



# PPCA Newsletter

## November 2017



### Introduction

Welcome to November's Newsletter. This month, Clive clarifies white water, we have news of a trip to the Scillies and Terry extols the virtues of the open boat. There is news of several club events and Terry and Tony are in healthy competition to get the most articles published in a single edition.

### Editorial

It's particularly nice to have a piece from Terry on open boating in this issue, even more so as Terry's isn't one of the names we tend to immediately associate with open boats.

As a confirmed open boater, I can testify to the pleasures they afford. Believe it or not, some strokes are actually easier in an open boat – things like the hanging draw or the draw stroke on the move are much more straightforward when you can actually move your body in the boat. That said and with all due respect to Terry, the word "effortless" isn't one I'd often use.

It was noticeable this year that hardly anybody from the two star group came out in the open boats. Quite apart from the fact that you can't get your two star award without going in an open boat, you missed out on a lot of fun. Give it a go next season. You never know, you might like it.

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	Ian Brimacombe	leader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07720 957304
Welfare Officers	Jane Seigne	welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07891 177768
Intro Course Coordinator	Jane Hitchings	intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07837 328981
	Rebekka Stiasny		07939 328981
Chair	Ken Hamblin	chair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07828 652775
Vice Chair	Mark Perry	vchair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07801 310993
Assistant Club Leader	Mandy Nicholls	acleader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07801 367363
Membership Secretary	Adam Coulson	membership@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07834 286461
Treasurer	Tony Sicklemore	treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	01752 268295 / 07779 497577
Equipment Officer	Pete Anderson	equipment@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07958 694434
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Youth Development Officer	Vacant	youth@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	
Club President	Joy Ashford		01752 34425

## Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Please forward any items you would like considered to [secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk). They will go to the secretary.

### Changes to How we Organise Whitewater Trips by Clive Ashford

The observant among you will have noted that the club calendar no longer advises whether a particular river trip is going to run at a beginners or an intermediate level, but instead simply reads "River trip," with the coaches name and phone number alongside.

Because river paddling is so dependent on how much rain has fallen in the previous few days we have decided to give our coaches a chance to organise a trip that is most suited to the expected levels, and to put a suitable post on the forum advising what has been planned.

We are also hoping that dependent on river levels and the availability of coaches etc. we will be able to run 2 trips each Sunday, thus giving our whitewater warriors the best opportunity of paddling throughout the winter.

So the message is to expect a beginners and an intermediate river trip each Sunday and to watch the forum for details closer to the date.

Hope this makes sense?

### Isles of Scilly Camp 2018 by Tony Sicklemore, Treasurer

Just a quick 'heads up' to let you know that a club trip to the Scillies is booked for the week Fri 10<sup>th</sup> to Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018, you will see that for next year there is only one week available rather than the customary two weeks.

I have booked the whole site (Island View) for our sole use and numbers will be capped at @30 people. Full details and costs have still to be worked out but in 2016 the average cost for a week, consisting of ferry fare, transportation of a sea kayak and camping was @£285 per adult, slightly less for children. Expect it to be higher for 2018 and the exact figures will be known once we have a definitive list of numbers attending.

The Guardian newspaper rates the Scillies as the No 5 (out of 10) top places to sea kayak in Europe, and with 3 club coaches available to lead we should have multiple options of where to paddle each day.

But you don't have to be a sea kayaker to enjoy the Scillies. It is a great place to relax and unwind; enjoy the beaches, some lovely walks, cream teas and the famous Tresco gardens to name just a few things. This camp is open to family and friends to come along though initially sea kayakers will get preference.

The camp site consists of: two marquees, ten sleeping tents, wash tents and flushing toilets. There are also showers available at the adjacent farm. All sleeping tents are provided with floorboards and mattresses. One marquee has cooking facilities the other has trestle tables and benches.

You are encouraged to register your interest in attending either via the PPCA website forum ([click here](#)), Facebook PPCA page ([click here](#)) or email Tony on [treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk).

