

TSCC



In this issue: World Scout Jamboree; Aldeburgh; Skittles; Doreen Crook; AGM



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Chairman's Log



Our fabulous Pre-Christmas Getaway Weekend now seems little more than a distant memory – but what fun we all had (well all but one of us – our deep commiserations to Rosie who will remember the weekend for totally different reasons!). Despite snow, ice, accidents and truly adverse conditions, our intrepid coach driver Malcolm managed to get us to Snape just in time for a quick bite to eat before the curtain went up on the Co-op Juniors Christmas Spectacular. And what a spectacular show it was, full of colour, music, dancing and the fantastic vibrancy of youth. Our hotel was first class and whilst our trip to Southwold was wet and windy, the atmosphere inside Adnams brewery was warm and welcoming and both the brewery and distillery tours were truly fascinating. The 'icing on the cake' was our stop-off at

Tiptree on the way home for a delicious afternoon tea with scones and lashings of the famous Tiptree strawberry jam. A big thank-you to my wife Jackie for the countless hours of meticulous planning.

It was great that our AGM was once again attended by almost two thirds of our members. How many organisations can say that about their AGMs? We must be doing something right. Hearty congratulations to Peter Simpson and Dusty Miller who were both presented with Scout service awards by County Scout Active Support Manager Mary Osborn.

Most recently we enjoyed an immensely successful Skittles Evening at Ajax. There were close to 60 participants including strong contingents from the Byfleet Boat Club and Weybridge Mariners. We have attended this event on several occasions at the BBC clubhouse and we decided it was time we reciprocated. It was a real fun evening and seemed to work extremely well. A big thank you to the BBC for the magnificent hand-crafted trophy they donated. A pity they took it home again at the end of the evening – clearly we need to sharpen up our skittles skills! A huge thank-you to Rosie for organising, to our leading ladies for the catering, and to George, Pauline, Tania, Peter, Ray and anyone else who helped with the scoring or the re-positioning of the skittles. Our immense thanks to Glenn Wouters from the RNLI who gave us a talk on the importance of wearing lifejackets and then kindly inspected a total of 39 that members and guests and brought down with them. Shockingly, only nine out of 39 were safe to use!!!! If you have not had your lifejackets checked recently we strongly suggest you return them to the manufacturer for a service. It normally costs around a tenner – not much to pay to avoid the risk of a watery grave!

Jackie and I are (again) disappearing for some winter sun but we look forward to seeing you in April for our annual Fitting Out Supper which marks the beginning of this year's boating season.

Mark

TSCC is affiliated to: ATYC, River Thames Society, and River Thames Alliance.

Cover photos - Front: From the coach on the way to Suffolk; Back: Wentworth Dinner

World Scout Jamboree – Is this a Record?

During our Pre-Christmas Getaway Weekend we met local Aldeburgh resident Richard Hickson who told us he attended the 1947 World Scout Jamboree. We wondered if there were any others in the room who had attended World Scout Jamboree in one capacity or another or who had a family member who had done so. The result is shown below:



a



From the left: George Barber (Sutton Coldfield 1957), Frank Gaylard (Sutton Coldfield 1957), Richard Hickson (Moisson, France 1947), Betty Gosling (Kristianstad, Sweden 2011), Max Grundy representing son Lance (Alberta, Canada 1983), Graham Bucknell (Sattahip, Thailand 2002). *Mark*

World Scout Jamboree 2002/3 – Behind the scene.

At our Christmas weekend in Suffolk Mark arranged a photo call of those who had been to a World Jamboree. We all had different memories and I thought I would share my behind the scene experience.

In the autumn of 2000, two years before the jamboree start date, I was approached to be the Water Activities Adviser for the Thailand World Jamboree Organising Team. Having organised the UK Contingent to the Canadian Jamboree but not attended it

due to the untimely arrival and intensive care needed for my son Rupert I thought “at last a chance to attend a World Jamboree”.

