



# PPCA Newsletter August 2019

*Bumper Holiday Edition*



## Introduction

Welcome to August's Newsletter. This month, we have some important membership news from Adam, some Health and Safety information from Mark and news of a trip from Joy. Elsewhere, we have a report on the beach cleanup, the fiction section seems to be taking on a life of its own and Clive takes us on the second part of his peregrinations in Northern Britain.

## Editorial

In what is fast becoming a tradition, the August edition is a bumper holiday special. This means that you will have ample quality reading material to help you while away those lazy hours sitting by the pool sipping exotic cocktails. Alternatively, you can print it out, roll it into little balls and use it to light the barbecue. The choice is yours.

Ivor Jones

Newsletter Editor

## Next Committee Meeting

Please forward any items you would like considered at the next committee meeting to [secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk). They will go to the secretary.

## Next Edition

There is no specific deadline as such for contributions but please bear in mind my general sloth and indolence and let me have anything time-sensitive well in advance.

## Contributions

Please send any contributions to [newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk)

## Acknowledgements

The cover photographers for August are, as ever - Joy, Debbie, Tracy and Terry "King of the Jellyfish" Calcott. Does anyone else ever take photos?

### Members' Shed Protocols by Mark Upton, Health and Safety Officer and Adam Coulson

There have been a couple of problems in the member's shed which, as you may have noticed, is now full to capacity. A major concern for the club is the Health and Safety of our members and so for everybody's benefit please read and follow these notices from Health and Safety Officer Mark Upton.

#### **Moving the Canoe/Sea Kayak Trolley**

- 1) Prior to moving ensure ALL canoes and sea kayaks are secured.
- 2) Check area and floor for obstructions.
- 3) Check that no one is stood in the way.
- 4) Immediately prior to moving the trolley make a loud verbal warning of "Moving Trolley"
- 5) On one corner push the trolley in the desired direction using the horizontal support strut and NOT the canoes or kayaks.
- 6) On the same side but opposite corner do the same. Again prior to moving make the verbal warning "Moving Trolley"
- 7) On completion move the trolley back between the yellow lines using the above instructions.
- 8) Please ask for assistance from other club members to ensure people do not get in the way whilst the trolley is being moved.

#### **Changing in the Members' Shed**

The Club requires that nobody should be changing in the club sheds.

This policy is even more valid now that the members shed has less room after the recent changes to increase the storage capacity.

If you are not a member of the Mount Batten Centre please change by your car or in the courtyard. You are respectfully reminded that minors may be present and to change discreetly.

This is also a good time to remind you what good value Mount Batten Centre membership is. Free parking, a nice hot shower and kit rinsed off is well worth the fee especially in the colder months.

### A Message from Your membership Secretary by Adam Coulson

The change whereby members now pay their Mountbatten affiliate membership separately is working well. This saves the club a considerable amount of administration and gives Mountbatten certain benefits also.

However, there have been a few problems with regards to the dates of renewal. I have asked Mountbatten that these are all set to the end of the month in which your club membership is due. I am waiting to hear back at the time of writing but would recommend that members talk to reception at Mountbatten when they receive their PPCA Membership renewal notice (at the start of the same month). My MB membership expired in the middle of July, not when I was expecting. This can result in the issuing of parking notices (not what you want arriving through the post). They will cancel these but better to avoid the hassle. I did not receive a reminder, although I am told they are sent. If you do renew early make sure that your membership runs through to the end of the month in the following year. I will endeavour to keep you posted with any further information from Mountbatten.

The current Mountbatten affiliate membership rates are:

Junior - £45

Adult - £74

Senior - £45

Family - £195

## Proposed Trip to the Isles of Scilly in August 2020 by Joy Ashford

Planning has commenced to run a club trip to the Isles of Scilly in Aug 2020 (IOS 2020) exact dates are depart Penzance Fri 7th Aug and return Fri 14th Aug 2020. This would be a joint venture with members of the Tamar Canoeing Association (TCA). The trip is designed for sea kayakers who should be at BC3\* level (or working towards that standard) who are confident in open water paddles, the distance between islands can be 3-5 miles plus you are at the mercy of the Atlantic ocean and everything the weather can throw at you.

As we go to press the PPCA has 14 places available and the TCA has 10 places.

