

TSCC

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Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No 97
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CHAIRMAN'S LOG



Hello to everyone. It's lovely to be able to say "what a wonderful summer we had this year", the weather was so good we were able to enjoy our boats and lots of activities together.

Our annual gathering at Hurley was great fun, we started the rally with a trip to Marlow where we had time to wander around the town and then go for a gorgeous cream tea, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Our coach outing the next day started with a tour of the Chiltern Valley Winery, a beautiful old building with a stunning barn; we were able to have a good look round this special place. Next - on to the wine and beer tasting; there were 18 samples to try!! We started out as a quiet group, we got a lot louder and there was plenty of laughter. We visited the shop and came away with carrier bags full of goodies. Then, on to Nuffield House, the home of the designer of the Morris car. The house is run by the National Trust; I think that all who visited the house found it full of interest.

Our fun day on Thursday was great; lots of people came by car and joined in with the fun. Thanks to Rosie for organising the Pimm's, it helps to make the day complete.

On Friday we packed up the camp and went on our way to Henley where we were going to see Michael Portillo in his one man show, an excellent evening, and a great Rally.

At the end of August, 5 boats went to the ATYC rally at West India Dock, their Committee put in an enormous amount of effort to make the weekend a success, it's always difficult to please all the people all the time, but they succeeded in making it a good event, with help from the Dockland Scout Project.

Our Annual Dinner was a great success, and so many people complimented us on this excellent event. It was achieved with lots of hard work by David and Rosie and the rest of the team, thank you all so much. Another big thank you to all those who donated those wonderful raffle prizes. I am sure you will agree that it was a thoughtful touch to have the poppy petals on the tables to recognise the contribution that the Scouts and Guides made in the First World War.

Over forty of us visited the Poppy Factory in Richmond which was most interesting and enjoyable.

Before I finish my log I would like those members who have suffered from the loss of a loved one and the members who have had severe illness to know that you are in our thoughts.

Elaine

ANNUAL DINNER

*A brilliant evening was held at the TSCC Annual Dinner,
What else did we expect, it is always a winner,
With a tribute to scouting during the First World War,
The tables were scattered with red poppy petals galore,
The food was stupendous and the music kept us on our feet,
And the mammoth raffle prizes were really hard to beat,
So thank you all for organising this fantastic event full of cheer,
Looking forward to a repeat performance at the same time next year.
Barbara Long.*



The raffle raised £455 and the Club has already donated £1600 this year to Scouts, Guides, Sea Scouts and Brownies.

Above right: Sally showing us how to win a raffle prize.

Above left: Diana accepting the Ray Andrews Trophy for the second time for her picture "Where did the river go?" Congratulations Diana.



HURLEY - July 2014



The 18th July was our second day at Hurley. Another hot and sunny day and we had a trip to Marlow with afternoon tea to look forward to. So after a morning at leisure, at 12pm we boarded the three boats, Gorjess, Wisecrack and Patty who kindly offered to ferry us down to Marlow. Orlando had gone ahead earlier in the morning to secure us a mooring, as it can sometimes be difficult to get moored at the park. We had a lovely cruise downstream and on arrival at Marlow all boats were easily moored. We then had free time until 3.30pm to go into Town and have some retail therapy. At 3.30pm we all assembled at the Civic Centre, looking forward to our tea.

We were shown into a beautiful room with high ceilings and large bay windows overlooking the park, the statue of Steve Redgrave and lovely view of the river beyond. The cool interior was a welcome retreat from the heat outside. We were all seated at large round tables and a cream tea was served to us with tasty sandwiches, scones with cream and jam and as much tea or coffee as we liked. There was much chatter around the tables and an enjoyable time was had by all.

After tea those of us travelling on Gorjess returned to Hurley and our moorings whilst some others walked to Marlow Lock to catch site of the Swan Uppers as they came through.

Pauline Vine



TSSC members having a good time in Marlow before the Cream Tea.

What? Ice creams before a cream tea!

There was hardly a seat left in the coffee shops once TSSC had arrived.

TV star, **Martin Clunes** joined the historic Swan Upping this year. He is seen, on the next page, talking to the **Queen's Swan Marker, David Barber** in Marlow lock.

The TV star was filming an ITV documentary series called Man and Beast, showing man's involvement with birds and animals the world over.





