

TSCC



MERRY CHRISTMAS

In this issue: Postal Museum; Garden Party; Annual Dinner; End of an Era; Trefoil 75th Anniversary.



scouts.org.uk/activesupport

Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No 109
December 2018

Chairman's Log



At our recent Annual Dinner, I was lucky enough to be judged winner of the Ray Andrews photographic competition.

This set me wondering about the man whose name is on the trophy since, as a relative TSCC newcomer, I did not have the pleasure of knowing him.

Ray was born in 1952, (even younger than me!), and sadly he 'crossed the bar' in 2006 at the age of 55.

Ray spent his entire career with BT and, when he was not working, Scouting was his primary passion. He held various appointments with Berrylands Scout Group and later he became District Scout Leader for Surbiton. In this latter role he was involved in the organisation of numerous events including charity walks and St George's day parades as well as District and County Scout Gang Shows. He was also an air rifle instructor at Southwood Activity Centre in Tolworth as well as a keen caver who led many expeditions. And for good measure he was also active with the Amateur Radio Association – and he became a Rotarian!

But in later years his greatest passion was boating on the Thames.

Ray joined the TSCC in 1996 after purchasing a Freeman 23 which he used whenever he had the opportunity. He took part in all the Club cruises, both up river and down river when he was always responsible for the radio and safety checks that are essential on tidal waters. He was also the Club's official photographer and took loads of photos on every trip. At TSCC rallies on Cookham Lock Island he was invariably one of the set-up team and he usually provided the 'water taxi service' from the camp to the mainland.

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

Cover photo - A very sporting Brian Townsend at the Postal Museum

His funeral was attended by over fifty Club members and there was an extensive Scouting 'guard of honour' that underscored the high esteem in which he was held by all who knew him.

If a job needed doing Ray would get it done and he was always there to assist anyone in need. For these and his many other qualities, he was greatly respected and it was to preserve his memory that the TSSC photographic competition bears the name of Ray Andrews.

Next year it would be great if there were a flood of entries to this competition and to encourage this I am proposing a couple of changes. Firstly we would like to receive all entries as email attachments so every photo can be displayed at our Annual Dinner as a high quality A4 print. Secondly, we would like to get everyone involved so we will be asking all those attending the dinner to select the photo they think stands out above all others. The winner will be the entry with most votes.

Now that I know a little about Ray Andrews it will give me even greater pleasure to be the custodian of his trophy for the next 12 months. If he were with us today I have no doubt Ray would still be enthusiastically engaged in Club activities and taking photos at every opportunity.

With the year-end approaching, may I wish you a joyous Christmas and a happy, healthy 2019. Jackie and I look forward to another year of fun and friendship with all our fantastic friends who belong to this amazing Club.

Mark

TSSC GRANTS

(paid in 2018)

£700 support for 7 scouts from the 1st Surbiton Sealion Sea Scouts to attend the World Scout Jamboree.

£300 support for Elin Johnson of Ajax Sea Scouts to attend the World Scout Jamboree representing Surrey & UK Scouts.

£500 support to 1st Cuddington (Warspite) Sea Scout Group for their Wheelyboat project.



On the 14th September twenty-four members made their own way to London to join up and visit the recently opened Postal Museum. We started off with a short talk about the cargo ship SS Gairsoppa which was sunk by a German U-boat off the coast of Ireland in 1941. It had left its convoy which was travelling at 8 knots from India via Sierra Leone as it was running out of fuel and decided to head for Galway instead of Liverpool. Amongst the cargo was silver bullion worth £150 billion (in today's money) also on board was enough tea for 65% of the British people and 600 bags of mail. In 2011 a Florida based treasure hunter won the tender to rescue the cargo. It took 4 hours to descend to the sea bed where the ship was found in the upright position making it easier to unload the cargo. The salvage hunters were able to claim 80%

of the value with the rest going to the British government. The most fascinating thing was to see some of the salvaged letters which had remained in perfect condition due to the depth that they had been for over 70 years. On display was an ingot of silver, but many of



The Post Office trialed this Hen & Chicks pentacycle for delivering mail in 1882. This was a reaction to a new parcel delivery service meaning staff had to carry bulkier loads. Its popularity never extended beyond the town of Horsham, West Sussex, where its inventor lived.



