

TREE



In this issue: Solquest; Thames Heritage Trust Awards; Painters Hall; Honourable Artillery Company; Souvenirs of Down River trip; The Tudor Pull; Strawberry Tea; Festival of Flowers and Arundel Wetlands; The Hurley Trip.



Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No 99
August 2015

Chairman's Log



Since my last log TSCC has had a very busy time with lots of excellent events.

The Fitting Out Supper went very well; I thought the staff did an admirable job giving us good value for money and an enjoyable evening. Well done Mark for the organisation.

Once again the Strawberry Tea at Ajax was a great occasion. Well done Jan and the team, thank you for all your hard work and the attention to detail.

Our Down River Cruise was really good fun and superbly organised by David. We received wonderful hospitality from London Scout Project and went on some memorable visits. We were privileged to visit the Painter's and Stainer's Hall, we were welcomed with coffee and biscuits and taken on a tour of the Hall; we were even allowed to hold the Charles the 2nd Loving Cup. In the evening we went to the Royal Artillery open evening, there was so much to see and do; everyone agreed it was a fabulous occasion. Thank you Rosie for finding out all about it. Next day we had a complete contrast and went to a Pie and Mash shop where we tried one of London's oldest traditional meals, wonderful. The weather the next day was dreadful and spoilt our visit to S.S. Robin which was a real shame.

In June, we visited Arundel Cathedral to view the Carpet of Flowers a truly spectacular sight, then on to the Arundel Wetlands Centre for an excellent lunch and a pleasant walk plus the bonus of a charming electric boat trip with an informative guide. Lots of people came up to me and said how much they had enjoyed themselves, it is always nice when members tell us, it makes all the hard work we all do worthwhile.

Our Upriver Trip was a great success with a programme that other clubs must envy. Starting with our traditional steak night at the Rising Sun, well done David for organising such a wonderful value for money meal. Our Fun Day on Friday was once again a really happy day - achieved with lots of hard work by Rosie, Jan and the team. Ray's unique Horse Shoe Challenge and George's quiz gave the day an added bonus, well done both of you. On Saturday, 16 of us went to the Traditional Boat Festival, the weather was beautiful and the event was one to be remembered, a lovely English occasion. Our coach outing on Sunday was so varied and interesting, we visited Disraeli's house in the morning and then in the afternoon we had a lovely cream tea on a steam train. Our last stop, Lunch at the Leander Club, a very special treat. Wow what a trip.

Sorry this log has been so long, but there has been so much to report on.

My last thoughts at the end of this log are to our members and member's family who are coping with ill health.

*Best wishes to you all.
Elaina*

NEW BEGINNINGS IN ESSEX FOR SOLQUEST

You may like to see this picture of Solquest sitting proudly on her new mooring in Flag Creek, just up the river from Brightlingsea in Essex.



As some TSCC members will know Sue & I have had a log cabin in Essex for just over a year, it's where we escape to after looking after our three grandsons; aged 6 yrs, 18 months, and 1 yr every Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday (exhausting work). As the cabin sits alongside the creek running to Brightlingsea and out to

the sea we thought that it would be sensible to move our boating from 24 yrs on the Thames to the East Coast.

With the help of a boating chum, Andy departed Teddington Lock at 04.30 on Mon 29 Sept 2014 and headed downriver at the top of the tide. Thankfully light airs but dodgy visibility made it an interesting passage. At Gravesend we made the decision to carry on although visibility was not good and commercial shipping was quite heavy. Using GPS with a shipping identification App was valuable to see what was coming out of the murk and follow our planned course.

As you may know small craft exiting the Thames are required to keep to the Kent Coastline until at the outer end of Sea Reach and if proceeding North are to cross the main shipping channel at right angles which brings you to the Essex coast off Southend pier. It's then a long boring slog with nothing to look at apart from the compass around Foulness, through the Swin Spitway, past the Crouch, minding all the sandbanks and eventually to the Colne Buoy and into Brightlingsea to moor at 18.04. Yes, nearly 14 hours non-stop but only 10 mins out on my passage plan!

We over-wintered Solquest on a floating pontoon in Brightlingsea Harbour amongst fishing boats and the big boats that go and service the wind farms.

