

TSCC



Cricket St Thomas

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Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No. 101
March 2016

Chairman's Log



Hello everyone.

Since my last log, we visited Cricket St Thomas just before Christmas. We all had a most enjoyable time; I only heard very positive comments throughout. Thank you David for organising the trip, I know how much hard work it involved.

In January we enjoyed our Skittle's Match at Byfleet Boat Club. Unfortunately we were unable to repeat our win of last year – in fact we picked-up the Booby Prize! which was collected by Peter. Our thanks again to the members of BBC for their excellent hospitality.



Our AGM was once again not only very efficient but a nice social gathering with an excellent presentation from Lauren Chisnell-Thompson.

Those who visited The Fishmonger's Hall thoroughly enjoyed the occasion; it's wonderful to hear about our rich history. Well done Rosie for organising the visit especially as you have had such a difficult time recently, it was wonderful to see you joining in again.

Now it is March, the gardens have come to life with all the spring flowers and we can look forward to the coming months, we have a great programme to look forward to so I hope to see you at as many events as you can join in with.

As usual, I like to end my log thinking of any of our members who have health problems; we wish you all a good recovery.

Best Wishes
Elaina

TSCC welcomes new members JOHN and WENDY McPHEE.

They have a 31ft Broom: China Rose.

Shoeboxes.



Raymond and I once again spent as much time as we could before Christmas working at the distribution depot where the shoeboxes are checked and sent on their way to many parts of the world where they are gratefully received by the children. We both love the time we spend there.

I would like to thank members of TSCC who give me all sorts of items for the boxes, soft toys, toiletries, pencils and knitted gloves and hats. The children will be so pleased to receive these gifts.

A great big thank you on behalf of the children.

Elaina

P.S.

**I am collecting used stamps,
so please think of me before you throw them away.**

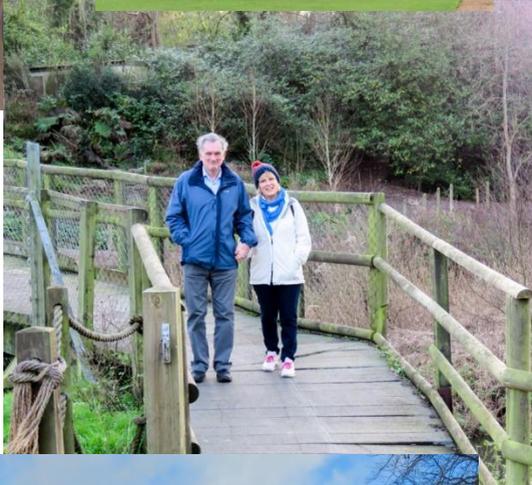
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Pictures
from Clive
Bowles



Rosie - terrifying the other guests on her speedy chariot while having great fun herself. We are delighted to report that she is back on her feet now so we can all rest easy.



18th December 2025

Cricket St Thomas was a wonderful day

What else would you expect Judy Bowles to be doing?



TSCC had a wonderful time at Cricket St Thomas. The grounds were beautiful and many of our group took advantage of a break in the weather to have a stroll around.

TSCC Annual General Meeting

Fifty-three members attended the AGM, that's 53 out of a membership of 88 - an attendance rate of just over 60% - quite remarkable for any AGM.

We were pleased to welcome Mary and Alan Osborn. Mary Osborne thanked TSCC on behalf of The Scout Association for all we do to assist scouts and guides.



We were delighted to have a presentation from Lauren Chisnell-Thompson of Ajax Sea Scouts. We had contributed to the sponsorship for Lauren to attend the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan and she came along to tell us all about it. She provided many insights into Japanese life and culture and showed lots of photographs. Her talk was very interesting and entertaining.



Jessie and Gordon were presented with the model RNLI Lifeboat in recognition of their idea for TSCC to enter the "Poohsticks" style race on 10th April 2015. Our boat finished - say no more - but we did raise £260 for RNLI.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

Simple ultrasound scans have helped detect more than 10,000 aneurysms - potentially serious blood vessel swellings - since a now UK-wide screening programme started in 2009.

If left untreated larger abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA) - where the main blood vessel in the body weakens and expands - can be deadly.

But because many do not have symptoms, people may be unaware they have an AAA until they fatally burst.

