HELLO AND WELCOME TO OUR LAST NEWSLETTER OF 2022. As I write this, the ground remains frozen and there seems no end to the cold weather. It was -7 at the centre on Thursday for our maintenance session and the water main was frozen solid! It seems such a long time ago that we were experiencing record temperatures and we were desperate for a bit of shade!



Throughout 2022 our paddle sports sessions during the week, sailing sessions at the weekend and kids clubs proved as popular as ever, especially with the lovely weather over the summer. At times the river was as warm as the Caribbean!

Although we are now closed for the winter, we are still busy behind the scenes with maintenance tasks being carried out on the boats and the buildings as well as planning our activity calendar for 2023. Keep a watch on our Facebook page and our website in the New Year for more details on our planned activities. Do book early to avoid disappointment as sessions often get booked on day of release.

None of this would be possible without the support of our small team of volunteers. Some of whom you will be familiar with – Syd and Katherine on the paddle sports team and Bob, Andy and Matt on the sailing team, and some you will not. These behind the scenes teams include the maintenance team who attend the site on a regular basis and look after the equipment, buildings and grounds, the trustee team who oversee the activities at the centre and our social media and accounts volunteers who look after these important areas for us.



You may not be aware but Medway Council are now running a weekly lottery with cash prizes. 50% of all funds raised are ploughed back into local charities. It would be fantastic if more people could sign up for the chance to win cash prizes and nominate Medway Watersports to receive a percentage of the ticket sales. To find out more and to sign up, please visit [www.medwaylottery.co.uk](http://www.medwaylottery.co.uk) Please help if you are able – even £2 a week makes a real difference to our operation and helps us get more kids out onto the water.



As we replace kit, sometimes we are able to offer items for sale. Currently we have a boat and trailer up for sale at the centre. The Pevensey is an ideal fishing boat or family boat for trips on the Medway. Offered with a trailer and in good overall condition, this is a great opportunity for someone looking for a strong, well built boat. It just needs an outboard engine and you are ready to go. For more details / photos or to arrange a viewing, please contact me via e mail at [centre.principal@medwaywatersports.co.uk](mailto:centre.principal@medwaywatersports.co.uk) Every penny raised from the sale will be used to purchase newer sailing craft.



Do you enjoy paddle sports or sailing? Are you experienced in bushcraft and outdoor activities. Are you able to provide a few hours on an ad hoc basis? Would you like to help other people get onto the water, or enjoy land based activities safely and enjoyably? In return would you like to gain some professional qualifications as an instructor or instructor’s assistant? If so, please contact me via e mail at [centre.principal@medwaywatersports.co.uk](mailto:centre.principal@medwaywatersports.co.uk) as we are always looking for more volunteers to expand the number of days per week that we are able to open to the public.



A plea for help! Do you have any old tools that you no longer need? We are always on the look out for spanners, screwdrivers, drills, painting and woodworking kit. Collection can be arranged, or items can be dropped off with prior agreement at the centre. If you can help, please contact me via e mail at [centre.principal@medwaywatersports.co.uk](mailto:centre.principal@medwaywatersports.co.uk)

That’s it for 2022. I would like to finish by saying thank you to you all for supporting us this year and to the local companies that also help us by providing expertise, equipment or discounts on goods. The list isn’t exhaustive, but special thanks go this year to Oast Commercials, Pirates Cave Chandlery, Gillingham Marina, Crown Decorating Centre and Jubilee Clips. Without their support it simply wouldn’t have been possible to do everything that we have done.

Let’s hope that 2023 brings fair winds and calm seas and gives many more people the opportunity to enjoy time on the River Medway. Until then, on behalf of my fellow trustees and our team of volunteers, I wish you all the best for the festive season and a happy, healthy and safe 2023.

Pete Snowdon

Centre Principal

