



PPCA Newsletter December 2024

Editorial

Paul Hughson

We had another letter from our reader:

Dear Editor,
I see that there hasn't been enough rain for white water paddling. Then I see there has been too much rain. This looks like a scam to get an Arts Council grant for some trendy modern outdoor performance of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" to me.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Trellis
North Wales

Enough nonsense, it's Bah Humbug time again. On the off-chance there is too much wind/rain or not enough wind/rain at some point over the next few weeks, there is a crossword of sorts on Page 9. One of the clues is a little flaky (I had to drop an "apostrophe s" to fit a place name in), but otherwise

answers to all the clues can be found in, around or under Plymouth Sound. There will be some kind of prize for the most complete entry received by January 15th 2025.

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".

Attempts to capture the club's activities for November continue on page 7. As for last month, this features a lot of guesswork.

Terry Calcott has added a snippet on the Mount Batten Rifle Range on Page 4. Alan Ede is asking about people who need their first aid updates on Page 2 and there are some photos from the AGM on page 3. As usual, comments, questions, material to include in future editions: newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk



First Aid Course

Alan Ede

I'm planning on organising a first aid course if there are sufficient people needing to take one. If you are interested, please contact the Club Welfare Office, Alan Ede on welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk



Figure 1: Photo by SHOX art from Pexels

Exchange and Mart

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



Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on 29th November at the Plymouth Albion Rugby club. Formal minutes will be sent around as appropriate, but in brief, there were reports from the President (Adam Coulson) along with a box of chocolates to share around, the Chair (Mark Perry), the Treasurer (Julian Miles) and the Club Leader (Ken Hamblin).

The outgoing president presented Mark Perry with an honorary membership as a measure of appreciation for all the work he has done, the extremely positive manner in which he has done it, and generally always being around. Subsequently, the chair presented three club awards as shown in the photographs.



Andy Kittle (R):
Outstanding services



Terry Calcott (R):
Leadership award



Jane Hitchings (R):
Inspirational Award

Clive Ashford was elected as the new President, Adam Coulter as the new Club Leader, Jane Hitchings as the new Youth Development Co-ordinator. There is still a vacancy for a Vice-Chair. All other committee members are continuing in role. (That last sentence seems to massively understate the work they all do; thanks to Rita Ford who leaves the committee, Ken Hamblin who stepped in at short notice and to all continuing members).



Plymouth Sound Snippet #29

The Mount Batten Rifle Range

Terry Calcott

For the sharp eyed, you may have noticed there was no Snippet 29. For some reason, I messed up the numbering and the last one was 30. For my own peace of mind, I am making this one number 29.



Red circle shows the location of the range targets and butts

This month's article is a short one about the little known rifle range that was located at the south of Batten Bay from the mid 1800s until the early 1900s. We often paddle past the remains of the rifle range target position and butts when heading over towards Jennycliff

Bay. Although most of the machinery and metalwork is hidden under vegetation and only the retaining walls are visible now.

When the military converted from using muskets to rifles around 1850 suitable firing ranges were required for the various units in



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the Plymouth and Devon areas. The Mount Batten range was built for use for the Royal Marines who also allowed the local Plymouth detachment of the 2nd Devon Volunteer Rifles to use the range. The range was in constant use not just for mandatory class firings but many rifle competitions took place over the years.



Map from the late 1800s showing the targets and yard markers

The range was altered and improved many times over the years. The firing positions were at 200, 500 and 600 yards from the targets. The map shows the position of these. The 600-yard firing position would have been in the Mount Batten watersports centre carpark. Quite a feat hitting a target so far away with the rifles of the time. One of the problems with firing at the Mount Batten range was that the area was open to the public with access

being allowed on the beach at Batten Bay and on footpaths to Stadden Heights. Not ideal but the range continued in use until Mount Batten was converted to an RAF station.



Remains of the target butts today

If you ever paddle over to the area there is a small beach to land on at LW. If you look amongst the rocks up towards the concrete and stone wall you will find the remains of old squashed bullets and occasionally whole ones.



This old photo shows the rifle range targets to the left of the ship!



