



# PPCA Newsletter

## October 2016



### Introduction

Welcome to October's Newsletter. In this month's edition, apart from the usual gubbins, one of our paddlers lives out a childhood fantasy, we have news of a major new work by a literary colossus and an amusing photograph of Clive

### Editorial

October marks the end of the summer season of Tuesday and Friday night paddles and the start of the winter season of Saturday and Sunday white water paddles. The regular Saturday recreational paddles will, of course, carry on unchanged throughout the winter. We will also see a change in paddlers. Some will hang up their paddles until next summer. Others will perform a reverse hibernation. Having been all but invisible over the summer, they will stretch their arms and emerge blinking into what passes for daylight ready for another winter of sub-zero paddling.

It's at this time of year that the forum comes into its own. The calendar is written with the best intentions but events can be changed overnight depending on the level of rainfall. What was planned as a relatively straightforward beginners session can be transformed by a few inches of rain into something only suitable for the real hard core paddler so please remember to check on the forum before leaving home.

Ivor Jones

Newsletter Editor

## The Committee

Committee Post	Name	Club Email	Phone Number
Club Secretary	Bob Grose	ppca@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	01548 821018
Club Leader	Andy Nicholls	leader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07801 367363
Welfare Officer	Sheona Grant	welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07933 780511
Intro Course Coordinator	Vacant	intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	
Chair	Tracy Jones	chair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	01752 510653
Vice Chair	Mike Scott	vchair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	01752 295478
Assistant Club Leader	Ben Mitchell	acleader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07909 807000
Membership Secretary	Paul Hewson	membership@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07870 276748
Treasurer	Jenny Nicholls	treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	01752 952628
Equipment Officer	Pete Anderson	equipment@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07958 694434
Publicity Officer	Vacant	publicity@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	
Youth Development Officer	Damean Miller	youth@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07736033316
Club President	Terry Calcott	N/A	07828 652775

## Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be on at the discretion of the new committee. If you have any points you wish to raise, please contact [secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk)

### AGM

A reminder that the AGM will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 19:00 in the Waterside Room at Mountbatten.

The purpose of the meeting is to accept reports from club officers and to elect a new committee.

There will be no "Any Other Business" at the end of the meeting.

This is the club's biggest meeting of the year and it's a chance for members to have their say. It's particularly important this year with Project Neptune being on the agenda so please come along if you possibly can. It's a tighter agenda than usual so the committee would like to make a prompt start.

### Pool Sessions by Andy Nicholls

The swimming pool sessions are happening again over this winter. You can use these to learn and practice any of those wet skills you have been struggling with in the comfort of clear water with someone stood beside you to assist and advise. Club boats are available but you need to organise transport of the boats (which also need a thorough rinse) to and from the pool. They can be collected by arrangement with the equipment officer at Saturday paddles and other times. Some coaches might be able to bring boats but don't just expect it.

The pool sessions are available to book now. £11 for a GP kayak up to 3m long; over that length it's £22 due to space limitations.

See the club [website](#) to book.



## The River Season 2016/17 (White Water Paddling) by Andy Nicholls, Club Leader (based on an original by Clive)

The River Season crept up on us this year so fast it beat the newsletter! The river season kicks off from October and runs until the middle of March meaning that we will be paddling through the winter, so think cold and dress warm. River Paddling is great for those thrill seekers who want to raise their adrenaline levels! If you are new to river paddling it's a steep learning curve and the environment can be unforgiving. I suggest you get along to the beginner sessions early on in the season. A few swims are inevitable for the white water novice paddler (and the experienced) and the water temperature in Plymouth Sound is like a bath compared to our rivers, especially as the winter sets in. As well as warm clothing the equipment required for river paddling is a boat, paddle, buoyancy aid, helmet and spray deck. (Spray deck is not required for open boat trips). Failure to have all the relevant equipment will result in you not being able to paddle.

Our River trips are divided into 3 categories:

- 1) Beginners. These trips are aimed at the kayak paddler who is either a white water novice or is not yet ready to step up to our intermediate trips. Intermediate kayak paddlers are welcome on these trips on the understanding that they give our beginners plenty of time, room and encouragement to develop their river / entertaining skills.
- 2) Intermediate. These trips are for the kayak paddler who now finds our beginners sessions easy.
- 3) Open boat. These trips are for our open boat enthusiasts. There may (or may not) be opportunities for open boats to join the kayaks trips and vice versa, but please seek the coaches permission first, don't just turn up expecting to paddle.

## Club equipment on white water

Club kayaks with accompanying equipment, to be used only on Club river trips, will be available for long term loan again this year, at a charge of £30. If you wish to take us up on this please contact Pete Anderson who can arrange to meet you and sign the kit over to you.

