



# Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

## Wet News 84. October 2013.



### Club Officers

		Tel
President	Terry Calcott	07828 652775
Chair	John Mitchell	01752 219246
Vice Chair	Ian Ruse	07980 355019
Club Leader	Chris Doidge	07973 285969
Asst Club Leader	Jane Hitchings	01752 691274
Secretary	David Pedlow	01752 241726
Membership Sec	Tracy Jones	01752 510653
Treasurer	Syd Evans	07955 503118
Equipment Officer	Alan Ede	07799 556876
Publicity Officer	Andy Nicholls	07801 367363
Welfare Officer	Joy Ashford	01752 344425 07891 221781
Ordinary Member	Jenny Nicholls	07740 103398
Youth Development	Zoe Boyle	07814 131654
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:PPCA@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk">PPCA @ppca-canoe-club.org.uk</a>	
(E-mails to this address goes to the club secretary).		

### November edition of Wet News.

Items for inclusion in the November edition of Wet News to reach the editor, Clive Ashford, by 21:00hrs on Sat 9 Nov please. Publication date Sunday 10 November.

E-mail address:

[cliveashford-newsletter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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.

Gentle readers, I have been slaving away with my trusty old John Bull printing set to bring you Wet News for 7 years now. I have a recurring dream that this monthly dose of eccentricity is well worth the PPCA membership fee on its own. I also have a recurring dream where someone shouts, "Dream on!"

### 3 star sea kayak assessment, 8 September.

Congratulations to Tom Sambrook on passing his three star sea kayak assessment on 8 September in conditions that were at times somewhat interesting.

### 3 star open boat assessment, 15 September.

Congratulations to Andy Nicholls & Ian Brimacombe on passing their three star open boat assessment on 15 September. With sessions every Friday evening during the summer and a recent Saturday paddle to the Morley Arms for lunch, it's really good to see open boating taking a more prominent role within the club. Now we have 2 more 3 star open boaters to add to our collection of budding experts, well done all.

### 4 star sea kayak assessment, 19 – 20 September.

Congratulations to superstar Chris Doidge on passing his 4 star sea kayak assessment. Judging by Chris's comments this assessment was far tougher than perhaps it needed to be, which is quite unusual in this era when awards are sometimes given away. Chris becomes the first club member to attain the new style 4 star sea kayak award, so the club reaches another milestone.

### Pool sessions. (Zoe Boyle).

There will be 6 pool sessions running this winter at Plympton Pool @ 7.30pm to 8.30pm, the dates are: 7th October, 4th November, 2nd December, 6th January, 3rd February, 3rd March. The cost is £10 per session. To book please private message me on forum your real name (not forum name), the date/s you would like and how you intend to pay. You are not confirmed onto any pool session without the club receiving full payment for that session.

There are 10 spaces with an additional 2 reserve spaces.

The sessions are open to any club member.

They are intended to help you build confidence in rolling or skills in a nice warm environment. The club supplies 1:1 coaching.

## **PPCA AGM, Mon 21 October.**

A reminder that the club AGM will take place at Mount Batten at 19:00 on Mon 21 October. Secretary David will be sending out last year's minutes and this year's agenda in due course; in the mean time we still require nominations for the very important committee posts of Secretary and Treasurer. Nominations to Secretary David please, [secydave@runbox.com](mailto:secydave@runbox.com)

## **Raffle.**

As part of our 40<sup>th</sup> year celebrations the club is holding a raffle, which will be drawn at the AGM on Monday 21 October. Local firms have donated some brilliant prizes:

1st prize £150 Kayaks and Paddles voucher, donated by K&P.

2nd prize-£100 Kayaks and Paddles voucher, donated by K&P.

3rd prize 50 litre Nookie dry bag, donated by Nookie.

4th-9th prizes- various smaller dry bags, donated by A and S Water sports, sweatshirts and tee shirts donated by Nookie and PPCA mugs.

A huge thank you to the firms that have supported us. You can buy your tickets priced at £1 per strip from Jane Hitchings, Clive Ashford & Joy Ashford.

## **PPCA Photo Competition 2013 'How to Vote' (Terry Calcott).**

The PPCA photo competition for 2013 is now closed and voting is open. All club members are eligible to vote. The photos are displayed on the website club forum chat page. Please take a look they are a great mix of subjects and fantastic pictures. You can vote for your 3 favourite photos, voting will close at 23:59 on Saturday 19th October. Just send an email to [terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk) please do not cast your vote on the forum.