My first planning meeting in Bangkok was in January 2001. At this meeting I found there was an outline plan for water activities that was totally unworkable. The Thai Scout Association is linked to the Education Ministry and had assumed that all Scouts would behave as the disciplined Thais and march in an orderly and smart fashion from place to place. They had not taken into account how long it would take 40,000 to move from A- B or J-C or F-H etc. Water Activities were only a part of the programme with never more than 4,000 on the water at any one time. With the original programme the Scouts would hardly have had time to get their feet wet before moving on.

A drastic reprogramming was needed. When I visited the jamboree site I found a beautiful 2 km beach of gently sloping golden sand; split the beach in two and the activity bases could be doubled and we had the basis of a programme. With the cooperation of my Thai counterpart a Captain in the Navy we produced a list of necessary equipment. It soon became clear that we would need all the Navy rowing boats, dragon boats, small size buoyancy aids, a fleet of safety boats and so the list went on. Having tried out a couple of sites for snorkelling we decided it was not practical. A jetty was needed to split the beach and to moor the power boats.

Half of the instructors would be from the Navy the others would be from the International Service Team (IST) and a list of criteria for them was drawn up. Ideally they should speak either English or French, be able to swim and hopefully have some water knowledge. From this first meeting, planning continued by e-mail and phone calls with the World Scout HQ in Geneva.

The second meeting six months before the jamboree pulled everything together. The mammoth pier had been built. It seemed to stretch to the horizon! For overall site security a Special Boats Service Frigate had been added to our equipment list. Their primary role was night patrols to keep out the Thai fisherman but it seems more time was spent with highly unofficial and highly frowned on night joy rides and ships visits for IST members.

I arrived on site ten days before the first Scouts and was met by a hive of activity. Roads were still being tarmacked, marquees erected everywhere and avenues of fully grown palms being planted (the Minister of Education thought the site looked bare!) and vast dumps of our activity equipment had arrived. Four days of team

training. Christmas Day came and went and then 40,000 scouts arrived and despite my concerns after the first day it worked like a well oiled machine. 4,000 scouts a session had a fantastic time. "Face the Waves" was voted the best activity of the jamboree.

Personal highlights:-

- Showing the King of Sweden the beach activities and his nearly being pole-axed by a Dragon Boat beaching too fast. Subsequently I found it was the Berkshire Troop who were aiming at me.
- See the sun rising over the water while shaving before anybody else was up.
- Returning from a BBQ with 3 double decker buses of the water team being banned from entering the site and leading a mass invasion.
- Finding out the day the jamboree closed that Longridge had been totally flooded and that Iris, Rupert and Piers had coped without me.

Graham Bucknell

TSCC Grant to Eleanor Frame

Last year TSCC made a grant to support Eleanor Frame with her working visit to Tanzania with the Hampshire Scouts.

Their project involved decorating a voluntary medical facility in a fairly remote part of Tanzania. Originally, Eleanor was going to come to the AGM to speak about her experiences but she was in New Zealand and had to give her apology. She provided a report on her trip which George Barber read-out at the AGM.

The work involved lots of sanding, sweeping and painting. After around 12 days they finished the project.

"The day of our opening ceremony was one of my favourite days in Tanzania. Firstly, we went to the church for a mass with the local people, who were all very grateful, as expressed by the cheers and smiles on people's faces. The building was then opened and blessed by the Bishop."

Eleanor concluded "The expedition to Tanzania was such an amazing experience I feel like I've made a positive impact to Iragua and the surrounding area, I was able to see the differences in a less developed country, I made some great friends and made some awesome memories. I definitely look forward to both travelling and volunteering in the future."

Aldeburgh, Suffolk -

Christmas Getaway

Day 1

Even a cold early Sunday morning with sleet in the air could not dampen the Club's spirits for our Christmas getaway to Suffolk. Once all loaded onto the very comfortable warm coach off we went on our trip.



