

# THAMES SCOUT CRUISING CLUB NEWSLETTER



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## ROSIE'S ROUND-UP



Since the 2012 AGM in January TSCC members have either enjoyed or sadly missed 4 interesting and varied events.

The first was a **Burns Night** held at The Weybridge Mariners Club. This was a fantastic night organised by Derek Dale fondly known as "Delboy". He enticed 100 including 12 from the TSCC to have a 5 course dinner including Haggis with a wee dram accompaniment. We saw the parade of the Haggis with Piper, Kilted bearers and chefs in whites with tall hats. The wee round furry thing (haggis) was then given a severe talking to in words totally incomprehensible to 99.9% of the guests assembled. Following this ceremony we ate the wee thing then enjoyed being entertained with singing, poetry readings and playing musical instruments. Then everyone joined in a sing song of traditional Scottish folk songs before rounding off the evening with a Whiskey raffle and dancing. Everyone who attended hope that next year Delboy will put on a repeat performance. A fantastic evening for £15 with almost £1000 raised for charity.

At the end of January 27 members and 8 friends ventured up to Euston to visit the **Magic Circle**. We watched close-up magic at 3 separate tables then had a supper of sandwiches and coffee, looked at the museum and chatted with the magicians. To round off the evening we were given a truly fantastic show in the intimate Magic Circle theatre. Jackie (Marriott) was invited on stage to see her ring disappear and eventually reappear inside a walnut which had been inside an egg which had been inside a lemon!

In February it was the annual 3-way **Skittles Match** at the Byfleet Boat Club this was attended by 14 members 3 of whom had to be Mariners for the night (they do have dual

membership so it was allowed!) even so Byfleet still managed to run off with the "lost" trophy again, I think we shall have to put in some practice before next year.

The 4<sup>th</sup> event was a **Quiz Night** held in Hinchley Wood. 21 members and 9 friends made-up 3 teams. A good variety of questions some easy and some not so easy. Even so the TSCC didn't manage to run off with the prize, we had better get some more afternoon TV watching in to get in shape for the next one. A fish and chip supper was served during the interval with the only slip-up being that there weren't enough portions of chicken and as Pauline V is allergic to fish David said he would go to the shop to get some then realised that he had come in Les's car so said he would have to take him. In the end Eddy from Superfish went and got it so all ended well.

As I write this article 8 of us will be going to the **ATYC annual dinner dance** in Marlow where, for the first time, the **Meineck Trophy** will be presented. This trophy has been bought on behalf of the TSCC members in memory of Dave, a lovely man who is sadly missed. It will be presented each year to the person who, in the opinion of the ATYC Training Committee, is their "Top Trainer" within the new Thames Boating Certificate scheme. The first recipient will be Paul Schroder of Albany Motor Yacht Club.



Don't forget to look at the **TSCC website** for information on forthcoming events and to see pictures of past happenings hopefully there will be something to whet your appetite. Looking forward to seeing you at some of our future events.

Rosie.

## **Samaritans purse Christmas shoe box appeal 2012!!**

For some years now my daughter and I have been sending shoe boxes to the Samaritans purse Christmas appeal.

Last year I decided to find out more about the organisation, consequently we spent quite a lot of very enjoyable time in the run up to the big day working at the depots where the shoeboxes are checked. This has to be done so that each child is given a fair box. Anyone who sends anything is very generous, but it is amazing how different the gifts can be, some people have given an incredible amount of thought into the things they have put in, others have just chosen a couple of items.

Our job is to check each box and if it is lacking we top-up using more donated things such as a small soft toy, tennis ball, toiletries (ie tablets of soap, flannels, toothbrushes, toothpaste), pens, pencils, paper, colouring books, rubbers, and pencil sharpeners. We also include small toys, anything that we think the child may enjoy. Hats scarves and gloves are much appreciated (any knitter's out there?). The shoe boxes are organised into categories, boys 2 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14, the same for girls.

If you are interested there is a good web site showing the children who are given the boxes, these children have absolutely nothing, they live in abject poverty, these will be the only presents they receive. I was certainly touched by their plight.

**Now my appeal for next Christmas**, if your families are turning out any small soft toys it would wonderful if you could let me have them, also any freebie tablets of soap from your hotel stays, any tennis balls (I'm happy to wash them), in fact anything you think might be useful to us, we would be most grateful on behalf of the children.

