

TSCC

*When the autumn colours do us please,
we prepare our boats for the winter freeze.*

Windsor and Eton Bridge

In this issue: Battle of Britain; Royal Marine's Band; Japanese Jamboree; Sunbury Fireworks; Sonning Court; Trefall Guild; Photographic Competition; Annual Dinner.



Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No. 100
November 2015



Chairman's Log



Hello everyone.

This edition of our excellent newsletter is the one hundredth. I feel quite privileged to be writing the Chairman's Log especially in such a superbly edited journal. A special thank you to Peter Simpson for achieving this for our club.

The summer is over and we are nearly into winter, people have said we had poor summer weather but I remember the good weather, firstly for our Strawberry Tea. On our down river trip to the West India dock we only one bad day. We had lots of sunshine on our Arundel visit. Our up river cruise to Hurley was beautiful for the whole of our stay. So my summer was very good indeed.

After Hurley people tended to do their own thing meeting up here and there along the Thames.

Those who went to the Battle of Britain talk at the Union Jack club would have listened to a very moving and informative talk.

Raymond and I joined members of the TSCC for the band concert at the very good G Live venue in Guildford. We had a meal there first and then enjoyed the excellent concert.

On 12th November we went to the TSCC Annual Dinner, it was as usual a great success. Well done David for your excellent organisation.

Now we are looking forward to our stay at Cricket St Thomas.

I always like to end my log by thinking of our club members who are going through very difficult times with their health; I know I speak for all the TSCC members when I wish you all a speedy recovery.

*With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,
Elaine*

Battle of Britain Talk at the Union Jack Club



For those of you who don't know, the Union Jack Club is a venue close by to Waterloo Station for the use of present or ex servicemen (non commissioned). On special occasions they open their doors to visitors. In late September, there was such an occasion - to remember the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and those who fought so hard therein. This was marked by way of a marvellous talk.

The large lecture room was packed and, at times, one could have heard a pin drop as the daring escapades of the young pilots were disclosed. Some as young as 18 with an expected life span of only weeks! I found it particularly poignant when photographs were shown, with the comment 'after that dog fight, he was killed' or, 'he was left blind' or, 'he was badly burned face and hands'. The vast numbers of aircraft that flew every night and as the battle increased, in daytime too, were into the hundreds. Empty places at breakfast showed how many were lost most nights. The lecturer spoke of dog fights over many parts of our coast line and how badly our cities such as Ipswich, Portsmouth, Southampton, Coventry, Plymouth, London and many more suffered from bombing night after night Britain literally was fighting for her life in those few months, fighting against invasion from Germany.



Of course it was not only the flyers that were important. Without the ground crew, who kept the planes capable of flying, sometimes rebuilding an aircraft in a matter of hours, there would have been nothing for them to fly. Also, these airfields were under constant risk from bombing and many were left smouldering with huge loss of life. The women who spent long hours tracking and spotting enemy planes were remarkable. Some even getting to know the German flyers by their conversation, if not understanding exactly what they were saying.

As the weeks went by and the particularly bad few days of 14th, 15th and 16th September came and went, Hitler began to lose faith in his air force - if only he had known just how far down on their knees our air force were he might have thought differently. However, our servicemen and women, our people, kept their nerve and refused to give in and so The Battle of Britain as it is known, came to be won by the British, and lost by Germany.

We were given huge numbers of statistics and I hope the reader will forgive me for not using them - but I would surely have got them wrong!

Linda Grundy

The Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines

Collingwood

This event, on 17th October, at G Live (Guildford) was enjoyed by 32 TSCC members and friends, many of whom met-up for a meal at the venue beforehand.



The Royal Marines Band is so versatile – we have seen them marching and playing on Horse Guards Parade and at other venues but this was different. On a stage, with the band seated and a professional sound system, their musical expertise was shown-off at its best. Under the direction of Major Pete Curtis MBE, there was a beautiful blending of instruments and a fine balance

between them; absolute unity with everyone precisely in time – a feast for the ears. We were treated to a varied programme including a very popular Big Band section and the ever enthralling Corps of Drums.

Major Pete proved to be a very able M.C. as well as conductor – filling-in between pieces with some good humour. Towards the end, he introduced, and thanked, a charming young female French Horn player (who was kindly standing-in on the night). He added: she had a somewhat old-fashioned name – she was the only lady he knew with the name of Elsie who still had her own teeth!

A highlight of the evening was a tribute to the 11 marines who lost their lives on 22 September 1989 when an IRA bomb exploded at the Royal Marines School of Music building in Deal. The Band played the Final Countdown followed by Love Changes Everything. Not only was this a moving and fitting tribute but the arrangement and playing was truly outstanding.



