

TSCC

“TOMORROW

WILL BE

A GOOD DAY”



Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No.116

April 2021

Chairman's Log



The crocus of hope is poking through the frost – So says our colourful leader and fingers crossed that he is right! In my last Chairman's Log, I expressed the hope and expectation that we would be able to resume face-to-face Club

activities by the end of May. Assuming there are no major 'bumps in the road', it seems I

was half right – which is of course much better than being half wrong!

If all goes well, outdoor group gatherings will be permitted from Monday 17th May.

Accordingly, we have added to our programme a

Post Lockdown Reunion Picnic and this is scheduled for Tuesday 25th May. The venue will again be Runnymede since we know that this works well. Jackie has volunteered to bake a cake and by the middle of May every member should have received their second jab so, with continued social distancing, we should all be able to enjoy a wonderful reunion in a safe and relaxing environment.

However, our **Fitting Out Lunch** is not now possible as previously scheduled since the limits on indoor social contact will not be removed before Monday 21st June. Not wanting to end up with too many events too close together, we have therefore reluctantly decided to cancel this event. We have also put back the **Bath and Bristol Getaway** by one week and this will now take place from Monday 28th to Wednesday 30th June. We will shortly circulate an updated flyer so that everyone can reserve their places for the fun getaway that so many members have been looking forward to for such a long time.



Pauline

Come 12th July, our active boating members will be getting underway for the annual **TSCC Thames Cruise**. Despite current EA restricted working, we believe we have managed to secure the necessary moorings and that is great news. And, during the Cruise, we plan to organise a couple of events that will be open to every member of the Club. On the Tuesday evening there will be a barbeque at Cookham Lock and on the Thursday, in conjunction with our annual games afternoon, we will be organising an afternoon tea at Hurley. Members wishing to participate in one or both of these events might wish to stay overnight in Cookham or in Hurley.

The other big event of the year is our **Canal du Midi Cruise** at the end of September. We are keeping our worn-out fingers crossed that, by then, European travel will be largely back to normal.

As of 6th March, over 22 million Covid vaccinations have already been administered and, by the time we set off for our Bath and Bristol Getaway, a good month will have elapsed since pretty much every member of the Club received their second jab. This should mean we can come together with safety and with confidence. At last, we can start to get our lives back on track and once again enjoy the many things that have been difficult or impossible since early last year. Although inevitably there will be further bumps in the road, here's to fun times ahead as we adapt to the 'new normality'.

Mark

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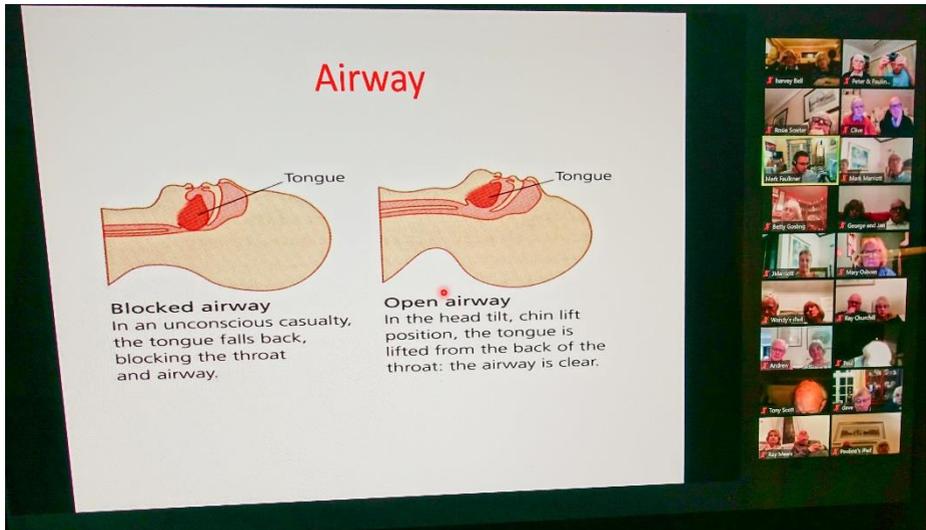
TSCC is affiliated to the ATYC and the River Thames Society.

