



# PPCA Newsletter

## June 2020



## Introduction

Welcome to June's Newsletter. Clive has kindly provided another blast from the past. I'm reasonably sure that his frequent references to coke in the article refer to a well known brand of soft drink but I would be failing in my duty as editor if I didn't advise a certain amount of caution, just in case. Elsewhere Adam gives us the answers to his quiz and we have the latest Covid bulletin from the club.

## Editorial

I imagine that the sigh of relief when we all managed to get back on the water, albeit on our own rather than as a club, could be heard the length and breadth of Plymouth. Fortunately my muscles seemed to remember more or less what to do and we've had some good paddles, bumping into some club members on occasion, at a safe distance obviously.

I've included the latest Covid bulletin just in case anyone has missed it in its various forms. Things are still changing rapidly and no doubt there will be another along in a minute. Personally, I'm quite happy to err on the side of caution and think long term but it would be nice to think that the club could manage a few paddles before the summer is over.

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 photographs are from private trips that have been posted on the club's facebook page.

### Covid 19 and the PPCA by Ken Hamblin

Hopefully, you are all fit and well and have not had any experiences with the Corona and that this will continue to be so.

As we write this there has been a slight blip in the Virus figures which has put us into one of the top areas of the country for this infection as it stands this weekend so we still have to be very diligent in how we go about recommencing our club activities in line with the advice passed down from British Canoeing. As some of you already know the government has now made the decision for us to be able to paddle in groups of six, providing, we still maintain the social distancing. Privately you may paddle whenever you wish to but club wise this is a very different scenario where we have to abide by a certain number of rules the like of which we are sure most of you are already experiencing in the shops, supermarkets and public transport. For us to enable this to happen we must put in place a risk assessment, signage, hand washing facilities, cleaning materials to disinfect club equipment before and after use and much more. This in effect means that this is going to take a while to implement. In addition to all this we are governed by the Mount Batten Centre (MB) in so far as when they are going to open the facilities for us to be able to use our sheds. The MB centre is the hub of several other affiliated member sports associations all of whom must produce a risk assessment to the centre before any of us can resume our activities. The most advanced date that this is likely to happen is somewhere at the beginning of July so sadly until everything is in place for the whole of the Centre, we still cannot organise any club paddles. The government is continually changing the rules so be aware that we may be able to open up our numbers and possibly have a reduced social distancing to observe but likewise if there is a spike in the affected numbers obviously things could also go in the opposite direction. We will try to keep you up to date as much as is possible.

As a result of all this and in preparation for the restart of club activities there are a couple of questions, we would like to raise which are as follows:

1. Obviously, there will be the question of whether any of our coaches will be prepared to run any of the activities we would like to include in our new programme. Marty will be sending out a separate questionnaire to all the coaches regarding this
2. Most importantly do you as the members wish for this to be implemented. Those of you with your own boats do not have so much of a problem but those of you who rely on the use of Club equipment it means much more.
3. It would also be interesting for us in the planning of the restart to identify those members that do wish to continue with the Award Schemes and to have an idea as to what level you achieved at the end of last year .

Finally we are very aware that some of you have your own boats stored in the Members shed for which you have paid a subscription for and while we can make arrangements for the collection of your boats for your own use if you wish to do so, unfortunately because of all the restrictions they cannot be returned to the shed until the Club is active again. If there are any of you who wish to take your boats out of the shed please let us know by 1800hrs on Friday evening and we will arrange to be at the centre for you to do this at 0930hrs on Saturday 13th June. If there are several of you, we will give each of you an allotted time of arrival that day. All that we would ask is that you bring with you some form of handwash or disinfectant.

In the meantime, you all take care and “we’ll meet again don’t know where, don’t know when but I know we’ll meet again some sunny day” hopefully soon!!

Ken Hamblin Chair.

Mark Perry Vice Chair

Marty Johnston Club Leader 6th June 2020

P.S. And on a lighter note from Adam, check out these rescue techniques incorporating social distancing:

## Antiques Roadshow

Following an appeal to previous editors for stories they printed that they felt could be dusted off and presented anew, Clive has kindly obliged with the story below.

