



Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Wet News 77. March 2013.



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(E-mails to this address goes to the secretary).		

April edition of Wet News.

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

E-mail address:

cliveashford-newsletter@yahoo.co.uk

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 have to report that the Mount Batten Squid has made a lightning visit to New Zealand, where it wrestled your favourite editor out of a raft and into the Clarence River on a rapid that was, embarrassingly enough, not quite grade 2.

Three star white water kayak.

Congratulations to Dave Fackell, Gary (Gus) Goscombe & Rob Beard on passing their three star white water kayak award on 3 Feb.

PPCA Forum, Facebook and Twitter. (Andy Nicholls, Publicity Officer).

As you should already know, the club has had a forum for members on the website. A lot of trips get discussed on this and pictures get posted etc. We would like you all to join the forum and often check there for new happenings. On the forum we have a for sale and wanted section, for you to sell or post a need for any items (paddling related preferably and we do reserve the right to remove or move other items). There is a third party adverts section where any courses or events which might be of interest to some or all get posted by Dave our club secretary. We also have a member only section which only registered users can see. To register as a user just simply click the register now option near the top of the page and fill in the form. Due to high levels of Spam applications we get I have introduced a temporary new secondary system. Once you have filled in the form and please send an email to ppca_forum@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk and use the subject new member.

So we can confirm that you are a member and get you activated as soon as possible please include the following.

Your Real Name,
Your forum name,
Your email address.

Failure to do this may result in your account not being activated.

Also we have recently set up a Facebook group, just search PPCA Canoe Club. Only members can post but you all can see and share information on there too.

If you are also inclined we are @PPCACanoeClub on twitter, you might have seen our twitter feed on the home page of the website, feel free to follow us and mention #PPCA often to get us noticed!

Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers.

The club are saving Sainsbury's "Active Kids" vouchers. If you could collect yours there is a box in the members shed. I'd tell you that every little helps but that's Tesco isn't it?

PPCA Logo / Image competition. (Andy Nicholls, publicity officer).

Hi many of you will know our club has now reached 40 years of paddling in and around Plymouth. We feel it's time to include this with our logo. I'm neither a graphic designer, nor even an artist so we as the committee thought we would open this up to club members to contribute.

As part of our fundraising to keep the club running and equipment etc safe and in good order we thought we would expand the idea for not just a club logo but the possibility of a brand. By this I mean we could get some clothing designs and sell merchandise with a comic image and PPCA name or even just some mugs or pens with our name on.

Are you up for the challenge? Can you or even a friend come up with some designs which we could use on our promotional items your designs could be used on some of our posters or on the website as well.

Please send your designs to publicity@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk where I will take them back to the committee and post results on the forum. If it's not possible for you to email please contact me for my address.

To get you started with some ideas here is the current logo and the previous one which was used until the early 1990s



Current logo.



Previous logo.

Boat storage (Treasurer Syd Evans).

There are several places available for the storage of general purpose kayaks (including Sit on tops) in the members shed. If you wish to store your boat then contact the treasurer at treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk. Cost of storage for the current year is £27.50.

Club Easter Paddle Sat 30th March, Wembury beach. (Terry Calcott).

The Easter paddle will start & finish from Wembury beach. Meet at the beach car park (GR 518484), ready to paddle for 10:30, (0930 at M'batten for club equipment).

It has become a PPCA tradition over the years that paddlers dress in some form of Easter theme. We also have a communal feast of Easter food to share with each other. Details will be posted on the forum nearer the date. Where we paddle from will still be dependant on the weather/sea conditions on the day (if inclement it will be from MB).

Also please phone, e-mail or post on the forum to let me know if you are coming along. 07828652775 or terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk

River season.

By the time you read this the PPCA river season will have come to a close. Speaking personally I think it has been a brilliant season and would like to thank all paddlers, (especially our coaches and helpers), for making our time on the river such an enjoyable experience.

Although the club doesn't organise any white water trips during the summer season there is no reason not to paddle our rivers, however if you do paddle you are likely to come across anglers and land owners who will tell you that what you are doing is illegal. As things stand they can't prove their claim but likewise canoeists can't conclusively prove their right to paddle. It's your choice but if there is sufficient water in the river to paddle then at worst you will be guilty of trespass, which is a civil offence. If however the levels are low you may be guilty of damaging fish spawning beds, which is a criminal offence.

Tuesday evening training season.

The new season of Tuesday evening training sessions starts on 16 April with all the usual goodies arranged for your entertainment. New for this season is a dedicated set of 2* open boat sessions starting on 14 May. We've never had it so good.

Introductory recreational paddles.

Also new for this summer is a series of introductory recreational paddles, aimed at those paddlers who may feel that they are not yet ready to attend the normal Saturday recreational paddles. John Mitchell is running these introductory recreational paddles on the first Saturday of each month and they will be a gentler version of our normal paddle. (We've still never had it so good).

The great PPCA get away.

You lucky people have the opportunity of spending 3 weekends away with the PPCA. Here's what's on offer.

Wye Weekend, 10 – 12 May.

