

TSCC

South & S.E. England have the wettest winter since records began in 1910.
17.3 ins of rain (1Dec to 19Feb)



The amount of water flowing through the Thames this January was the highest recorded that month since records began in 1883, exceeding 275 tonnes per second for more than 50 days. Peak flow 477 tonnes/sec at Kingston.

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Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No 95.
March 2014

CHAIRMAN'S LOG

Hello to everyone.

Well, what a start to 2014, the wettest winter on record. The river dwellers amongst us have had a tough time, but I think our homes have all survived and when the sun shines and we are enjoying the pleasures of living by the river it will somewhat make up for it.

Several of our members are going through some difficult times at present, please remember that we think about you all and look forward to life becoming less stressful for you.

On a lighter note the club has had several successful events so far. The Burns night which Derek Dale organised for charity. The Haggis entered to the sound of pipes, and all the other traditions were observed, a great evening.

The Swing band concert went very well, I have spoken to several people who attended that event and they said it was fabulous.

We had 24 people join-in for fish and chips at Jane's, then on to B.B.C. for skittles, we did not win the skittles, but we did take the prize for most enthusiastic player, well done Peter (Thank you for being so polite Elaina but, I regret to say, the prize was for "the most aggressive player" - I blame the HogsBack lager I had in Jane's - Peter).



Our special thanks to Byfleet Boat Club for their warm and generous hospitality at this year's Skittles Challenge.

Next will be the supper and Victorian Music Hall, then the quiz evening. Following that, I look forward to seeing many members at the Fitting-out Supper.

Elaina

Our warmest congratulations to Elaina who has become the first Lady Chairman since the Club was founded.

TSCC Annual General Meeting

The AGM saw David Sowter retire as Chairman after three years in the role. He remains on the Committee as Club Secretary. Former Chairman and founder member Paul Richardson presented David with a pair of engraved tumblers and thanked him on behalf of the Club for the really great job he had done as Chairman.



Linda Grundy retired from Committee service and she was presented with an Orchid plant by David as a token of the club's appreciation for all her work and support whilst on the Committee.

We are pleased to welcome George & Janet Barber onto the Committee.

Throughout David's term as Chairman he had been wonderfully supported by his wife, and continuing Committee Member, Rosie, who had been heavily involved in organising events. To show his appreciation for all her help David made a personal presentation of a bouquet of flowers.



A presentation by Mark Marriott.

Mark spoke about the plans for the enlargement of the Ajax Sea Scouts Headquarters building. The plan is to build a two-storey extension on the down-river side of the present building on the site of the present boat store, so as to give a covered boat store at ground level and changing facilities and showers for boys and girls at first floor level. There would also be adults' facilities, a large meeting/instruction room and a balcony overlooking the river. See page 15.

Thanks from Mrs Mary Osborn, Surrey County SASU Manager.

Mrs Osborn thanked the committee for her invitation to the AGM. She commented favourably on the steady growth in membership of TSCC from 72 to 77 to 90 over the last three years.

Mrs Osborn said that TSCC members bring their gifts to scouting in a number of ways, not only by financial support but also by active support where possible.

A presentation by Leah Dennis.



Leah Dennis aged 17 granddaughter of members Pam and Michael Dennis, went to Uganda during the summer as part of a scouting group to decorate three classrooms of a recently built rural school that had been constructed by community efforts. She needed to raise her own funding for the trip and did so with the help of £250 from TSCC. She was invited to the AGM to speak about her training for the trip and her experiences in Uganda, which she did very capably.

UGANDA THROUGH THE YEARS

Our Granddaughter Leah was lucky enough to be selected to be part of a Scout Association



expedition "Uganda 2013" Their aim was to raise the funds to build classrooms at the Nagawa memorial primary school near Jinja and to help decorate and equip the rooms they were providing.

Each member of the group needed to raise at least £3,000.00 by a few group activities but mostly their own means. Any surplus raised being used for extra items for the pupils use including a drum kit.