The concert was to raise money for Seafarers UK – a charity that helps people in the maritime community including the Merchant Navy, Fishing Fleets, Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

The **Royal Marines Band Service** is the musical wing of the Royal Navy. It currently consists of six Bands and its headquarters is at HMS *Excellent*, Whale Island, Portsmouth. It is the only branch of the Royal Marines which is open to women. **HMS Collingwood** (in Fareham, Hampshire) was formed on 16 June 2009. It replaced the Band of Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

In addition to music making, **Royal Marines Musicians and Buglers are fully trained and operational military personnel** and usually perform support duties such as logistics, medical personnel, and drivers. Additionally they may also provide entertainment for troops deployed overseas and represent the Royal Marines in an ambassadorial role.

Souvenir mugs were on sale after the event which display the Cap Badge of the Royal Marines. The word "**Gibraltar**" refers to the Capture of Gibraltar by a force of Anglo-Dutch Marines in 1704 and the subsequent defence of the strategic fortress throughout a nine-month siege against a numerically superior Franco-Spanish force.



There are no other battle honours displayed on the colours of the four battalion-sized units of the current Corps. The Latin **motto "Per Mare Per Terram" translates into English as "By Sea By Land"**. Believed to have been first used in 1775 this motto describes the Royal Marines ability in fighting both afloat on-board ships of the Royal Navy, as well as ashore in their many land engagements. The fouled anchor, incorporated into the emblem in 1747, is the badge of the Lord High Admiral and shows that the Corps is part of the Naval Service.

Our thanks to David Sowter for the idea of putting this in our programme and for booking the excellent seats.

Peter Simpson

My Japanese Jamboree Experience

By Helen Ainscough, 8th West Wickham Scout Group and Senior Quartermaster at the Docklands Scout project.

My experience of the 2015 Jamboree started at 4:30 in the morning on the 25th July in making my way to Heathrow Airport. The Kraken Unit, the South-East and South-West London Contingent 5, boarded a flight at 6:30 making our way to Germany as our first leg of the journey to start our Jamboree in Japan.

Before we arrived at the Jamboree site we had 2 days to spend with a Japanese family. We were the only group in the UK who were to complete Home Hospitality in the island off of Japan called Okinawa. Okinawa is around 640km off the South of Japan and is the 5th largest island in Japan. The climate in Okinawa was extremely different to the UK, as someone who has never left Europe I found it hard to acclimatise. Once we got off the plane that took us from mainland Japan to Okinawa we were hit by a wall of heat with the temperature at 45 degrees and the humidity around 80%. Despite the heat, we were greeted with welcoming faces in the evening of the 26th. We were introduced to

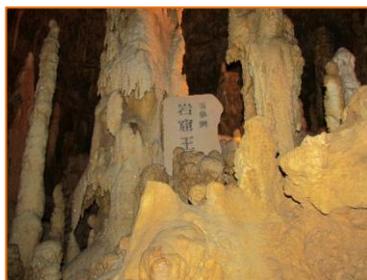


the Okinawa culture by the local scout group that we would be staying with for a welcoming ceremony. The scouts performed traditional dances and songs for us and by the end of the night everyone was off of their seats joining in with the dances of Okinawa. Two scouts dressed in a Shisa costume, a Shisa is meant to resemble a cross between a dog and a lion. As the Shisa danced around the audience it would act as if to bite the



head of someone in the crowd, this represents good luck in Okinawa culture.

For the next day and a half we were sent in pairs to stay with a local scout to experience Japanese culture. The Girl Scout I stayed with was called Shiho; she had lived on the island her whole life and welcomed us into her home with her family straight away. On our first night we ate traditional Okinawa soba noodles which consisted of a noodle like soup with beef in the centre. The next day we were taken to Okinawa World which was a centre on the island to showcase all aspects of the Okinawa culture. We were able to look through the museum at different statues from the Edo period and learnt about where they had originally come from. The highlight of our



trip to Okinawa World was the cave under the ground where we were able to look at and take photos of the stalagmites and stalactites. Whilst staying with Shiho and her family we observed one of their customs which was to say a short prayer before and after each meal, to give thanks for the food we had to eat.



After spending a day at Okinawa World and enjoying an evening with the family we had to wake up early again at 5 to arrive at the Okinawa airport in order to get our flight to the Yamaguchi prefecture (meaning region) where the Jamboree took place. A short flight of 2 hours got us to the Jamboree site for the 28th August, the arriving date. Our first

day on site saw us setting up our tents and our unit site. On the 29th we were able to explore the Jamboree site and spent the evening at the opening ceremony. At the opening ceremony we were first introduced to the theme of the Japanese Jamboree of 2015: “Wa”, which means a spirit of Unity.

