



PPCA Newsletter

February 2017



Introduction

Welcome to February's Newsletter. As a special treat this month, we have a piece by a new paddler. We also have some items relating to sheds, a query regarding the identity of a couple of mystery boats and, in what is fast becoming a regular feature, an appeal for someone to become the Welfare Officer.

Editorial

A fairly slim Newsletter this month after some quite long recent editions. It's particularly nice to have a piece from a new contributor. I'm certainly not knocking the regulars but it's always nice to have some new blood. Maybe it will be the start of a flood...

The piece is about going on a Saturday paddle. If you haven't been on one but think they could be fun, please read it and take it as encouragement to try one.

Ivor Jones

Newsletter Editor

The Committee

Committee Post	Name	Club Email	Phone Number
Club Secretary	Bob Grose	ppca@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	01803 849163
Club Leader	Andy Nicholls	leader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07801 367363
Welfare Officer			
Intro Course Coordinator	Jon Seddon	intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07981 560879
Chair	Tracy Jones	chair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	01752 510653
Vice Chair	Ben Mitchell	vchair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07909 807000
Assistant Club Leader	Ian Brimacombe	acleader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07720 957304
Membership Secretary	Adam Coulson	membership@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07834 286461
Treasurer	Jenny Nicholls	treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	01752 952628
Equipment Officer	Pete Anderson	equipment@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07958 694434
Publicity Officer	George Hamblin	publicity@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07805 085499
Youth Development Officer	John Mitchell	youth@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07791 090956
Club President	Joy Ashford		

Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be on 8th March 2017. If you have any points you wish to raise, please contact Bob Grose secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

News

PPCA Nominated Charities by Tracy Jones

In the past, the PPCA has raised money for various charities, most recently 'Help for Heroes' in honour of Paul Goodall, who kindly donated his kayak and kit to the club.

Following a suggestion from a club member, the committee has decided to nominate 2 charities to support throughout the year, with any money raised to be presented around the time of the AGM. The chosen charities for this year are the RNLI and St Lukes Hospice.

A pub quiz is planned as well as a paddle and BBQ at the end of the summer season. Watch this space for details.

If anyone would like to organise any other events for these wonderful charities, please let the committee know.

Shed News

Members' Shed Boat Storage by Adam Coulson, Membership Secretary

Many of the PPCA members take advantage of the facility for boat storage in the Number 2 member's shed that we rent at Mountbatten. This makes for very easy (and last minute) retrieval of your boat on club nights and for any other activities setting off from Mount Batten. It is also useful for those who do not have the facility for storing a boat at home – it's hard to get anything larger than a playboat into the elevator of a block of flats!

The shed is rented from Mount Batten and the fees for boat storage reflect the rent charged. The fees are due now for 2017 and if you have a storage space but have not received notification please get in touch with me – details at the bottom. The annual fees are £37 for a GP boat or Sit-on-Top; £47 for a sea kayak; and £58 for an open canoe.

If you are interested in storing a boat in the member's shed then please get in touch. There is a waiting list for sea kayaks and canoes on the rack but there are spaces available now for the vertical storage of smaller boats. This facility is restricted to current members and there are certain provisions with regards to safety and security that you must agree to if you hold a key to the shed.

Lastly, we have a couple of boats of unknown ownership. If you recognise either of these, I would be much obliged if you could let me know:

Freedom Premier II
White/Green



Perception Sonic
Orange/Yellow



Many thanks from your membership secretary, Adam Coulson at membership@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk or 07834 286461

New Lock for the Members' Shed by Tracy Jones

As many people who draw a key from MB reception or hold a key for the members' shed know, the lock has become a bit temperamental of late. The committee has considered changing the lock, but as it works when MB staff try it, they aren't happy to pay for a new one, so the cost would be passed onto the club.

The lock has been oiled recently and seems to be working at the moment. To assess whether it's individual keys that are the problem, I would appreciate it if you could let me know if you have any problems with the lock over the next few weeks. Please let me know whether it was a MB key or your own key. Any other details e.g. it was cold, wet etc. might be useful, to see if there is any common factor. If we can prove that the lock is an issue, we can try to get the lock replaced or if some keys are dodgy, we can replace keys.

Please e-mail me at: chair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Thank you

My First Paddle with PPCA by Alison Willcocks

I haven't been paddling for very long really, just about 2 years (well 1 year really, I've had a boat for 2!). Throughout 2014 I had treatment for breast cancer and when I came out the 'other side' my outlook on life changed dramatically! I realised life was too short and that I loved anything to do with the sea but had never pursued this because family life had always come first. I'm 53 now, fit(ish) and healthy (as far as I know!) and both our daughters have flown the nest. I was lucky enough not to go back to work so I now have time to indulge in what is very quickly becoming my passion – kayaking.

Well how did I get ~~dragged into~~ involved with PPCA you may ask. To be honest I found them on the internet. I am a member of another local club but when the white water season starts very little sea kayaking takes place so I needed to find another way of staying on the water throughout the winter. I read somewhere though, that to become a member of the PPCA you needed to gain the BCU1 which I didn't have so I became a little disheartened and resigned myself to a dry winter.

Now, with the 'other' club if I wanted to get out on the water from October it was a case of "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" so I went on their white water safety day, which I must say I did enjoy but my real interest was still in sea kayaking. (PPCA do one of these too, but I didn't know at the time!) After this safety day I realised to get out on the water during the winter, sea or river, I was going to need some warm, dry, kit so I went on a trip to Kayaks and Paddles in Plymouth to get a feel for what was available. A very helpful chap, who I now know to be 'Brim' talked me through my options. During our conversation I explained what I had hoped to do and it turned out he was a member of PPCA.