They set off on 29th July 2013 from Heathrow bound for Nairobi then taking an onward flight to Kampala. They were given two days relaxation before the hard work began at the school site. Although

their days were hard work they were also able to enjoy interacting with the pupils. The group found their time there humbling and at times emotional.

The duly completed project was handed over to Dave from Mpungwe district scouts and Ibrahim a senior Scout they met at Baden Powell House en route and the group set off on their journey by road en route for Nairobi.

They crossed the Equator and made their way to Massai Mara for time on safari enjoying plenty of wildlife. Then a relaxing (?) time white water rafting before heading for Nairobi for a little retail therapy and then their flight home at the end of August.

Leah's trip has brought back many happy memories for me as during my deferred National Service in 1958 I was stationed in Kahawa near Nairobi. This was at the end of the problems in that region with the Mau Mau. We were very lucky to have senior officers who were willing for us to enjoy our surroundings as well as official duties. Looking at Leah's pictures of the area it is clear very little has changed in 55 years except of course the local children did not have the luxury of schools in those days, hence the need for expeditions like Uganda 2013. But the wildlife and countryside have changed little in that time.

It is said that when you leave Africa you leave a part of yourself there so that you would return. Sadly I will not make that journey again but I have been lucky enough to do so through Leah's eyes and I am sure she will return.

Thank you all again for your support of Leah and the wonderful way she was welcomed at our AGM. The expedition was a wonderful opportunity for the group and their work very rewarding and character building.

Michael Dennis



The Floods - "My experience is one of grateful luck!"



At the end of October 2013 I decided to take Myownie out of the water for the winter for the first time ever, as she normally stays on the mooring all year round. It had to be quick as I had to get through Shepperton Lock before its prolonged closure. Even that trip was against a strong stream. With the river reaching over 5 feet above the wharf on her mooring - 6 feet above normal summer level - I would have found it impossible to keep adjusting the lines to keep up with the rise in flood water and might well have lost her.; the water would have reached chest height.



What a stroke of luck to have got her out of the water at Chertsey Meads Marine boat yard. But even that was fraught with difficulty for after a while I could not even get to see her when the Meads flooded. I tried all ways to get to the yard: Chertsey bridge - closed, over Staines Bridge and the Thorpe Park road - closed, down through Thorpe - closed, back to the M3/M25 and through Addlestone and eventually into Meads Lane to reach a cascade of water into the fields; had to abandon the attempt.

Days later, when the water had receded somewhat, by wading across flooded fields I finally reached Myownie. Robin at the yard showed me photos of the yard in flood and Myownie was only inches away from floating off her blocks. Even so, the force of the water had removed the front supports and she was finely balanced amidstships. Never mind, all was well and Myownie was safe. Now that's what I call luck!!

I have attached a photo of the flood at the mooring (including a "before").

Best wishes, Jim Potheary.

The Force of the Water - Walton River Moorings



This photo, and the photo on the front cover, was taken by Martin Raftery. These show the moorings where, until the end of last season, Bob & Diana Breeze had been mooring Autumn Breeze. They moved their boat to new moorings where it has remained safe. What a fortuitous move that was! As you can see, the pontoons are being dragged away by the force of the current.

The Floods – Les & Sally Holdaway at Shepperton

We were very concerned about our boat in the extreme flood conditions as it was listing badly.



When we had a phone call from Jenny at Bridge Marine to say her father had just rang to say he could see our boat was in trouble (he lives on Hamm Court.) and could see from his house our boat listing badly so he rang Jenny .She arrived with Andy one of her staff. Les had got the dingy ready and Andy rowed out climbed aboard and cut a rope and undid the stern rope .the boat jumped right up in the air and righted itself we were very relieved, to say the least. We just want to say that Jenny and Andy from Bridge Marine were marvellous they came out straight away and helped save our boat so a very big thank you to them.

The Aftermath – Ray & Elaine Mears at Thames Ditton



This is Ray hosing-away the thick layer of silt that the receding river has left on their garden and landing stage. Ray concludes “**dredging on the Thames is overdue**”.

