



Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Wet News 95. Sept 2014.



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October edition of Wet News.

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

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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.

There are some overhead gantries on the M5 around Exeter that show the message, "Sign not in use." Predictably, (and the brighter ones among you will already know how this sentence ends), I feel that this is a bit of a contradiction.

Plymouth Trinity Fund grant.

Last month I mentioned that Andy Nicholls and Damean Miller were successful in obtaining a £1920.00 grant from the Plymouth Trinity Fund and promised that I would find out what this money is being used for. I am indebted to Andy Nicholls who has advised that this money has been used to purchase spray decks, buoyancy aids and cags of sizes suitable for use by our youth members. This grant is in addition to the £1600.00 Devonport Royal Dockyard Employee (DRDE) Trust grant that Terry Calcott obtained on our behalf in February and which was used to purchase kayaks suitable for our youth members.

Well done and thank you to Andy Nicholls, Damean Miller & Terry Calcott for their hard work.

2 star assessment, Sat 13 September.

Justin Frost is running a 2 star assessment on Sat 13 September. Please see website forum for details.

3 star sea kayak assessment, Sun 14 September.

Clive Ashford is running a 3 star sea kayak assessment on Sunday 14 September. Booking is essential for this assessment and needs to be done via Ken Hamblin, 01752 365404.

PPCA AGM, Mon 13 October.

Our AGM will be held at Mount Batten on Monday 13 October in the Family Room. (Turn left as you enter the bar). All committee posts are up for election at the AGM so nominations to secretary Buck please.

The river season, (white water).

The river season is brilliant for those who like a bit of adrenalin coursing through their veins and comes with the added benefit of giving the white water beginner new and interesting ways of entertaining their coaches. (Thinking about it, being entertaining isn't restricted to our beginners). There are however a few things that you need to know.

The river season starts in October and ends in mid March, meaning that we will be paddling through the winter. Think cold, dress warm.

As well as having a boat, paddle, spray deck and buoyancy aid a helmet is essential. Turn up without any of this basic equipment and you will not be paddling. (Or be very grateful to someone who brought along a spare).

The club runs 2 types of trip, beginners and intermediate. The rule of thumb is that paddlers start on the beginners trips and progress onto the intermediate trips as skill levels increase. If in doubt about being ready to move onto the intermediate trips ask a coach.

Generally trips meet at Plympton B&Q car park ready to leave at 09:00. The diary dates / website calendar dates give an indication of what type of trip we are running and the website forum confirms exact details closer to the event. In order to ensure that we have the correct level of coaches / helpers we ask that you indicate on the forum that you are intending to come along.

Finally club boats etc are available to hire for the season, assuming that you have transport. To arrange hire please contact equipment officer Alan Ede on 07799 556876.

Have fun and see you somewhere cold and wet as the saying goes.

Six go to Dorset. (Article and photos by Terry Calcott).

Not quite an Enid Blyton book title but a summer paddling adventure to the Isle of Purbeck by six sea kayakers, Terry, Mark, Clive, Joy, Mary and Merryl.

It is always nice to get away for an extended paddling break and word was that the sea kayaking around the Purbeck coast was rather nice and only a two hour drive away. The last week of July dawned and the gag arrived at the Woody Hyde campsite just outside Corfe. I know the area relatively well but had never camped here. It is a pleasant level (ish) site with basic amenities and a rather interesting owner propping up reception, the Trip advisor comments about him were well founded. The site is well kept and you can pitch your tent wherever you like. The advance party had already staked a claim to some promising territory; the main group arrived and formed an easily defended protective circle of tents. As it was a week of camping in large tents it made sense to glamp it up a bit with some comfort, so air beds and quilts were the order of the day (for some). With old noseys being in close proximity I guess I had better own up to mislaying my air bed and leaving it at Plymouth, luckily Merryl came to the rescue with a spare. Later in the week some new campers encroached rather close into our territory, crossing the buffer zone, which made for some skirmishes on the border and amusing comments amongst ourselves. With camp established and the kitchen and dining areas built we had a short stroll into Corfe to pick up a few supplies and sample some of the local liquid produce, cool cider and refreshing ale.