Wa has many different meanings in Japan, such as unity, harmony, friendship and peace. Some even say the idea of Wa captures the essence of Japan. The theme of Wa was central to many aspects of the Jamboree and the activities involved with the Jamboree.

Our first programmed day on site, as part of the Jakuchi sub-camp, our unit was scheduled to spend at the ‘city of science’. We learnt about the use, development and issues surrounding electricity, we were taught about how different countries are affected by it and how we should develop the use of electricity in the future to benefit the Earth instead of destroying it.

Considering we were all still trying to acclimatise to the heat on the second day our unit were very pleased to learn that we would be spending the day doing water sports. The water activities took place on the man-made beach within the Jamboree site. The activities consisted of tug of war between our patrols within our unit, games of football and netball against other units from other countries. We were very happy to of won a netball match against a group of Columbians even if it was only by 2 points.



Helen Ainscough is on the right

To finish off the water session there was a big water fight with water bottles. Ditches were made in the sand for hiding places and everyone got involved and really enjoyed it.

There were many different nationalities on the Jamboree site and it was difficult to be able to experience all of them, so the Cross Road of Culture day gave us the opportunity to really celebrate all the different cultures living on the site. Every unit camp put on their traditional food and drink in order to share it with others. I tried South African tea with traditional African biscuit while being entertained by the South African scouts playing the vuvuzela (plastic horn). I tried pancakes and maple syrup from the Canadian unit camps, Chile from the Mexican unit and spicy noodles from the Thai units.

The Peace Programme was the first time we completed an activity off the Jamboree site, we visited **Hiroshima City**. We learnt that Hiroshima was targeted by the US during the Second World War; on 6th August 1945 at 8:15am one of the first nuclear bombs was dropped over Hiroshima and killed 80,000 people. I found the entire day very moving as we walked around the remains of the city and visited the museum. We attended a



memorial ceremony whilst visiting Hiroshima, poetry written by survivors was read out and sections from books on Hiroshima. Hiroshima was my favourite day during the Jamboree as I found it was very informative and enlightening about the power of destruction. I liked how peace was promoted throughout the day by everyone we spoke to.



On my day at Hiroshima I learnt of Sadako Sasaki, when she was 2 years old the atomic bomb named 'Little Boy' by the Americans hit her home in Hiroshima. Sadako was not affected until 10 years later when she developed leukaemia due to radiation from the bomb. Her parents always told her of a Japanese myth that if you made 1000 origami Peace Cranes your wish would come true, Sadako's wish was to find a cure and survive leukaemia. At the age of 12 Sadako died of Leukaemia in spite of making over 1000 Peace Cranes she did not get her wish. Her friends from her school

continued to make Peace Cranes in memory of her, and in Hiroshima city a statue was made in dedication to her. People from around the world still come to leave Peace Cranes in her memory.

The following day we spent off site for community day, we visited the city of Hikari around 3 hours away from the Jamboree site. We attended a local high school, where the students and teachers introduced us to some of their activities. They first took us to their music department where the orchestra performed for us; we then got to meet their archery club which was very important to them and a traditional past time. My favourite part of the day was the tea ceremony they put on for us; all the female students dressed in kimonos and served us tea in the traditional style of Japan. We were taught the certain way to pick up our dishes of tea and how to drink it.

Another day off site was Nature day when we visited a local nature reserve, all our patrols walked around the reserve separately. Whilst exploring the park we discovered many different animals we wouldn't normally find in the UK, we found lizards and crabs around the water and damp areas and very colourful insects in the grass. We also completed activities whilst there, they all promoted team work and how



important your members of your group are. These activities consisted of carrying a member of our patrol safely with two wooden poles and rope, we had to use different skills we had such as knot tying.

On our last day we took part in the Global Development Village where there were many activities set up to introduce us to real world issues such as politics and the economy. Our patrol chose to participate in an hour long activity which would teach us about the economy and how it works. Every patrol taking part represented their country in the world economy, the activity was meant to represent the stock market. We were given pencils, rulers and scissors to make shapes out of paper; these shapes represented goods



that could be sold on the market all costing different amounts. Throughout the activity goods could decrease or increase in value, we had to predict what we thought would happen and make certain shapes based on these predictions. After an hour of representing the UK in this activity we won by generating the most amount of money against two Japanese teams, a French team and a German team.

