



Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Wet News 88. February 2014.



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March edition of Wet News.

Items for inclusion in the March edition of Wet News to reach the editor, Clive Ashford, by 21:00hrs on Saturday 1 March please. Publication date Sunday 2 March

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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 am suffering from a bad back at the moment that has kept me out of my boat for a few weeks. (No, not out of my boat at la Mount Batten Squid, but simply not being able to get into my boat and no, that's got nothing to do with excess feeding over the Christmas period. Look, I digress. If we go on like this I will never get to the end of my story and I know that you are busy people). I was particularly distressed one particular Sunday when Joy was having a jolly nice little paddle on the Lower Dart, making merry with the Mount Batten Squid, while I was driving around the various branches of B&Q obtaining materials for Joy's next job. It somehow didn't seem right to me. (Oh how I love a snappy start to wet News, I'll try to write one for next month).

3 star white water assessment.

Congratulations to Adam Mumford and Sammi Pluckrose on passing their 3 star white water assessment on 2 Feb. According to the website Adam's reward for passing was pizza, obviously a very spoilt child. On the other hand Sammi realised that simply getting her name in Wet News, (twice), is more than reward enough and is quietly basking in the warm glow of limelight. Well done to both of you and thanks to Chris Doidge & Phil Cleeve for running this assessment.

Devonport Royal Dockyard Employee (DRDE) Trust grant.

The DRDE trust have given the PPCA a grant of £1600 to purchase 4 new kayaks suitable for the younger paddler. No doubt we will arrange an official handover of cheque and kayaks sometime in the near future but in the mean time thanks to Terry Calcott for his hard work in securing this valuable grant.

Always a good sign.

With December a distant memory you will have noticed that the days are gradually getting longer. Hopefully the winter gales that have battered us for the last month will soon abate and we can really start looking forward to spring followed by a long, warm and dry summer. (Well, we can dream). Final confirmation that those who dislike the winter months can think about coming out of hibernation is the appearance of our Tuesday night training sessions in the diary dates. Oh what joy.

New this season is a Tuesday evening recreational paddle. These will be exactly what they say; a social paddle with no coaching that will probably involve a stop of a beach somewhere for a cup of whatever you pack in your boat. So if paddling somewhere cold and wet doesn't appeal why not try paddling somewhere warm and moist?

Boat storage at Mount Batten

There are a few boat spaces in the members shed at Mount Batten for sit on tops and general purpose boats. If you want to store your boat at Mount Batten please contact Tracy Jones, 01752 510653 or e-mail PPCAMembership@yahoo.co.uk

Cotswold Outdoors discount.

Cotswold Outdoors are having issues with their discount codes and the one on our PPCA membership cards is not currently working. However, they are honouring the discount. Any problem with this please contact the Club Secretary, Buck, 07717 821934, e-mail ppca@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Club meal out, 29 January.

31 of us had a very enjoyable evening dining in the Moguls Palace at Buckfastleigh on 29 Jan. There are certain advantages with dining indoors, the main one being that we were kept snugly warm and dry and there was little chance of cancellation due to weather conditions. (Unlike Terry's last 2 attempts at running a Christmas paddle). The downside is that people booking right at the last moment meant that 31 of us were squeezed onto a table originally set for 27. All very cosy. Thanks to Joy for organising and to all of you that came along.

The Mewstone, please keep off during the breeding season.

A reminder that the Mewstone is a nationally important site for breeding seabirds, particularly cormorants and shags. All water users are asked to refrain from landing on the Mewstone during the breeding season, which extends from the beginning of March to the end of July.

River Yealm harbour dues.

I have spoken to Rob Dearn, the River Yealm Harbour Master, re harbour dues for canoes / kayaks using the Yealm estuary. This is what I was told.

As of 1 Jan 2014 kayaks, canoes, paddleboards and sit on tops will be charged the following.

- £10 per boat per year or £5 per boat for a day pass.
- Accompanied children will not be charged for their boats.
- There are no group discounts.
- The charge only relates to launching within the estuary. There will be no charges raised for kayaks, canoes etc entering the estuary from the sea.
- This will be policed but Rob either couldn't or wouldn't tell me how.

Mount Batten opening times for 2014

Mount have advised the following opening times for 2014.

