



PPCA Newsletter
June 2022

Introduction

Welcome to June's Newsletter. This month we have a couple of items regarding a significant milestone in the club's history - its 50th anniversary. In a related piece, Terry's Time Machine takes us back to the days when we could afford the petrol to drive to Mountbatten. Elsewhere, Terry continues his circumnavigation of Plymouth Sound while Clive revs up his motorbike and heads for the wire.

Editorial

The Friday paddle is a bit of an oddity in the club calendar. For many years it was billed as an open boat paddle although, in reality, anyone was welcome to come along. These days it is generally run by coaches with open boating experience so it's a chance to try out open boating should you wish although, again, any craft are welcome (even sit-on-tops). It has, however, had a bit of an identity crisis and has been rebranded a "Fun" paddle. Knowing some coaches' idea of fun, this is enough to put anybody off. What it most certainly is, is the perfect way to round off the week. Back in the bad old days when we were working, a paddle on a Friday evening blew away the cares of the working week and almost felt as though it added an extra day to the weekend. It's a very relaxed, laid back affair so why not give it a try? It can become addictive.

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.

PPCA at 50

50 at 50 by Gill Mann

To celebrate our 50th anniversary we plan to take 50 kayaks on the water on Saturday the 9th July 2022. We will depart from the Mountbatten centre at 10am (on the water). 70s style/costume optional.

It will be a fairly short paddle taking in some of the delights of the Plymouth Sound. We hope to attempt to construct a fifty shaped raft up as photo opportunity.

We would expect kayakers/canoists to have some experience and be able to self rescue.

There will be a shared buffet lunch on Mountbatten beach 12.30 -2pm PPCA and regional club members are invited and for those unable to paddle please join us on the beach. Please bring a savoury buffet dish if your birthday is in first 6 months of the year a sweet if it's in the last 6 months.

Access from the road is easy, with half a dozen steps down. (Sx487531)

We hope to have some good chat and recounting of old stories from members new and old.

Please register your interest on Facebook page or PPCA website.

Look forward to seeing you all on the day.

50 Mile Challenge by Gill Mann

Fancy a challenge.. how far do you think you could paddle in one month?

To continue the celebration of the 50th anniversary why not challenge yourself to paddle 50 miles in July.

We are offering the reward of an exciting PPCA challenge mug for those that can reach 50, 100 or even 150 miles!

Of course the real reward is how great you will feel for achieving this.

Please let me know if you are up for this challenge. Starting 1st of July and ending at midnight on the 31st.

You will need to keep a log, either a notebook or an app such as Strava etc. We would like it in nautical miles to challenge mind as well as body.

Please PM me if you are interested or sign up via the PPCA Facebook page or website

Features

Sea Kayak Skills by Clive Ashford

We bob around the Sound on club trips with hardly anyone capsizing and needing rescuing, which is good but does mean that when things do go awry, we don't excel ourselves in carrying out our rescues. We think our rescue skills are good but actually, when push comes to shove, we are adequate. To try and change this there will be a number of sea kayak rescue skills training evenings during the summer. The dates are:

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

On the water at 18:00.

As with last year Adam and Karen will be leading these sessions, so quality instruction is guaranteed.

If you think you know all you need to know about sea kayak rescues let me assure you that you don't, but if you actually do then come along and prove it.

I have booked the club Atlantic sea kayaks for these evenings. If you want to use a club boat, please liaise with me.

