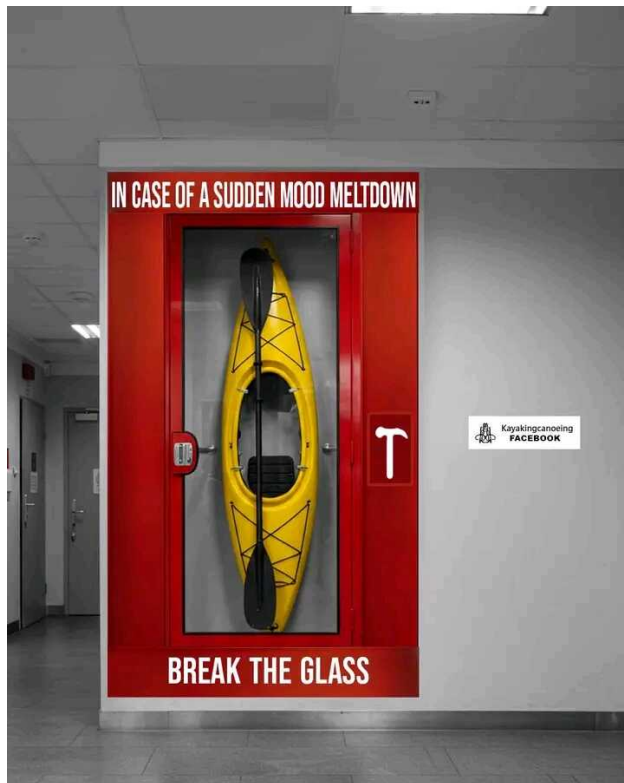




Editorial

Pale Hewson

Well, cold air and a couple of viruses have been causing my asthma to play up. The viruses have been very minor, they don't even qualify as man flu but nobody told the asthma. Anyway, it made me identify with this picture for some reason.



There are two wonderful features in this month's newsletter. First, Club Leader Adam

Coulson presents the plans for the summer season on page 7. Note in particular that while some plans are resourced there is room for some further focus, so please note he is inviting feedback. Secondly, on page 4 we have an account of kayaking in a pretty inspirational environment. Who needs David Attenborough.

There is of course an update on the paddling that happened last month in the Chronicle on page 10. In case you know anyone who might be interested, the Introductory Courses are still being advertised, please do share this with anyone you know who might be interested; see Sarah Carlson's materials on page 3.

We have an exiting new member to introduce on page 6. Please do consider sending a few words about yourself (ideally with a photo): newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk if you have joined recently, for some vague definition of "recently". Finally, there is some correspondence from Paddle UK on page 9 which readers might find of interest, but do read carefully the date for replies if you wish us to send in a response.

As usual, comments, questions, material to include in future editions: newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk.



Club Easter Paddle Saturday 19th April

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.

Cheers Terry





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New Introductory Course Programme

Sarah Carlson



Come and Try Kayaking

A day Introductory Course

Saturday 26th April - 09:30-15:30

May 24th

June 21st

July 19th

August 23rd

September 6th

**Boats and
equipment
all provided**

**Cost : £65 with 50% discount on joining fees
within a month**

enquiries : email:

intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Apply via website.



@port_of_plymouth_canoe_club

www.pzca-canoe-club.org.uk





Kayaking in Antarctica

Helga Pinn

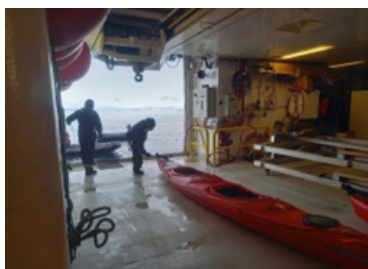


I have recently been lucky enough to go to Antarctica and whilst there, had the opportunity to go on a kayaking experience which I thought I might share with you.

It was with mounting excitement that we left the tender lobby of the ship, into the zodiac whilst our kayaks were manoeuvred into the waters of Neko Harbour which is on the Antarctic peninsula.

We then cautiously eased ourselves from the zodiac to the kayak and there we were, kayaking in Antarctica! Snow was gently falling, and we made our way in single file through the sea ice. Initial problems of having to share a double kayak were soon overcome and harmony resumed.

It was eerily quiet - and then we heard the rumble from the live glacier. Gentoo penguins gracefully swam effortlessly by. It was magical.





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But Antarctica had more to offer. First was the sound of a whale breathing / sleeping, and then the sound of a whale blowing and witnessing the massive spray. Then a sighting of a fin and the huge body. And then more. We watched 3 humpbacked whales gently glide to and fro as they happily fed on the plentiful krill in the waters, 20 – 50 metres away. No records broken, no dramas – 5km in 2 hours and brilliant.