2nd January - 2nd March; 08.00-18.00.
3rd March - 29th March; 08:00-19:00.
30th March - 29th April; 08:00-21:00.
30th April - 18th August; 08:00-22:00.
17th August - 30th September; 08:00-21:00.
1st October - 25th October; 08:00-19:00.
26th October - March 2015; 08:00-18:00
Mondays (All Year) 08:00 - 22:30.

Bet that made interesting reading.

Plymouth bridges.

Taken from the Plymouth Data website, <http://www.plymouthdata.info/index.htm>

At the time of the Norman Conquest the area we now know as Plymouth was surrounded on three sides by water. To the south was the Sound, of course, but off that there were creeks at the Sourepool (now Millbay roughly), and at [East Stonehouse](#), which stretched inland as far as the present Pennycomequick. To the west was the Hamoaze and off it were creeks at Keyham, Weston Mill and Budshhead. And even over on the east, the river Plymouth had a creek at Laira Green and the river itself ran as far inland as the present Plympton Castle.

It was necessary to cross the river Plym to get to Plymouth from up country and the river Tamar had to be crossed to go further west into Cornwall. The only dry route out of the Town was north to Tavistock.



Plym Bridge

On the river Plym the nearest bridge was at Plym Bridge. To cross the river further down required a boat. The road into Plymouth ran from Plympton Castle along what is now Underwood Road and down to a ford, the Ebb Ford from which Efford is derived, at Crabtree. The nearest ferry was roughly where the present Laira Bridge is.

Over on the western boundary of Plymouth was the Hamoaze and the River Tamar. Here the nearest bridge was Horse Bridge until the turnpike period saw the construction of New Bridge at Gunnislake. The only way to cross the river was by ferry, for pedestrians only, at Cremyll and Saltash.

Within Plymouth the oldest bridge was Bilbury Bridge. This was located at the junction of two streams that met just to the north of Sutton Pool and which is considered to be the site of the original Sutton that gave birth to our modern City.

In 1525 local landowner Sir Piers Edgcumbe built Mill Bridge across Stonehouse Creek. As its name implies, this was to not just provide a crossing place but was mainly to hold a water-mill that was powered by the water flowing into and out of the creek. Originally passage across the bridge was free but in 1807, without warning, a toll-gate was erected. This prompted the Mayor and Corporation of Plymouth to march in due state to the bridge where, with the aid of a body of carpenters, they demolished the gate and threw the timber into the water. A legal battle ensued until an Act of Parliament confirmed the Edgcumbe's right to charge a toll and the bridge was then rebuilt. Pedestrians were allowed to cross free of toll -- the only such one in the Plymouth area.

According to an article in "The South Devon Monthly Museum" for May 1st 1835, there used to be a beaten track across the marsh of the river Plym in the 17th century. In 1753 a bridge was built at the expense of the county across the river near the Marsh Mills on the Plympton side. This was known as New Bridge. It was only ten feet wide and in 1835 was about to be removed and rebuilt as it was *'ill-adapted to the increased number of carriages and horses which now pass over it, and especially to the degree of velocity with which our mail and other coaches now travel'*.

On some maps, and in some references, New Bridge has been referred to as Long Bridge but that is incorrect. The Long Bridge was the old raised road which ran from New Bridge across the marsh to the side of Marsh House in the parish of Eggbuckland. Older readers will remember the Rising Sun Public House stood at the Plymouth end of it. This causeway replaced the beaten track already mentioned and was built in 1758 as part of the new Turnpike road through the Ridgeway to Ivybridge. The Long Bridge gave its name to the area when the Tecalemit factory was built on the marshland and it remained in situ until the first roundabout was built in the 1970s.

In the 17th century passage across the lower reach of Stonehouse Creek to Plymouth Dock was either by pedestrian ferry or the long journey by track around Mill Bridge. In 1767 Lord Mount Edgcumbe, as Lord of the Manor of East Stonehouse, and Sir John Saint Aubyn, Lord of the Manor of Stoke Damerel, obtained an Act of Parliament authorising the construction of Stonehouse Bridge to provide a more direct link between Plymouth Dock and Stonehouse. The tolls were fixed by the Act at 2d return for a 1-horse drawn vehicle, 3d for 2 horses and 6d for wagons drawn by more than 2 horses. Pedestrians paid a halfpenny and the bridge was for ever known as "Halfpenny Bridge." The Act also absolved the owners from paying any public or parochial rate or tax.