[The Pinnacle.](#)

The weather forecast for the week ahead was promising and an early night was had by all. Waking early with the crows a leisurely breakfast followed and we were on the road just after nine. Today's paddling plan was to park at Kimmeridge bay and head west along the coast. After a short one sided debate with the toll road car park attendant about why he was charging us to launch our sea kayaks, we paid, unloaded and got paddling.

Unfortunately Clive was still in his post op recovery getting better phase and would only be walking this week. The walking is equally as good as the paddling but a lot harder! The Dorset coast is a geologists dream with a mix of rocks overlapping and woven together, chalk, limestone, shale and clay. The Kimmeridge cliffs are made up of layers of

clay with harder limestone layers. With the softer clay being eroded, the hard limestone forms shallow ledges which then stretch out into the sea. Paddling along into Hobarrow bay we tucked in close to the high cliffs, Merryl witnessed and pointed out a rock fall ahead which made us aware of the dangers of these unstable rocks. Conversation was quite subdued because the majesty of the scenery leaves you speechless. Into Brandy bay and then towering above the impressive Gad cliffs forming a line ahead. The rock formations are mesmerising with their beauty and pull us in closer. Before long a cake stop and coffee are needed so an interesting haul across the smooth rocks in Pond Field Bay followed.

The cliffs change from limestone to chalk as we paddle into Worbarrow bay. We are heading into Lulworth army firing range territory but fortunately the ranges are closed for the summer season. There is

very little on water traffic and the beaches are virtually deserted. Mary was surprisingly quiet with no shouts of jelly fish here! In fact the jelly fish were nowhere to be seen all week. Passing Arish Mell and the Mupe rocks we head for Lulworth cove. The floating gin palaces and powered craft spoil the isolation and human beings are dotted all over the cliffs. Past Lulworth is Stair hole an interesting rock formation. We reach Durdle Door a fantastic rock arch, a must on any sea kayakers bucket list to see and paddle through. Although the sunshine and holiday time had brought the droves out and the area was a cacophony of noise and colour. We did not linger long and made for a quieter lunch spot at the far end of St Oswald's Bay. The paddle back followed the same route but was equally mesmerising seeing the cliffs from a different angle. As we neared Kimmeridge we could make out Clive waiting on the slipway and our days paddling was over and thankful for the extra pair of hands in lifting boats. By the time we got back to camp and washed kit and drank tea and coffee it was time for supper. Suffice to say we were spoilt with the variety of meals during the week with some fantastic communal meals, drinks and snacks to share.

I would need a small book to describe the rest of the week in detail so a brief summary will have to suffice.

Day two we parked at Studland middle beach car park set back from the sand dunes and only a short carry to the beach. Luckily we managed to have enough National Trust cards between us so as not to pay the extortionate £9 a day car park fee. The paddle was from Studland to the east end of Swanage via Old Harry rocks and the stunning chalk cliffs and pinnacle's past Ballard Point (my own favourite of the week). We lunched on the first beach and I had a master class from Joy in Kelly kettle lighting up. A highlight was finding a small face carved in the chalk cliff near Old Harry rocks. The tide race picked up on the paddle back which made for an interesting turn into Studland Bay.

Day three was a fantastic walk planned by Clive from the campsite up and over the hill to Chapman's Pool time for some fossil collecting and the team to take a dip in the cool waters. Mark was taking every opportunity to get some swimming mileage under his belt as he had entered the Breakwater swim this year. After lunch a stroll up the vertical Houns Tout Cliff and inland to Kingston and a lovely pub (great Jurassic ale). Mary enlightened us to the benefits of using light weight sticks for walking, they do ease the body and also make very good selfie poles. The walk was also great for spotting many plants and wildlife along the way.



Durdle Door.

