

TSCC



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Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No.110

March 2019



Chairman's Log

For boat owners everywhere, the months between laying-up and fitting-out are necessarily peppered with activity. There are numerous niggles that need to be nailed and invariably one or two bigger jobs that cannot be avoided. But that is the nature of boats – they are demanding of your time and money but in return they offer the prospect of boundless enjoyment afloat. Over the last 12 months several of our members have said goodbye to their boats. Inevitably this is a moment of mixed emotions. On the one hand freedom from the treadmill of maintenance – but equally, a deep sense of loss and finality.

But provided you are still capable, selling your boat does not necessarily mean an end to boating pleasure. I have boated all my life but I have only owned a boat for a short period. That was many years ago when a friend and I decided we would sail together every Wednesday throughout the season. We sailed three times in three years and then we sold the boat. Since then I have been a strong proponent of chartering. I believe that by chartering I have often boated more each year than many of those who keep their own. And there are numerous advantages. The only cost is the charter itself – no insurance, no mooring costs, no maintenance bills, no licence to pay, no capital tied up, no depreciation and no unexpected bombshell costs.

And that's not all. You don't feel obliged to restrict your boating to the vessel that you own and you're not constrained by where you keep it moored. With chartering, the world's your oyster. Last year Jackie and I sailed in the Caribbean, narrow boated on the Llangollen canal, and boated twice with the Club – once on the Norfolk Broads and once on the Thames for the annual upstream cruise to Hurley. That's a solid month of quality boating with massive variety and no further responsibilities once the charter is complete and the keys are returned. I strongly commend the chartering alternative to all those members who no longer have their own.

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

Cover photo – TSCC's hotel in Stratford "The Shakespeare"

And in 2020 (that's next year!), if sufficient members are interested, we will look to organise another TSCC cruise in chartered craft, either on the Norfolk Broads or elsewhere if we can find a practical, affordable alternative. Let us know if you might be interested and if so whether there are 'uncharted waters' you would like us to explore. Again, if there is sufficient interest, we will see what we can do.

During the dark winter days, the Club has remained as active as ever – an immensely enjoyable pre-Christmas break in Stratford upon Avon (a huge thank-you to Jackie for her meticulous organisation), a well-attended AGM, and an exciting skittles match with the Weybridge Mariners and the Byfleet Boat Club at which, for the first time to my knowledge, the TSCC claimed the winner's trophy! And by the time you read this log, we will have enjoyed a Race Night at Ajax and we will be looking forward to our annual Fitting Out Supper at a new venue, Topo Gigio in Ewell.

I hope to see you at many forthcoming events and look forward to another season of fun and camaraderie, both on and off the water.

Mark

Skittles

2nd February 2019



This was an outstandingly well organised and immensely pleasurable skittles evening. It could be said that TSCC was not so much the winner as the 'least worst' of the teams – but nonetheless everyone did their best and it was lots of fun. The icing on the cake of course was the fabulous spread that Heather and Doreen put before us at 'half time'. It is no surprise that Frank and Brian look so very happy and contented! Frank Gaylard did a superb job of organising the Skittles – he kept things moving along with his usual sense of fun.

Photo: Commodore Roy Nash presenting the Trophy to Mark.



Cruise – Southampton to Zeebrugge

Fri 30 November – Sun 2 December 2018

Way back in 2018, Elaina spotted a short cruise on the Cunard Queen Elizabeth that she and Janet felt would be a nice occasion to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversaries. Then we thought, why not circulate the details to TSCC members. In the end, our party totalled 15 including Mark's Aunt Audrey. The keenly awaited embarkation date eventually arrived and we all met up on board for dinner in the Art Deco inspired Britannia Dining Room on the Friday evening, all looking very pleased with ourselves in our dinner jackets and gowns. After the meal we enjoyed a show in the ship's Royal Court Theatre followed by nightcaps in one of the ship's many bars.



On the Saturday (the only full day of the cruise) the weather was rather dull and miserable and so four of us (Janet, George, Doreen and Barbara) stayed on board and had the whole ship to ourselves. We played cards in the Commodores Lounge, at which yours truly fared badly playing against these ruthless ladies whose card playing skills are finely honed through years of Monday ladies-who-lunch sessions.

Elaina and Ray braved the elements and ventured as far as Blankenberge (the nearest town to the port of Zeebrugge) which they said has some interesting shops. However, others took the train to Bruges and had a good browse around the picturesque town.