We now set to build a jetty to moor Solquest on which comprises a fixed platform with a floating pontoon on top to cope with the range of tides fixed to the River bed with 6 metre 4" x 4" posts. when it was finished we thought we ought to seek authority from the Crown Foreshore Commission, Surprisingly they seemed quite happy, so then I spoke to the local Harbour Master to tell him what I had done, he said " yes I've already seen it "!

However he was happy and sent me a letter of authority. By comparison to the cost of using Solquest on the Thames (£3500/yr excluding running costs), I pay £140/ year for the licence from the Crown Foreshore and £22.50/year Harbour dues.

We do miss the beauty of the Thames but we are learning new skills and different boating environments, a chart plotter is however essential before you go exploring! If any TSCC members are heading for the East Coast let us know and perhaps we can meet-up.

Happy boating!

Andy & Sue Hayward



David Sowter, on behalf of the TSCC Committee, applied to the Thames Heritage Trust for one of their Annual Awards for the benefit of AJAX Sea Scouts. As previously reported, AJAX are planning a major building project which, amongst other things, will provide

proper changing facilities for the large number of boys and girls who benefit from the ability to gain water activities qualifications and enjoy the river from the Group's Thames Ditton headquarters. The estimated cost of the building is c£500,000. Ajax has raised £100,000 and is currently awaiting planning permission. This is the trigger for the Group to move its campaign into top gear to raise the remaining money.

David's application was successful and Group Scout Leader Mark Marriott, on behalf of AJAX, is pictured receiving the Certificate and cheque for £250 from Michael Shefras MBE Vice President River Thames Society at the Leander Club Henley.



Photo by: Wendy Yorke, River Thames Society, Council Member



A second successful application for a THT Award was made by David on behalf of the Dockland Scout Project based in West India Dock.

The DSP is a facility set up to offer Scouts, Guides and other uniformed Youth Groups water activity weekends, Open Days, and also to provide formal training courses in Dinghy Sailing, Keel boating, rowing, paddle sports and power boating.

The Project is a RYA recognised Teaching Centre and runs many of the RYA

courses in sailing, powerboats and also runs VHF Radio courses, first aid and diesel engine one day courses. In addition they run:

- RYA Day Skipper and Yacht master Level theory courses over three weekends each year.
- Courses in Paddle sport using their British Canoe Union trained coaches. These range from basic 1 star through to instructor / coach level.



•They also offer Fixed Seat Rowing Courses on a variety of boat types. The aim of the Project is to provide safe water activities for young people, run by qualified staff.

All the 150 staff at the Project are volunteers and are unpaid.

Pictured is our Chairman Elaina Mears presenting the certificate and a cheque for £250 to Richard Hart District Commissioner Dockland Scout Project, on board the Lord Amory during TSCC's down river cruise to West India Dock.



PAINTING AND DECORATING HOW IT SHOULD BE DONE

During our stay in London on the Downriver Cruise, we were invited to Painters Hall, home of the Guild of Painters and Stainers. Or Paynters and Steyners as they spelled it until someone put them right.

I have been involved in building most of my life and have spent a lot of time on site with painters. I know that to decorate a new room you first slap on a 'mist'



coat of watered down emulsion, then roller on two coats of neat emulsion straight from the can. You then spend some more time scraping blobs of paint from the door hinges and from the floor where you knocked the paint can. Finally you apply a coat of gloss paint where you want shiny bits.

Painters Hall is a slightly different world. There have been four halls, the first opened in 1532 and the latest opened 1961, with Queen Elizabeth 1 granting them their charter in 1581 - that means they have had 429 years of practice. That is probably why I couldn't find a single door hinge with the telltale scratches of someone trying to remove paint.

The first Hall was destroyed in London's Great Fire of 1666. Fire played a significant part in the subsequent history of the Guild. A replacement Hall was opened four years later in 1670. That was subsequently extended and adapted, but largely rebuilt in 1930 due to a foundation failure. That new Hall was destroyed in 1941 during the Blitz. On this occasion forethought was given to the most valuable contents which had been removed to a safe storage

elsewhere. Unfortunately the tragedy of fire loomed again, a blaze in the warehouse causing the destruction of those treasured historic documents and artworks.