I expect to publish further details early 2018 but in the meantime if you have any questions regarding this trip please don't hesitate to make contact.

## Fund Raising by Tony Sicklemore, Treasurer

Help raise funds for our Club at almost no cost to you!

Christmas is coming, more and more of us are buying gifts, food etc online, but did you know that by joining [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) the PPCA, as a community amateur sports club, can benefit from your spending! You can help raise club funds by joining our "cause" page on easy fundraising. Please go to the PPCA website, look towards the bottom of the page and click on the 'easyfunding' banner. The rest is easy, last year the Club received £50 by this method, please don't let this easy funding method go to waste!

If you want to donate directly to the Club you can do so using PayPal. Just go to the PPCA website, go towards the bottom of the homepage, and look for the PayPal button and article about donating, follow the instructions, the rest is easy. Thank you.

Finally, within your family are you stuck for Christmas present ideas? How about PPCA Gift Vouchers?

PPCA Gift Vouchers are available in multiples of £5 and can be used towards any of our courses or membership fees. Now available to purchase from our website. Click on the picture towards the bottom of the home page advertising Gift Vouchers and simply follow the instructions.

Please speak to the Club Treasurer if you require further information

## PPCA Shore Based Activities 2018 by Tony Sicklemore, Treasurer

A short paragraph to let you know the Committee are working to bring you a few shore based activities commencing in Feb 2018 with a 'guest speaker' presentation followed straight after with our very own version of "Bake Off"! Yes, the Clubs traditional cake competition is back and you have three months notice to perfect your winning cake recipe! Do we have any volunteers who would like to run with the cake competition? If you would like to step-up and take on the role could you please email Tony at [treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk)

Towards the end of Mar 2018 we hope to bring you another guest speaker and this will then be followed with the Clubs Photo Competition and announcing the winner(s). Further details of the Photo Competition, including the T's & C's, will be promulgated in due course.

Other ideas for Apr 2018 are being discussed and will be publicised when finalised.

### Wye Canoe? By Terry Calcott

No it is not a spelling mistake, although I did think about making the title 'Why Canoe' but this is Wye as in the river and my first venture back into open boats for many years.

The club had run a few paddling trips to the River Wye in previous years; and they were very enjoyable experiences. I had a notion of revisiting the river once again but this time with a small peer group, paddling that traditional of craft the open boat. My first thoughts were to getting a bit of practice in before the weekend just to make sure I could still paddle one in a straight line. Much to my amazement the J stroke came back in a short time and the effortless nature of open boating made for a pleasurable few hours. With the knowledge that I could still paddle I recruited some fellow paddlers. The original plan was for around ten paddlers, but after a clash of dates settled on a perfect group size of six.

There are a number of paddling trips to be had along the length of the long navigable section of the Wye and plenty of excellent guide books available on the internet for free. I still had my laminated maps from the previous trips and decided to hatch a plan around paddling the stretch between Ross on Wye and Monmouth over two days.

With the date set, accommodation was booked at Welsh Bicknor Youth Hostel. The drive up to Wales on a Friday afternoon in mid-September should have been simple. Except that it seemed everyone else had a similar idea of having a weekend away and a crawl to the Severn Bridge ensued. But once the toll was paid and the car passed Chepstow a delightful tree lined drive followed along the Wye valley up to Monmouth. Passing Tintern Abbey and then crossing over the river we soon reach Monmouth. I wanted to scout the planned 'get out' near the rowing club to make sure it was still useable for when we paddled. The 'get out' was fine and still had a free carpark and an easy set of steps from which to alight from our canoes. Oh did



Welsh Bicknor

I mention the amount of water flowing past; well it was substantial and appeared to be going fast. There had been a period of heavy rain over North Wales and the mountains way up stream were now discharging all of it into the Wye. On the way to the Youth Hostel I thought another quick detour was required to Symonds Yat to recce the BC owned rapids as we would be going over them the following day. Well my initial thoughts were confirmed the river was swollen. The last time I paddled the rapids all of the bank and the manmade stone features were visible. Not now, better take a video and study the paddling line later that evening. It had been a while since I had been exposed to stoppers a wave train and standing waves but there was a clearly defined path through.