### Can I Come as Well Please? by Clive Ashford (Cabaret and Photos by Joy Ashford)

**Prologue.** *I was wondering just how bored you could get during a pandemic lockdown when I realised that you are reading this, and then I knew.*

*In checking dates etc for this month's contribution I realised there were a couple of errors in last month's glorious effort. Firstly, our election day expedition took place in June, not July as previously advised and at the time daughter Jane was 8, not 9. Any idea how my books of paddling anecdotes got their titles? ("Based on Fact" and "Based on Fact Too," in case you were wondering, both of which are still available at a very reasonable price. To get your copies contact Clive on 01752 344425, Mob 07854 648584 or E-mail cliveandjoy01@gmail.com). You may, of course, think that the books would have been better served with the title "Complete fabrication." You would have a fair point.*

#### **So, on with the story.**

On the Monday before Easter 2003 all weather predictions for the holiday weekend were dry, warm & sunny. Jane, our twelve-year-old daughter, and I decided that if the forecast was right, then we would take the canoe camping on Friday night. Jane and I have been backpacking together since she was about five and whilst most of our expeditions have involved walking on the Moors, we had spent one-night camping with the canoe on the Lynher Estuary.

Jane and I talked for a bit about where we would go when a tiny voice from the corner said, "Can I come as well please?" We looked around and there was Joy, with huge spaniel eyes, trying to wheedle her way onto our expedition. Now, Jane and I have a little secret when it comes to camping. I pack some cans of beer and coke for consumption at the campsite, and on the way out we stop at a shop and buy some Mr Kipling cakes. (Or something similar.) We were now in bit of a quandary. If we said that Joy could not join us, we could keep our little secret secret but would run the risk of experiencing a domestic nuclear winter. On the other hand, if we said Joy could come, we would have to either reveal our secret, or modify our traditions. In the end we decided to allow Joy to come along, on a trial basis, as long as she behaved herself and stuck by our traditions without question. She was a bit surprised to learn of our habits but being quite partial to both cake and beer she agreed to join us all the same.



Clive and Jane playing with the fire

By Good Friday the weather forecast had changed from "hot and sunny," to "cold with showers, and a force 4-5 NE wind." Obviously the tourist board, trying to persuade people to spend a wet weekend in the West Country, had been responsible for the somewhat over-optimistic forecast bandied about earlier in the week. Not to be daunted the three of us, armed with beer, coke, cider for Joy and a packet of cakes, set off towards Mount Batten. We arrived in good spirits and set about unloading the car and getting ready. By way of a little aside, some of you may be aware that our club leader (A certain Paul Bray at the time.) gives your club chairman (Doug Sitch.) a bit of a hassle over the length of time the latter takes getting changed. Well, gentle readers, I have to report that Doug is a fuzzy blur of activity compared with the sight of Joy getting ready, and on this occasion Jane seems to be following her mother's fine(?) example. Even so we managed to launch in good time under blue skies with the forecast force 4-5 NE wind stopping us from overheating. Jane and I made good time in our double kayak but Joy, paddling solo, did find life a tad harder, especially as the wind was coming at her over her left shoulder making steering a bit of a challenge.

Without mishap we arrived at our chosen campsite, Cable Beach. Most of you will be familiar with this location, it is the last beach you get to between Jennycliff and Bovisand Harbour. We had an interesting few moments landing;

it was very near to high tide springs and all that was exposed on the beach was the pebble ridge against the cliff. Jane and I backed the double up to the beach. I jumped out and quickly pulled the boat up, which made it unstable causing Jane to make a hurried exit, just managing to avoid a dunking. Joy, on the other hand, dipped her bum into the sea whilst exiting her boat and dripped. Oh how we did larf, well, Jane and I did anyway. Joy managed to give us a taste of the afore mentioned nuclear winter until we pointed out that she had practically begged to be allowed to join our expedition, so any discomfort she may be experiencing was entirely self-inflicted.

With no sandy beach to lay out our beds we looked for ways to make the pebbles more comfortable. There were some sizeable planks on the beach so we rigged up a couple of sleeping platforms on which we would spend the night. We got out our bivvy bags, sleeping bags and carry mats and prepared for the night ahead. No tents for us on this occasion. (Just as well, there wasn't enough room anyway.)

With the site prepared for sleep it was time for our little treats, but before we indulged ourselves we decided that a fire would make our campsite a bit more cosy. There was plenty of wood around and before long, and with the use of only 2 matches, we had a nice little blaze going and sat around telling stories, eating and drinking and watching the stars come out. There may even have been marshmallows.

Imagine the scene. The sky was darkening but was not yet dark. From our location, looking out to sea, we could see the whole of the Breakwater, Penlee Point, Cawsand & Kingsand, the Mount Edgecombe coast and Drake's Island. There were lights twinkling here and there showing us where the habitation was. Joy pointed to a cluster of lights beyond Breakwater Fort and asked, "What's that town over there?"

"It's either Atlantis, or a ship," I replied, "And as it is moving, I think Atlantis is pretty unlikely."