A million men have been screened.

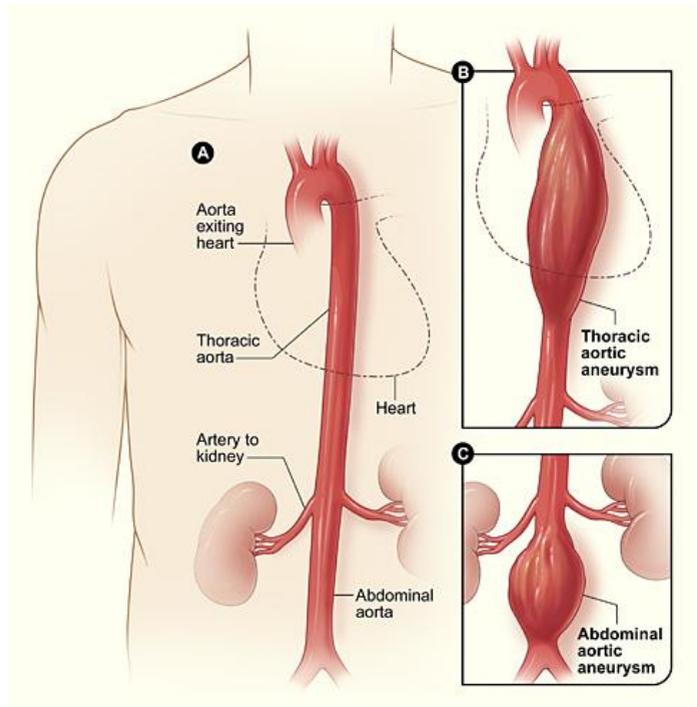
Until 2009, the UK had one of the highest death rates for aortic abdominal aneurysms in Europe.

Now invitations for AAA screening - which involves a simple ultrasound scan to look for weaknesses and enlargements of the aorta - are sent to every man in England aged 65.

And they have been rolled out across the UK since the end of 2013.

Men aged over 65 can request a free scan by contacting their local AAA screening service directly.

Under the programme, 2,000 men with large aneurysms (the most dangerous) have undergone successful surgery.



People with aortic vessels that are swollen to a lesser extent are often monitored and may be called back for further scans.

Surgery is only offered in cases where benefits outweigh the risks.

Public Health England says after 10 years of screening, half of all ruptures should be prevented, saving an estimated 1,500-2,000 lives a year - though the data to support this is not yet available.

Aortic aneurysms are less common in women and current evidence suggests offering screening would do more harm than good.

But an official review is under way to see if women should be included in future screening programmes.

For more information go to www.nhs.uk

Visit to Fishmongers' Hall

The guided tour of Fishmongers' Hall, adjacent to London Bridge on the north bank of the Thames, was arranged by Rosie for 8th February. Little did she know when choosing the date that it would be right in the middle of storm Imogen and the 21 members who attended would have to face 50mph gusts crossing London Bridge and surely more than that around the base of the Shard if they walked from London Bridge Station.

Once inside the late Georgian neo-classical building it was warm and cosy. We started with tea or coffee and a talk from a very well informed guide covering the history of the London Livery Companies and particularly the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers.

There have been Livery Companies or Guilds in London since medieval times and the Fishmongers of London were recognised as an organised community long before Edward I granted their first charter in about 1272. This, and other charters granted in the reigns of Edward II and III, maintained that no fish could be sold in London except by the 'Mystery of Fishmongers'. The Fishmongers enjoyed a period of great expansion in the 14th Century and with a complete monopoly on the sale of fish – one of the chief necessities of life in the Middle Ages – the Company's wealth and influence grew enormously. As well as taking a prominent part in the affairs of the city, the Company had its own Court of Law (Leyhalmode), where all disputes relating to fish were settled.

The Company enforced strict regulations about the sale of fish, for example fish could only be sold outdoors so that stale fish could not be passed off under poor lighting conditions, fish could not be sold on the second day after it was landed and it could not be watered (or washed) for a second time.

The Company concerned with the sale of fresh fish and other seafood, took the name Stock Fishmongers' Company under another Royal Charter granted in 1508. Then, in 1537, it merged with the Salt Fishmongers' Company to form the Company with its present name.