The winner will be announced at the AGM on 21st October and a prize awarded to the winning entry. Many thanks to the 10 club members who submitted photos this year.

## **Winter lecture: Safeguarding Salmon on the River Dart. Mon 18 November.**

Mike Maslin, the environment Agency water bailiff for the River Dart, will be giving a lecture titled: Safeguarding Salmon on the River Dart and how canoeists can behave responsibly to aid this. The lecture is on Monday 18th November at Mountbatten in the Waterfront room, start time 7pm. This free lecture should be of interest to all white water enthusiasts and any other paddler interested in the environment. It is open to all, not just PPCA members, so feel free to spread the word among the wider paddling fraternity.

## **Mount Batten winter opening times.**

The Mount Batten Centre has announced that their winter opening times will be:

Tuesday – Sunday, 08:00 to 19:00 until 26th October and then 08:00 to 18:00 until March.

Monday 08:00 – 22:30 until March.

## **The PPCA Celebrates 40 years of paddling. (Jane Hitchings).**

On Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> more than seventy paddlers turned out to celebrate the club's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. The weather forecast wasn't promising but the clouds soon lifted and the wind abated. By midday, 4 hardened sea paddlers had already completed the 17-mile journey down from Calstock with the tide. So tough were they that they then joined the afternoon group paddle around the sound. The sun shone on a memorable scene, which I think sums up what our club is about: with Drake's Hoe in the background, complete with the Big Wheel on the skyline, a mixed group of sea kayaks, small boats and Canadians, as multicoloured as a rainbow, in the foreground, whilst close ups showed the happy smiles of the paddlers.

Photo by Jonathan Hitchings.



Meanwhile, over in Clovelly bay, in the lowest of low Spring tides a much less graceful, but just as happy event was taking place, the mini Regatta for the young and young at heart. Jane, (me), who had had her eye on the big yellow course buoys belonging to Plymouth Triathlon Club since helping at their big event earlier in the year, had managed to procure them for the day, Jenny had rounded up the best part of a dozen of her Paddle Power kids and with Jenny, Andy, Sammy and Damian as supervisors the enthusiasm and glee

and mischief fizzed like electricity. Races around the buoys, race plans that were abandoned in favour of chaos and collisions and splashing made a colourful and happy scene. The highlight for me was a team game, where the children were given some materials and then left to design and make a raft that would

support and propel all 5 of them around the course. The teams demonstrated embryonic leadership and management skills and understanding of physics i.e. Archimedes Principles in contrasting degrees. One team built a superb sturdy raft and paddled the course whilst the others (whose main agenda from the outset was to get wet and have fun, I suspect) did not appreciate the great Greek's principle and sank before there were even 3 of them on the raft. They insisted on completing the course, had great fun amidst shrieking and more time spent swimming than perched on the rapidly disintegrating raft. The Canadian canoes provided great sport of course and the Pirates of the Caribbean scene, with the men walking underwater under the boat was re-enacted gleefully. Gunwale bobbing skills provided huge entertainment, especially as I insisted on having a go. I will give a medal to anyone who can balance with Lauren on the other end. She has many wonderful qualities, but grace and stillness aren't among them! The canoes provided endless opportunities for fun and games and all too soon it was time to paddle back to Mountbatten. The gloopy, sucky, stinky, black mud exposed by the extreme low tide was also a source of fun and distraction for the kids and I had to help retrieve several shoes and stranded small persons. Needless to say that the kit needed a good deal of washing off before it could be returned to the shed. So did the kids, but they just did what they had been promised that they could do at the end and that was to jump, slide or be shoved off the black beach into the returning tide. It did strike me that I needn't have bothered with a course, boats, race plans at all, as the children wanted to mess about **in** rather than **on** the water.

All the groups, by design, then met in the Isobar where Mountbatten had laid on a choice of three excellent curries. The bar was decorated with balloons and streamers but Mary's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake stole the show. It was magnificent and when Terry, our club president, lit the candles we realized they were Roman candle style fireworks. A glass of Prosecco was given to everyone to toast our club.

During the meal a raffle was held and £69 raised for the RNLI.

All in all, a great day was had by those who attended and the spirit that makes this club a great club to belong to, was in evidence everywhere. Thanks for organizing and helping are due to many people, The coaches who led the paddles and helped with the regatta, Mary, for her two very delicious cakes, Mountbatten for hosting and providing the meal and all the volunteers that I badgered and cajoled to help me.

It's safe to say that the PPCA celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in style.

Photo by Jonathan Hitchings.



Cake by Mary McArdle.