## Project Neptune

The project have done some initial calculations of the likely use of the facility and slipway based on details from the PPCA, Marjons, schools and the Navy rowing clubs. These estimate a usage of

- Tuesday evening 55 users
- Saturday morning 42 users

They expect this to rise over a 4-year period to

- Tuesday evening 82 users
- Saturday morning 62 users

These figures are based on the clubs who have currently expressed an interest. With the inclusion of an indoor community space, this will increase further and if any other clubs come on board it will rise still further. The figures do not include regattas (100+ participants approximately 3 times p.a.) and open days (50-100 participants, 7 times p.a. Apr-Oct).

Implications of the project with respect to it being in the blast zone of the oil depot are being considered by the Health and Safety Executive who have requested details on the number of people using the facility.

The council have now taken an interest in the project and are considering alternative sites including the Stonehouse Barracks site when this is released.

## Congratulations

### Level 2 Coaching

Congratulations to Alan Ede and Andy Kittle on passing their level 2 coaching assessment. A look at the syllabus will show how much work they have put into earning this qualification.

New coaches are the lifeblood of the club so if anyone is interested in following in Alan and Andy's footsteps, please have a word with the Club Leader who may know of appropriate courses being held locally.

### 2 Star Assessment

Congratulations to Tim and Izzy on passing their Two Star assessment. I know first hand how much work they put in.

Don't forget that the two star is a joint qualification in both kayaks and open boats so anyone wishing to pass will need to spend time in Canadians.

## Features

### Sea Fever by David Pedlow

For me, it was a childhood fantasy come to life.

Over to the right the darker smudge glimpsed from the wave crests was Penlee; back at my 7 o'clock the white reflective paint (or is it guano?) on the cap of the breakwater lighthouse was coming and going as the sea dictated; and over to the left 100 metres or so away, appearing and disappearing as the swell crests came and went, was a warship heading slowly in to temporary anchorage in Cawsand Bay; her lines softened and blurred by the mid-day overcast and the increasing rain.

O.K., so the childhood fantasy turned my sick bed into a giant hovercraft tug, and involved a broken down liner in the middle of an Atlantic gale; but the reality of the swells, and the relative sizes of H87 and the Peapod surpassed anything my childhood imagination could encompass. Suddenly I was living in that long forgotten dream.



Never before had I been able to properly grasp just how insignificant and how invisible our kayaks could be. At the bottom of the swell there was nothing. Nothing, except the sliding, shifting, slopes of water. Reference points on land, my companion paddlers, even the large and very solid warship close by, were completely blotted out. And then the gradient changed. My kayak was carried upwards, and for a moment or two there, just where I wanted it to be, thank goodness, was the most important thing in my present universe, the bulk of HMS Echo.

As we slowly paddled past her, then swung across her stern, it wasn't a moment but a protracted period of time that rewarded us for the efforts we had made. The sneaky breaking waves that ran along the top of the swells, drawing out our bracing and balance skills, bringing our hearts into our mouths, were just a part of the reward.

And then there was the joy of the downwind, down swell run to the Breakwater; followed by encountering, and avoiding, a fleet of fellow thrill seekers in dinghies, feet dangling over the elevated weather gunwales as they beat up past us – all of us hemmed in by a camaraderie forming torrential wall of rain, that had Jane leading us home on a compass bearing.

Finally the slow relaxation, as the rain eased; the visibility improved; we avoided collision with the dinghy unexpectedly tearing crosswind with a jammed spinnaker, straight at us; and the dirty water at the end of Mountbatten Breakwater, the sting in the tail of so many paddles, was successfully navigated.