A bit more nuclear winter ensued from our guest, while guffaws of laughter emanated from the more experienced backpackers amongst us. Eventually a mixture of fire and cider melted the iceberg and another family legend had been born. Joy is very pleased for me to share this with you. Oh no, that's not right, Jane is very please for me to share this with you.



Joy and Jane, sleeping beauties

Kerboom. A loud bang from the fire shot a roman candle's worth of sparks into the air as the large flat rock we had built it on splintered. These explosions became a regular occurrence, a bit like a 21-gun salute but one where you have to dodge the shrapnel, so a lesson was learnt about where to light fires.

Beer, cider, coke and cake (and marshmallows) consumed we eventually put the fire out and went to bed. I am told that it was not the most peaceful of night's sleep, there was an RFA ship anchored just inside the Breakwater and the sound of its auxiliary motors drifted across to the sleeping beauties on Cable Beach. Joy complained that this and the sound of the waves lapping against the beach kept her awake, poor thing. The air temperature was "just warm enough" for the quality of our gear and so personally I had quite a good night's sleep, thank you for your concern.

In the morning Joy saw some seals swimming around just off the beach, but on placing her glasses onto the end of her nose these seals miraculously turned into ducks.

We did not have breakfast on the beach because Jane was being picked up from home at 8:30 to go horse riding. We made our way back to Mount Batten on a cold, windy, dull grey morning. We loaded the car up during the first rain shower of the day, which made a bit of a miserable ending to what had otherwise been a highly enjoyable expedition.

On reflection, Jane and I decided we would allow Joy to come with us again because she had kept us so brilliantly entertained and because she had taken the photographs that accompany this article.

*Editor's Note: I would very much like to know how Joy took the picture of herself asleep.*

## Puzzle Corner

### Scilly Directions Quiz - the Answers by Adam Coulson

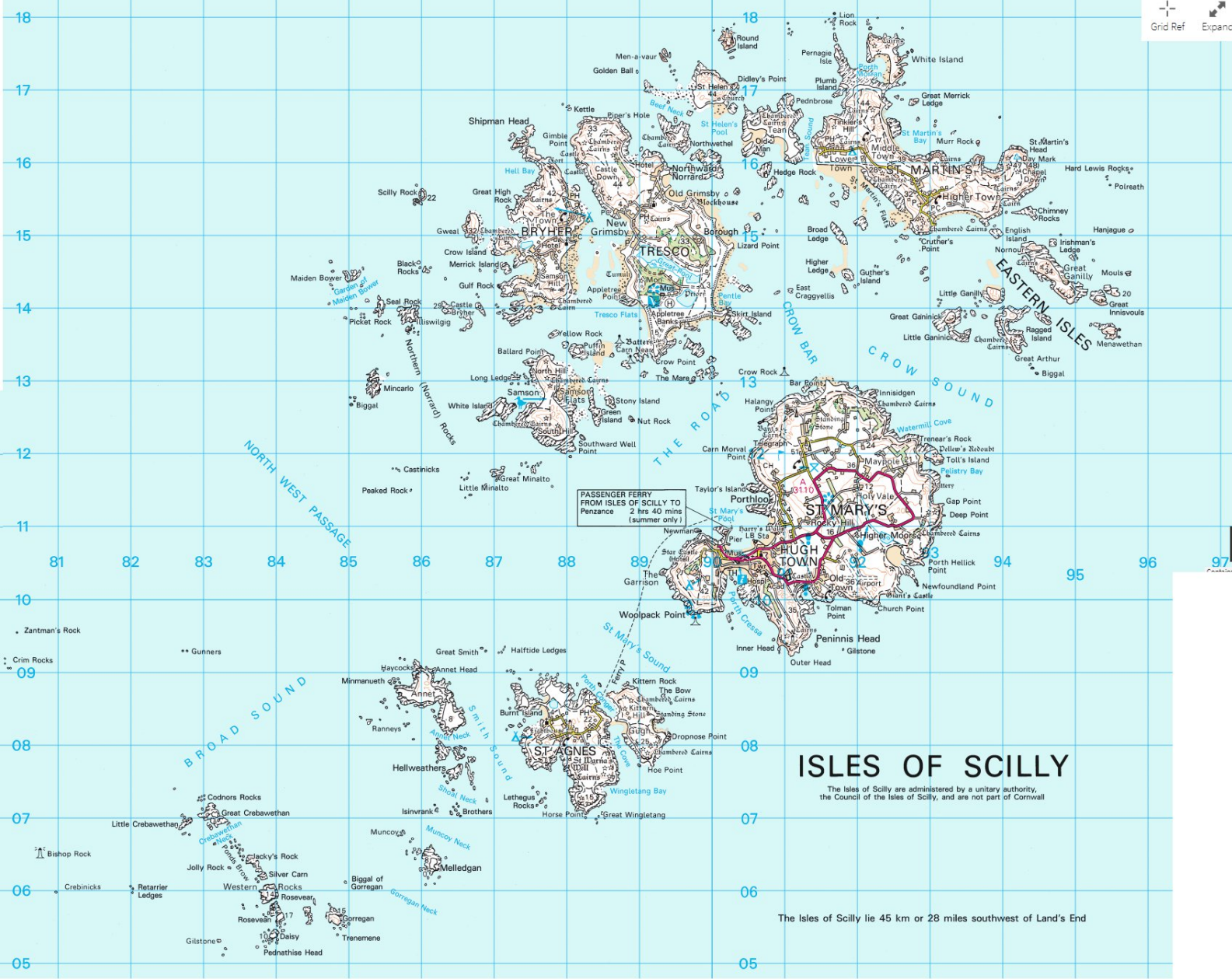
Thank you to those who entered the Scilly Quiz in May's newsletter. I am delighted to announce the winner is one Clive Ashford. If anybody knows him, perhaps they could let him know to get in touch with regards to his prize, a gift from a local boat builder. It is not yet finished but should provide years of service but must be claimed in the next 30 minutes. Photo below