**The outline for the trip is this:**

### Fri 7th Aug 2020

- You make your own way (with your kayak and equipment) to the ferry terminal in Penzance, off load your boat & gear and go and park your car. This part is organised by yourself.

- Your gear is loaded into a container and your kayaks loaded onto the ferry, this is a group task.

- Go aboard the ferry & relax for the crossing.

- Arrive at St Mary's and take a pleasant 45-60 minutes stroll to the camp site. Settle into your tent which will be for 2 – 4 people. Tents come complete with floorboards and mattresses.

- The camp has a cooking marquee where individuals prepare your own meals using full-size gas cookers and then there is an 'eating/general' marquee.



General View of the Camp Site



One of the Sleeping Tents \*

### Sat 8th Aug – Thu 13th Aug

As with any paddling trip, the weather will decide what activities take place. Also a deciding factor will be the number of club leaders available. It is the intention that each day there are at least two paddling options, the 'longs' and the 'shorts', or the ambitious and the sightseer's, and people are free to choose each day what group they paddle with. There is no pressure to paddle each day, taking a rest day and exploring the islands is perfectly acceptable.

### Fri 14th Aug

Pack up, clear up and return to Penzance via the afternoon ferry

### Cost and general details

The cost will be in the region of £325 - £350, the 2020 ferry prices for a group booking have yet to be released. Included in the cost is the following:

- Individuals return ferry ticket Penzance to IOS.
- Hire of a container, all personal gear & luggage is put in the container and delivered to the campsite. On the return journey the container is delivered to the campsite, loaded with your gear, next time you see it is on the dockside at Penzance.
- Cost of transporting your kayak from Penzance to the camp site plus the return trip (includes the hire of a trailer).

\* Editor's Note: Please try not to wake the tents.

- 7 nights self-catering at Pelistry camp site with maximum of 4 to a tent.

- Up to 6 days of paddling in a beautiful setting.

- Sundries provided at the camp site e.g. tea/coffee/milk & sugar, squash juice, butter & milk, cleaning materials, cling film and foil to name a few items.

**What is not included in the cost:**

- Individuals travel arrangements to/from Penzance or car parking arrangements.



Cooking Marquee

- Travel costs from St Mary's to the camp site should you not want to walk.
- Individual's food & drinks for the week. This is a self-catering camping trip.
- Bedding, you need to provide your own bedding, towel etc.

**What do I need to do now?**

To reserve a place on the IOS 2020 trip email me at: [joyashford6@gmail.com](mailto:joyashford6@gmail.com). It will have to be on a strictly 'first come' basis as we only have 14 places available. A reserve list will be maintained.

Once we have an exact cost per person we will push out further details of the trip and ask for a £50 per person deposit.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to email me, alternatively check out the following websites which may answer your query:

<https://www.islesofscilly-travel.co.uk/scillonian-iii/>

<https://www.visitislesofscilly.com/>



Camp Site (top left of photo) and Pelistry Bay (where we launch and return to daily)



A General View of Some of the Many Islands



## Senior Leavers by Adam Coulson, Membership Secretary

We have recently had several of our long term senior members decide not to renew their membership for a variety of reasons, that I thought it worthwhile to make a special mention. Covering my back, of course you're all special!

Dave Pedlow, oft published in this fine journal has been forced to hang up his paddle due to health. Dave was always a thrill seeker – looking for the perfect stormy sea conditions and has been described by the term “balls of titanium”!

Steve Denton who has been a regular from many years has struggled to get out much with the club of late. Steve was always fine company out on the water with his stories of paddling and pedalling adventures over the years.

Lastly, it was with a heavy heart that Chris Carter has decided not to renew his membership. In his words, “the discomfort of paddling was exceeding the pleasure”. He may or may not know it, but Chris gave me a lot of encouragement in my early days on recreation paddles, for which I am very grateful. We all remember the times when the boat just wants to turn around!

I am sure that the membership will join me in thanking these good folks for their company over the years and wishing them well for the future.

## Coastal Cleanup by James Hubbard

When can something be called a tradition? Well there has now been more than one coastal cleanup paddle so perhaps it's on its way to tradition-hood. For those who missed the forum and Facebook posts, this is where instead of the usual Saturday rec paddle, club members scour a section of coastline on sea and shore collecting rubbish. Kayaks and open boats (and perhaps next time, SUPs?) are all welcome and indeed necessary. Tony Sickelmore started organising these paddles last year, so thanks to him.