The Bridge was opened in 1773, when the approach to it was via Stonehouse Lane (later known as King Street) and High Street rather than through Union Street, which was not built until 1815. Carriages began to ply for hire between Plymouth and Plymouth Dock in 1775.



Stonehouse Bridge Toll-gate

In 1828 the bridge was raised and Devonport Hill lowered, which facilitated the use of hackney carriages to provide a public service between Plymouth and Devonport the following year.

Several attempts were made by both Plymouth and Devonport to purchase the gate but the bridge, along with Stonehouse Mill Bridge, was eventually sold in February 1890 to the General Tolls Company Ltd for £122,000. The previous owners, the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe and Lord Saint Levan retained shares in the new company, which was registered on February 12th 1890. Its original seven shareholders were all from the London area and the directors were Mr C J Stonor, Mr E C Stonor, Mr T M Witham and Mr O Lambert. The new owners were going to collect the tolls themselves rather than put them up for auction, as was the common practice. After prolonged negotiations, an Act of Parliament in 1923 allowed Plymouth Town Council to buy the toll rights for £100,000. Although the Act permitted the Council to charge tolls for the next ten years, it was decided to free the inhabitants from this burden and on April 1st 1924, the Mayor, Mr Solomon Stephens, and Council visited all the remaining toll houses and officially declared them free.

The creek above Stonehouse Bridge was filled in in 1972 when some 600,000 tons of ballast and rubble were used to help create 19 acres of recreational land.

The first Laira Bridge to be constructed was started in 1824 to replace a very unreliable ferry crossing. The Duchess of Clarence, later Queen Adelaide, opened the bridge on July 14th 1827. The replacement and present bridge was opened on Friday June 1st 1962 by Lord Chesham, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Transport.



Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Royal Albert Bridge does not look out of place in the landscape.

The most famous of Plymouth's bridges is without doubt Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Royal Albert Bridge carrying the railway across the river Tamar into Cornwall. It was opened in May 1859.

A road bridge across the river Tamar in the area of Plymouth was first mooted in 1823 by some local businessmen but it was to be over a century later, in 1959, before work started on the present structure. The Tamar Road Bridge was opened to traffic on October 24th 1961 and officially opened by HRH the Queen Mother on April 26th 1962.

In September 1953 the Whiteleigh Footbridge was opened linking the Whiteleigh Housing Estate with

the shops and bus services on the main Crownhill Road.

Spoilt for choice.

Photo by Terry Calcott.



We are spoilt for choice in the PPCA aren't we? On Sat 11 January Doug was running an intermediate white water trip on the Loop section of the Dart and Terry was running the Saturday rec paddle from Mount Batten. Deciding which trip to join wasn't easy but eventually I chose the Saturday rec paddle, mainly because I have spent quite a lot of time with our fresh water colleagues recently and was pining for some salty company. Without detracting from Doug's trip I feel that I had made the right choice. The sea was calm, there was hardly a breath of wind, we paddled in warm sunshine under a clear blue sky and listened to wonderful salty tales, and to cap it all this turned out to be a 3 cake paddle. Gentle readers, lovely though it was this definitely wasn't a slimming paddle.

Tony Blackmore, paddling legend.

I was paddling a gnarly grade 4 rapid with Tony Blackmore when Tony got pinned on a rock in front of me. I made an attempt at stopping thinking that I would be able to give assistance but my manoeuvre failed and I ended up going down the rapid off my normal route and in a generally backwards direction. I was now rather pre-occupied with my own problems but did manage to register the fact that Tony had got himself off his rock. Gripped by a mixture of fear and panic I hastily made a new plan A, which involved re-gaining control of my boat, turning around, working out where I was on the rapid and planning a new route down. Whilst all this was going on I became aware of Tony's paddle bobbing along in the water beside me. In the end Tony's paddle chose a better route down the rapid than I did and managed to re-join Tony before me. The astute reader will by now have worked out that Tony had run this rather nasty grade 4 rapid without the aid of his paddle. What a legend.