It was a fantastic experience, and now all I have to do when paddling in The Sound is close my eyes and the rocks become icebergs, the penguins become cormorants and a glimpse of a seal...well, let's just wait and see what happens.





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Welcome new members

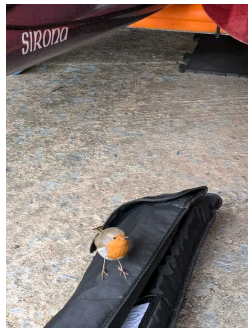


Figure 1: Robyn

We have a new member to report this month, namely Robyn (who is a robin). She likes the member's shed and grubs.

Any humans who have joined recently (like, in the last 12 months) could you send a few words about yourself and (ideally, but entirely optionally) a photo to:
newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Exchange and Mart

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



PPCA Summer Season 2025

Adam Coulson

As I write I must confess that with nighttime temperatures down to minus 3 it doesn't feel like summer in the morning, but with beautiful sunny days, it does by the afternoon!

Meteorological spring has sprung, and the large spring tides tell me that astronomical spring is not far away. With British Summer Time commencing at the end of the month we will have lighter evenings and the club summer calendar will commence. How exciting is that?



All of the sessions that are currently planned can be found on the club google calendar [HERE](#). If you use Google calendar it is also possible to import the PPCA Calendar so that all entries are automatically updated.

Recreational paddles will continue on Saturdays as per the winter calendar, but with fewer cancellations due to storms, hopefully. The standard trip from Mountbatten is on the water (OTW) at 10:00 and returning mid-afternoon. On the first Saturday of each month there is a longer trip suitable only for sea kayaks. On those days we also offer a

shorter trip (OTW at 10:30) for newbies, time pressured (i.e. needing the whole afternoon free), injured and/or lazy. They are generally back on terra firma by lunchtime.

Because it stops raining in BST, the white water season draws to a close and the last club trip will be on 30 h March. As some may observe it hasn't rained consistently for much of the winter either so climate change is certainly affecting our sport. Many thanks go to our White Water leaders who are few in number but high in quality and who have worked hard this winter. Round of applause please for Clive, Jane, Pete, and Phil. We hope to have more leaders by next winter to spread the responsibility wider.

With the light evenings we are also able to offer both training opportunities and short recreational paddles on the Tuesday club night each week. As with the Saturdays these are all rostered on the calendar and as with all of the Tuesday evening activity is OTW at 18:00.

Training is available depending a little on what is in demand. This year we plan to start with just some refresher evenings, an opportunity to revisit any paddle skills up to the Paddle UK (PUK) Sea Kayak Award level. These can be learner led – i.e. what do YOU need to practice?

After that, Clive and Andy are running a coaching course to get new and relatively new paddlers up to the old British Canoeing (BC) 2

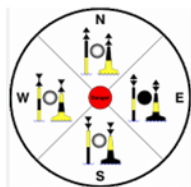


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star award level, which is roughly equivalent to the PUK Explore Award.

To this end they will be using the PPCA Kayak Explore Skills Passport.

You can be issued with this at any stage and the coaches can sign off parts of the syllabus as paddlers gain new or polish up on existing skills.



In July Nigel is running a course on tides, weather, buoyage and the like, all important

nautical knowledge for sea paddlers. In August Adam is offering an opportunity to brush up on your emergency skills with 4 evenings focusing on sea kayak safety and rescue. At the end of August Terry is running 2 evenings as an introduction to sea kayaking, ideal for newish paddlers who have mainly only paddled shorter general purpose boats.

You will notice on the calendar that there are some gaps in the Tuesday evening training calendar and, indeed, there is no reason why courses cannot be run simultaneously. This

allows the flexibility for other opportunities in response to demand and appropriate for conditions. For example, there is a possibility of getting the club open boats out, or even the SUPs.

Of course, to get a response to demand, the demand needs to be made. As club leader, please feel free to make your demands known to me, although you might get a better response to polite requests instead! The point is that your club will endeavour to respond to YOUR training needs, whatever they may be. Do talk with any of the coaches or me.



Lastly, starting in early May we will run a Friday evening recreational paddle from Mountbatten, OTW at 18:00. This used to be primarily for open boats (Canadians, canoes or whatever else you would like to call them) but ALL craft are welcome. There is an easy pace and a relaxed atmosphere to enjoy being on the water with family and friends.

As always the programme is also liable to change either due to leader illness, injury or absence and, of course, the prevailing conditions. Watch the Forum and Facebook for details prior to any event. Wishing all our members a fun packed summer,

Adam (Club Leader - leader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk)



Club Name Change

We have recently received some correspondence from Paddle UK.