Cover Photo: A Coot brings new life to the Thames, and some positive words from the inspirational Captain Sir Tom Moore.

CPR REFRESHER via ZOOM

23rd February 2021

We were, once again, privileged to have a talk from Mark Faulkner to refresh our knowledge of CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and the use of a Defibrillator. I cannot imagine anyone presenting this subject with greater clarity. Below, there is a screen shot from the Zoom session and an extract taken from the NHS website where you can find more information at any time.



Assessing a casualty

- If the casualty appears unresponsive, ask them loudly if they're OK and if they can open their eyes.
- If they respond, you can leave them in the position they're in until help arrives.
- While you wait, keep checking their breathing, pulse and level of response:
 - Are they alert?
 - Do they respond to your voice?
 - Is there no response to any stimulus (are they unconscious)?
 - If there's no response, leave the casualty in the position they're in and open their airway.
 - If this isn't possible in the position they're in, gently lay them on their back and open their airway.

- To open the airway, place 1 hand on the casualty's forehead and gently tilt their head back, lifting the tip of the chin using 2 fingers. This moves the tongue away from the back of the throat.
- Don't push on the floor of the mouth, as this will push the tongue upwards and obstruct the airway.

If someone is unconscious and not breathing

- If an adult isn't breathing normally, call 999 or 112 and start CPR straight away.
- Use hands-only CPR if you aren't trained to perform rescue breaths.

N.B. Gasping or irregular breathing is not normal breathing. Agonal breathing is sudden, irregular gasps of breath. This shouldn't be mistaken for normal breathing and CPR should be given straight away.

Hands-only CPR

To carry out a chest compression:

- Place the heel of your hand on the breastbone at the centre of the person's chest. Place your other hand on top of your first hand and interlock your fingers.
- Position yourself with your shoulders above your hands.
- Using your body weight (not just your arms), press straight down by 5 to 6cm (2 to 2.5 inches) on their chest.
- Keeping your hands on their chest, release the compression and allow the chest to return to its original position.
- Repeat these compressions at a rate of 100 to 120 times a minute until an ambulance arrives or you become exhausted.

Defibrillators (Automated External Defibrillator)

Defibrillators are very easy to use. Although they don't all look the same, they all function in broadly the same way. You don't need training to use one. The machine gives clear spoken instructions – all you have to do is follow them - and it won't shock someone unless they need it.

When you call 999, the operator can tell you if there's a public access defibrillator nearby. It's a good idea to find out in advance where your nearest defibrillator is located. Mark Faulkner suggested downloading the **“Good Sam Alerter”** app to your mobile phone which is available free. Among other things, it will give you the location of the nearest AED.

A Therapeutic Lockdown (Part 2)

Here we are, still in another lockdown. We did manage to have a good summer, with visits to friends and some entertaining at home, plus trips to the south coast. We also took advantage of the eat-out to help-out offers, all carried out within the Government guidelines.

This lockdown has been more difficult to cope with - no lovely weather to help us.

I have been so glad to be still working on the church mural with my now good friend Charlotte, who is a retired art teacher. We have been beavering away, me with my craftwork and Charlotte with her painting and designs.



these little characters come to life. They have been used in depicting Christ's miracles, and also some parts of the Old Testament, despite the serious content I did put in a little humour (well it made me smile).

My work has progressed from making felt figures, trees, and bushes etc., to now restoring very small Victorian and Edwardian dolls. These were collected by my Mother over many years, they had been in a cupboard for such a long time. It has made me very happy to see



I know my Mother would be very happy to see her collection repaired and put to use in this mural, which with my input and the beautiful art work, painted by my friend is now nearing completion. Two boards finished and two to go. I can't wait to see it on display.



Elaina Mears



To make a family birthday a bit special, we had a Disney and Harry Potter fancy dress quiz. It was great fun when everyone appeared on screen in costume.

DESPERATE MEASURES

For a bit of fun for our granddaughter during the first lockdown. When we were at last able to see her and family outside only, we converted our shed right at the bottom of the garden to a 'LOCKDOWN LOO' (strictly emergencies only).

