

rowboat, equipment and transport but in my view those who have been before need to be acknowledged.

In 1983, expat Kiwi Ros Ricard and Canadian Greg Blanchette paddled a double from Inuvik through to Cambridge Bay. In 1988 Danish paddler John Andersen and Norwegian Vidar Sie were the first to achieve a human powered passage transit from Resolute to Inuvik by kayak. Canadian paddlers Victoria Jason and Don Starkell both wrote books of their early 1990s kayak trips from Hudson Bay to Inuvik, mostly by human power! See link below for a more detailed timeline. It does need updating with the 1983 Ros/Greg expedition. [www.thearticcowboys.com/past-present-kayakers-and-rowers-of-the-northwest-passage/](http://www.thearticcowboys.com/past-present-kayakers-and-rowers-of-the-northwest-passage/)

This Canadian four man rowing team in 2013 had a tough trial with northeasterly headwinds and pulled the pin at Cambridge Bay, well short of their goal at Pond Inlet. Their nightly blog updates sadly brought a rash of responses from nasty social media global warming deniers but the rowers decided not to respond.

For two months, on the rowing boat, the team dynamics worked well, especially with four crammed into the sleeping cabin for long periods with headwinds.

The eight page colour plate section should have had the photos boosted to page margins but they do include a photo of the Dutch solo paddler. Seriously missing: a single map or map sections, a bad omission.

A spiffing good adventure year of four blokes working well as a team with an unfortunate choice of vessel. The message of the rapidity of climate change 'occurring now' is really well told.

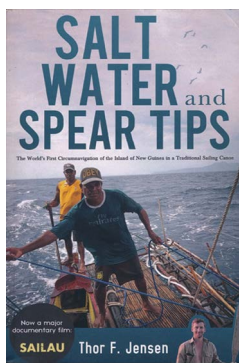
**Paul Caffyn**

when Thor asked her for advice '... if I hit rock bottom and don't want to go on?' Sandy told him to get a big block of chocolate and put it the one of his bags and when 'you come to crunch time... get out the chocolate.'

There is certainly plenty of drama but also plenty of wonderful interactions with local coastal dwellers, for whom travel by sailing canoe was part of their millennium old history.

**Paul Caffyn**

### Saltwater and Spear Tips



*Thor F Jensen  
Pegasus Elliot Mackenzie  
978 1 784656 85 0  
2020  
230 x 160mm  
438 pages, paperback*

The rear cover has the following summary:

'A Danish film-maker, under the apprenticeship of three Papua New Guinea master sailors, set off from Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea, on the 30 August 2016, on a world-record circumnavigation of the island of New Guinea in a traditional sailing canoe

called the *Tawali Pasana*. Over the course of 13 months and 21 days – and some 6,300km of high adventure – what became known as 'the fellowship of the Tawali Pasana' created a modern-day odyssey (on a shoestring budget) battling relentless monsoon winds, dangerous seas, pirates and crocodiles. Prevailing against all odds, the voyage generated enormous media coverage and inspired the young people of New Guinea to celebrate their extraordinary seafaring culture.'

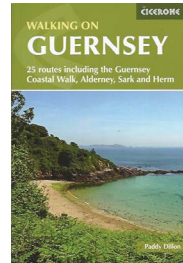
Thor's narrative is very readable, an engrossing account of the trials and tribulations of working with a crew of three experienced Milne Bay locals to sail a dugout canoe, with a single outrigger or ama, around New Guinea.

Fortunately, early on, Thor got in touch with Aussie solo paddler Sandy Robson as she neared the end of her five year recreation of Oscar Speck's folding boat voyage from Germany to Australia. She provided contacts, friendly and not friendly, and map info on the north coast. Because Thor failed to get a ticket of entry for a sailing vessel into Indonesian New Guinea waters the ensuing wait of 89 days at Vanimo resulted in a change in the seasonal winds from tailwind southeasterlies to monsoonal (norwesterly) headwinds, thus slow progress to the western tip of NG.

Although Thor was making a film of the voyage there is just a single team photo in the book, at the finish in October 2017. The black and white sketches by Thor are superb but I would have liked to see photos of the coastal folk met on the voyage and village life. Perhaps this is the teaser to seek out the documentary movie of the voyage. The maps are well drawn and illustrated although some do need a magnifying glass to read the place names mentioned in the text.

The insights to the coastal dwellers around the island are wonderful insights into isolated village life and the blokes in uniform with their bungling bureaucracy in Indonesian controlled western New Guinea. The story is very engaging, well written with the highs and lows experienced by Thor and his crew. A lovely quote from Sandy Robson,

### Walking on Guernsey



*Paddy Dillon  
Cicerone  
978 1 78631 130 6  
2011. 3rd edition 2023  
170 x 120mm  
207 pages, paperback  
£14.95*

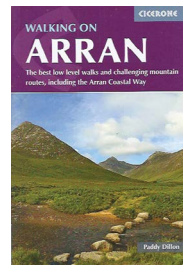
'There is no doubt that most of the best scenery on Guernsey is around the coast.' So says Paddy Dillon of an island which is all within 3km of the coast.

This guide consists of a series of clockwise circuit walks, the outer parts of which fit together to form a 61km coastal route, accompanied by many photographs of the coast.

Alderney, Sark and Herm are also featured with the Alderney Race and the Swinge. Together, these form parts of the Channel Islands Way, a 182km coastal walk. Brecqhou has no landing allowed but is best seen from a small boat.

Maps are unusually detailed, mostly at 1:15,000, including locating the many structures remaining from the German occupation during the Second World War.

### Walking on Arran



*Paddy Dillon  
Cicerone  
978 1 78631 135 1  
2004. 4th edition 2023  
170 x 120mm  
283 pages, paperback  
£16.95*

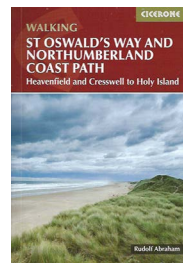
The anticlockwise circuit of the Arran Coastal Way forms an important part of this walking guide by Paddy Dillon, the most prolific of any author we have encountered, well over a score of whose books we have reviewed here.

The first part of the book is more to do with the high peaks of the northern half of Arran. He often admires waterfalls but the rivers met are too fast and shallow to be paddled, quite apart from the lack of roads leading up the valleys, a problem which also puts the various lochans out of reach.

'The first hunter-gatherers approaching the Isle of Arran in simple canoes found a forested island with only the highest peaks protruding above the tree canopy.' This is the introduction to Arran's turbulent history, which follows on from its geology and is brought right up to date with over a page on the Scottish Access Code.

The various walks often cover the same ground but each has a stand alone description so that there is a degree of repetition. This avoids missing information hidden in other parts of the book. Mapping is by sections of OS 1:50,000 map.

### Walking St Oswald's Way & Northumberland Coast Path



*Rudolf Abraham  
Cicerone  
978 1 78631 155 9  
2023  
170 x 120mm  
132 pages, paperback  
£16.95*

The first half of St Oswald's Way is inland while its other half uses the Northumberland Coast Path, the latter running from Creswell to