

TSCC



Horse Guards Parade – TSCC see the Queen and Prince Philip together with the Massed Bands of the Marines from the USA, Holland and the UK.



In this issue:

- * Strawberries sweet strawberries
- * Parade of the Queen's Scouts
- * Club for Acts and Actors
- * Cruise to Limehouse
- * Cruise to Norfolk Broads
- * Chris Banks



Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No 96.
July 2014

CHAIRMAN'S LOG



Hello to you all.

Since my last log the TSSC has certainly had some terrific events thanks to our excellent committee.

I think everyone who went to the Victorian Music Hall and supper had a fun evening, apart from having to deal with a little bit of artistic temperament from the manager, all went well.

The TSSC was well represented at the quiz evening, our two teams did quite well, it was a pleasant evening enjoyed by everyone. The fitting out supper was a great success, lots of fun and laughter. The food and service were very good, and all for a reasonable price. Well done Mark for organising everything, also to Rosie for all the lovely decorations and Easter nests, and to Janet and George for the excellent quiz.

Raymond and I were unable to join the Norfolk broads cruise as we had a Golden wedding in the family, everyone who went came back with glowing reports of the trip, it was blessed with wonderful weather and an excellent itinerary organised by Mark and Jackie. Thank you both.

Our strawberry tea held at Ajax was fabulous, Janet organised this event, and I must say she did a splendid job, the tea was gorgeous with great attention to detail. Table cloths and flowers etc, and again the weather was beautiful. A big thank you to Janet and the team.

I say it every year, but I thought the 2014 downriver trip was one of the best. The cruise down was a bit choppy, but we all arrived safely.

On Sunday, our free day, people did all sorts of interesting things, the Olympic park, the museum of childhood, the Ragged School, Petticoat Lane and lots more.

Monday included a visit to the first operating theatre, it was fascinating, and Rosie underwent an operation (!!!) to demonstrate how horrific those procedures were, very brave of you Rosie, plus you organised the event. Thank you.

On Tuesday, in the morning we went to the Brunel museum in Rotherhithe, it's quite small, but a real gem. We all went through the tunnel of terror, 3ft high by 6ft long!! It took us to the entrance of one of Brunel's masterpieces; the world's first under the river tunnel. It really does need a donation from the national lottery to restore it to its former glory.

Pre lunch drinks at the Mayflower, a must see old London pub.

In the afternoon we went to Sand's studios, firstly we had an excellent lunch in the quant staff canteen. The studio is housed in a wonderful old restored warehouse; there is lots to see including hundreds of hand-made period costumes, a gorgeous little cinema, where we watched a film on the old Peek-Frean biscuit factory, fantastic social history.

Wednesday we attended the Beating the Retreat at Horse Guards parade, what a wonderful event, David did so well obtaining our tickets, no easy task, he also organised an excellent meal at the Civil Service club. Thank you so much David.

We are now looking forward to our annual gathering at Hurley.

Before I finish my log I would like to say to our members suffering from ill health that we are thinking of them.

Elaina

Strawberries, sweet strawberries.....

On Saturday 3rd May 2014 a perfect English summer's day dawned and 28 members of the TSCC gathered together at the Ajax Sea Scouts Headquarters for a fabulous afternoon tea.

On arrival at Ajax we were greeted with current scouts mums and dads manning the annual Ajax plant sale, we wandered around the stalls selling a variety of bedding

plants, young vegetable's, (sadly no runner beans for Sally and Les) hanging baskets and shrubs. Having chosen any necessary plants for our gardens we went around the back of the building.

Here there was a glorious view of the river and tables and chairs set with pink clothes and flowers. As we sat down a large plate was put on the table with sandwiches, scones jam and cream.



and cream. We were served with tea then out came strawberries and cream followed by Janet's homemade tea loaf and cakes. What a good thing that Wendy didn't come as it would certainly have done her diet no good at all. **Janet, Jackie and Mark** made rounds with more scones, tea bread and tea.

It was lovely to see friends especially **Derek White** who hasn't been about much in the last year or two also several of the crowd who had braved the Norfolk Broads the week before and lived to tell the tale. Everyone stayed until finally the sun went behind the houses and it became rather chilly. We said our goodbyes until the next time the TSCC gets together.

Our thanks must go to Janet who single-handed organised the whole afternoon including sunshine! (Must get that phone number from her!).

Rosie.

