



# PPCA Newsletter

## May June July 2021



## Introduction

Welcome to May's Newsletter. This month we have the annual appeal for committee members, news of an epic motorbike ride and a piece from Clive in which Joy was very careful where she pointed her camera.

## Editorial

I knew it was far too soon to say that the Newsletter was returning to normal. It was probably unrealistic to expect a flood of articles the second we were allowed back on the water. Everyone was probably far too busy to write anything. Inevitably, Clive came to the rescue with a piece at the end of June that means that there is a July issue. Here's hoping I have something to publish in August as well.

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.

### Urgent Call for Committee Members by Mark Perry

Two Committee posts are still vacant for this year and urgently need to be filled.

In addition, although all Committee posts are open for nominations at the end of each year, several members of the Committee have confirmed that they will be stepping down from their posts in October 2021.

Ideally we would like volunteers to consider shadowing the current incumbents in order that a smooth transition can take place in October.

All of these Committee members have been in post for over their 3 year term but have carried on this year due to the lack of response to the call for nominations for any of the Committee posts in 2020.

**IF THESE POSTS ARE NOT FILLED IN OCTOBER 2021 THIS WILL SEVERELY INHIBIT THE RUNNING OF YOUR CLUB**

Committee Posts still vacant:

#### **Club Leader**

Marty did a great job as Club Leader, taking over from Brim. A change of career during the year has meant that he is no longer able to do this and Ken has done a lot in his place on a temporary basis. The club needs a permanent replacement and so we look to our members. The main role of the leader is to organise the club calendar of events

#### **Assistant Club Leader**

Brim took up this role after following his stint as Club Leader and was a great support for Marty.

Committee posts becoming vacant in October 2021:

#### **Chair**

This year is Ken's 4th year as Chair. It has included steering the Club through the Covid Crisis which has been a particularly challenging time for the Club and the Committee. Ken has also covered the role of Club Leader for the past year. He plans to relinquish his role as Chair end the end of the season.

#### **Membership Secretary**

Adam has been on the Committee for over 6 years now (Feb 2015) and membership secretary for 5 of those in support of the club. He needs to relinquish this role now and would be happy to help a new membership secretary get to grips with the job in a changeover period

#### **Intro-course Co-ordinator**

Jane has done a sterling job running the Intro-courses and is now in her 4th year in post. The Intro-courses are vital to the Club for raising funds and attracting new members. Jane has advised she would be happy to help a new Intro-course organiser get to grips with the role in a changeover period.

Being part of the Committee is a great way for members to contribute to the Club and help steer its future direction,

A description of each Committee post can be found under the PPCA Club Committee Roles & Responsibilities tab in the Members section of the Website. Current post-holders would be more than happy to discuss their roles with any prospective post holders.

If you can help please contact: [secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk)

## Welfare Matters - Coaches, Leaders, Helpers by Alan Ede

Many of you will have had an email from me enquiring about your dates for DBS, 1st Aid, Safeguarding and coach updates. If you haven't managed to respond before now, please do so as I can then update my records and stop badgering you.

If you know you are out of date on DBS and Safeguarding I can assist however 1st Aid and coach updates are the responsibility of the individual. Usually something on the forum will create an 'interested' group which helps bring down the cost.

If you have not had an email from me you could pre-empt things by just emailing me with the relevant details please?

There is more information coming out of British Canoeing all the time so I think they are gently nudging us to get these coach pre-requisites up to date.

Please email me at [welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk)

## Mount Batten AED by Andy Mossford, Operations Manager

The centre has now installed a new defibrillator which is located by the outside steps to the bar. It is in a bright yellow box so hard to miss but important for people to know it is there.

It is registered on the national database so that anyone is able to access the device by calling 999 for the code and reporting the location of the centre.

## Mad Dash 2021 in Aid of the RNLI by Paul Brady

Hi Paddlers,

I am taking part in a motorcycle fundraising event for the RNLI. A friend and I are riding from Dartmouth, in a clockwise direction around Devon and Cornwall with a support vehicle. As yet the mileage is unknown as we will be stopping at each lifeboat station in turn. We all, as paddlers, appreciate the value of the RNLI as anything can happen on the water!

