



PPCA Newsletter
May 2019

Introduction

Welcome to May's Newsletter. This month, Mark helps us stay on the right side of the law while Helga and Bruce describe a couple of paddles for which the word "perfect" can truly be applied.

Editorial

Last month I put my sad face on and bid farewell to David Pedlow as a contributor. This month, inevitably, he's back, albeit only in Exchange and Mart. Just goes to show, you can't keep a good man down.

Please plough on to the end of the Newsletter if you can bear to. Adam sent me a safety leaflet from the RNLI but as it was a PDF I had to add it to the end of the Newsletter.

As a Public Service Announcement - Ken is currently distributing keys for the Members' Shed prior to the lock being changed.

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. 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

Acknowledgements

The cover photographers for May are the usual suspects - Terry, Joy and Debbie



SAFETY ALERT

Contact: safety@britishcanoeing.org.uk

SUBJECT	The Carrying of Knives
Date Issued	November 2018

Introduction

The carrying of knives is a topic that has attracted considerable scrutiny in recent years given the alarming increase in knife crime. As a result, we have prepared this note to give paddlers some basic information about the current position and how this may impact on their paddling activities.

The Legal Position

Paddlers have long since carried knives as part of their safety equipment and many will have done so without any consideration or knowledge of the potential legal implications in this regard. However, there are in fact a number of legal offences relating to the carrying of knives in public. The most pertinent in this regard is s.139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, which states that it is an offence for a person to have in a public place a knife (other than a folding pocket knife with a blade of less than 3 inches) or other bladed or pointed article. The penalty for an offence in this regard is a maximum of 4 years in prison or an unlimited fine.

The Government have also issued the following guidance:

It is illegal to:

- Sell a knife to anyone under 18, unless it has a folding blade 3 inches long (7.62 cm) or less
- Carry a knife in public without good reason, unless it has a folding blade with a cutting edge 3 inches long or less
- Carry, buy or sell any type of banned knife
- Use any knife in a threatening way (even a legal knife)

It is important to note that Lock knives are not classified as folding knives and are also illegal to carry in public without a good reason.

How does this affect me as a paddler?

As detailed above, the law makes it clear that carrying a knife in public without good reason is an offence. Fortunately, for paddlers who utilise knives as part of their safety equipment, the law provides it is a defence if an individual has a "good reason" or "lawful authority" to have the knife in a public.

One such example of a "good reason" for carrying a knife in public is detailed as:

a) for use at work;

In the context of paddling, it is likely that carrying a knife as part of your safety equipment for paddling would fall within this "good reason" defence. It is however highly recommended that paddlers do not carry safety knives separately but instead keep them with the rest of their equipment, particularly when travelling. This will help to demonstrate that you have a "good reason" for carrying a knife and therefore make it less likely that there can be

any dispute as to the purpose of carrying the knife. Furthermore, it is recommended any knives are kept in a suitable holder and are not accessible by anyone when not in use.

It should be noted that what will constitute a “good reason” will vary according to the circumstances and the knife involved. Ultimately it would for a court of decide whether or not an individual had a “good reason” to carry a knife in particular circumstances.

Conclusion

Carrying a small knife safely and securely when travelling to and from paddling activities, is highly likely to be classified as a “good reason” for the purposes of the relevant legislation. However, paddlers should be aware of the legal position in this regard and ensure they act sensibly and appropriately when carrying and storing knives.

Further information can be found by visiting: <https://www.gov.uk/buying-carrying-knives>

By submitting incident reports to British Canoeing you can help us to identify and address issues within the sport. To report an incident go to <https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/go-canoeing/incident-reporting>



Port Of Plymouth Canoeing Association
70 Lawrence Road
Plymouth
PL9 9SJ
www.ppca-canoe-club.org.uk



DIARY DATE – PADDLEFEST 2019



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The South West Paddle Fest is family festival all about meeting up in the great outdoors and having fun, camping, enjoying a paddle regardless of craft or ability and meeting new friends all whilst raising money for charity!

WHO IS IT FOR?

All kayakers, canoeists, stand up paddle board enthusiasts, walkers, hikers, campers, brothers, sisters, aunties, uncles, grandparents and even the dog as long as it's well behaved. Encourage your friends, there's plenty to do and there's plenty of room!

WHERE IS IT BEING HELD?

Mount Edgcombe Country Park, Cornwall, PL10 1HZ situated on the breath taking South East Peninsula of Cornwall

TICKETS

Discounted tickets are available from the PPCA Club Treasurer, price on application, please email: treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION AT <http://www.southwestpaddlefest.com/>

For more information contact: Tony Sicklemore
Email: Treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Features

California Kayaking by Bruce Burton

Once again, Susann and I have spent a couple of months at our apartment in California and during this trip I have had a few kayaking days in San Francisco Bay with friends from the Bay Area Sea Kayakers. I know there will be little sympathy from you, dear readers, when I tell you that this spring has been rather cold and wet and not at all California like. This has had the advantage that the long running drought is now officially over so it is again possible to flush the loo with a clear conscience. The other effect is that I have done all my paddles in my single kayak (a Dagger Alchemist) as Susann refuses to kayak unless the temperature is a guaranteed 60 degrees (16 degrees C), so we didn't get to use our tandem kayak at all.

February 16 Sausalito to Paradise Cove.

The forecast for this paddle was a bit grim and there was some discussion about whether we should do it. Winds forecast to be 15- 20 mph with gusts up to 30. Eight of us set off from Sausalito and headed up the notorious Raccoon Strait with rather mild conditions, but with an ebb tide against us. Once out of Raccoon Strait we



headed along the shore towards Paradise Beach and had to fight an increasingly strong ebb tide to get past the final point before our lunch spot. After lunch we headed back along the way we had come. Soon after we started, a strong squall hit us with driving rain and strong wind (20mph+ probably) giving disturbed seas. This was complicated by the ebb tide, now with us and at a maximum, which was sweeping us along by the shore. There was some brief discussion about trying to shelter, but we decided to keep going and swept round a point and into calmer water, with the squall passing as quickly as it had come. The photo shows the squall receding in the distance. The rest of the

paddle was straight forward, except that we had to cross Richardson Bay, a distance of about a mile of open water, with a 12 mph headwind. A good paddle with a few moments of interest and a good work out. About 10 miles total distance.

March 7 Horseshoe Cove around Angel Island.

I had a bit of a break from paddling to go skiing in Whistler, but got back in good time for this one. We set out from Horseshoe Cove, which is close to the Golden Gate Bridge, and crossed open water with a following flood tide to circum-navigate Angel Island in an anti-clockwise direction. I managed a bit of mild rock hopping round the island, but inside the Bay there is little opportunity for rock hopping – no rocks. If you go outside the bridge, however, things are very different. Big Pacific rollers make rock gardening, as it is called here, a much more serious business and my skill levels are such that I only feel able to do this under really good conditions. Today was not such a day. After a lunch on a beach on the Island we set off back again. We were just congratulating ourselves on the fact that the wind so far had been very gentle, when it suddenly got up to about 10-12 mph in a matter of minutes, giving us a good work out to get back to our put-in.



March 14 Tomales Bay.

This was a very mellow paddle in this long, enclosed bay. It can get a bit fierce here because the wind funnels down the bay (which is part of the San Andreas fault) and kayakers have been known to get badly caught out when this happens. Today was not such a day and we enjoyed a pleasant relaxed paddle on a lovely day.

March 21st. Crissy Field to Yerba Buena Island.

Crissy Field is an area close to and with fine views of the Golden Gate Bridge. We set off from a beach with some swirly surf coming on shore, which made launching rather interesting. Before we set off we were delighted to see



two humpback whales surface several times just off shore. Unfortunately they came and went too quickly to get a photo. Once we got going we saw either one of these, or another one, spout just ahead of us. Big thrill. This trip took us along the San Francisco waterfront and it was necessary to keep a sharp eye open as many ferries and tourist boats take off from the various keys and they are not going to want to avoid kayakers. We ended up crossing the main shipping channel close to the Bay Bridge to arrive at our lunch spot on Yerba Buena Island. This island, together with its neighbour Treasure Island, is like a stepping stone for the Bay Bridge with the section of bridge between San Francisco and the island still a

massive, two storied affair, whereas the other section of the bridge, connecting the Island with the East Bay cities, is a new vary modern looking bridge, which was opened recently and replaced the old, earthquake vulnerable section. After lunch we more or less retraced our steps, but this time we were paddling into a stiff breeze with little help from the tide.

March 28 San Quentin to Loch Lomond Marina.

Another day with windy conditions forecast. We left from a beach just off the busy highway connecting to the Richmond Bridge and paddled out past the notorious San Quentin prison. Someone remarked that there would be a number of happy prisoners as the California governor has just announced that there will be no more executions in California. The prison is, as you might expect, a grim place with large watch towers at frequent intervals, although these don't seem to be manned any more. No sign of anyone moving around. We felt that the stony shore on one side of it was probably not a good place to stop, even in an emergency. From there we paddled on under the Richmond Bridge, which is low down at this end, and then across some open water to a couple of islands, the Marin Islands, which are nature reserves. The islands are very attractive, but are a bit spoiled by large notices saying that you have to keep off



the shore and if you can read the notices saying this, you are too close. We had lunch at a nearby marina which gave us shelter from the increasing wind. There was a bit of a debate about whether we wanted to take advantage of Uber to get back to our cars (I never discovered how this was going to work), but I was pleased that we all agreed that we would face the wind and return the way we had come. The open crossing was lively with the wind opposing the strong ebb tide and kicking up short steep waves, but nothing too serious. More good exercise getting back to the cars.

And that is about all I managed to do. Nice, fairly mellow paddles but nearly every time having to face breezy conditions as the wind strengthened in the early afternoon. Lots of seals popping up to have a look at us and great to sight whales. The tides in the Bay are a significant factor to consider in trip planning, especially near the Golden Gate Bridge. With all the rain, the ebb tides were much stronger than usual because of the water flowing down the rivers feeding the Bay, and the floods correspondingly weaker. Peak tidal flow through the Golden Gate is 95,000 cubic meters per second (25 million gallons per second), traveling at over 2.5 meters per second (5.6 miles per hour). This is a greater amount of water flowing than any of the world's rivers with the exception of the Amazon (209,000 cu.m/sec). Good info for pub quizzes.

The only additional bit of kayaking I did was at a place called Half Moon Bay, where I went to try what I laughingly call "skills practice" in the harbour. I was somewhat put off when I arrived by a notice saying the water was contaminated and contact with the water was to be avoided. As my 'skills' tend to entail water contact (intentionally or not), this was not a good sign. I was also a bit alarmed to read reports of a great white shark scaring some surfers out of the water just a short distance from where I had been paddling. So I tried a couple of rolls (just about successful) and came home.

Post script.

After we left California, we took a trip to a small Island on Glovers Reef, an atoll about 35 miles off the coast of Belize. We were there to scuba dive, but we did do a couple of short paddles on a somewhat elderly, double sit-on kayak. This allows me to include a photo from one of these jaunts to show the beauty of the island. Jealous?





I had the pleasure of joining 10 other like minded paddlers for a kayaking weekend in Penzance, the main ethos being good food, entertaining company and great weather and 'perfect' paddling. If I may quote from a more eloquent paddler without their permission, it was all about the journey.

Anyway, after a Friday night pub meal and lubricated by the local brews, we set off on Saturday on a bright sunny morning, enhanced by the fact we could have free street parking. We paddled happily past Mousehole along to Lamorna Cove and up to the Tater Du Lighthouse. We came across the most amazing barrel jellyfish due to Mark's extraordinary jellyfish spotting powers. Huge creatures divided up into 3 parts, the top being the size of a small dustbin lid, then the barrel, the those tentacle bits that you hope you never have to experience.



At the turning point of Tatu Du, there was the opportunity to divide the group into 2 parts, those providing safety cover and those who wished to try out the perils of going round the rocks. They were so lucky to have me with them!

Lunch in the sunshine at Lamorna Cove sampling on Mary cake: what was there not to enjoy? Seal spotting on our return simply enhanced a most perfect paddle.

Sunday had a lot to live up to. Well rested at the Penzance Youth Hostel, well fed at The Bridges Italian restaurant, well rehydrated through various means we were ready for Day 2.

We set of from Marazion, paddling over the causeway in front of St Michael's Mount – I do love that bit.

We carried on to Cudden Head and rock hopped/avoided rocks, surfed/ avoided surf on the way back via another sunny lunch spot.



