



Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Wet News 80. June 2013.



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July edition of Wet News.

Items for inclusion in the July edition of Wet News to reach the editor, Clive Ashford by 21:00hrs on Sat 6 July please.
Publication date Sunday 7 July

E-mail address:

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Post: Please call me for my postal address if required. Tel: 01752 344425

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 went to the barbers and as there was a queue I sat myself down beside a couple of old codgers to await my turn. We exchanged banter and some other pieces of conversation during which time it dawned on me that said old codgers were in fact both younger than me. Gentle readers, that "clunk" you may have just heard is another dent in my already fragile ego, whilst the trickling sound is the cascade of tears as I once again fail to grow old gracefully. Oh, and it's not funny so I'd thank you all to stop laughing.

Parking Warning at Mount Batten. (Membership Secretary Tracy).

Mount Batten are very quick to send out parking fines if they think you are parked in their car park and are not a member. To avoid this unwanted surprise please let reception know if you have a different car, whether for just 1 day or permanently.

If you are unlucky enough to receive a fine, please e-mail the Membership Secretary who will confirm to Mount Batten that you are a member and the fine will be cancelled.

On a similar theme, to ensure that you stay a member please check your SPAM e-mails occasionally as some membership e-mails seem to disappear there.

16 hour First Aid course. (Leader Chris from the website forum).

Dave Fisher has kindly offered to run a 16 hour first Aid course for the club.

The course will run on Thursday evenings from 18:00 – 20:30 at Mount Batten. It will start on the 13th June and run through to the 4th July finishing with a practical session on the water at an agreed time with everyone after the fourth theory session.

The costs!

£5 for the manual

£12 to register with the BCU

£20 donation to the PPCA

This course is open to all members of the club.

PLEASE NOTE: If for some reason we have more members wanting to attend the course than David can provide for it will be coaches first, then registered helpers then members.

Please contact me via email cjdoidge@btinternet.com if interested in the course.

Secretary's Sales Pitch. (Secretary David Pedlow).

Both the Paddlepower and Sportivate courses starting last week were filled at the very last minute, now all we have to do is fill the next ones, in seven weeks time.

So if you've started a campaign to get friends, relatives or what-have-you interested, don't let up - just encourage them to take a taster course in the meantime.

When it comes to Tasters, PPCA is well out ahead of the field. At a fiver a go we're offering much better value than Mountbatten. And of course Taster Courses can come in a whole range of flavours - we can offer Hen, Stag, and Party, as well as vanilla.

So bang the drum - pick up a car windscreen sticker (or two) from the holder under the noticeboard in the members shed - and let's hear it for PPCA.

Midsummer(ish) camp, 15 – 16 June.

Details for this eagerly anticipated sea kayak trip are on the forum.

40th anniversary paddle & social, Sat 7 September.

Gleaned from last month's committee meeting minutes, but no further details at time of going to print. *Jane Hitchings has arranged Saturday 7th September with Mount Batten for the club birthday bash. (40th anniversary paddle). The bar will be available from 5.00 pm onwards, and there will be three types of curries (at least one with meat) available. Ken is prepared to lead a "sea paddle" down from Calstock, and Clive will lead a medium distance paddle in the sound.*

Further details in due course but you may like to keep this date clear in your diaries.

10 tors.

Whilst nothing to do with paddling two of our youth members, James Mitchell and George Hamblin, recently completed the 55 mile (88 Kilometre) 10 tors hike. As if being self sufficient and walking that distance over two days wasn't already hard enough, this year's challenge threw in poor visibility, swollen rivers and un-seasonable cold, resulting in a much higher than normal level of dropouts. Well done indeed to James and George.

Wye Valley weekend. (Article and photos by Ivor Jones).

Seventeen of us made the trip to the Wye his year - two open boats, a dozen kayaks and one sea boat.

We stayed at Kington Youth Hostel - one of the YHA's finest and conveniently situated across the road from the local Minor Injuries Unit.

We had dinner at the Oxford Arms, an excellent pub where a number of us were introduced to Auntie Myrtle. The landlord was delighted to be asked for a table for 17 at 8p.m. and even more delighted when some of us actually remembered to pay for the meal.



Bredwardine Bridge

The first day's paddling started at the Boat Inn where, despite extensive research indicating the contrary, the landlady informed us that we couldn't launch unless we were staying on the local campsite. Fortunately, a small amount of cash changed her mind and we were soon on the water.

It was quite a long paddle at 22 miles, eventually finishing at Hereford Cathedral and I don't think I was the only one who was relieved when we got there. The Wye is a beautiful river where, in the space of a few minutes, we were soaked by the rain, buffeted by the wind and grilled by the sun. We saw plenty of birds to keep the ornithologists happy, including being dive bombed by sand martins and being attacked by a rather vicious swan. We also saw several very grand houses, including at least one National Trust property.

