



# Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

## Wet News 86. Dec 2013.



### Club Officers

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	Buck Taylor	07717 821934
Membership Sec	Tracy Jones	01752 510653
Treasurer	John Elworthy	01752 823381
Equipment Officer	Alan Ede	07799 556876
Publicity Officer	Andy Nicholls	07801 367363
Welfare Officer	Joy Ashford	01752 344425 07891 221781
Introductory co-ordinator	Jenny Nicholls	07740 103398
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(E-mails to this address goes to the club secretary).		

### Tel

### January edition of Wet News.

Items for inclusion in the January edition of Wet News to reach the editor, Clive Ashford, by 21:00hrs on Sat 4 January please. Publication date Sun 5 January.

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.

I put the washing on the line but it got drizzled upon. In a month when we white water paddlers have been desperate for some meaningful rain I found this somewhat ironic.

### Advanced white water safety and rescue course etc.

Towards the end of November Julie and John Elworthy attended an advanced white water safety and rescue course, which is highly commendable. If you are a river paddler you would benefit from learning at least basic white water rescue skills. Being able to produce and use the right item of safety equipment makes for an efficient and timely rescue, or if you are the person that needs rescuing then knowing what to expect will enable you to take a proactive part in getting back to safety. You can't learn these skills early enough in your paddling career; I would strongly recommend that you find a course to attend.

### Club Xmas paddle Sat 21st Dec. (Terry Calcott).

Yes folks it's that time of year again, brush off those hats and Santa costumes, come join your fellow club members for a paddle and feast and make merry.

The paddle will start and finish from **Wembury beach**. Meet at the beach car park (GR 518484) ready to paddle for 10:30. If you require club equipment be at Mountbatten for 09:30. Where we paddle from will still be dependent on the weather / sea conditions on the day (if inclement as it has been for the past few years it will be from Mount Batten, so fingers crossed for a good forecast this year).

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 post nearer the date).

### Boxing Day Recreational Paddle.

Terry is going to lead a Boxing recreational Day paddle. See diary dates for details.

Photo by Joy Ashford.



Santa's, Humbugs and the Mafia join the 2011 Christmas paddle.

## Basic First Aid course, 26 January.

There is a basic First Aid course, (8 hours), being held at Betts Guiding Centre, Station Road, Plympton, (opposite the Police Station), on Sunday 26 January. The course provider is Triangle Training and the cost will be £20. Bring your own lunch.

The course is being organised by the local Guide leaders but members of the PPCA will be very welcome. If you would like a place on this course, please let Joy Ashford know by email. [Cliveashford-ppca@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Cliveashford-ppca@yahoo.co.uk)

Please note that this course is not suitable for level 2 coaches and above, you will need to attend a 2 day course.

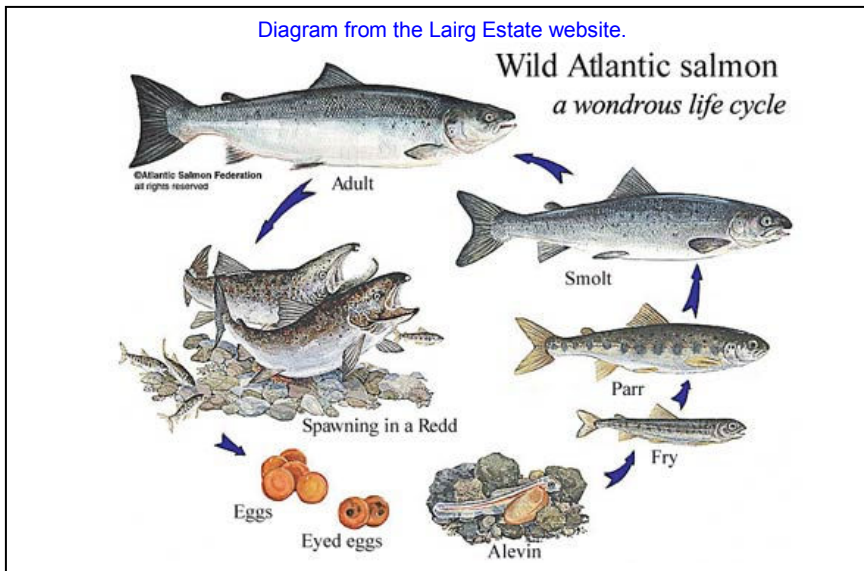
## Winter lecture: Safeguarding Salmon on the River Dart.