Millie found it hilarious fun and we couldn't keep her out!

WHO'S THAT BEHIND THE MASK?



Andy Vine



Congratulations to **Mike Fowler** on winning the 2020 Ray Andrews Trophy with his “Watery Wonders” picture.

The Subject for 2021

The winner is invited to choose a subject for the following year and Mike has chosen:

“A memory from a 2021 TSCC event”

This is a broad subject, so could be people, places, waterscape, landscape etc. Just keep your phone or camera handy and capture those special moments.

1st Stanwell Scout Group



Gary Rixon of 1st Stanwell Scout Group joined TSCC’s virtual AGM, on Zoom, to update us on the Groups’ activities during the Covid crisis. There was a big ‘thank you’ for the financial support given by TSCC.

Some of the Group meetings had to be held outside which had the benefit of raising local awareness of the Groups’ activities.



LOCKDOWN SANITY

*This Lockdown, to keep myself sane
I had to give up drink, I had to abstain
No more partying and staying out late
The plus side was, I lost two stone in weight
To keep myself busy I've done jigsaws galore
I've even started learning the art of semaphore
At the front window I would stand waving flags all day
I've been given an ASBO for being rather risqué*

*I've now had my jab and feeling just fine
Not so erratic but I could do with some wine
I don't have any problems now getting to sleep
As for charity I've been crocheting flocks of sheep
Sheep 1, sheep 2 Sheep 3 and 4
Sheep 5, sheep 6 sheep 7 and then snore
Do not take this poem as completely true
It's to make you smile and not feel so blue*

Barbara Long



Lockdown Treasures

We all knew this winter lockdown would certainly be much more of a challenge than the last, with its long hours of daylight and beautiful weather.

I had been putting to the back of my mind something I knew I had no excuse to leave anymore with this latest lockdown! I opened my overfull cupboard and stared at the hundreds of packs of photos which all told their own story. I have always loved taking pictures and when my 3 children were growing up there were endless photos of every stage and milestone of their lives covering many albums. However, as life got busier, the pictures didn't stop but the albums did! Eventually mobile phones took over for most of us. I find it more convenient as I can carry my mobile everywhere. Is anyone else as compulsive as me with 3761 pictures and 318 videos from 2010 on my phone?



Boating was my hobby after the children left home, I have pursued it for 28 years. Loving every moment of it. From the source of the Thames in Gloucester to the Thames estuary and out to sea; then the east coast, Belgium and Holland. So, endless photos of boating life. Although having no boat any longer I can still enjoy boating with the TSCC. How grateful I am.

It has taken so much time to sort but what treasured memories I have found. One photo in particular made me feel so proud. My eldest son, Simon, had come home from Cubs after a quite physically demanding challenge. Simon was seriously disabled so I knew how difficult the task would have been for him. My late husband and I were so very proud when he was able to wear his badge with pride. Simon is pictured in his Cub uniform with his new badge.



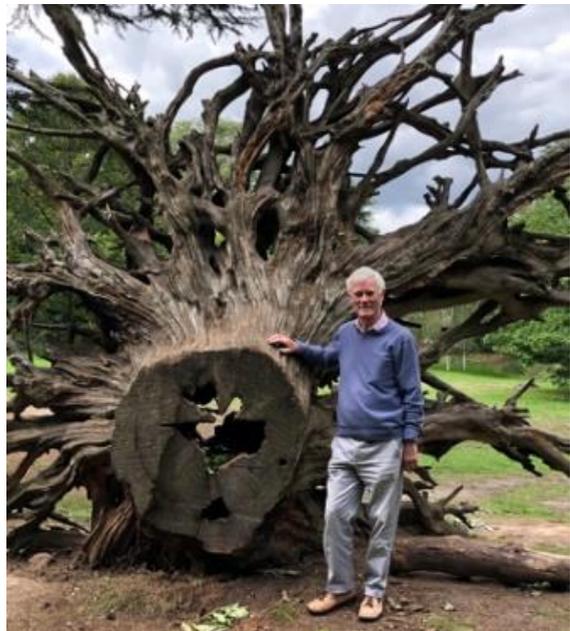
The pictures are being sorted into order, placing them into numbered and labelled boxes, tedious at times but rewarding as so many happy memories are unearthed. Needless to say, the sorting still continues so I have set myself a challenge to finish it all by the end of lockdown!

