

TSCC

In this issue: Summer BBQ;
Amsterdam; Full Circle;
Liverpool; Annual Dinner;
Photo Competition; Rosie's
Fund-Raising; Linda Grundy



Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No.112

December 2019

Chairman's Log



In early September, the Club suffered a huge but not entirely unexpected loss when Linda Grundy finally lost her long and relentless battle against a progressive blood disorder. Along with her husband Max, Linda had been a leading light in the TSCC since the early days. Jackie and I had been close friends with both of them for over 35 years so the loss of Linda has left a considerable void in both our lives. Indeed, it was Linda and Max who introduced us to the Club. As a couple they were inseparable so for

Max the loss is intense but we are sure that in the fullness of time he will find the strength to pick up the pieces and continue enjoying life as Linda would most certainly have wished. Later in this newsletter there is a personal appreciation by Linda's close friend Rosie Sowter. The photo shows the four of us enjoying a crisp December day in the not so distant past.



In last year's photographic competition, my entry was for some reason judged the winner. In my November Chairman's Log, I wrote about Ray Andrews, after whom the competition is named. There were just a handful of photos submitted and most likely that is why I won. I said that in 2019 I hoped we could do justice to Ray's memory with a bumper crop of entries. There is good news and bad news.

The good news is that this year we had 15 entries, apparently an all-time record. The framed photos were all displayed at our immensely successful Club Annual Dinner and the winner was determined via a referendum (very popular at the moment!!!).

The bad news is that by some fluke my photo won again! Fortunately, my embarrassment is lessened by the fact that the Simpson family name appears on the trophy rather more frequently than my own! Next year it would be great if we could manage to beat this year's record entry. Apparently, as winner I get

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

Cover photo: TSCC's visit to Liverpool - the Beatles and the Royal Liver Building

to choose the topic for next year's competition. The topic I have chosen is **"Watery Wonders"** and it's never too soon to start your snapping! Fingers crossed that next year the trophy goes home with a different lucky winner! Whilst not a member of the Club, many of you will have met Daniel Churchill at various events he has attended. Tragically and quite unexpectedly, Daniel suddenly passed away at the beginning of October. Our thoughts go out to Jacquie and to Ray at this time of great family sadness.

It's been another action-packed year with our most recent major highlight a FABulous (geddit?) trip to Liverpool, home of the Beatles and much more. As one astonished member commented on the journey home, "There's so much to see we will have to go again". Read more about our Liverpool adventures later in this newsletter.

Our final event of the year will be an afternoon of pre-Christmas festivities at Ajax. By the time you read this newsletter it will all be done and dusted and we will be focussed firmly on our own Christmas celebrations just around the corner.

With this in mind, may I wish you a joyous Christmas and a happy, healthy 2020. With thanks as ever to our outstanding Committee, Jackie and I look forward to another year of fun and friendship with all our fantastic friends at this amazing Club.

Mark

SILVER WOLF



The photograph is of George Barber being presented with the Silver Wolf. The award was presented at the Ajax AGM by Esher Deputy District Commissioner Mark Aulds.

The **Silver Wolf** is the highest award made by The Scout Association "for services of the most exceptional character." It is an unrestricted gift of the Chief Scout. The award consists of a Silver Wolf suspended from a dark green and yellow neck ribbon.

Congratulations George.

SUMMER BARBEQUE

Sunday 28th July 2018



What a glorious day we had at the Summer Barbeque. The weather was perfect and so was the food. We are indebted to Mark and Jackie for the use of their garden and for all the work they do putting these events together.

Forty-five members were able to enjoy the party and have a great time catching-up with friends. Our thanks go to Mark and Jackie and to all their helpers.



Jessie was presented with a Scout Association long service award and Gordon showed us all how to dress for a party,



AMSTERDAM CRUISE

ON QUEEN ELIZABETH

On Saturday afternoon 4th October, fifteen of us boarded the Queen Elizabeth cruise ship for a four night “Big Band” voyage to Amsterdam.