Many of us have seen the flood marks along the Thames from the 1947 flood which tend to be higher-up than the levels reached by the river in 2014. The disastrous 1947 flood stimulated a river engineering programme (including channel realignments, dredging and improvements in weir design). When completed, the river could accommodate over 30% more flow within its banks. Without these improvements, and others since, it is estimated that more than 200,000 properties would be inundated if there were a repeat of the 1947 flow patterns. In contrast, the record rainfall this winter has flooded fewer than 10,000 homes.

The Mill at Sonning

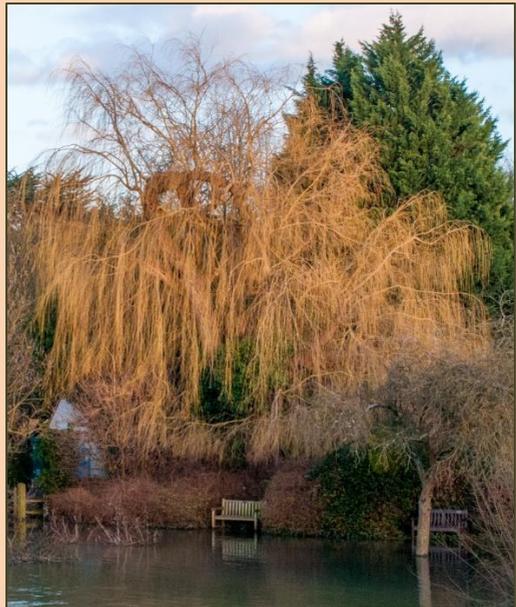


Ray Churchill organised an outing to see the Pasadena Roof Orchestra at Sonning Mill. This was a fun concert with the emphasis on hot dance tunes of the 20's and 30's. It was a great evening.

The floods had only just started to recede so the car park, which had been flooded, was useable. It did, however, allow us to experience the full force of the Thames in flood. Standing on a footbridge over the weir-stream with the water rushing by, just below our feet, was quite daunting.

The picture, above, is just at the end of Uri Geller's garden. The water is over the tow path and has flooded the field behind.

The photo on the right, is outside the Great House.



WEEKEND AWAY AT SINAH WARREN

Way back at the beginning of November 2012 David circulated an email to say that Rosie had managed to arrange a weekend away at the Sinah Warren Hotel, Hayling Island, a Warner Leisure Hotel, for early December 2013 at a fabulous discounted price. 43 members expressed an interest and paid up in full and we all put the date in our diaries.



The eagerly awaited weekend eventually came and we all arrived at different times on Friday 6 December. After checking in and finding our rooms we began to congregate in the lounge and were offered a complimentary glass of excellent mulled wine and a mince pie. A photographer had been

arranged to take a group photograph before dinner that evening so we gradually dispersed back to our rooms to freshen up and to try and make ourselves look smart. The photograph duly taken we proceeded to the bar and then to the restaurant where we had been allocated five tables near to one another. Dinner is 3-course and you can choose either to partake of the excellent carvery or to make a selection from the a la carte menu. After dinner we made our way to reserved tables in the ballroom for the evening's entertainment which that evening consisted of a multi-media quiz (which none of us won), dancing to the resident band "The Sailaways", and then cabaret showtime with a comedian, Simon Sands.

After an excellent buffet breakfast on Saturday morning the day was then ours to do with whatever we liked. Some chose to visit some of the many nearby attractions, Portsmouth (HMS Victory, HMS Warrior and the Mary Rose) and Chichester to name a few. Others chose to stay around the hotel and to partake of the many activities on offer – rifle shooting, quizzes, walking, archery, skittles, crazy golf, aqua aerobics etc. There is an excellent leisure suite with a pool table and a snooker table and also a heated indoor pool, spa, sauna etc. so there are plenty of things with which to fill up your day if you do not wish to leave the hotel.

Early evening say us again congregate in the bar for an aperitif before heading to the restaurant for another excellent dinner. The 'Showtime' entertainment that evening was Chris Dean's Syd Lawrence Orchestra which has been voted 'The Best Big Band in the Land' and is renowned for its exciting blend of high octane big band swing and classic dance music which was very enjoyable.