Splish Splash, oops, gurgle gurgle,

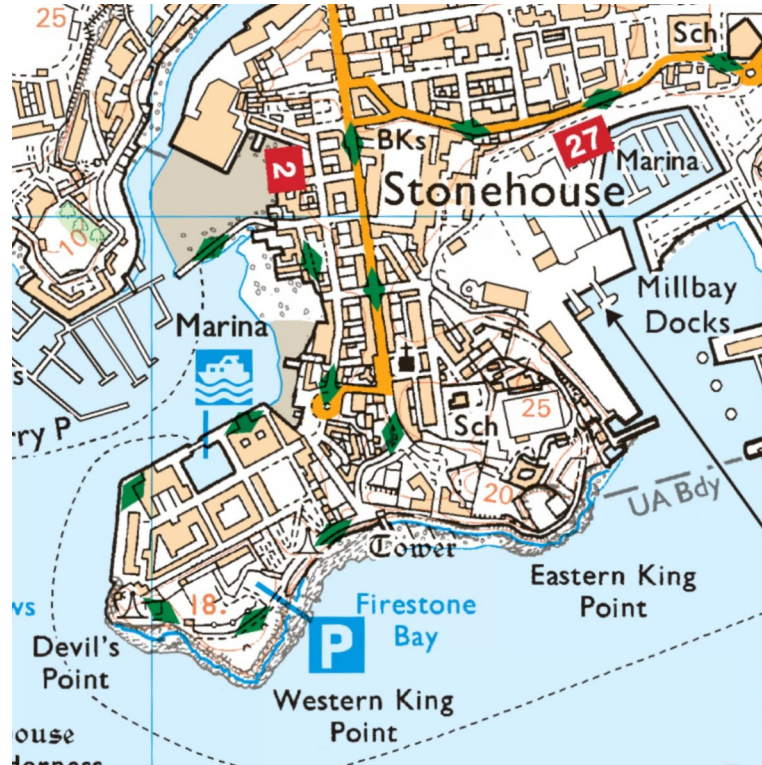
Mob 07854 648584

E-mail cliveandjoy01@gmail.com

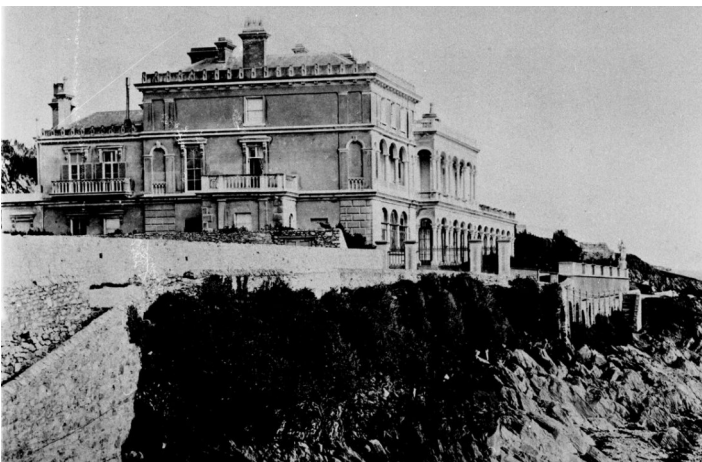
Features

Plymouth Sound Snippets #5, Firestone Bay by Terry Calcott

Another great sounding name and one of our local bays in Plymouth Sound. Located just past Millbay heading west towards Devils Point. Where does this unusual name come from? I posed this very question a few years ago to an eminent local historian and his thoughts were the following. Possible association with firing of firestones – test firing. Maybe associated with the nearby Elizabethan blockhouse aka the Artillery Tower. A firestone might possibly be a stone shot with a burning plug/fuse or perhaps heated iron shot that would set fire to a timber target.



Firestone Bay is steeped in history, paddling into Firestone Bay three buildings stand out. The first is Nazareth House built in the 1970s, on the site of the Winter Villa of Ernest Augustus, 3rd Earl of Mount Edgcumbe. The Winter Villa was sold to the sisters of Nazareth who were a Roman Catholic Order, and the building was converted into a school and orphanage for young girls, opening in 1932 with a new name, Nazareth House. Over the years the numbers in the orphanage dwindled and it later became an old people's home.



The Winter Villa



Nazareth House

Another prominent building is the Elizabethan Artillery Tower (Blockhouse) built around 1490. Part of the coastal defences dating from the time of Henry VIII and the best preserved of the towers. It is a 7-sided tower probably built as part of the Edgcumbe family's defences of their harbour. Covers the approach to Stonehouse from the best landing beach in the area. It later became a coastguard watch house, then a public convenience and finally, a restaurant.