One other element of the operation is that we meet up with a land based cleanup crew at the end, who will have been doing a beach clean, to pool our rubbish, take photos and so on. As with last year, we coordinated with Plymouth Beach Clean Volunteers. Due to the closure of Mount Batten and Jennycliff beaches we decided this time to meet at Bovisand, then paddle back unladen.

Here we all are about to set off, listening to Clive's briefing (thanks Clive and Joy for stepping in to lead when Gavin came down with flu)

We were lucky enough to have a bright clear day, the only slightly worrying thing being a moderate breeze that promised tough going for the open boats, especially solo. Marty's gung-ho attitude swung it in the end and we left with five open boats, three double and two solo, and therefore five groups who would leapfrog each other along the coast, collecting rubbish into the open boats.



Exploring and cleaning the various inlets was most enjoyable, so much so that we overran by half an hour my admittedly finger-in-the-air upper estimate of finishing by midday, and we got a good haul. Some highlights were: a metal mast; a shredded rib canvas (above, dumped by Mark and Jason into Marty's boat); a small boat engine; several lumps of what might have been ambergris; half a bin; and some live ammunition!



As it turned out the wind wasn't too much of an issue, although going around the headland to Bovisand was quite tough going. We met the remaining members of the beach clean at the edge of the water, and after hauling the boats out of reach of the incoming tide and unloading the cargo settled down for a well earned lunch break.

The wind had shifted by the time we got back on the water so that after getting out of the bay against the wind, we had it at our backs for the longer stretch back to Mount Batten. Combined with the incoming tide this made for some good play time in the rocks.



For those who missed it this time, Surfers Against Sewage have an Autumn beach clean event between 20th and 27th October so there's a good chance we'll do something similar.

Thanks to all who turned out to clean up a section of our coastline, and made it a most enjoyable day.





## Features

### Tow Lines by Adam Coulson



It has been suggested that the newsletter could feature the occasional unbiased articles on kit. By unbiased I mean written by somebody with no commercial interest in what paddlers may spend their hard earned moneys on. In this article I will make no specific recommendation, but rather suggest a few factors that anybody looking to purchase a sea tow line might want to take into account. The article is mainly of relevance to sea kayaks, which tend to be longer than GP boats and have deck lines but the same tows can be used on most kayaks. The detail photographs are of my own tow line, which (mostly) works for me. There may not be a perfect “off the shelf” solution for you. Mine has been significantly modified over time. One thing that is really important is that you are thoroughly familiar with your kit and can deploy it without a lot of faffing about. Ideally you know from memory where it is and do not need to look down to locate the carabiner or a catch. However I am not going to stray into the realms of how to use tow lines – that is left to our excellent coaches.

So here is a long list of what you might want to look at (I hope you make it to the end):

- The minimum length for a sea kayak tow line is about 10 m. Some are a good deal longer than this. 10m is roughly two kayak lengths – you do not want the tower and towed to be surfing on the same large wave!



- Most are made of a polypropylene floating line. It is a good idea to assess the



quality of these as cheap ones remain stiff and tend to tangle easily. Some paddlers prefer a tape line – it packs smaller and may be less inclined to tangle.

- The bag should slide smoothly around the waist of the paddler so that the tow can be deployed in different directions, but end up behind you. I have cut off the flaps on mine which tended to jam. This also makes repacking it whilst on the water a lot easier. They should be worn quite loosely around the waist when sat in your boat.

Some people prefer to have it positioned to one side so that it does not impede leaning back e.g. when rolling.

- The line should have some form of shock absorber along its length to prevent unpleasant jerking when the strain is taken up after being slack. It doesn't really matter where this is.



- Some lines have a float on them. This doesn't matter so much if everything else floats but it must be loose so as to slide up and down the line and not get in the way.

- The end of the line should be free of large knots or anything else that might snag under the towed kayak's deck lines. When the karabiner is released the tow should pull free. If the tow is placed to be in reach of the towed paddler, this could be the last 2 meters of the line. Some sort of splice is better than a knot onto the karabiner.

- The karabiner should be smooth and snag free so that it is easy to latch on (always upwards) and undo again, even with cold hands.

- The bag should have a quick release that it is easy to use. This is usually some sort of bauble on the end or alternatively the flap can be pulled away with a cam lock system. You should be able to release this by feel alone, even when capsized in the water (or perhaps I should say especially when capsized in the water!)







