



# PPCA Newsletter

## April 2021

## Introduction

Welcome to April's Newsletter. The long wait is over and the Newsletter is back hopefully indicating the resumption of normal service. This month we have a piece from Doug about some sessions he's planning, a piece from Clive about some sessions he's planning and a letter from Bob Grose's wife Jane. We also mark a significant birthday for a well known figure.

## Editorial

Every now and again I get a thank you letter for the Newsletter. Normally, I'm quite happy to take credit for the contents even though all I really do is a quick cut and paste job over the muesli on a Saturday morning. Following the last issue, I got a huge number of emails thanking me. I tried to point out to everyone who thanked me that the thanks should go to the individual contributors who put pen to paper, a task I know a lot of them found difficult. I couldn't pass on all the thanks individually to the contributors at the time so could I please use this piece to pass on the thanks I received from members past and present to everyone who contributed.

Ivor Jones

Newsletter Editor

## Next Committee Meeting

Please forward any items you would like considered at the next committee meeting to [secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk). They will go to the secretary.

## Next Edition

There is no specific deadline as such for contributions but please bear in mind my general sloth and indolence and let me have anything time-sensitive well in advance.

## Contributions

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

## Acknowledgements

The cover photographs are from the usual suspects.



## News

### Skills Sessions by Doug Sitch

The club is offering a series of skills' sessions to members, to be run by Doug Sitch. These are intended for those paddlers who have gained some experience and skills in the Explorer sessions and wish to develop their personal skills applicable to the Sea Kayak awards, White Water & Surf. The focus is to learn to manage (& cope with) waves to be found in a beach location. This will entail learning & gaining some proficiency in low & high recovery (brace) skills. These skills are very useful for all Sea paddlers such that they may be able to land at a beach where there is some surf without mishap. They also form the core skills in handling any rough-water scenarios, be that waves on a beach, rough water between rocks on a Coastal trip, surfing a kayak and of course, white water paddling. Proficiency in the recovery strokes is the mainstay of avoiding a mishap on the water, whether that be from a sudden gust of wind, a breaking wave, snagging a sub-surface object, or a simple collision. They are also the foundation for learning to 'Eskimo Roll'.

The sessions are limited to 5 participants and must be booked in advance on the Forum as each session is announced (about a week before).

The proposed sessions (please check) are:

Tues 11th May 6pm at Mount Batten.

Sun 16th May 10am at **Bigbury**.

Tues 25th May 6pm at Mount Batten.

Sun 30th May 10am at **Bigbury**.

Sun 13th June 10am at **Bigbury**.

Sun 27th June 10am at **Bigbury**.

The sessions at Bigbury meet changed, in front of the Cafe (lower car park) and don't forget to pay for parking!!!

### Sea Kayak Sundays by Clive Ashford

I intend to run a series of Sunday sea kayak trips. Weather permitting these trips will be away from Mount Batten and will be around 12 miles. I will be posting details on the website forum in the week prior to any given trip, so keep your eyes open and enjoy paddling beyond Plymouth Sound.

Proposed dates are:

9 May

20 June

18 July

15 August

12 September

Gosh, how exciting.

## Letters

### From Jane Grose

Dear PPCA

Thank you so much for the wonderful memories in the newsletter. I have been completely overwhelmed by people's kindness and all the thoughts you have given me will be valued by Catherine and Eleanor as well. Eleanor is making a book of the comments people have sent and of course this newsletter will take pride of place.

Many of you have asked me over the years why I didn't kayak with Bob. I always answered 'It's not my thing' and there is some truth in that but more importantly Bob created such strong friendships with you all and so dearly loved his kayaking I knew if I was there he would be constantly looking out for me and it might impinge on his derring do. He was the kindest man, he always looked out for me first and made sure I was safe and happy before himself. He has left me safe and although I can't imagine being happy again I know he is still looking out for me somewhere.

To say he loved kayaking doesn't really cover it. He would come home from the regular trips tired but completely content and tell me all the stories of the last cave negotiated or the skilful 'reading of the water'. Even his accidental dips would be relayed as amusing anecdotes and he constantly thought about how he could improve his roll. On our walks if there was water he would be reading the waves and judging which treacherous gap he might negotiate if he was in his kayak. He valued the friendships he made at the kayak club so much he really saw you all as family.