Welcome new members

Paul Hart



. Recently joined the club on family membership with my wife Maree and two boys Cameron (22) and Ruben (16). I've been kayaking since I first came to Plymouth and started at what was then the Plymouth Polytechnic. I was then an avid kayaker, devoting most weekends to either sea kayaking, white water or Canadian paddling. I've done several major kayaking expeditions, including around the outer Hebrides, the Antarctic Peninsula and also the first



unsupported kayak around the Outside Passage of Alaska. My kayaking declined as my mountaineering increased (the two don't generally go together) but I'm now back in Plymouth on a more regular basis and keen to get back into paddling. I've got an original Nordkapp, which I still love to paddle, and a Canadian and a couple of plastic boats. I'm hoping to introduce my wife and boys into the hobby and really looking forward to meeting others who love this pastime.

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



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.)

Committee Activities

- Friday 29th November: Annual General Meeting

Skills Training



- Wednesday 6th November: Pool Session



From Nigel Hingston's Facebook



- Wednesday 20th November: Pool Session (Sea Kayaks)



Recreational paddles

- Saturday 2nd November: Sea Kayak paddle led by Nigel
- Saturday 2nd November: Short Recreational paddle led by Terry.



From Terry Calcott's Facebook



- Sunday 3rd November: White Water session led by Clive



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From Lisa Curtis' Facebook




- Saturday 9th November: Recreational Paddle led by Clive



From Joy Ashford's Facebook

- Sunday 10th November: ~~White Water Paddle led by Pete~~ Cancelled due to too little rain



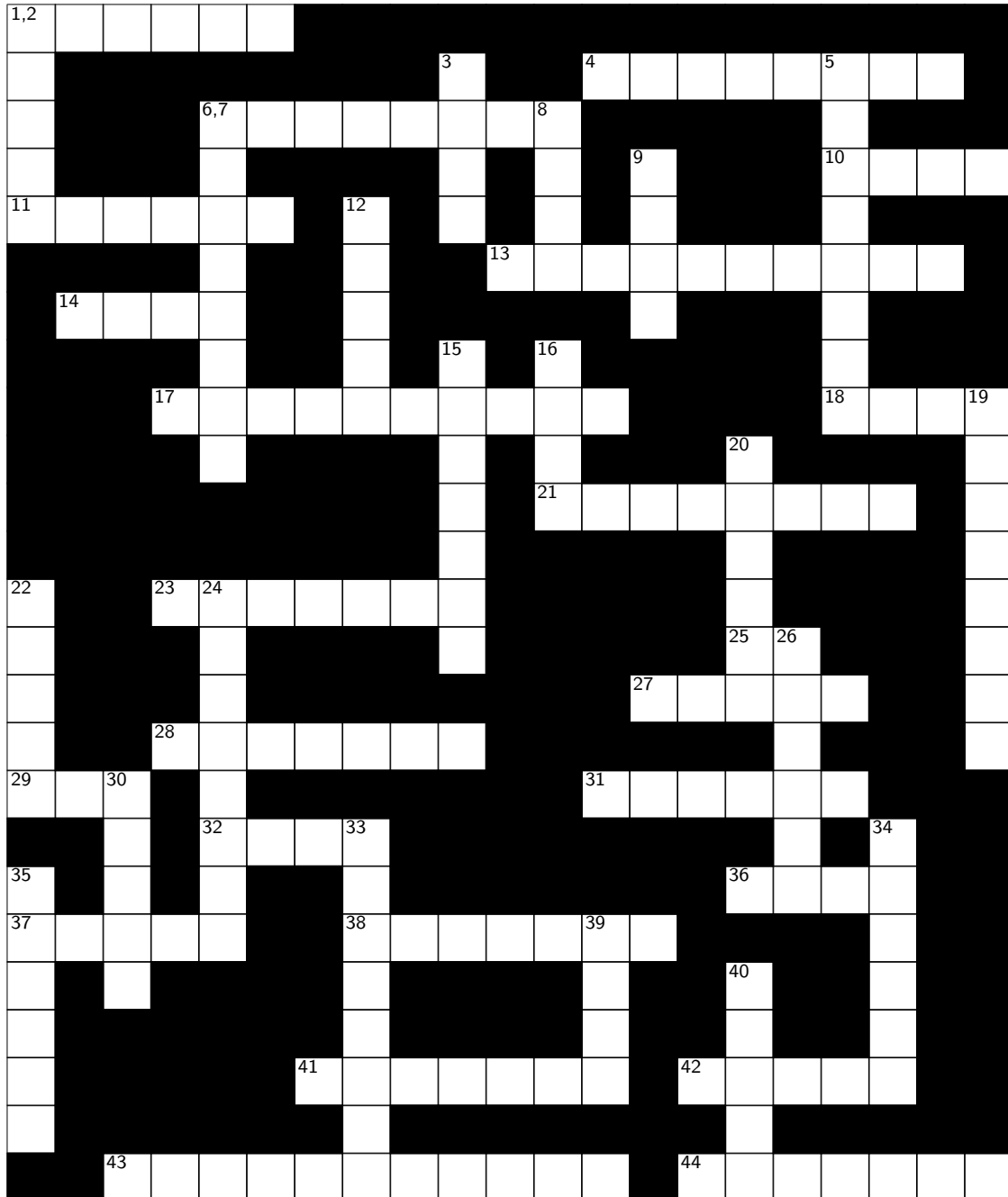
- Saturday 16th November: Recreational Paddle led by Andy
 - Sunday 17th November: White Water Beginners Skill's session led by Jane
- 
- Saturday 23rd November: Recreational Paddle ~~led by Brim~~ Cancelled due to too much wind
 - Saturday 23rd November: ~~Short recreational Paddle led by Clive~~ Cancelled due to too much wind
 - Sunday 24th November: ~~White Water Paddle led by Clive~~ Cancelled due to too much rain
 - Saturday 30th November: Recreational Paddle led by Gavin; a choppy day taking in Drake's Island and Bovisand.