- On occasion you may not want to deploy the whole length of line e.g. when a tow line is being use with shorter boats. In that instance it is useful to have a D-ring on the waist band so that the line can go through the towed boat's handle and back to the tower, thereby halving its length. Another alternative to this is to daisy chain the line but be sure you can release the full length easily – one way is to lock out the daisy chain in a small karabiner as shown.

- Some lines have the karabiner clipped to a split D-ring. This can be on the waist band or some prefer it on the pfd so easy to reach. Either way a split D-ring means that you can just pull the Karabiner way without having to open it for speed and ease of deployment.



- Some bags/pouches have a mesh bottom so that they drain easily. I think that to be a good idea as it reduces drying time at home if nothing else.

- Complex tow lines more aimed at coaches, leaders and professionals, are a good deal more complicated. These can have a combination of short and long lines, or in some cases include a throwing line as well as a tow.

- Lastly, whilst you're shopping, consider that a tow line can also represent a significant hazard to all involved in its use. Training and regular practice will reduce that risk but having the means to cut the line in your pfd is also a very good idea. Make sure you practice that on somebody else's line though!

## The Scottish Isles Trilogy Part Two: We Went to Staffa by Clive Ashford

The 2019 Scottish Isles trilogy part two. We went to Staffa.

After our successful visit to the Isle of Skye, which included visiting the amazing Spar Cave that you all read about last month, (didn't you?) Adam and Karen had to take their leave and return to England. (This working malarkey really does get in the way of having a good time doesn't it?) So it was that a depleted party consisting of Bob, Clive, Ian & Joy sat in the ferry queue waiting to be whisked across the sea to the isle of Mull. While we were waiting a couple of young (compared to me) chaps said hello. They were from the Plymouth Sound BSAC, the dive club that shares the Mount Batten facilities with us, and they were also going to spend a week on Mull. It's a small world isn't it?

Let me interrupt this narrative to list a few things.

- 1) The thing about Mull is that the Island of Staffa lies just a few (3.5) exposed miles off its coast.
- 2) The thing about Staffa is that it houses Fingal's Cave, famous for being the inspiration for Felix Mendelssohn's "The Hebrides Overture," also known as "Fingal's Cave."
- 3) The thing about Fingal's Cave is that visiting it is on Joy's bucket list.
- 4) The thing about Joy's bucket list is that ticking things off it makes her happy.
- 5) The thing about a happy Joy is that it causes my life to take on a tranquil quality. I like life with a tranquil quality.

You have probably surmised that visiting Fingal's Cave was very definitely a bit of a priority.

The gentle and astute reader will be aware that a successful sea kayaking trip relies in part on favourable wind conditions, thus an up to date and accurate weather forecast is a valuable commodity and which is why, on the day before our Staffa expedition, you would have seen us on foot exploring Aros Castle and the hill fort of Braigh a



Photo by Joy: From the top of Staffa looking back towards our start point

Chiore Mhoir, with near gale force winds battering any thoughts of paddling into the darker recesses of our collective conscience. But we are a group of sea kayakers and you can't keep thoughts of paddling suppressed for long, so on that very evening you would have seen us looking at weather forecasts, peering at maps and conjuring up a new paddling plan. The forecast for the following day was for very light winds in the morning picking up to force 3 NW in the afternoon. With such a favourable forecast visiting Staffa and Fingal's Cave became the main, and probably the only, focus of our planning.

I won't bother boring you with too many details other than to tell you that the whole route would be exposed to wind from the south or west and that the open crossing to Staffa would be exposed to wind from any direction. I will also inform you that once you factor in a circumnavigation of Staffa the total distance is some 20 miles. (6.667 leagues, 17.38 nautical miles, 27.75 Roman miles or 32.97 kilometres. That's me showing off my diverse and multi cultural credentials.) The guide book suggested plenty of wildlife and the map suggested that we would paddle back in the lee of the island of Ulva. We made this trip our plan for the day and I decided that the plan was a good one.

Early next morning we checked the forecast and it was all systems go. Our group boasts a most excellent sandwich chef and once again Joy excelled in her chosen role while the rest of us busied ourselves with getting boats tied to roof racks etc. Then, in a timely manner, we were off.