*Elaina Mears*

## TSCC AGM 8<sup>th</sup> January

The Chairman made a presentation to Elaina Mears who had indicated before the meeting that she wished to stand down from the Committee. Elaina has, for eight years, been the inspiration behind a great variety of events which have brought much enjoyment to all those able to take part. David thanked Elaina for her work in organising the events for TSCC and the Members warmly applauded Elaina as a sign of their appreciation for all she had done for the Club.

*Dear Members,  
Thank you for your kind words  
and beautiful orchid. I have  
enjoyed my time on the  
committee and wish the new  
committee every success for  
2012. I'm looking forward to a  
relaxing season and enjoying  
the excellent programme.*

*Best Wishes  
Elaina*



The Club is pleased to welcome **Mark Marriott** to the Committee

The AGM concluded with a talk from **Darren Knight, Harbourmaster, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Manager**. This was most informative and revealed the complexity of the task to plan, organise and manage the largest flotilla ever to be assembled on the river. He said the Queen will be on the river for 60 mins and will take the salute from the flotilla for 90 mins.

The Club is delighted that Orlando and Madam have been selected to take part in the flotilla.



## AT LAST! OUR MAGICAL XMAS TRIP

Most of our party left their homes before or around 8.00a.m. on Friday 2 December 2011.

We gathered at Chessington World of Adventures and, after parking, made our way over to catch the coach. We had an excellent driver – Ray, and our organiser Liz. We left at 9.12a.m. Our drive north was beautiful with lots of



sunshine and all the autumn colours still about. We arrived at Duke Street Norwich about 1.00p.m. Some of our rooms were ready while some people had to wait. We settled into our respective rooms and then went various ways to find our main meal of the day and then wander around Norwich. The river that crosses Duke Street just up the road from the Premier Inn is the Wensum.



We re-assembled at 4.45p.m. for the coach to the magic of the Thursford Christmas Spectacular. We paid £4 to visit the Fantasy Land where all the snowmen and animals are. It takes about an hour to walk through and admire all the moving creatures and scenes. The lights all around and overhead were marvellous.

At 7.00p.m. we found our seats and settled down for the show. This year the orchestra was on the stage. Some people felt that it rather restricted the dancing and also meant slightly distracting movement. It did, however, make more seating area. The

show was great. A lovely mixture of dancing, singing, magic, comedy and serious, or should I say, a little more serious moments. The use of candles and lighting was great. The show finished at 10.00p.m. but we then had an encore for about ten minutes. We arrived back at the Premier Inn at about 11p.m. and so to drinks and bed.

On Saturday, breakfast commenced at 8a.m. and we all met to go off at 9.00a.m. to the Raptor Foundation in Woodhurst, Cambridgeshire.

We arrived at about 11.00a.m. We looked around in the shop and passage where there were small birds - Galah from Australia, parrots, parakeets and a couple more that I can't remember. We then went off in two parties to be introduced to lots of different owls, falcons, hawks,

and eagles. We then sat in a fair sized area for a flying display. We saw several birds put through their paces including owls, falcons and hawks. Near to the finish, one bird sat on Jim Pothecary's head (front page). Then



we were allowed to put on a glove and feed them ourselves. The glove is always worn on the left hand as the right hand would have been used to hold the reins of a horse, for example, or a weapon. By this time, we were all pretty cold. We went into the Silent Wings tea room for a pre-ordered lunch (very good) and a hot cup of tea or coffee. After buying any gifts we wanted, we returned to the coach and drove home.

We arrived back at Chessington after 5.00p.m. It was a really lovely two days - it felt like more because we did so much.

A really big thank you to Rosie for all the hard work in organising the trip.

Jessie English

## James Richard Cranham

16 June 1927 – 22 November 2011



**Jim Cranham** of *Iffy* fame was a stalwart member of the TSCC from its earliest days and he only parted with his boat shortly before he died in November. Jim lived for most of his adult life in SE London and held many Scouting appointments around Streatham. Jim was called up in 1945 and served as a photographer in the Fleet Air Arm. This led to his career in the film industry ultimately with Rank Film Laboratories where he was a senior manager and an expert in the colour quality of films especially developing the rushes of some of the most famous of film producers, (we went with him to the cinema

one day and he tutted about the standard all the way through!)