Please, if you can, support this event which will finish at Brixham. We have been given permission to place a charity collection bucket in the club shed or we have set up a Justgiving page ([click here](#))

RNLI registered charity number for England&Wales(209603)



  
**Lifeboats**  
Fundraising in aid of the RNLI



**The Mad Dash 2021  
in aid of the RNLI  
2nd September to 5th September 2021**



**Paul Brady and Stuart Morrissey are riding to visit 24 RNLI  
lifeboat stations in Devon and Cornwall in a bid to raise funds  
for the RNLI.**

**Please donate any spare cash!  
Or  
[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/madrider1961-morrissey](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/madrider1961-morrissey)**

**RNLI registered charity number for England & Wales (209603)**



## Features

### Not Plymouth Sound Volume 1 by Clive Ashford

Plymouth Sound is a marvellous place to go paddling. Folded rock formations and an extinct volcano will make the geologist happy; 6000 years of human activity will hold the historian's interest and there is always the possibility of a glimpse of some exciting wildlife to encourage us to keep our eyes open. On top of all that there is often enough water slopping around to give the adrenalin junky a chance to show off his/her rock-hopping skills. (Or lack of them.) Finally, Plymouth Sound is rightly world famous for being a beautiful natural harbour, and it's our playground. How lucky are we?

Whilst there is plenty of merit in bobbing around the Sound we need to remember that there is a whole ocean outside the confines of the Breakwater just crying out to be explored. With this in mind I am running a series of sea kayak trips away from Mount Batten. This is the tale of our trip that took place on the 20 June, and as the title suggests I hope to write up each trip. Look out for volume 2 in a newsletter near you in the not-too-distant future.

I'm told that meticulous planning with a high degree of attention to detail is the key to running a successful trip hence, had you cared to look, on Wednesday 16 June you would have found me pondering the weather forecast. Unfortunately, the forecast didn't fill me with glee. They were predicting a deluge overnight on Saturday followed by rain during the day on Sunday. They were also forecasting force 3 SSW wind. And there was I was hoping for a gentle paddle under azure blue skies desperately trying to avoid overheating and sun burn. Fat chance. I decided that paddling from Porthpean would give us at least some shelter from the worst of the wind so that is what I put on the forum, together with the less than cunning plan that we would paddle around the coast until lunchtime, have lunch and then return. As previously mentioned, meticulous planning with a high degree of attention to detail is the key to running a successful trip.



Rock-hopping near Penare Head. Photo by Joy

those was my wife. The less than generous reader may like to cite my natural charm and charisma as a reason for the poor attendance. In the interest of balance, I will publish both trains of thought and will leave you to form your own opinion. Joy points out that this date coincided with Father's Day, which may have affected attendance. Personally, I can't think of a better Father's Day present than to get away from the kids and go paddling.



Paddling Towards Black Head. Photo by Joy

By Saturday evening the forecast had mellowed a bit and so had I. A bit of drizzle and a force 2 – 3 SSE wind was what we were led to expect, but by the time we had gathered together at Porthpean we found ourselves gazing out under a light grey sky with hardly any wind and not a drop of precipitation in sight. I almost smiled, but at my age you have to be a bit careful about making such rash movements.

There were four paddlers in total. In addition to myself there was Joy, Jane and Lisa. The more perceptive reader will note that this is three ladies and one fella. I put this ratio down to my natural charm and charisma. It's also worth noting that out of a club with over 100 members just four people turned up and that one of

The first ten feet of water were filled with shredded bits of seaweed and there was a micro surf of maybe two inches washing onto the beach. The combined effect of these two factors was that our boats got covered in seaweed as we launched. It would have looked like we were paddling in camouflage, if only you could have seen us!