Judge decision final but I am happy to discuss should anybody like to.

- 1) SV903109
- 2) Church with a tower.
- 3) Pottery or gallery
- 4) 255 degrees
- 5) 85 degrees.
- 6) 15.5 km and about 2.75 - 3 hours
- 7) Not 120 degrees apart but can get roughly 923133
- 8) 321 degrees.
- 9) 141 degrees.
- 10) 240 degrees.
- 11) Men-a-Vaur.
- 12) 90 Degrees
- 13) Crow Rock but would accept Bar Pt.
- 14) SV869116.
- 15) NW or SE.
- 16) Black Rocks and White Island so Black and white movie.
- 17) 225 degrees.
- 18) SV847141 Great Minalto
- 19) Doctors hole
- 20) Penzance Library/Museum.







# ISLES OF SCILLY

The Isles of Scilly are administered by a unitary authority, the Council of the Isles of Scilly, and are not part of Cornwall

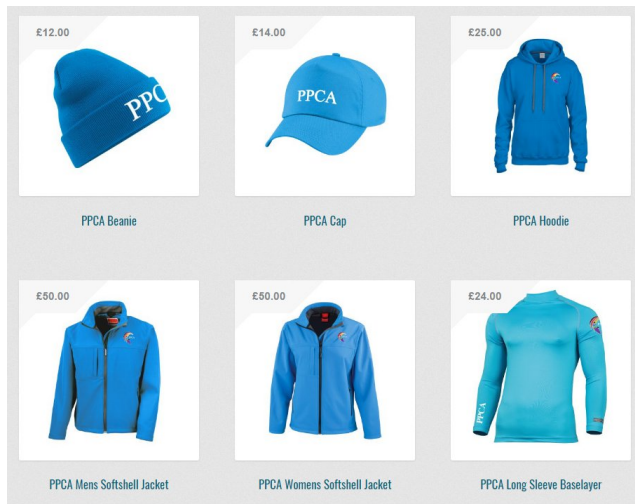
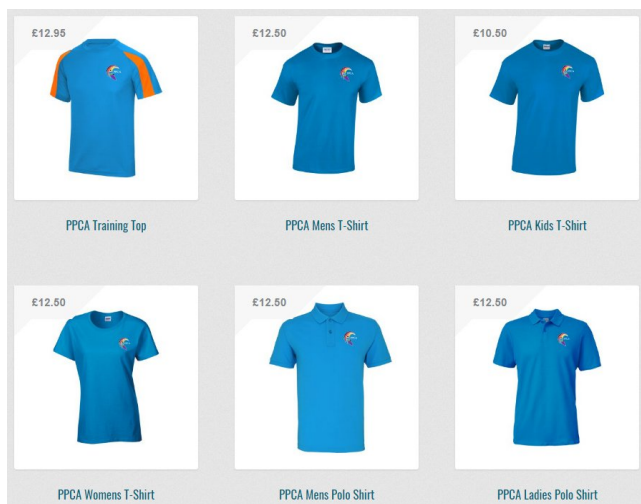
The Isles of Scilly lie 45 km or 28 miles southwest of Land's End

## 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/>



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