His first love of the water was canoeing and he would spend many hours standing in the river, in an early disgusting yellow latex dry suit that made him look like a Michelin man, teaching rolling. He was always available to help and encourage. For many years he was a key member of the team that led canoe cruises of 100+ down rivers such as the Dart, Wye, Seven and Thames. It was only in later years he moved onto power craft having three *Iffys* in which he cruised from the Dome in the east to above Lechlade in the west, only stopping when *Iffy* could go no further. There wasn't a backwater that he had not explored. From his boats he helped many youngsters who have gone on to become national and international paddlers including at least one world champion.

Jim easily made friends and never lost them. It was obvious at his funeral the positive effect he had had on so many. As was said in his eulogy, Jim was one of a kind, unique. A true gentleman, a leader, a teacher, a mentor, an example, a friend and generous in all ways.

Graham Bucknell

## George “Buster” Bunce

29 December 1934 – 7 January 2012

**Buster**, the name by which he was universally known in TSCC and elsewhere, was born George Bunce. It was the nurse present at his birth that gave him the nickname “Buster” because of his size as a baby, and it remained with him throughout his life.

Buster went to school in Mitcham, remaining at the same school throughout the whole of his school life, starting on the first school day of 1940 and leaving on the last school day of 1949. In 1950, just after his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, Buster started work in South London Motors, very soon being taken on as an apprentice.

When he completed his apprenticeship at the age of 21 he was called to do his National Service in the Navy, of course, in the engineering branch. There he learnt about BIG diesel engines and turbines. He travelled around the world from Suez, where he received a medal for his service, to Malta, Virginia, USA, Denmark and other places.

In September 1961 Buster married Phyllis, whom he had first met at the age of 11. They had three children, Paul, Michael and Maria who, in time, showed that they had inherited Buster’s engineering skills by being graduates in Computer Engineering, Electronics and Mechanical Engineering respectively.

Buster was a keen gardener of both vegetables and flowers and his firm favourite was fuschias, of which he had very many varieties and knew each variety by name. After his retirement, Buster developed his woodworking skills, making among other items, dolls houses and horse racing sets. These latter have occupied and entertained many TSCC members at Club events such as Fitting-out Suppers and on the bank-side at Cookham.

We have known Buster and Phyllis as our friends for something in excess of 35 years. We introduced them to cruising on the River Thames in the early 1990s and soon afterwards they were invited to TSCC events and joined the Club. With us and other members of



TSCC they travelled to France, Belgium, The Netherlands and to Germany. Outside of TSCC, Buster and his family visited the USA a few years ago. Buster was very proud when in 2006 his elder son Paul was married in the same church in Mitcham on the same day that he and Phyllis had married exactly 45 years earlier. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in 2011 and many members will recall the TSCC celebration of this event when we were in the Clubhouse at Limehouse Marina.

Buster was the great provider of knowledge and practical help for all things mechanical. He helped me a great deal when we had a rather troublesome, but not old, Ford Fiesta and he has helped and given advice with many mechanical problems encountered on Miss Amanda. At many TSCC bank-side events, anyone with a problem with their boat engine would know that they could come along to Buster to get good, sound advice and practical help.

Among the many items that Buster made was a life-sized internally illuminated silhouette crib for fixing to the outside of the Church. This was a Millennium project and each year since then he, I and a few other men have assembled it for Christmas and removed it afterwards. On the morning of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January we dismantled the crib and Buster returned home as normal. In the early evening he felt unwell, retired to bed and died in his sleep.

We, and many members of TSCC, have lost a very good friend. He will be greatly missed.

Tony & Rita Scott

## *COLD ADVICE*

According to one insurance company an astonishing 10% of claims by value in the last 12 months have been as a direct result of boat owners taking insufficient or no action to protect their property against damage by frost or freezing temperatures. Your insurance policy (check it!) should provide cover for damage to your boat and machinery caused by frost, provided that you have taken reasonable precautions to protect it against damage caused by freezing temperatures. If you have done nothing it should be obvious that you have not been reasonable in your actions – it will then be no surprise when the insurers say “we can’t help you”. Take action before freezing temperatures arrive. Drain down where appropriate and make sure any anti-freeze mix is at least 50/50 ratio to water (never 100% as water is required to make anti-freeze effective). Add a heater in the lowest part of the engine room. If afloat, close the seacocks and stick a reminder over the ignition. To be sure, follow the guidelines in the manufacturer’s handbook.

# QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE RIVER PAGEANT - REHEARSAL -

As you all know David is the glass half full member of our 43 year union while I am the glass half empty one.

When he heard of the proposed Thames Pageant to be part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations he was straight onto his beloved computer to register Orlando for this once in 350 year event. Eventually we had news to say we had been picked to attend the Narrowboat rehearsal due to take place on the weekend of the Thames Festival in September 2011. Well this is how I remembered it :-



Portrait of The Queen, taken in 2002  
© John Swannell/Camera Press

For a boating weekend the river conditions were "bouncy", 26 narrowboats mustered in Limehouse basin and after a well needed supper we attended a briefing session including several dogs and babies, everyone in high spirits and out for a good time, so far so good.

We had an early start on Saturday morning locking out all 26 boats from Limehouse and making our way up river to our mustering point in Barn Elms Reach, enthusiasm overtook some of the leading skippers causing us to get to ahead of the incoming tide, so we had to stop, turn and moor onto a rubbish barge and wait for the tide for about 40 minutes. We eventually reached our muster point and had to hang onto some rusty chains alongside a very high wall with nails and tree saplings sticking out everywhere. Skippers soon got out hack saws and secateurs to try and remove some of the offending objects. Several of the boats started to decorate with flags and bunting. Orlando was alongside Rod and Val Wardlaw in their boat Hazell Nut from the Byfleet Boat Club and we both went with the theme of red and white and St George Just over an hour later we had the call to slip our moorings and we were off.

We had been told to maintain a speed of 4 knots and keep 2 boat lengths apart from the one in front and 1 boat length apart from the one next to us, we were going down stream 4 abreast and to keep as far over to the starboard side as possible. Well it was like one of those dancing circles, you know when the dancer in the middle marks time and the last one on the outside has to run hell for leather to catch up and join on the end. We were towards the back of the flotilla and our engines were flat out but we just couldn't keep up with the rest. By the time we reached the 1<sup>st</sup> bridge one of the lead boats broke down and had to be rescued before crashing into the bridge. Several calls were made over the VHS asking the lead boats to slow down. Louis in Madam who was near the front realised the plight of the rest of us and managed to get everyone to slow down so that we could all be together instead of all over the place. As we proceeded down river other squadrons of boats joined in, the ATYC and the Dutch Barges. I am not too sure of exactly what happened ahead of us but rumour has it that the ATYC boats left their station too early and had to turn round to wait. When the Dutch Barges joined in they were faced with a squadron of cruisers coming towards them. Angelus the lead barge then got caught broadside on under a bridge followed by the narrowboat squadron who had to put their brakes on to stop going into the back of the Dutch Barges! (See photo back page)

As we proceeded down past the London Eye we had to go down to 2 abreast under the bridges then get back into formation of 4 abreast. While all this was going on Thames clippers, duck tours and rib experiences were taking place all around us and the wind was getting up making the water choppy while on the horizon dark black clouds were forming. We made it through Tower Bridge without losing any one on the mooring lines of HMS Belfast and past HMS President ready to disperse into West India Dock for the night. Before getting there the narrowboats were asked to practice an emergency stop (I remembered this manoeuvre from my driving test some 47 years ago, would it be the same?) No. David and Rodney had decided to go hard into reverse while other narrowboats decided to turn. The 2 of us did quite well and when I turned round to see how the others were doing, a sneaky wind had blown up and they were all over the river.

By this time all we wanted was to be moored up for the night, West India was in sight, nearly there. NO. We had to go further down river and wait until the lock had been reset as all the cruisers were going in.

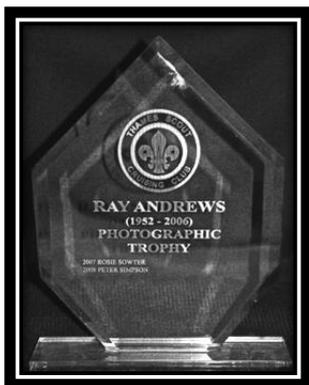
Now was the time for the black cloud to discharge its load. Eventually it was our turn and Orlando was the last boat in the lock. The sun came out and the most beautiful rainbow appeared.

