kayak whilst the family was re-distributed amongst the other boats!

Cunningly we used the outgoing tide to take us back to Borth-y-Gest and a hard-earned cup of tea before heading home.

Thanks to all those who loaned us boats! It was an excellent weekend that we may repeat next year!

David Medcalf & Cathy Woodhead



