

Paignton Canoe Club

Spring 2012-03-12



Exe Canal Paddle

Well, one day a newsletter will start with "Happy New Year"... Till then welcome to the Spring Newsletter.

First off, the NEW website is live! Thanks to Jon for all his hard work but it still needs more work. Please have a look at the site & if there is anything that you think needs to be changed or that you can add to, contact Jon. Photos would be most appreciated. jon@westcountrybusiness.com

New PCC phone number, 07530258146. Please use this number when passing club details on to Matt Read our Secretary. Please get new members to leave a message & then Matt can phone people back at a suitable time between work

In this issue

- Tuesday Night Trips
- Surf Trip
- Cornish Sea Trip
- Brecon Canal Trip
- White water
- Sea
- Pool News

Skittles & Buffet

The Manor Inn

Preston

Saturday 12th May

£8.00 P.P.

Contact Jo

Through the forum

Or on Facebook



Sam & Dan talking kit at Savage Hole.

Pool News

Kayak football has been fitted in between the courses & was received with a lot of enthusiasm from the players. We also had a games night where split into teams boats were chariot raced, rafts were run & chaos ruled. It was brilliant! Thanks to Jo for organizing the teams.

Courses have been running, with this year's course being fully subscribed. Thanks to Tim & Kati for providing the coaching with great results. There may also be the opportunity to be coached & be assessed for the two star qualifications. More details on the forum & website in the future. To achieve the new 2 star, training & skills are required in canoeing.

As usual, we have the pool booked for all the Tuesdays in April, with the last night in the pool being the 24th For Polo. We will return in October on the 2nd. The pool is our biggest expenditure of the year so if anyone has any ideas on how to keep people interested in going to the pool please post on the forum.



Winter Whitewater

It all started off very dry with a few trips at lower levels on the lower Dart, great for getting people to experience the moving water. Jo, Tris & Matt were some who took on the challenge of the river.

Christmas Break saw wonderful levels with paddling most days on various sections. Including paddling with Simon Berry, Rob Tew & a number of Brixham based paddlers who had done James white water training course last year. It's always great to see new faces on the river.

The Upper Dart

With less interest in doing the loop a hardcore group of paddlers hit the Upper Dart at every opportunity. Thanks to Carl Ross for encouraging us back onto this section of the river. It was run at various levels from the above the ideal "Just washing onto the ledge" to very much lower levels. Higher levels it becomes a fast river with precise lines to hit while at the opposite end of the scale, while slower water, it becomes a hard slalom around the rocks. A few swims happened including some of mine... At low level, the last big named drop "Pandora's Box or Surprise Surprise" saw me out of my boat after trying to avoid one of our group aground in the middle of the paddling line making me decide it was safer to be out of the boat than upside down in a nasty pinning spot. It really was fun to be stood in the river & actually practicing skills learnt on the ww rescue course. Another time just near the end of the Mad Mile & a bit above Euthanasia, the last ledge drop had me over. Upside down & trying to roll while scraping my hands on the rocks on the river bed, my paddle blade must have broken & the swim was inevitable! Thanks to Hugh, for the fast throw & the reeling me in with the throw line. With no paddle it was time to walk out... But below Euthanasia, Carl & friends from Port Of Plymouth CC were in the eddy. Luckily John Elworthy had a split paddle in his boat & the loan of it got me back on the water, saving me a long walk. But it wasn't just me... another on the Mad Mile Lawrence was paddling ahead of me when, a bit above the drop that had me, he went over at a good tasty level, seeing his third attempt at a roll fail, I paddled hard to catch him up. Almost stopped but just through one stopper & heading down to my favourite drop I looked behind to see Neil & Mike getting worked by the same stopper with Mike & Neil swimming. Lawrence & Neil both made it to the shore. Lawrence made it to the bank as I caught up with him & I ripped off my deck to get at my throw line. One backwards over the shoulder throw saw Mike on the line & with a quick pass of the line to Lawrence to reel him in, all was sorted. All good fun! It's not just our group who have swims, for each of ours there were many rescues where we helped others enjoying the river. We also had some good trips down the Loop including on one, Clinton paddling like a star on the river at a playful level. A few missed lines meant a couple of swims but He got through the main rapids with great style & superb reactive paddling. He has certainly caught the river bug! We were very lucky to once again be paddling with friends from Plymouth. *Big Thanks to Carl Ross, Buck, John & Julie Elworthy for all your help & experience.*

Cardiff WW Course

A number of ad hoc trips to Cardiff have taken place including an eye opening trip for Tris. More trips have been organised on the clubs forum & facebook page. Keep your eyes open for more weekend trips in the future. More Welsh WW trips may happen with a future trip up to the Tryweryn in North Wales with camping over a long weekend. It's about 5hr's of travelling & is a fast shallow grade 3-4 river with bigger drop at the end after a mellower grade 2-3 section. The river releases water from a reservoir to keep water levels up in the River Dee so runs throughout the summer.



Dart Access?