There had been 150 boats in this rehearsal and on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 there are going to be 1000 boats involved with more moored craft on the river and Her Majesty The Queen aboard The Spirit of Chartwell at the head of the procession .We were told that being part of the rehearsal was no guarantee of being in the pageant, but Madam, Hazell Nut and Orlando have been very lucky and have been chosen for the main event. So do watch out for us on the TV and think of us as we spend the night, not in West India Dock with all the lovely restaurants but in the Royal Docks with not even a water hose and only the sound of planes taking off from City Airport to send us to sleep.

Rosie.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION The Ray Andrew's Trophy 2012

### Subject: **Your Best TSCC Moment of 2012**



The Trophy is presented annually for the best photograph taken by club members. Photos, before judging, will be on show at the Club Annual Dinner. Please either post or give your photos to a Committee Member before, or at, the Annual Dinner.

Photographs can be colour or black and white and any size. They should be printed and may be unmounted, mounted on card, or framed. Attached to the back of each photo should be a note of:

#### **Who took it; Where it was taken; When it was taken.**

Entries will be limited to one per individual member (in this instance, a member includes partners and crew). Thus, for example, husband and wife can each submit one entry.

All members are eligible to take part except the judge(s).

Photographs will be returned after the competition.

## YOUR RIVER, YOUR OPPORTUNITY

The River Thames is an iconic destination for boating enthusiasts all through the year. As the navigation authority for the Thames, the Environment Agency is looking for volunteers to assist with the operation and maintenance of locks from Cricklade in Wiltshire to Teddington in Middlesex, through the busy summer months.

Joining our team of Lock Keepers as a volunteer assistant, you will gain the valuable experiences that only the Environment Agency can offer. You will spend your days outdoors, helping boats through the lock, giving advice to visitors, looking after the lock-side facilities and generally acting as an ambassador for the River Thames and the Environment Agency.

We will provide on-the-job training and Environment Agency branded clothing to make sure that you can play your part with confidence. We'll also provide the best opportunities for you to increase your knowledge of the River Thames whilst building on your skills, knowledge and passion for the environment.

All positions are offered on a voluntary basis, starting April 2012 and finishing October 2012. We are looking for people who can spare at least one day a week throughout the season. Please be aware some weekend and bank holiday work may be required.

For an information pack and application form please email [thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk), call 01491 828360, or speak to your local Lock Keeper, .

We would be grateful if you could share this notice with your colleagues, members and anyone you think might be interested. If you would like a poster to display we would be very grateful; please let us know.

River Thames Volunteer Team  
Environment Agency  
Tel: 01491 828360  
Email: [thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk)  
Red Kite House, Howbery Park, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxon.  
OX10 8BD



## Thames Valley Police

### **Delivering a safe and secure Olympic Games at Dorney Lake**

As you know, during this summer the world's largest sporting event is coming to our area. The rowing, canoe sprint and adaptive rowing events will be held at Eton College's rowing centre.

As somebody closely linked to the area around the venue either as a resident, business or recreational user,

Your vigilance is very important to us.

We are encouraging you to contact Thames Valley Police about any incident or issue which you feel is suspicious or unusual. No matter how insignificant or irrelevant you feel it is.

**Please ring 101 and state that you are ringing regarding the Olympic policing at Dorney Lake, or you can email us on:**

**[TVPOlympics@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:TVPOlympics@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)**

**In an emergency always ring 999**



Dorney Lake

## TSSC Programme for 2012

**All dates and events are subject to change.**

March 30 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Fitting out Supper at the Magpie
April 14 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Royal Marines Concert Albert Hall
April 21 <sup>st</sup> Sat	St George's Day Lunch WMC
April 25 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Palace of Westminster
May 19 <sup>th</sup> Sat	TSSC 20th Birthday Party
June 1 <sup>st</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> Fri-Thu	Queen's Pageant & Down River Trip
June 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	Charity Ball Imber Court
July 11 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> Wed-Mon	Cruise to Hurley Lock Island
August 24 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> Fri-Mon	ATYC Rally Beal Park
September 22 <sup>nd</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> Sat-Sun	RNLI Rally Kingston
September 27 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	Back Stage Tour Theatre Royal
November 8 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	TSSC Annual Dinner
December 8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Sat-Mon	P&O Cruise to Zeebrugge
December 13 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	Lunch at Victory Services Club



Newsletter Edited by Peter Simpson

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [Thamesscoutcruisingclub.org.uk](http://Thamesscoutcruisingclub.org.uk)