We have the exclusive use of the Youth Hostel at Kington and will be touring on the gentle but beautiful river Wye, which is suitable for both kayaks and open boats. The cost of accommodation will be £32 plus catering. To book your place contact Clive Ashford 01752 344425 or cliveashford-newsletter@yahoo.co.uk

Midsummer(ish) camp, 15 – 16 June.

Assuming favourable weather conditions we will paddle from Mount Batten to Ayrmer Cove on Saturday 15 June, (approx 15 miles), camp at Ayrmer Cove then carry on to Aveton Gifford on the Sunday, (approx 6 miles), where I will have organised transport so shuttle us back to Mount Batten. The only cost for this trip is a small donation to the National Trust for allowing us to camp at Ayrmer Cove. This event is for sea kayaks only and if you want to book a club boat, or for any other questions, contact Clive Ashford 01752 344425 or cliveashford-newsletter@yahoo.co.uk

Roseland Weekend, 12 – 14 July.

As usual the Roseland Weekend will be based in the Roseland Centre which offers excellent sea kayaking opportunities. See <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8882> and click on Roseland Outdoor Education brochure. Cost of accommodation will be approx £40 plus catering. For further info and to book your place please contact either Linda Brady 01752 217678 / 07747 744084, or Mary McArdle 01752 881166 / 07533 825898.

Who was Rob Roy MacGregor? (Terry Calcott).

You may well ask, this very question is in the theory sample questions for the various 3 Star awards.

I remember years ago being asked that very question by a club coach at an assessment. I had heard the name banded around and looked it up in a variety of sources. The result being this short paragraph:

The first sign of any organisation in canoeing appeared when John MacGregor, a London Scot of very great energy, got Searle 's of Lambeth, boat builders, to build him his first "Rob Roy" in 1865. John MacGregor was a great writer; but, although he wrote many books describing his craft he only briefly divulged that he got his original idea after seeing the canoes in "North America and the Kamschatka". The Rob Roys themselves were essentially all-purpose travelling vessels for rivers and estuaries. They were propelled by double-bladed paddles; but they could also take advantage of any following wind by setting a small lugsail, the paddle then being used to steer. As a result of the lectures he gave and of the books he wrote about his voyages, MacGregor began to collect about him other enthusiasts, and in 1866 the Canoe Club was formed. The Prince of Wales joined the club and was made Commodore in 1867, which office he held until his accession to the throne as King Edward VII in 1901. In 1873, by command of Queen Victoria, the Canoe Club became the Royal Canoe Club.

Picture from Harpers New Monthly Magazine, 1880.



It was only recently that I came across Project Gutenberg a free web based collection of books and doing a random search I came across John MacGregor's book 'A Thousand miles in the Rob Roy canoe on the rivers and lakes of Europe'.

The book can be downloaded in a variety of formats for free at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/40238> There is also another website <http://www.archive.org> which has this book and the others MacGregor wrote about his travels in Jordan and the Baltic.

I would recommend all canoeists read these books at some time in their paddling lives. They not only give an insight into the very early days of canoeing but MacGregor himself is a real pioneer and a true Victorian adventurer and some of the things he gets up to made me smile. The early paragraphs about the Rob Roy canoe and his paddling equipment and clothing are a real eye opener. Below is a short piece of text from the book.

"After taking on supplies at Gravesend, I shoved off into the tide, and lit a cigar, and now I felt we had fairly started"

Canoeing the Great Ouse 1970's style part 1. (David Pedlow).

It had been a long day already. Quitting our flat and making up the 3 seater 18ft Granta Silver Airflow collapsible kayak had taken longer than planned. Packing the heavy duty polythene bags sealed with carpet tape (drybags weren't even a twinkle in a designer's eye), and somehow fitting them under fore and aft decks for the first time, had been wearying both to joints and mind. But at last we'd managed it.

Jackie in the bow, Abigail - then rising 4 - in the middle, and me in the stern, we pushed out into the Great Ouse and turned downstream. Without saying anything I picked Abi up, and dropped her over the side, so she would believe in her Buoyancy Aid, and we were away.

Now, latish afternoon, we met what should have been the first major obstacle on our 6 week odyssey down the river; the sluice gate and disused lock at Cardington Mill. What we should have done was unload and portage; but the shute of water, falling some 10 feet in a third the length of the lock chamber was irresistible. Jacky and Ab went ashore, and I took the craft down through the lock.

I've never forgotten the high as we went over the edge; or the low as, having encountered a sharp metal object hidden just below the surface, we sogged out into the mill pond, water levels equalled inside and outside the craft, a fishing float we'd salvaged, perfectly cocked in front of me, as I gave thanks for the integrity of the built in inflatable sponsons along the gunwales.

Photo from the internet.



Cardington Mill circa 1929.

We beached the boat and set to work to patch the four foot gash with carpet tape whilst Abi, having just read *The Wind in the Willows*, prepared a feast of bulrush stems "for the water-voles"; and then set off in our still leaking craft, finally coming to land where road and river converged at the end of a Bryant and May matchwood aspen plantation, next to an isolated cottage.

The lady at the cottage was helpfulness itself, and drove me to the plantation manager's house. Playing the Distressed British Seaman card (it helped that he had his own two seat Granta Kayak hung in his garage) won us permission to stay, till we worked out what to do next.