Many thanks to Mary for organising this trip, Terry for leading, and everyone else for being there – a Perfect Penzance Paddle. Every year, I think how lucky I am to have found the PPCA all those years ago and have the opportunity to have all these wonderful paddling experiences.

Photos by kind permission of Joy and Terry- although I've now muddled them up and can't attribute them to the rightful owner.

Exchange and Mart

Free to a Good Home by David Pedlow

Unrepeatable FREE offer!!

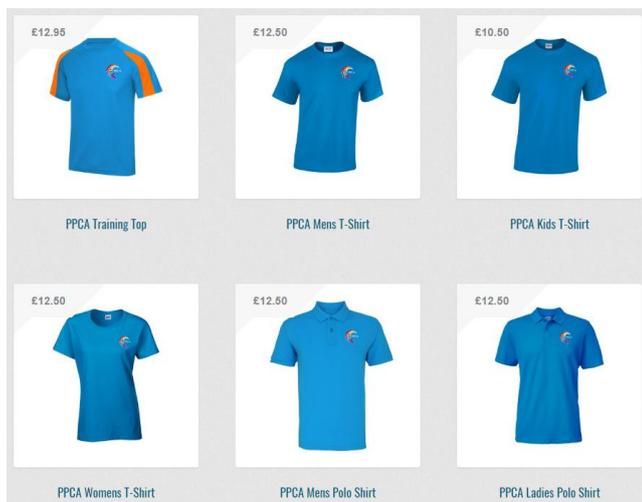
Wooden kayak stand for two boats (gp or sea) for your back garden.

Contact me on waterboyx4@runbox.com to claim and arrange to collect.

PPCA Club Clothing by Jackie Perry, Publicity Officer

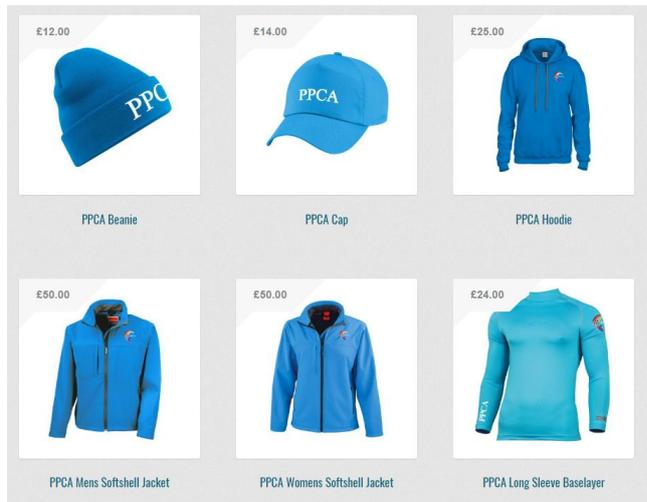
A full range of customised kit in either blue or black is available to order direct from Tailored Branding via the link below

<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.

Club Calendar - Please Check Website for Updates

For the Diary

1st to 2nd June - Paddlefest

2nd to 4th August Open Canoe Wye trip

Recreational Paddles (Saturdays)

4th May - Ian Brim (Sea Paddle)

11th May - Gavin Bennett

18th May - Clive Ashford

25th May - Terry Calcott

1st June - Terry Calcott (Sea Paddle)

8th June - Terry Calcott

15th June - Brim (Regatta at MB)

22nd June - Doug Sitch

29th June - Bob Grose (Air Show)

Open Canoe (Friday)

3rd May - Pete Anderson

10th May - Jen Nicholls

17th May - Ian Brim

24th May - Jen Nicholls

31st May - NO SESSION (Paddlefest)

7th June - Sam Pluckrose

14th June - Pete Anderson

21st June - Brim

28th June - Joy Ashford

Paddle Power (Wednesdays)

8th May - Sam Pluckrose

15th May - Sam Pluckrose

22nd May - Sam Pluckrose

29th May - Sam Pluckrose

5th June - Sam Pluckrose

12th June - Sam Pluckrose

Intermediate Sea Paddles (Sundays)

19th May - Clive Ashford

29th June - Overnight Paddle - Clive Ashford

Courses

13th June - Intro - Ken Hamblin

20th June - Intro - Ken Hamblin

22nd June - Intro - Terry Calcott

Evening Sessions (Tuesdays)

