



Editorial

Paul Henson

So, summer evening trainings have ended, but pool sessions have started, white water trips have started and recreational paddles are continuing (despite the best efforts of the weather). There are some notes on the pool sessions on page 8 as well as an early advertisement for the Christmas recreational paddle on page 2. Do note the repeated advert for the Christmas social at the Mountbatten and the AGM on page 3

Delighted to continue introducing new club members on page 6. Please consider sending a few words about yourself (ideally with a photo): newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk if you have joined recently, for some suitable definition of "recently".

There is an ongoing attempt on page 9 to record club activities in October, this month is more guessed than usual due to the impact of the weather.

Terry Calcott has added a snippet on the Bovisand Minefield on 4. It would be great to have some more articles to share. Please don't let some old recollection of a C- in English homework and lots of red angry pen from your

school days stop you from sharing something via the newsletter. I'm quite happy to take a couple of photos and a text message and turn it into an article for the newsletter if we think it would be of interest to club members and you're happy with the outcome. There's a lot of paddling events around or upcoming that may be of interest, and some people are working through PaddlesUp training courses which could also be of interest.

Finally, I spent a happy few hours last Friday, joining Adrian Evans' working party at Holne Weir. I knew the land was owned by Paddle UK (aka Canoe England aka BCU). What I hadn't fully appreciated was just how much of the maintenance work is carried out by local volunteers. And not only are we talking about Dartmoor granite in every fencepost you want to dig, we're talking about river smoothed granite that seems to laugh at any attempt to move it with ropes. Anyway, I doubt my efforts made much difference, but it's a reminder of the scale of the unseen volunteer effort that makes so many things possible. As usual, comments, questions, material to include in future editions: newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk



Christmas Paddle Saturday 21st December 2024

Terry Calcott



Brush off those festive hats and Santa costumes and come join your fellow club members for a festive paddle feast and make merry. The Xmas paddle will start and finish from Mount Batten. The minimum dress requirement for this paddle (in addition to your normal paddling and safety gear) is a

festive hat. But please feel free to indulge however you wish with fancy dress above the spraydeck. Please let me know if you are intending to come along by email terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk or a post on the PPCA forum or PPCA Facebook page (I will start these posts nearer the date).

Exchange and Mart

Some retailers offer a discount to our members: details are on the PPCA website



Annual General Meeting Notice

Sarah Carlson

Location:

**Plymstock Albions Oaks Rugby Club
PL9 ODF**

Time and Date:

**Friday 29th November 2024
19:00 hrs**

Not forgetting:

Drinks at the bar afterwards



Plymouth Sound Snippet #30

The Bovisand Minefield

Terry Calcott

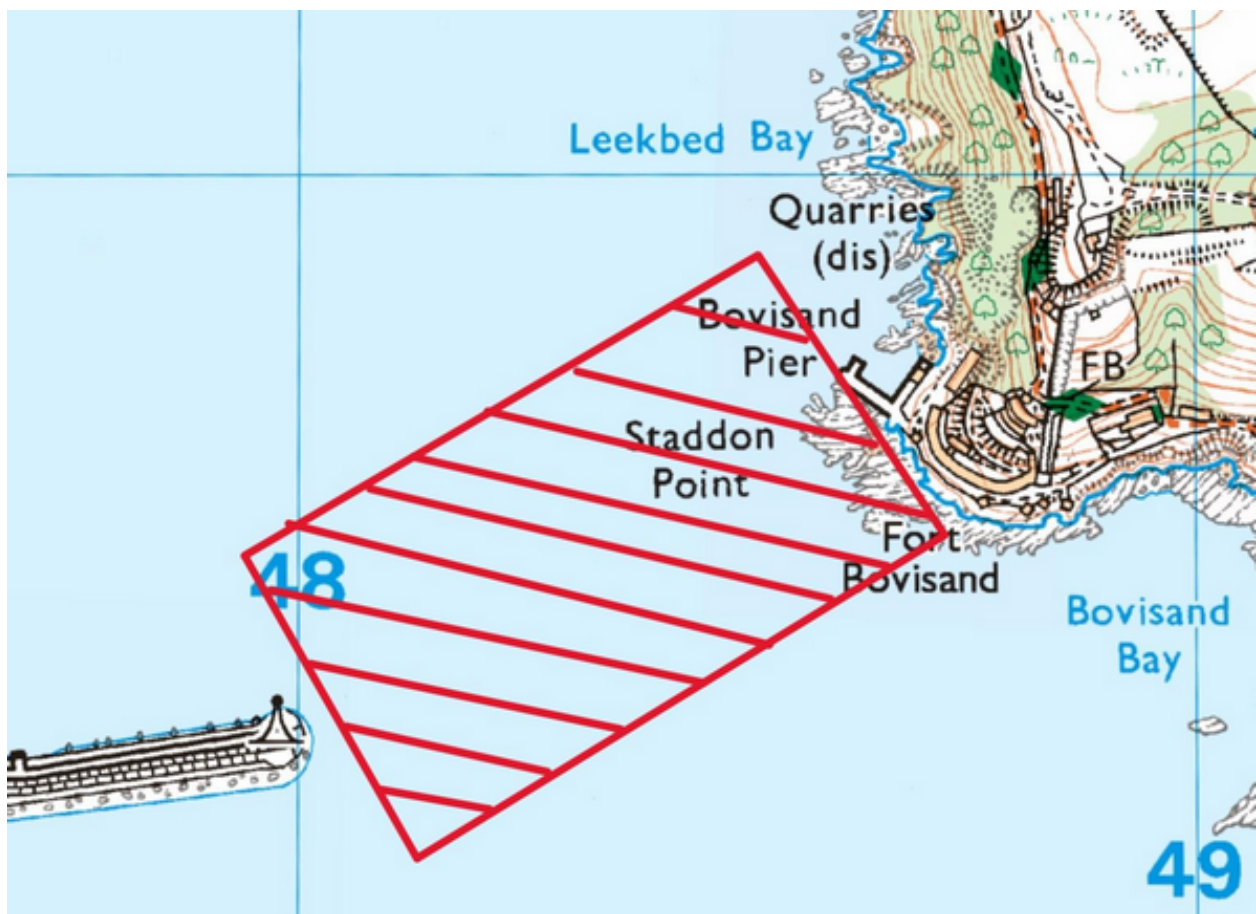


Figure 1: The minefield shaded red

I thought we would stay over at Bovisand for this snippet, and I would write a few words about the minefield and associated buildings which were built in the late 1880s. A corresponding minefield was also built at

Picklecombe at the same time.

As paddlers we often pass over the site of the old minefield and pass by the remains of the minefield buildings each time we head to Bovisand. What is amazing about the



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Bovisand minefield buildings is that they are one of the most complete surviving examples from the late 1800s. The actual minefield was laid in the channel between Bovisand Pier and the Breakwater. It was in place by 1880. The responsibility for laying the mines was by a group of men called Submarine Miners, nothing to do with submarines just that the mines were laid underwater. They were part of the Royal Engineers and there were submarine mining establishments around the country and overseas. The Plymouth one was located at Elphinstone Wharf at the Barbican. This was also known as the Government Torpedo establishment, as mines just for confusion were known as Torpedo's in the late 1800s. The minefield consisted of mines linked together in groups, connected by wires to the mine control station. The station had two observation posts with armoured steel roofs which were situated high up in the old Devonport quarry above Fort Bovisand. The mines would be set off by the officer in charge should a threat be observed. There are also the remains of two searchlight buildings at sea level. These were known as D.E.Ls (Defence Electric Lights). They were designed to illuminate the minefield using a narrow beam of light of just 30 degrees. One of the buildings is intact while the other has a collapsed roof. They used to be linked by walkways and steps, now long gone. There were two other D.E.Ls on the end of Bovisand Pier which also illuminated part of the minefield. Although repurposed over the years one of these D.E.Ls remains intact.



Figure 2: The mine observation station is above at the front of the quarry (to the right of the small building). The D.E.Ls are at sea level



Figure 4: Remains of a D.E.L at the end of the Pier

The defensive mining of British harbours was stopped in 1905 under the orders of The First Sea Lord Admiral Fisher. The Submarine Miners and their establishments were disbanded.