After breakfast on Sunday morning we all went our separate ways once more and met up in the evening for dinner. There was to be a jackpot bingo and charity raffle so after the meal we purchased our tickets and made our way to the ballroom. The bingo prize was in excess of £400 for a full house and one of our number (who shall remain nameless!) thought he had won it, only to find he had a full line not a full house! Most disappointing – the drinks would have been on him if he had won. The prize in the charity raffle turned out to be a giant teddy bear which would have taken up a lot of room in the car, so it was perhaps fortunate that none of us won it. Showtime that evening was 'A Night at the Musicals' performed by the resident entertainment team which was excellent. This was followed by general dancing to the resident band and saw most of us boogying the night away on the dance floor. We retired to bed, tired, after another excellent day.

After another hearty breakfast on Monday morning goodbyes were said all round and we gradually departed for the journey home. It was an excellent weekend, good company, good food, good accommodation and good entertainment, and the good weather was an added bonus. Many thanks to Rosie for organising it all for us – maybe you can find us another good deal for next year?

Diana Breeze

MYOWNIE GOES TO BATH

by Jim Potheary



When Myownie started out from Sunbury on 30th May, on a dull, damp, chilly and overcast day, the aim was to boat to Bristol along the Kennet and Avon canal – up the Thames to Reading then turn left. As we travelled up the Walton reach we stopped at Jenny & Terry's for coffee and a chat, recalling old times, meeting up with them up-river and being welcomed aboard La Amourette for a bevy (or two: or three); to leave in a state of inebriation. Fortunately, not so this time as we stuck to the coffee, because we had some serious boating to do; stopping for the night at Runnymede by the warehouses. It was dull and wet all day with storms at night. To cap it all the new telly broke down. Not a good start.

In the morning it was decided that I would go home to get the old telly. Four or five weeks without a telly (for the weather forecasts, you understand) was inconceivable. Fortunately, a rather posh boat was leaving to go to Staines so I thumbed a lift: then bus home and back (thank goodness for the Freedom Pass), then the long walk back to the mooring from Staines. We finally left in hot sunny weather to make our way to Windsor, where we had thought that if the weather was going to continue to be wet and miserable, as it was last year, we would turn for home. However, we had hit that hot spell in the first week and a half of June; albeit, still with a chilly NE breeze.

At Sonning, Sylvia had found to her great delight that the theatre had a Sunday concert with a Bee Gees tribute group; after all she is an avid Bee Gees fan. She really enjoyed it; but for myself, with a late booking and with the only seats available up close to a bass speaker (turned up to full volume), I found the chest and stomach massage a bit OTT. Fortunately, we were able to move to better seats for the second half.

This was our last night on the Thames before turning into the River Kennet for the centre of Reading. We always moor in the Abbey Basin, at the back of the Abbey ruins and Reading Jail (gaol). Here you are still under Environment Agency control, having passed through the EA's. Blake's Lock. While in Reading we met and dined with friends of ours from my days doing voluntary work for the deaf: a profoundly deaf couple with a 3 year old son and a 6 month old, charming little daughter who unfortunately has a congenital disorder, Prader-Willi Syndrome. A very charming couple, taking it all in their stride.



When leaving Reading on the R. Kennet Navigation, we first passed through Brewery Gut. This used to be a narrow, winding, neglected and run-down channel passing between a brewery on one side and a bus station on the other. Now it is a wide, clear channel passing through the middle of a colourful and vibrant shopping precinct called "The Oracle" with eating houses on both sides. As we passed through the first lock we found that the river was still in the last stages of flood flow, which required a few more revs from the engine.

And so to our first of many pub stops at The Cunning Man at Burfield.