It was explained to us that in 1515 an order of precedence was set up among the 48 Livery Companies then in existence, the precedence primarily determined by their wealth and influence and this order is maintained to this day in City of London ceremonial events and processions. The first Company in precedence is the Mercers, followed by the Grocers, the Drapers and the Fishmongers is fourth. The Goldsmiths come fifth and the Merchant Taylors and the Skinners have long disputed their precedence, since they both received their Charters in 1327 with no proof surviving as to which was granted first. The problem has been resolved by the two Companies swapping between sixth and seventh places at Easter each year. This mix-up is a favourite theory for the origin of the phrase "at sixes and sevens". Those companies formed after 1515 have precedence determined by the date of their foundation.



As the Thames riverbank was gradually extended with man-made ground for the wharves and warehouses of medieval marine traders, one long slice of land between Thames Street and the river became successively the domestic and commercial premises of three prominent fish merchants and Lord Mayors of London. They were John Lovekyn, Sir William Walworth and William Askham. It was Sir William Walworth, who, as Lord Mayor of London in 1381, helped to bring the Peasants' Revolt to an end by stabbing the rebel Wat Tyler to death at Smithfield in the presence of King Richard II. These riverside premises were extended in 1444 to include a great hall, large enough for the gathering of the newly important Fishmongers' Livery Company. The building had access from both the street and the river, and the Fishmongers' Company had sole use of its wharf until The Great Fire in 1666.

On Sunday 2nd September 1666, Fishmongers' Hall was the first of forty Livery Halls to catch the flames of the Great Fire of London. This is not surprising since the baker's shop in Pudding Lane, the source of the Fire, was less than a couple of hundred yards away.

Thanks to the Hall's riverside location, the most important documents, the iron money chest and the Company silverwares, were safely transported away by boat, but the building itself was destroyed.

Edward German designed a replacement Fishmongers' Hall in red brick and after his death, Thomas Locke completed it in 1672. During its century and a half of existence it was painted by many artists including Canaletto who painted the Thames river-frontage viewed from Southwark.

In 1828, the City Corporation took part of the Hall's site to make way for the new London Bridge and the Company decided that a re-build was necessary. In 1831 the Fishmongers' Company announced a competition for the design of a new Hall. It proved to be England's most notable architectural competition between 1822 (for London Bridge) and 1835 (for the Houses of Parliament) and attracted 87 entrants. The winning design, by Henry Roberts, was selected in 1832 and featured an arcaded base in the Roman-aqueduct style, a Greek style building level with King William Street and a riverside terrace. Construction materials included

Portland stone on three sides and brick on the fourth (hidden) side. The Hall was completed in 1835, and until 1920 it was the tallest building apart from churches in central London.

We then started a guided tour of the building. In the entrance hall is a large cylindrical chandelier installed in 2015 and featuring 743 bone china fish coated in pure gold. (see photo). There is one fish for each year of the Fishmonger's Company's existence.

The main staircase starts as a single flight and splits into two at a half-landing. In the hallway at the bottom of the main staircase there is a very ornately embroidered coffin cover or pall in a glass case, dating from 1512. (see photo). This was commissioned to cover the coffin of each liveryman who died and it was in use until Puritan times.

Annually, after the Lord Mayor took up his post, there was a procession on the Thames of Livery Companies' rowing barges in designated precedence order. A couple of years after the traditional river procession ceased in 1854, the Fishmongers' barge was destroyed. There is a fine model of the barge on the main staircase and this design was used when the Royal barge *Gloriana* was built for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee procession in 2013.



One of the distinctions of the Fishmongers' Company is that it organises the Doggett's Coat and Badge river race each year. The founder of the race, Thomas Doggett, was an Irish actor and comedian who came



to London around 1690 where he rose to become Manager of the Drury Lane and Haymarket theatres. Doggett was also a committed Whig and when George I came to the throne following

the death of Queen Anne in 1714, he had the idea of founding the race that bears his name and still takes place annually. It was first rowed on 1st August 1715, the first anniversary of the Accession of King George I and has taken place annually ever since. The 300th race took place in 2015. Thomas Doggett organised the race until his death in 1721 and he left money in trust for its continuance. The following year the Fishmonger's Company organised the race and has done so ever since. Six Thames watermen who have just completed their apprenticeship compete in the race from London Bridge to Chelsea, a distance of 4 miles and 7 furlongs. Up until 1873, competitors rowed against the tide using four-seater passenger wherries, but today the race is rowed with the tide in modern sculling boats. It takes between 25 to 30 minutes to complete the course.