After settling in our state rooms and unpacking, we found our way to the Britannia restaurant. After an excellent evening meal, we all made our way to the Royal Court Theatre to watch the entertainment. The show was called “Be Our Guest” and was an extravaganza of singing and dancing performed by the ship’s Theatre Company. It was a most enjoyable way to end our first evening on board.

The following day was a “sea” day with time to explore the ship. There was plenty of choice to keep everyone occupied, whether walking (or running!) around the promenade deck, going to lectures in the theatre, reading, drinking, eating, or catching up on sleep! There was even afternoon tea in the Queen’s Room for those who fancied yet more food! That evening we donned our glad rags for the ship’s Gala evening entitled “The Big Band Night”. This was a tribute to the golden era of Big Band music by Glen Miller, Benny Goodman and Duke Ellington. After dinner we managed to find enough room

for us all in a bar near the ballroom. We had discovered that a number of dancing clubs had especially chosen this cruise because of the big Band theme, which unfortunately meant that the dance floor in the ballroom was very crowded. We therefore decided that we would be quite happy chatting in the bar. Those who wanted to watch and listen to the wonderful band, could, from the balcony nearby.

We awoke on Sunday morning to find that we had docked in IJmuiden for our day and a half in Amsterdam. Unfortunately, the tail end of Hurricane Lorenzo, from the States, had arrived with us. Several of us had opted to catch the ship's shuttle coach into the City rather than book excursions. Peter, Tania and I had pre-booked a hop-on-hop-off canal boat and bus. We picked up the canal boat at the beginning of its route. There were several stopping off points and our first was at the Gassan Diamond Factory where we could see people busy polishing the smallest of diamonds. After being shown some lovely expensive jewellery we came out empty handed to be greeted by increasingly heavy rain. This being the case, we decided to get back on the boat to see the city from the canal, and listen to the commentary, without hopping-off!!



After leaving a little café we had found for lunch, we headed for the coach back to the ship. The rain was heavier and the wind was getting up. By the time we arrived at the coach we found it full of wet, cold and bedraggled people who, like us, had given up sight-seeing for the day. We were all glad of the welcome, warmth and comfort of the Queen Elizabeth and prayed for some better weather for the next morning.

After thawing out and “tarting ourselves up” for another delicious dinner, we were all looking forward to the ships’ company’s take on the musical “Top Hat”. We were not disappointed. To everyone’s amazement they had managed to fit the original story cleverly into an hour of very professional dancing, singing and acting.

Thank goodness the next morning was dry. We spent the morning exploring the town and the buildings in the City center. Some people opted for organized excursions. At dinner that evening we exchanged stories of the day’s events. There were plenty of places to visit. Ann Frank’s house, Art Galleries, the red-light district and even the Museum of Prostitution!! Back at the ship we prepared for our last evening of the trip. Today was Ray’s birthday and



unknown to him Jackie had ordered a birthday cake to be brought during the evening meal. After the main course the waiters surrounded the table and sang the obligatory Happy Birthday (much to Ray’s embarrassment). The show that night was a Big Band Concert featuring Joe Stilgoe. He is an internationally acclaimed singer, pianist and songwriter. He played jazz with the big band and interacted with the audience, combining on the spot improvisation and the quickest of wits with suggested song titles. He is a very talented performer just like his father, Richard Stilgoe, who wrote the lyrics for the musical Starlight Express.

Another brilliant show, some drinks at the bar and off to pack for our disembarkation in the morning.

Pauline Simpson

Can I say a great big 'thank you' to all on board the Queen Elizabeth for making my "?" Birthday so happy.

The day started with a wonderful trip to parts of Amsterdam that we have never seen before.

When we got back on the ship it was time for tea and I mean, TEA, an absolutely fabulous cream tea, plus a bottle of bubbly (many thanks Mark and Jackie).