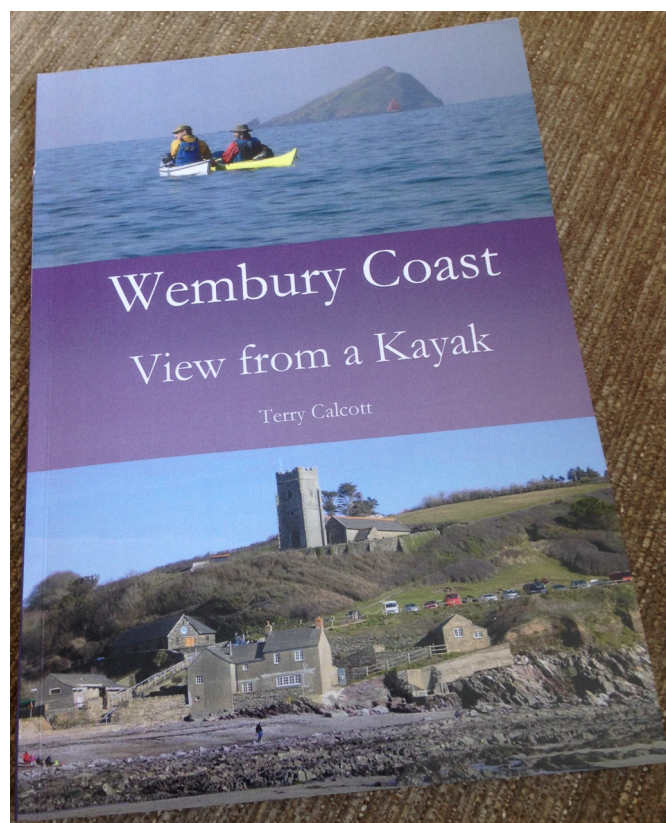


Heartfelt thanks are due to EMU, Jane Seigne and Gavin for helping me live out this childhood fantasy. I can only hope they got as much from it as I did.

Wembury Coast - View from a Kayak by Terry Calcott

'Wembury Coast' is a follow on from the previous books (Plymouth Sound & Plym Estuary still available to buy) but exploring the coast around the Wembury area and all its hidden gems.

Price £6 a copy with all profits going to the Plymouth RNLI. If you would like a copy please email me at [terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk)







Bob has suggested the caption "Clive Ashford demonstrates the shrinking effect of salt water if you spend a lot of your time somewhere cold and wet". I dare say somebody out there can come up with an alternative caption. If so, please let me know.

Alternatively, if you have any weird or wonderful photos of club paddles that you feel would benefit from a caption, please feel free to submit them.



There will be a quiz 19:00 (or 7p.m. if you prefer) at the Morley Arms on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

As a thank you to Paul Goodall who recently retired from the club and donated us all his kit, 75% of the proceeds will go to a charity of his choice (Help for Heroes) and the remaining 25% will go to the club.

The quiz will be for teams of up to four people with an entrance fee of £2 per person. Friends and family are welcome to attend and take part.

## Situations Vacant

Expressions of interest have been received for all the Committee posts. Prospective members will require Proposers and Seconders so don't be surprised if people sidle up to you at the AGM, remind you how much they've always liked and admired you and ask if, perhaps, you could do them a small favour later in the evening.

## And Finally...

Morag has suggested having an occasional piece in the Newsletter about environmental issues directly related to paddling such as the one she has contributed below. This seems like a good idea so I will be happy to publish short pieces, the more local the better.

### The Linton Lock scheme

Keen canoeists are often at odds with Hydro developers even though they both benefit greatly from the natural world and healthy rural waterways. Some developers of renewable energy see white water as only a resource to be harnessed. Conversely, world class paddlers revel in the power that water releases.

The planned Linton Lock hydro brings these two worlds together by including a white water course alongside the development. Scheduled for completion in the first part of 2017, the scheme will also generate 1.87 GWh of electricity: enough to power 450 homes. Linton Hydro Ltd chose to work with Triodos Bank's corporate Finance Team who helped them raise £2.5 million for the construction of the project. It will generate clean renewable electricity as well as new modern fish pass and a canoe pass in partnership with Canoe England. [www.lintonhydro.co.uk](http://www.lintonhydro.co.uk)



## Back Issues

Back issues of the Newsletter are available from the club [website](#) .

## Next Edition

The deadline for submission of articles will usually be the first Wednesday of the month to tie in with the Committee meeting (assuming the new committee stick with the old schedule) so that the Newsletter can be sent out with the minutes. That makes the deadline 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

## Contributions

Please send any contributions to [newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk)

## Club Calendar

### Saturday, 1 October

10:00 Sea Kayak Paddle - Joy Ashford 01752 344425

### Sunday, 2 October

09:00 Beginners River Trip Ken Hamblin 01752 365404

### Saturday, 8 October

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott

### Sunday, 9 October

09:00 Beginners River Trip - Clive Ashford 01752 344425

### Monday, 10 October

19:00 PPCA AGM

### Saturday, 15 October

09:00 River clean up Trip - Brian Taylor

10:00 Rec Paddle - John Mitchell 01752 219246

### Sunday, 16 October

09:00 Intermediate River Trip - Julie and John Elworthy 01752 823381

### Saturday, 22 October

09:00 Canoe White Water - Beginners Trip - Andy Nicholls 07801367363

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304

### Sunday, 23 October

09:00 Beginners River Trip Doug Stitch 07966 740025

### Tuesday, 25 October

19:00 PPCA Quiz Night

### Saturday, 29 October

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott

### Sunday, 30 October

09:00 Intermediate River Trip - Ken Hamblin 01752 365404

More details are available on the [website](#).