As we launched into Ulva Sound adjacent to the Ulva Ferry slipway I will admit to a feeling of trepidation. The gentle and attentive reader will remember that the day before this little expedition we were walking in near gale force winds. I was a bit concerned that the sea may still be feeling the effects of this battering and that we would be subject to an uncomfortable amount of turbulence. By this time we left Ulva Sound and our route opened up before us we were already somewhat committed to the trip so I was much relieved to find that I needn't have



worried, the sea state being a mixture of flat, smooth and benign. I wasn't disappointed.

Although not wall to wall sunshine the day was bright and fairly clear, and as this is the Island of Mull on the west coast of Scotland the scenery was beautiful. We drank in this scenery as we paddled to the south of Ulva. Making good time we soon passed the small islands of Geasgill Mor and Geasgill Beag before landing on Little Colonsay to stretch our legs and answer nature's call.

Back in our boats we then embarked on the 3.5 mile open crossing to Staffa. We could almost hear the sound of

Fingal's Cave beckoning us like a Siren in a Greek tragedy, but I get ahead of myself. With Little Colonsay fast receding behind us there was a delighted squeal from our lady team member. The cause of said squeal was a couple of puffins. Joy likes puffins, in fact they are quite possibly her favourite birds, and although one puffin looks exactly the same as the next I have never seen her grow tired of watching them. Soon a couple of puffins had become a flock as we encountered a raft of the comical little birds bobbing around on the gentle swell. So, we were watching puffins en route to Staffa. Needless to say Joy was more than a little happy.



Photo by Joy: A raft of puffins

As we paddled towards Staffa we had good views of the Treshnish Islands, including the strangely shaped Bac Mor. Otherwise known Dutchman's Cap Bac Mor does resemble, well, a Dutchman's Cap.



Photo by Joy: Ian with the island of Bac Mor in the distance

We arrived at Staffa and paddled around it in an anti-clockwise direction to find the entrance to Fingal's Cave. Gentle reader, you are an intelligent and well informed being so you will be aware that the island of Staffa, and Fingal's Cave in particular, attracts a fair number of visitors. Most of these tourists arrive on commercial tripper boats and are dropped off in a sheltered bay to walk along the coastal path and enter Fingal's Cave along a fairly narrow ledge well above the water line. With this constant stream of tourists Fingal's Cave is rarely unoccupied, however the timing of our arrival blissfully coincided with a party leaving the cave so we paddled into a space that was almost entirely devoid of human beings. We sat in awe looking at the basalt columns that (with a bit of imagination) looked like giant organ pipes. The only sounds were the cries of sea birds and the whoosh of waves gently lapping the caves darker recesses.

Looking around I thought that I had spied a Cheshire cat smiling in the darkness, but on closer inspection I found that said gnashers belonged to Joy and not to Lewis Carroll's mythical creation. Cue an expected period of tranquillity in my life.

Whilst we were the only human occupants of the cave we weren't alone. It would appear that jellyfish find the cave well worth visiting as well because a large number of them had congregated around the entrance. We felt that this gave us an added incentive not to go swimming, as if any such incentive were required.

Another group of tourists arrived along the coastal path so we took our leave and continued our paddle around the island, eventually landing on a beach on the gently sloping eastern side of the island. We dined on Joy's most excellent sandwiches and then joined the tourists in exploring the island. Looking out over the Small Isles with Skye and the Outer Hebrides in the distance you get a true impression as to just how big and beautiful Scotland is. Closer to hand we stood on the cliffs above Fingal's Cave and watched as another group of sea kayakers arrived. Like us they explored the cave but unlike us they were accompanied by a hoard of tourists. I did feel more than a little smug.





Photo by Joy:Fingal's Cave, Staffa

We left the tourists to their tripper boats and got back into our kayaks. All the tourists we spoke to were obviously enjoying themselves but our experience had been far cheaper and in my opinion far more satisfying.

The promised NW wind had arrived so we got back onto the water and set off back towards Ulva, hoping to pick up the expected shelter. The gentle and perceptive reader will have noted the use of the word “hoping” and will surmise that there is a tale to be told. There is indeed a tale to be told so bear with me for a while and your patience will be rewarded.

Paddling towards Mull gave us a most excellent view of Ben More, which at 3169 feet is the highest point of Mull and it's only Munro. Ben More's peak was alternatively covered in cloud and then showed itself in all its glory. My eyes were drawn and my feet began to itch. The route to the top was very straight forward as I would find out first hand later in the week, but that isn't part of this story.

