



# PPCA Newsletter

## September 2016



### Introduction

Welcome to September's Newsletter. After last month's marathon sitting, this month's is a more manageable size. Many thanks to Bruce and Susann for their piece about San Francisco and apologies that its publication was so delayed.

### Editorial

I was pleased that so many people were happy to see the return of a regular newsletter but I was slightly surprised by how many people said they used it to tell them the dates of paddles, coaches etc. I don't want to talk myself out of a job but please remember, the newsletter calendar is only correct on the day it's printed. The definitive calendar is on the website and you can access it whether or not you have received the newsletter.

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 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 – a week early to allow for the AGM. If you have any points you wish to raise, please contact Bob Grose [secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk)

## News

### 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.

### Project Neptune

It's good to see that there has been quite a bit of discussion of this on Facebook. Please have a look at the article and the committee's summary in August's Newsletter and join in the debate. The site is accessible by land and can be viewed from the water.

I haven't put all the information in again as it took up a lot of space but please go back to [last month's newsletter](#) and have a think. As things stand, there has been no request for the PPCA to put money up front.

The committee have received some responses to members' queries from the Project

- Parking – there will be 11 or 12 allocated spaces on site for the project as a whole plus general parking off-site but within Neptune Park as a whole and on-road in Cattedown.
- Congestion when accessing the slipway – the project has provided a schedule. It will be negotiable at peak times
- Road safety – in the Project's view, this is comparable to Mountbatten
- Site running costs, utilities etc. - unknown. The project expect that they will be comparable to Totnes Rowing Club. They will check with them and let us know.
- Access to safe water for beginners – there are quiet areas close to the bank and behind the pontoons below Laira Bridge. The project are producing a safety plan which they will share with us.
- Increased shipping – there will be 1 to 2 new ships going past when new silos are built upstream.

There will be a presentation from the Project at the AGM and a discussion and vote afterwards on the question.

1. Do the members want the club to move from Mountbatten?

If (and only if) the answer to this question is yes, there will be a vote on a second question

2. Should the committee continue to be involved in Project Neptune with a view to an eventual move to the site?

While the final decision on the project will be taken by the committee, they feel a decision should only be taken after a full consultation with members. Hence this vote so please come along and make your views heard.

## Two Star Assessment

Andy Nicholls

The next 2 star assessment will be carried out over 2 Tuesday evenings, the 13th and 20th September.

- Start time – be ready to be on the water for 6pm although, as there is some dry stuff to be covered, we may do this first
- One week will be kayak and the other canoe. Which comes first depends on the weather
- Don't forget there is a progression chart for you to download from the PPCA website under the Coaching Tab
- Any questions, please ask

## Features

### Paddling Around San Francisco

Susann and Bruce

As some of you may know, Susann and I spend part of each year in the San Francisco area. We do a lot of bicycling when we are there, but we don't have any kayaks and there is no equivalent of PPCA with kayaks that you can use. So up until now we have had to join a specific outing organized by a local company or rent a kayak by the day. The first of these is rather expensive and the latter often confines the area that you can explore.

This time we did one organized trip, but then a friend of ours told us that he had a double kayak that he no longer uses and that we were free to borrow it. So, wonderful, the chance to do a bit of exploration. We have also joined BASK (Bay Area Sea Kayakers) a local club. Paddling in the Bay Area is not something that you can do safely without a bit of local knowledge. Within the Bay there are strong currents (5kts or more) and there can be strong winds. If you venture into the Pacific Ocean there are almost always big ocean rollers to consider as well as rip currents and serious surf.

Our organized trip was a paddle in Tomales Bay. This is actually an extension of the infamous San Andreas Fault, where it heads out to sea. We went on a very mellow and, for California, rather overcast day, with only light winds. In the summer strong winds can funnel along the valley making trips on the Bay a bit more challenging. On this occasion it was easy going. We paddled across the Bay, passing a place called Hog Island, which is now a pulling out place for seals, then along the West shore to the Bay entrance. On a strong ebb tide this can be tricky, as it is possible to get swept out into very broken surf. Apparently this is also a notorious place for Great White Sharks to hang out, making a strong incentive to keep within the Bay. The Bay is also a major place for oyster farming and, on the way back, we paddled



through large areas dedicated to growing oysters. There are a number of local restaurants that specialize in serving them. Wasted on me as I don't like the taste.

Our second trip was with BASK. It turns out that the friend who was willing to lend us his kayak, also runs a regular Thursday paddle for BASK, so we joined him and some other paddlers. This trip started from a place called Richmond, which is on the East Bay. Again, this was a fairly easy paddle out to a place called Brooks Island. We landed there for lunch, carefully ignoring the large signs that said KEEP OFF. Fortunately none of us could read. However, after lunch, soon after we set off, we were stopped by a large man in a motor boat who said he was the guardian of the island and that what we had done was not permitted. Fortunately he was in a good mood and let us off with a 10 minute lecture on how to visit the island legally and did not fine us as he might have done.





Our third trip was to Angel Island, a State Park. We set off from Sausalito and paddled across Raccoon Strait with wonderful views of the Golden Gate Bridge and downtown San Francisco. Raccoon Strait can be quite hazardous and the tide rips through there at over 5kts at its peak. Wind also funnels between the island and the nearby mainland and the combination can give rise to big standing light and the tide was in the final hours of wrong timing. We had lunch on the Island had picked up a little, as is often the case reasonable workout. In the summer, the afternoon winds usually reach about 25mph, and come direct from the landing point, making it really hard work.



waves. On our way out the wind was the ebb. Nevertheless, there were to worry about and easy to punch how serious it might get with the and then headed back. The wind in the Bay, making the crossing a afternoon winds usually reach about 25mph, and come direct from the landing point, making it really hard work.

