

## **Oozing the Little Ouse**

2016 Year end eve's paddle on the Little Ouse:

To mark the end of 2016 we paddled on the lovely Little Ouse River in Thetford which is a perfect paddle for any paddler. Non-paddlers will think it's a crazy idea to go paddling in the freezing cold but for a paddler it's worth it! There were around 27 paddlers in kayaks and canoes from Deben Canoe Club and Sudbury Club.

We drove for around an hour to get to Thetford from Tim's house in foggy weather.



The starting point of the kayaking was amazing.



Now the as usual stuff of getting the boats down and getting ready for this amazing paddle.

Tim and Mike getting the boats down.



And Mike and Wayne gearing up.



Now we are all set for the paddle. Or not. Some people are still missing as the car shuttle has not completed yet. So after a further wait of 15 mins everyone is here.



The Little Ouse is a calm river and you will see lots of grass from the water and trees in the river which have been left to slow the flow, but there is space to allow paddlers to paddle past. After paddling for two and half hours, we stopped for lunch. The Sudbury club people kindly offered us chocolates. You need that energy after the paddling.

There was a seal launching ramp, which was tried by Sudbury club people, and Tim from our club tried it twice, which was an epic failure (His handmade boat was not made for the seal launch, which we find out later on.) I wanted to try the seal launch also, but could not overcome my aim of staying dry👤. On the way we find 3 footballs which we collected for playing session.

Around 2pm we ended the paddle at Santon Downham. But still a lot of work to be done. Again un gearing yourself and getting the boats back on cars, tied on so they cannot come off on the drive home.

Kindly enough Tim drives us (Vikas, Mike and Wayne) back home.

I always learn a lot on these paddles to different rivers, as I meet different people and learn different techniques not just about paddling but about life also.

I am always afraid of going paddling in winter, but after every trip I feel I would have regretted If I did not come.

I am so glad I came and ended 2016 on the Little Ouse.

Vikas