



Eddylines



Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Newsletter 02 December 2014

Welcome

Season's greetings and a merry Christmas and happy New Year to one and all. The feedback from the first newsletter was very positive. However I do need a varied content to make it interesting each month. If you have any articles, photos, kit reviews, anything loosely kayak related or which you think may interest your fellow club members then send it in to me. With the river season now in full flow it would be nice to have an article or two about paddling on the rivers (or in them).

Members shed (Paul Hewson)

There are spaces available in the members shed for storing general purpose kayaks. The current charge (2014) is £28 per year; any queries to membership@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

There is still a waiting list for Sea Kayaks and Open Canoes, if you want to go on the waiting list then email the membership sec.

Pen picture Joy Ashford (Welfare officer)

My role on the committee is to be a source of advice about safeguarding and protecting children and promoting good practice. I am also in charge in making sure our helpers and coaches are all DBS (CRB) checked.

I first started canoeing in the early 80's, with my local Guide Unit and Drake and Intrepid Venture Scouts. I even went on a residential weekend at Fort Bovisand with the PPCA in 1983. (I know I don't look old enough). I progressed through some of the star tests and became a Level 3 Sea coach in 2010.



My favourite kayaking is when I'm on the sea, paddling around our coastline and estuaries enjoying the fresh air. I enjoy looking at the scenery and spotting the different wildlife that's on offer; and also trying to stay dry. I have yet to see a sun fish from my boat, but have taken great delight in seeing seals, sea otters, porpoises, kingfishers, basking sharks, Sea Eagles and even a mink. I particularly love the peace and tranquillity of Western Scotland and our nearer Isles of Scilly.

Clive (Husband) and I can be seen on the water most weekends. At the moment I am trying to improve my open boat skills; but it's a different set of muscles and the last time I went it took me three days for my arms to stop aching.

On a personal note, I am proud to be a member of the PPCA as we have some excellent coaches and helpers who all give their time freely. We also have a great variety of personalities within our members, which always make paddling with the club a great experience.

Many thanks to Joy for sending in the pen picture. It would be nice to have some more and keep it as a regular feature. Ideally from the committee and coaches, but no reason why a club member cannot send one in and tell us all about who they are and what they enjoy about the sport.

Free event - Unlocking the secrets of Plymouth Sound

The beautiful and diverse creatures that inhabit Plymouth Sound are to be explored in an evening of entertainment organised by students at Plymouth University. Taking place on Wednesday 17 December at 7pm in the University's Portland Square Building. Follow the link for details.

www.plymouth.ac.uk/news/unlocking-the-secrets-of-plymouth-sound

Club Xmas paddle Sat 20th Dec (Terry Calcott)

Yes folks it's that time of year again, brush off those hats and Santa costumes, and come join your fellow club members for a paddle feast and make merry. The paddle will start and finish from Mount Batten this year. On the water ready to paddle at 10:30.

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 or phone 07981489857 or a post on the forum (I will start a post nearer the date).



A club Xmas paddle from a few years ago

PPCA Pool session 2015 (Joy Ashford)

The committee are organising a series of pool sessions for club members. These sessions are ideal for people wanting to improve their wet skills and learning how to roll.

Where: Plympton Pool on Saturdays, time: 4 – 5pm.

Dates: 17th January, 7th February, 28th February, 21st March.

Cost per session: £10 per person.

People interested please contact Joy at joyashford6@gmail.com or tel. 07891221781.

You will be able to book a maximum of two sessions at one time. If you would like to do more sessions, we can add your name to a reserve list. This is to enable as many people as possible to take part. Your place will only be confirmed once we have received your booking fee, this will be on a first come first served basis.

Please note that boats will have to be cleaned prior to using them in the pool. So no seaweed, sand, gravel or mud please. You will be able to use club boats if you wish by contacting Alan Ede (Equipment officer). But it is your responsibility to clean the boat and sort out collecting it and returning it to the shed.