Approaching Little Colonsay there was a little surf running between a gap in some rocks. Joy and I did our best to avoid any excitement but Bob had quite the opposite ambition, as I discovered when his boat surfed over the top of mine causing me to use skills that I was rather hoping wouldn't be needed. I can report that both my support strokes and my heart proved equal to the situation and that I very definitely saw the whites of Bob's eyes.



Photo by Joy:Bob and Clive with Ben Mor in the distance



With my pulse rate once again performing within normal parameters we continued towards Geasgill Beag and Geasgill Mor. Our hoped for respite from the wind didn't materialise, instead the air seemed to swirl around Ulva and was now forming a head wind causing Geasgill Beag and Geasgill Mor drag by very slowly. The last 3 miles of the trip seemed to take forever; I reckon that I must have looked at my watch at least once every 50 yards of those last few miles. At the end of the day I wasn't sorry to lift my aching bottom off the seat and let my legs do a bit of work.

So, with Staffa and Fingal's Cave nicely ticked off it was a tired but happy crew that pulled their boats onto the Ulva Ferry slip. Apart from the puffins the promised wildlife didn't show up (we don't really count jellyfish) but to make up for it Bob did a very passable impression of a stranded whale as he floundered into the salty stuff whilst trying to land, not that anyone laughed.

Next time, don't miss The 2019 Scottish Isles trilogy part three. We saw some beasties.



Photo by Joy: Is it a whale? No, It's a Bob

### The Fabulous Five Go Paddling - Ginger's New Boat by The Krafty Kayaker

You may remember from last month that we have five new members of the Club, the Fabulous Five. Perhaps you have met them already but, if not, I will tell you a bit about them. Although these paddlers are completely fictional and bear no resemblance whatever to past, present or future members of our club, you might nevertheless think “haven’t I met someone like that before?”

(Note from the Editor: of course, no-one can possibly take offence as we all have some of these characteristics).

**The Leader** (sometimes the Leaderene) wise beyond his/her years, immense experience and first-class kayaking skills. Sound in mind and body except for a dependency on cake at lunchtime.

**The Ancient Mariner:** not as wise as his years but completely reliable in any crisis. Extracts maximum value from vintage kit and considers buying anything, except when massively discounted, a scandalous luxury.

**Median Middling:** is really quite average, neither short nor tall, does not like it hot but feels the cold. Politely accepts half a piece of cake at lunchtime. Might try 3\* next year.

**Victoria Sponge:** has become somewhat of an institution, no paddle would be complete without him/her (them?), probably the most popular member of the club.

**Ginger Bread or his sister Lava:** amphibious adolescents, both could swim before they could walk. Ginger first rolled a kayak aged six. Are usually dumped on the Leader by their parents on the way to Tesco’s. Freely tell maturer paddlers how to improve.

You will doubtless have already heard that The Fabulous Five are accompanied on their paddles by an avatar (on the cloud - where else) who watches over them for good or bad. This mythical guardian is capricious so we will refer to it as Lucky or Shortstraw depending on their prevailing mood.

We have been following the Fabulous Five on their adventures during the summer and last month I told you about the Amazing Disappearing Hatch Cover. They had another adventure recently which could have been very expensive, so here it is.

#### Ginger’s New Boat

Everyone knew that Ginger had been given a new boat for his birthday and today was its maiden voyage. Even if you didn’t know you could identify it on the slipway among all the other boats because it was the only one sitting on a duvet. And it had another feature – the paint job. It had beautiful horizontal bright rainbow stripes from bow to stern.

The reviews of this new ultra-lightweight biodegradable all natural material had been mixed and so were the opinions of the Fabulous Five.

“Soooooh cool!” said Lava which was praise indeed from a sister.

The Ancient Mariner differed: “dissolves in sea water” he said.

The Leader gave his usual clear and detailed briefing about where they were going. But once on the water the conversation followed a different course.

“Did he say Kingsand or Cawsand?”

“Aren’t they the same?”

“He said via South Winter”

“Where’s that?”

In fact, they went to the West Breakwater first. It was one of those sublimely calm summer days, not a cloud in the sky, with a light southerly breeze and a barely perceptible but deceptive swell.



“Let’s have a quick look around the corner” said the Leader.

Up above a fierce argument was underway between Lucky and Shortstraw.

Lucky: “You can’t, you mustn’t!”