The paddling was generally pretty straightforward, even for those of us in one of those weird open boat thingies. The only fly in the ointment was the dreaded Monnington Falls. According to local legend (or at least the word of our leaders), these are second only to Niagara in scale and ferocity. Several of us had decided to walk round them and excitement was mounting as we approached them after lunch. To add to the fun, we had caught up a stag party in half a dozen canoes, none of whom had obviously been on the river before and all of whom were somewhat the worse for wear. We were then given the choice between a right hand passage around an island that looked pretty shallow and a left hand passage that looked like

a minor rapid. Wisely, we did what any experienced group of paddlers would do and let the stag party go first, all of whom managed to come out of their boats one way or another leaving the way clear for us to paddle through the rapids. It turned out later that these were the dreaded falls although none of us realised it at the time.



Kit drying, paddlers in pub.

The second day's paddle was a much shorter 6 miles from Hay to the Boat Inn. Again a very scenic stretch and one that will be remembered for Debs introducing Tracy and I to the joys of a threesome. Incidentally, having paddled under the Toll Bridge at Hay-On-Wye, I don't think I'd be too keen to drive over it.

A couple of personal points. Firstly, driving over the Severn Crossing with a 16 foot canoe on the roof through very high winds is something I only intend to do once. Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who made Tracy and I so welcome as the only newbies on the trip. This was our first away trip with the club and neither of us would claim to be very experienced paddlers but we had no problems keeping up, despite our curious mode of transport. A number of people said it was good to have new people come along so if you see a trip advertised that you think you could do, don't be put off, give it a go.

I nearly forgot - nobody swam.

Canoeing the Great Ouse 1970's style (4) (David Pedlow).

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River Ouse near Huntingdon.

We stayed in the lock keeper's garden at Isleham for about a week whilst Abigail recovered from her "summer fever". By the end of that week Abigail was bursting with energy from a diet of goats' milk and eels, and it was time to think of making our way back to Huntingdon.

This needed considerable thought. Plan A had involved collapsing the kayak, and going home by train. Now we had to paddle back up-hill.

Fortunately I had packed two stout bamboo poles, about 6cm diameter and two metres long. With the aid of a couple of stout lengths of hazel, these were formed into a wishbone mast; another length of hazel acted as

the cross yard; and with the spare black plastic groundsheet as a sail, hey presto, we were square rigged, and ready to take advantage of that season's prevailing wind which, happily, was blowing up river.

The "must have" toy for motor cruiser owners that year was a (tape) video camera. Even when the turns of the river meant that we encountered adverse winds, and had to lower sail, our wishbone-mast rigged craft was deemed worthy of a short length of video footage. Sailing free was worth a few minutes; but if the wind had picked up a bit and was coming on the beam, and we were making long legs up the river, with Jackie and Abigail leaning out to windward, while I paddled hard to leeward to hold up the bow for as long as possible, then the cameras just ran and ran. Eventually, of course, we ran up against the leeward bank, and then would drop sail, paddle a short tack across river to the windward bank, and start again. It was sheer joy.

The night before we came home to Huntingdon we camped on the water meadows, and were woken just before dawn by something banging the tent poles through the tent-cloth, and a considerable amount of heavy breathing and snorting.

I looked out and found we were surrounded by a herd of about 20 mares, some 10 foals, and a feisty stallion. The mix of mares and foals rang alarm bells, and I quietly instructed Jackie and Ab to be ready, on the word of command, to retreat quickly and immediately to the canoe.

We slept au naturel in our sleeping bags. Jackie took one look out of the door and saw, what I had missed, serried ranks of fishermen's umbrellas down both banks. "No way!" she said; and shortly after - without destroying the tent - the horses moved off to their next grazing patch.

And that was it. Later that day we sailed up to the boat-yard looking, according to its owner, for all the world as though the Vikings had returned to Huntingdon; unrigged, unpacked, loaded the side car, and rode away from the river forever.

Editors footnote. This is the final instalment of David's epic adventure on the River Ouse, my grateful thanks to David for his contribution, which leaves me pondering if anyone else out there has a story that our members may be interested in reading? Stories don't need to be about canoeing or even be true; they just need to be interesting. Actually they don't even need to be interesting; they just need to be printable!

Just to entertain.

Overheard on a recent Saturday paddle.

Coach, "Bob's leading, so everyone stay behind Bob please."

Certain paddlers, "Where is Bob?"

Coach, "He's behind you."

Pantomime come to the PPCA!

Old Nosey, our roaming reporter...

...is all in favour of your session leader having a hard time on a Tuesday evening, but the scars shouldn't be visible. Doug coming off the water on a Tuesday with a cut over his nose demonstrates the lack of discipline / skill of his students.

Discounts.