The Saturday evening saw us once again "dressed-up" to the 9's for another fine dining experience. After the meal and strolling through the ship we heard

the strains of traditional jazz and, following our ears, we arrived at the Golden Lion Pub where a band with very talented musicians was playing well known Dixieland tunes. We actually managed to pull up enough chairs to seat us all, no mean feat on a busy cruise ship. For some of us this was the highlight of the trip. It was also very nice to have the company of TSCC friends on the memorable, if rather short, voyage.



George Barber

New Scout Logo



As part of the first brand update in 17 years, the Scout Association has announced a new logo. This was developed in partnership with volunteers and following consultation and testing with 7,000 people. It is designed to project Scouting's visual identity in a digital age, while still retaining our strong heritage – including the iconic fleur-de-lis. In testing, both adults and young people have responded positively to the new brand, with parents saying they were 44% more likely to volunteer after seeing the new materials.

As a Scout Active Support Unit, we need to reflect the new Scout branding and as you can see this is now incorporated into our TSCC 'lifebuoy' logo.



We hope you will like our updated visual identity although we do know that for some of us it can take a little while to get used to something new.

However, if it has anything like a 44% positive impact on parent volunteering, I am sure that all of us will come to love it very soon!

A big thank-you to our friends at Carrow Design who have kindly prepared the new artwork.

Stratford-upon-Avon

Sunday 9th December 2018.



We left Sandown Park at 9.30 am. We stopped on route for a comfort break, and arrived at Stratford upon Avon to the Shakespeare Hotel at approximately 12.15 pm. Our rooms were not going to be ready until after 2 pm but we could

leave our luggage in an allocated room. The Christmas market was in full swing which stretched over most of Stratford, with the stall holders all dressing up in costumes. Lots of very interesting stalls and crafts to get you in the Christmas spirit. Most of us also had a light lunch and some of us alcoholic refreshment! The hotel was very nice and right in the heart of Stratford. In the evening a meal was arranged at the White Swan Hotel which was a short walk. The



whole of Stratford was a joy to see with the Christmas Lights which were amazing. Somebody who had been to London to see the lights said the lights in Stratford were better than the London ones! The meal was excellent, and the hotel had really decorated the room beautifully in a lovely Christmas tradition. We also had a quiz on Shakespeare which our table amazingly won! A great night and many thanks to Jackie and Mark for all their hard work and organisation.

Sally Holdaway.



Monday 10th December

After a refreshing night's sleep and a good breakfast our party divided into three groups to take the Stratford Guided Walk. Our group guide, Joyce, who is currently Mayor of Stratford walked us gently from Chapel Street across Sheep Street to look over the buildings around the four corners of the crossroads. From the 1600 Tudor architecture of some of the older shops



to the 1700s Town Hall and the Old Bank building of the 1800s and not quite so interesting the 1900s architecture of modern shops. We moved on along High Street to the junction with Bridge Street which as its name implied leads to a bridge across the Avon... originally a wooden bridge which for part of the year became flooded and impassable but is now replaced by an attractive stone bridge which conveys the heavy volumes of traffic passing through Stratford. We walked on down Henley Street and came to Shakespeare's birthplace.



Joyce getting to grips with history

William Shakespeare was the son of John Shakespeare and Mary Arden and William was born in 1568. His father became Mayor of Stratford and William was able therefore to attend the Grammar School. When John died, William inherited his birth home which he leased out and it became an Inn until 1847. William and Anne were blessed with three children, Susanna and twins Hamlet and

Juliet. Sadly, Hamlet died at a very young age. Following the death of William, the home was inherited by Susanna who later bequeathed it to her only child Elizabeth. Sadly, Elizabeth did not have children of her own and on her death the home passed to a descendant of one of William's sisters and was later purchased by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

We progressed on along Windsor Street to the Market Place and the American Fountain a gift to Stratford from the American people. The fountain part is now a flower bed but the gargoyles around the four upper corners are two golden eagles and two lions to represent the special relationship between the two countries at the time.

We moved on to the Guild Chapel. The word guild being the then equivalent of our now Parish councils. The chapel would have originally been used partly as a chapel and also as part of the school. Alongside is the Guildhall and



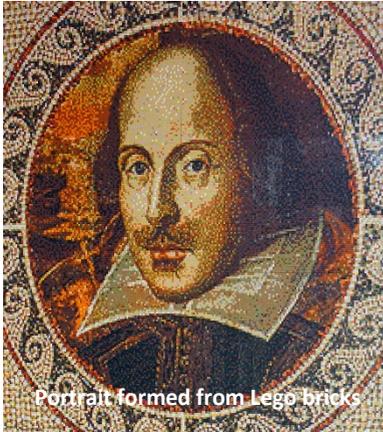
Shakespeare's schoolroom built in 1417 as the HQ of the Guild of the Holy Cross, this building stretches along to a row of Alms-houses. Moving on into Old Town we came to Halls Croft home of Susanna and her husband John Hall who was a physician.