This left the Guild with little to display when the current Hall was finally opened in 1961. A number of donations provide an eclectic mix of modern(ish) styles and traditional portraiture. Amongst the more recent works is a fascinating piece for which the artist has given no explanation. It shows a woman, in late middle age, with a hand stretched towards a nude younger woman. A generally accepted explanation is that it shows a mother trying to touch the spectre of her dead daughter. Sally Holdaway however destroyed this theory in a stroke by proclaiming that the girl didn't look dead to her. Suggestions for a new explanation will be welcomed by the Guild.

Other rooms displayed painting and decorating skills of the highest order. It would be unkind to say things were fake - but - one room appeared to be completely timber panelled until one tapped the wall, and it is actually painted plaster. Similarly, columns apparently of marble are also decorated plaster. A very high level expertise is required to achieve that degree of deception.

In the same room, three pieces of the Guild's prize silver were on display, having been brought up from Guild's vault for our pleasure.

Guesses were requested for the value of, what appeared to be, a very large tankard with a lid. Various suggestions were made; rising from £100k, to my wife Jacque's bid of £500k. The article is apparently a Jacobean loving cup, and the starting auction bid would indeed be half a million pounds.

Jacque asked when she could collect the cup but apparently we have to wait for her cheque to clear. Shame really, we have a space on a shelf crying out for a shiny tankard.

Our guide for the tour was the tall, elegant, urbane and hirsute Mr. Chris Tayman, Clerk to the Guild, an engaging and entertaining fount of knowledge on the history and aims of the Guild.

Our host, a friend of Elaina and Ray, was past master of The Guild Robert Glover, who very kindly arranged the visit.

Our most grateful thanks to both for a thoroughly enjoyable morning.

Ray Churchill

THE HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY

For us, this event was by far the highlight of the Down River Trip. Thank you Rosie for your research.

The programme started at 6pm a nice sunny day albeit a bit windy, Gordon, Jess and ourselves



arrived far too early, Jess being Jess accosted a very well to-do gentleman and asked if there were any seats as the security guy refused us entry, **he grabbed her hand and off they went** leaving us behind, Gordon got a bit worried as Jess was nowhere to be seen and he went after her, **the security guy failed to stop Gordon, so he disappeared also**, then I spied Gordon beckoning me to come forward, so I told the security guy that a gentleman over there is calling us over, he said it was Major Thomas so go ahead, it was Gordon really and we had prime seating. A young soldier checked on us to see if we were ok, and just as the gates opened he came back to us and told us to go grab our food and drink (all free) before the rush. Thank you Jess.

The Armoury House was open for all to visit, and I did go in just to get out of the fierce wind. I

was impressed with the medal display, one whole room dedicated to medals



- it was amazing, the Trophy Room likewise.

Back outside the Royal Gun Saluting Battery were making themselves heard, they were a little noisy, but we were all given ear plugs thank goodness.

Martin had the opportunity to have a chat to one of the motorcycle riders very early on, he explained to Martin that this will be the last season with the Triumph Tiger 100's, as they have trouble getting spares also maintenance is more difficult due to lack of parts.

It is such a shame that there are no British manufacturers out there to give support to this team. Fortunately Kawasaki have come forward with a new fleet of Kawasaki motorcycles and maintenance for the said motorcycles, so next season's display will be well worth watching.

The Pike Men and Musketeers' were a very colourful bunch, not knowing too much about them and their operations, I can't comment.

The battle with the insurgents and the army, very interesting, and gave insight as to how the army deal with insurgents, the battle was extremely noisy and the cannons shook the earth we stood on, thank goodness for ear plugs.



Sadly the one event that I think most of us really wanted to see was the RAF Falcons Parachute display, unfortunately Heathrow could not give the air space, and if they were to jump 8.45pm was the dead line.

The Chinook helicopter was held up by 10 minutes, therefore that was to put the parachutist basically in the danger zone for jumping, it was a great shame for all of us. We weren't aware that the Chinook was open to the public earlier in the evening, I am sure someone from the club went on board. I would love to have seen inside.

We left as the Sunset Ceremony began, Drums of the HAC, we were very cold and tired, it had been a long and eventful day, and to round off the day, a free bus ride home to the boat.

Thank you Rosie for finding this truly entertaining event.

Thank you Rosie for finding this truly entertaining event.

Our thanks to Gordon and Jess for their hospitality for the 5 days, giving us the opportunity to take part in the down river trip. We thoroughly enjoyed our stay with you both and the opportunity to spend some good time with the rest of the boaters of the TSCC, we didn't take part in everything but were glad to be in the mix. Those stairs on the Lord Amory will stay with me forever, I am not scared, just, terrified of heights.