Ever seen one of these? A post box just for Air Mail.

us thought it was probably a house brick painted silver!. After the talk everyone

wandered around the museum at their own pace some trying on old fashioned uniforms and admiring lovely old postal vehicles including a penny farthing delivery bicycle before gathering for our mail train ride. We all managed to climb on board the tiny train, originally built to transport mailbags under the streets of London. There was an interesting commentary by an ex postal worker and most of us were amazed that this railway was no longer in

use and instead the mail is transported by lorry on London's heavily congested roads. After our ride some of us enjoyed trying to sort mail on a "moving train" while others watched a short film. We then made our way to the Union Tavern a very short walk in beautiful autumnal sunshine for lunch. Everyone was glad that they had made the journey to visit the museum, some admitting that it had been more interesting than expected and one and all enjoyed the very fresh and generous portions of food served at the pub before making our way home before the rush hour started.



Does anyone remember Croydon Airport? It closed in 1959 but before that planes delivered mail from here to the Empire.

Rosie



On-board the miniature Mail Rail train. The service dates back 100 years. Its heyday was in the 1930s.

Our thanks to Rosie for organizing this fascinating and most enjoyable visit.

THE TSCC GARDEN PARTY

Mark and Jackie once again kindly hosted a terrific garden party.....



Presentations were made to the couples celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversaries this year. Congratulations to you all.



Our huge thanks to Mark and Jackie and all their helpers. Special mention of Diane and Peter who were so busy they were never sitting down for a photograph. I'm not even sure if they sat down to eat!! Also, Rosie and Janet in the sandwich-making factory.



TSCC Annual Dinner

This was a most enjoyable evening with forty-eight members and guests.

George and Janet organised a quiz in which you needed to provide the name of the city

to match a street name. Fortunately, there were a number of easy answers which gave us all a head start and there were some where you could make an inspired guess. Two tables ended with the same leading score so there was a brief elimination round which resulted in a win for Jackie Marriott's table.



Congratulations to Mark Marriott on winning the Ray Andrews Photographic Competition. He is the sixth different person to win the competition in its twelve-year history. You will see in the Chairman's log that Mark has proposed some innovative changes to the competition for next year in the hope of encouraging a larger number of entries.



The Ray Andrews
Photographic
Competition 2018

Winner:

Mark Marriott



Rosie Sowter did a fantastic job of organising the Raffle and thanks to her efforts, and to all those who kindly donated prizes, we raised £255 for our Charitable causes.

Many thanks to George and Janet for organising the event.

For us, the end of a boating era.....

As many of you will know Pauline and I have sold our boat after 20 very happy years on the river.

Our interest in boating started when we hired a boat to cruise on the Canal du Midi in southern France. We had a really great time, although, in one way it was more difficult than navigating the Thames – the locks were very deep and they had curved sides. Standing on top of the boat and holding the mooring rope up on a broom handle to a waiting lock keeper was not unusual.



Bob & Diana on their boat Ataraxia together with Pauline.

On our return from France, Bob and Diana Breeze kindly took us out for a day on the Thames. This was in the days when Bob and Diana had a Viking cruiser. We were soon sold on the idea of buying our own boat and armed with lots of tips from Bob & Diana we bought a Viking 22 with an out-board motor.

I was still earning a living, and found getting away on the boat to be a great way of escaping the pressures of work. We were based at Walton Marina and, in that first year, our many outings included at least one trip up to Oxford.

Pauline on our Viking 22 "Casarella".



The only problem with the outboard was that it was petrol driven and, apart from the fact that there are not a lot of petrol pumps on the Thames, the safety advice was to only fill the tank with the tank off of the boat. Lifting an empty tank off the boat was one thing but lifting a full tank back-on was back-breaking. Our solution was to use two 5L cans and top-up quite frequently. This

resulted in us knowing the whereabouts of just about every petrol station within walking distance of the river between Walton and Oxford.

It was during that first year that Bob & Diana introduced us to TSCC and we found ourselves among a very friendly group of people who were always ready to give valuable boating advice and help with mooring. Whenever there was a club meeting everyone could count on the fact that, when they arrived at the club mooring, Martin Raftery would be there waiting to take the rope and, very often, Joan would be ready with a cup of tea.



After a year of outboard motoring we decided to invest in a larger cruiser (Broom 29) with an inboard diesel engine – that solved the refuelling problem - and for the next 5 years we were based at Penton Hook

Marina. During that time we cruised up to Lechlade and, with TSCC, cruised down to London. Cruising on the tideway through the centre of London is a wonderful experience and particularly exciting when you do it for the first time.

Our daughter Naomi started coming away with us as she found it a great way to unwind and relax after a weeks' work. The Broom 29 was great for two people but a bit cramped for three. The result was that we bought a Haines 320 which we first moored at Bray Marina and, later, at Windsor Marina.