I can't quite bring myself to part with his kayak and gear just yet. I go to visit his kayak in the garage because it became so much part of him. I know I will get to these things but there is not rush and I'm not ready to let this part of him go yet.

I also wanted to thank you for all the kindness you have shown me over the years. I tried to come to all your social events and although I was pretty rubbish at the quiz and even worse at the bowling I really enjoyed my time with you all and feel close to so many of you, not just because you have been so welcoming but because you were so lovely to Bob and were suitably teasing when he knew everything. I think you may have even called him Boogle which rather stuck in the family.

Just a last thought. I remember about the sandwich incident. Bob was mortified! I just want to make it clear I never made Bob's packed lunch, he always made his own, so the vileness of the alternative sandwich was entirely his own work!

With much love to you all

Jane, Catherine and Eleanor

## Birthdays

### Ken's 80th Birthday

Our chair, Ken Hamblin, had a significant birthday this month. Despite what some people have said, it turns out that it was only his 80th but that's still a pretty good achievement. I hope I can be as active as Ken when I get to that age.

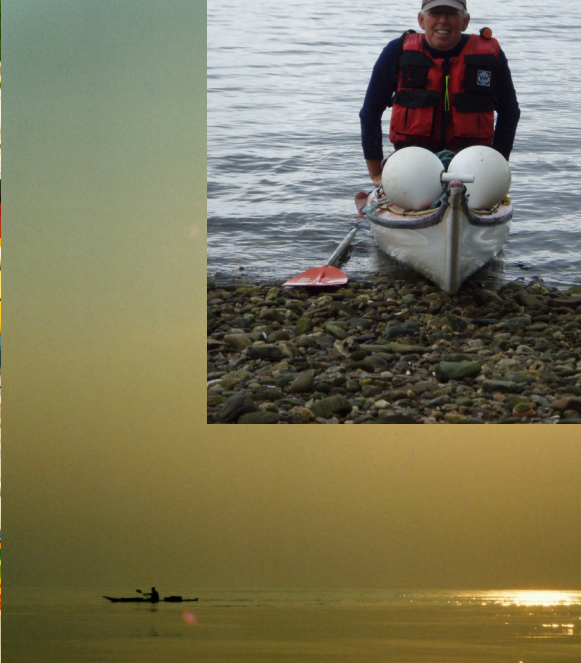
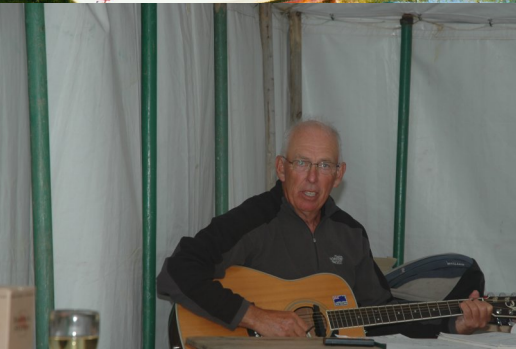
A call was put out for photos of Ken over the years and a selection are presented for your delight on the next few pages.

The pictures on page 6 were provided by Nick Benny (although Joy may have taken a couple of them) and are from trips to Jura in 1995, the first Scillies camp (which commander Ken organised in 1997), the Mull of Kintyre in 2008 and Ken's 70th Birthday Paddle in 2011. There's also a picture from his Golden Wedding anniversary.