Winds SW to W, Force 5, gusting Force 7, decreasing later (David Pedlow)

It was a glimpse of Heaven. Empty, infinitely changeable. A succession of slopes, valleys, plains and mountains stretching away to the South, burnished into rippled coruscating steel by the low November sun. The plains were solitary, silent, windless, a world bounded by water. Then as we crept up the oncoming slopes the wind grew, sending wavelets running along the ridgelines. For an instant, on the peak, the breakwater lighthouse, and occasionally a companion's helmet or paddle came into view, and then it was down, and down again to the secret, empty, valley floor.



Photo supplied by Bob Frost

And all the time the 8 to 12 foot swells came sliding inexorably from the West. Towering, but benign, almost leisurely, disguising their power but utterly awe-inspiring. And we, we revelled in them, as we made our way from Picklecombe, via the Queen's Ground Buoy, to come to haven in the shelter of the lighthouse.

This vision was not simply vouchsafed to us. We had to work for it. In the winds that had caused the Rec paddle to be cancelled, it had taken us an hour and a half of hard, fully committed paddling - long enough on an ordinary Spring Tide day to pass Rame Head - to get to Picklecombe; only to find the harbour mouth swept by giant, breaking swells. And so we turned south towards the lighthouse, and unexpectedly, enjoyed to the full the reward for our hard work.

It probably needs to be said that there's no doubt in any of our minds that Terry called things absolutely correctly when he cancelled the Rec, and discouraged a peer paddle. It was no place out there for anyone who might have relied on a group leader to keep them out of trouble. In fact I wouldn't have wanted to be out there with an ad-hoc group, even of experienced paddlers. Counting up to two was quite enough, thank you.

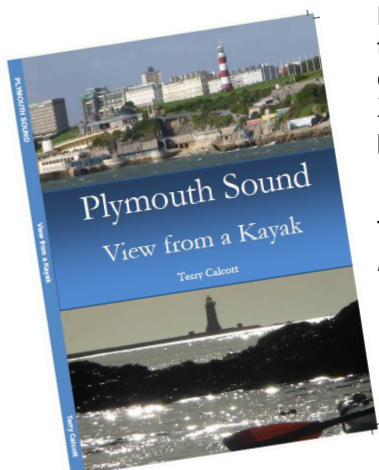


Photo supplied by Bob Frost

But for the three of us, keen to expand our comfort zones by venturing outside them; revelling in the challenge of paddling in a lively, living sea; looking out for each other and reviewing options at every step; above all doing our learning in the relative safety of the Sound; this "training paddle" was essentially no different from what they do on the rivers every week.

Next time, if they let me, maybe we'll move up from the Loop to the Upper, by sticking a toe outside the breakwater. Or then again, perhaps we won't!

Plymouth Sound 'View from a kayak'



Many thanks to everyone that has purchased a copy of my book. All of the profits from the 100 copies sold so far have been split between the club and the RNLI. If anyone wishes to fill their friends and families Xmas stockings with a copy please let me know, I have ordered another print run. terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk

The much anticipated follow up book ***The Plym Estuary 'View from a kayak'*** is nearing completion and will be available in the New Year.

Blast from the Past (part 1)



June 1985 - Canoeing Regatta held at the PPCA clubhouse on the Embankment - Jousting Comp – Nick Benny and Paul Blake for PPCA against Jay Taylor and Robin Chapman of Taunton CC (photo supplied by Nick Benny)

Old Nosey (tales from the riverbank)

Irish Bekky put on her dry suit only to complain that it was somewhat tight. It transpired that she had omitted to remove any of her normal clothing first.

Mark Upton tried driving away from B&Q with an unattached boat on his roof.

Old Nosey has reported that the Mount Batten squid has been venturing inland and frequenting fresh water. Busy feasting on unsuspecting river paddlers. Not mentioning any names, as there are far too many to mention. But the squid apparently loves snacking on bearded open boat paddlers!