I explained what experience I had had and the boat I had bought, which I loved but was like paddling on ice if you didn't have the skeg down, and how I wanted to develop my skills. After a bit of banter he 'politely' informed me, the problem, was the paddler not the boat!!!! Needless to say I still didn't believe him!! "I'll show him," I thought, "he'll soon realise I was right!" After all, in my head I was at least a Level 5 sea kayaker!!

From this point on I have never really looked back. A couple of weeks later I was the proud owner of a drysuit (which is not necessary in the warmer months or to begin with but is a brilliant bit of kit for the winter weather) and I went on my first paddle with PPCA in November 2016.

I was a bit nervous to say the least. The drive down, finding my way, where I'd park, meeting new people, would they be nice to me, would I be able to keep up with them, where would I get changed, using a different boat, the sea conditions, just some of the scary things that came to mind! I live in Kingsteignton so it is a fair drive down to Mount Batten and as I didn't know that area at all the Sat Nav came in very handy. I think I had to use it on 4 occasions before I became confident enough to try without! Even then I took a couple of wrong turns.

I need not have worried. I had contacted the paddle leader, who on this occasion happened to be Terry, so he knew I was coming. When I arrived Terry was already there. He showed me the ropes and soon I was kitted out with a boat and any kit I needed. Others introduced themselves explaining where to change, where to leave my gear and what to do about parking. I soon found I was chatting away easily and everyone was making me feel very welcome.

The paddle starts on dry land with a quick group chat by the leader explaining where we are going, the sea conditions etc. Then everyone mucks in and helps each other carry boats to the water and launch safely. A guy called 'Steve' took me under his wing and helped me launch my kayak, which I was very grateful for as I was still feeling a little apprehensive. Please don't let me fall in on my first outing! How embarrassing would that be?

Safely on the water (phew!) and off we go. I had never been out of Plymouth in a kayak before so getting my bearings was not easy and to be honest 3 months on and I'm still struggling. *Terry has written a few books about the area called 'View from a kayak'. When you join the club the delights of these will become apparent and if you show any interest whatsoever in the area you will very soon find you have a few extra additions to your bookshelves!! (Shh! Don't tell Terry I told you, but they are rather good!)* I was using a rather kindly, stable boat for my first time out. A sea boat, a bit longer than I was used to but to which I was rather grateful as the conditions were just a tad ... shall I say ... daunting. Lots of choppy stuff coming from all directions! A good bit of the uppy/downy stuff and more than a few rocks thrown in for good measure! To be honest, I was in my element. This was just the kind of experience I had signed up for,



but I may not have chosen it for my first outing with a new club! I was in very good hands though, amongst some very seasoned paddlers (oops ... not sure what they'll think of that description!) a number of which were coaches. I always had someone close by (within fishing out distance!) and was given any advice I needed to deal with the conditions we came across. We ventured out towards the breakwater, along the seaward side and over to Cawsand (Yay! I went to Cornwall on my first trip out!) and, if I remember rightly, after our picnic lunch on the beach at Cawsand we then made our way over to Drakes Island, around Drakes Island and back to Mount Batten.

Did I enjoy myself? Oh yes! I went home with a huge smile on my face

Should I have worried beforehand? Not at all! I was in very good hands.

Will I do it again? You bet! I haven't stopped since and am enjoying every minute of it!

Oh, and by the way. You remember that bit about the skag or the paddler? If they'll let me explain what happened I'll tell you all about it in the next instalment. Watch this space!

Situations Vacant

Welfare Officer by Tracy Jones (Chair)

Your club still needs a Welfare Officer. Please consider volunteering for this very important role. Having a Welfare Officer ensures the safety of all our members as the role involves checking that coaches and helpers are DBS checked and are up to date with coach updates and first aid. Shoena can give you more information, but time commitment isn't too great.

Welfare Officer (Edited Version) by Sheona Grant

The Welfare Officer's job is really simple. All new and existing coaches and helpers must have valid DBS certificates. (They used to be called CRB or police checks). This is done using a very simple online system and, with the DBS update service, most of them take only a few minutes. Averaged over the year, you'll have to do a maximum of one a month. You also work with the Club Leader to monitor expiry dates of coaches qualifications (e.g. first aid certificates etc.). You have the joy of having your photo in the club shed on the safeguarding poster. British Canoeing has safeguarding training for Welfare Officers so don't worry if you have no experience in this area. You would need to do a safeguarding course and a Time to Listen course. Both are half day attended courses. More information and the location of courses can be found [here](#). It's a great way to give back to the club with very little time commitment required. PPCA needs to have a Welfare Officer so if you're interested please contact me for more information.

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

Club Calendar

Wednesday, 15 February

19:00 Comittee Meeting

Saturday, 18 February

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304

Sunday, 19 February

09:00 Intermediate River Trip - Julie and John Elworthy 01752 823381

Saturday, 25 February

10:00 Rec Paddle - Terry Calcott.

Sunday, 26 February

09:00 Beginners River Trip Doug Stitch 07966 740025

Saturday, 4 March

10:00 Sea Kayak Paddle - Ian Brimacombe 07720957304

Sunday, 5 March

09:00 Intermediate River Trip - Ken Hamblin 01752 365404

Saturday, 11 March

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott 07828 652775

16:00 Swimming Pool Session -

Sunday, 12 March

09:00 Intermediate River Trip - Clive Ashford 01752 344425

Saturday, 18 March

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Joy Ashford 01752 344425

Saturday, 25 March

10:00 Rec Paddle - John Mitchell 01752 219246