Mr Barber, who is in his 22nd year as the Queen's Swan Marker, said: "He was absolutely delightful. Hopefully they will make a very good programme."

Mr Barber said the flooding earlier in the year led to the death of some cygnets. He said: "After the flooding had receded the river was running very fast. Some of the cygnets got washed over weirs, which is quite common. We have had a lot of dog attacks and shootings this year, which is more than we have ever had before".

The other picture is a demonstration from the Swan Upping crew of how to put a brave face on a shambles.





Giving TSCC members a wave from Marlow Lock is **Cllr Suzanne Brown**, Marlow Town Mayor.



The Queen's Swan Upper's flag.

Wisecrack, commanded by Andrew Cotter, ferrying members from Marlow Lock.



Chiltern Valley Winery



*A sunny day when we went to Chiltern Valley Winery,
For a trip round the vineyard and a tour of the Refinery,
We learnt how to sniff, to swirl and taste all the wine,
The dry, the medium and the cuvee, they were all really fine,
Cheese and biscuits were served to prepare for the ale,
What a noise we were making, which we had to curtail,
Then the liqueurs were served, the Blood Orange and the Sloe
Gin,
I don't know about you but my head was really in a spin,
We left the Winery with bag loads of booze,
Back on the minibus for a short little snooze.*

Barbara Long





The first vines were planted in 1982 on the slopes of the Chiltern Hills overlooking the beautiful Hambledon Valley near Henley-on-Thames.

As well as the winery, Old Luxters is a truly independent brewery and their farm brewed, full mash, real ales are a favourite of the Duke of Edinburgh.



Nuffield House



After a very successful wine tasting, we all piled back onto the buses to eat our packed lunches on the short journey to our next destination – Nuffield House. Nuffield House was acquired by the National Trust only three

years ago, on a ten year lease with the option to extend.

A short introductory talk gave us an outline of the origins of the house and its occupants, having been bought by William Morris (of Morris cars, not the wallpaper man) when he became Lord Nuffield in 1933, taking his name from the local village. He made various alterations to the original house and gardens which were in the Arts and Crafts style. Following this talk there was a tour of the gardens with a very interesting and knowledgeable guide. The original planting no longer exists, due to the invasion of Muntjack deer, although the layout remains the same. A deer fence has been erected, and if that is successful the original planting will be restored. This tour ended with a viewing of an original 'iron lung', over 5000 of which were given by Lord Nuffield to hospitals all over the country and the then British Empire.

There is free access to the house with knowledgeable guides in each room. It has a feel of homeliness and comfort rather than the opulence and display often connected with National Trust properties. Instead of roped off areas in the rooms there are strategically placed footstalls and open suitcases half unpacked. Wardrobe doors stand open to give glimpses of the clothes within. The furniture is a mixture of antique and family pieces. A truly comfortable and friendly family home.

There was just time for a welcome cup of tea, then back to the buses- and I for one slept all the way back to Hurley!

Celia Cotter



The Cup winners of the great Hurley Du-athlon.

It was great to see fifty members and friends attending the fun day at Hurley.



The happy Bottle winners of the Hurley quiz.

ATYC RALLY

This years' ATYC Rally was at West India Dock. Patty, Orlando, Autumn Breeze and Gorjess left Teddington at 9.30am and arrived at West India Dock four hours later. By mid-afternoon they were having champagne and nibbles on Orlando. Later that evening, Richard Hart, District Commissioner / RYA Principal, Dockland Scout Project, invited TSCC for "refreshments" in the bar on the Lord Amory.

The following day TSCC visited the Tower of London to see ***Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red*** - the 888,246 ceramic poppies planted in the mote of the Tower of London - each poppy representing a British & Colonial military fatality during the First World War. This inspired work was conceived by artist Paul Cummins, with setting by stage designer Tom Piper. The scale of the display was to reflect the magnitude of such an important centenary, creating a powerful visual commemoration with the opportunity for personal reflection. How well it worked! It was to be seen by over four million people in the space of around three months.

At times, some of the 16,000 volunteer planters looked up in amazement at the immense crowds – speaking softly, if at all – as they stared down in equal amazement at the terrible, beautiful field of ceramic poppies.



This has been called the most powerful and imaginative ritual of remembrance this country, or any other, has witnessed. The sale of the poppies will raise (net) £1m for each of the six armed forces charities.



Pictured on previous page:
"The Wave".



Photos:

- Happy volunteers take a break to pose with two Grenadier Guards and a Yeoman Warder.
- The "Weeping Window".
- A detail from Traitor's Gate.

Following the Tower visit, refreshment was taken at the **Viaduct Tavern** – the name celebrates the opening of Holborn Viaduct which was completed in the same year that the pub opened – 1869. The tavern is an authentic survivor of the Victorian Gin Palace style. It still has a “toll booth” where the landlord sold tokens for beer, keeping the money handling out of the hands of bar staff – a unique feature.

There have been claims that in the cellar there are five old prison cells but this is debatable – they may have been modified to look this way or they may just be old storage rooms. Newgate Prison did stand across the road until it was demolished in 1902 to make way for the Old Bailey. The tavern probably stands on the site of the Giltspur Compter – a debtor’s prison – but that had gone before the tavern was built.



On Saturday evening everyone went to the ATYC BBQ and were entertained by the Pearly Kings and Queens.

On Sunday, ATYC organised a dinner in the marquee – the meal was very good and this was followed by music and dancing.

Editor’s note: Jessie English kindly offered to do the ATYC Rally article but she fell and broke her arm in a rather painful place. Thus, she was unable to write but lent me her diary notes. Thank you Jessie.

On 13th November around forty of us visited the Poppy Factory in Richmond.



This was very timely, coming after the visit to the Tower of London and three days after Remembrance Day. For over 90 years the factory has provided work for disabled veterans and the charity also helps veterans back into mainstream employment. This was a very interesting and worthwhile visit. If you would like to support the charity, please visit their website.



TSCC Donations:

In March we donated £250 to the 3rd Surbiton Brownies; this was used towards buying tents (see photo).

The booklet, which was displayed on tables at the Annual Dinner, depicting the involvement of Scouts and Guides during WW1 can now be seen on the TSCC website.

Martin and Helen Sherry have closed their marina business. They have relocated to St Olaves Marina on the southern Norfolk Broads. Martin is about to become a section assistant at 1st Oulton Broad Sea Scout Group. His mother and father are both well but have sold their boat Sjaanmarie. We wish them all well.

We had another great visit to the RNLI College in Poole organised by Bob Smith. Many brave and selfless RNLI volunteers are remembered proudly in their local communities. However, the RNLI memorial sculpture in Poole is the only place where each and every one of them is named together.



RNLI Memorial Sculpture by Sam Holland
RNLI Headquarters Poole

TSCC Programme for 2015

All dates and events are subject to change

Jan 2-5 Fri-Mon	Warner's Littlecote House Hotel Berkshire
Jan 11 Sunday	The Mill Theatre Sonning – supper & Swing Band
Jan 17 Saturday	Supper at Jaynes & Skittles at Byfleet Boat Club
Feb 7 Saturday	Burns Night Supper – Glenmore House
Feb 8 Sunday	TSCC AGM at AJAX
Feb 17 Tuesday	TSCC Committee
Feb 21 Saturday	Hinchley Wood Quiz and supper
Mar 7 Saturday	ATYC Dinner/Dance - Marlow
Apl 18 Saturday	Fitting Out Supper – The Angel Inn
May 3 Sunday	Strawberry Tea at AJAX
May 11-15 Mon-Fri	Down River Cruise to West India Dock
Jun 3 Wednesday	Carpet of Flowers - Arundel Cathedral
Jun 6 Saturday	RSSG Charity Ball Copthorne Hotel
Jul 16-21 Thu-Tue	Up River Cruise – Hurley Lock Island
Aug 15 Saturday	Sunbury Regatta Fireworks
Aug 21-24 Fri-Mon	ATYC Rally
Sep 24 Thursday	Battle of Britain Talk – Union Jack Club
Oct 17 Saturday	Royal Marines Band at GLive Guildford
Nov 12 Thursday	TSCC Annual Dinner – Glenmore House
Dec 18-20 Fri-Sun	Warner's Cricket St Thomas Hotel Somerset



Well done my Lord.

Rosie and Pauline meeting up with the founder of the world Scout Movement looking out to Brownsea Island where it all began.

The life-size sculpture of Lord Baden-Powell is on Poole Quay.

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