Of course, all the locks on the canal are operated by the boaters; no lock keepers here and many of the sluices are very stiff to operate with a lock key and many of the gates very heavy to open and close. This is where Sylvia did a remarkable job. Because she won't drive Myownie into or out of a lock, she would go forward to start readying the lock while I moor Myownie on the lock lay-by and then go to help complete the job. With 99 locks to operate to Bath you soon get into a routine, depending on the state of the lock when you arrive. Because we started before the schools had broken up (and the fishing season not yet started), the canal was very quiet; it was rare for us to meet another boat to lock through with. Perhaps it's the solitude of the canals at this time of year that attracts us.

There aren't only the locks to work, there are many swing and lift bridges to operate. Fortunately nearly all of the main road bridges are electrically and hydraulically operated, like Aldermaston Bridge. This is a very big lift bridge which, when you press the button, sirens sound and lights flash to let the road traffic – and the world - know it is being operated. However, you cannot use it during the morning and evening rush hours. These electrically operated bridges are quite a change from our first visit to the K&A 30 years ago when most were manual. It is the farm accommodation and footpath bridges that are still manual and there are many of them.



You do get to pass through some attractive countryside, towns and villages on the way; Newbury and Hungerford for serious shopping, Woolhampton, Thatcham, Bradford-on-Avon and Kintbury to name a few, but many of the small villages lay well away from the canal. However, the pubs arrive frequently and we do tend to make good use of them for breaks and meals.

A perhaps not so attractive part of the canals are the growing number of people permanently living on boats that are in a very bad state of repair or semi-derelict and appear never to have moved judging by the detritus on the roofs. One can only wonder at the availability of services. This is more apparent on the canal section of the K&A and not so much on the river navigations of Kennet and Avon, which are subject to flooding. From Reading to Newbury the "canal" is a river navigation. From Newbury to Bath you are on the canal proper and from bath to Bristol it is the Avon Navigation; all referred to as the K&A. I asked a canal worker out checking licenses what could be done about the unsightly boats but he said that if they pay their licence (and presumably have a safety certificate and adequate insurance) they cannot be moved. Then comes the problem of housing. If a liveaboard is made homeless by removal of their boat: the local councils are not keen.

The canal passes through Semington, Melksham (oo'argh) where my family come from and where I still have cousins, which we met up with in a pub at Send. I also have a cousin in Devizes who always wants us to stay for a few days to relax prior to working

down the Caen Hill locks with their help (and on the return journey). At Bath we also met up with friends from my "Deaf" days for drinks and a meal.

To pick out a few significant features of the canal, there is the Caen Hill flight of 29 locks, 16 of them in a continuous flow down Caen Hill at Devizes, the long, lock free 15 mile pound from the summit, the 500 yard Bruce tunnel at the summit. Then there is the Pumping station at Croftom with its two 19th century beam engines, still used to pump water from a lake up to the summit and the pumping station at Claverton. This feeds water into



the canal using a huge water wheel to lift water from the River Avon by using the river itself to power it. There are the two huge stone aqueducts high up over the R. Avon and engineered by John Rennie in the early 1800s: the Avoncliff at Bradford-on-Avon and the Dundas at Winsley



The entrance to Bath is via the famous Sydney Gardens and one of the deepest locks on the canal system, over 19ft deep: when at the bottom of that lock, looking up

the sky is a mere slit above you. Bath itself is a city of great interest, for example Pulteney bridge across the Avon with the shops on it, the Roman Baths, the Royal Crescent of Georgian houses, the cathedral and much, much more.

Now, we had intended to get to Bristol but the lure of Bath was too inviting. We stayed there for 4 days doing the tourist rounds. We had taken 2 ½ weeks to get to Bath – which can be achieved in only 1 week if you rush – and we had been to Bristol a number of times before, and from memory the trip down the Avon was not too inspiring. This left us with no time to bother about it and on 18th June we headed for home.

On the way home we had an unusual experience. It was at Limpley Stoke on a 2 ½ mile section of canal between the two aqueducts. When the canal was restored this length was one of the last to be restored as it was always prone to leaking through fissures in the bottom. As a result this section was restored with a 2 ½ mile concrete trough, sealed with a watertight inter-layer. This left the whole length with high vertical sides: an animal falling in had little chance of getting out unless it managed to swim to one of the occasional escape ramps on the offside bank.