So three fairly easy paddles, but great to get out on the water and explore some new stuff. We hope that on our next visit we will have the chance to paddle more regularly and visit some more new areas.

## Events

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.

## Historical News

I've lost count of the number of times I've driven, walked or cycled past the old PPCA shed on the Embankment but until a couple of weeks ago, I hadn't realised that there was still the remains of a PPCA logo on it. With a bit of Photoshopping, you can more or less make it out.



The club are hopefully on the verge of selling the old shed so if you want to see this small piece of history, time is tight.

## Situations Vacant

Following the AGM, a new committee has to be elected and all posts will become vacant. A number of the existing members have expressed an interest in staying on the committee but if there is any post that particularly appeals to you, please make your interest known to the Chair.

The committee consists of

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Club Leader
- Deputy Club Leader (co-opted by Club Leader)
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Welfare Officer
- Equipment Officer
- Membership Secretary
- Course Co-ordinator
- Youth and Development Officer
- Publicity

There has been an unprecedented stampede for posts. The chair would, however, be particularly interested in expressions of interest in the following posts

- Course Co-ordinator
- Youth Development Officer
- Vice Chair

Job descriptions are available (amazingly).

You will need to have a Proposer and Secunder but these can be found quite easily at low cost.

None of the positions carry any remuneration other than the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped the club in the way that the club has helped you. Please speak to any member of the committee if you are interested.

Please don't be put off applying if you are a relatively new member of the club. New blood is always welcome – in fact it is vital if the committee is to remain connected to the membership, and a fresh pair of eyes may well spot the blindingly obvious things that the other members may miss.

It is important that all areas of the club are represented on the Committee and that no single group dominates so if you feel that your preferred activity is not adequately represented, please stand for a post.



## Non-Club Events

These are events recommended by members. The club has no connection to the events and does not endorse them in any way.

### Global Book Club / Green Book Club

#### Morag Thomson Findlay

The next meeting for the Plymouth Global Book Club is on Wednesday 14 September, a special for the Ocean City Festival. We'll be joined by guest expert Esther Hughes from the Marine Biological Association to discuss "The Ocean of Life. The Fate of Man and the Sea" by Dr Callum Roberts. Scientist and award-winning author Callum Roberts takes us on a tour of man's influence on the sea, full of fascinating stories. Putting our exploitation of the seas into historical context, Roberts offers a devastating account of the impact of modern fishing techniques, pollution, and climate change: a story in which everyone has a role to play. 6:30 – 8:00pm, Babbage Building room 402. Full details are in the attached poster, please pass this on to anyone who might be interested.

We've got two further dates fixed: 2 November, when we'll discuss "City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World's Largest Refugee Camp" by Ben Rawlence, and 14 December – book to be confirmed. I've attached the latest version of our suggested book list, which includes some information about City of Thorns - please let me know if you have a preference for our December meeting, or another title to add.

#### PLYMOUTH GREEN BOOK CLUB

The next event is on 1st September from 6:30-8:00pm in room 003 of the Babbage Building.

We will be discussing population.

There are two guest "experts":-

Peter Brooks, a former CEO, who will represent the views expressed in "Ten Billion" by Stephen Emmot, Head of Computational Science at Microsoft Research in Cambridge.

Peter Brown FRCS, who will represent the views in "Sparing Nature- the conflict between human population growth and Earth's biodiversity" by Jeffrey Kevin McKee

Alan will be adding points from Fred Pearce's book "Peoplequake".

It should be a stimulating and wide-ranging discussion.

It is not essential to have read any or all of the books.

FREE EVENT OPEN TO ALL

THE ROOM HAS DISABLED ACCESS

## Back Issues

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

## Other Publications

For those who missed it, the Herald ran a photo feature on A History of Canoeing Around Plymouth, featuring at least one well known face. It's on line [here](#).

## And Finally...

Don't forget that the 2 star session on 27<sup>th</sup> September will be a fun session. It will be very wet with games such as raft running. You have been warned.

## Next Edition

The deadline for submission of articles will usually be the first Wednesday of the month to tie in with the Committee meeting so that the Newsletter can be sent out with the minutes. The committee meeting is a week early this month but I'm going to leave the deadline the same. That makes the deadline 5<sup>th</sup> October.

## Contributions

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

## Club Calendar

### Tuesday, 6 September

18:00 2 Star Kayak Training - Damean Miller - Andy Kittle

18:00 2 Star Open Canoe Training - Ian Ruse

18:00 3 Star Kayak Training - Doug Sitch

18:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott

### Friday, 9 September

18:00 Open Boat Family Rec Paddle - Ian Ruse 07980 355019

### Saturday, 10 September

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304

### Tuesday, 13 September

18:00 2 Star Kayak Training - Damean Miller - Andy Kittle

18:00 2 Star Open Canoe Training - Ian Ruse

18:00 3 Star Kayak Training - Doug Sitch

18:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott

### Friday, 16 September

18:00 Open Boat Family Rec Paddle - Ian Ruse 07980 355019

### Saturday, 17 September

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Clive Ashford

### Tuesday, 20 September

18:00 2 Star Kayak Training - Damean Miller - Andy Kittle

18:00 2 Star Open Canoe Training - Ian Ruse

18:00 3 Star Kayak Training - Doug Sitch

18:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott

### Friday, 23 September

18:00 Open Boat Family Rec Paddle - Ian Ruse 07980 355019

### Saturday, 24 September

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Doug Sitch 07966 740025

Tuesday, 27 September

18:00 3 Star Kayak Training - Doug Sitch

18:00 End Of Season Fun Session - Damean Miller - Andy Kittle - Andy Nicholls

18:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott