



PPCA Newsletter

March 2023

Introduction

Welcome to March's Newsletter. Something of a Terry special this month as he has a couple of pieces of news and a mysterious duck.

Editorial

Spring is definitely in the air. The rivers are dry, there's a weather warning for snow and there's talk of an Easter paddle. Roll on the evening sessions.....

Incidentally for those of you inspired (or baffled) by Terry's talk of Cardinal Buoys, BC have a very good "Buoyage Awareness" e-learning resource on their website which will help you sort your laterals from your cardinals.

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.

Easter Paddle, Saturday 8th April by Terry Calcott

It is nearly the time of year for the club Easter paddle. Hopefully this year we can come together again and have some fun and food as a club.

The club Easter paddle will probably start and finish at Mount Batten this year. Details will be posted nearer the date.

Meet at 10:00 ready to paddle.

It is a PPCA tradition that paddlers dress themselves or their kayak in some form of Easter theme.

We will also have a communal shared Easter feast of savoury and sweet food for those that wish to partake. Details of what to bring will be posted on the forum and Facebook nearer the date.



Introduction to Sea Kayaking by Terry Calcott

Over the past few years (Pre Covid) I have organised some Introduction to Sea Kayaking sessions for the club. I am looking at running another series of sessions sometime in the spring. They will probably be on a Saturday but days and dates can be flexible once I know numbers. If you have wanted to try sea kayaks out but never had the opportunity, now is your chance. The sessions are aimed at those club members who already have reasonable paddling skills but are new to sea kayaks. The sessions are also suitable for club members who have been in sea kayaks but want to brush up on the basics skills. Due to limited time the sessions are about transferring the paddling skills you already have and using them in sea kayaks. We will cover some theory and a lot of practical aspects of sea paddling, culminating with a sea paddle somewhere in the sound.

If you are interested please contact me so I can see if the interest is there to organise some sessions.

Club sea kayaks are available for use (limited to 4 boats) or bring along your own if you have one, if you would like to book a place and a boat or have any questions please let me know by email terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 07828 652775.



Features

Plymouth Sound Snippets #13, South Mallard and South Winter Cardinal Buoys by Terry Calcott

Plymouth Sound has a buoyage system which is used to inform shipping of the main shipping channels, hazards, anchorages etc. As paddlers we often use buoys and other sea marks as way points during our paddle trips. They serve as a safety zone when paddling across busy shipping lanes and also a place to regroup when paddling across open water.

Two buoys which will be familiar to most regular rec paddlers are South Mallard and South Winter Cardinal buoys. We often use these as our way points when crossing from the end of Mount Batten Pier over to Drakes Island or heading over to The Bridge and beyond.

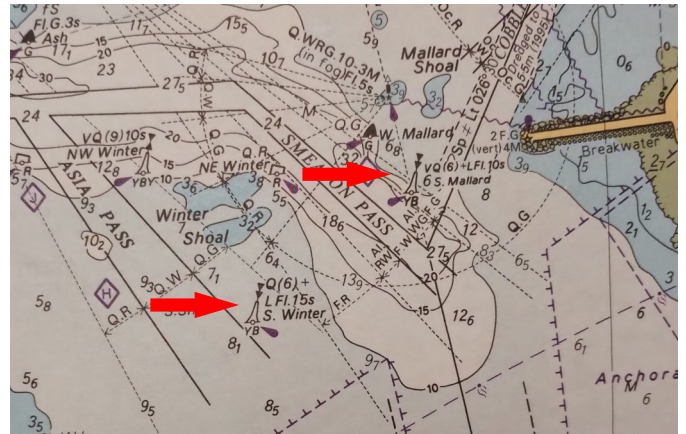


South Mallard Cardinal Buoy

Mallard shoal is a rocky outcrop just off the Mount Batten breakwater, this cardinal marks the safe water for larger vessels. I have been unsuccessful in finding out why the Mallard shoal is so called, maybe named after a duck for some reason?

Winter shoal is a rocky outcrop midway between Mount Batten breakwater and Drakes Island. The two main shipping channels Asia and Smeaton's Pass are either side of it. Winter shoal appears on early charts from the 1700s, again I have no idea why it is named winter?

As paddlers out in the Sound we are rarely bothered about the depth of water but having some knowledge about buoys and their names will help in understanding where larger vessels may go and why. It will also be useful when the paddle leader says head to South Mallard / South Winter cardinal. More about buoys in future snippets.



South Winter and South Mallard Cardinal Buoys

Cardinal buoys get their name from the cardinal points of a compass. They are used to warn mariners of a danger area and mark where safe water is. A south cardinal buoy will be south of the danger area and safe water will be south of the buoy. They also have a yellow and black colour scheme and flashing lights which differ for the various cardinals. This snippet will only have time to cover a few basic details.



South Winter Cardinal Buoy

Exchange and Mart

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

Vice-Chair

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

Club Leader

Colin Wilding
leader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Assistant Club Leader

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

Club Secretary

Jackie Perry
secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Membership Secretary

Lisa Curtis
membership@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Welfare Officer

Alan Ede
welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Intro Course Coordinator

Rita Ford
intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Treasurer

Julian Miles
treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Equipment Officer

Pete Anderson
equipment@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Publicity Officer

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

Youth Development Officer

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

Health and Safety Officer

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

Club President

Adam Coulson
president@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk