



# PPCA Newsletter February 2024

## Introduction

Welcome to February's Newsletter. This month, Terry takes the plunge and gets foggy, Alan looks after our welfare and Adam avoids a scratched bottom.

## Editorial

This month's news has obviously been overshadowed by the death of our Club Leader, Colin Wilding. Rather than put tributes to him in the middle of the usual frippery, the Committee has decided to do a separate tribute to him. If anyone has any photos, memories or other contributions, please send them in and we'll put something together as soon as we can.

Ivor Jones

Newsletter Editor

### DBS by Alan Ede, Club Welfare Officer

Many club members who have completed their DBS checks would have been harangued by me to join the update service and the BC consent service.

The BC consent lasts 3 years after which you will need to submit another form to British Canoeing.

The link is [https://britishcanoeing.formstack.com/forms/dbs\\_status\\_check\\_authorisation\\_form](https://britishcanoeing.formstack.com/forms/dbs_status_check_authorisation_form)

This will allow me to request a check which is done by BC and avoids all the applications, document verifying etc.

#### **Safeguarding**

Anyone in the club who coaches, leads or helps in sessions where anyone under the age of 18, or a vulnerable adult is paddling needs to have safeguarding training. Even if your involvement has never had an U18 or vulnerable adult in attendance it may happen at some point.

There is a document on the BC website, (Safeguarding Training Requirements G21), which shows what individuals need depending on their level of involvement.

Initially I want to survey coaches, leaders and helpers to see what they have already in terms of safeguarding. Many will have completed some training and may just need a refresher.

Some of you will have completed safeguarding training with another organisation such as the Scouts or the local authority. In most cases these are fine but will have to be checked by BC. (G14 is the relevant BC form relating to other safeguarding courses).

Could all coaches, leaders and helpers please contact me by email; [welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk) and let me know what your status is in regards to safeguarding.

I have a database with coaches etc DBS and Safeguarding details on it. This initial process will enable me to check if my information is correct and in a few cases to update it or add to it.

Once this is done I can point you in the right direction for courses, many of which are online and can be refunded by the club.

Editor's Note: AI included a couple of documents from BC showing their requirements. These will hopefully be in the same email as the Newsletter.

## Club Social Events by Sarah Carlson, Social Secretary

I have taken on the remit of social secretary to try and get the club back to meeting up off the water as well as on the water. My aim being for members to meet up and have fun and potentially attract new members.

Our Christmas Social at the Mountbatten Pub attracted a large number of members and many were disappointed that I had chosen a pub that closed early!!

We have just had a very good evening at Westward Inn, where Jane gave a talk on her recent time in the Galápagos Islands and again had 24 members join the evening.

I am open to suggestions for future events - please email me at [publicity@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:publicity@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk) or contact be via Facebook or any other way that comes to mind.



## Features

### Plymouth Hoe Diving Boards by Terry Calcott

A few club members have asked recently about the diving boards on the Hoe and kayaks launching from them so here are a few photos showing just that.



1976 Photo Courtesy of Steve Hoppins



1977



1988



Nick Benny 1986

## PPCA Newsletters Over The Years by Terry Calcott

After reading about Ivor's sterling service to the newsletter last month. I thought I would delve into my club history archive and do some digging and find out about the club newsletters over the years.

After much searching the earliest record, I could find of a newsletter was from 1997 and the club's silver jubilee year. The previous 25 years back to 1972 are the dark ages with no newsletters discovered (yet). I'm sure that they exist and some of the senior club members past and present may have some tucked away up in a loft or back of a drawer.

What I have found out is that the newsletter has had various names over the years, but very few editors.

**1997** – There were two separate printed items. 'Sound Bite' the newsletter and 'Sounding' a club magazine. Both were edited by **Bob Harrison**.

**1998** – Again, two separate printed items. The PPCA newsletter, 2 monthly and a monthly Newsheet. The editor was the club Publicity Offer **Doug Sitch** and it was part of his remit to publish the club newsletters. Doug continued as editor until late 2001. He also combined this with the job of Club Leader when no one could be found to do the **job of Publicity**.

**2001 to 2003** – There were a couple of Publicity Offers during this period **Elaine Elliot** and briefly **Jim Lakeman**.

**2003** – The editor now was **Andy Smith** who had volunteered to carry out the role of Publicity Offer. It was during his years as editor that the club went to a monthly PPCA newsletter. The newsletter was nearly always printed and posted to club members. This job fell to the Membership Secretary to print, fold put in envelopes and stick stamps on and an address label and finally post. An onerous task on top of everything else, I know as I spent many hours carrying out the task. Gradually over the years club members embraced email and eventually the newsletter has gone paperless.

**2006** – This is the start of the Wet News era when the newsletter name changed, and **Clive Ashford** started his tenure as editor. By now the role had become independent of the committee and Clive started what was to become 8 years of magnificent service. The newsletter seemed to prosper during these years with many club members submitting articles and photos.

**2014** – The next editor (me, **Terry Calcott**) didn't last long, only a year. But during this year I thought a name change was needed and I settled for the title of 'Eddylines'.

**2015** – With another new editor **Nick Campbell** now onboard the newsletter reverted to 'Wet News' edition 01. Nick like me didn't stay for long as editor.

**2016 to Present day** - We now enter the start of the **Ivor Jones** years and his long period as editor. Ivor renamed the newsletter and went back to 'PPCA newsletter'. During these years the newsletter has prospered, and the front cover is filled with photos. Again, Ivor is independent of the committee. As a regular contributor to the various newsletters over the years I know how much the editor relies on the input of the members to make the newsletter a viable proposal. In more recent years it appears to be increasingly difficult to fill the newsletter. Social media and the club website have taken over as the main way of conveying club information. Is there a future for a written club newsletter, who knows. The doom mongers said bookshops would fold in the electronic age but now they are more popular than ever. Maybe the newsletter will have a resurgence and carry on for many more years. I'm sure Ivor would like a rest soon so if there are any budding editors out there who fancy the job, please let Ivor know.

## Plymouth Sound Snippets #24, Penlee Point Fog Station by Terry Calcott

This snippet is staying at Penlee Point and is about the Trinity House fog station which used to be at the Point. Very little of the original fog station remains except for the Trinity House cottages which are now private.

The Penlee Point site was established by Trinity House in 1902 as a fog signal station for three keepers and their families. A terrace of three cottages was built. Two larger cottages were built on either side and a smaller one between them for a probationary keeper.

The machinery building originally housed a twin reed fog signal powered by air pressure generated from a Gardner diesel compressor, sounding a 3½ second blast every 10 seconds. Two vertical horns mounted on the roof of the engine room faced south and southeast.



Trinity House Keepers' Cottages

In 1982 the station was converted to mains electricity. A nauphone fog signal with eight emitters and a standby Lister generator was installed in case of mains failure. This ended the last reed fog station in service.

In 1986 the old fog signal building was demolished to make way for the provision of a new helipad for maintenance and stores flights to Eddystone.



Fog Station Machinery and Control Building

Following a review in 1987, it was considered that Penlee should be discontinued as a fog signal station. It became a monitoring station for the Eddystone lighthouse. Eventually this role was carried out remotely from the Trinity House control room at Harwich. Penlee Point was decommissioned, the keepers' cottages were sold off in 1994, although Trinity House retained the control room and helicopter landing pad at Penlee Point.



An Early View of the Fog Station

## Care For the Fleet by Adam Coulson

Dear Members

One of the benefits of PPCA membership is the use of club boats, handily stored at Mountbatten. This allows new members to try different craft and provides a fleet for members to use for training or recreational paddles as required.

The club boats are all made of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and although robust do not last forever. Whilst we may all make an error of judgment and graze a rock whilst paddling, a significant amount of damage can be done whilst launching and landing. One boat has recently required repair for damage sustained by being dragged on a slip. Not only does plastic worn from the hull contaminate the ocean and cause harm to marine life, premature replacements require the generation of a whole lot more plastic to manufacture. I was asked to write a short piece about kayak friendly launching and landing. GP boats are a lot easier to carry, launch and land and so most of this article is relevant to sea kayaks.



Prior to landing in a sea kayak it is generally best to take off the spray deck and get your feet out of the cockpit. This stretch gets the legs working again prior to contact with terra firma! Avoid surfing onto a hard surface but instead, paddle onto the land on the back of a wave so that the bows rest gently on the slip. Then clamber out, keeping a hold of the kayak. If you can sit on the rear deck and balance (something to practice in the summer!) then it is possible to simply stand up in the shallow water with the kayak between your feet. Another alternative is to swing both legs over one side and stand in the water, which is most useful when landing on steep stony beaches that will damage the kayak. Some people find landing sternwards makes it easier to stand up. With a GP boat it is just a case of scrambling out as quickly as possible once you have landed.



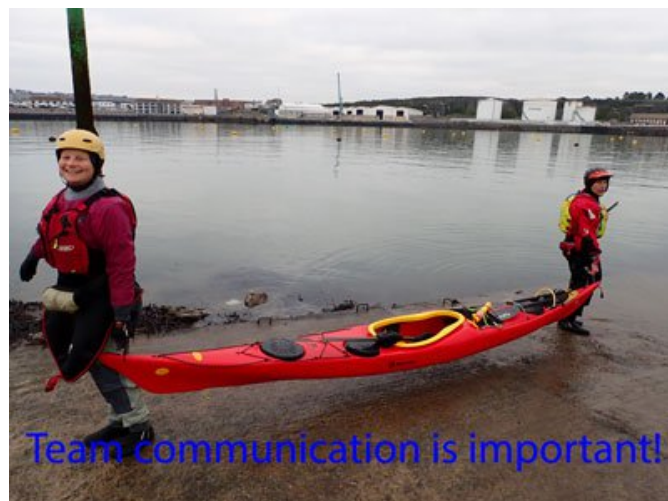
Being based at Mountbatten, I have used the western slip as a standard reference. There are a lot of different techniques used, but from amongst them I would discourage paddlers from sitting in their boats, some distance from the water, and sliding along the concrete. With the weight of the paddler in the boat this causes significant abrasion of the hull of the boat. It is very much more sympathetic to float a sea kayak before getting in – either parallel to the slip/shore or perpendicular with the bows in the water first. Just imagine that the boat is made of glass! Legs can be tucked in once the kayak is afloat, and the spray-deck applied. If necessary, get another paddler to hold the boat in the water for you. Likewise, leaving the stern of the sea kayak on the concrete edge will cause excessive wear of the hull around the skeg. In the case of GP boats, place the kayak right at the water's edge prior to getting in and use a wave to lift you off if possible.







Sea kayaks are heavy, so paddlers must pair up to get them to and from the water's edge, or use a trolley. You may be able to lift your sea kayak or drag it up and down the slip, but this is poor practice and sets a bad example to others. I make a habit of emptying my sea kayak of kit prior to carrying it any distance – why else do you go to Ikea?! Sea kayaks should be carried either by the keel or the toggles. The deck line fittings are not designed to take much weight and are difficult to repair, whilst the elastics will break (ouch!)

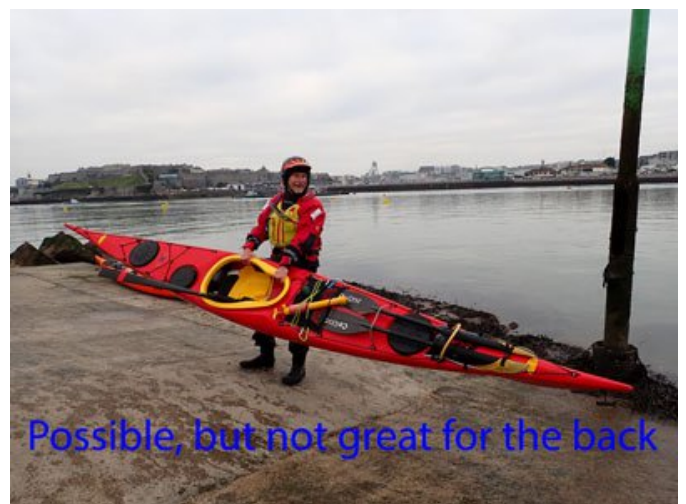


When landing or launching from a beach, try and use a sandy part where available. Weed is also much kinder on the hull and can act as a nice cushion but beware of slipping. Launching thought surf does require getting in the kayak and putting on the spray-deck prior to launch. Use the backs of your hands to walk the boat down to the water (to avoid any cuts to your palms).

Of course, PPCA is a club comprising of many team players. This means that we should help each other both onto and off the water, and in doing so, be kind to both comrade and craft. If you are agile and competent, consider helping others onto the water first and landing first to help others off. Your time will come for requiring assistance!



Coaching is available in all of these techniques and there is much fun to be had from experimentation (do I hear splashing?) Please feel free to discuss anything in this article ([president@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:president@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk))



## Exchange and Mart

### Boats For Sale from Jane Hitchings

These 2 boats - a yellow Pyranah Rev and a red Wavesport Session - have been lightly used and the owner, Owen Rees, is an ex club member. He says he doesn't want very much for them and is happy for me to pass any one interested onto him.

In the first instance can people contact me on WhatsApp, email ([janehitchings69@gmail.com](mailto:janehitchings69@gmail.com)) or phone 07837 796192 or Owen directly at [owenrees22@gmail.com](mailto:owenrees22@gmail.com) or on 07538 557554.



## Discounts and Offers

A selection of discounts and offers are available on the PPCA website. [Click here](#) to see them.

## 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

As ever, I have plundered Facebook for the cover photos - my thanks to all concerned.



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