



Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Wet News 82. August 2013.



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September edition of Wet News.

Items for inclusion in the September edition of Wet News to reach the editor, Clive Ashford, by 21:00hrs on Sat 7 September please.

Publication date Sunday 8 September

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The editor (Clive Ashford) reserves the right to edit / reject items submitted.

Disclaimer. Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the PPCA.

The prologue.

I am distraught to find that once again this publication has failed to make it onto the Booker Prize list. Does anyone else find this surprising?

Club Closure, 11 – 17 August.

This year the Mount Batten Centre is hosting the Fastnet Race from 11 – 17 August, meaning that the centre will be very busy on these dates that also coincide with the annual fireworks competition. As a result the club has decided to cancel all paddling sessions this year from 11 – 17 August.

PPCA 40 years of paddling. (Jane Hitchings).

This is an open invitation to all past and present members of the PPCA to join in a day of fun to celebrate 40 years of paddling. Activities to choose from are:

- 1) Sea Paddle for the fit and conditioned! Calstock to Mountbatten, 17 miles, start time 07.00 from MB.
- 2) Medium Paddle around the Sound (for the rest of us), start time 13.00 on the water, fancy dress optional.
- 3) Open Boat Paddle around the Sound, start time 13.00 on the water
- 4) Mini Regatta for the young and young at heart! Races, novelty races and prizes. Followed by a short paddle.

Mass return of paddlers to enjoy curry and cake and to toast the PPCA in the Isobar at 17.00. Choice of 3 curries, chicken, meat and veggie. Cost £3.50 per person.

Raffle proceeds to RNLI and PPCA

I need numbers for catering so please can you post on the forum or e mail me on jane@colelane.eclipse.co.uk

Two star assessment.

Congratulations to Adam Mumford, Lee KcKenzie, Luke MacWhirter and Natalie Taylor who all passed their two star assessment on a blustery 20th July, not the easiest conditions so well done indeed.

This assessment was run by Phil Cleeve assisted by Chris Doidge and (to my knowledge) was the first such assessment that Phil had run. Well done to Phil on reaching another milestone and thanks to both Phil and Chris for running this assessment.

Three star assessment.

Congratulations to Mark Curtis and Mark Upton on passing their three star sea kayak assessment on 27th July. The three star award isn't designed to be easy so we can be assured that these two didn't have a gentle day out!

New level two coach.

Congratulations to Andy Nicholls on achieving his level two coach award. To gain the level 2 coach award is a hard enough achievement its own, but Andy has also done battle with the bureaucracy of the BCU coaching service and won. A rare event indeed that hope to gives all us mere mortals. Well done Andy.

Tracy Jones / Membership delays.

Tracy Jones father has recently passed away and our thoughts are with Tracy and her family at this difficult time. Because of this there have been delays in processing membership applications, normal service should return shortly but the mean time please be patient.

Open boat trip to the Morley Arms 31 August.

Ian Ruse will be running an open boat trip to the Morley Arm for lunch and returning to Mount batten. On the water at Mount Batten at 10:00 on Saturday 31st August.

Three star open boat. (Ted Fearon).

It is planned to run a 3 star open canoe assessment in the near future. This will kick off with a 1 day workshop & skills test on Sunday 25 August. If you are interested please see the forum under the heading 3 star canoe, or contact Ted Fearon 07973 964433 ted.fearon@southdeveon.ac.uk "

AGM anyone? (Secretary David Pedlow).

To everything, as the Good Book has it, there is a season; and as the holidays descend upon us, and White Water addicts are driven abroad to get their fixes, so in the PPCA world it is the season for giving thought to the, sooner than you think, Club year end, and matters of Governance.

Or to put it another way – the AGM is not very far away and you need to line up your Proposers and Seconders. At the time of going to press it is an open secret on the Committee, (and who better to share that open secret with than you, the membership), that the Treasurer and Secretary will be standing down at the AGM. There may be more names to come next month - I'll keep you in the loop.

So please, start chatting among yourselves to try and come up with possible candidates that may be proposed and seconded. And don't just restrict yourselves to the "stand-down" posts. Everything is up for grabs. If you want to play a part and/or think you could make a better fist of it than any of the incumbent Committee Members, get a ground swell going to carry you through the gap; and put your name forward.

