



PPCA Newsletter



January 2017

Introduction

Welcome to the first newsletter of the New Year. So far the weather hasn't been terribly kind to those who enjoy going down rapids upside down banging their head on every rock but we can only hope that their rain dances pay off. In the meantime we have some good news for the young, a flashback for the not-so-young, Dave going on a solstice paddle after invoking the gods of Disco and Clive identifying some seabirds.

Editorial

My apologies to Terry for the timing of the last Newsletter that meant the piece on the Santa Paddle went out after it had taken place. This was due to the need to put in the bits about the EGM once the Committee had all the information and the need to get the information out in time for the EGM to be held in the time frame required by HMRC. Hopefully, in future, the news won't be quite so old.

Having attended my first committee meeting last week (in an amateur capacity due to an inability to get home from the EGM without my chauffeur) it's amazing how often the phrase "I'll do a piece for the Newsletter" is used. This is fine and I'm all in favour of it but it does mean that I have to allow time for people to put pen to paper, so to speak.

All of which is a roundabout way of saying that my initial plan of bringing out the newsletter within a few days of a committee meeting may have been a bit optimistic. There will still be a Newsletter every month but it will probably come out a bit later in the month. I will extend the Calendar to take this into account.

On another matter, there's a graph of members' ages further on in the newsletter. While it's there to highlight an issue, it's amazing what a broad spectrum of ages the club caters for. There can't be many clubs with a membership range from 10 to 87.

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	01548 821018
Club Leader	Andy Nicholls	leader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07801 367363
Welfare Officer	Sheona Grant	welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07933 780511
Intro Course Coordinator	Jon Seddon	intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07981 560879
Chair	Tracy Jones	chair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	01752 510653
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Assistant Club Leader	Ian Brimacombe	acleader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07720 957304
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Treasurer	Jenny Nicholls	treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	01752 952628
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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 February 2017. If you have any points you wish to raise, please contact Bob Grose secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Community Amateur Sports Club Status by Tracy Jones (Chair)

22 members and 9 committee members attended the EGM on a cold, wet evening on 9th January. A much bigger turnout than I had expected, demonstrating that club members really care about the future of the club. Under Bob's guidance, members considered a few, largely cosmetic, changes required to our constitution to satisfy the HMRC in the club's application to become a Community Amateur Sports Club or CASC.

Becoming a CASC has many advantages for the club, not least that it removes the risk that the Council could charge us rates. It may also allow us to claim Gift Aid on donations and reduce our Pay Pal fees.

The changes were passed unanimously.

Young Person Membership

As a club we have always been good at attracting the young with initiatives such as Paddle Power and Sportivate. We've also been pretty good at providing a haven for those whose children can safely be left to their own devices. A quick look at the graph of members ages below, kindly provided by Adam, shows that we're not so good at recruiting and retaining members in the age group between the two.

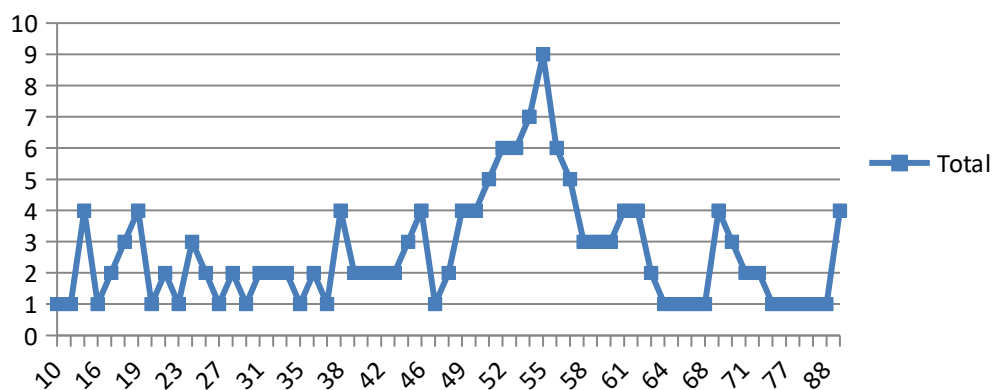
This is an important issue for the club. Quite apart from the fact that a healthy club should have a broad spectrum of ages, simply to keep the club alive as the older members stop coming, this is the age group from which we would expect to recruit our next group of coaches and without coaches the club won't exist.