At Dinner, the atmosphere again was wonderful and an excellent meal followed by a beautiful cake and a rousing "Happy Birthday". Just a few tables away a Japanese gentleman was also enjoying his birthday with his family and I took the opportunity to go and wish him all the best and after much bowing and hand shaking we had our photo taken together.

What a fantastic day for me and one I will remember forever.

Ray

P.S. I also received a personal birthday card from the Captain.

Full Circle

In the summer of 1958, aged 13, I bought my first craft and kept it under the boat sheds at what is now Kris Craft at Datchet. It was a double Folkboat folding kayak. It was very frail and therefore cheap. I screwed the frame so it would not collapse and waterproofed it with coats of Dulux. I would cycle with friends from Slough and spent a couple of very happy summers exploring between Romney and Old Windsor locks including inadvertently getting involved in the annual Eton College June 4th river celebrations and going through a long tunnel into Frogmore Lake in the private grounds of Windsor Castle.

Who would have thought fifty years on, having gone through the stages of rowing boats, sailing craft and motor cruisers, I would be back kayaking?



Here I am with Brian from the North Walsham U3A Paddling Partners in the remains of Honing Lock on the disused North Walsham & Dilham Canal. The canal entrance is above Wayford Bridge and is now privately owned with

disputed access. It is narrow, overgrown and a wildlife paradise. The lock is the upper limit of navigation, even for kayaks and will soon be totally overgrown and silted up.

So full circle from kayak to kayak.

Graham Bucknell

Annual Dinner at Ristorante Sorrento

This was an exceptional evening with fifty-three members and friends enjoying the really good Italian food and each other's company. George did a great job in organising this event and we had a huge Raffle which raised £295 to go into our fund for TSCC Grants. Thanks to Rosie for organising the Raffle and thanks to all those who generously donated prizes. We also had on-display the entries for the Ray Andrew's Trophy. Mark had done a fantastic job collecting-in all the electronic images and printing them in full colour, A4 size, and displaying them all in identical frames. This created a level playing field and every attendee was given a voting slip so that the end result was truly democratic. In spite of all that, Mark won the competition for the second year running! Congratulations Mark and many thanks for all your work.

George sprung a surprise on Jackie when he called her forward to receive an antique silver sugar-shaker. This was a 'thank you' from all the members who were on the wonderful TSCC Liverpool Trip.



The Ray Andrews Trophy

The winning picture for 2019 from Mark Marriott:



The subject was Summer Sun.

The Ray Andrews Trophy 2020

As announced in the Chairman's Log, the subject next year is:

'WATERY WONDERS'

The 2019 entry was probably the best we have had – not just in terms of numbers but in quality as well. There were a lot of really good photographs which it was a pleasure to view. Thank you to everyone who entered. Let's make it just as good an entry, if not better, next year.



LIVERPOOL

We were told we would be amazed and surprised by all that Liverpool has to offer - and so we were! The three-day visit to Liverpool started on Sunday 27th October when we completed the journey by train from London Euston.

The hotel was right in the City centre just across the road from St George's Hall. We left our luggage at the hotel and headed off to explore. We had lunch in the Walker Art Gallery and then enjoyed the collection of outstanding works by Rubens, Rembrandt, Poussin, Gainsborough, and a collection of Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite works including Dante's Dream by Rossetti, hanging alongside other artists such as Millais, Turner, Monet and Holman Hunt.



Photo: Mike Fowler

Evening dinner was taken in the Bistro Pierre – good French food in comfortable surroundings, most enjoyable.

The following morning after breakfast we all went on a City Tour by coach. The highlight would have to be the visit to the two Cathedrals. Liverpool Cathedral (completed in 1978) is the largest Anglican Cathedral in Europe; it has the highest and widest Gothic arches, the tallest (non-spired) tower and the UK's largest pipe organ (10268 pipes) - the superlatives just go on-and-on. In stark contrast is the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral (completed in 1967). It is the largest Catholic Cathedral in England. The design is circular so that a congregation of 2000 can all see the altar which is placed in the centre. There



Photo: Mike Fowler



are thirteen chapels around the perimeter. Both cathedrals are awe-inspiring and dramatic icons of faith, architecture and human endeavour.