A DAY OF CELEBRATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

The Parade of the Queen's Scouts

On Sunday 27th April, a day when the weather forecast was for heavy showers and strong wind, it was at least calm and dry as I stood in the magnificent Quadrangle of Windsor Castle with thousands of others to await the arrival of the parade of Queen's Scouts. Each spectator was there by invitation (tickets only) as a result of the principal guest having received an award; many proudly wearing the Silver Acorn, like myself.



I had arrived early and by 12:30 had claimed a good position at the front. At 1:30 we were entertained by the 1st Ibstock Scout and Guide Band supported by the corps of drums from the 1st Claygate Scout and Guide Band. As they moved round to each side of the Quadrangle, assembling in formation in an open square, they played a medley of popular music.

The first parade of scouts at Windsor was in 1911. It was then recorded as the largest gathering of youth in Britain and was reviewed by Baden Powell and King George V. The St George's Day Parade of Queen's Scouts, "A Day of Celebration and Achievement" has been held at Windsor Castle since 1934.

At around 1:45 the Band of the Welsh Guards could be heard coming from the Royal Mews into the Quadrangle via the St George's Gate, leading the very smart parade of Queen's Scouts. There were 16 ranks, each of 33 scouts and with an incredible variety of coloured scarves and uniforms. Each rank had its own leader and they were brought to a halt in 8 ranks facing inwards on each side of the Quadrangle. The Military Band and the Scout Band had assembled side by side at the lower end of the Quadrangle. When all had been called to a halt the Colour Party of 6 scouts assembled in front of the statue, with the flag of St George, the Scout Association Colour and the King's Flag – named after King George V, who had presented it to the Scout Association. The Parade Leader then called the Queen's Scouts to the alert and the colour party moved towards the rostrum to await the arrival of HRH the Duke of Kent.



The Chief Scout, Bear Grylls and the UK Chief Commissioner, Wayne Bulpitt then went to meet the Duke and to escort him to the rostrum. The Queen's Scouts were again brought to the alert for the National Anthem and for the salute to the colours to be taken. It was during this part of the ceremony that a

remarkable hush came over the spectators. Each rank of scouts was in turn brought to the alert by its leader as the VIP party then slowly passed down the rank: the Duke talking to each scout in turn while Bear and Wayne presented each scout with the Queen's Scout Award: the highest youth honour in scouting. While this continued the Band of the Welsh Guards played military and popular music. I had estimated that there were over 530 scouts being presented with the award and, as a rough calculation, over 30% were girl scouts.

After the presentation of the special awards for Gallantry and Meritorious Conduct by the Duke, a final salute was taken. The Scout Band then led the Colours and the Queen's Scouts from the parade ground, marching from the St George's Gate end of the Quadrangle, past all the cheering and clapping spectators up the far side, past the rostrum for the salute and then down our side, to exit at the St Georges Gate. They were followed out by the Guards Band.

The Queen's Scouts and those lucky enough to have been drawn in the lottery to attend the National Scout Service in St George's Chapel (unfortunately, not me) were led into the chapel. There were very many spectators enjoying the sun while sitting on the lawns outside the chapel and listening to the service relayed on speakers.

It was a long time to be standing but I would not have wished to have missed it. An experience not to be forgotten.

Jim Pothecary

Saint George's Day Awards 2014

THE SILVER ACORN *"In recognition of specially distinguished service"*

We are delighted to report that The Silver Acorn has been awarded to TSCC member James (Jim) Pothecary, Group Treasurer, 3rd Hanworth, Thameside Grand Union District. The ceremony was attended by over 200 leaders, Scouters, District Appointees and Explorers. The awards were presented by the District Commissioner and the Silver Wolf was presented by Wayne Bulpitt, UK Chief Commissioner.

It was quite a memorable week for Jim's Scout Group. Not only did they receive many of the awards and appointments but at Chalfont, the Cubs were photographed (posed) with Bear Grylls.



Club for Acts and Actors



What an amazing evening organised by Elaina and Ray on 6th March.

Many of us who thought that we knew the Covent Garden area of London really were completely surprised to find such a hidden jewel. Once inside the red door we were met by the smallest reception area. We were surrounded by promotion posters glued to the walls which went back

for many years as could be seen by the very delicate state of the old paper. Memorabilia continued lining the walls of the stairs leading to the bar area with many old names bringing back memories.

The Club has a very long history not least of which was that Jack Warner (Dixon of Dock Green) had purchased the property so that it could be enjoyed by actors young and old.

As everyone began to arrive for the evening we could see how under dressed we were as the regulars began to gather. Many appeared dressed to impress in Edwardian 1900's costumes with the like of old boating jackets and false sideburns and handle bar moustaches for the men and beautiful hats and sparking jackets for the ladies.