I'm sure there are many reasons why we don't have that many members in the 18-23 age group – many become students and move away, some will be apprentices, others will be in their first jobs. What all of these have in common is that they haven't got an awful lot of disposable income.

With this in mind, the committee proposed the creation of a Young Person membership category and this was passed unanimously at the EGM. In line with British Canoeing, this will cover the ages 18-22 inclusive. We will initially offer this membership at the same price as Youth membership although, as it is a distinct category, this may change with time.

Hopefully, this will go some way towards attracting a new generation of paddlers to the club.

PPCA Membership Age



Solstice Paddle with a Difference by Dave Pedlow

All solstice paddles start with a silent invocation for a safe return to Earth and Fire (and more importantly) Winds and Water; this year's invocation was more heartfelt than some.

Having seen Jane's Flat Earth sail in action, and even more importantly, having tried it out in gentle winds at the Christmas Paddle, Gavin and I had spent Sunday and Monday working on rigging my skin and frame kayak for sailing. Correction. Gavin had surveyed the Peril, decided where everything had to go for it to best withstand the stresses of sailing, and had gone ahead and with a mix of craftsmanship and pure magic made it a reality. I just stood around, getting in the way, now and then holding a screw or turning a spanner under instruction (it only took me three goes to fathom out that you had to put a ratchet spanner on a bolt head the right way round for it to work), and keeping him supplied with a steady flow of Grand'Mere Coffee (with Jackie's permission of course).

The work had been done, and now it was time for sea trials. At the second throw I managed to set mast and sail, and set a course across the Cattewater. And across the Cattewater we went! No creaks, groans or breaking noises from the Peril, so I tried sailing up wind, downwind, going about and gybing. It all happened, and with two tacks against what had been forecast to be a 10mph Westerly wind, the Peril weathered the Mountbatten Breakwater, and we were free to experiment in a lumpy sea.

I have to say that the Peril feels decidedly twitchy under sail, but I think that's just a question of waiting for my comfort zone to catch up. And maybe next time I try a mini rock-hop running before wind and swell I won't feel quite so terrified as we dive into the frothy trough. I certainly hope so, but for the moment the considerable savings in paddle energy getting from A to B is more than compensated for in the quantity of nervous energy expended.

But hey – it works – and that really gave me something to celebrate this blustery and damp winter solstice.



Joy was down to run the Saturday paddle on 10 December but she had what she describes as a better offer, which I do confess to finding a bit odd. I'm sure that Joy's mum would have warned Joy not to go off with strange men but there she was eagerly throwing herself at the mercy of Andy Nicholls and Ian Brimacombe, and not only that but she was going with the afore mentioned rogues to paddle on a remote stretch of white water in open boats. Curiouser and curiouser as Lewis Carroll would have remarked. Anyway, once Joy has made up her mind to do something there is very little mileage to be gained from pointing out the error of her ways, so going with the flow I volunteered to run her Saturday paddle for her.

Unusually for such an occasion I had done some homework before leaving home on Saturday morning, so much so that I was aware that high tide was approx 14:00 and that there would be rain driven by a brisk SW wind. I do amaze myself sometimes.

At 10:00 nine motley paddlers gathered around an equally motley session leader for a briefing prior to launching. This motley crew included one David Pedlow. (There is only one David Pedlow). David always wants to go around the Breakwater; I believe that he was a lighthouse keeper in a previous incarnation, or maybe a rock. Being a caring sort of a chap I planned a route that would take in the Breakwater and then paddle over to Mount Edgcumbe where we could shelter in the Greek Temple for lunch, thus dining out of the wind and rain. I bet you're amazed at just how much care and consideration goes into the planning and running of these trips. Oh and in case you were wondering the Greek Temple is a folly, so no deities were affronted in the execution of this paddle.

