



Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Wet News 87. January 2014.



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

February edition of Wet News.

Items for inclusion in the February edition of Wet News to reach the editor, Clive Ashford, by 21:00hrs on Sat 8 February please. Publication date Sunday 9 February.

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.

Whilst parked in the lay by adjacent to Holne Weir I had my car broken into. Nothing was taken but the glass cost just under £40 to replace plus time, effort and inconvenience. Those of you that have attended my weekends away will know that £5 of debt is cleared by having 1 finger broken. Gentle readers, if you hear of someone mysteriously having 8 fingers broken think of me.

Open boat 3 star.

Congratulations to Joy Ashford on gaining her open boat 3 star. As it's me that helps Joy get her boat on and off the roof rack I feel that I must have a share in this award.

Level 2 coach training.

Jane Hitchings has successfully completed her level 2 coach training. This training is the first step on a long journey that will eventually end with a level 2 assessment. Good luck Jane.

Club meal, Wednesday 29 January. (Joy Ashford and the Committee).

The committee and others thought it would be nice if we had a club meal out.

We have chosen 19:30 on Wednesday 29 January at The Moguls Palace, Buckfastleigh (TQ11 0JR). For our river kayakers that's where we get off the river when we run the Lower Dart.

Why a Wednesday? I hear you shout! On Wednesdays its Buffet night and you can eat as much as you like for £10.95.

Joy Ashford would appreciate a £5 deposit per person by 12th January (partners and family welcome) before she confirms numbers for our party booking. Contact Joy on 01752 344425 or cliveashford-ppca@yahoo.co.uk

Please pass your £5's to either Clive or Joy to book your place.

White water 3 star assessment, Sun 2 Feb.

There is a 3 star white water assessment on Sunday 2 February. Details will appear on the forum in due course.

Dreams of 2013 revisited. (All photos by Joy Ashford unless otherwise stated).

The club had plenty to dream about in 2013 so I thought it would be a nice idea to review our activities, partly because it's good to remind ourselves what we got up to last year but mainly because it's an easy option, and I like easy.

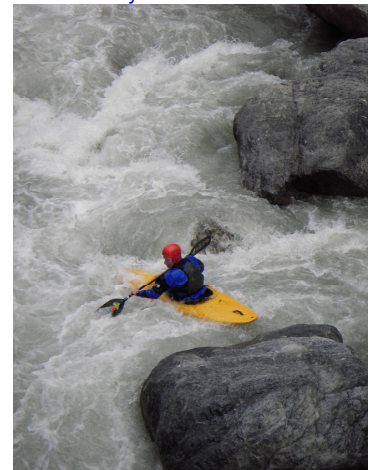
Dream 1. Clive dreamt about paddling in the picturesque Wye Valley and thought club members may like to join him. The dream became reality in May when 17 club members took over the Kington Youth Hostel for a weekend of paddling and socialising. The weather gods were sort of kind to us giving plenty of flow on the river but also a few sharp, cooling showers. In Kington we found the very delightful Oxford Arms where the quality of the local beer was given the PPCA seal of approval, and where Merryl ate all the pies. The landlord seemed quite grateful when we went back to pay for Merryl's pie the next day.



Dream 2. Clive had another dream, this time about paddling along the south coast of Devon from Mount Batten, camping at Ayrmer Cove and paddling back again the next day. On this occasion the weather gods were a bit mean, giving us force 5 – 6 winds, a shower laden sky and a surf forecast of 5 – 7 foot. Clive's dream was turning into a nightmare but like the hero he is Clive saved the day by finding a place to camp beside the far more sheltered Lynher Estuary. It still wasn't a gentle paddle but 7 intrepid explorers celebrated midsummer in the traditional PPCA way, around a camp fire sharing tales and stories, some of which may have been based in fact a very long time ago.

Dream 3. Leader Chris & assistant leader Jane dreamt of running a white water program to keep our adrenalin junkies amused during the wet season. Rivers tackled by our budding white water enthusiasts on club paddles included the Dart from New Bridge to Staverton, the Tavy from Tavistock to Denham Bridge, The Walkham from Magpie Bridge to Denham Bridge and the Tamar from Lamerton Ford to Gunnislake. River paddling is always dependant on how much rain has fallen over the previous few days so some trips were bumpy rocky affairs and some were a bit more exciting. Although the weather gods did make life hard at times, (too wet, too dry, very cold etc), our leaders for these trips (Clive, Chris, Doug, Julie, John and Ken), did a sterling job keeping our white water program going when conditions were far from perfect. Judging by the happy smiling faces present on the rivers the effort was very worthwhile.

Photo by Leslie McCormack.



Away from the club

PPCA members could also be spied running harder local rivers as well as rivers of the European Alps and Slovenia.

Dream 4. Leader Chris and assistant leader Jane dreamt of running our regular Saturday paddles and sea kayak trips. The weather gods and the tides combine meaning that whilst we regularly paddle in Plymouth Sound there is always something different to see. We are also blessed with a beautiful coastline just on our doorstep so our away days are equally enjoyable. Terry leads more than his share of these trips but Doug, Ian, Joy, Ken & Neville also do their bit.

Our white water fiends have referred to our Saturday activities as "cake paddles" and it must be said that cakes by Mary are always a highlight. I must also mention cakes by Alan, Joy, Linda, Merryl & Terry and offer apologies to any bakers that I have missed.



