



PPCA Newsletter

February 2022

Introduction

Welcome to February's Newsletter. This month, Clive has some dates for sea paddlers' diaries, Kevin asks some questions and Terry talks about geology.

Editorial

In music to the editor's ears, Terry promises that his article will be the first of a series. Please try not to glaze over when reading it.

Excellent as this month's pieces are, the Newsletter can't survive without more contributions from other members. It was obviously a struggle to publish over lockdown but it would be nice if there were enough articles to keep it going as a monthly publication. February may be a bit late for New Year's resolutions but if anyone fancies trying their hand at writing an article, I can guarantee a sympathetic response from the editor.

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. 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

Acknowledgements

As ever, I have plundered Facebook for the cover photos - my thanks to all concerned especially Andy Kittle who appears for the first time.

News

Club Survey by Kevin Jones

I'm composing a survey for club members so that we have some input into what activities members want from the club in the future.

I'd like to list all activities and the survey will record the number of people interested in that activity.

The obvious things like Saturday Rec paddle, river trips, etc. will be offered plus new things (E.g. flat water playboating :-)). To make sure that anything you might be interested in is on the list, send me ideas vchair@ppca-canoes-club.org.uk and we'll go from there.

Innovative thinking encouraged!

PPCA Sea Kayaking 2022 by Clive Ashford

We live in the SW corner of the beautiful county of Devon. People spend a fortune coming here on holiday to gaze in wonder at our marvellous coastal scenery but we live here. It's all just on our doorstep so why not get up and personal and have some adventures where the salty stuff meets the rocky stuff? We are running a number of sea kayaking adventures over the summer, here is what is being arranged.

Tuesday sea kayaking skills evenings.

Our wet and wild sea kayaking skill evenings are back. We are going to let the sea warm up a bit before we spend time swimming around with the boats and improving our safety / rescue skills. Think you know it all? Think you don't need to practice? Come along and see just how wrong you can be! These are the dates:

- Tuesday 28 June.
- Tuesday 5 July.
- Tuesday 26 July.
- Tuesday 2 August.

Sunday away days.

We are planning a number of Sunday away days to enable us to explore the coast beyond Plymouth Sound. The dates are:

- Sunday 20 April.
- Sunday 29 May.
- Sunday 21 August.
- Sunday 25 September.

Where we paddle will be weather dependent and arrangements will be advertised on the club website forum closer to the day.

Midsummer(ish) weekend.

We will do something over the weekend of 17 – 19 June and call it the midsummer(ish) weekend. Details will be published as and when they become known to me. Either watch the club website forum or register your interest with me and I will let message you.

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Features

Plymouth Sound Snippets by Terry Calcott

It has been a while since I wrote an article for the newsletter. This short piece will hopefully be the start of a series of regular short snippets about interesting things that can be found around Plymouth Sound.

Most paddlers start glazing over when I come out with a fact or tale about the surrounding area but some of the newer club paddlers may enjoy learning something new about our home paddling area.

I thought I would start off with a snippet about Sandway Beach and a few lines about its geology. For those that do not know Sandway, it is situated between Picklecombe and Kingsand and is a regular lunch stop on club paddles.

Sandway Beach

A walk along the beach is a geological adventure, a site of Special Scientific Interest. Passing Volcanic Rhyolite, Conglomerate, Igneous Dykes, an area of Unconformity and finally the Staddon Grits. This snippet is just going to concentrate on one of these rocks, the interesting formation known as Conglomerate or Breccia. I will revisit Sandway Beach on future snippets and enlighten the reader about the rest of the geology and the history of the Sandway chalets?.



Conglomerate / Breccia are different names given to a similar formation of rock. Conglomerate has rounded edges while Breccia is more angular. The geologists amongst you can decide which applies when you visit the beach and study the rocks!



The narrow band of Breccia

The Breccia also forms part of a rare geological feature called an Unconformity. The rocks where we usually have lunch are Staddon Grit a hard sandstone from the Upper Devonian Period. They butt up against the horizontal Breccia with the Staddon grit at a sharp angle. Although physically they are next to each other, the gap in time is enormous up to 100 million years. Sorry I forgot to take a photograph of the area of Unconformity but next time you have lunch at Sandway Beach take a few minutes and look around, it should be quite easy to spot.

Breccia

The Breccia dates from the Permian period around 250 million years ago when the area was similar to the Arabian Desert, hot, arid, and dry. The Breccia may be a result of flash flooding. There is only a small narrow area of the rock showing to the right of the beach as you land.



Acknowledgment to the leaflet 'The Geology of Mount Edgcumbe Park' by John Gask.

Exchange and Mart

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.



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

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