Day four was a shorter paddle from Ringstead heading east to Lulworth cove. We parked at another private car park, this time a not unreasonable £5 for the day. Launching from the shingle beach we paddled into Ringstead Bay past the burning cliff and on to the chalk of the white Nothe Cliffs towering overhead. Paddling through the Bats Hole arch was a highlight. Lunching at the quieter side of Lulworth before a bit of a paddle back into a freshening breeze.

Day five was another cracking Clive walk, again from the campsite but up onto the opposite ridge and following the Purbeck way into Swanage. Some stunning views and plenty of flora and fauna to observe. It was interesting walking along the sea front seeing the massed bucket

and spade crowds after the relative solitude of the week. Then a steam train ride back to near the campsite on the aptly named Eddystone.

Day six was a sheltered paddle planned by Joy, launching from Bramble bush bay at Studland into Poole harbour paddling via Brownsea Island, Long Island and over to Shipstal Point on the Arne peninsula for lunch (masses of marsh samphire, lovely with melted butter and cracked black pepper). Then exploring the tidal inlets and creeks via Green Island, spotting some great bird life along the way.

Day seven and the weather was threatening to break, the forecast was for heavy showers, but good fortune stayed with us and the tents were packed away and cars loaded before the deluge hit.

A wonderful week away with great company, good weather, lovely food and good real ale. A mix of fantastic sea kayaking and scenic walking which made for a great time, If anyone wants details of the campsite or to borrow the paddling maps please let me know.

Sea Trials are happening! (David Pedlow).

I don't know which of us was the more nervous as, with a NW Force 4, Chris and I headed down from Redruth to Longrock Beach (about midway between Penzance and Marazion and the cheapest parking in Cornwall) to put the boat in the water.

Chris insisted on a seal launch, and as I got into the cockpit began to retreat – not quite imperceptibly – back up the beach towards the car. I pushed off, found that I and the boat didn't turn turtle; that I could paddle in a straight line, and turn when I wanted to. At this point Chris got into his boat and we set off eastward in an awkward sort of following sea to rock hop round St Michael's Mount to Perranuthnoe.

The whole of the journey the boat felt sort of tentative; but when, after lunch, I pushed out beyond the small dumping surf and scrambled aboard I immediately felt at home. The paddle back, mainly into the teeth of the wind, hugging the coast to try and cheat the tide felt like hard work (especially since it involved keeping up with marathon racing Chris), but when we got back to Longrock I happily signed the acceptance documents, and paid over the balance of the purchase price.

I have been taken to task for talking about "sea trials" for the Yellow Peril. "Isn't that a bit grand for just getting in the boat and paddling away?" I have been asked. Well yes, and no.

The day that MTV Crash came to Plymouth I slipped away from the pontoon 3 hours before Spring Low Tide and headed for the Eastern Entrance. There, as I had hoped, I found about 100 metres or so of steep 1.5 metre swell where the wind was blowing in against the constricted tide at full ebb. I paddled out through it, turned and paddled/surfed back. After paddling into the sheltered water of the Breakwater for a Mars Bar (exhausting stuff this getting to know a boat), I set off across the swell zone for Bovisand Beach. Sadly there was no surf worth talking about, so I rock hopped up to the quiet corner of Crownhill Bay for lunch.

After a session discovering that I could paddle sitting on the stern deck without falling off; I returned to the Breakwater, and found that I could go the mile from one end to the other up the outside, at a purposeful cruising paddle, in 16 minutes. This with an 11mph SSW wind, and corresponding swell, coming in on the port bow, would seem to indicate a satisfactory easy cruising speed.

The procession of Frigates doing boat transfers having disappeared off to sea, and the Ferry safely on its way into Millbay, I picked up marks to transit first to the New Ground Buoy, and on to the MB breakwater, to get a sense of how the Peril tracked (and, incidentally, to discover what convoluted things the tidal stream does south of Drakes Island at slack tide on the bottom of springs).

I found myself being swell surfed now and again on the final stages of the approach to the MB breakwater; and realised, as I nearly took a swim when she broached to port and immediately corkscrewed to starboard, that she had at least one bad habit that needed watching!