As we were heading east along this section someone shouted that a deer had fallen in the canal and was swimming towards us and had been swimming for about a mile. They asked if we could help. We went past the deer: a small roe or Mountjack, and turned to try to shepherd it to the towpath bank for someone to grab it and it seemed to be working until it swam back to the offside. I managed to manoeuvre it to the offside

to an advancing ramp but it was too exhausted to climb out so it had to be plan B. Get a chap onto the boat to grab it. Steering the boat nearer and nearer to the bank with deer now between boat and bank I managed to get it effectively trapped (fortunately it didn't try diving under the boat). The chap managed to grab it and haul it out of the water: boy, did it scream; I didn't know they did that. He then managed to dump it onto the offside bank, where it just stood shivering like mad and panting very heavily and looking at us. I dropped the chap off to the congrats of the watchers, turned and slowly went past the deer again. It was still standing there and just watched us as we went by - one very grateful deer (or perhaps thinking "what the hell happened there).

The rest of the journey home was uneventful, thank goodness. We had had mixed weather but on the whole quite good. There was the heat wave in early June, then 2 days of gale force winds followed by showers (we only travelled 2 days in rain). Then more sun – we could not have wished for better weather overall. We were away for 5 weeks and a day. Myownie had behaved impeccably – and so had Sylvia. We had negotiated 198 canal locks and 38 Thames locks (incl Blake's lock) and all using about 15 gallons of diesel. What a great boating holiday.

Second Visit to World Centre, Sangam, India.

On 5th October, 34 of us met at Heathrow to fly to Mumbai. We landed at Mumbai at 00.35am. It took us a long time to get our currency; we arrived at our hotel after 2am.

We had an alarm call at 6am, breakfast at 7am, to leave the hotel at 8am for a guided tour of Mumbai. We stopped for a buffet lunch. We travelled the 115 miles to Sangam in Pune (Poona) I am in a 3-bedded room with Annette & Angela from Dorset We just chilled out and got our bearings. We were joined by 7 Guiders from Scotland.



Monday is a no meat day including eggs. We had porridge, cheese and tomatoes & bananas. We had a guided tour of the local area. The road was an adventure, we called it the M25, if you crossed on mass the traffic might slow down. Our evening meal was cheese curry. We had the welcome ceremony in the evening, we were all anointed and had to light a candle on the stand.

We all travelled by rickshaw to buy sari and Punjabi material. I took my Punjabi suit with me from home. I bought some lovely material with jewelled material for the neckline.

We were sent out to do the Wadi Challenge. 5 of us decided to do it in reverse. We crossed the bridge this time even though it hadn't been blessed! We had to find how many people we could find on one scooter, we had a good view on the bridge, and we found 4. We found the police station and the hospital about half a mile down a lane. We couldn't go in - police on duty; we took a photo of an ambulance coming out. We had to say hello to the tailor. We had to find the price of bananas in a supermarket and on a stall. We had to find the names of fruit and veg. in Hindi so we got the young girl to write them down for us. We had to find different sweets and things not sold in the

UK. We had to cross the road by a very large temple - bridge still being built. We crossed with an Indian family. We found a man mincing fresh oranges the drink was lovely.

Sangam has a lot of community partners. We were going to visit one of them. My friend Annette and I were going to Annan Gamm School in the grounds of what was an old leper colony. We would be teaching standard 3. We photocopied lots of pictures for them to colour and took colouring pencils. We also decided to make caterpillars from pompoms. We travelled by minibus. We watched the Hindu assembly some arriving late. We went into the class of 7 year olds on our own. They were excited. They sat 3 to a desk. They did their colouring, all wanted red pencils; we started on the caterpillars, it was madame, madame wanting help. They put eyes on in many unusual places. We also taught them action songs. We eat our packed lunch while they eat their rice provided by the government.