Not long after we invested in the larger Haines, Naomi started spending more time with boy friends and less time with us on the boat – you can't win them all!

We owned the Haines for 14 years but, eventually, various things combined to induce us to sell. For one, the M25 had become very much busier and a simple journey that for many years reliably took 55 mins



became a real drag and you often found yourself stuck in a queue of traffic with a journey time of 90 minutes. This, at a time when the boat needed more care and attention and we were less fit to do the necessary.

One of the happiest outcomes of us joining the boating community has been our membership of TSCC. This has undoubtedly enriched our retirement and we have had endless adventures and a whole lot of fun. We could not have found ourselves with a nicer group of people that we are privileged to call our friends and we hope to remain club members for as long as possible.

With our thanks and best wishes to you all,

Peter and Pauline

WOW!

A very big thank you to all my dear and long standing, (not old) friends in the TSCC.

I held my first ever Macmillan Coffee Morning and 11 of you turned up, played games, took part in the bring and buy with Ray going home with a very large ball (fender). Two of the guys very happily moved my naked lady into the garden.

What really touched me was that another 19 of you sent donations, making 30 of you supporting my event.

I am now able to pay in £250 into Macmillan, once again, thank you all.

Rosie x

The 75th Anniversary of the Trefoil Guild.



Our 1st Celebration was Surrey West's AGM at Paxmead, the Guide Boating centre at Shepperton. After the AGM we had a buffet lunch and had an afternoon of craft.

Our national AGM was in Birmingham this year. We were in the Wyatt Hotel we could go from the 4th floor of our hotel straight across to the Birmingham Symphony Hall. In the evening we had an Abba's Tribute band of course we had to dress up in costume. While in Birmingham we had to have a trip on the canal. Alec and I had never gone through Birmingham on our boat.

On the pre-tour to Herefordshire we had a boat trip on the Wye. The post tour was to the peak district. On the way there we visited the National Arboretum. We found the Trefoil memorial, the W.I and the Scout memorial. There was a ceremony at a RAF site, suddenly a Wellington flew over 3 times.

In July we had our cruise. We flew from Heathrow to Munich then by coach to Passau. We boarded 2 boats and were soon on our way. Next morning after breakfast we went by coach into Vienna. In the evening we had a reception in a hotel in Vienna. We met friends celebrating my 85th birthday. We cruised as far as Hungary to arrive back at Passau a week later. All our cases had coloured coded ribbons as there were 4 flights 1 to Birmingham and 2 to Heathrow. As were on the early flight we left Passau last. The other Heathrow flight was later so they left to have a 3-course lunch in Munich. Just before we got to Munich, we were told our flight had been cancelled. We had to queue for 2 hours to arrange a new flight. We were given water and a packet of biscuits. 3 of us were offered a flight to Luxemburg then a flight to Heathrow. We arrived home at 11.30 at night. We were lucky our cases were waiting for us at Heathrow. Some who flew to other airports hadn't got theirs a week later.

In July our London and South East Region (LASER) service was in Southwark Cathedral. It was a very hot day, during the service we re-newed our promise.

In September we flew to Switzerland. We stayed in Adelboden very near to the Guide World Centre Our Chalet so we could walk there. We visited the wood carver, a cheese and chocolate factories. We had 2 passes to travel on trains or cable cars, we travelled on many from Adelboden. We could see a large waterfall from our hotel. 4 of us decided to go to it. We had over a 2-mile walk and climb. We finally got to the cable car 2 hours later. There were a lot of cars in the car park. Because we had a pass we did not have to queue. At the top there was a lovely plateau. We found a cafe where we had apple strudel. We managed to get a bus half way back and found a shed with cheese in a frig for sale.

Our LASER this year was in Worthing t on 29th September. Diane and I travelled on a slow train to Worthing. A lovely day, we were able to eat our sandwiches on the front. The meeting was held in the Worthing Assembly hall. After the usual business our speaker was Kathy Atherton on Suffragettes, Suffragists and Antis.

The next weekend in Dorking we had "Surrey West and East Celebrating together" It was an awful wet day. It was a Guides Own meeting, several members spoke on what they had achieved from guiding. We all renewed our promise again. We finished up with a cream tea.