Dream 5. Terry, Linda & Mary dreamt of a weekend away sea kayaking around the Roseland Peninsular, a dream that came true in July. This year the weather gods were very kind to us and gave us a weekend of clear blue skies and hardly a ripple on the water. How utterly delightful.

Whilst it is true that sea kayakers are just as ugly as our river paddling counterparts their craft are in a different class, hence 18 things of great beauty took to the water for a very peaceful weekends paddling in stunning surroundings.

Dream 6. Assistant leader Jane dreamt of the PPCA celebrating its 40th anniversary, so in September we did just that. For our finely honed athletes Jane had organised a long paddle in sea kayaks from Calstock to Mount Batten, for the less athletic among us there was a shorter trip around Plymouth Sound and then there was a third option of a regatta for the youth and young at heart. After our watery activities we retired to the Mount Batten bar for curry, beer and, as it was a Saturday, some Mary cake.

With over 70 paddlers taking to the waters plus a few who decided that canoeing is a dry sport the day was indeed a dream come true.



Dream 7. Our open boat enthusiasts have seen enough dreams become reality to keep them nicely occupied during 2013. Ian Ruse ran our regular Friday evening sessions and Ian Pitchford, Ian Ruse, Martin & Ted have got our open boaters out on the rivers.

Open boating has become fairly popular within the club over the last few years with several members achieving 3 star and / or purchasing their own boats. Let's hope this trend continues.

Dream 8. Not all dreams came true. Terry's dream of a Christmas paddle from Wembury, culminating in a feast on Cellars Beach, had to be abandoned for the second year running due to the unfriendly interventions of the weather gods. These same gods have caused us to cancel other Saturday paddles. A few river trips also had to be called off either due to our river beds being dusty, tumbleweed infested ditches or raging torrents where members safety could not be guaranteed. Ours is an outdoor sport that is greatly affected by meteorological conditions, let's hope 2014 is kind to us.

Dream 9. Outside organisations have dreamt about the PPCA helping with their activities. Our time is, of course, strictly limited so the club has restricted itself to making just 3 dreams come true. Last year we helped with the Horizons charity swim, the Plymouth triathlon and the annual Breakwater swim. These people were all very grateful for our support.

Dream 10. Finally the Mount Batten Squid and Old Nosey, our roaming reporter, have had so many dreams come true that they can hardly believe their luck. They both extend grateful thanks to all their victims and wish you all an extremely hapless 2014.

Well, that was all a bit nostalgic wasn't it? Been busy haven't we? And I haven't even mentioned Tuesday night training, pool sessions, (Thanks Zoe), Sportivate, Paddlepower, beginners' courses or peoples personal achievements like star test awards and coaching qualifications.

More importantly I also haven't commented on the fact that the PPCA family is made up of lovely people who are a pleasure to be with. Thank you all for your company.



There was none of this in 2013.

White water season.

2 months ago I commented on how good our white water season was going. Almost immediately the rains stopped and our rivers became dried up ditches so last month I published information on how to perform a rain dance. Gentle readers, if you have been rain dancing can I ask that you dance with a little less enthusiasm please? I don't like having webbed feet.

From the all staff at Wet News.

The staff at Wet News would like to wish you all a happy New Year and hope that your plans for 2014 come to fruition. If they do, (and even if they don't but in an entertaining way), please don't forget there is room here for you to share your most wonderful experiences with your fellow PPCA paddlers, we'd love to hear from you.

Old Nosey, our roaming reporter...

...would like to point out that if you are river paddling and decide to hang onto a tree, (or any other vegetation), then the result is likely to be tippy or maybe even wet. This rule applies to everyone, even if you are female and your name begins with J, like Jane or Jenny for example.

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 Mark Porter.



All the president's men.

**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
January.			
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>			
Sat 11, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Doug Sitch 07966 740025.
<i>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.</i>			
Sat 11, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
Sun 12, 09:00	Beginner river trip	TBA	John Elworthy 01752 823381.
<i>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.</i>			
Sat 18, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford 01752 344425.
Sun 19, 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 25, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Clive Ashford 01752 344425.
<i>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.</i>			
Sat 25, TBA	Open boat river trip	TBA	Ted Fearon 07973 964433.
<i>Please check the website forum closer to the date to confirm details.</i>			
<i>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 £5 per boat.</i>			
Sat 25, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Sun 26, TBA	Beginner river trip	TBA	Chris Doidge 07973 285969.
<i>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.</i>			
February.			
Sat 1, 10:00	Sea kayak trip	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
<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 1, 10:30	Intro rec paddle	Mount Batten	John Mitchell 01752 219246.
Sun 2, TBA	3 star WW assessment	TBA	Chris Doidge 07973 285969.
<i>See forum for detail closer to the date.</i>			
Mon 3, 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 8, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Doug Sitch 07966 740025.
<i>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.</i>			
Sat 8, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
Sun 9, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	John Elworthy 01752 823381.
<i>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.</i>			
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 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.

Sat 22, TBA Intermediate river trip TBA Chris Doidge 07973 285969.
Please check the forum for details of where and when to meet.

Sat 22, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten TBA

Sun 23, 09:00 Beginners river trip TBA TBA
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 £5 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 Neville Cannon 07773 342787.

Sat 22, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Joy Ashford 01752 344425.

Sat 29, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.