Needless to say, I have been taking pictures during this winter lockdown, some of which are here. Being on the river I am always conscious of rainfall as several times the swollen river has risen dangerously but luckily it has never reached our home. The picture shows houses opposite, the river creeping up to their front doors.

Scone making came in lockdown too. Something I don't do anymore, so a nice treat which I shared with others. Something lockdown has not prevented is walking. Many times, we have walked alongside the Thames but sometimes a little further afield. A favourite is to St Annes Hill and nature trail where this unusual tree root is to be found.



With fond wishes to everyone in the hope we can all meet again soon – and no Zoom anymore.....



Wendy Hurrell

THE VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

I have always enjoyed spending time sitting and looking out of my sitting room window, especially with the patio doors open on warm and sunny days. Over this last year of Covid 19 it has been my saviour. Fortunately, at the beginning of spring 2020 we enjoyed some beautiful weather and after the first lockdown were able to have a few friends round. I had several afternoon tea and Prosecco and nibbles sessions on the patio with local friends to enjoy the peace and chew over Boris's latest announcements.

By the time the next lockdown arrived I had opened up my garden hammock and spent most afternoons swinging and watching the antics of the many birds and squirrels that visited my nut feeder. Over the weeks I scoured Amazon and, as I could no longer go out and spend money in the shops, I started buying more feeders and different varieties of bird food. I now have 14 feeders in the garden, most of them (10) in one tree. Under this tree is a large hydrangea which I grew from a leaf cutting from my neighbours plant many years ago which during the summer months acted as a bird toilet. Every evening as I watered, I would hose the leaves which had turned white during the day back to their normal green.



A group of Goldfinches were new visitors, so a sack of Niger seed arrived; then my favourite, Ring Necked Parakeets up to 7 at a time made it necessary for a couple more nut feeders. This was swiftly followed by a sack of sunflower hearts for the Nuthatches, or upside-down birds as David used to call them. Meanwhile all the regulars, Robins, Great Tits, Blue Tits and Long Tailed Tits enjoyed fat-balls, mixed seed and peanuts. I have several squirrel-proof feeders also unsuitable for large birds on another tree. Here the Jackdaws and crows learnt to fly at these and tap the perch making a shower of seeds fall on the ground for them to gobble up. I have now noticed that the Robins use these feeders, they are normally ground feeders but have



observed different species sit on the perches and peck in the hole to get the different foods on offer. Even the Greater Spotted Woodpecker is enjoying feeding this way instead of pecking at the tree trunk. The squirrels keep having a go at all the feeders and every so often manage to knock one to the ground causing the contents to fall out then spends time digging in the flowerpots to hide the

contraband nuts. During the very cold spell we have just endured I have been busy keeping the bird baths ice free ensuring that drinking water has been available then quickly going inside for a hot cup of tea and sitting in my favourite chair to once again enjoy the view from my window.

Rosie

Update on EA, RUGs, Kingston Maritime Volunteer Service and Illegal Mooring

When I took on the role of Chairman of the Thames Rivers Users' Group 8 (Bell Weir to Teddington Lock) April **2017**, the top item on my agenda was the issue of illegally moored accommodation barges. Three of these vexatious vessels, known locally as 'slum boats', had been towed off Environment Agency owned land at Teddington by the EA Harbour Master, but released seven days later under the instruction of the Agency's legal department.

The most visible of the accommodation barges for me, because it was moored opposite my sailing club in Kingston, was the vessel Kupe. So, I decided to engage the support of local MP Sir Ed Davey who submitted a complaint to Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency. Sir James' reply summarily dismissed the complaint. He stated that: *"we believe that if we pursued revocation as suggested by Mr Collins it would constitute an abuse of our statutory powers"*.