As we pulled away from a stop near Lakeside the weather began to change with the sleet very quickly turning to snow. It seemed like everybody wanted to travel on the same day as us. The scenery changed into a winter wonderland right before our eyes.



Fortunately Rosie had brought supplies and the tin of chocolates passing round the coach was very much appreciated. Although our journey was longer than anticipated we were so grateful we had such a superb driver.

Spontaneous applause was given on our safe arrival at Snape Maltings. Such an array of individual outlets covering everything from Christmas decorations to furniture, arts



and crafts and local jams and relishes. Everybody managed a quick coffee and cake before heading into the Concert Hall for the main event of the day.

As always we had prime seats for the Co-Op Juniors Theatre Company's Christmas Spectacular of 'In the Land of Oz'. An amazing performance with a beautiful spin off from a much loved favourite. With over 100 performers and many more behind the scenes, especially family members making costumes, it was hard to remember that this was an amateur production.

After the show it was back to the coach for the drive to the Wentworth Hotel at Aldeburgh. What a joy that all the checking in to rooms was so quick and organised. After unpacking and a quick change it was time to explore the hotel before dinner. Our party virtually took over the bar and seating areas. Beautiful rooms with log fires surrounded by Christmas decorations. Once seated the food and wine was enjoyed by everyone together with crackers, hats and silly jokes.



The Wentworth Hotel

In conversation with other diners Mark discovered an association with the scouts relating to world jamborees covering many years. What a small world but a good club photo opportunity. After a long day with lots of adventures, everyone was very much looking forward to day two.

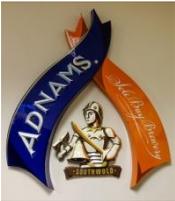
Judy Bowles



Behind the bar after the Adnam's Distillery tour

Day 2

Day two sees us preparing to enjoy a day in Southwold. So after a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast. We set off kitted out, as suggested by Jackie before our trip, for whatever the Suffolk weather throws at us. Today it is rain and wind we have to contend with.



Our group are booked on tours of the Adnams Brewery at various times during the day, some will learn of the brewing side of the business others have chosen to tour the distillery. So it is left to us all to enjoy our day in Southwold however we choose. A bracing walk takes us along to the pier with its small shops and amusements from the past to explore. The lighthouse built to aid ships in the original harbour is in fact on the edge of the town (I have a feeling the first keeper just wanted to be able to nip home for lunch without getting wet!!) A visit to the Seamen's reading room above the beach which is now a museum tells the history of the battles in Sol Bay and contains models of many of the boats..... yawls, destroyers and the like which make up the local shipping history. A look around the small town's quaint shops and light refreshment..... time for our tour.

We were lucky enough to be on the last Distillery tour of the day. We were treated to much information by Nicky our guide who has a great affinity with the Adnams family business which was founded around 1872 by Jordan and Ernest Adnam. Their staff of around 400 at the time would have lived in tied cottages around the site. Jordan Adnam did not stay the course and set off to the Zambezi where sadly he became lunch for a crocodile. So the business, until recent years, has passed down the line of Ernest' part of the family and is now run by John Adnam Jr. However in recent years a descendant of Ernest, Bradley Adnam, has come to light and joined the business. As



Southwold Lighthouse from Adnam's Brewery

John Adnam jnr has no heir at this time the succession will pass on through Mr Bradley's



heirs. John Adnam Snr died in October 2017 and the brewery dray was brought out of storage to transport his coffin on his final journey.

When the brewery needed updating a few years back it was decided that as beer sales were declining the business needed a distillery to move into spirit production as well as the beers. Adnams produces all its own vodka

from locally sourced malt wheat and rye and it is the vodka that provides the base for the gins and whisky they also produce. The company has an eco friendly way of production; it is also responsible for the condition of part of local beach and has a local bee colony to help the environment.