I should say something about the Youth Hostel we stayed at, it is at Welsh Bicknor, a lovely old Victorian house set on the banks of the Wye with its own canoe launch platform. I booked it because I had stayed there before. I'm pretty sure I said last time I stayed 'never again'. It is an adventure finding and driving to the house. Actually finding it this time was quite simple in daylight but the final few miles of driving are along a single track road and the last mile is downhill with a formidable hairpin bend which cannot be negotiated in one movement. Fingers crossed you don't meet any cars coming the other way because no one wants to reverse (just ask Linda and Paul).





Symonds Yat East

A planning meeting took place that evening, the main problem being how to get enough cars down to Monmouth. We had 3 cars and 3 open boats and each car could only take 1 boat. After much brain storming we decided to take all of the cars to the 'get out' and get a taxi back to the 'put in'. The only problem being that taxis do not appear to exist in Monmouth and the local one recommended wasn't answering his phone. So we had 3 cars at Monmouth, and there was a Starbucks coffee so Linda was happy. We then decided to waste no more time and take Merryl's car back to Welsh Bicknor and get paddling.

Our chums were waiting patiently at the 'put in' and had everything ready for launching. A couple of open boats whizzed by as we prepared to launch. I thought the river level had definitely dropped a bit as the main canoe platform was now visible (just). Once on the water and paddling gently with the flow the first shout of Kingfisher went up. The most alluring and colourful bird on the river, just a glimpse of blue and orange is usually seen as it darts along. But today was special as it seemed like every few seconds someone would make the call and the eye would move quickly to catch another flash of colour. We did manage to see one Kingfisher perched on a branch but the cameras didn't capture the moment before it flew off.

We had the river virtually to ourselves except for a meeting with a family group who had hired an open boat from a local company. Well I say open boat; it was actually 2 boats strapped together with long timber beams. The flow of the river was just delightful, it was not too fast but made relatively easy paddling. My initial worries about there being too much water were unfounded. Before long the river takes a massive turn north as the limestone gorge becomes apparent with towering cliffs overhead. The river continues on until it makes another turn to the south and we made our way into Symonds Yat. I was expecting to see plenty of other water users and ferries plying their trade, but it was very quiet which suited us. Nearing the top of the rapids we pulled in for a chat before descending. I would lead the way down and once in an eddy at the bottom the others would follow. The apparent best line down started over to the right of the main flow and gradually pulled us over to a large standing wave but a flurry of draw strokes pulled us back on line and onto the wave train. I had forgotten how exhilarating this white water type stuff was. The others came down in quick succession all unscathed, some damper than others.



Bottom of the Rapids

It was lunch time and Mary had promised us a posh picnic with Merryl providing freshly brewed coffee. Finding a suitable spot to haul out is tricky on the Wye especially when the levels are a bit high. Most land is in private ownership. After passing a few possible sites we alighted at an eddy with a small shallow area with a short scramble up to a clearing. It materialised that we were now sat next to the Peregrine Way, a local cycle and walking route. But we had a nice spot in the sunshine and were not moving. The posh picnic appeared, thanks to Mary, and was laid out for all the passers-by to admire. The gas cooker appeared and the kettle filled with water. Merryl then announced 'whoops I don't appear to have my matches or a lighter'. Nobody had any form of spark or flame producing

paraphernalia. Linda's dogged perseverance paid off and after asking what seemed like a hundred people who passed by, one produced a lighter. Hot coffee soon followed and very nice it was.



Lunch Stop

Mary, Linda and Paul.<sup>1</sup>

Suitably refreshed we continued on towards Monmouth, the river still our solitary domain and no other water users to be seen. The afternoon passed by in a relaxing fashion and we caught sight of Monmouth and the 'get out'. It was the end of a fantastic day's paddling in open boats. We had covered 12 miles of river but it was the most effortless of paddling. I won't bore you with how we all got back to Welsh Bicknor that afternoon or the following days paddling, which turned into walking.