My first inkling that we may not paddle to the south of the Breakwater came as we paddled towards the end to Mount Batten pier. The Cattewater was calm enough but looking across to the Hoe one couldn't help noticing that the flag on the Citadel was fully extended and that there were waves crawling up the cliffs by the RCYC.

The second inkling came as we paddled towards Dunstone Buoy. It was still three hours before high water but there were already waves breaking over the western end of the Breakwater. It promised to be lumpy on the south side!

The third inkling, not that I needed any more, came as we were battered by a SW breeze that hampered our progress towards the eastern end of the Breakwater. Once we had reached the survival cage I gathered the paddlers together and announced that we wouldn't be going south of the Breakwater. No-one was surprised and probably no-one was disappointed but David did poke his tongue out at me. (For the record it was forked).

We rock-hopped along the inside the Breakwater chasing what David Attenborough's apprentice said were turnstones. Joy later informed me that said turnstones were in fact knots, so David Attenborough's apprentice has been duly admonished. I shall not name names to save myself any embarrassment.

Not all of us were rock-hopping; Gavin was paddling Jane Seigne's yellow sea kayak experimenting with the sailing rig that is Jane's latest gadget. Gavin was fair flying along with his face adorned by a Cheshire cat style grin, giving a pretty good impression of someone who was enjoying himself.

Photo by Jane Seigne.



The motley crew near Dunstone Buoy.

Photo by Jane Seigne.



David Pedlow, (green boat) and Alison watching water cascade over the Breakwater.

We reached the western end of the Breakwater accompanied by the constant roar of waves crashing against the rocks on the seaward side, waves that often sent surges of water cascading over the main Breakwater structure. Just beyond the lighthouse the water was as white as a Bing Crosby dream, fully vindicating my decision not to venture onto the southern side of the breakwater. (Oh do put your tongue away David).

With a force 3 – 4 SW wind blowing the crossing from the Breakwater to Mount Edgcumbe was always going to be interesting and we weren't disappointed, or maybe we were disappointed, depending on your opinion about paddling in interesting conditions. Personally I was enjoying being bounced around by the lumpy water, so much so that my face took on some of the feline features that Gavin was demonstrating a few

paragraphs ago. A good session leader would make sure that all the group members were happy, but given the conditions 100% happiness was unlikely, so what I did instead was to ensure that everyone was coping within acceptable parameters, a far less ambitious goal and one that I believe we were achieving.

Once we had cleared the channel I allowed the group to spread out so that those adventurous boys and girls could play amongst the rocks whilst the more sedate paddlers could keep well away from any whiteness. This worked well except that Jane executed a roll in anger that I was completely unaware of.

The Greek Temple proved to be a most excellent place to dine, especially when Helga donned a toga to do her Greek goddess impression. I'm sure that happened but at my age the line between fact and fantasy does become somewhat blurred. Oh, and I may have to retract my earlier statement about no deities being affronted in the execution of this paddle.

Lunch and devotions complete we set off again, this time to play along the front of the Hoe and for some of us to visit the cave adjacent to the Lion's den. Whilst the energetic Gavin did more sailing I detected a bit of fatigue setting in so we didn't tarry. In the end ten motley paddlers returned to Mount Batten and as an added bonus they were the same ten motley paddlers that had set out just a few hours earlier. I was most encouraged.

In closing I have to report that Joy's plans for the day became somewhat altered. Andy was poorly and unable to paddle so it was just Joy and Ian who graced the river Dart in their open boats, (no doubt with suitable poise and charm), so Joy halved the number of strange men that she went off with. They quite possibly had almost as much fun as we did.