The Mount Batten Squid strikes again



A recent Saturday paddle and the squid makes a surprise visit

Nature Watch - The Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)



The Kingfisher is one of my favourite birds. This sparrow-sized bird is usually glimpsed as a flash of cobalt blue or bright orange chestnut as it flies ahead or across at lightning speed. A local of both the coast and the river. Some of my best spots have been along our inland rivers but recently while paddling along the Plym estuary just past Laira Bridge. A Kingfisher teased us by flying ahead for quite some distance and then on the return journey joined us again for a tantalizing display of colour.

Kingfisher spotting amongst paddlers is usually started by the shout of 'Kingfisher' from someone at the head of the group. Then that's it as the blooming bird has been scared off and takes flight to

safety. Paddlers do like to enthuse about their Kingfisher spotting, a bit like fishermen and their tales of how big the fish was that got away. A few facts about the beautiful bird.

It feeds mainly on fish, caught by diving, and has special visual adaptations to enable it to see prey under water. The glossy white eggs are laid in a nest at the end of a burrow in a riverbank. The common kingfisher has no song. The flight call is a short sharp whistle, *chee*, repeated two or three times. Anxious birds emit a harsh, *shrit-it-it* and nestlings call for food with a churring noise.

Common kingfishers are important members of ecosystems and good indicators of freshwater community health. The highest densities of breeding birds are found in habitats with clear water, which permits optimal prey visibility, and trees or shrubs on the banks. It can tolerate a certain degree of urbanisation, provided the water remains clean. The Kingfisher is highly territorial; since it must eat around 60% of its body weight each day, it is essential to have control of a suitable stretch of river. It is solitary for most of the year, roosting alone in heavy cover. If another kingfisher enters its territory, both birds display from perches, and fights may occur.



Photos supplied by Terry Calcott



High, dry and smiling (photo supplied by Bob Frost)

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% on production of your PPCA membership card.

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

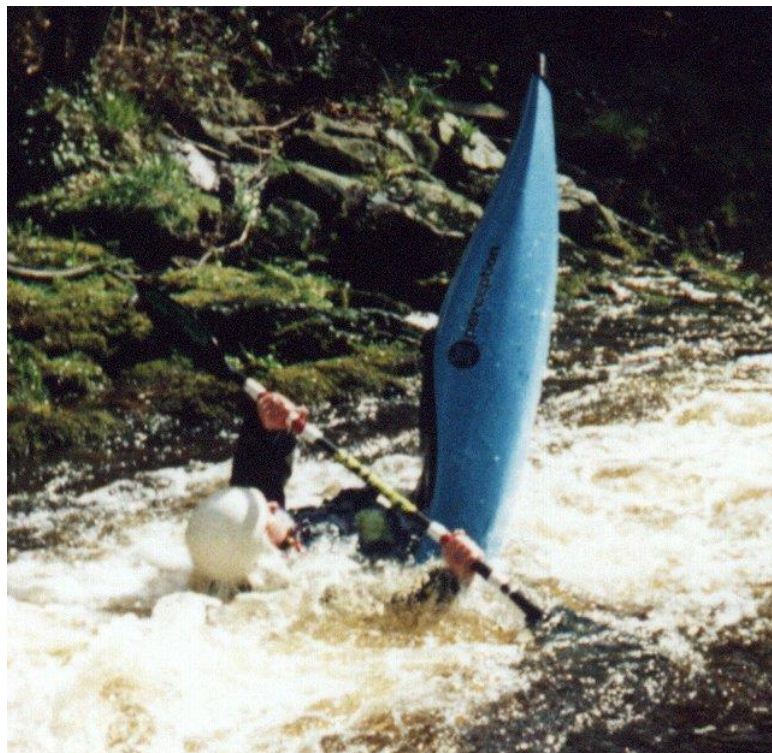
Cotswold Outdoor. (Plymouth branch only, 15% on production of your PPCA membership card.

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

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

Wild Things, Redruth, 10% to club members.

Blast from the Past (part 2)



Doug on the Erme, a few years ago

Club Officers

President	Terry Calcott	07828652775	
Chair	Mike Scott	01752 295478	
Vice Chair	Jenny Nicholls	01752 952628	
Club Leader	Andy Nicholls	07801367363	
Asst Club Leader	Jane Hitchings	01752 691274	
Secretary	Martin Mills	07530004070	
Membership Sec	Paul Hewson	07870276748	
Treasurer	John Elworthy	01752 823381	
Equipment Officer	Alan Ede	07799556876	
Publicity Officer	Pete Anderson	07958694434	
Welfare Officer	Joy Ashford	01752 344425	07891221781
Introductory co-ordinator	Tracy Jones	01752 510653	
Youth Development	Damean Miller	01752 492761	07736033316

Club e-mail: PPCA@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk (e-mails to this address goes to the club secretary).

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.

Please Note: River trips, final details will appear on the website forum. Meet at Plympton B&Q ready to leave at 09:00.

Date	Type of paddle	Location	Session leader
December			
Sat 6, 10:00	Sea kayak trip	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford 01752 344425. <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 alancede@hotmail.co.uk</i>
Sun 7, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	John Elworthy 01752 823381.
Sat 13, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720957304.
Sun 14, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
Sun 14, TBA	Open boat river trip	TBA	Ian Ruse 07980355019.
Sat 20, 10:30	XMAS paddle (see article in newsletter)		Terry Calcott 07828652775.
Sun 21, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	Clive Ashford 01752 344425.
Sat 27, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773342787.
Sun 28, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Doug Sitch 07966740025.
January 2015			
Sat 3, 10:00	Sea kayak trip	TBA	Ian Brimacombe 07720957304. <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 alancede@hotmail.co.uk</i>
Sun 4, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	John Elworthy 01752 823381.
Sat 10, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford 01752 344425.
Sun 11, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
Sat 17, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773342787.
Sat 17, 16:00	Pool session	Plympton pool	TBA.
Sun 18, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	Clive Ashford 01752 344425.

Sun 18, TBA	Open boat river trip	TBA	Martin Mills 07530004070.
Sat 24, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford 01752 344425.
Sun 25, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Doug Sitch 07966740025.
Sat 31, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828652775.
February 2015			
Sun 1, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	Chris Doidge 07973285969.
Sat 7, 10:00	Sea kayak trip	TBA	Terry Calcott 0782865775.
<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 alancede@hotmail.co.uk</i>			
Sat 7, 16:00	Pool session	Plympton pool	TBA.
Sun 8, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	John Elworthy 01752 823381.
Sat 14, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Canon 0777334787...
Sat 14, TBA	Open boat river trip	TBA	TBA.
Sun 15, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
Sat 21, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828652775.
Sun 22, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Chris Doidge 07973285969.
Sat 28, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720957304.
Sat 28, 16:00	Pool session	Plympton pool	TBA



Photo from one of the PPCA photo competitions (supplied by Mary McArdle)

A special Xmas thought

We have a number of club members who are unable to get out and join us on the wet stuff due to health reasons. Our thoughts are with them all at this time of year and we wish them all a speedy recovery and return to paddling.

I would like to especially mention our friend and assistant club leader Jane Hitchings who has already had a particularly difficult time this year, only to be told recently that there are now more difficult challenges ahead for her. Jane is a real positive battler and I know you will all join me in wishing her the very best and a speedy recovery from what is ahead.

Also another of our friends, Paul Goodall is threatening to be out paddling with us in the very near future in 2015. Paul has endured more than most of us put together in a lifetime but he keeps on smiling and is a real inspiration to us all. We wish him well and looking forward to that first paddle together in the New Year.



A recent club Recreational paddle

The 03 edition of Eddylines will be published on 04/01/15. Items for inclusion to be received by Friday 02/01/15. E-mail articles to newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

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