**Editors footnote:** The day was a huge success thanks to you lot for turning up, but mostly because Jane had put an enormous amount of effort into getting this organised. Thank you Jane.

### **Paul Goodall, AKA the legless one.**

A lot of you will remember Paul Goodall, the paddler with a huge personality but no legs and who has not paddled with us for some time now because he has not been well. (There's an understatement). I bumped into Paul in Tesco's a little while ago and he asked me if I could put something in Wet News warning people that he will be back soon; I think he wanted to give some of you nightmares. With amputations, transplants and general internal re-plumbing of his body I'm not sure how much of the original Paul is left and now he tells me that he is facing another major operation early in 2014. He is looking forward to getting back paddling with us again once he recovers.

Paul remains upbeat, cheerful and full of optimism, so much so that I find talking to him both humbling and inspirational. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Paul all the best and look forward to meeting him somewhere cold and wet in 2014.

### **Bookface.**

Phil "are coaches good paddles" Cleave has entered the following post on the forum.

*I see the PPCA Facebook Group is starting to flow nicely with some good reports, threads and feedbacks.*

*The Forum is a good Avenue for local providers to let us know courses available throughout the year where students wish to advance beyond the help the PPCA can provide.*

*Also a good link to the trips local providers are planning home and abroad.*

Please sign yourself up so we can share information and arrange more Peer Paddling.

Perhaps a write up in the Wet News would be appropriate.

In March 2013 Andy Nicholls had a piece published in Wet News about our facebook & twitter accounts, (still available on the website if you are interested), but as you can see Phil has suggested that I write something else. Now, being a bit of a Luddite I am of the opinion that my trusty old John Bull printing represents the panicle of modern technology, thus my understanding of boofacek could be accurately described as non-existent. I could do some research into how fabookce and twertti work and write an informative little piece, or I could simply plagiarise Phil's words and spend the time thus saved doing something interesting. Ah yes, job done.

### **Roman Way and Efford. Crispin Gill.**

Talking of plagiarism, and inspired by a recent Saturday paddle along the Plym estuary, I have copied this from Crispin Gill's book "Plymouth, a new history. Volume 1." The author is discussing historic roads in Plymouth during Roman times and describes a route called Roman Way.

*Roman Way is situated on the second oldest route we can trace in Plymouth, an east – west road from Saltash to Plympton. It crossed the Ham brook at Weston Mill, then the head of the creek, the Tavistock Road at Tor, and the Plym at Crabtree. This was the Ebb Ford to the Saxons, a name which, in the course of time, became Efford and moved up the hill, as place names will move. The construction of Saltram Park on the other side of the Plym in the eighteenth century obliterated part of the route, but beyond that it is still used into Plympton St Maurice. The ford, still marked on the 1809 ordnance Survey map, and the road up the hill behind the Crabtree Inn (long since demolished) was known as Saltash Lane until recent times.*

### **Old Nosey, our roaming reporter...**

...informs you that the term "scan reading" is management speak that translates to "not read at all," as recently demonstrated by Chris "where's my buoyancy aid" Doidge.

**Editors note.** Whilst I very much approve of Old Nosey getting 2 digs into one sentence I would like it known that having a pop at our esteemed club leader leaves your favourite editor feeling very nervous.

### **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.

*Endless River Adventure.* 10% Until 1/9/14 on orders over £30 and quoting reference ERPPCM10

<http://www.endlessriver.co.uk/>

*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.

*Wild Things, Redruth.* 10% to club members. Tel 01209 211977 <http://www.wildthings-canoes.co.uk/>

Picture Bazaar  
Photo by Joy Ashford.



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

Proof that hiding your face behind a beard won't stop you from being ugly, old, or simply looking foolish.

