

Canoe Sailing Outriggers

By Jay Bryan

Those of you that know me will know my interest in canoes and canoesailing. For many years I sailed a double kayak without outriggers, without ever capsizing; then it happened, in the Lakes.

I did not like it one bit. I had thought of making outriggers before, but now I had to do so; so I set to work. I made two big triangular shaped floats 4 ft long with 13 inch sides and they did the job well, 5ft out from the canoe.

Now we move on ten years. I canoed down the River Thames in nine days. I could not fit all my camping kit in the double kayak, so I got a Canadian canoe, which was also bigger. The outriggers were too big for this canoe, so I needed a new setup. The new outriggers were a lot smaller: I tested them with a trip up the canal, and they worked very well, although the pine arms were bending a bit.

My brother has a canalside cottage near Burscough. I launched the canoe in Halsal and paddle sailed (motor sailing) up; not much wind, but when it did it was great. I got there in 3 hours.



And "Is this a spinnaker that I see before me?"
(with apologies to Shakespeare; Macbeth, Act II, Scene 1 (slightly adapted))

No wonder the canoe needs outriggers!







Out on the canal.

*This is my dad arriving at John and Gail's after
a four hour trip up the Leeds and Liverpool canal.
This was a test for the outriggers, which worked very well .*