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ENTHUSIASTS from around the world descended on Lihou for the first Guernsey Kayaking Symposium.

People from France, Wales and Jersey spent the weekend in and around the island perfecting their skills.

The event was organised by Lihou Island caretaker Richard Curtis and Kevin Mansell, who organises the European Sea Kayaking Symposium in Jersey. Brian Aplin, who has just become regional coaching organiser in Guernsey, said the event had been a success.

'This is an organisation of people who are some of the foremost sea kayakers just making sure everybody can join in and do it safely,' he said.

'Richard Curtis and myself took them out to the Hanois lighthouse and round the island, which was like our personal marathon.

'Some just sat watching the Lihou Island seal, some people have been fishing and others have just enjoyed being on Lihou.'

The island was cut off most of the weekend by the neap tide, which meant that the kayakers had the island to themselves. Mr Mansell said that the Jersey version had been going

Visiting kayakers love Lihou



Jersey kayakers, like Keith Pyman, outnumbered locals at the symposium.

(Picture by Peter Frankland, 0834710)

every two years since 1992. 'In Jersey we are up to 120 people from all over the world,' he said. 'What we really like about here is that it's a small island. Everything's in one place.

Because the numbers are limited it's more personal.' He was disappointed that there were so few people from Guernsey taking part – there were more from Jersey. Keith Pyman, 65, had come

from there with his friend, Tony Paintin, 58, for the weekend. 'It's been brilliant,' Mr Pyman said. Mr Paintin added: 'I think the staff and instruction have been

brilliant. They are so highly qualified. Kevin is one of the best in Britain.' Both said they would like to come back for the next one, which Mr Mansell hoped would be in 2011.