## 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Type of paddle</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Session leader</b>
<b>October.</b>			
Mon 7, 19:30	Pool session	Plympton Pool	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654.
<i>Please see website forum for details on booking a place on these sessions.</i>			
Sat 12, 08:30	Intermediate river trip.	TBA	Clive Ashford 01752 344425.
<i>Meet at Plympton B&amp;Q car park ready to leave at 08:30. Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.</i>			
Sat 12, 09:00	Go Canoeing	Mount Batten	Linda Brady/Mary McArdle
Sat 12, 10:00	Recreational Paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Sat 12, 10:00	Intro sea kayak paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
<i>See newsletter item for more information / details.</i>			
Sun 13, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	Julie Elworthy 01752 823381.
<i>Meet at Plympton B&amp;Q car park ready to leave at 09:00. Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.</i>			
Sat 19, 08:30	Open boat river trip	TBA	Ted Fearon 07973 964433. Ian Pitchford
<i>Meet at Mount Batten ready to leave at 08:30.</i>			
Sat 19, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls
Sat 19, 10:00	Recreational Paddle	Mount Batten	John Mitchell 01752 219246.
Sun 20, 09:00	Beginners river trip.	TBA	John Elworthy 01752 823381.
<i>Meet at Plympton B&amp;Q car park ready to leave at 09:00. Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.</i>			
Mon 21, 19:00	AGM	Mount Batten	
<i>Please make a special effort to attend this important meeting.</i>			
Sat 26, 08:30	Beginners river trip	TBA	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
<i>Meet at Plympton B&amp;Q car park ready to leave at 09:00. Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.</i>			
Sat 26, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls
Sat 26, 10:00	Recreational Paddle	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
Sun 27, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Doug Sitch 07966 740025.
<i>Meet at Plympton B&amp;Q car park ready to leave at 08:30. Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.</i>			
<b>November.</b>			
Sat 2, TBA	Sea kayak trip	TBA	Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
<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 <a href="mailto:alancede@hotmail.co.uk">alancede@hotmail.co.uk</a></i>			
Sat 2, 10:30	Intro rec paddle	Mount Batten	John Mitchell 01752 219246.
Sun 3, 09:00	Beginners river trip.	TBA	Julie Elworthy 01752 823381.
<i>Meet at Plympton B&amp;Q car park ready to leave at 09:00. Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.</i>			
Mon 4, 19:30	Pool session	Plympton Pool	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654.
<i>Please see website forum for details on booking a place on these sessions.</i>			

**November (continued).**

- Sat 9, TBA Beginners river trip. TBA Chris Doidge 07973 285969.  
*Meet at Plympton B&Q car park ready to leave at the time advised on the website forum nearer to the date. Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.*
- Sat 9, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
- Sun 10, 08:30 Intermediate river trip. TBA Clive Ashford 01752 344425.  
*Meet at Plympton B&Q car park ready to leave at 08:30. Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.*
- Sat 16, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount batten Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
- Sat 16, 10:00 Intro sea kayak paddle Mount Batten Terry Calcott 07828 652775.  
*See Sept newsletter / forum item for more details.*
- Sun 17, 09:00 Beginners river trip. TBA John Elworthy 01752 823381.  
*Meet at Plympton B&Q car park ready to leave at 09:00. Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.*
- Sun 17, 08:30 Open boat river trip. TBA Ian Ruse 07980 355019.  
*Meet at Mount Batten ready to leave at 08:30.*
- Mon 18, 19:00. Winter lecture Mount Batten  
*Lecture by Mike Maslin from the environment agency about salmon in the river Dart and our impact on them.*
- Sat 23, 09:00 Beginners river trip. TBA Doug Sitch 07966 740025.  
*Meet at Plympton B&Q car park ready to leave at 09:00 Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.*
- Sat 23, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Joy Ashford 01752 344425.
- Sun 24, 08:30 Intermediate river trip. TBA Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.  
*Meet at Plympton B&Q car park ready to leave at 08:30. Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.*
- Sat 30, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
- December.**
- Sun 1, TBA Beginners river trip TBA Chris Doidge 07973 285969.  
*Meet at Plympton B&Q car park ready to leave at the time advised on the website forum nearer to the date. Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.*
- Mon 2, 19:30 Pool session Plympton Pool Zoe Boyle 07814 131654.  
*Please see website forum for details on booking a place on these sessions.*
- Sat 7, 08:30 Beginners river trip TBA Clive Ashford 01752 344425.  
*Meet at Plympton B&Q car park ready to leave at 08:30. Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.*
- Sat 7, 10:00 Sea kayak trip. Mount Batten Joy Ashford 01752 344425.  
*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](mailto:alancede@hotmail.co.uk)*
- Sat 7, 10:30 Intro rec paddle Mount Batten John Mitchell 01752 219246.
- Sun 8, 09:00 Intermediate river trip. TBA Julie Elworthy 01752 823381.  
*Meet at Plympton B&Q car park ready to leave at 09:00 Please allow time to swap boats around to take as few cars as possible to the river.*
- Sat 14, 08:30 Open boat river trip TBA Ted Fearon 07973 964433.  
*Meet at Mount Batten ready to leave at 08:30.* Ian Pitchford
- Sat 14, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
- Sat 14, 10:00 Intro sea kayak paddle Mount Batten Terry Calcott 07828 652775.