From Gavin Bennett's Facebook



Christmas Crossword Puzzle





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Across

- 1) Repairer close to south eastern limits
- 4) Fortified gate with sharp remark inside
- 6) This village was part of Devon until 1844
- 10) Second word belonging to clue at 9 down
- 11) Fred's mate has bank by dockyard
- 13) Tiny bird's aquatic viewpoint
- 14) Navigational marker showing oriental continent's name
- 17) Barrier causes sea disturbance
- 18) Final word of clue from 34 down, referring to a body of water
- 21) Extended space to listen to channel fourteen
- 23) Architect celebrated on the Hoe provides the way through Winter (7,4)
(this is the first word of the clue, the second goes at 3 down)
- 25) Abbreviation for do it all kayak
- 27) Last Stuart ruler had her source of power assaulted (5,5,7) (this is the first word of the clue - the rest of the answer goes in 28 and 37 across)
- 28) This is the final word of the clue from 27 across
- 29) The far end of a canoe paddle (the end without the idiot attached)
- 31) (6,5) Facing Saint Nick's island we have a point named for Old Nick (This space is for the first word of the clue, the second goes at 30 down)
- 32) River named after sought after tree with best position in garden
- 36) Diamonds on yellow and black marker buoy point towards each other indicates safety in which direction
- 37) Second word of clue from 27 across
- 38) Hardly an underground West England Metropolis
- 41) Rowing seat by Plymouth harbour
- 42) Strict part of a boat
- 43) Fermented cucumber found in Cornish defensive building
- 44) A ferry has been running here since the 11th century



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Down

- 2) Twelfth Century Queen of Georgia keeps sound supplied
- 3) Second word of clue from 23 across
- 5) Important cleric warns of subaquatic danger
- 7) Rock by Breakwater is found in an Irish County
- 8) (4, 4) Buoy named after rugged actor famous for Westerns with solid foundation, this is the first word
- 9) Shape of top mark (if there is one) on a starboard channel buoy
- 12) Partially intuit we don't really need a clue to this boat
- 15) Remove what's inside claws to find beachy Cornish village
- 16) Boat's bottom supports, ultimately, with stability
- 19) Historic Cornish family at the boundary
- 20) Normally we could walk over rivers without getting wet
- 22) (5,6) Ascend with military man at promontory (this space is for the first word, the second goes at 35 down)
- 24) Soothsayer and healer who ruled at Argos and worshiped Dionysus to protect the knight in battles
- 26) Cornish headland offers snug shelter, reportedly (6,5). This is the first word of the clue, the second goes at 30 down
- 30) Second word of both clues 26 down and 29 across
- 34) (2, 4, 4) Evangelist's body of water reduces to (west) mud at low tide. This space is for the first two words of the clue, and maybe the second word should have an apostrophe and an s but I couldn't fit it. The last word goes at 18 across
- 35) Second word of clue from 22 down
- 39) Beautiful Cornish peninsula is in frame
- 40) Kayaking is this kind of sport



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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	Adam Coulson	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
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Publicity Officer	Sarah Carlson	publicity@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
Youth Development Officer	Jane Hitchings	youth@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
Health and Safety Officer	Damean Miller	safety@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
Club President	Clive Ashford	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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