After absorbing a lot of facts and figures and touring the distillery building seeing its computer controlled production it was time for us to enjoy the end products. We tasted two gins, two vodkas and two whisky's before drinking a sloe gin toast to John Adnam Snr whose



passing earlier this autumn was a sad time for the staff at the business. On to the shop to take home some of their products to enjoy before venturing back to the coach to return to our hotel, where tea or coffee and cakes were awaiting those who wished to enjoy them.

At dinner this evening we took part in a Christmas quiz compiled by Rosie, who sadly was not well enough to join us but we all wish her a speedy recovery.

On Tuesday we could not believe our luck, it was a sunny morning, very cold and icy so care was needed venturing in whichever direction our group chose to take. To the right from our hotel we ventured past the fish sellers busy "smoking" parts of their catch and on to the quaint little shops around the small town. To the left of the hotel we could take a stroll to the Clam Shell statue on the beach which is a tribute to Benjamin Brittain and his connections with the area and is inscribed.... "I hear those voices that will

not be drowned"...from his opera Peter Grimes. Also views across to Thorpness and Sizewell and the "house in the sky".

Lunch time saw us bidding farewell to our base The Wentworth Hotel where we had been so well cared for during our stay and began our journey back to Surrey. En route we stopped off in Tiptree, Essex at the premises of Wilkin and Son Ltd who produce various preserves the contents of which are mostly grown on their farm and picked by students on their International Farm Camp. The farm covers some 800 acres growing strawberries, plums, cherries, quince, damsons and mulberry to name but a few. We all enjoyed a lovely cream tea in the Tiptree Tea Room. A tasty end to our pre Christmas break and of course many tasty purchases were made in the Tiptree shop where we found they also make fruit flavoured gins(yes we could taste them).

Our driver Malcolm safely transported us back to Esher. A tired but happy group of friends who had shared many lovely memories on our Suffolk visit. We all made our way onward to our home base.

Our thanks to Jackie and Mark for so efficiently organising this trip for us all. Here's to more memories in 2018.

Pam Dennis

TSCC Grant - wheelchair accessible motor launch

Mark explained at the AGM that next year the Club will be giving support to the 1st Cuddington (Warspite) Sea Scout Group in their project to purchase a wheelchair accessible motor launch in collaboration with the Wheelyboat Trust, a registered charity that has supported a number of these projects. The boat would be in the ownership of the 1st Cuddington Sea Scout Group and would be housed at the Ajax Water Activities Centre. It would be available for use by individuals with a wide range of disabilities.

Mark said that the TSCC Committee had agreed to award a grant of £500 towards the purchase of a Wheelyboat and he read out a letter of thanks from Richard Hunt, GSL of the 1st Cuddington Sea Scout Group.

Roger Jones said that the 1st Surbiton (Sealions) Sea Scout Group, of which he is Group President, would also donate to this project and Mark added that Ajax would also contribute.

SKITTLES

This year the TSCC decided it was about time we hosted the annual skittle match between Byfleet Boat Club, Weybridge Mariners and the TSCC. Having checked to



see if the Ajax Sea Scouts hall was available we went ahead and issued the invitations. We decided to include a ploughman's supper, a raffle and a member from the RNLI to talk about and check life jackets. An interesting evening we thought, then there were rumblings, "ooh you'll never get the Byfleet to go anywhere but their club house", also similar mutterings about the Mariners.



We were borrowing a skittle alley from the Hinchley Wood Scouts for the evening but there was a slight problem, they had lost their balls..... I was tasked to find replacements, but wasn't very successful and eventually rang Rodney at Byfleet BC to ask if we could borrow theirs. Good old Byfleet not only came up trumps but one of their members Dick (The Fish) actually made some for us, "turning" out 3 perfect wooden balls.

What a surprise the committee was in for when the evening arrived, while still preparing the hall at 6.30 pm, our first visitors arrived; it was the lovely Byfleet family of Mark, Rose and their charming son Ben from Brighton. By 7pm the hall was really beginning to fill up, we hurriedly found more tables and chairs to accommodate everyone, the place was heaving. Having checked numbers from both the clubs we were expecting 18 from Byfleet and 8 from the Mariners in fact



there were 24 from Byfleet and 15 from the Mariners. Who was it who said they wouldn't leave home? It was great to see so many people.