16 club members turned up to hear Mike Maslin, Environment Agency (EA) Fisheries Officer for the River Dart, give a talk about the salmon in the river and our role as paddlers in safeguarding their existence. There were 2 elements to this presentation, 1) The life cycle of Salmon. (And incidentally Sea Trout). 2) The legal bits. Whilst the 2 topics were interposed on the night I will separate them for purposes of this article.

Thanks to Mike for meeting us and for his excellent delivery. If you should meet him please shake his hand.

### Part 1. The salmon life cycle.

Most of the information in this part has been directly copied from Mike's PowerPoint presentation.



**Adult.** Salmon live for one or more years at sea where they follow lengthy migration routes to waters off south west Greenland. At sea they grow rapidly on a diet of crustaceans and small fish. Wild salmon that return to spawn after one year are called Grilse. Adult salmon return to home rivers, entering freshwater between April and November. Once in freshwater they stop feeding and live off accumulated fat reserves.

**Spawning.** In November to December, the wild Atlantic

salmon spawn. The female digs a 10-30cm deep nest called a Redd in the gravel bottom of the stream. Her eggs and the milt from the adult male are released into the redd and the gravel is replaced with additional tail thrusts.

The female may lay 1,500 eggs or more for each kg of body weight – thus a 12 pound salmon will lay about 8,000 eggs.

The male (cock) fish will often guard the nest for several days after spawning. After spawning the majority of salmon die, however a few do make it back out to sea and return to spawn the following year.

**Eggs.** Pea-sized orange eggs are deposited in riverbed gravel in early winter and hatch the following spring. As the eggs develop, the eyes of the developing wild salmon can be seen through the semi-transparent membrane.

The eggs are very vulnerable at this stage to disturbance of the gravel and siltation.

**Alevin.** The partly transparent alevin hatch and remain hidden in the riverbed gravel, feeding from the attached yolk sac. They are about 2cm in length.

**Fry.** Wriggling up from the gravels in spring, fry begin to feed on microscopic life in the stream. They eventually reach a length of 5-8cm before transforming into parr.

**Parr.** These can be identified by the vertical markings, called 'parr marks' that appear with a single red dot between. Parr remain in the river for 2-6 years depending on water temperatures and food availability.

**Smolt.** At a length of 12-24cm, parr undergo a late spring transformation into a smolt. A silvery sheen replaces the parr marks and internally they go through a complex metamorphosis to survive in saltwater. On the downstream journey the odours of the smolt's native river are imprinted on its memory to be recalled when it returns to spawn.

**Part 2. The legal bits.** Mike explained that the EA were not concerned with brokering or policing access agreements, but that where such an agreement does exist then the EA would not promote paddling outside this agreement. For the purposes of this article I shall acknowledge that there is an access agreement in existence that allows limited paddling from Dartmeet Bridge to Totnes Weir. This access agreement prohibits paddling on both the East and West Dart Rivers and all their tributaries.

From the paddlers point of view the EA's main role is to stop damage to salmon spawning grounds, which Mike does by a combination of education and if necessary enforcement. Mike explained that causing damage to spawning grounds is a criminal offence and that he is warranted to make an arrest if he deems such action appropriate. Mike informed us that even a small group of paddlers waiting in an eddy that is standing over a spawning ground will quite possibly cause damage, particularly to any eggs that may be present, but only during the spawning season – which coincides with our traditional river season of October to March. Mike also informed us that the only spawning ground that lies within the access agreement area is just below Dartmeet Bridge, adjacent to the left bank, and that by launching off the granite slabs that have been installed immediately below the bridge and then paddling away from the bank we will have no impact on this spawning ground.

Mike then informed us that as the East and West Dart lie outside the access agreement he was unable to talk about these rivers in specific terms. He did however tell us that the Cherry Brook (a tributary to the West Dart) has a very dense incidence of spawning grounds and asked that if we were to paddle outside the access agreement then he would prefer us not to use the Cherry Brook. (I use the word "prefer" but you could almost hear the rattle of handcuffs). The same applies to the River Swincombe and the Blackbrook River, 2 other tributaries to the West Dart.

To sum up the legal bits. If we restrict our River Dart paddling to between Dartmeet Bridge and Totnes Weir then we are very unlikely incur the wrath of the EA at any time of year. However, in the present legal climate we may well incur the wrath of landowners and / or riparian owners if we paddle the same sections of river between 14 March and 1 October.

### **Meet Mike Maslin, Sat 14 December.**

Mike has kindly offered to show us some of his territory including salmon spawning beds. Meet 10:00 at Dartmeet Car Park, grid ref SX 671732. The postcode for the nearby Badgers Holt is PL20 6SG but may prove unreliable for satnav users. It would be wise to wear good walking boots and warm clothes.

### **A glimpse of Greenland.**

Our winter lecture series continued on 4 December with a most excellent talk by Andy Stamp entitled "A glimpse of Greenland." Stunning photos and a story delivered in typical Andy Stamp fashion left us mere mortals realising that we only play at sea kayaking, photography and camping. An entertaining evening that left us all with something to aspire too. (Or feeling that we should simply give up)!

### **White water season.**

Last month I reported on how well our white water season was going. Since then there has not been a drop of rain and our rivers have taken on a distinctly arid look. I would roll out the old chestnuts about cacti infested eddies, scorpions sitting on every rock and rattle snakes emigrating because it's too dry, but you've heard all these before so I won't. Instead I will suggest that if you are writing to Santa over the next few weeks maybe you could ask for a bit of gentle rain please?

Curses, I fully intended not to mention Christmas.

I was going to use the BBC symbol for rain but they don't allow their symbols to be reproduced, how very churlish, so I have used this most excellent graphic from [sweetclipart.com](http://sweetclipart.com) who actively encourage the use of their work. Good old sweetclipart.

Image from Sweet Clip Art.



Dear Santa, a little bit of this is just what we want for Christmas, and the rest of the river season please.

## Rain dance.

Blatantly plagiarized from the website [http://www.ehow.co.uk/how\\_5722524\\_perform-native-american-rain-dance.html](http://www.ehow.co.uk/how_5722524_perform-native-american-rain-dance.html) and reproduced here as a possible course of action for any river paddling pagans.

A rain dance is a ceremonial dance that many Native American tribes have performed for centuries. Rain dances are typically performed by both male and female members of the tribe during the late summer months when rain is needed for crops and droughts most often occur. Many tribes around the United States keep this tradition alive and perform rain dances to this day. Even if you're not a Native American, you can perform a traditional rain dance.

- 1) Wear turquoise and feathers, if you have any. Many Native American tribes associate turquoise with rain and feathers with the wind. Put on any turquoise-coloured clothing that you may have and turquoise jewellery. If you have access to any bird or decorative feathers, place a couple in your hair or secure them to a hat and wear them during the rain dance.
- 2) Find an outdoor space where you have plenty of room to move around. Choose a space that has sparse or no tree cover so that you have a clear view of the sky. The terrain of the space you choose should be relatively flat, which will make it easier to perform the rain dance.
- 3) Spin around in circles. Begin spinning clockwise at a slow and steady pace. Chant your own simple rain chant as you spin. Your chant can be something as simple as the word "rain" repeated over and over or an entire phrase, such as "Come down rain." Raise your hands to the sky occasionally to urge the rain to fall.
- 4) Speed up your spinning and chanting. The longer you spin and chant the faster you should spin and chant. Close your eyes as you dance and breathe in deeply between chants. When you want to end the dance, drop to your knees in silence. Stay on your knees until any dizziness you feel goes away and you can regain your balance.