On the way back the cottage lady invited us to supper. She had, it transpired, stuffed a marrow for the very first time that afternoon. This was clearly too avant gard for her husband who, with a few well chosen observations about what he was and was not prepared to eat, had taken himself off to get a steak at the pub. Now she was preoccupied with "not wasting" it, and was overjoyed when we jumped at the offer. It was delicious.

And so we went to bed well fed, dry, listening to the whisper of the wind in the aspens and the cries of foxes; wondering what on earth we were going to do next.

Old Nosey, our roaming reporter...

...would point out that it isn't easy finding an address if the owners omit to display a house number. Old Nosey thinks that Tracy & Ivor Jones don't like receiving visitors.

Picture Bazaar
Photo by John Elworthy



Joy lets her tongue cool down after giving Clive another nagging.

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
March.			
Sat 9, 08:15	Open boat peer paddle. TBA <i>Meet 08:15 at Mount Batten for those wanting to use club boats, see forum for details.</i>		Martin Mills 07530 004070.
Sat 9, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Sun 10, 08:30	Intermediate river trip <i>Meet at Plympton B&Q ready to leave at 08:30.</i>	TBA	Julie Elworthy 01752 823381.
Sun 10, TBA	White water kayak 3* assessment		TBA
Sat 16, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
Mon 18, 19:30	Pool session <i>This session needs to be paid for in advance. Please see December Wet News for details.</i>	Plympton Pool	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654.
Sat 23, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford 01752 344425.
Mon 25, 19:30	Winter lecture <i>Ian Ruse talk on charts and navigation. Please see forum for more details.</i>	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse
Sat 30, 10:30	Easter Paddle <i>The Easter paddle will start & finish from Wembury beach. Meet at the beach car park (GR 518484), ready to paddle for 10:30, (09:30 at Mount Batten for club equipment). It has become a PPCA tradition over the years that paddlers dress in some form of Easter theme. We also have a communal feast of Easter food to share with each other. Details will be posted on the forum nearer the date. Where we paddle from will still be dependent on the weather/sea conditions on the day (if inclement it will be from MB). Also please phone, e-mail or post on the forum to let me know if you are coming along. 07828652775 or terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk</i>	Wembury beach	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
April.			
Sat 6, TBA	Sea kayak paddle	TBA	Terry Calcott 07828 652775. <i>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</i>
Sat 13, TBA	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Mon 15, 19:30	Pool session. <i>This session needs to be paid for in advance. Please see December Wet News for details.</i>	Plympton Pool (Provisional).	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654.
Tues 16, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls, Jenny Nicholls Chris Doidge, Jane Hitchings Clive Ashford Ken Hamblin
Sat 20, 09:00	Go Canoeing Session	Mount Batten	Linda Brady
Sat 20, 12:00	Estuary paddle <i>Meet at Bantham beach car park (GR 663437), ready to paddle for 12:00. We will launch from the slipway (or from the beach if the conditions are suitable) then paddle up with the tide past Aveton Gifford to the weir head have lunch and come back with the tide. Approx 8 mile round trip. If you require any club equipment meet at Mountbatten at 10:00. I will confirm that the trip is running on the club forum nearer the date.</i>	Avon Estuary	Terry Calcott 07828652775.

April (continued).

Tues 23, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Andy Nicolls, Jenny Nicholls Chris Doidge, Jane Hitchings Clive Ashford Ken Hamblin
Sat 27, 09:00	Go Canoeing Session	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
Sat 27, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
Tues 30, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls Chris Doidge / Jane Hitchings Clive Ashford Ken Hamblin

May.

Sat 4, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Tony Blackmore / Tom Clarke.
Sat 4, TBA	Sea kayak paddle	TBA	Terry Calcott 07828 652775. <i>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</i>
Sat 4, 10:00	Intro rec paddle	Mount Batten	John Mitchell 01752 219246.
Tues 7, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls Jane Hitchings & Chris Doidge Clive Ashford Ken Hamblin & Dave Fisher
10-12	Wye weekend <i>Booking essential, see Jan / March Wet News for details.</i>	Kington youth hostel	Clive Ashford 01752 344425
Sat 11, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Tony Blackmore / Tom Clarke.
Sat 11, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787
Tues 14, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak 2* open boat 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Dave Fisher / Ken Hamblin Terry Calcott / Mary McArdle Ted Fearon Doug Sitch Clive Ashford
Fri 17, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 18, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
Sun 19, 09:00	Go Canoeing	Mount Batten	Mark Cox / Phil Cleave
Tues 21, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak 2* open boat 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Dave Fisher / Ken Hamblin Terry Calcott / Mary McArdle Ted Fearon Doug Sitch Clive Ashford

Advanced notice.

June 15 – 16	Midsummer(ish) camp <i>Details TBA.</i>	TBA	Clive Ashford 01752 344425.
July 12 – 14	Roseland weekend <i>Details TBA</i>	Roseland Centre	Linda Brady 217678 / 07747 744084 or Mary McArdle 881166 / 07533825898
Sat 27 July	Breakwater swim		TBA