We left the Jamboree site in the Yamaguchi Prefecture on 8th August and got a 5 hour journey on the Bullet Train to Tokyo. We spent almost three days in Tokyo at the Prince Shinagawa hotel in central Tokyo. Tokyo was very different to Yamaguchi in that it is constantly lively as a capital city. On our first night we watched fireworks in the centre of the city which only takes place one a year. The traditional religions of Japan are Shinto and Buddhism we visited three shrines which seemed to be both Shinto and Buddhist. At each shrine there were different ways of entering, in one we had to wave our hands over a burning pot of incense and then

wave our hands over our head, at another shrine we had to wash our hands and mouth before entering.



These both represented the cleansing of oneself before prayer in the Temple. Our time in Tokyo was a mixture of cultural visits, for example, to the shrines, visiting the world's busiest pedestrian road crossing and shopping. Whilst in Tokyo I restrained myself from shopping and only came back with five kimonos! In the shop, when asking to try on a kimono, I was surprised when I had personal treatment by two of the English speaking assistants who dressed me in my kimono without even asking me. On our last night our unit leaders surprised our group by taking us to a karaoke place where we had a whole room to ourselves with food and

obviously karaoke. Our whole unit was brought together and enjoyed themselves very much we were able to spend our last night together as a unit.

My time at the Jamboree has taught me about much more than I thought it would. I was taught about how the world is at present and how it should be; the world should be like the Jamboree where all countries live in harmony with one another and work together. This is where I feel the theme of the Jamboree is very relevant, throughout the Jamboree a spirit of Unity was felt by everyone and I can say that I feel we all need to embrace 'Wa' not just as a country but as a World.

WOW! Quite an experience.

Thank you very much, Helen, for this excellent report.

The TSCC is pleased to have sponsored Helen for the Japanese Jamboree along with Laurence Delamore and Jarrett Milen of 2nd Molesey (St Paul's) Scouts and Lauren Thompson-Chisnall of Ajax Sea Scouts. We have received letters of thanks from all of them.

Helen's report demonstrates just how worthwhile these Jamborees are for young people. One thing that occurred to me while reading this was that it should be compulsory for all world leaders to visit Hiroshima soon after they take office. (Ed.)

SUNBURY FIREWORKS

On 15th August a crew of TSCC members met for dinner at the Weir Hotel which overlooks the Thames just upstream of Sunbury Lock. The meal was very good and there was the usual friendly chit-chat and banter. After the meal, we had a leisurely stroll along to the lock and watched the tail-end (too much chat?) of the



Illuminate Sail Past. This was organised by members of the Middle Thames Yacht Club who always do a marvellous job making their boats look quite spectacular. Following the sail past we watched the excellent firework display. This lasted about twenty minutes and really was top notch. There seemed to be climax after climax making it difficult to predict which climax was going to bring the show to an end. The fireworks mark the end of Sunbury Amateur Regatta which dates back to 1877. The show is free but there is a collection with all proceeds going to the Junior Regatta and local charities.



Barbara Long would like to say thank you so much for the kind thoughts, good wishes, and cards sent to her while she has been recovering from cancer. She says the support that the TSCC gives its members is very much appreciated.

Oh to be able to bend a spoon....

Sonning Court is well known to TSCC members, most of whom will have moored on its private stretch of the Thames. Some of us have met psychic Uri Geller on his way out for an evening walk. However, he is now selling his Berkshire mansion for £15million after living there for 35 years.

The spectacular property, located in Sonning, is close to George and Amal Clooney who bought on the nearby island hamlet of Sonning Eye last year. There are also rumours that Brad and Angelina and Taylor Swift are now also looking to move to the area.

Sonning has never been short of high profile faces as Uri's neighbours include home secretary Theresa May, Boris Johnson and Led Zepplin guitarist Jimmy Page.

Uri Geller is going to return to Israel, where he left in 1972. The multimillionaire has bought a modest flat in Tel Aviv overlooking the Mediterranean.

In the garden, and visible from the river, is a red pyramid. Three times a year Uri flies-in terminally ill children and tries to inspire them to think positively inside the glazed walls of the unique structure.

Sonning Court was constructed around 50 years ago and was based on the design of the US presidential address, The White House. It comes with nine bedrooms, including two spectacular master suites. The ground floor includes a reception hall, two drawing rooms which lead to a magnificent large glass atrium, a panorama room, which has nine-metre glass doors onto the garden, formal dining room, a study, two guest lavatories and a summer dining room.