Shortstraw: “I can and I will!”

A slightly larger wave finished its leisurely journey across the Atlantic with a final heave and dropped Ginger’s boat decisively onto one of those sharp rusty steel thingys that stick up from the breakwater.

Lucky, horrified, materialized fast, rummaged around in the Leader’s stern hatch and found the bitumastic tape. (It’s the stuff that sticks when wet). The Leader gave it to Median.

“Here Median you do DIY don’t you? Stick this on Ginger’s bottom”

Median looked momentarily puzzled. Then Ginger rolled his boat over and Median, with alacrity not seen before, slapped some tape over the hole.

Ginger rolled back up and they continued on their way to Cawsand for lunch.

Lucky considered the problem. “Well” he thought “punctured tyres self-seal these days so why not?”

By the time they got back to Mount Batten the hole had disappeared.

“Magic” said Ginger.

That’s it from me.

Aye and Anon.

The Krafty Kayaker.

### **The Long View - a word from the Canny Coach**

Quick reactions, faultless team work, the right repair kit, good kayaking skills and a bit of luck saved an expensive repair and a scolding from the MOD police for landing on the breakwater.

Every paddler should carry their own personal safety kit: whistle, survival bag, tow line, split paddles and more depending on the conditions. Every paddler should be aware of the group safety, first aid and repair kit that is available. And some of the paddlers should know how to use them and be qualified if necessary.

As for the debate over plastic v. glass fibre and other materials, that will continue. All I ask of you is not to leave your boat at the bottom of the ocean with or without you in it.

Safe paddling.

The Canny Coach

Watch out for next month’s Fabulous Five Go Paddling adventure: “Zip Me Up”.

## A Reply to The Krafty Kayaker's Previous Article by Kit the Kayaker

Firstly many congratulations on a fine start to what I hope will become an epic. There is so much material, and so many characters. I am sure that this will prove thought provoking for paddlers.

You asked "What else could they have done?" In the boat repair kit that I carry (yes that is why you don't want to volunteer to carry my craft up the slip) can be found the temporary hatch covers as pictured below. The manufacturer can also provide you with an oval model if that is appropriate. Kept in the day hatch so quick to whip out, stretch over and tighten the bungee. They are entirely sea worthy – I have heard that some expeditioners use them instead of hatch covers as so much lighter. Even a choice of colour!

Some carry a spare spray deck also. I keep a storm cag in the day hatch which can be pulled onto the casualty over everything else and sealed to the cockpit rim. To attach a photo of that would become rampant commercialism!

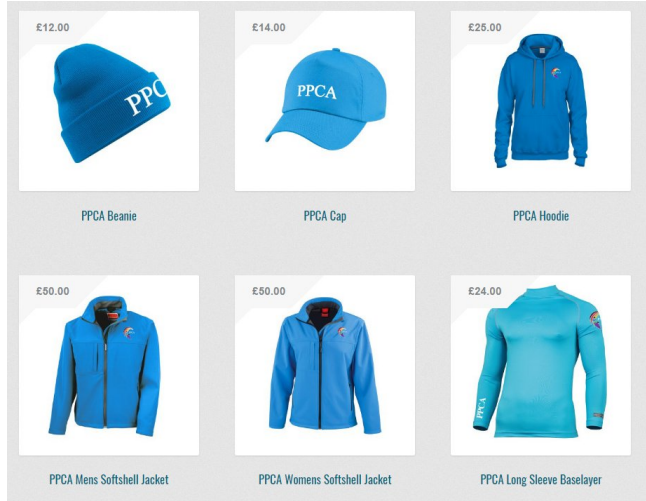
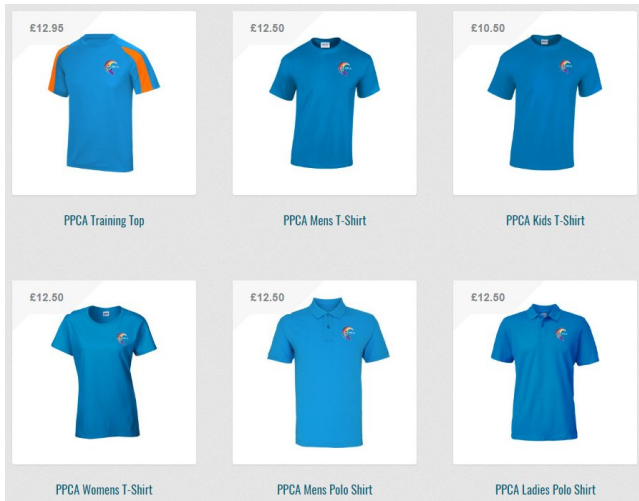