Mount Batten.

Have you ever moaned about Mount Batten? Maybe the showers, the car park, or traffic in the yard? Is this ringing any bells? If so do us all a favour and report your difficulties to the centre, either by a visit to reception or even better an e-mail enquiries@mount-batten-centre.com (Sending an e-mail means that Mount Batten has a record of our problems). If we don't let Mount Batten know they will think that everything is OK, so over to you.

PPCA photo competition, 2013.

Terry is running the 5th annual PPCA photo competition with a closing date of Mon 30 September. For those of you who receive Wet News by e-mail I have attached the rules / entry form.

PPCA Club History Project. (Terry Calcott).

The project is still moving along although at a a slower pace due to the recent hot weather.

I have a huge amount of information and photographs which I am sifting through and putting into some sort of order. I have started on a powerpoint presentation which on the present progress will be ready early in 2014 for a viewing to the club members past and present. This will probably take the form of a winter lecture at Mountbatten.

I am still after information from the early years (70's) which is still a bit sketchy. I have a few sources who have promised to pass on some valuable information and records in the near future. But if you have any information please dig it out or write it down and pass it on.

Please keep spreading the word especially if you know any ex club members who may have a story.

Plymouth Triathlon. (Jane Hitchings).

On 14th July, very early in the morning for a Sunday, twelve trusty souls from the PPCA turned up to provide cover for the annual Plymouth Triathlon Club 1500m swim. The weather and sea state were perfect and there were probably a thousand spectators on the shore between Mountbatten and the end of the breakwater. An event village had been set up on the lawn beside the Mountbatten Hotel with a bike rack containing some very impressive and expensive racing bikes. Four of our members paddled off to wait by the course marker buoys to shepherd the swimmers and prevent them cutting corners. The rest of us flanked the swimmers or stayed at the back. Jane, feeling like the pied piper, led the race and stayed just ahead of the lead swimmer, marking the route. The race organiser zoomed around on a Jet Ski and surfers and safety boats buzzed in and out and added to the excitement. Over 280 red hatted swimmers milled and jostled for position on the start line, marked by two enormous yellow inflatable buoys. The safety cover was especially appreciated by the straggler swimmers, who, near exhausted, were individually shepherded in to the finished line and encouraged on, stroke by stroke, by our kayakers.

After the main race, there were two shorter junior races around a square course, just off the Mountbatten pontoon. The junior swimmers were remarkable both in their speed and stamina; I tried to swim their course afterwards, albeit in my kayak kit and was soon out of breath. The atmosphere was very friendly and inspiring. We were given tokens and many of us enjoyed a coffee and hot pasty at the events village afterwards. Can I take this opportunity to sincerely thank my fellow club members who gave up their lie in to help me out in providing safety cover.

Roseland 2013. (Terry Calcott).

This year was the 8th year of the PPCA going to Roseland. It all started in 2006 when Clive arranged for us to use the Cornwall outdoor education centre at St Just. A fantastic facility which we have sole use of for the weekend. It is ideally located for a short drive to numerous launching sites and then to explore the wonderful coastline or estuaries in the area. Over the years we have experienced somewhat variable weather conditions but always managed to find a place to paddle and have a good time.

Clive carried on organising and leading the trips to Roseland up until last year when Linda took over the job assisted by Mary and I the task of planning and leading the trips. The weekend follows a well proven format which seems to work very well each year.

Photo by Terry Calcott.



Great Perhaver Beach.

Onto 2013 and what turned out to be the most perfect weather. Paddlers arrived at various times on the Friday afternoon and on into the evening. The fridge soon filled with those essentials that require rapid chilling, beer and wine. Clive with his cook book in hand set about transforming a pile of vegetable's into a tasty pasta soup which we all tucked into. After dinner we all retired to the lounge for an official welcome from Linda then I delivered a briefing about where we were going to paddle and how we would get there. It was nice to see a few new names on the list of paddlers, Phil and Sami. The regulars know what a gem this weekend is, not just for the paddling

but also the socialising and I'm sure those whose first time it was will agree. The sleeping arrangements are in various dorms but the regulars have their rooms and bunks they like. As with all communal sleeping there is always banter about the noise that certain people make when asleep, it would be rude of me to mention names as I may well be one of them.

Having paddled the area for a total of 14 days over the previous 7 years, the knowledge of where to paddle and where to park is deep seated somewhere in my brain. It's the weather that is the thorn in the side but not this year.

Saturday morning dawned and we set off in a convoy of 7 cars with 18 boats on heading for Porthluney cove, part of the Caerhays castle estate. The sight as we drove into the car park was rather good, a flat sea, golden sand flanked either side by cliffs. We unloaded the cars and packed our boats, short tops and shorts being the clothing order of the day. With the mercury rising sun screen was liberally applied and stocks of water put on the deck. The sea was shimmering and beckoning us to paddle and off we

went heading for Dodman point in the distance. For a moment I thought I heard music playing but it must have been the solitude and stillness all around playing tricks. We rounded Dodman point then a few other smaller headlands before Vault beach came into view, across the bay to Cadythew point with Gorran Haven on our left and a small rocky outcrop out to sea called the Gwineas. We paddled on around the rocky outcrop enjoying the calmness of our surroundings and conversation with our fellow paddlers.

Looking back to the coast I picked out our lunch spot in the distance Great Perhaver beach. With the tide on the ebb I knew we would have some sand to sit or lay on. The temperature was already very hot and not a lot of shade on the beach but Mark (of terracotta complexion) found a small hollow in the rocks to shelter from the sun. We had a longer lunch break so some enjoyed snorkelling around the rocks or a swim in the azure sea. Jane always looking to improve her already extensive paddling skills (even when on holiday) spent time with her new training aid in the shallow waters. The return followed much the same route except once at Dodman point we rock hopped in the clearest sea I have seen in this country for a long time. It's a lovely pastime just paddling in and out of the rocks quietly looking around at the stunning environment and the creatures below. Mostly jellyfish of every description but also some starfish and an abundance of fish. Before long we were back at Porthluney cove, a huge expanse of sand lay before us and a considerable trek back to the cars. Those with wheels said easy those without well it was character building!

Photo by Joy Ashford



Rock arch near Nare Head

Once back to the centre and showered it was time to sample the delights Mary had made for the meat eaters a wonderful chicken and chorizo summer stew with couscous, Paul catered for the small but very nice band of vegetable eating paddlers with a piping hot lasagne. Followed up with pudding, another Mary delight of fresh fruit berries. Word had got out about how good the food was and we were joined by Birgit and Jackie our non-paddling chums. With the long day in the sun taking its toll people retired for a light musical interlude courtesy of banjo Mark Porter. Then a relaxing recline in the lounge with a night cap or two before bed.

Sunday morning dawned, to make the most of the day we gave up our lay in and were outside ready to paddle at 0900. This time the convoy made the shorter trip to Pendower beach to launch. This location has been a firm favourite over the years. Although a short downhill carry to the high water mark, the return later in the day was another story. Off we paddled directly to Nare head a large promontory in the distance. Then over to Gull rock and its adjacent rocks to explore. We then pointed towards Portloe a fishing village nestled deep in a cleft in the high cliffs. One of our exuberant older paddlers and his consort dashed off in front to film our arrival. We then followed the coast to Kiberick cove our lunch stop. This was also a lunch stop last year but that's another story. I was a bit miffed when I saw a small scattering of people shapes on our beach. We carried on and I'm sure they never expected to see a flotilla of sea kayaks bearing down on them. Lunch followed much the same as the day before. People swam snorkelled, ate and sun bathed, Mark sat in the shade and Jane played in the shallows with her friend the training aid. A few of us perfected our diving from some readymade rock platforms, tomb stoning for the over 50's I think came to mind.

It is always a sad thought dragging ourselves off the beach and the knowledge that the weekend is drawing to a close. But on we pressed back to Nare head and the towering cliffs. It is lovely way to complete a perfect day paddling in close; the rocks draw you in and the little caves and over hangs look majestic. A truly stunning part of the coast. The seals came out to play much to Sami's delight and everyone else's. Pendower came into sight and those with wheels started smiling those without groaning. A short drive back to the centre and a quick clean and clear up and we were on our way eastwards back towards Plymouth. The end of a wonderful weekend, it went well because of the effort people put in organising it and was enjoyable because of the company of like minded individuals, plus the stunning scenery and great weather, what more can you say except roll on next year.