The Poppy Factory

A year ago TSCC visited the Poppy Factory in Richmond. In 2010 they set an ambitious target to help 500 Disabled Veterans into life changing employment and they have just achieved that target. They estimate that there could be around 35000 unemployed veterans with health challenges that need their unique support. If you would like to support this inspiring charity, please visit www.everydayhero.co.uk

Trefoil Guild AGM

This year's AGM for Trefoil Guild was in Ireland. We flew from Bournemouth to Dublin then by coach to Galway we stayed here for 4 nights, visiting the Cliffs of Meyer and places in that area. We then travelled up to Londonderry. Our hotel looked out on the Peace Bridge. We had a reception in the civic centre, the lady Mayoress welcomed us. We had a very windy guided tour on the wall around the city. The AGM was in the Millennium Forum and in the evening it was in the same hall for the entertainment. The following day, we could choose one of several trips. I chose to go to the American Museum. First we had a talk on patchwork quilts then a guided tour. There were lot of cottages belonging to people who had lived here and had emigrated to America. There were also some of their houses from America. That evening there was a concert in the Everglades hotel. We from Surrey West dressed up in our Green outfits,

The next day we travelled to Belfast where we stayed at the Guide Training Centre, Lorne. We were not far from Belfast lock where we took several walks. While at Lorne we had coach trips to Giant's Causeway and the Titanic exhibition, After the Titanic we decided to go on the Hop on/off bus trip. We could feel the secular divide here with all the walls painted, not like Londonderry where we were so welcome. For the last night we had a gala dinner as if we were dining on the Titanic, we dressed up in our posh frocks. The next day we flew home from Belfast to Southampton.

On the 1st October I travelled by train to Derby, then by taxi to Swanwick for the Swanwick Trefoil Gathering at the Hayes Conference Centre. Most of us were in Lakeside with very comfortable rooms. We had to go over to the main house for all our meals. All our activities were in the building at the back. We had talks by a Shepherd and on Well Dressing. We had entertainment and lots of different craft. My outing was to the National Memorial Arboretum. It was very impressive. Over the August bank holiday Diane and I were volunteers at "Wellies and Wristbands" at Foxlease in the New Forest: 2500 campers. I was in the cafe tea bar, the marquee was in the walled garden, we were very busy. Diane was in the pop-up shop on the muddy field; they were supposed to close at 8pm but customers were queuing to get served as late as 9.30pm. All our food was served by outside caterers in a very big marquee. It was very good, well run. We were lucky we were staying in the house, especially when we had a very heavy downpour on the last morning, on the way to breakfast there were huge puddles everywhere. Transport was well organised coaches going to the airport and station.

Betty Gosling

The Ray Andrews Trophy 2015



Congratulations to Pauline Simpson on winning the photographic competition for the second time with her picture of the weir stream at Days Lock. The competition was judged by Linda and Chris Turner. This lock is one of the favourite overnight moorings of TSCC members and is a pleasant walk across fields from Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. The pound lock was built in 1789 and is the main gauging station for the measurement of water flow in the River Thames. The World Poohsticks Championships, on behalf of the RNLI, took place annually here from 1983 to 2014; they have now moved to Witney. From the lock you can see two hills topped by trees – the Sinodun Hills – known usually as the Wittenham Clumps and less respectfully as Mother Dunch’s Buttocks.

ANNUAL DINNER



Our annual dinner was as good as ever. People were very generous with their raffle prizes; this gave David an enormous number to get through – which he did with his usual efficiency and speed. Huge thanks to everyone who donated prizes and especially to those who could not make it to the dinner but still gave a prize.



There was lots of dancing and those who took to the floor were clearly having a fun time.



We made a profit on the evening which will go towards our continuing support of scouts and guides.



TSCC Programme of Events for 2016

Saturday 16th January	Skittles Match TSCC – WMC & BBC
Sunday 24th January	TSCC AGM
Saturday 6th February	Burns Night Supper at TMYC
Saturday 5 th March	Quiz, Hinchley Wood
Saturday 12th March	ATYC Dinner & Dance Marlow
Friday 15th April	Fitting Out Supper
Sunday 15th – 22 nd May	Norfolk Broads Spring Cruise
June TBC	Cream Tea on either the Basingstoke Canal or the Wey Navigation.
Monday 11 th – 16 th July	Cruise to Hurley Lock Island
Saturday 13 th August	Sunbury Regatta and Fireworks
Friday 26 th - 29th August	ATYC Rally West India Dock
Thursday 15 th OR Fri 16 th September TBC	RAF Museum, Tangmere and Woolbeding Gardens
Saturday 15 th October	Royal Marines Band Concert at GLive Guildford
Thursday 10 th November	TSCC Annual Dinner
December TBC	Winter Event

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