The Artillery Tower

The final building of note is the impressive limestone sea wall built in 1827 to protect the SE side of the Royal William Yard. In the centre is an arched entrance cut into the curve of the wall, probably built to allow light provisions to be taken out to ships in the Sound when the tides made access to the inner basin difficult.



Royal William Yard Sea Entrance

The Escape Committee by Clive Ashford (Photos by Karen Sargent)

Plymouth Sound is a marvellous playground in which to learn our kayaking skills, and bobbing around it will provide the paddler with many rewarding experiences, but there is a whole different world lurking outside its confines. I chose the word confines with care because escaping is a liberating experience and comes highly recommended. I formed an escape committee, read on and find out about this particular version of liberation.

Adam in trying to achieve his sea kayak leaders award and as such needs experience in leading. By happy coincidence I have an excellent set of sloping shoulders and am only too willing to pass the buck, sorry, to give others the opportunity of leading. So it was that Adam took on the role of escape committee chairman and advised us of our escape plan, which was to paddle east until half time, (lunch time) have lunch and then return. Adam also mentioned an option of extending the trip to include paddling around the Mew Stone on the return journey.

The escape committee consisted of five members, five members who congregated at Wembury Beach on the bright sunny morning of Sunday 29 May. We were armed with all the tools necessary to affect our escape, tools that included boats, BAs, paddles and quite possibly most importantly, lunch. The forecast was for force 2 – 3 SE wind, temperatures would reach 17 degrees and that the day would cloud over, possibly turning to rain around 16:00. We launched into a calm sea under a clear blue sky in warm sunshine but were very aware that things would change.

We paddled to Greylake cove. With virtually no fetch the sea was calm and the escape plan was working well.

Gara Point was our next feature and after that the fun began. I had forgotten just how much route choice there is along the section of coast east of Gara Point. Having left the shelter of Wembury Bay the sea became a little choppy and very soon everyone was enjoying playing what seemed like a game of hide and seek while bobbing around among the rocks. It's amazing how five boats can be paddled within just a few yards of each other but be completely hidden. Still, if your plan is to escape then not being seen is a good strategy.



The Escape Committee in Wembury Bay



A Delicate Little Rock Arch

Progress was predictably slow. Not only were we in stealth mode but we were also paddling against the tide, a fact that may have been an oversight in the planning stage! (Planning?) On top of that the wind seemed to be a little stronger than forecast, I reckon we were experiencing choppy conditions in a force 3 – 4 south easterly, but being roughie toughies we continued with the escape plan. After a while Rob spotted that we were being followed by a seal so the paranoid among us (me) wondered if our escape plan had been rumbled, but if it had been there were no repercussions and we were allowed to proceed with our plan unhindered.

The scenery was, of course, excellent and somewhere around Pilot Cove we passed a delicate looking little rock arch that is quite possibly one of my favourite places. Maybe an enchanted entrance to an escape tunnel? Who knows?

Anyway, we eventually stopped for our half time lunch break at Piskey's Cove, which offered us shelter from the wind. By the time we landed the sun had well and truly disappeared so we didn't sunbathe as we dined, instead we gradually cooled down, so much so that we were quite glad to get back on the water and start moving again.

The second half started as all second halves do, with the players facing in the opposite direction. It took a little while to warm up but we were soon setting out on the return leg of our escape plan. It seemed as if the wind had dropped, but that may simply have been because it was now behind us, but whatever the cause the conditions gradually became gentler. The tidal flow hadn't been informed that we were now in the second half and so stubbornly refused to change direction for a couple of hours, meaning that we were now tide and wind assisted. Also, as is often the case on these trips, the enthusiasm for rock hopping had diminished. (Apart from Adam and Karen that is. Adam couldn't resist a rock hop even if it took his dying breath.)

