

Skiff rowing update:

The St Ayles Skiff: Chanonry Maid has been socially rowed regularly this season with sessions on most Wednesday evenings; daylight and weather permitting. Further occasional sessions have been held on the weekends (including Grenville's Memorial Sail), and in preparation for racing. Credit due to all the boat preparation and TLC done in advance of the season, and to Richard Cherry for oar design and manufacture (they are working just fine). Richard Jenner kindly ran two days of Shore based training oriented at skiff related activities. It is great to see that over the season a number of new rowers have joined and have been participating.

Back in August the Maid competed at Shieldaig regatta; five races, each of about 2km distance around Shieldaig Island. The weather was wet (apparently not as wet as 2015) and sometimes windy. Available crew allowed us to compete in four of the five races: Men's decades, Mixed open, Women's open and Men's open. Overall we came 6th out of 9 teams, which is three places better than in 2015. Thanks to Mairi McLeod for organising our participation in this event and Richard and Helen Cherry for towing the boat to and from the West coast.

On 1st October the Maid was one of 14 teams to compete at the Avoch regatta; a series of 11 races most over a 1.5km course with a shared buoy turn. The weather conditions were perfect, flat water, no wind. The Maid was the first boat on the water having been rowed down from Fortrose. Available crew limited our participation to 4 of the 11 races; our best placed performance was in the open mixed category where we were 7th out of 12 boats, we beat Wick in this race which is something we hadn't managed at Shieldaig. We should also perhaps mention that we loaned Tomos Dargie to the Cockenzie & Port Seton boat for the Under 19 mixed where he picked up a bronze medal. Thanks to Suz Henderson for organising our participation in this event.

Mairi McLeod who has put huge effort into supporting rowing activities over the last couple of years has moved to Stirling to further her studies, but is promising to put in appearances, especially for regattas.

Done socially or for racing rowing is the ultimate full-body workout, and the superb progress on the build of our second skiff means there will be plenty of opportunity for some more adventurous social rowing and racing too, so please feel free to come along and give it a try, and put the word out to folk in the community that might like to give it a try.

James Dargie