We had prep to prepare for our visit to Aldi Learning Centre. After the evening meal we had to prepare for Fun day, 3 of us decided to do elephants, we cut out a door hanging elephant on coloured card also made notelettes with elephants.

International day of the Girl. We were visiting the Adetti Community learning centre. On the way we visited the Garnish God statue: 179 steps. They entertained us, then we had them singing camp songs, finishing with Hoki-Coki. In the evening we had 2 videos on girls in poor countries. Girls not having education where boys came first, arranged marriages and genital cutting in Somalia. Prostitute's daughter wanted to be a lawyer but her Grandfather wanted her to go back to their village to be sold as a prostitute. We decided to dangle our feet in the swimming pool to cool off.

We watched several climb the water tower as part of the Sangam Challenge, We decided to play on 5 playground equipment instead, part of the challenge. We had to take a photo under water; I took one in the shower, also under my bed.

We had to prepare for the Sangam Cup. This is played for, by all the World Centres and Guide companies worldwide. We had 150 Girls and boys arrive from D.E.S school. Very smart in their Guide and Scout uniforms. They were divided into 7 teams. I was in the Waggs questions group in the garden in the shade. At the conclusion they were all presented with a certificate and fountain pen. We all lined-up at the entrance and sang "Go well and safely." We had a chance to go out for a meal, 6 of us decided to walk to Wadi and have a pizza at Dominoes. It cost us about £2 for a pizza and sprite. On the way back we saw dancing in the bank compound. They were doing stick dancing some of the younger ones joined in. When we got back they hadn't had rice for a change but macaroni cheese!

Sunday was lie-in day, 11 of us decided to take rickshaws to Aya Khan Monument where Gandhi, his wife and secretary were imprisoned. It has lovely peaceful grounds and a memorial to him with some of his ashes inside. We caught another rickshaw to Massula restaurant. No rice, I had mousaka. When we got back had a dip in the swimming pool. We had a meeting about the guides visit, they meet at Sangam once a week. We decorated the grounds with balloons. They were divided in 4 groups for games.

Dinner was pancakes with ice cream. We then had a camp fire with a few of the girls. Tara Fun day. Over 100 children from the Community Projects arrived from 4 to 14. I helped with a craft group in the morning. After lunch we had the younger ones in the hall. Annette had them following the feet of an elephant. We had them colouring a door hanger elephant, one had 4 eyes on his trunk, they also coloured notelet elephants. There were groups of them all over the camp field, the most popular was a ride on the camel. I managed to get on with a lot of help with people pushing. We were called Didi

all day. After clearing up we had a dip in pool. We had a choice of different restaurants to go to. About 10 of us voted for Mannula's, I had fish and chips! After breakfast we were told what family we were going to visit. I was going with Fiona and Carole from Scotland. The tailor came at tea, it cost me 200 rupees to make up my dress, I decided on long sleeves and dress length. In the afternoon we could do embroidery or Wadi art. We spent a lot of time drawing, but had only half an hour to do painting. We had to change to go to D.E.S school to meet



our guest. Sawee and her brother meet us. She found a rickshaw; Carole went on the back of her father's scooter. We 4 travelled in the rickshaw. We were greeted by her mother. Sawee said she had a surprise for us. We walked about half a mile to a park, after touring the museum we sat on stone steps and watched a wonderful water and light show. We returned to their house and had a vegetarian meal and ice cream. We gave them our presents; I had brought a large tin of shortbread. They gave us a small bag. The children blessed our feet before we left. All the family came back with us to find a rickshaw. When we got back to Sangam there was a surprise for us we had an elephant on the camp site.