Subject: Rebranding Opportunity for Full Alignment with Paddle UK

Dear PPCA,

As you are likely aware, Phase 1 of our rebrand to Paddle UK has been an outstanding success. Moving forward, it is crucial that our affiliated clubs seize this opportunity to align with our brand vision in a cohesive and synergistic manner.

Our brand consultants have thoroughly reviewed your club's positioning and have recommended that a name change be considered in order to fully align with our brand strategy. We propose that, effective April 1st, 2025, your club adopts the name "Plymouth Paddlesport Community (PPC)". This change will ensure consistency with our overarching brand identity and help to strengthen our collective presence.

We understand that this will necessitate updates to your website and email addresses. Our brand consultants are available to provide support and guidance throughout this process. While they explored various options for retaining the PPCA abbreviation, they were unable to find a suitable alternative. However, we believe this is a small trade-off for the significant advantages of fully aligning with the Paddle UK brand.

We trust you will recognise the potential this presents for your club's continued growth and development, and we look forward to working closely with you to implement this change.

Best regards, Guillermo Gillipollas,
Head of **C**ommunity **R**elations **A**nd **P**articipation
Paddle UK

If anyone has any thoughts, rather than phone Paddle UK could you please let the Newsletter editor (newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk) know, as he will collate all opinions. Do note carefully, the deadline for this is 12 noon on April 1st 2025.



Kayaking Chronicle

Adam Coulson

Warm Wet events

- 12th February Pool Session



- 26th February Pool Session

Wet events

- 1st February, Terry made the most of the spring tide and headed out to the eastern entrance and then the Renney rocks gap. With a bit of swell running had a great paddle around the Great Mewstone. The lunch stop was back near the Renney rocks. Then followed the coast back towards Bovisand and back to Mount Batten. A little over 10 miles of easy paddling today, including one rescue.



From Terry Calcott's Facebook

- 2nd February, Julian used today as a trainee WW Leader to take a group of 4

down the Lower Dart in lowish conditions, successfully. Meanwhile Pete and Andy paddled the last few drops of the Upper and then the Loop – welcome back Andy!



- 8th February Gavin was due to lead today's rec paddle but was located in Manchester whilst the trip was in Plymouth. It took both Terry and Adam to replace him as the group was split at Picklecombe into shorter and longer groups. A cold grey day but the 12 out enjoyed the trip.



From Terry Calcott's Facebook

- 9th February Clive led the white water trip but was a little short of both water and paddlers. A quiet trip down the loop, was the result. The other result was Argyle putting Liverpool out of the FA cup. Wow!





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- 15th February Clive (he had a busy weekend) led a group of 4 on an extra short paddle. Yes I know that's open to interpretation – make up your own mind.

Simultaneously Nigel led a small group out in the very cold wind and found some large swell at the breakwater to play in before paddling back to the shelter of Drake's Island for a beach lunch stop.



Figure 4: From Terry Calcott's Facebook

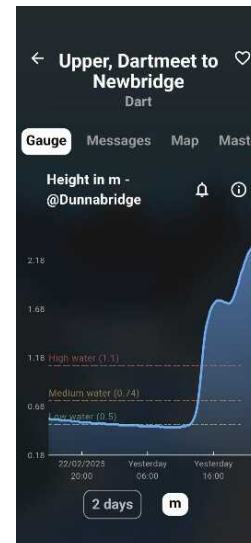
- 16th February Clive summarised today's white water trip thus: "We did a bit of a geological survey today, the result of which is that we concluded that the river Dart does indeed have plenty of rocks. Pete demonstrated his canoeing skills by paddling his canoe down the loop single handed. His first descent of the loop in his canoe".



- 22nd February At last the cold winds have gone and with the thermometer touching 12 degrees a dozen of us were led by Andy, all in sea kayaks across to Drake's Island and Barn Pool before heading up into St John's lake to lunch at the dam in spring sunshine. Some went for a long walk over lunch to a

locked toilet! Meantime others did some kingfisher spotting. There was some a nice ground swell to enjoy on the way back along the Hoe and across to MB.

- 23rd February Pete write: After double checking the arrival of the days heavy rain, it was decided to head to the Dart Loop with the motley crew of 7 that had assembled including a Loop debutant and a pub landlord. A pleasant run of a low level Loop ensued with pop outs at Triple One, splats at Lovers Leap, and lots of small wave surfing with the odd roll. The odd thing was getting wetter after the paddle than during it, but the tea and cake at Strawberry Fields afterwards, softened the dampness. Thought for the day goes to the river gauges, showing how volatile this winter has been.



Screenshot from Adam Coulson

8.1 Dry Events

- 12th February Committee Meeting



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From Nigel Hingston's Facebook (22nd Feb)



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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
Membership Secretary	Helga Pinn	membership@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
Welfare Officer	Alan Ede	welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk
Intro Course Coordinator	Lesley Hitchen	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	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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