Each year at the presentation of Doggett's Coat and Badge to the race winner, previous winners dressed in their bright red Doggett's Coat and silver Badge, form a Guard of Honour up the main staircase to the dining room.

The main room overlooking the river has a 1740 silver chandelier that was found to be adulterated with copper when it was polished for the first time. The silversmith was

prosecuted and also expelled from his Guild and the chandelier was replaced with one in pure silver. The room also contains crystal chandeliers dating from 1820 that have now been converted to electric lights.



The main dining hall faces King William Street and has a wonderful barrel-vaulted ceiling (see photo). It was designed for members of the Company to dine and has been used for this for most of its history, but it has had other uses. Very soon after the outbreak of the First World War it was offered to the War Department and used as a military hospital. During the General Strike of 1926 it was used as a dormitory for 80 or so Oxford undergraduates who had volunteered to unload food ships in Hay's Wharf just across the river. During the Second World War it was used as a British Restaurant operated by the Ministry of Food, serving economical good wholesome hot lunches to City workers with the added advantage of ration books not being needed.

We spent nearly two hours on our very interesting talk-and-tour of Fishmongers' Hall and then it was out into King William Street and London Bridge to face storm Imogen again. Our sincere thanks to Rosie for organising this visit.

Tony Scott

St. George - Patron Saint of the Scout Association

"Friends, Romans and Countrymen, lend me your ears". What, you may ask, has this got to do with St. George? Well nothing really but, William Shakespeare was born on St George's day 1564 and died on the same day in 1616. It was he who has Henry V using St. George to inspire the English victory at the French port of Harfleur in the summer of 1415, using the cry **"God for Harry, England and St George"**

After the battle Henry and his few thousand able bodied men made their way to Calais. En route, at the small town of Agincourt, they were confronted by a French army three times their size. On the 25th October, just before this new battle, while speaking to his officers, Henry said, **"...gentlemen in England now a-bed, shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here, and hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks, that fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day."** Henry then goaded the French knights into charging across a narrow strip of boggy ground bordered by woodland. Floundering in the mud, the French knights were easy pickings for the English longbow men.

Several stories have been attached to St. George the best known is the "Golden Legend". This tells of a dragon that lived in a lake. Whole armies had gone up against this fierce creature, and had gone down in painful defeat. The monster ate two sheep each day; when mutton was scarce, lots were drawn in local villages, and maidens were substituted for sheep. Along came St. George. Hearing the story on a day when a princess was to be eaten, he crossed himself,



rode to battle against the serpent, and killed it with a single blow with his lance. George was given a large reward by the king, which he distributed to the poor, and then rode away.

George never really killed a dragon but it may have been a crocodile. He was most certainly a real historical figure who was born in Palestine in 250 AD and was an officer in the Roman army. He was beheaded for being a Christian on the 23rd April around 303AD.

In the 12th Century, Richard the Lionheart led the Third Crusade against the Saracens in St. George's name. This was his first association with England. In 1222 the Council of Oxford appointed 23rd April as his Feast Day in England. He became our Patron Saint in the 14th Century. But it was only in the year 2000 that Pope John Paul 11 recognised him as such.

We share him with:- Aragon, agricultural workers, archers, armourers, Beirut, Lebanon, butchers, Canada, Catalonia, cavalry, chivalry, Constantinople, equestrians, farmers, field hands, Genoa, Georgia, Germany, Gozo, Greece, herpes, horses, Istanbul, knights, lepers, Lithuania, Malta, Moscow, Palestine, plague, Portugal, the Royal Society of St George, saddle makers, skin diseases, soldiers, syphilis and Venice.

Devotion to St George became common in Europe after the 10th Century. In the 15th century his feast day was as popular and important as Christmas. Many of his areas of patronage have to do with life as a knight on horseback.