The coach tour ended at the Mersey Ferry terminal and we went on a memorable ferry trip to the strains of Gerry and the Pacemakers singing 'Ferry Cross the Mersey'. Afterwards we took in the sights of the 'Three Graces' - the Royal Liver Building, The Cunard Building and the Port of Liverpool Building. Also, on the waterfront at Pier Head is the Beatles Statue (unveiled in 2015). A fascinating and inspiring day ended with an excellent meal in an award-winning restaurant (Spire) a short coach-ride away.

On the final morning some of us went on a guided tour of St George's Hall. This was an amazing building incorporating The Great Hall (Concert Hall), a Civil Court, a Crown Court and a Small Concert Room which is lavishly decorated



and has a capacity for 1,100 people. Space prevents me from saying more about this grand building - it has to be seen.

In the afternoon we went on a Beatles coach tour visiting places of birth, Penny Lane, Strawberry Fields, and The Casbah Coffee Club which provided many pivotal moments in the early days of the Beatles.

All too soon our visit came to an end and we made our way home on the train. Our thanks to Jackie and Mark who put together a really great package and carefully managed the event from beginning to end. There was much left to see and do but our three-day trip was a real eye-opener and extremely enjoyable.

Peter

Our Sunday evening 'surprise' in Liverpool



We had a very enjoyable journey to Liverpool by train on Sunday morning and after a free afternoon we all met up in the hotel by the bar to set off for our Sunday evening meal. We all walked to the Bistro Pierre near the Cavern Club and climbed the stairs to the first-floor dining area.

Eve and I sat facing the window of the restaurant and could see across the narrow road to a large window above a shop. Then the lights came on and two fellows came into the room and when they looked out of the window, I raised my glass as a "hello". What happened next was so funny. One of the men took his trousers down and did a "moonie", shaking his bottom at us. At this point all of the other people with us came to have a look. Then he stripped off completely and was walking around his flat, all visible through the window. After some minutes he dressed again and the show was over.

We all settled down and carried on with our meal, which was wonderful.

Phyllis

WELCOME ABOARD!

TSCC extends a warm welcome to new member:

Eve McGrail 

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

Fancy a nice soup to warm you up this winter?



SWEET POTATO AND RED PEPPER SOUP

Serves 4

1tbs olive oil
1 onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
750g sweet potatoes, peeled and chopped
1 large red pepper, deseeded and chopped
1.2 litres vegetable stock
150ml coconut milk
Coriander

1. Heat oil in a large saucepan and cook the onion until softened but not browned. Add the garlic and cook for a further minute.
2. Stir in the sweet potatoes and red pepper and pour in the stock. Bring to the boil and simmer for 10-15 minutes until vegetables are softened.
3. Blitz in a liquidizer in batches until smooth.
4. Return to pan, add coconut milk and heat thoroughly.
5. Season with salt and black pepper to taste.
6. Pour into warmed bowls and garnish with chopped coriander to serve.

Pauline Simpson

Rosie's Fund-Raising Coffee Morning For Grand Bahama Hurricane Relief



Earlier this year my niece Cath came to visit friends and family in England, she has lived and worked as a teacher on Grand Bahama Island for over 35 years. Unfortunately, while on holiday she suffered from a ruptured appendix and had to have emergency surgery, the result of which she had to spend an additional three weeks with

me recovering before being allowed to fly home. She worked hard to regain her fitness, even borrowing my grandsons' bike. The day before she returned home, she managed to cycle from my house in Esher to Kew Gardens and back along the tow path, 27 miles in one morning, taking photos for proof!