The meal was served downstairs where the production took place. The very small stage simply contained a piano and lectern which belied the entertainment to come.

The Master of Ceremonies was very like Leonard Sachs who used to compère in the BBC's 'The Good Old Days' using a loquacious, garrulous, pleonastic rendition of each act - very wordy to everyone else. Although a small cast they all performed in many different acts showing incredible expertise. Apparently, many start their theatre careers by gaining experience at the Club.



After wonderful entertainment, where the evening went all too quickly, the show ended with the entire cast and the audience singing a rousing rendition of "Down at the Old Bull and Bush".

Judy Bowles

THE TSCC CRUISE TO LIMEHOUSE

As we and some others live further up river than most we spent the night at Hampton Court mooring.

We all met for lunch at Tide-End-Cottage Teddington. The boats were organised into 3 groups: SEA SYMPHONY and ORLANDO to make their individual passages down river, WEATHER OR KNOT, WISECRACK and



ANOTHER KNOT to be the fast contingent and MYOWNIE – lead boat, SALUKI, PATTY and GORGESS as sweeper in the slow contingent. 16:35 and we were through the lock and on to the tideway, but no SALUKI. George had moved away with the rest of the slow boats when complete engine failure had him stuck above the lock with no hope of making it that day. We had to continue without him. Tony had cleverly mapped our three hour run to Limehouse by plotting the timing for each landmark and bridge. A steady 5 Knots through the water and a following tide had the flotilla keeping good time. We arrived at Limehouse at about 9pm, settled into our moorings, had a bite to eat, and went to bed.

Sunday was a free day; some of us went to Petticoat Lane market, some for walks in the area and some just lazed around. We all met for dinner in the Cruising Association Club House. The meal as usual was very good and we all had a very jolly evening.

Monday - There was a visit to The Old Operating Theatre Museum. Not all of us went but those of us that did had a very good talk about operations - pre-anaesthetics, and about the help that was given to women giving birth who had problems. Rosie (pictured) volunteered(?) to be a guinea pig patient. The museum had many



herbs which were used to cure diseases or ease pain. There were many old instruments also some looking rather horrid and some very peculiar. In the vestibule there is a skull made up of old surgical instruments!! This was a most interesting visit and the speaker very good.



Tuesday - A visit to Rotherhithe was this day's plan. We set off on the DLR to The Brunel Museum in Railway Avenue where we saw a film depicting the dramatic tale of the construction of the first tunnel built under the river. Marc Brunel and his son Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

We saw many pictures and models here. After this we went over a step

and through a three foot doorway and so to a very awkward set of stairs down to the old entrance hall of the tunnel. It is now just a concrete tube of vast proportions. There we had an excellent talk from a very knowledgeable student.

We then went to the riverside to 'The Mayflower Pub' for a pre lunch drink. This pub is where some of the emigrants joined the ship to take them to America. This was to save mooring charges. After our drinks we went over the road to Sands Studios where we had a lovely home-cooked lunch.

The studios are in a three floor warehouse, we were taken to a theatre to see a film about the studio. A visit to the costume department was next, all the dresses and other parts of the costumes are all HAND sewn. They are stored on racks labelled with the dates of their period. There are hats and all sorts of accessories.





The studio makes whole films and also parts of films, costumes and props are rented out for various purposes. The studio received both B.A.F.T.A. and O.S.C.A.R. Awards for the films 'THE YOUNG VICTORIA' and 'BRIGHT STAR'. This was an award for best costumes. This was a really amazing visit. In fact the whole day was first class.

Wednesday - We had a free morning then left at 4pm to go to the horse guards' parade ground for Royal Marines Musical Spectacular. The Duke of Edinburgh took the

salute and the Queen came with him but went up to the balcony to watch so we only saw her briefly. As always the band's music and marching were excellent. The Marines were visited by The Band of the United States Marine Corps and the Band of the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps.

As we left the stands a great squall blew up and lots of tree seeds and leaves blew all over us and made many cough and sneeze. Heavy rain followed but we were safely in the Civil Services Club where we had a great dinner and drinks. After that we all went our separate ways home. Quite a number of non-boat members had joined us for this event. A jolly evening made all the better by the jovial company we were.

Thursday - prepared our boats for the home trip. The first boats left at 3.30 pm the middle group at 4.15 pm and the last group at 5.00 pm. everyone arrived at Teddington at 8.00. pm. One or two boats went straight home but we, and several others, moored at Hampton Court for the night. We got home at twelve noon on the Friday.

A really wonderful, exciting, and relaxing time in London.

Thanks to all the organisers for their hard and time consuming work making all the arrangements.

Article by *Jessie English.*

Photographs and additional material from *Jim Potheary.*

Civil Services Club Lunch

*Mike Fowler,
pictured here on the
right, sent in these
pictures from the
Limehouse trip.*



**Orlando leaving
Limehouse
Marina**

Beating the Retreat



At the Civil Services Club Lunch



TSCC Spring Cruise on the Norfolk Broads



Following an enjoyable cruise with friends and family on the Norfolk Broads in the spring of 2013, Mark and Jackie Marriott had the idea that this could be a different waterborne event for the TSCC in which all members could take part and which would be especially attractive to those members not having their own boats. Soon after, Mark and Jackie started negotiations with boat hirers and settled on a very competitive package with Barnes Brinkcraft of Wroxham for what would be the TSCC 2014 Spring Cruise.

Details of the Spring Cruise 2014 were sent out in September and it wasn't long before eight boats were booked, some for couples, others for members and friends and, particularly pleasing, some were shared between club members. It was also great that Graham and Iris joined the cruise in their very nice Broads boat "Asto II".

When the final details were received in March it became apparent that a very comprehensive package had been put together inclusive



of three evening meals in great locations, even including the hire of a small sailing dinghy in case any of us "cruising types" felt like braving the elements under sail; and so, as the start of the cruise edged nearer, we participants began to look forward with great expectations of some good times ahead. We definitely were not disappointed.

The journey to Wroxham on the Tuesday took Jan and I a long time since Jan, who was navigating, was distracted by a phone call that resulted in us forking onto the A14 by mistake and having to find our way from Bury St. Edmonds without a road map. This meant that we missed having lunch with our fellow crew members and were thus in grave danger of not being able to bag the coveted ensuite berth in the bow of the good

ship Romany II. However, we need not have worried since after all these years crew members Graham and Colin remembered that I was once their “superior officer” ha ha (Patrol Leader) in the Sea Scouts and, showing due deference, had already gone on board and selected the aft cabins for themselves and their better halves Philomena and Daphne. Behind every cloud.... and due to this navigational glitch we, on the last evening of the cruise, won the competition for “The Quote of the Week” which was when someone asked “do I not have a “Tom Tom” some bright spark said “No but he has a “Jan Jan”.

On the Tuesday, once all were on board and everything stowed away, our first port of call and overnight venue was just two hours cruising down the river Bure, past Wroxham Broad to Ranworth. As we approached the moorings we could see through the binoculars Mark and Jackie's boat “Ultima II” with small sailing dinghy tied up astern and it was also apparent that we would need to reverse in to a “stern on” mooring which promised to be very tricky since we had already discovered that Romany II had a mind of its own when going astern. I immediately volunteered Graham for this task and we managed to slip into the space with elegant ease. At Ranworth Mark and Jackie and his crew Max and Linda, Peter and Diane had everything ready for a BBQ over which much swapping of yarns and experiences ensued. Everyone turned in feeling very happy and we all agreed that this was a great start for the week ahead.



On the Wednesday, there being no organised activities, boats went on various exploratory cruises up the rivers Ant and Thurne, some congregating for an overnight stop at anchor (heavy mud anchors are used on the Broads) in South Walsham Broad. It was here that Romany II crew had a go in the sailing dinghy. However, there was not much wind and the dinghy was fairly heavy and propelled by only a single lug sail, nevertheless some fun was had. Thereafter the dinghy was towed around by Romany



It and used more effectively by crew members Graham and Daphne in a fresh breeze up the river Ant. Daphne particularly enjoyed the sail as she had not sailed before.

The fleet was scattered wide on Thursday but we all met up at the Norfolk Broads Yacht Club at Wroxham Broad for an excellent dinner preceded by drinks. Mark had “ear marked” this club as a possible overnight venue whilst at the National Sea Scout Sailing Regatta held there in 2013 and it turned out to be a good call as we were made most welcome and, as an extra bonus, we had access to the club’s showers.

Friday was the only other “free day and night” and so most boats headed on down the Bure, some having what was by all accounts a splendid and reasonably priced evening meal in the Stracey Arms and over-nighting nearby. Others ate on board in places such as Stokesby.