This was Sangam's 47th birthday. We all got up early to see the elephant being washed. Among the thick of it was Jen our World centre manager helping to scrub the elephant. Its ears were very heavy. Everyone goes to the temple on their birthday. Some of us walked to the local temple, about 50 yards from Sangam. We all took off our shoes and had to ring the bell. We all sat down on a carpet and were anointed and given sugar and coconut. We returned to Sangam and got ready for the party with balloons and flags. Everyone was learning how to put on their saris; I changed into my new top with lilac leggings. We had a sales table where I bought purses and little bags, and Christmas cards. We made felt elephant brooches; there was street food in the garden. I didn't have time to get any. We had rangooli painted on our hand. We had a silent raffle and an ordinary raffle. We sang happy Birthday and had a birthday cake in the shape of an elephant. At 11.30pm we all assembled in the hall, we had a Webinar link with all the other World centres, including Kenya. Bron from Sangam had flown out with them. Melinda & Carol from America hosted the link up. Each centre sang their song, there were 50 of us so we made a great noise, and we joined in with the other songs. The result of the Sangam cup was announced =1st was Our Chalet in Switzerland, 2nd Bristol guides.



After breakfast we caught the rickshaw to Pune, we visited Bombay Store, very expensive. We met up with the others at Ram Krishaw restaurant. We had curry as usual. 6 of us walked to the Westfield centre. Angela bought a set. We caught a rickshaw back. Angela & I walked to Wadi; I bought 2 tops and some biscuits. As soon as we got back I had to change into my Punjabi suit for the Marharastrian dinner. We had to eat with our right hand and drink with our left. We had a Waggs Quiz in the evening.

Our last day. We had our flag ceremony around the front entrance. We had laughter Yoga, very popular in India. We had the Sangam Tiffin, this is the stainless steel pot everyone takes their lunch in. We were all given a miniature set. We were all presented with a certificate and pin badge. I received a badge for completing the Sangam Challenge. After lunch, time to pack and strip our beds. We waited for rickshaws to take us to Pune airport. A very enjoyable visit but very busy.

Betty Gosling
Walton on Thames Trefoil Guild

TSCC DONATIONS

The Committee has approved a £500 donation to AJAX Sea Scouts to help with their building development project (see page 4).

The Committee has also approved a £250 donation to 3rd Surbiton Brownies to purchase five bell tents for their camping trips.

TSCC welcomes new members:

Sea Scout Leader - Bob Timms from
Kidlington, Oxford. Narrowboat: Bulrush.

And,

Peter & Maureen Lawrence of Chessington

The subject for this year's Photographic Competition, set by Bob Breeze, is
"MESSING ABOUT IN BOATS".

Please see our website for the entry rules.



JACOBY is up for sale.

This fine steel boat is up for sale. If you are interested please, in the first instance, email the editor.

TSCC Programme for 2014

All dates and events are subject to change.

March 5 Wednesday	TSCC Committee
March 6 Thursday	Victorian Music Hall & Supper
March 8 Saturday	ATYC Dinner & Dance Marlow
March 15 Saturday	Quiz & Fish Supper, Hinchley Wood
April 5 Saturday	Fitting-out Supper
April 22-27 Tues. to Sun.	Norfolk Broads Spring Cruise
May 3 Saturday	Strawberry Tea & Plant sale- AJAX
May 31-Jun.5 Sat.to Thurs	Down River Cruise to Limehouse
June 4 Wednesday	Royal Marines - Beating the Retreat
June 11 Wednesday	TSCC Committee
June 14 Saturday	RSSG Charity Ball - Cophorne
July 14-18 Mon. to Fri.	Up River Cruise to Hurley
August 21-27 Thur - Wed	ATYC Rally West India Dock
September 12-14 Fri-Sun	RNLI College Poole
September 24 Wednesday	TSCC Committee
November 6 Thursday	TSCC Annual Dinner Glenmore House
November 13 Thursday	Royal Brit. Legion Poppy Factory & Lunch
December 7 Sunday	Music Museum (Wurlitzer Concert))
December 10 Wednesday	TSCC Committee
January 2-5 Fri to Mon	Littlecote House Hotel Berks.



This is where (above) David and Rosie usually park their car (not this one!) to access their boat and (right) the stern of their boat (centre) backing onto the flooded pontoon where they moor near Hampton Court.



Newsletter edited by Peter Simpson – simpson.p@ntlworld.com
 VISIT OUR WEBSITE: Thamescscoutingclub.org.uk

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