

This meet was a real eye-opener to me. For one thing the warden is obviously on good terms with the weather god because he'd arranged more or less wall to wall sunshine. For me too, to meet up and chat old friends was good and therapeutic.

Gary's description of the social side of the meet is bang on. I've got to admit that I had the wrong idea of what the Kayaking part of Kayaking Capers was like. It was one that I'd assumed for the most part that the paddlers sort of paddled around in circles, getting in each other's way, bumping in to rocks and running aground and that also didn't involve deep water. This anything but how it is. As a non- Kayaker (at the moment) it seems to me that those on the water treat the sea with a great deal of respect, their gear is in good shape and they watch out for each other. Gary is the lead in these and is very experienced in both planning and executing the routes. This planning has all the elements that good navigation in mountains require. Good judgement, knowledge of weather, accurate navigation and map reading skills, recognising risk etc. Catering as well for all abilities and ages. Then there's taking account time, tides, sea currents. And they do have fun, It's got me looking around for a kayak.

I'd want to express a big thank you to Dave and (the real hut warden) Sara for their kindness and consideration in arranging sleeping berths for six year old granddaughter Sophie on her first ARCC meet. Also, thanks Tom for swapping your bottom bunk for my top one. And to all those friends old and newer many of whom I've not seen much of lately and who made me feel most welcome. Cheers. Mick Mc govern.