Holy Trinity Church is an impressive building with a tree lined entrance and appealing 'Weeping Chancel' (offset not straight depicting how Christ's head lay to one side on the cross). Holy Trinity is better known now to visitors as the burial place of William Shakespeare his wife Anne (Hathaway) Susanna and John Hall. It was originally a wooden church but has evolved over the years into the brick & masonry building it is today.

It still has its Rood screens in the centre of the nave which originally would have parted off the congregation during parts of the Mass services. It

was in the Trinity Church Hall that William would have collected his Tithe payments.

The final part of our walk was along Waterside past The Other Place a tin building part of the RSC used as rehearsal and costume storage and was in fact used as the Shakespeare Theatre while various building was being completed at the company's main theatre by the river, where tonight we shall see the Christmas Carol performed. We had views along Avonbank and the riverbank gardens before returning up Sheep Street to our Hotel. Joyce had been a



Portrait formed from Lego bricks

delightful and knowledgeable guide and we wished her well with the rest of her year in office as Mayor. Any 'thank you payments' given to Joyce at the end of our tour she kindly donates to local charities

Afternoon was free time for us to explore the town or relax before we all met up to walk to Cafe Rouge for our pre-theatre dinner. Then on to the RSC theatre for the performance of a Christmas Carol. We are all very familiar with the original story but this was a very slick version with superb lighting and special effects. The part of

Ebenezer scrooge was played to perfection by Aden Gillett (who those of a certain age may remember for among other things his performance in the TV series House of Elliot) and all the cast gave us a more light-hearted insight into



the story as we had learnt it in our past. The performance ended with well-deserved applause for all the cast.

So, it's now back to our hotel for a nightcap before a night's rest. We have another full day planned for us tomorrow.

Pam Dennis

Tuesday 11th December
The Other Place

The final organised visit of the Getaway to Stratford upon Avon. One of the visits was to The Other Place. We had an overview of the history of the building which began primarily from the vision of a lady named Buzz Goodbody (a name given to her because as a child she would 'buzz' from one project to the next) who joined the RSC in 1967.



The history of the building was remarkable originally starting in 1974 from a prefabricated metal shed which was a former store and rehearsal room sitting in a muddy field to the opening of the purpose-built theatre in 1991.

We had a very helpful overview of the many aspects of the Place before our tour began. Nothing prepared us for the labyrinth of rooms within such a small place. Over the course of its history everything had been arranged to gain the best possible space leading to the current use complete with rehearsal rooms, a permanent costume store and a large studio theatre complete with moveable audience seating.



The costume store was like an Aladdin's cave, a myriad of vibrant colours. There were rows of costumes and headwear from Roman, Elizabethan to modern, all carefully catalogued in pristine rows. Such detail is taken in

productions that if a colour it too bright under stage lighting a thin film of paint is applied for better effect.

It was not surprising to find on the ground floor that there were laundry facilities as well as changing facilities. Apparently, the fence surrounding the rest area at the rear of the building was very popular when David Tennant was in the Company! Everyone could only imagine the stories and people the space had witnessed.

Finally, after such a fascinating tour there was a chance to have coffee and cake, what a lovely way to end a marvellous stay in Stratford.

Judy Bowles

Thames News:

Whitchurch toll bridge has been sold for the first time in 227 years.

Whitchurch toll bridge has been bought by the General Estates Company, based in Southampton.



The General Estates Company has been a shareholder in the Whitchurch Bridge Company for over 90 years.

About 6,000 vehicles a day use the Grade II-listed bridge which underwent a £6m renovation in 2014.

The River Thames crossing between Whitchurch-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Pangbourne, West Berkshire, costs drivers 60p to use.

The bridge was originally built by 10 local dignitaries using their own funds after parliament granted permission in 1792.

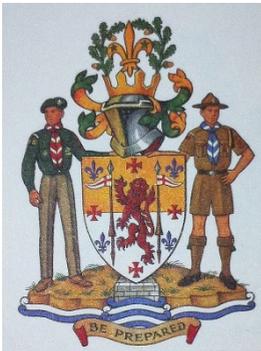
A second wooden bridge was completed in 1853 and was similar to the earlier one but was less steep and had only half the number of piers. However, it deteriorated, and was replaced by an iron bridge in 1902, which stands to this day.