Picture Bazaar
Photo by Terry Calcott.



The youth and vitality of the PPCA.

Old Nosey, our roaming reporter...

... suggests that if you are going on a Saturday Paddle then it's a good idea to remember to take your packed lunch out of the fridge and place it with your paddling kit, Paul Brady.

Also Old Nosey, our roaming reporter, also points out that no matter what colour you dye your hair you will still be a lovable but ditsy blond, Linda Brady.

Diary dates.

These diary dates are correct at time of going to print, please check the website forum or speak to the session leader for any changes nearer to the event.

Date	Type of paddle	Location	Session leader
August			
Tues 13 to Sat 17 inclusive. No paddling due to the Mount Batten Centre hosting the Fastnet Race.			
Tues 20, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak Open boat 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Justin Frost / Mark Porter Phil Cleave / Alan Ede Ted Fearon Joy Ashford Doug Sitch
Wed 21, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
Thurs 22, 18:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford / Andy Kittle
Fri 23, 18:00	Sportivate one star (2)	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls
Fri 23, 18:00	Youth session	Mount Batten	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654. / Ian Brimacombe.
Fri 23, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 24, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Tony Blackmore / Tom Clarke
Sat 24, 10:00	Recreational Paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Sun 25, TBA	3 star open boat training <i>See forum for details.</i>	Mount Batten	Ted Fearon 07973 964433.
Tues 27, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak Open boat 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Justin Frost / Mark Porter Phil Cleave / Alan Ede Ted Fearon Joy Ashford Doug Sitch
Wed 28, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
Thurs 29, 18:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford / Andy Kittle
Fri 30, 18:00	Sportivate one star (2)	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls
Fri 30, 18:00	Youth session	Mount Batten	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654. / Ian Brimacombe.
Fri 30, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 31, TBA	2 star assessment. <i>Please register your interest via the website forum.</i>	Mount Batten	
Sat 31, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Tony Blackmore / Tom Clarke
Sat 31, 10:00	Recreational Paddle	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
Sat 31, 10:00	Open boat paddle <i>Paddle to the Morley Arms for lunch then return to Mount Batten.</i>	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.

September.

Tues 3, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak Open boat 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon / Andy Kittle Mark Cox / Fred Jones Martin Mills Dave Fisher / Ken Hamblin Chris Doidge
Thurs 5, 18:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford / Andy Kittle
Fri 6, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 7,	PPCA 40 th birthday <i>See July edition of Wet News for details</i>	Mount Batten and others.	TBA.
Sun 8, TBA	3* sea kayak assess <i>Although titled as sea kayak assessments this award can be taken in sea kayak, general purpose kayak or even a sit on top. Places are limited. To book your place please contact Clive, either cliveashford-newsletter@yahoo.co.uk or 01752 344425.</i>	TBA	Clive Ashford 01752 344425
Sun 8, 09:00	Go Canoeing	Mount Batten	Alan Ede
Tues 10, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak Open boat 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon / Andy Kittle Mark Cox / Fred Jones Martin Mills Dave Fisher / Ken Hamblin Chris Doidge
Thurs 12, 18:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford / Andy Kittle
Fri 13, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 14, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Sun 15, 09:00	Go Canoeing	Mount Batten	Andy Kittle
Tues 17, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak Open boat 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon / Stephen Pryor Mark Cox / Fred Jones Martin Mills Dave Fisher / Ken Hamblin Chris Doidge
Fri 20, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 21, 10:00	Recreational Paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Sun 22, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Alan Ede / Stephen Pryor
Tues 24, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak Open boat 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon / Stephen Pryor Mark Cox / Fred Jones Martin Mills Dave Fisher / Ken Hamblin Chris Doidge
Fri 27, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 28, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch 07966 740025.
Sun 29, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Alan Ede / Stephen Pryor
Mon 30	Closing date for the PPCA photo competition. <i>See August Wet News for details.</i>		