Joan and Martin

Souvenirs from the Down River Trip



Ready for the S.S Robin tour – on the day, it was wet and freeezing!



Ray & Elaina on board Patty

Crossrail Place – Canary Wharf



Going Home



M.V. SALUKI

ORLANDO with GLORIANA
in Teddington Lock



THE TUDOR PULL

On our trip back from West India Dock, we stopped overnight at Hampton Court. On Saturday morning a regatta course was being set out so we decided to stay for the day and watch events. Good decision. It became a beautiful day with enjoyable competition.



However, at 9.30 the PA announced that Gloriana would be passing upstream to the Palace, which it did with flags a fluttering, under power.

The announcement then came that it would be travelling downstream at 10.30 in full livery, celebrating the annual Tudor Pull. 'What's that?' you may ask. 'No idea' would have been my immediate reply.

However, as by now you are all agog for enlightenment, I have done some intensive research.

The Gloriana is rowed by Watermen in full finery from Hampton Court to the Tower of London, and accompanied by cutters of various guilds. It marks the sinking in 1256 of Queen Eleanor's royal barge beneath the then London Bridge. Long memories these Watermen. The Queen's Lady of the Bedchamber died in the accident. That concludes the interesting bit.

More boringly, the Gloriana carries "The Stela" to the governor of the Tower of London. Now we all know that The Stela is a length of hollowed out timber that formed a Medieval rainwater pipe, and it's mounted on a piece of lock gate from the original Richmond Lock. It carries the Watermen's crest and is enclosed in a glass case. We did all know that didn't we?

What I don't know is why they take it. I suppose the boat is going anyway so it may as well carry something. I presume next year the Stella will be stuck in a taxi and be taken back to Hampton Court for another outing.

Anyway, back to the present day. The Gloriana did indeed pass downstream in all of its splendid regalia, with Watermen, in all of their finery, at the oars, or are they sweeps? Six cutters from the Guilds followed. It was quite a stirring site.

A small bone of contention. When the Gloriana passed upstream with no oarsmen, the electric propulsion motor could be clearly heard. Passing downstream, the rowers seemed remarkably relaxed and progress seemed effortless. Guess what we could hear?

Ray Churchill

STRAWBERRY TEA



The two Paulines about to enjoy the astonishingly good Strawberry Tea at AJAX. What's more, we had great weather and great company.



....and here are the hard workers who put it all together – thank you so much ladies: Janet, Jackie, Barbara and Elaina.

Bob Timms has sold his narrow boat 'Bulrush' and now owns a Fairline Mirage 29 named 'Miss Moffat II', shown in the picture on the Sea Scout moorings at Kings Lock.



ARUNDEL CATHEDRAL and WETLAND CENTRE



For over 100 years, Arundel Cathedral has celebrated the feast of Corpus Christi with a festival of flowers. There are spectacular floral displays around the Cathedral culminating in a magnificent carpet of flowers in the central aisle.



TSSC visited the Cathedral on 3rd June. Several people had stayed at B&B's overnight to ensure that they could arrive early – that really paid-off as we were able to avoid the vast number of visitors that came later.

Following our visit to Arundel Cathedral, we went a short distance to the Wetland Centre. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust is a conservation Charity that saves wetlands, which are essential for life itself. Wetlands are the primary source of drinking water for people and wildlife. There are 9 WWT Wetland Centres covering 3000 hectares. They rescue endangered species from the edge of extinction. They investigate what's damaging the wetlands on which people and wildlife depend and they protect, repair and actually create exciting new wetlands for people and wildlife.



We had a very tasty lunch at the Wetland Centre which Elaina had organised. After lunch we walked around the centre and met some of the many varieties of wild fowl.

Gordon is seen sharing his bench with one of the residents.

We then took to the water and had a very tranquil and interesting tour in one of the electric boats accompanied by an informative guide. A most enjoyable visit.



CRUISE to HURLEY LOCK ISLAND



The Hurley meet this year was from 14 – 21st July. We all seemed to arrive on the same day, with a good number early enough to take part in the “erection of the marquee ritual”, ably presided over by David Sowter. So that by the time my hire boat arrived, we had missed the fun. In all, thirteen boats took part, and we were joined by visitors for various days. The weather was dry and kind to us and we settled down on the lock island to await the time to go to the Rising Sun for the now traditional steak supper. This was as good as ever, giving

a good evening of chatter and the swapping of stories.

The following day was our get together with visiting members of the Club and the serious business of Ray’s horse shoe throwing competition, we were divided into two teams – the Metropolitan Police and the Household Cavalry, the team Captains wore appropriated helmets, and carried out their duties with a total disregard for the rules. The



Household Cavalry won and a box of chocolates was soon devoured and the Captains medal was duly paraded around. The George Barber quiz, started with elegant scrolls with the questions on, which taxed us all a little, there was a lot of muttering as the teams of five or six tried to understand the questions with Peter Simpson’s team coming out as winners. George and Janet had put



Linda won the Horseshoe competition getting all three shoes round the pin.



together an excellent quiz. They managed to avoid too many disputes and it

calmed down when the Pimms and cream tea was produced. This is certainly a highlight of the afternoon and resulted in a lot of mirth. Later on some repaired to the Rising Sun and the rest cooked on Barbeques a mixture of many different dishes, from the banger and burger to rack of lamb. All were delicious and washed down with some wine and chat made the evening pass quite quickly. We were all treated to barbequed banana with cream and rum a speciality supplied by David Jones, which was quite something. Later in the evening some campfire songs from yesteryear were sung, led by some who had been hiding their light and gift. Before we all staggered to our boats to rest after a very busy day.



Before we all staggered to our boats to rest after a very busy day.



all staggered to our boats to rest after a very busy day.

On the Saturday a number jumped into taxis and we went to the Traditional Boat Rally at Henley. This took place at Fawley Meadow and was a celebration of the best of traditional Thames boats, including a Motor Torpedo boat and Donald Campbell's Bluebird and Gloriana. Regrettably Bluebird had an engine fault and was unable to take

part in a cruise past. Boats dating from the early part of the 20th Century to more modern times were on display and provided a good day's entertainment. Alaska was offering steam boat trips and memories of an elegant past.



On Sunday we went by coach to Hughenden Manor and were given a tour around Disraeli's former home which was placed high on a hill with stunning views and gardens, beautifully kept, I wonder what Disraeli would have made of his view of modern High Wycombe -probably not to his

liking. A fascinating talk by a lady on the World War 2 work at the House. It was one of the best kept secrets of the war, only coming to light in the last fifteen years or so. Maps were made there from information provided by



Photo
Reconnaissance aircraft, flown from RAF Benson, with the photos interpreted at RAF Medmenham and then made into useful maps at Operation Hillside –

Hughenden Manor, the maps were prepared in the Ice House, not the best of environments with a series of tunnels which have still not been explained, partly due to a colony of bats living there, so off limits to humans. So secret was the work, that the house was not guarded by visible Military Police but a process of ignoring that the place existed. We then were taken to Chinnor to ride on the Steam railway that ran from Princes Risborough to Watlington. The restored section stops short of Princes Risborough, but hopes are high that





they will reach the station soon; we were served a cream tea during the trip. The train was pulled by a GWR Pannier locomotive that used to work at Weymouth pulling the Boat Train from the Station to the dockside.

Monday was a day of recovery, and the striking of the marquee, we had been lucky with

the weather, the tent was only used for storage and not as in previous years as a haven from deluging rain. Some of the boats started for home, and then on Tuesday the remainder went to lunch at the Leander Club at Henley. In all a very good rally with a lot of thanks due to those that organised the event and probably collapsed in a heap at the end of it.



Mary and Dusty Miller

To round-off the Hurley trip we had lunch at the Leander Club -surrounded by rowing memorabilia – especially from the many Olympic rowing successes of Club members.



The lunch was a wonderful way to conclude what had been a really enjoyable Hurley meet. Thanks to everyone who helped make it such a success.



TSCC Programme - 2015

August 15 Sat	Sunbury Regatta Firework Display
August 28-31 Fri-Mon	ATYC Rally - Kingston
September 24 Thurs	Battle of Britain Talk – Union Jack Club
October 17 Sat	Royal Marine's Band – GLive Guildford
November 12 Thurs	TSCC Annual Dinner – Glenmore House
December 18-20 Fri-Sat	Cricket St Thomas Hotel



Pre-lunch drinks in the garden of the Leander Club



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

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