Photo by Jane Seigne.

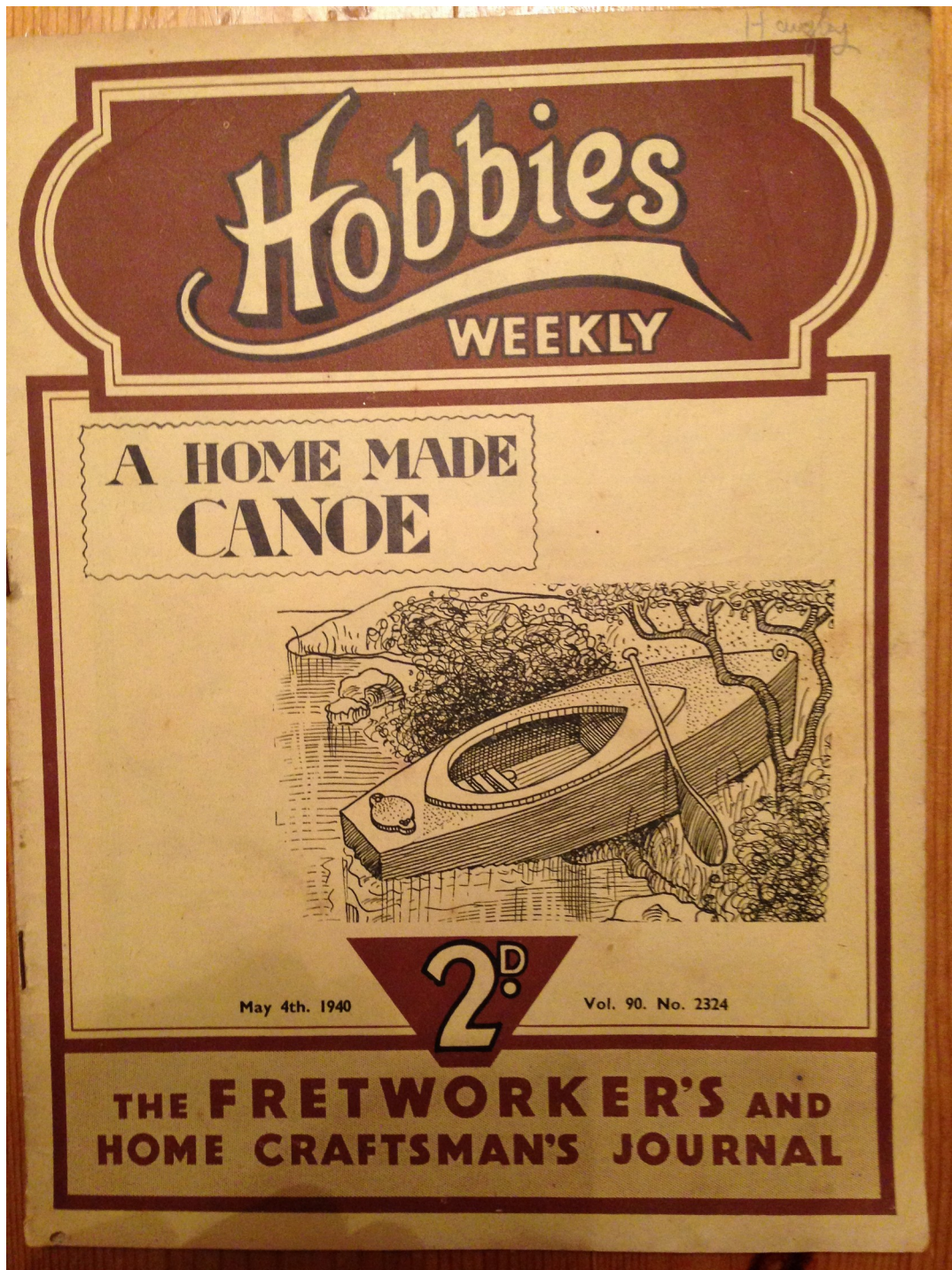


Gavin using the sailing rig.