7th May	Explore Award - Andy Kittle Sea Award - Chris Doidge Late Start - Ian Brim Rec Paddle - Ken Hamblin	14th May	Explore Award - Andy Kittle Sea Award - Chris Doidge Late Start - Ian Brim Rec Paddle - Ken Hamblin
21st May	Explore Award - Andy Kittle Sea Award - Chris Doidge Late Start - Ian Brim Rec Paddle - Ken Hamblin	28th May	Explore Award - Alan Ede Sea Award - Doug Sitch Late Start - Jane Hitchings Rec Paddle - Terry Calcott
4th June	Explore Award - Alan Ede Sea Award - Doug Sitch Late Start - Jane Hitchings Rec Paddle - Terry Calcott	11th June	Explore Award - Alan Ede Sea Award - Doug Sitch Late Start - Jane Hitchings Rec Paddle - Terry Calcott
18th June	Explore Award - Alan Ede Sea Award - Doug Sitch Late Start - Jane Hitchings Rec Paddle - Terry Calcott	25th June	Explore Award - Brim Sea Award - Ken Hamblin Late Start - Sam Pluckrose Rec Paddle - Clive Ashford

The Committee

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TBC

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07958 694434

Club President

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president@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
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HAVE I CHECKED THE WEATHER AND TIDES TODAY AND PLANNED MY TRIP ACCORDINGLY?

- Check the weather and the tides before you set out. Try NOC anyTide App or UKHO Easytide. Be aware of wind strength, especially offshore winds (where the wind is blowing out to sea).
- Use beach zones to surf in, marked with black and white flags.
- Seek local knowledge from experienced kayakers in the area.



DO I HAVE APPROPRIATE TRAINING AND/OR EXPERIENCE FOR THIS TRIP?

- Get some training: contact your local canoe or kayaking club and look for coaching sessions run by British Canoeing or Canoeing Ireland coaches.
- Learn and practise techniques to get back onboard your kayak, should you capsize.



DOES SOMEBODY KNOW WHERE I'M GOING AND WHEN I'LL BE BACK?

- Tell someone on land where you are going and what time you'll be back.
- Paddle in a group, where possible.
- The RYA or ISA SafeTrx apps can be used to log, track and send alerts about your trip. Visit www.safetrxapp.com.



ARE MY CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT SUITABLE FOR TODAY'S CONDITIONS?

- Wear the right clothing for the season and conditions, such as a suitable wetsuit/drysuit and layered clothing.
- When sea kayaking in open water take
 - means of calling for help
 - tow line
 - knife attached to your buoyancy aid
 - split paddle on deck
 - pump
 - waterproof torch
 - sunhat/sunglasses/sunscreen
 - hat/gloves
 - basic first aid kit
 - repair kit
 - helmet (for the surf or rock gardens).

If you're fishing:

- Make sure your paddle is attached with a leash.
- Beware of overloading your kayak with gear – it'll be harder to self-right than you think.
- Navigational aids, rod holder and other equipment should be stowed before surfing or landing in surf.
- Only use anchors in areas with little or no current.

KNOW WHAT TO DO

VISIT

RNLI.org/kayaking

britishcanoeing.org.uk/go-canoeing

IN AN EMERGENCY!

If you can't reach to call for help, help can't reach you.

If you need help, here's what to do.

USING A RADIO:

1. Press Channel 16 button.
2. Activate DSC alert if fitted.
3. Press and hold transmit button and say:
 - Mayday, mayday, mayday.**
 - This is ... [your name 3 times].**
 - Call sign ... MMSI ...**
 - Mayday, [your name].**
 - Call sign ... MMSI ...**
4. **My position is ...** [describe position and give GPS location if possible].
5. **We are ...** [describe the nature of distress, the assistance required, number of people and craft followed by any further information].
6. Say **over** and wait for a response.
7. If no response – repeat procedure.

USING A MOBILE PHONE:

Call 999 or 112 and ask for the coastguard.

While you are waiting for help, stay with your kayak – you make a larger target for search and rescue teams.

If you can get your body even partially out of the water, it'll significantly increase your survival time.



320 kayakers and canoeists rescued by RNLI volunteer crews in 2016.