We arrived back at Gara Point in fairly short time where Adam presented us with the option of either visiting the Mew Stone or returning directly to Wembury. I was going out in the evening so an earlyish finish would suit me, and Lee thought that the shorter option would be good for him. Rob let it be known that he had never paddled to the Mew Stone, and that he had heard that the Saturday paddle had gone there the previous day, an announcement accompanied by envy fuelled green mists. So, as a defensive tactic, the escape committee divided. Myself and Lee took a direct course to Wembury while Adam, Karen and Rob (team green) paddled off to the Mew Stone to cure Rob of his green affliction. As a safety precaution Adam and I had agreed to text each other once we were safely off the water, which we duly did.



The Author and a Rock. You Decide Which is Which.

The escape ends on a smug note. Well, to be precise the escape end on a smug note for myself and Lee. The forecast was for rain at around 16:00. At 16:00 I was driving out of Wembury Village and had to switch on my windscreen wipers to clear the rain off my windscreen. I couldn't help smirking in the sure knowledge that team green was still on the water and that nature was giving their kit a natural rinsing. My text to Adam noted the rain and Karen's reply informed me that they were driving home sitting on towels because they were quite wet and that it wasn't worth changing. I hope Rob's green mists have been cured.

Anyway, the escape committee decided that the day had been a success. Conditions had been choppy enough to be interesting but not bad enough to be scary, the scenery had been predictably marvellous as had the company. My thanks to Adam, Karen, Lee and Rob for ably discharging their escape committee responsibilities, I look forward to the next time.

The escape committee is not a closed shop. You are very welcome to join us on our escapology ventures and to see for yourselves what marvels await to be discovered along a coast not far away, but outside the confines of Plymouth Sound. Keep an eye on the club forum and Facebook page.

The Year 1972 by Terry Calcott

As most club members will know the club is celebrating its 50th year and Golden Jubilee this year having been formed in 1972.

I thought I would share a few snippets from the year 1972 to show how things have changed over the years. I know we have a lot of club members who will remember the year - well, I certainly can.

Major events

Watergate scandal.

Miners strike.

Bloody Sunday in Northern Ireland.

1 million unemployed.

Prime Minister – Edward Heath.

USA President - Richard Nixon.

Films

Diamonds are forever.

The Godfather.

Steptoe & Son.

The French Connection.

Prices

Petrol 35p gallon.

Bread 10p a loaf.

Milk 5p a pint.

House average £7000.

New car average £1,200.

Most popular car Ford Cortina Mk3.

Popular names

Paul Claire

Mark Helen

David Karen

Andrew Sarah.

TV shows

Mastermind.

Are you being served?

Love thy neighbour.

Van der Valk.

Rainbow.

Music

Metal Guru.

American Pie.

Amazing Grace.

My Ding-a-ling.

Puppy love.

Sport

Leeds Utd beat Arsenal 1-0 in the FA Cup Final.

Below are a couple of photos from the early days of the club. Not quite 1972 but the earliest I have



PPCA Race Sunday 8th July 1976



PPCA 1 Star Course Mid 1970s

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 10%. 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

Chair

Mark Perry
chair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
07801 310 993

Vice-Chair

Kevin Jones
vchair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Club Leader

Ken Hamblin
leader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
07790 293 952

Assistant Club Leader

Vacant
acleader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Club Secretary

Jackie Perry
secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
07523 965 748

Membership Secretary

James Hubbard
membership@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
07752 125 012

Welfare Officer

Alan Ede
welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
07799 556 876

Intro Course Coordinator

Colin Wilding
intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
07928 578 144

Treasurer

Sharne Dodds
treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
07964 912 837

Equipment Officer

Pete Anderson
equipment@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
07958 694 434

Publicity Officer

Gillian Mann
publicity@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Youth Development Officer

George Hamblin
youth@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
07805 085 499

Health and Safety Officer

Damean Miller
safety@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Club President

Adam Coulson
president@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
07834 286 461