# Exchange and Mart

## PPCA Club Clothing by Jackie Perry, Publicity Officer

A full range of customised kit in either blue or black is available to order direct from Tailored Branding via the link below

<https://hsclothing.co.uk/ppca-3/>



Discount Available at Millets, 38/40 New George St, Plymouth PL1 1RW

One of our members works in the Millets store (Big 'Thank you' to Lee McKenzie!) on New George Street, Plymouth and has negotiated with his Manager a great discount of 15% on production of your PCCA club membership card. Usual T's & C's apply, e.g. goods already discounted/sales items might be excluded.

Discount Available at Kayaks and Paddles

Kayaks and paddles offer discount to local kayak and canoe clubs. The PCCA and Tamar Canoe club can get a discount up to 15%. This is an offer not a right for the person that is making a purchase, so please do not go upsetting Kayaks and Paddles employees as this discount might be taken away.

**Raise free donations** for us every time you shop online with easyfundraising!

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Sainsbury's OSOS discover fashion online viking moonpig JUST EAT

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ppca/>



## Club Calendar - Please Check Website for Updates

### For the Diary

7th August 2020: Isles of Scilly

### Recreational Paddles (Saturdays)

3rd August - Terry Calcott (Sea Paddle)

10th August - Brim(Fastnet Week)

17th August - Andy Kittle

24th August - Joy Ashford

31st August - Bob Grose

7th September - Gavin Bennet (Sea Paddle)

14th September - Clive Ashford (Toppers weekend)

21st September - Gavin Bennet

28th September - Terry Calcott

### Open Canoe (Friday)

2nd August - NO SESSION

9th August - Pete Anderson (Fastnet week)

16th August - Brim

23rd August - Sam Pluckrose

30th August - Jen Nicholls

6th September - Jen Nicholls

13th September - Sam Pluckrose

20th Septemer - Pete Anderson

### Intermediate Sea Paddles (Sundays)

18th August - Clive Ashford

22nd September - Clive Ashford

### Courses

10th August - Intro - Andy Kittle

7th September - Intro - Pete Anderson

## Evening Sessions (Tuesdays)

6th August Explore Award - Terry Calcott  
Late Start - Jenny Nicholls  
Rec Paddle - Alan Ede  
Sea Award - Ken Hamblin

13th August Explore Award - Terry Calcott  
Late Start - Jenny Nicholls  
Rec Paddle - Alan Ede  
Sea Award - Ken Hamblin

20th August Explore Award - Pete Anderson  
Late Start - Brim  
Rec Paddle - Andy Kittle  
Sea Award - Clive Ashford

27th August Explore Award - Pete Anderson  
Late Start - Brim  
Rec Paddle - Andy Kittle  
Sea Award - Clive Ashford

3rd September Explore Award - Pete Anderson  
Late Start - Brim  
Rec Paddle - Andy Kittle  
Sea Award - Clive Ashford

10th September Explore Award - Pete Anderson  
Late Start - Brim  
Rec Paddle - Andy Kittle  
Sea Award - Clive Ashford

17th September Explore Award - TBC  
Late Start - TBC  
Rec Paddle - TBC  
Sea Award - TBC

## The Committee

### Chair

Ken Hamblin  
chair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07828 652775

### Vice-Chair

Mark Perry  
vchair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07801 310993

### Club Leader

Ian Brimacombe  
leader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07720 957304

### Assistant Club Leader

Marty Johnston  
acleader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07731 360210

### Club Secretary

Jackie Perry  
secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07523 965748

### Membership Secretary

Adam Coulson  
membership@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07834 286461

### Welfare Officer

Rebekka Stiasny  
welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07939 328981

### Intro Course Coordinator

Jane Hitchings  
intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07837 796192

### Treasurer

Sharne Dodds  
treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

### Equipment Officer

Pete Anderson  
equipment@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07958 694434

### Publicity Officer

Gavin Bennett  
publicity@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
TBC

### Youth Development Officer

George Hamblin  
youth@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07958 694434

### Club President

Bob Grose  
president@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
01803 849163