Saturday saw all boats cruising up the river Ant, passing under the low bridge at



Ludham and finishing at Neatishead where there was just enough space for the whole flotilla to moor and from where we were mini-bussed to the Cross Keys pub at Dilham which is not far from where Iris and Graham live at Staleham. Here we had another splendid meal and much merriment capped by a movie display of the cruise put together by Mark using

everyone’s pictures taken during the week. Here also the winners of the three competitions were announced, the first of which I mentioned above, the other two being:

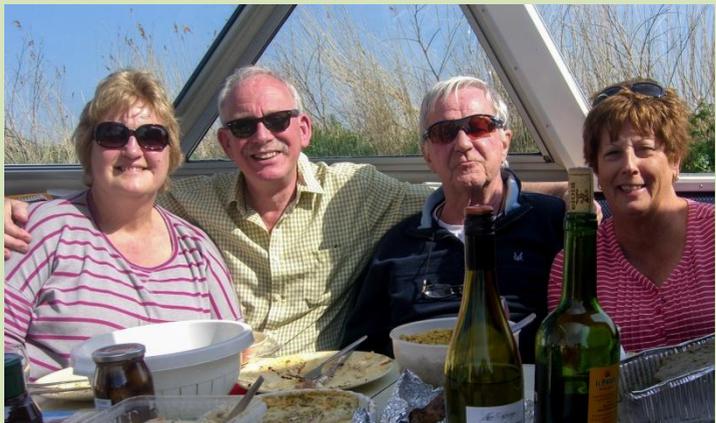
- “Most unfortunate moment”, won by Bob Breeze: Who explained that the reason his boat careered into the reeds was so that he could take a closer look at the wildlife.
- Photo competition “A big surprise” won by Rosie Sowter, an eight foot tall painted fibreglass gorilla in a garden beside a river. Side note: I thought that the picture of the WC pan of the Sonnet II being unblocked on the riverside was a better subject but Mark assured me that no, it was the gorilla!

During the cruise the Romany II crew visited the ruins of the 11th century St. Benet's Abbey near Ludham and Thurne which (according to that fount of all knowledge Wikipedia) is the only religious house not closed down by Henry VIII during the



Dissolution of the Monasteries. It certainly looks very closed down now! However, work is going on to restore some of its features. The "Romanys" were also intrigued by "the lepers viewing hole through the outside wall of St Edmund's church at Thurne which was provided so that poor souls afflicted with that awful disease might see the Vicar delivering his sermon without entering the church. Best of all, the "Romanys" were treated to an impromptu exploration inside the Thurne Dyke Drainage Mill, usually only open on selected afternoons in the summer, courtesy of a couple of friendly young maintenance

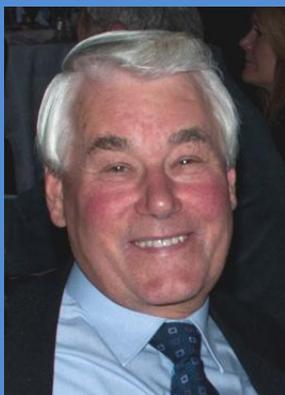
men who showed us the workings of the mill, essentially "crown wheel and pinion" type stuff for the engineers amongst us.



Overall, the cruise was a resounding success, keeping up the traditions of the TSCC in

fine style, i.e. interesting cruising on new (for sum of us) waters, excellent meals all included in the fee and most of all great company. So a well-deserved vote of thanks goes to Mark and Jackie for the time and effort spent on making this possible. Hopefully we will do it again, perhaps on the Southern Broads next time.

*Happy Days ~
George Barber*



How unkind cancer can be – after appearing to have won the battle against cancer of the jaw, another cancer attacked the soft tissue and, this time, a very brave Chris Banks lost a very cruel war. A true gentleman, with a warm sense of humour and endearing personality, Chris will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Our sympathies go to his wonderful family, especially Tania, who gave Chris all the support and love it was possible to give.

Due to my health I have sold my boat MAJOVI; it was steel, and I could not cope with the maintenance required. I was ashamed of the state that it had deteriorated to.

Yours

Victor Lundberg

TSCC WELCOMES NEW MEMBER
Barbara Long of Walton-on-Thames

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

Please see our website for the entry rules.

TSCC are going to go to the ATYC Rally at West India Dock on Wednesday 20th August and are heading back to Teddington on Tuesday 26th August.

The theme for this year's Rally is FUN for EVERYONE. This includes mums and dads, cadets and grandparents.

The BBQ and entertainment on Saturday is just £18 per adult and the Dinner only £27. [Cadets half price]

TSCC Programme for 2014

All dates and events are subject to change.

July 14-18 Mon. to Fri.	Up River Cruise to Hurley
August 20-26 Wed. – Tues.	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.

TSCC IN NORFOLK



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

Printed by NJM (Guildford) Ltd
www.njmstationery.com