My favourite event this year was South West England Trefoil Train Trek. I was lucky to be a "Trekki" They had vacancies so 3 of us from Surrey West were able to go. It started for us at the Steam Museum in Swindon the theme was Isobard Kingdom Brunel, we were joined for coffee by Wilshire members. We left by coach to arrive at the Avon Valley- Bilton Station. The theme here was Wallace and Gromit and the local members had wrong trousers competition. We were on the 2nd train where we had a cream tea. We left to go to Keysham Guide Headquarters. We all ordered a takeaway. Afterwards Margaret and I left to go to a member's house to sleep for the night. Next morning, we were up 5.15am to leave for Guide HQ for breakfast. We were on the road by 7am. We caught a train at Bishop Lydeard. I had a job of clicking tickets, I could speak to local members and do swaps. We heard there were rainbows in the last carriage so went there and clicked their drawings.

We arrived at Minehead where the theme was Seaside and we had a punch and Judy show on the platform. The Rainbows were able to sit in the front row.

Afterwards they left with their bucket and spades to go on the beach. Left by coach to travel for Buckfast Leigh for another train ride. Arrived back 5pm where we all met in the cafe, the theme was Widecombe Fair, The Devon members acted and we all had to sing. We left at 6.30 to travel to West Bay. We had Fish and Chips in the Salt House organised by local members. We left for the Youth Hostel in Swanage. 4 of us in a room on-suite. Next morning, we had a full breakfast as good as any hotel, a bit different from my hostelling days. We collected our packed lunch. We travelled the short distance to Swanage Station. Our train was in a bit late in leaving, we travelled to Harmans Cross, Dorset, where their theme was WW2. We could not stay long but they were celebrating all day. We then had a long journey to Alresford. Members just caught the train, I was outside the entrance where the 3 Hampshire banners were paraded. We left to go to the ALTON House Hotel. Helped unpack the coach. The Hampshire theme was Jane Austin. We left after tea to drive to Windsor. We met the Berkshire members at the railway station. Their theme was the Queen which was Queen Victoria's train. Frances Parrett the organiser was presented with a Silver Brooch, the highest award in Trefoil, by Pat Downer National Chairman, also a Surrey West member. We all walked to the Hart and Garter Hotel for a cream tea. We were picked up by a friend to travel home. I have so many swaps by which to remember the trip.

Betty Gosling

Barbara Long has been on another high-flying adventure.....



"I thought it would be fun skydiving until I got there (iFLY - Basingstoke) and watched other people flying up to the top of a very long tube but I was there now so had to have a go. We changed into the appropriate skydiving outfit which I was assured was designer and very glamorous and stepped forward when called, there was no getting out of it. We had two goes, the first to balance us and to get us used to it and then the second time we went whizzing in large circles up to the top of the building with the instructor holding on for the ride. Still unsure whether I enjoyed it. Barbara x"

TSCC Programme of Events for 2019

All dates and events are subject to change

AGM at Ajax Water Activities Centre	Sunday 20 January 2.45 for 3.00 pm
Skittles Match WMC/BBC/TSCC at Weybridge Mariners Club	Saturday 2 February at 7.30 pm
Horse Race Night at Ajax WAC	Tuesday 12 March at 7.30 pm
Fitting Out Meal at Topo Gigio	Tuesday 2 April 7.00 for 730. pm
Savoy Theatre to see "9 to 5 The Musical"	Wednesday 8 May at 2.30 pm
D-Day Anniversary Dinner and Cruise on the MV Marco Polo	Saturday 8 to Monday 17 June
Cruise to Hurley Lock Island	Monday 24 – Friday 28 June Mon 24 th Evening meal at the Rising Sun Tues 25 th TBA Wed 26 th TBA Thurs 27 th Fun Day/Pims/cream tea
Summer Barbeque at Little Compton	Sunday 28 July at 3.00 pm
September event TBA	Date to be advised
Amsterdam Cruise on Cunard's Queen Elizabeth	Friday 4 to Tuesday 8 October
Autumn Getaway to Liverpool	Sunday 27 to Tuesday 29 October
TSCC Annual Dinner at Ristorante Sorrento, Tolworth	Monday 18 November
Christmas with TSCC at Ajax WAC	Sunday 8 th December at 7.00 pm

Thames Scout Cruising Club Grants

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SCOUTS/GUIDES

TSCC is always looking for Scouting/Guiding projects which need financial support. If your local Group is in need of funds for specific projects ask them to write a letter to our Secretary giving full details.

Our Committee will be pleased to consider all requests.

Newsletter edited by Peter Simpson – simpson.p@ntlworld.com

Visit our Website: Thamesscoutcruisingclub.org.uk

Printed by NJM (Guildford) Ltd

www.njmstationery.com