Welcome new members

Eileen & Mark Screech



We wanted to take up a hobby that would be fun, could meet new friends and keep ourselves active - (plus, Eileen always wanted to give it a go!) (Mark, although a bit rusty from instruction 30 years ago, it was easy to talk him around and that kayaking is what we should do). We enrolled for the Intro course Easter bank holiday and progressed with the weekly Tues skill sessions throughout the

summer. Eileen had never paddled before, getting used to being on the water in something so small as a dagger, and weeks of spinning around in circles thinking she'd never get it. . . . she got there! With the help of the leaders who give their time to impart their knowledge with such enthusiasm, we are loving sea kayaking and both looking forward to learning the skills needed for white water.

Please, if you've joined recently could you send a few words about yourself and a photo to: newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk



PPCA

Christmas Social

Wednesday 11th December
20:00 until last orders.... 🙌 😊

Mountbatten Pub

Christmas Jumpers optional



Pool sessions

We're fortunate that the club can offer pool sessions. Here are some notes by Nigel Hingston lifted from Facebook.

A few tips which should help first time members attending;

Timings

Start time is 19:30hrs, we aim to finish around 21:00 hrs.

We start to arrive from 19:00 hrs, I give a short briefing around 19:20 hrs and by the time we change the group is ready to get wet at 19:30 hrs. It is a long session and most new members find after an hour they've had enough – pace yourself and take it easy.

Clothing

swimmers, tee shirt (it's cold outside when we bring the kayaks in). Wear what you feel most relaxed in. Helmets are provided, the club strongly recommends you wear helmets for your own protection. Nose clips and goggles are optional, the centre does not permit face masks.

Boats and equipment

The club provides 6 kayaks which are permanently stored poolside and are reserved

for new members. Other club boats are available, please contact Pete to arrange their loan, you will be responsible for collection, washing out and return of these kayaks. In addition, club spraydecks, buoyancy aids and paddles are also available. You are welcome to use your own personal equipment and kayaks, but please ensure items are clean and boats are washed out before launching.

The session

We work on a buddy system, please pair up. It has the advantage that you are able to view one another's techniques, provide tips and you are close to right your partner's kayak if required. There is no structured coaching plan, this is not a rolling only event, this is your session, use the time for your own aspirations. I take the approach that if someone wants to just capsize and become confident upside down then go for it, anything else is a bonus. There are coaches on hand who with their considerable experience and knowledge will give friendly guidance, instruction and confidence with your techniques.



Kayaking Chronicle

(The programme has been hit by either too much wind or too little rain. This is my best guess as to what might have happened.)

Skills Training

(See notes on Pool Sessions on page 7)



- Wednesday 9th October: Pool Session



- Wednesday 23rd October: Pool Session



From Dave Wensley's Facebook

Recreational paddles

- Saturday 5th October: Sea Kayak paddle led by Terry cancelled due to the weather
- Saturday 5th October: Short Recreational paddle led by Gavin cancelled due to wind conditions.



- Sunday 6th October: White Water training session led by Pete (river was a bit short of water)



- Saturday 12th October: Recreational Paddle led by Andy
- Sunday 13th October: White Water Paddle led by Pete



- Saturday 19th October: Recreational Paddle led by Brim (I'm not sure whether this went ahead due to the Wind)
 - Sunday 20th October: White Water Paddle led by Clive (I'm not sure whether this became an intermediate trip, or ran on the lower-lower Dart)
- 
- Saturday 26th October: Recreational Paddle led by Gavin visiting Cawsand for lunch
 - Saturday 26th October: Short Recreational Paddle led by Clive



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From Joy Ashford's Facebook



From Steve Hopp's Facebook

- Sunday 27th October: White Water Paddle led by Pete



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The PPCA Committee

PPCA is a friendly Club, and we'd love to hear from you!

The Club is run by a committee of unpaid volunteers, most of which work full-time. Contact details are listed below. For non-urgent enquiries, please email the person you require rather than telephoning.

If you are new to paddlesport or thinking of taking it up then please contact our Intro Coordinator who can point you in the right direction. Our Intro Coordinator can also answer any questions you may have about our Club, courses on offer etc, drop them an email at intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Chair	Mark Perry	chair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
Vice-Chair	Vacant	vchair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
Club Leader		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	Helga Pinn	membership@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
Welfare Officer	Alan Ede	welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
Intro Course Coordinator	Linda Brady	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	Sarah Carlson	publicity@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
Youth Development Officer	Rita Ford	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

Thank you to everyone who contributed material, especially the material we just stole from Facebook.

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