



PPCA Newsletter

October 2019

Introduction

Welcome to October's Newsletter. This month, we come to the end of the Krafy Kayaker's series of pieces which have added a new dimension to the Newsletter. I also put pen to paper myself on behalf of a neglected river.

Editorial

Apologies that the holidays of various members, including myself, have meant that the publishing dates of the last couple of Newsletters have slipped a bit. As a consequence, I may have appeared to have ignored the beach cleanup and the white water calendar in the last edition. This was definitely not the case - the information simply wasn't available at the time of writing.

Every year, at the start of the white water season, I make the suggestion that it would be good for a novice white water paddler to provide a series of short pieces over the course of the season describing their progress. Every year it falls on deaf ears. Maybe this time.....

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 August are, as ever - Joy, Debbie and Terry.

AGM by Jackie Perry, Secretary

The PPCA Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 22nd October 7pm in the Waterside Room, Mountbatten Watersports Centre.

All members are welcome to attend and apologies can be sent by email to secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Any members who would be interested in putting themselves forward for a position on the Committee can find a description of each role under the PPCA Club Committee Roles & Responsibilities Tab in the Members section of the Website. You can also ask current Committee members about their role and amount of time involved etc. If you are willing to step up would just need to find a proposer and seconder to recommend you for the position and also email the Chair (chair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk) advising of the post you would like to volunteer for, prior to the AGM. If you do have any difficulty regarding finding a proposer and seconder this could be organised on the night of the AGM. Primarily at the moment we do need somebody to volunteer for the Welfare Officers position.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Chair's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Club Leader's Report
5. Presentation of Awards
6. President's Report
7. Election of Chair
8. Election of Remainder of the Committee

Editor's Note: As a result of the AGM, some of the committee will almost certainly change. The email addresses on the committee page will still work but the names and contact numbers may no longer be accurate.

Features

Up the Lynher by The Editor

I recently received an email asking for tips on paddling the Lynher with a thinly veiled hint that, perhaps, it would make a Newsletter article, so here it is. All timings are based on a tandem open boat. Timings will differ for lesser vessels. It's an estuary paddle (there's no white water for miles) so if you don't like estuaries, please look away.

Of the three rivers accessible from Saltash, the Tamar and Tavy are well known and loved; the Lynher is rather less so. This is a shame as, particularly in its upper stretches, it can compete with either of them.



Pottering under the bridges

The first stage near Saltash can be extended by pottering about under the bridges or by taking a (very) short diversion into Kinterbury Creek on the Saltash Passage side.

On the lower stretch, the Saltash bank is more attractive than the Torpoint bank with several creeks and viaducts to explore. Forder creek is particularly nice - if only it had a pub at the end. Be warned, Antony Passage has one of the largest collections of "Private - No Entry" signs I've ever seen.



Forder Creek

St. Germans itself is pretty but the landing appears to be mostly restricted to the Sailing Club. Beyond the viaduct is the "river" Tiddy. I'm reliably informed that parts of it can be paddled and I've seen the GPS tracks to prove it but it's always been mud when I've been there. There appear to be plenty of beaches to land on - on closer inspection, most of these turn out to be mud. There's a theme developing here

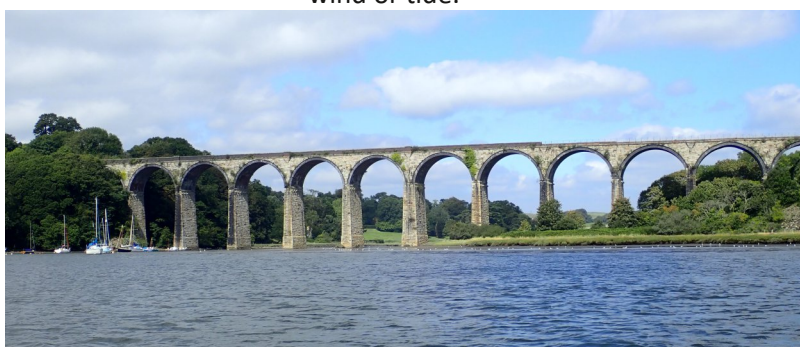
Unless you're feeling particularly energetic, it's best done in two stages - the lower river from Saltash to St. Germans (about two hours) and the upper stretch from Wacker Quay to Notter Bridge (about 90 minutes). Launching from Brunel Green, Saltash is easy at all states of tide and you should be able to get to St. Germans even on a relatively low high tide - there is a clearly marked deep water channel. The upper stretch really requires a spring tide.



Neptune

Wivelscombe lake is an unexpected treat, all the more so for being almost invisible from the river. There's also a rather imposing statue of Neptune at Ince to unnerve the unwary.

The Torpoint bank has views of the Antony estate and the house through the trees but the crossing is quite exposed and can be a struggle if you're battling wind or tide.



St. Germans Viaduct

Wacker Quay has ample parking to explore the upper stretch although there is a height restriction on the lower car park. It also has ample mud so it's worth getting the tide right. Head up river towards St. Germans but go under the easternmost of the viaducts (technically Notter Viaduct but not marked as such on the map). From here the river changes character completely, becoming narrower and much prettier.



Houseboats

Just beyond the viaduct are the houseboats at Treluggan boatyard and after that there is a maze of tiny inlets, most of which turn out to be dead ends but are fun to explore. There's also evidence of the industrial heritage of the region on the banks.

Eventually, you reach the holiday camp at Notter Bridge and then the bridge itself (technically two bridges as the old one couldn't cope with modern traffic). There's also a pub which, apparently, opens occasionally, but never when we've been there. It's possible to carry on for a few minutes but the river soon becomes clogged with fallen trees and branches and it's necessary to turn round before the tide leaves you stranded.



Notter Bridge (one of them)

So that's the Lynher. A really nice, gentle Sunday afternoon paddle providing you get the tides right.

Fiction

The Fabulous Five Go Paddling - Winter White Water by The Krafty Kayaker

You may have read about the Fabulous Five in previous newsletters or met them on the sea this summer. Possibly you may have recognized some (fictional) kindred spirits. Just in case you haven't, here are their names again:

Ginger Bread and (sometimes) his sister Lava, the amphibious adolescents.

Victoria Sponge: on every paddle. Far and away the most popular paddler.

Median Middling: muddles along.

The Ancient Mariner: older, keeping well like good wine.

The Leader/Leaderene: wise, imperturbable, capable, with one weakness, cake.

Inveterate sea kayakers all but the last I heard at the end of summer they were talking about trying the rivers this winter.

Ginger and Lava couldn't wait. Ginger explained that a 15m drop was a doddle, like one metre just bigger.

Lava squealed slightly: "Like, it's a wet zip wire, like, with rocks, brill".

Victoria thought rock cakes would be a better bet than a sponge and bought a new dry bag.

Median thought about the pro's and con's but on balance and taking everything into account could not decide.

The Ancient Mariner produced hair raising stories of youthful grade 5 winter paddles.

The Leader/Leaderene said nothing. If they had any thoughts they were hidden. The tried and tested adage of "expect the unexpected" had worked for years and would work again.

Lucky Shortstraw, the avatar who, for good or bad, watches over the Fabulous Five had mixed feelings. Shortstraw reckoned they would not have much to do because, on white water, even without their help, things would go wrong very fast anyway. Lucky thought the workload sorting things out would be too much.

If you do see them on the rivers please let me know of their adventures.

Me? I'm off to warmer climes for the winter.

In the meantime here are some suggestions for groups of paddlers:

- A straggling of sea kayakers
- A plunging of white water veterans
- An immersion of 3* candidates
- A wobbling of first timers on the river
- A convoy of canoes

Any more ideas, for example: "a quandary of British Canoeing qualifications" would be welcome.

Aye and Anon.

The Krafty Kayaker BST (only)

(Editor: I am informed that BST means British Summer Time not Boring Story Teller)

The Long View - a word from the Canny Coach

What better to end an instructive summer's paddling than the immortal words of Rudyard Kipling:

"I keep six honest serving (wo)men

They taught me all I knew.

Their names are:

What and when and why

And how and where and who"

Wherever you paddle and whoever with remember these words and take them to heart.

Safe paddling.

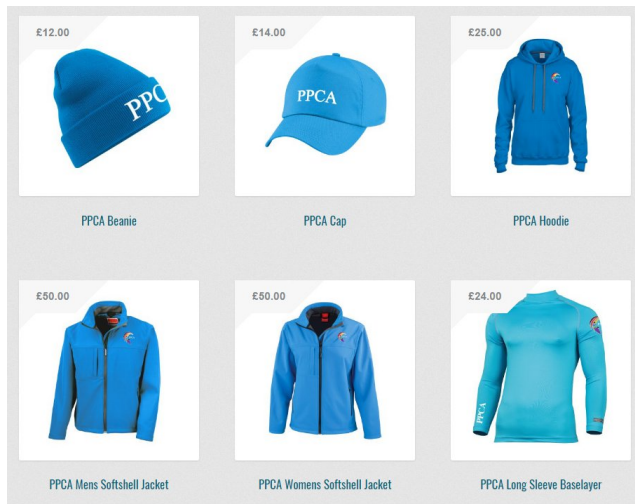
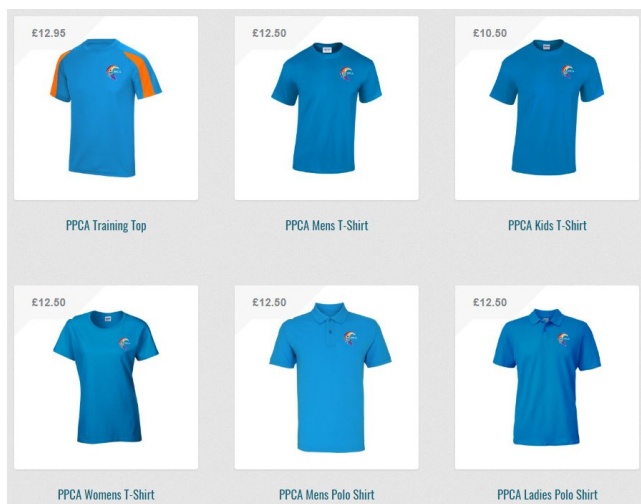
The Canny Coach

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 PPCA 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 PPCA 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!



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

Club Calendar - Please Check Website and Forum for Updates

For the Diary

7th August 2020: Isles of Scilly

Recreational Paddles (Saturdays)

5th October - Clive Ashford (Sea Paddle)

12th October - Brim (Beach Clean)

19th October - Andy Kittle

26th October - Joy Ashford

2nd November - Brim (Sea Paddle)

9th November - Joy Ashford

16th November - Clive Ashford

23rd November - Gavin Bennett

30th November - Terry Calcott

Pool Sessions (19:15)

4th October

1st November

White Water Beginners (Sundays)

6th October - Ken Hamblin

13th October - Doug Sitch

20th October - Clive Ashford

27th October - Pete Anderson

3rd November - Chris Doidge

White Water Intermediate (Sundays)

10th November - Ken Hamblin

17th November - Doug Sitch

24th November - Clive Ashford

1st December - Pete Anderson

Open Canoe White Water

20th October - Brim

10th November - Brim

The Committee (Currently)

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Vice-Chair

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