And so I came to MB. Absolute bottom of a 0.5m tide. Pontoon hard aground. No channel whatever to the black beach. I got out on to the rocky ground at the SW corner where the channel should have been, and simply lifted the Peril up onto the pontoon deck. Then I fitted the wheels and wheeled it up the steepest possible angle of the link, for the first time in a long while arriving at the top with breath to spare.

At that moment I knew that I had the right boat for me, however expensive and tedious it may turn out to be in rock-hopping patches, and however much I need to work up my rolling skills in following seas.

Sea Trials? Definitely.

Photo by Chris Pease



The Yellow Peril floats!

Photo by Mark (Banjo) Curtis.



The Yellow Peril near Rame Head

Old nosey, our roaming reporter...

...stresses the need for caution should you spy Syd Evans on the water because, while you may very well be looking at Syd it may also be Terry Calcott in his new blue and white boat trying to emulate his hero.

For sale.



Perception Arc, cosmetic damage, (see photo). Reason for sale; it's not blue and white like Syd's. Contact Terry Calcott.

Picture Bazaar

Photo by Terry Calcott who also inspired the caption.



Q. Did anyone get the punch line to Banjo's joke?
A. No, but I've got an awful headache.

Editors footnote. Terry is going to take over publishing the PPCA newsletter in November. I feel that Old Nosey, our roaming reporter, may have just landed me into an awful lot of trouble.

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
September.			
Tues 9, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Buck Taylor
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ted Fearon
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford
Thurs 11, 18:00	1 star course (e)	Mount Batten	Tom Clarke
Fri 12, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 13, TBA	2 star assessment. <i>See website forum for details.</i>	Mount Batten	Justin Frost 07863751503.
Sat 13, 09:00	Taster session	Mount Batten	John Mitchell
Sat 13, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford 01752 344425.
Sun 14, TBA	3 star sea assessment <i>Ken Hamblin, 01752 365404, is taking names for this assessment. Please don't turn up if you haven't booked with Ken.</i>	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford 01752 344425
Tues 16, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Buck Taylor
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ted Fearon
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford
Thurs 18, 18:00	1 star course (e)	Mount Batten	Tom Clarke
Fri 19, 18:00	Open Boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 20, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.

September (continued).

Tues 23, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Buck Taylor
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ted Fearon
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford
Thurs 25, 18:00	1 star course (e)	Mount Batten	Tom Clarke
Friday 26, TBA	Sea symposium <i>Please note that this is a non-club event.</i>	Mount Batten	TBA
Fri 26, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 27, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	TBA
Sat 27, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Sat 27, TBA	Sea symposium <i>Please note that this is a non-club event.</i>	Mount Batten	TBA
Sun 28, TBA	Sea symposium <i>Please note that this is a non-club event.</i>	Mount Batten	TBA
Tues 30, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Buck Taylor
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ted Fearon
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford

October.

Thurs 2, 18:00	1 star course (e)	Mount Batten	Tom Clarke
Sat 4, 10:00	Sea kayak paddle	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 5, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404. <i>Final details to appear on the website forum. Please meet at Plympton B&Q ready to leave at 09:00. Don't forget to leave time to swap boats around on roof racks before this time.</i>
Sat 11, TBA	Open boat river trip	TBA	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 11, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
Sun 12, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	Clive Ashford 01752 344425. <i>Final details to appear on the website forum. Please meet at Plympton B&Q ready to leave at 09:00. Don't forget to leave time to swap boats around on roof racks before this time.</i>
Mon 13, 19:30	Club AGM	Mount Batten	
Sat 18, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
Sun 19, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	Chris Doidge 07973 285969. <i>Final details to appear on the website forum. Please meet at Plympton B&Q ready to leave at 09:00. Don't forget to leave time to swap boats around on roof racks before this time.</i>
Sat 25, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford 01752 344425.
Sun 26, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Doug Sitch 07966 740025. <i>Final details to appear on the website forum. Please meet at Plympton B&Q ready to leave at 09:00. Don't forget to leave time to swap boats around on roof racks before this time.</i>