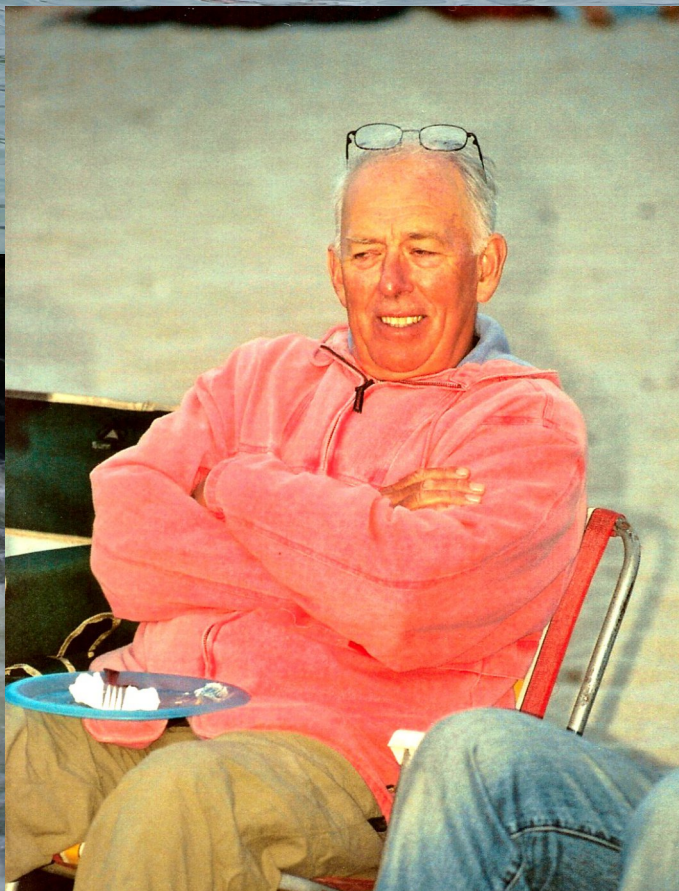
Those on page 7 came from Joy and page 8 is from Brim.

On behalf of the club - Happy Birthday Ken!













Who is this muckle flugga in the picture ohh it's Ken standing at the northern most point in the uk. Photo Brim

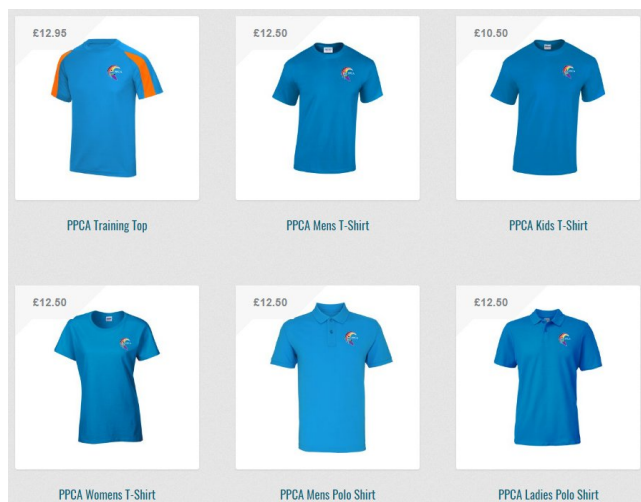


## Exchange and Mart

### PPCA Club Clothing by Jackie Perry, Publicity Officer

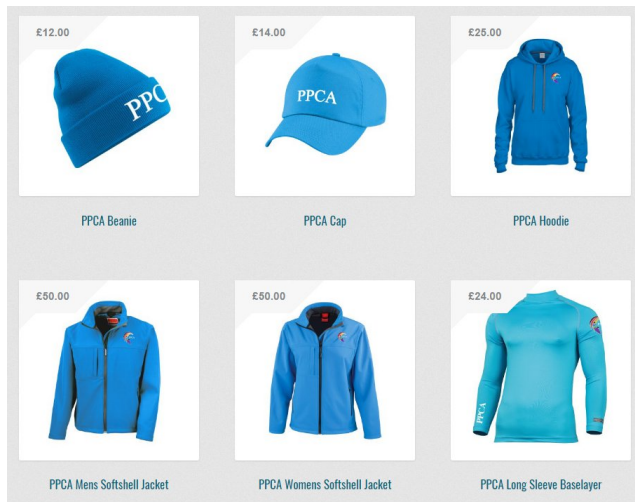
A full range of customised kit in either blue or black is available to order direct from Tailored Branding via the link below

<https://hsclothing.co.uk/ppca-3/>



Discount Available at Millets, 38/40 New George St, Plymouth PL1 1RW

One of our members works in the Millets store (Big 'Thank you' to Lee McKenzie!) on New George Street, Plymouth and has negotiated with his Manager a great discount of 15% on production of your PPCA club membership card. Usual T's & C's apply, e.g. goods already discounted/sales items might be excluded.



Discount Available at Kayaks and Paddles

Kayaks and paddles offer discount to local kayak and canoe clubs. The PPCA and Tamar Canoe club can get a discount up to 15%. This is an offer not a right for the person that is making a purchase, so please do not go upsetting Kayaks and Paddles employees as this discount might be taken away.



**Raise free donations** for us every time you shop online with easyfundraising!



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ppca/>



## The Committee

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