Annual General Meeting

Roger Jones took the Chair for the Committee elections. We are pleased to welcome Elaina Mears back onto the Committee which, otherwise, remains unchanged.

Mark noted that TSCC membership this year is 81 and said that if any members have friends with connections to the Scouts or Girl Guides their presence at TSCC events as a precursor to membership would be most welcome.

During the 2018 year, TSCC made six grants totalling £3000 to Scouting projects.



Mrs Mary Osborn, the Surrey County Scout Active Support Unit Manager, was invited to speak and she thanked Club and the Committee for their fundraising efforts to support young people in Scouting. It is essential support and is very much appreciated.

Mrs Osborn then presented the Chief Scout's 5-year Scouting service award to Jackie Marriott.

Joe Rogerson, the Surrey Scouts County Commissioner, was invited to speak. He spoke about the great work on fundraising that is done by TSCC and its members. He said that he knows the 1st Hanwell Group and they certainly are deserving of support. The leaders work very hard for the young people and have very little opportunity to raise money from their locality, so TSCC financial support is very valuable.



Joe then presented a Bar to the Award for Merit to Mark Marriott for further outstanding service to Scouting.

WELCOME ABOARD!

TSCC extends a warm welcome to new member:

Ian Hardie

We wish him lots of fun and friendship with the Club.



HELP! I'M HOOKED

At the end of January, I bought myself some wool and a pack of knitting looms to help while away the long winter evenings. Before Christmas I had knitted all my family members very long scarves and thought I would try my hand at hats. The plastic looms are based on



the French knitting we used to do as children using an old cotton reel and 4 nails, I used to produce yards and yards of thin tubing which I was never too sure what to do with apart from knitted coasters, not very successful, but now I really am on a roll, I started off with the smallest size making hats for premature babies, the next size up for children then on to adult sizes. I have now finished 30 in the last month. When I was chatting to Elaina the other day she was delighted when I said I would knit some hats for the Samaritan Purse Christmas shoe boxes she sends to Africa and Eastern Europe each year. I know many of you have given her donations in the past, so now I have my begging bowl out to ask if any of you have any spare wool lurking at the back of a cupboard as I am coming to the end of my odd balls. I've even made a hat to wear at the Weybridge Mariners St Patrick's Day lunch, it will be recycled afterwards to go into a shoe box. Tomorrow I'm off to Kingston hospital with a bag of 16 baby hats which each take a very small amount of wool so even half balls are of use.

I hope some of you who are coming to the Fitting Out supper can bring along a bag with some odds and ends I can put to good use. See you there.

Rosie.

The Ray Andrews Photographic Trophy

The subject for 2019 as chosen by last year's winner Mark Marriott is:



Feel free to use your imagination, the subject is what you make it – when the sun comes out, get out those cameras or mobile phones and click away.

As Mark said in the last Newsletter “it would be great if there were a flood of entries to this competition.” To encourage this, he proposed a couple of changes:

Firstly, we would like to receive all entries as email attachments so that every photo can be displayed at our Annual Dinner as a high quality A4 print.

Secondly, we would like to get everyone involved so we will be asking all those attending the dinner to select the photo they think stands out above all others.

The winner will be the entry with the most votes.

TSCC Programme of Events for 2019

All dates and events are subject to change

Horse Race Night at Ajax WAC	Tuesday 12 March at 7.30 pm
Fitting Out Meal at Topo Gigio	Tuesday 2 April 7.00 for 730. pm
Savoy Theatre to see "9 to 5 The Musical"	Wednesday 8 May at 2.30 pm
D-Day Anniversary Dinner and Cruise on the MV Marco Polo	Saturday 8 to Monday 17 June
Cruise to Hurley Lock Island	Monday 24 – Friday 28 June Mon 24 th Evening meal at the Rising Sun Tues 25 th Visit to West Wycombe Estate Wed 26 th Fun Day with Pims Thurs 27 th Canal Boat Cream Tea
Summer Barbeque at Little Compton	Sunday 28 July at 12.30 for 1.00pm
Visit to Buckingham Palace	Tuesday 17 th September
Amsterdam Cruise on Cunard's Queen Elizabeth	Friday 4 to Tuesday 8 October
Autumn Getaway to Liverpool	Sunday 27 to Tuesday 29 October
TSCC Annual Dinner at Ristorante Sorrento, Tolworth	Monday 18 November 7.00 for 7.30pm
Christmas with TSCC at Ajax WAC	Sunday 8 th December at 3.00 pm

Thames Scout Cruising Club Grants

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SCOUTS/GUIDES

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

Our Committee will be pleased to consider all requests.

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