My thanks to Terry for a couple of pictures from a 1940s magazine. I'm assuming he didn't queue up at the newsagent on the day of publication with his tuppence clasped tightly in his hand but, judging by the graph above, there may have been one or two members who did.

I'm not sure that sending young boys out in hand built boats in the middle of a war was the greatest idea but it obviously struck a chord. Gender equality was clearly still a few years away. If anyone wants to give it a go, I'm sure Terry will be happy to pass on the rest of the article.

I rather doubt whether many 13 year-olds would be capable of doing this today. Or many adults, come to that.



Get ready for the summer with this INEXPENSIVE CANOE

SOME of our younger readers have been asking for details of a small, simple, inexpensive canoe. As every thing has increased somewhat in price due to the war, we finally decided on a light, all-wood type of canoe having a length of 7ft. 6ins. and a beam of 22ins., with a hull 11ins. deep.

This should be capable of carrying any youngster about 13 or 14 years old, but we are thinking of the average-sized lad. Bigger and older boys could build a larger boat, if desired, keeping to the same beam and hull width.

Simple Construction

The shape of the canoe rather resembles a rowing boat. We purposely introduced a flat aft end to

MATERIALS SUPPLIED

4 pieces (deck and bottom), 7ft. 6ins. by 10½ins. by ½in.
2 hull sides, 8ft. by 11ins. by ½in.
2 coaming pieces, 4ft. 6ins. by 10½ins. by ½in.
2 cross uprights, 21ins. by 10½ins. by ½in.
1 aft upright, 13ins. by 10½ins. by ½in.
1 fore post, 10½ins. by 2ins. by 2ins.
4 braces (from waste), 6ins. by 6ins. by ½in.
4 seat laths, 21ins. by 2ins. by ½in.
2 support pieces, 13ins. by 2ins. by ½in.
1 paddle board, 30ins. by 10½ins. by ½in.
Other small parts required are cut from waste wood.

facilitate the bending of the sides. If both ends were pointed, there is a greater strain in bending the thin wood sides around the shaped bottom and deck. Moreover, the construction is simplified a great deal by introducing the flat aft end, as will be seen from the various diagrams provided.

For general cheapness, the canoe is built from ½in. shelving boards, i.e., ½in. thick boards planed to ½in. thick. The width is usually 10½ins. And in respect to the thin hull sides, it is a good idea to purchase an 8ft. length of board measuring, in the rough state, 11ins. wide by 1in. thick.

This is taken to a saw mill or machine shop and sawn in half to make two boards 8ft. long by 11ins. wide by about ½in. thick. These thin boards should be planed on one or both sides. When buying the board pick a piece as free from knots as much as possible, particularly large, dead knots.

Bottom and Deck

The first parts to prepare are the bottom

piece and deck piece. Two 7ft. 6in. boards, 10½ins. wide by ½in. thick, require to be joined together to make a bottom and deck piece.

The two boards must be joined in such a way that the join is strong and waterproof. The best plan is to plane the joining edges dead straight with a try plane (if this is necessary), then mark and bore ½in. holes for dowelling purposes.

Joining the Boards

When the holes in both boards are made, the edges are ploughed ½in. deep by ½in. wide for slips of wood 1in. wide by ½in. thick (see Fig. 2). Having inserted the dowel stubs in the holes along the edge of one board, glue lengths of the slip or "tongue" between them, same projecting ½in. then remove the sharp edges of same with a chisel to make the slips enter the groove of the other board easily.