Mark our chairman, welcomed everyone and introduced Glen from the RNLI who gave a very interesting if somewhat sobering talk about safety. It was surprising to learn among other things that river water temperatures are several degrees colder than sea water, also how dangerous cold water shock could be, another point he stressed was that if someone falls in they might not have just slipped but could have injured themselves and be unconscious so it was imperative to have all life jackets in full working order. While George got the game of Killer Skittles underway Glenn set up shop in the outer hall to check life jackets. In all he checked 39 of which only 9 passed. Some had in fact to be condemned as they couldn't be repaired. Glen worked hard all evening, at one point he asked for the heating to be turned down as he was beginning to "glow". The heating is rather strange at Ajax, it is either on or off and sometime later I noticed Heather putting on her coat she was getting cold, so it was once again the heating was turned on.



George continued manning his flip chart of teams all evening and was ably assisted by his "scoring" ladies and skittle "replacers". Thanks to Jackie's catering expertise with more than anticipated numbers the ploughman's supper managed to go round and everyone had something to eat plus tea

and coffee. Pauline and Tania sold raffle tickets and the winning ticket belonged to our own Dusty raising £250 for RNLI funds. The winner of the skittles was Catherine Frew-Brown from Byfleet BC and she was presented with a magnificent trophy, made by Dick "the fish". Very fitting in this 100th anniversary year of women getting the vote that a woman should win. Hopefully this trophy will be competed for next year at the Weybridge Mariners club using their brand new skittle alley.

A great big TSCC thank you to all 52 who turned out on a cold and wet winters evening to enjoy a fun and friendly inter-club event.

Rosie Sowter



At this years' AGM, Mark presented a "Thanks Badge" to Elaina Mears for all her wonderful work as a Committee Member. Elaina is standing down from the Committee for a year. Elaina explained that 2018 is the year of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. She has a busy year and is not

able to devote sufficient time to organising TSCC activities.

Mark added that Janet and George Barber would also be celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversary in 2018. They were married on the same day and in the same church as Ray and Elaina, which is quite a coincidence.

This is also the Golden Anniversary year for Bob & Diana Breeze and the Diamond Anniversary year for Martin & Joan Raftery. We congratulate them all and give our warmest good wishes for a happy year of celebrations.

Mrs Mary Osborn the Surrey County Scout Active Support Unit Manager was invited to speak and she gave thanks to TSCC members for their fundraising efforts to support young people in Scouting. She said it is essential support and is very much appreciated.

Mrs Osborn then presented 10-year Scouting service awards to Peter Simpson and Derek (Dusty) Miller.

Doreen Crook.

Doreen and her husband John were TSCC members back in the early 1990s. Sadly, we were informed by her son Les that she passed away peacefully on 22 November 2017 surrounded by her family. Some members may recall that Doreen and John had a small cabin cruiser "Roxanna".

Les said "I know she enjoyed her time with the club and even at the end of her life she recalled the friendship of your members with fondness".

TSCC PROGRAMME FOR 2018

All Dates and Events are Subject to Change

ATYC Dinner Dance	Saturday 3 March
“Crazy for You” at Wimbledon Theatre	Wed. 7 March at 2.30 pm
Fitting Out Supper at The Mitre, Hampton Court	Tuesday 10 April TBC
Norfolk Broads Cruise	Thurs. 10 – Thurs. 17 May
Cruise to Hurley Lock Island	Monday 25 – Friday 29 June
Strawberry Tea at Little Compton	Saturday 21 July
ATYC Rally, Queens Promenade, Kingston	25 - 27 August
Visit to London Postal Museum, Phoenix Place, WC1X 0DA	Friday 14 September
October Event TBA	TBA
TSCC Annual Dinner venue TBA	TBA
Pre-Christmas Getaway TBA	Date TBA



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