18 paddlers lost their lives in the UK between 2011 and 2015.*

*Water Safety Forum's Water Incident Database (WAID) 2011-2015

RNLI.org/kayaking

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736). Registered charity number 20003326 in the Republic of Ireland

Photos: RNLI/Nigel Millard

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Lifeboats



SEA KAYAKING SAFETY PACK

RNLI.org/kayaking



HM Coastguard



PREVENTING DROWNING TOGETHER

BE SURE

BEFORE YOU PADDLE AWAY, BE SURE TO CHECK:



ALWAYS CARRY A MEANS OF CALLING FOR HELP AND KEEP IT WITHIN REACH.



WEAR YOUR BUOYANCY AID.



CHECK THE WEATHER AND TIDES.



TELL SOMEONE ELSE WHERE YOU'RE GOING AND WHEN YOU'LL BE BACK.



GET SOME TRAINING AND/OR EXPERIENCE.



WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING FOR THE CONDITIONS AND YOUR TRIP.



CAN I REACH MY COMMUNICATION DEVICE IF I CAPSIZE?

Always carry a means of calling for help and keep it within reach. If you can't reach it in an emergency it's no help.

WATERPROOF HANDHELD DSC VHF

- Keep it on your person.
- If possible, buy a DSC-equipped radio. This transmits a recognised emergency signal, and also your location.
- Requires an operator's licence, a ship's radio licence (free online in the UK) and a Maritime Mobile Service Identity number, which comes with the ship's radio licence.



PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON (PLB)

- Keep it on your person.
- A recognised emergency signal, it's manually activated only and must be registered with the coastguard.
- Not all PLBs inherently float and the unit needs to be held out of water to transmit.
- It can also be used on land in areas where no phone signal is available and it transmits for 24+ hours.



MOBILE PHONE

- Keep your mobile in a waterproof pouch, on your person.
- Smartphones can provide a location, but emergency calls should be made by voice – call 999 or 112 and ask for the coastguard.
- The RYA or ISA SafeTrx apps can be used to log, track and send alerts about your trip. Visit www.safetrxapp.com.



AM I WEARING A BUOYANCY AID?

- Wearing a well-fitted, well-maintained and suitable buoyancy aid could save your life.
- When choosing a buoyancy aid, check the size and fit by adjusting the jacket, then lift from the shoulders. It should not be possible to move the jacket. If it slides up, try a smaller size or tighter fit.
- Check product labelling for weight and size guidance.
- Choose one that's cut away around the shoulders and the arms, for comfort when paddling. It should have a belt or drawstring to pull it tight around the waist.
- Choose a brightly coloured one that can be easily spotted. Make sure it has enough pockets to store your calling for help device and any other equipment. Attach a whistle on a lanyard, and at night attach a small strobe light.
- Check your buoyancy aid regularly for visible signs of deterioration.

For more tips, go to RNLI.org/ChooseltWearIt



BE SEEN

REFLECTIVE TAPE

Whenever you're on the water, your visibility is important. But during a rescue, it can be a lifesaver. Increase your visibility by sticking this SOLAS-approved reflective tape to your boat and paddle and displaying appropriate lights if out at dusk or night time.

HOW TO APPLY IT

Make sure your boat's surface is completely clean and dry. If the surface is cold to the touch, warm it slightly with a hairdryer or heat gun. Peel the backing paper off the SOLAS reflective tape strip, position the tape and smooth it down slowly to prevent air bubbles.



BE IDENTIFIED

WEAR AN ID STICKER

This ID sticker will save time – and potentially your life – in a rescue situation. Having your basic information allows others to raise the alarm and track you down if they find your boat unattended.

If you lose your gear whilst you're out paddling please tell the coastguard. That way we'll know that you're safe and won't launch a search for you.

HOW TO USE AND APPLY IT

Fill in your details using a thin, waterproof, permanent marker. We recommend placing the sticker within the hatch of your vessel, where it's dry but fairly visible. Make sure the boat's surface is completely clean and dry. If the surface is cold to the touch, warm it slightly with a hairdryer or heat gun. Peel the backing paper off the ID sticker, position it and smooth down slowly to prevent air bubbles.

REMEMBER TO WRITE WITH A PERMANENT MARKER