But a word of warning, only spin in a clockwise direction. Spinning around in an anti-clockwise direction and chanting something like "rain go away" would be to perform a dance to make it stop raining.

## Old Nosey, our roaming reporter...

... would like to advise a certain James Mitchell that leaving ones trousers at home may result in you coming to the attention of the fashion police. See Picture Bazaar.

## 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 Andy Kittle.



Having left his trousers at home James Mitchell becomes wanted by the fashion police. (And quite possibly by no-one else).

**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
<b>December.</b>			
Sat 14, 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 14, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Sat 14, 10:00	Meet Mike Maslin	Dartmeet Car Park	
<i>A unique opportunity to meet Mike Maslin, Environment Agency fisheries officer, in the field to get an insight into what he gets up to. Whilst this will be of special interest to our river paddlers but you are all welcome.</i>			
Sun 15, 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>			
Sat 21, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Doug Sitch 07966 740025.
<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 21, 09:30	Christmas paddle	Wembury Beach	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
<i>See December newsletter &amp; forum for details.</i>			
Sun 22, 08:30	Beginners river trip.	TBA	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
<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>			
Thurs 26, 11:00	Boxing Day Paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
<i>On the water for 11:00 then a short paddle of a couple of hours for some fresh air and a short coffee and cake break somewhere. Mountbatten changing rooms and showers will be open. This is a club paddle all welcome.</i>			
Sat 28, TBA	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Chris Doidge 07973 285969.
<i>Meet at Plympton B&amp;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.</i>			
Sat 28, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	John Mitchell 01752 219246.
Sun 29, 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>			
<b>January.</b>			
Sat 4, 10:00	Sea kayak trip	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
<i>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 4, 10:30	Intro rec paddle	Mount Batten	John Mitchell 01752 219246.
Sun 5, 08:30	Beginners 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>			
Sun 5, 08:30	Open boat river trip	TBA	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
<i>Meet at Mount Batten ready to leave at 08:30. Club open boats etc. 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> There will be a hire charge of £5 per boat.</i>			
Mon 6, 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>			

**January (continued).**

Sat 11, 09:00 Intermediate 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 11, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Terry Calcott 07828 652775.

Sun 12, 09:00 Beginner 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.*

Sat 18, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Joy Ashford 01752 344425.

Sun 19, 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 25, 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 25, TBA Open boat river trip TBA Ted Fearon 07973 964433.  
*Please check the website forum closer to the date to confirm details.  
 Club open boats etc. 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) There will be a hire charge of £5 per boat.*

Sat 25, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Neville Cannon 07773 342787.

Sun 26, TBA Beginner river trip TBA Chris Doidge 07973 285969.  
*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.*

**February.**

Sat 1, 10:00 Sea kayak trip Mount Batten Terry Calcott 07828 652775.  
*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 1, 10:30 Intro rec paddle Mount Batten John Mitchell 01752 219246.

Sun 2, TBA 3 star WW assessment TBA Chris Doidge 07973 285969.  
*See forum for detail closer to the date.* Plus 1, TBA

Mon 3, 19:30 Pool session Plympton Pool Zoe Boyle 07814 131654.  
*Please see website forum for details on booking a place on these sessions.*

Sat 8, 09:00 Intermediate 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 8, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.

Sun 9, 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.*

Sat 15, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Neville Cannon 07773 342787.

Sun 16, 08:30 Open boat river trip TBA Ian Ruse 07980 355019.  
*Meet at Mount Batten ready to leave at 08:30.  
 Club open boats etc. 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) There will be a hire charge of £5 per boat.*

Sun 16, 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.*