The following traders have been known to give PPCA members discount. If you know of any more, or find any of this information to be incorrect, please let your editor know.

AS watersports, Exeter. 5% or 10% dependant on what you are buying and on production of your PPCA membership card,

Camel Canoe & Kayaks, Wadebridge. 10% on production of PPCA card.

Cotswold Outdoor. (Plymouth branch only). 15% on production of your PPCA membership card.

Kayaks & Paddles, Plymouth. 15% on production of PPCA membership card.

Marine Bazaar, Sutton Road. "What he feels like" for mentioning PPCA.

Mount Batten Bar. 5% on production of current Mount Batten membership card.

Picture Bazaar
Photo by Terry Calcott



Evidence that Jane harbours a secret ambition to become a sit on top paddler.

**That's all folk; see you somewhere cold and wet.
Good paddling,
Clive**

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
June. Tues 11, 18:00	1* plus 2* star Open boats 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Julie Elworthy / Andy Kittle Justin Frost / Mark Porter Martin Mills Chris Doidge /Jane Hitchings John Elworthy
Wed 12, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls
Fri 14, 18:00	Sportivate one star (1) / Youth session	Mount Batten	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654. / Ian Brimacombe.
Fri 14, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
15 – 16	Midsummer(ish) camp <i>See March Wet News and watch the website forum for details.</i>	TBA	Clive Ashford 01752 344425.
Sat 15, 09:00	Go Canoeing	Mount Batten	Jenny & Andy Nicholls
Sat 15, 10:00	Recreational Paddle	Mount Batten	Tony Blackmore 07773 237680.
Tues 18, 18:00	1* plus 2* star Open boats 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Julie Elworthy / Andy Kittle Justin Frost / Mark Porter Martin Mills Chris Doidge /Jane Hitchings John Elworthy
Wed 19, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls
Thurs 20, 18:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott / Linda Brady
Fri 21, 18:00	Sportivate one star (1) / Youth session	Mount Batten	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654. / Ian Brimacombe.
Fri 21, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 22, 09:00	Go Canoeing	Mount Batten	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654.
Sat 22, 10:00	Recreational Paddle	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
Tues 25, 18:00	1* plus 2* star Open boats 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Julie Elworthy / Andy Kittle Justin Frost / Mark Porter Martin Mills Chris Doidge /Jane Hitchings John Elworthy
Wed 26, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls
Thurs 27, 18:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott / Linda Brady
Fri 28, 18:00	Sportivate one star (1) / Youth session	Mount Batten	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654. / Ian Brimacombe.
Fri 28, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 29, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Tony Blackmore / Zoe Boyle

June (continued).

Sat 29, 10:00 Sea kayak trip Mount Batten Clive Ashford 01752 344425.
Times and venue will appear on the club forum a few days ahead of this trip.
The club sea kayaks can be booked with the Club Equipment Officer, Alan Ede, by a text to 07799 556876
or an e-mail to alancede@hotmail.co.uk

July.

Tues 2, 18:00	1* plus 2* star Open boats 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Julie Elworthy / Andy Kittle Justin Frost / Mark Porter Martin Mills Chris Doidge / Jane Hitchings John Elworthy
Wed 3, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls
Thurs 4, 18:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott / Linda Brady
Fri 5, 18:00	Sportivate one star (1) / Youth session	Mount Batten	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654. / Ian Brimacombe.
Sat 6, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Tony Blackmore / Zoe Boyle
Sat 6 TBA	Horizon Swim <i>For further info see website forum.</i>	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
Sat 6, 10:30	Intro rec Paddle	Mount Batten	Tom Clarke 01752 208735.
Tues 9, 18:00	1* plus 2* star Open boats 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	John Elworthy Neville Cannon / Stephen Pryor Julie Elworthy Brian Taylor / Phil Cleave Andy Stamp
Wed 10, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls
Thurs 11, 18:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott / Linda Brady
12 – 14	Roseland Weekend <i>See March Wet News for details.</i>	Roseland Centre	Linda Brady 01752 217678 / 07747 744084 or Mary McArdle 01752 881166 / 07533825898
Fri 12, 18:00	Sportivate one star (1) / Youth session	Mount Batten	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654. / Ian Brimacombe.
Fri 12, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 13, 10:00	Recreational Paddle	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge 07973 285969.
Sun 14, 09:00	Go Canoeing	Mount Batten	Alan Ede
Tues 16, 18:00	1* plus 2* star Open boats 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	John Elworthy Neville Cannon / Stephen Pryor Julie Elworthy Brian Taylor / Phil Cleave Andy Stamp
Fri 19, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 20, 10:00	Recreational Paddle	Mount batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Sun 21, 09:00	Go Canoeing	Mount Batten	Mark Cox

Advanced notice.

Sat Sept 7. 40th Anniversary paddle TBA TBA