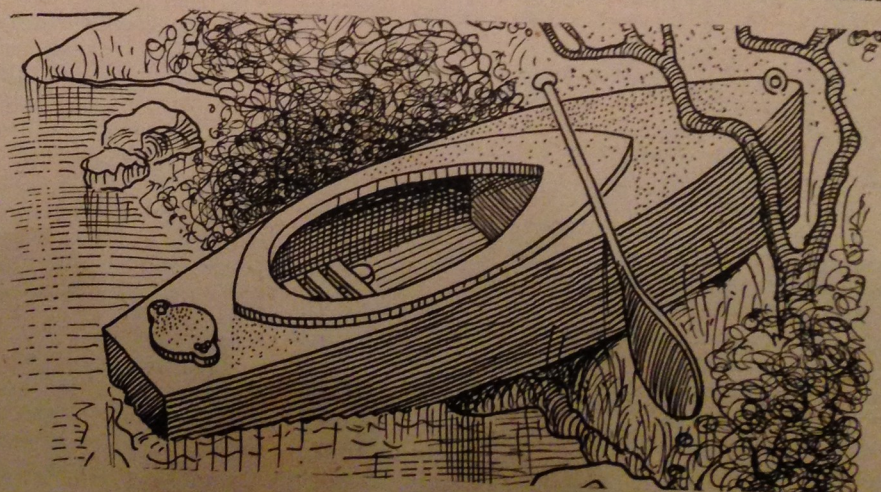
When the boards are glued and cramped together allow to dry thoroughly before marking out the shape detailed at Fig. 1. The deck (outside) shape is the same as that of the bottom. A "well" or cockpit is shaped in the deck, however, as shown, and this must be taken into consideration when marking out dowel positions.

You could, at this point, dowel up two 4ft. 6in. by 10½in. by ½in. or ¾in. boards and cut out the cockpit flange which also helps as a sort of break-water for the deck. It will prevent a light wash of water from entering the cockpit and could be made thicker, if desired, especially at bow end.

Assembling the Canoe

Having planed the joins of the bottom and deck boards, mark out the positions of cross piece (A and B). These cross pieces are either ½in. or ¾in. thick by about 9½ins. wide.

Attach them to the bottom with nails or brass



Situations Vacant

Welfare Officer by Sheona Grant

I've been lucky enough to land my dream job managing logistics for the disaster relief charity Shelter Box. Unfortunately this means I'll be moving to Truro in early 2017 so will be resigning as Welfare Officer on the PPCA committee. 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.

You may notice that this is a reprint of an article in the last Newsletter. Welfare Officer is a role the club MUST have filled for all sorts of reasons so if you feel you could do the job, please contact a member of the committee.

Classified Advertisements

Free to a good home (1) by Clive Ashford

Les Adams is moving to the Lake District to live near his daughter, I'm sure all that know him will wish him well.

He has given me the kayak rack illustrated (see photo) and would like it to go to a good home. (A wood burner does not constitute a good home). Les used it to store a sea kayak on the bottom brackets and a GP kayak on the top. If you are interested contact me.

Clive A.

Tel 01752 344425

Mob 07854 648584

E-mail cliveandjoy01@gmail.com



Free to a good home (2) by Clive Ashford

Les has also given me 2 Halfords bike roof racks (see photo) and would like them to go to a good home as well. If you are interested contact me.

Clive A.

Tel 01752 344425

Mob 07854 648584

E-mail cliveandjoy01@gmail.com



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

Saturday, 21 January

09:00 First aid course day 1

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott 07828 652775

Sunday, 22 January

09:00 First aid course day 2

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

Saturday, 28 January

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304

Sunday, 29 January

09:00 Intermediate River Trip - Doug Sitch 07966 740025

Saturday, 4 February

10:00 Sea Kayak Paddle - Terry Calcott 07828 652775

Sunday, 5 February

09:00 Beginners River Trip Ken Hamblin 01752 365404

Saturday, 11 February

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Joy Ashford 01752 344425

16:00 Swimming Pool Session - Doug Sitch

Sunday, 12 February

09:00 Intermediate River Trip - Clive Ashford 01752 344425

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 - John Mitchell 01752 219246

Sunday, 26 February

09:00 Beginners River Trip Doug Sitch 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