The summer of 2021 hasn't been one of glorious wall to wall sunshine. I have worn shorts but my knees have constantly shown a blueish hue, and my waterproof has hardly been out of reach. As a result, the landscape is looking very fresh and green. As well as being a shade of green that you would normally associate with Ireland the scenery made the journey worthwhile. We paddled around Black Head that boasted its usual rugged beauty while the campsite behind Pentewan Sands acted as a reminder of why we avoid beach holidays. Onto the cliffs around Penare Head that provided some gentle rock hopping after which we paddled past Mevagissey, around the low Chapel Point and onto Colona Beach for a well-earned lunch stop. All the while the cloud had been burning off and lunch was consumed in sunshine. The forecasters had got it wrong and I for one was very pleased that they had.



Chapel Point. Photo by Joy

Like the summer, wildlife sightings have been somewhat disappointing in 2021 but we did manage to see a seal just outside Mevagissey Harbour on our return journey and then, on a beach near Drennick, we saw some sunbathers who apparently couldn't afford to buy any bathing costumes. There are no photos.



Rock arch near Porthpean. Photo by Joy

From Mevagissey the stretch to Black Head looked like a very long way but before too long we were paddling through the rock arch just before landing back at Porthpean, having journeyed something like 14 miles. We then just had to complete the hardest part of the trip, which was to carry the boats up a rather steep hill to the car park. Even with the aid of wheels this wasn't an easy task, a task that was made even more unbearable because the ice cream shop on Porthpean sea front was closed. So much for my meticulous planning. I almost felt the need to resign.

I'm not looking for any sympathy but I haven't been very well and this was my first proper sea kayak trip since 1st May. I have to confess that whilst sitting at home that

evening with a well-earned beer in hand it still felt like I was bobbing up and down on the sea. It's a long time since that has happened to me.

So ended a very pleasant day out. Our next salty sojourn away from Plymouth Sound will be on Sunday 18 July, weather permitting. Look on the website forum for details nearer the day and come along, you deserve it.

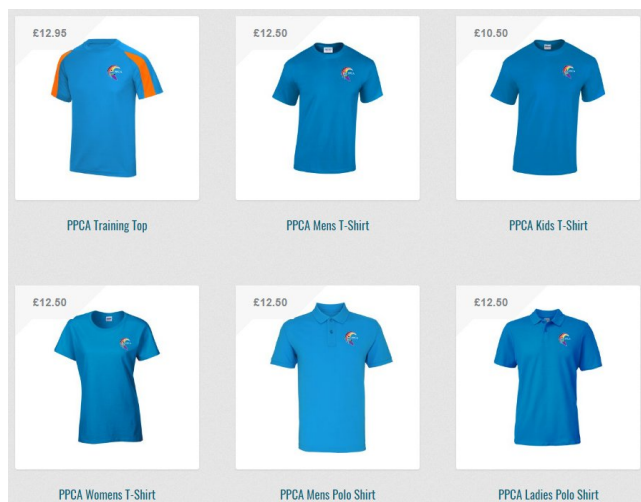


## Exchange and Mart

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

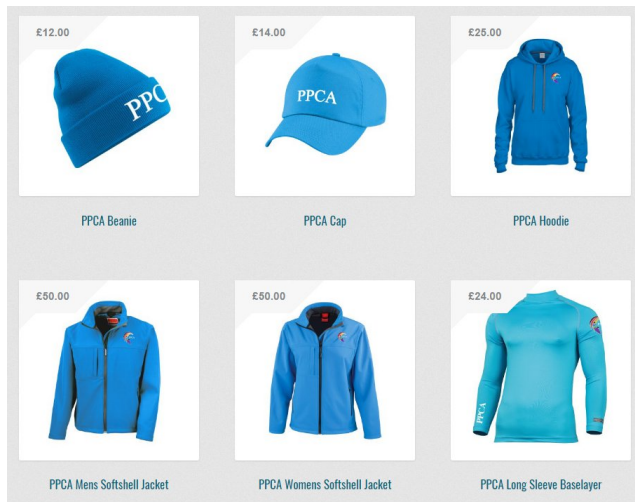
A full range of customised kit in either blue or black is available to order direct from Tailored Branding via the link below

<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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