After a year paddling without any form of access "arrangement" (Note not "agreement") with any real opposition, the BCU/CE has discussed an arrangement. For some groups, mainly school & youth groups, it is assumed that they need to be able to paddle without risk of confrontation. An arrangement has been made on the River Barle & there is one on proposed on the River Dart. This would allow unchallenged access to the traditional parts of the Dart outside of the fishing season.

Sounds great but isn't, it gives off some mixed messages when the BCU should be giving a stronger & more positive message. There is very strong research that shows that everyone has the right to enjoy the rivers. As long as there is enough water to float over the riverbed then there should be no environmental damage & when the levels are suitable for kayaking it is unsuitable for fishing, therefore no conflict. Information & education, helping to strike a happy balance. Have a look on the web at the UKRGB for more views. Rob C.

Salty sea trips.

New Years Eve saw a sunny trip out from Brixham to Berry Head. We got to see a seal at the head & returned for cake at the car park made by Jo Reynolds. Very nice it was too.

Surf picked up in the Bay on a couple occasions & one lovely sunny afternoon, clean waves, meant a whole afternoon catching the rays & the waves. Not bad for March!

The Good Friday trip was from Stoke Gabriel to Dittisham, a lovely trip for the taking a canoe rather than a kayak. The Ferry Boat Inn was as welcoming as ever.



Tim has been paddling with some of the paddlers on the current course including a trip out to London Bridge...

London Bridge is not falling down, yet.

Saturday 10th March 2012. Forecast for the day. Water river levels, bedrock; sea state flat calm; wind none; white sky clear and blue; very low tide springs early afternoon.

Sounds like a good reason for an easy paddle in the Bay to explore the low water line, with the trip accessible in any boat to anyone interested.

We meet at Preston Sands in glorious sunshine and set off toward Torquay. For some this was a new perspective on the Bay, so being nose-ey at the nice houses and interesting garden features seen from the sea was an added bonus for what was to be a glorious afternoon

As expected the caves under Livermead Headland are dry so we passed by fairly quickly. More time was spent exploring the exposed Harbreck Rocks off Abbey Sands. No sign of the Petrified Forest today, but several baby star fish were found. And a lost bumblebee.



Around the rocks.



Bumblebee & Starfish,

On past Torquay Harbour, admiring the cliff geology at the start of the World Heritage Jurassic Coast, to London Bridge. We arrived more or less right at the bottom of the spring tide and had a great surprise. Revealed was a Y shaped cave that was navigable right through. This feature can only be kayak accessed a few hours each year so was a great find. Everyone had a go, though some paddlers were helmet-less. On your head be it fellow travellers!

Just up from the sea level were some Dead Man's Fingers and other blobby sea sponges. Nasty looking but fascinating things when out of their preferred environment.

A brief stop for a leg stretch on the beach underneath the Imperial Hotel and WW2 artillery command block house before heading for home. Landing at Preston Jo produced some delicious cakes, which tend not to keep very well when in the presence of paddlers.

More photos available on the club Forum, and also the club Facebook. It was a grand summer's day out in March; thanks to everyone for helping make it special.

Tim D



London Bridge.



Dead Mans Fingers.



Through the cave.



The group, behind the Arch.

Future Trips

May 26/27th Surfing North Devon. Camping at Lobb Fields at Braunton & paddling at Saunton sands. Please make your own bookings at the campsite. There are all the facilities you may need including a takeaway on site at certain hours. Directions, Head to Braunton & then towards Saunton & Croyde, the campsite is just after the houses end on the right hand side. Camping at <http://www.lobbfields.com/index.html>

Cornwall Two day, Sea trip 16/17 June. Long Boat Paddle. Based at Gorran Haven nr Mevagissey the plan is to camp at the site on the Friday night & on the Saturday paddle from St Mawes to Gorran Haven. In the evening hire a taxi & go for a meal at the Fountain Inn in Mevagissey. On Sunday paddle from Fowey back to Gorran Haven before picking up cars on the way home. Please make your own booking at the site. This trip will be done at a slowish pace to enjoy the scenery. Bring enough drink & food as there are less ice cream stops on this coast. Camping at <http://www.treveaguefarm.co.uk/>

Brecon & Monmouth Canal

Tris & Si fancy paddling the B&W Canal, 35miles long with overnight camping over a weekend. Definately one for the long touring boats! More details on the website when the details are finalised.

Exe Canal Trip, Paddle or Cycle, down to the Double Locks pub for a social, late afternoon/evening drink & meal. More details to follow on the forum & facebook page.

Tuesday Night Trips

These all start at 7pm & except for longer paddles go on till 9pm.

For the first 5 weeks in May we will be meeting at 7pm Paignton harbour. There is no parking on the harbour side! You may drive in to drop off your boats but you will need to then find a parking space elsewhere. Please be aware of other harbour users, keep boats away from the slipway & away from any marked pedestrian areas.

The club trailer with the kit will be brought to these harbour sessions but those on the course will get the first choice of boat & kit. After the May dates we will meet at Young's Park Road (YPR) Goodington. There are no facilities there! Please respect the locals by changing quietly & discretely at the end of the sessions. The trailer will NOT be brought to any other Tuesday sessions as it can be hard to park & often the boats are unused. Anyone wishing to hire a club boat & kit for a paddle will need to organize this with a Committee Member at least 2 days before.

June

5th Kingswear to Brixham, a 9 mile paddle. Meet 6.30 in the Darthaven Marina car park, Kingswear, to run a shuttle. Late finish, 10.30pm we will stop once at Mansands so bring a snack & a drink. You will need a light for later. Share transport & parking fees. Longer boats only please – It would be a long slog in a 2m playboat!

12th Livermead to Torquay Harbour for chips, Share transport & meet at Institute Beach, Cliff Road.

19th Paddle from Stoke Gabriel to Bow Creek & the Waterman's Arms, return late again! Lights, money & some warm clothes for sitting out in the beer garden in the evening. Friends & relatives are welcome to meet us at the pub from around 8pm.

26th BBQ Paddle from YPR to Silver Cove, next to Elberry Cove for a BBQ, bring your cooking gear, food & drinks. No pedestrian access.

July

3rd Newton Abbot to Teignmouth, Meet 7pm at Polly Steps car park, drive through the docks at Teignmouth to park & share cars. Drive up to Town Quay Newton Abbot & paddle with the tide down river back to the cars.

<http://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1107>

10th YPR.

17th Meet at Meadfoot again but for a longer & more exposed paddle around the Orestone & Thatchers Rocks. Park at the car park end, or along the roadside. Bring lights.

24th Babbacombe to Coombe Cellars Meet 6.30 at the beach car park, to do a shuttle of dry clothing & cars to the finish point. A longer paddle with a late finish, 10.30pm? Bring lights & even helmets for exploring the undercut cliffs if it's a flat calm sea. It has been a very lumpy trip in previous years!

31st Rescue Practise, YPR. Dress to get wet, practice those rescues & spend the evening just messing about in boats.

August

7th YPR.

14th Fireworks meet at the Quaywest side of Goodrington beach & paddle over towards Preston for a drink at Boathouse or paddle further before returning view the fireworks from the water. We will paddle as a group back along the beach & across the harbour mouth together. Lights of some form are required.

21st Exe Estuary, Cockwood to the Turf Lock Hotel, Meet at the Exeter side of the Harbour to be on water for 7.30pm, return late 10.30? Bring lights, money & remember to paddle as close groups on the way back – it will be dark!

28th Paddle from YPR for beach games at Broadsands, bring some food & drink. Who will win at rounders?

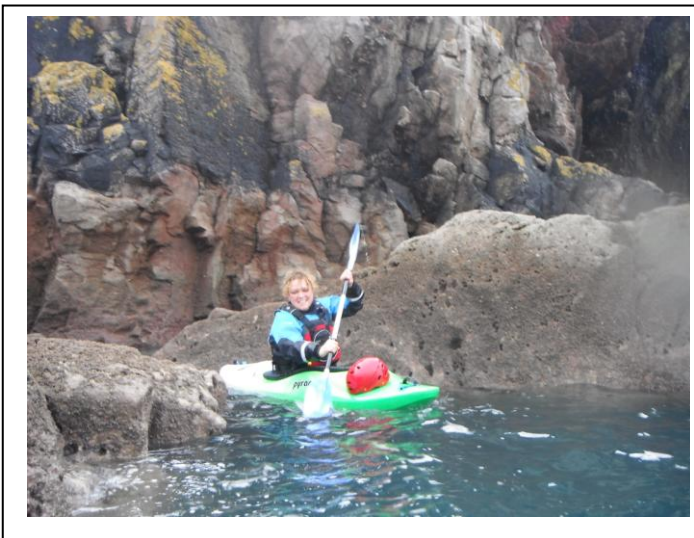
September

4th Paddle from Stoke Gabriel to Bow Creek & the Waterman's Arms, return late again! Lights, money & some warm clothes for sitting out in the beer garden in the evening. Friends & relatives are welcome to meet us at the pub from around 8pm.

11th Paddle from Preston. Meet Marine Parade & paddle to Institute beach for a BBQ.

18th Stoke Gabriel to Totnes in the Dark, Longmarsh carpark to shuttle down to Stoke Gabriel at 7pm. We have never tried this paddle before so who knows what may happen?

25th AGM with Pizza! Likely to be at Paignton Sailing Club, Paignton Harbour. Meet 7pm for a prompt 7.30 start. Pizza, for a change. Come along, chat & maybe discuss paddling plans after the meeting.



& Finally, the Olympics are on... There are two paddlesport disciplines, Sprint & Slalom.

Sprint is just that, paddling in a straight line over various distances in both Kayak & Canoe. The events will be on from Monday 6th to Sat 11th August.

Slalom is at the new Lea Valley White Water course, this will be from Sunday 29th July to Thursday 2nd August. This is more like what many of the club do on the river, using skills to get down a course but unlike on the Dart, the Olympic paddlers will be against the clock. The Olympic course is open to the public but it's further than Cardiff & a lot more expensive, making it unlikely that we will be paddling there in the shortterm.

Good Luck England & the other home nations!