Anthony Richards gives a definition of an Englishman in this poem:

***“He views the Channel as a trench
Laughs at the Germans, hates the French
Though docile on his starchy diet
He'll rush abroad to quell a riot.
He hates a fuss, seldom complains
Accepts poor service and late trains
But full of ale there's hell to pay-
Remember that on St George's day”.***

In 'Scouting for Boys', Baden-Powell referred to the Knights of the Round Table in the Arthurian Legend, and to St George who was their Patron Saint. He then went on: 'He is also the Patron Saint of Scouts everywhere. Therefore all Scouts should know his story...' He felt that the Saint George legend set a good example of faith, courage and perseverance for future generations.

David Sowter

On 31st August 2015 the following item appeared in the Daily Mail:

On 31st August 1983 Russell Doig of Surrey, won a special trophy for catching the first salmon in the Thames for 150 years.



Now You See Her

Since 1922 HMS **President** has been permanently berthed in the River Thames on the **Victoria Embankment**



in the City of London close to Blackfriars Millennium Pier. She is listed on the National Register of Historic Vessels as part of the National Historic Fleet. Before 1922 she sought to destroy “U” Boats in World War One, as a secretly armed “Q” ship. Throughout her time on the Thames she has fulfilled a number of roles including protecting St Paul’s Cathedral during the Second World War.

She was transformed with a 'camouflage' paint job by a German artist to mark the centenary of the start of WW1. The anti-submarine ship's makeover was inspired by dazzle camouflage, in which glaring colours and geometric shapes were used to mislead enemy U-boat captains during the First World War. Artist and sculptor Tobias Rehberger transformed the ship.

The **Thames Tideway Tunnel** will run 16 miles from Acton to Beckton intercepting foul water that runs into the river at times of heavy rainfall. One of the access tunnels will enter from Temple Avenue, next to where the ship has been moored. So HMS President had to go. She left her traditional mooring next to Blackfriars Bridge on Saturday 5th of February this year at 02:00 and was towed downriver, her funnel and



wheelhouse having been removed so she could pass underneath the various bridges downstream. It is reported that the Marine Survey, carried out before the move, found that the hull was so thin due to rust, that there was no option but to sadly head the ship for Chatham and the breakers yard.

David Sowter

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The Ray Andrew's Trophy 2016

The subject this year is:

“Sailing Boats and/or Rowing Boats”

Traditionally the subject matter is confined to the Thames but this year pictures taken on the Norfolk Broads will also be eligible.

The Trophy is presented annually for the best photograph taken by club members.

Photos, before judging, will be on show at the Club Annual Dinner.

Please either post or give your photos to a Committee Member at or before the Annual Dinner.

Photographs can be colour or black and white and any size. They should be printed and may be unmounted, mounted on card, or framed.

Attached to the back of each photo should be a note of:

- Who took it
- Where it was taken
- When it was taken

Entries will be limited to one per individual member (in this instance, a member includes partners and crew). Thus, for example, husband and wife can each submit one entry.

All members are eligible to take part except the judge(s).



Clive Bowles - learning a new skill after the AGM at Ajax.

TSCC Programme for 2016

All dates and events are subject to change

March 5 Sat	Quiz & Fish & Chips Hinchley Wood
March 12 Sat	ATYC Dinner Dance Marlow
April 6 Wed	TSCC Committee
April 15 Fri	Fitting Out Supper- Anglers
April 24 Sun	Sonning Mill - Glen Miller Orchestra
May 15-22 Sun-Sun	Norfolk Broads Cruise
June 17 Fri	Afternoon Tea - Basingstoke Canal
June 29 Wed	TSCC Committee
July 11-16 Mon-Sat	Up River Cruise-Hurley Lock Island
July 12 Tues	Maidenhead Waterway Project
July 13 Wed	Hellfire Caves/Stanlake Winery
July 14 Thurs	Antes Chocolate Factory
August 13 Sat	Sunbury Regatta Firework Display
August 26-31 Fri-Wed	ATYC Rally West India Dock
September 16 Fri	Tangmere Aviation Museum & Woolbeding Gdns.
October 5 Wed	TSCC Committee
October 15 Sat	Royal Marine's Band at GLive Guildford
November 10 Thur	TSCC Annual Dinner - Glenmore House
November 30 Wed	TSCC Committee
Dec. 11-12 Sun-Mon	Christmas at Potters and Thursford



The Committee - in rather cramped conditions - having an impromptu meeting at Ajax after the AGM.

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