This reply mystified me because I had read the Environment Agency (Inland Waters) Order 2010 and Article 7 clearly stated that the Agency *may* revoke the registration of a vessel if certain requirements were met. I had naively expected that Kupe, which was a converted Thames Lighter with no form of internal propulsion and was not going anywhere, was not mooring lawfully under the terms of the Thames Conservancy Act 1932. And that this would be grounds for revoking the owner's registration. Section 79(2) of the Act grants vessels the right *"to anchor, moor or remain stationary for a reasonable period of time in the ordinary course of pleasure navigation"*.

The EA themselves define a *reasonable* period of time as 24 hours. A few days, or even a couple of weeks, might be considered to be reasonable, but certainly not months or years. Furthermore, the owner of Kupe, a Mr Alistair Trotman, is very clearly **not** engaged in ordinary *pleasure navigation*. He is the owner of three accommodation barges, on which he lets out cabins on the internet for profit. The EA has admitted that all three vessels have not been registered since January 2020, so the issue of revocation no longer applies. However, Article 16 of the IWO gives the EA the power to relocate or remove unregistered vessels from their waterways. But they still refuse to do anything.

At last, following a legal challenge by RUG 8 in 2020 and the threat of judicial review, the Agency's senior lawyer admitted that the real reason why they would not apply their powers was that when the Order was introduced in 2010, they had failed to carry out a consultation which they were required to do under Article 24 of the Order (are you still following me?).

Then, after submitting a FOI request to the EA, I found the 'smoking gun'. I have a letter in my possession dated 13th May 2010 from the EA's senior legal adviser at the time, to the National Bargee Traveller's Association (NBTA) which promised that the EA would not implement its powers under the act until further consultation was carried out with them (the NBTA were concerned that the Order could be used to make

their livaboard members homeless). All this was done under the smoke screen of the 2010 General Election which took place on the 6th May. No such consultation ever took place.

Update

I have decided to set down from my role as Chairman of RUG 8 in April. You might think that this because I am fed up with banging my head against the brick wall that is the EA legal team. In fact, the reason is entirely positive. I need to focus my energies on my other role as Head of the Kingston Maritime Volunteer Service. We are looking forward to getting back on the water at Easter and resuming regular weekend safety patrols in our ex-Thames Police Launch 'Blue Light'.

Steve Collins

CARELINE 365

Sadly, as we get older, falling over becomes a real part of life in the "Third Age". Unfortunately, during the last six months I have had three and, as I have had both knees replaced, am unable to get up on my own, the last fall resulting in having a face which looked like I had done three rounds with Mike Tyson. My family didn't "insist" but they did help organise setting it up with Careline 365. I



decided on having a wrist strap rather than a neck cord. You can wear it all the time, even in the shower or bath. I have faithfully worn mine 24/7 and feel much safer. The cost is £171 per year and can be paid monthly if preferred. All my falls have been in the garden and I don't know quite what would have happened if I hadn't had my Careline especially as my neighbours are not in shouting distance. Whenever I press my button, I get a phone call, if they get no response, they then call my nominated friend or family member, of which I have two. If there is no response from either of them the emergency services are alerted. Along with my wrist band and "base" station a secure key box is supplied which is attached to an outside wall, the number for this is given to the emergency services to gain entry to the house.

I expect several of you may already have signed up to this system but if you haven't, and are living on your own, I urge you to do so. I feel so much happier being in the garden knowing that I'm not going to spend the whole night picking, or kicking up daisies.

Rosie Sowter

MY LOCKDOWN PAINTING BY NUMBERS

A friend had recommended adult painting by numbers called "Masterpiece". I thought this might be something I could manage during lockdown so I mentioned this to Peter who kindly bought me the kit for my birthday in December.

I was quite excited when the parcel arrived all the way from the USA, well protected with the canvas rolled up in a cardboard drum, a set of acrylic paints and three brushes. On opening it up I became a bit deflated and worried because the canvas, which was stencilled with what should become a beautiful vase of peony flowers, was covered with numbers so tiny that I was unable to read them even with my glasses on.



Hence began a sequence of events. Peter suggested getting an LED bright table lamp and I thought this would be enough to see the numbers. On to good old Amazon and two days later the lamp arrived. After trying it out, I still couldn't see well enough, so back onto Amazon looking for a table top LED-lit magnifying glass. After finding the right style and magnification it arrived the next day. This time it worked. Brilliant!

I STARTED PAINTING! Then I discovered that the brushes they had sent with the canvas weren't very good, and I was having trouble keeping within the lines. Back onto Amazon to choose new brushes. By this time, I was beginning to wonder if I would ever manage to do this painting but didn't want to let Peter down after he had been so helpful and bought me all the equipment.



With the magnifying lamp, new brushes and the canvas pinned to a board, I am now enjoying painting. I think it will take me many months to finish though, and will it ever look like the picture on the left?

"WATCH THIS SPACE".

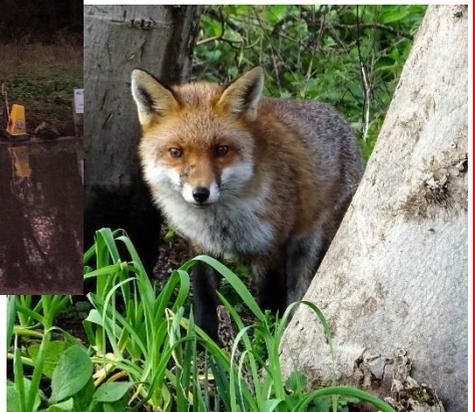
Pauline Simpson

A RIPARIAN LOCKDOWN

When you live by a river you are always monitoring the height of the water. These pictures show the normal water level on the left and the level reached this winter on the right.



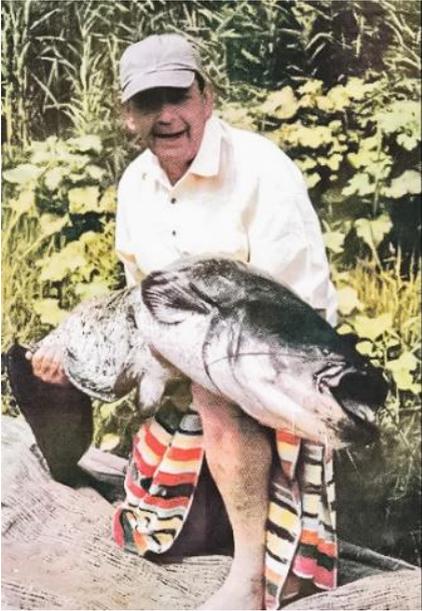
Our road flooded to about one foot deep, fortunately our property is at the end of the road which is slightly higher. Mr Fox is keeping a watch on the water level.



MIKE FOWLER

Our Dear Friend Peter Lawrence

26.4.1944 - 10.12.2020



Peter was a very dear friend of ours for many years. Peter was a true gentleman, great personality and loved life to the full. His great loves were Maureen, his two sons and, of course, fishing!! We had our own little group, Peter and Maureen, Brian and Doreen, and Heather and I. We enjoyed many hotel breaks etc., away with the Mariners, TSCC, and the Society of Shoe Repairers. Many laughs and wonderful memories.

I spent a week in Spain with Peter, fishing for Cat Fish (good men-only time), lots of fun. The other adventure was with 3 B Travel (Bars, Brothels and Battlefields). There were eight of us gents, travelling

in a mini-bus to Belgium and France. We never stopped laughing. The trip was purely educational and we were all eager to learn!!

To see Peter suffer for so long was heart-breaking as he had one problem after another. All we could do was keep in touch with Maureen to give her some moral support and be there in her difficult time.

We feel lucky to have known Peter, a great constant friend and we will miss him very much.



Frank and Heather

Phyllis Ann Bunce

23.12.1941 - 27.11.2020

Phyllis was born in Cheltenham, which is where her mother was temporarily evacuated from Mitcham during the Second World War. She was the middle child with an older brother Douglas who died a few years ago and a younger sister Wendy.

As a child Phyllis was known for her athleticism and for being a tomboy. Upon completion of her schooling in Mitcham, she went to work as a machinist for a company that manufactured clothes for Marks and Spencer, which was then known for its high standards in manufacturing and needlework.