It has definitely invigorated my desire to undertake more open boating, but the lure of the sea and the closed cockpit is still strong. Many thanks to my paddling companions over the weekend Mark, Merryll,

<sup>1</sup> *Editor's note:* As far as I am aware, the phrase "Bottom of the rapids" refers solely to the location of the photograph and is not a reflection in any way of the skills of those involved.

PPCA/RNLI/RPVC Quiz Night by Adam Coulson Membership Secretary

Tickets now selling for a great night out in December.

Teams in advance or teams on the night.

All details below - book your place now!

The poster is for a charity quiz night. It features a dark red background with several large, colorful question marks (red, blue, green, and one with a Santa hat). The text 'QUIZ NIGHT' is written in large, white, block letters. To the right, it says 'Wednesday December 13th Charity Quiz Night The Corinthian'. Below this, it lists 'Maderia rd Plymouth PL1 2NY', 'DOORS OPEN 6PM', 'Live Music', 'Christmas dinner in a Yorkie', and 'Raffle prizes'. At the bottom, it says '£6.50 tickets, includes food!'. There are logos for 'THE CORINTHIAN', 'RNLI', 'PPCA', and 'Lifeboats'. A contact number '01752 664327 or club@rpcyc.com' is also provided.

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**Wednesday**  
**December 13th**  
**Charity Quiz Night**  
**The Corinthian**  
Maderia rd Plymouth  
PL1 2NY  
**DOORS OPEN 6PM**  
**Live Music**  
Christmas dinner in a Yorkie  
Raffle prizes

£6.50 tickets, includes food!

01752 664327 or club@rpcyc.com

Lifeboats



## Christmas Paddle, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December by Terry Calcott

Yes folks it's that time of year again, brush off those hats and Santa costumes, and come join your fellow club members for a paddle feast and make merry. The paddle will start and finish from Mount Batten this year. On the water ready to paddle for 10:30. The minimum dress requirement for this paddle (in addition to your normal paddling and safety gear) is a festive hat. The preferred costume is fancy dress above the spraydeck. We always have a communal picnic of festive fayre. I will be compiling a list of sweet or savoury, so please let me know what you are bringing along.

Please let me know if you are intending coming along by email [terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk) or phone 07981489857 or a post on the forum (I will start a forum post nearer the date).



2 views 2 years apart



Nanjizal Bay (Lands End) 2015 (above) 2017 (below)







Every picture has a story. Wonder what this one is?<sup>2</sup>

2Looks like a caption competition to me - Ed

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## 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)

## Club Calendar

As ever, please remember that the definitive calendar is on the [website](#) and what's printed below, while correct at the time of going to press, is liable to change depending on the weather or the whim of the coach.

### Saturday, 4 November

10:00 Sea Paddle - Ian Brim

10:30 Short Recreational Paddle - John Mitchell

16:00 Pool session

### Sunday, 5 November

09:00 River Trip - Doug Sitch 07966 740025

### Saturday, 11 November

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott

16:00 Pool session

### Sunday, 12 November

09:00 River Trip - Ken Hamblin 07790293952

### Saturday, 18 November

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Joy Ashford

### Sunday, 19 November

09:00 River Trip - Chris Doidge 07973 285969.

### Saturday, 25 November

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Ian Brim

### Sunday, 26 November

09:00 River Trip - Clive Ashford 01752 344425.

### Saturday, 2 December

10:00 Sea Paddle - Joy Ashford 01752 344425

### Sunday, 3 December

09:00 River Trip - Ken Hamblin 07790293952

### Saturday, 9 December

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Ian Brim

### Sunday, 10 December



09:00 River Trip - Clive Ashford 01752 344425.

Saturday, 16 December

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Clive Ashford

Sunday, 17 December

09:00 River Trip - Ken Hamblin 07790293952

Saturday, 23 December

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott

Sunday, 24 December

09:00 River Trip - Clive Ashford 01752 344425.

Saturday, 30 December

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Andy Kittle