Approximately three months after returning home Grand Bahama Island was hit by the worst hurricane ever recorded, Dorian a force 5. It stayed over the island for 48 hours with winds of 200 miles an hour and some areas getting tidal surges of up to 20 feet, a



truly frightening experience in the dark with no electricity and no water, (even now some 8 weeks later although they have tap water they can't use it for cooking.) . Homes and businesses on the eastern end of the island suffered complete destruction. Cath was fortunate to only have minor damage to her own home but the area where her school children and families lived lost everything. She joined in with the World Central Kitchen helping with the preparation of 24000 meals a day and Rotary in erecting 55 tents on concrete bases, not an easy task getting tent pegs into concrete, it took 8 people to erect each one, including one for the Rose family whose picture Cath sent to me.



I thought I would like to have a coffee morning to help raise funds and sent out an invitation for support to my friends in the TSCC. The result was amazing, on the day of the event over 20 came to my house to spend loads of money and along with others unable to attend but who sent donations we raised £550. The first of this has been sent direct to the Rose family and as soon as cheques have cleared the rest will follow to help them rebuild their family home. Next year my niece, Cath's daughter, also a teacher on the island is getting married and hopefully I will be able to join in the family celebrations. If it is possible I would like to visit the Rose family and give you all an update on their situation and how your generosity has been used. Thank you all so much for all your support.

Rosie.

Memories of a dear friend – Linda Grundy



This is a photo of my dear friend Linda taken at our favourite tea and cake venue, the Walled Gardens Sunbury. Going out for afternoon tea was one of our favourite pastimes, we even received parking fines from staying too long and talking too much. I remember one occasion while walking the towpath she saw a swan distressed and immediately went to see what the problem was, she found a cygnet trapped under the boards by the river edge and without further ado stepped fully clothed-and-shod into the

water and rescued the distressed bird, ignoring passers-by cries of “swans are dangerous if you get near their young.” This swan seemed quite relieved that Linda had come to the rescue and made no attempt to attack her. On another occasion at Boveney lock she and Max managed to get a swan aboard our boat (not an easy task) then onto the grass and remove all the fishing line tied around its beak. Linda was a great raconteur and I would never get tired of hearing tales of her many varied exploits and being part of some of them, from setting fire to her dressing gown on her boat at Cookham, to dressing as a man and miming to an ABBA record at the Byfleet boat club and, one of my favourites, singing “sixteen tons and what do you get?” at the Weybridge Mariners on a karaoke night after Max had laced her diet cokes with vodka then, on another occasion,

having the bath on her narrow boat full of fish in West India dock to make bouillabaisse.

Linda had such a wonderful vibrant personality I will miss her greatly but will be very proud to have been her friend through the TSCC for over 20 years.

Rosie

TSCC GRANTS PAID IN 2019

Paxmead Girl Guiding, Surrey West - £500

1st Stanwell Scouts - £816

TSSC PROGRAMME OF EVENTS for 2020

All dates and events are subject to change

AGM at Ajax Water Activities Centre	Sunday 19 th January at 2.45 for 3.00 pm
Skittles Match – WMC/BBC/TSSC at Byfleet Boat Club	Saturday 1 st February at 7.30 pm
Tour of the Globe Theatre followed by supper with speaker at the Little Ship Club	Tuesday 25 th February
Fitting Out Supper	Early March
Theatre visit: “The King and I” at New Victoria Theatre, Woking	Wednesday 8 th April – Matinee performance
Scenic Scotland Coach Tour (Loch Achray)	20 th – 25 th May
Thames Cruise	20 th – 24 th June
River Danube Cruise	19 th – 26 th July
Lunch	Early September
Autumn Getaway (Bath and Bristol)	October
Annual Dinner (or Lunch)	Early November
Christmas Event	Early December

Thames Scout Cruising Club Grants

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SCOUTS/GUIDES

TSSC 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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Printed by NJM (Guildford) Ltd

www.njmstationery.com