In September 1961 Phyllis married George (universally known as Buster) at SS Peter & Paul's Catholic Church, Mitcham. They both lived in Mitcham and had first met when Phyllis was 4 and Buster was 11 and started going out on dates when Phyllis was 16. We have been told that Streatham Ice-Rink was one of their favourite locations for spending time together.

They had three children, Paul, Michael and Maria. When her children had started school, Phyllis took a Merton Council part-time job of home help and carer, which reflected her hardworking, kind and caring nature. She could often be seen cycling to her clients with their shopping in her basket on the front of her bike. Phyllis kept this job for many years.

After retirement Phyllis became more involved in working for the Church, helping with First Holy Communion lessons for the children and organising the Wednesday Drop-in Club for elderly and isolated parishioners. Her annual coach trip to the seaside was the highlight of their Club calendar. She had also been a member of the church choir for many years.

Rita first met Phyllis when their eldest children, both boys, joined the Reception class at the local Catholic Primary School in 1966 and they have been friends ever since. In the 1970s Tony worked with Phyllis and Buster at fundraising and social events run by the church and the school PTA.

Rita and Tony introduced Phyllis and Buster to cruising on the River Thames in *Miss Amanda* in the early 1990s and soon afterwards they were invited to TSSC events and joined the Club. This was only a couple of years after TSSC was



formed. Phyllis had previously been involved in Scouting and Guiding in the 11th Mitcham Group, having been an assistant with the Brownies for some years and for a much longer time helped with the Group's fundraising activities.

We can look back on very many happy TSCC cruises and bankside meetings with Phyllis and Buster. Of particular note were the camps that we had on the lock island at Cookham and the many down-river cruises to Limehouse Marina and on a few occasions to West India Docks. Phyllis & Buster celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 2011 and some members may remember a celebration of this at Limehouse Marina Clubhouse on a TSCC cruise.

With us and other members of TSCC, Phyllis and Buster travelled to France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany on numerous coach tours organised by Dave and Margaret Meineck.

Sadly, Phyllis lost Buster in 2012.

After a few years of hearing about friends' cruises, Phyllis wanted to try out cruising herself, so she and her daughter Maria took a Norwegian Fjords cruise and clearly enjoyed it. The following year a Mediterranean cruise took them to Rome where the highlight of trip was that she was able to see the Pope while he was addressing the crowd in St Peters Square from a small high window in the Vatican.

Phyllis collapsed at home in early October and was taken to St Helier Hospital, Sutton. Upon admission she was found to be COVID-19 positive, but a week or so afterwards registered negative. While in hospital we had been keeping in contact with Phyllis by frequent phone calls, at least once a week, and in mid-November she said that arrangements were being put in place and she was

being prepared for home discharge. Her condition suddenly deteriorated, she was transferred to the ITU where she died five days later, on 27th November, of COVID-19 related pneumonia.



Phyllis was always a kind-hearted woman who would offer aid or a kind word to anyone and was not afraid of hard work. She could be a feisty one but had a brilliant sense of humour and was always easy to make laugh and smile. She will be greatly missed and will leave a large hole in the hearts of everyone who knew her.

Tony & Rita Scott

TSSC PROGRAMME OF EVENTS for 2021

All dates and events are subject to change

Update on EA, RUGs, Kingston Maritime Volunteer Service and Illegal Mooring – Steve Collins, Chair RUG 8 (Zoom)	Tuesday 30 th March 7.45pm
Post Lockdown Reunion Picnic	Tuesday 25 th May
Bath and Bristol Getaway	Monday 28 th – Wed 30 th June
Thames Cruise	Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th July
Summer Barbeque at Little Compton	Friday 30 th July
Splash Day at Ajax - Cream Tea, Wheelyboat and other Boating Opportunities	Sunday 22 nd August
Canal du Midi Cruise	Fri 24 th September – Fri 1 st October
October surprise event	TBC
Annual Dinner at Leatherhead Golf Club.	Monday 8 th November
Christmas Celebration Event	Sunday 5 th 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.

Newsletter edited by Peter Simpson – media@tssc.org.uk

Visit our Website: www.tssc.org.uk

Printed by NJM (Guildford) Ltd

www.njmstationery.com