Is it a Mirage?

I bought my original Mirage kayak over 25 years ago. After much abuse that boat had to be retired so I purchased another one second hand, this is the boat that had my duck lovingly installed on the bow. Sadly that boat has now gone to wherever ex Mirages go and has been replaced by a white Dancer. (I can report that the duck has been safely transferred). So, if you see me out and about on Plymouth Sound in a white boat don't be concerned, it is not a mirage that you see before you. (Boom boom).

Old Nosey, our roaming reporter...

... brings you news of the latest kayaking sport, Ninja Surfing, in which the athlete sees how far they can drive with an un-secured kayak resting on their roof rack. The record so far, allegedly held by Alan Braidford, is from B&Q at Plympton to the slip road onto the A38 Parkway at the Leigham interchange, a distance of some 1.2 miles. However, as with all other forms of paddling, Ninja Surfing is regarded as an "at risk" sport. Budding athletes should take particular note of regulation 100 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, which among other things state:

The load carried by a motor vehicle or trailer shall at all times be so secured, if necessary by physical restraint other than its own weight, and be in such a position, that neither danger nor nuisance is likely to be caused to any person or property by reason of the load or any part thereof falling or being blown from the vehicle or by reason of any other movement of the load or any part thereof in relation to the vehicle.

So, to sum up, in normal circumstances Ninja Surfing is both dangerous and illegal.

Old Nosey, our roaming reporter, has been using his accountancy / algebra skills to work out that £9 is the same as £10 - £1. Ex treasurer Syd is probably able to confirm this.

Finally Old Nosey, our very diligent roaming reporter, notes that the river Tamar at Calstock is tidal and as such is downstream of the white water section we normally paddle. In times of high rainfall the water at Calstock is both muddy and cold. Chairman John has recently obtained firsthand knowledge of all of these facts.

Picture Bazaar
Photo by Terry Calcott.



3 wise monkeys and 2 imposters. I'll let you can decide who qualifies as what.

**That's all folk; see you somewhere cold and wet. (Or warm and moist).
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
February.			
Sat 15, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford 01752 344425.
Sun 16, 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 alancede@hotmail.co.uk There will be a hire charge of £10 per boat.</i>			
Sun 16, 08:30	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
<i>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.</i>			
Sat 22, TBA	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Chris Doidge 07973 285969.
<i>Please check the forum for details of where and when to meet.</i>			
Sat 22, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.

February (continued).

Sun 23, 09:00 Beginners 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.

March.

Sat 1, 10:00 Sea kayak trip Mount Batten Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
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

Sat 1, 10:30 Intro rec paddle Mount Batten John Mitchell 01752 219246.

Sun 2, 09:00 Intermediate river trip TBA Clive Ashford 01752 344425
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.

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, TBA Open boat river trip TBA Ted Fearon 07973 964433.
*Please check the website forum closer to the date for 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 There will be a hire charge of £10 per boat.*

Sat 8, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Terry Calcott 07828 652775.

Sun 9, 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 15, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Clive Ashford 01752 344425.

Sat 22, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Neville Cannon 07773 342787.

Sat 29, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Joy Ashford 01752 344425.

April.

Sat 5, 10:00 Sea kayak paddle Mount Batten Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
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

Sat 12, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.

Sat 19, TBA Easter paddle TBA Terry Calcott 07828 652775.

Tues 22, 18:00 2 star training Mount Batten Justin Frost
 3 star training Mount Batten Ken Hamblin
 3 star plus Mount Batten Clive Ashford
 Open boat training Mount Batten Ian Ruse
 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Joy Ashford

Fri 26, 18:00 Open boats Mount Batten Ian Ruse 07980 355019.

Sat 26, 09:00 Taster session Mount Batten John Mitchell

Sat 26, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Clive Ashford 01752 344425.

Tues 29, 18:00 2 star training Mount Batten Justin Frost
 3 star training Mount Batten Ken Hamblin
 3 star plus Mount Batten Clive Ashford
 Open boat training Mount Batten Ian Ruse
 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Joy Ashford

Advanced notice

Sept 26 – 28 Sea symposium Mount Batten
Details TBA