

TSCC



Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No. 121
March 2023

Chairman's Log



Following the very busy time that we had in the Autumn we finished 2022 off in some style with two very enjoyable events, being the pre-Christmas get away to Canterbury (see Pam Dennis's account in these pages) and the Annual Dinner at the Leatherhead Club. Both of these events were well supported by our members.

Three of our members have been recognised by the Scout Association with long service certificates. Frank Gaylard, for 50 years' service with 1st/4th Addlestone Scout Group and as a member of the TSCC Surrey Active Service Unit. His certificate was presented at the Annual Dinner. Peter Simpson and Ray Mears both were presented with their certificates at our AGM for 15 years' service as members of TSCC SASU. Our congratulations and thanks to them for their hard work and loyal service to Scouts and to TSCC.

Our AGM was held at Ajax Sea Scouts Water Activities Centre on 15th January. It never ceases to amaze me how well supported this event always is. This is undoubtedly because we make a social event of it with plenty of buffet food and there is always the convivial company. Our guests this year were Joe Rogerson (Surrey County Commissioner), Julia Kielstra (Deputy County Commissioner), Mary Osborn (Assistant County Commissioner SASUs) and her husband Alan, Ben Twine (Explorer Scout from Worthing) and his mother Kim. Ben is one of the young people whom TSCC has supported in the raising of funds, in Ben's case for his place at the World Scout Jamboree that is to take place in Seoul, South Korea this year. After the formal proceedings Ben gave a well-presented talk on his fundraising hike along the whole of the 100 miles of the South Downs.

The AGM marked the end of my first year as Chairman and I have enjoyed this role immensely and I thank you all for your support of our club in many ways and for joining in as many of our activities as you are able to do.

The schedule for 2023 is well developed and our first event is the 3-way SKITTLES MATCH on Saturday 4th February between Weybridge Mariners Club, Byfleet Boat Club and TSCC. At the time of writing there are 53 participants. We hope to do better this time as we came 3rd last year.



Stop press! The match was won by Byfleet Boat Club with TSCC second and last year's winners WMC coming third. The picture shows yours truly with Brian Clarke BBC Commodore.

Then, as we go into the Spring we have two more events to look forward to:

Sounds of the 60s Live – Hosted by Tony Blackburn at New Victoria Theatre, Woking on Thursday 28th March and, for those who want it, a pre theatre meal at Bacaro, an Italian restaurant.

Then we have the Fitting Out Lunch on Sunday 2nd April which this year will be at Glenmore House, Surbiton, the flyer for which was issued on 2nd February.

In December we planted a white willow tree on Hurley Lock Island in memory of Russell Doig who passed away there during the club cruise in 2016, and to take part in the Queen's initiative to plant a tree in her Diamond Jubilee year. The picture shows the plaque for the tree.



George Barber

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**Photo
Competition**

AGM

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

Cover Photo: Canterbury Cathedral (photo PS)



THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE

12th October 2022



Mark Marriott

Twenty two of us met in the very beautiful and historic surroundings of Fountain Court in the Middle Temple to start a guided tour of the Middle Temple Hall. There we met June, our very knowledgeable guide who told us that in order to practise at the English Bar a barrister must be a member of one of the four Inns of Court, which are Inner Temple, Middle Temple, Grey's Inn and Lincoln's Inn.

The land between the Strand /Fleet Street and the Victoria Embankment is known as The Temple on account of the residence there of the Knights Templar. This was a military/ religious order of men whose avowed object was to keep Christian access to Jerusalem. Members of this Order were prominent in the Crusades of the 12th century and wealthy pilgrims paid large sums of 'protection money' to the Order for a safe pilgrimage to Jerusalem and back. The Order became very rich and powerful and was eventually suppressed by the Pope in 1314. Their land and buildings on the banks of the Thames were transferred to the Knights of St John of Jerusalem but appeared to

be surplus to their requirements; the buildings became vacant and were soon used for lodgings by members of the legal profession. They found it a convenient location roughly mid-way between the law courts that were held in Westminster Hall and the residences of their wealthy clients who lived in the City of London. Being a riverside site was a great attraction as river transport was far safer and more comfortable than making a journey by road. The Temple Church, built in 1163, still stands and is in use to this day.



King Henry VIII dissolved the religious Order of St John of Jerusalem in England in 1538 and appropriated their land and buildings and soon afterwards there was extensive re-building on the site. It was at this time that the Middle Temple Hall was built. This has a magnificent double-hammer beam roof that was completed in 1573. We were informed that

generations of royalty have dined on the 29ft long oak High Table – reputedly a gift from Elizabeth I herself. It is known that Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Drake dined in Hall and it is believed that the first performance of Twelfth Night took place there in 1602. The Hall is still in daily use as a dining-hall by members of the Inner Temple and their senior staff who have chambers nearby. At the end of our tour we joined the members there, including one MP whom we recognised, to enjoy an excellent lunch.

Our guide told us that Norman French was the language of the courts in England from the imposition of the Norman legal system (1066) until the language was changed to English by a decree of King Edward III in 1362. This is the origin of a number of French based legal words still in use today such as: 'Assize' (*from the French word 'assis' meaning 'sitting'*), 'Tort' (*French for 'wrong, harm or injury'*), 'chambers' (*French for rooms*) and 'brief' (*from the French 'bref', meaning 'short' instruction to counsel*).

In 1608 King James II instituted formal court dress for barristers and specified that it should be a wig and gown. The gown is generally woollen but for those barristers who are in the upper echelons (King's Counsel or KC) it is silk. This is the origin of the expression 'taking silk' when a barrister is promoted to be a KC. In the criminal courts the wearing of wigs and gowns by counsel is compulsory but in the civil courts it is at the discretion of the particular court judge. For example, it is rare for wigs and gowns

to be worn in courts of the Family Division that are often dealing with child custody applications.

Our guide took us into the Inn's magnificent library and also the Queen's Room (not then re-named!) where the governing body of the Middle Temple, known as the benchers, meet to discuss and govern the operation of their Inn of Court.

By now lunchtime had approached and we returned to the Hall to enjoy a very appetising three-course hot lunch in the company of maybe 30 or more members. One small point particularly impressed me. A number of us ordered drinks from the wine waiter and were served. At the end of the meal, when we walked to the door, we saw a cashier at a desk in a corner of the Hall and we told her what we had ordered from the wine list. The members and us as visitors were trusted to report correctly. Those exiting did not have to walk past the cashier's desk and many did not walk over to her desk because they had not ordered anything additional to the set meal. The organisation certainly practises its formal name, the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple.

The lunch was the end of the formal visit but after it many of us decided to walk the hundred yards or so to visit the Temple Church, which is the collegiate Chapel of the Inner and Middle Temple. In 1608 King James I gave the whole Temple area to the two Inns on condition that in perpetuity they use it for the education and accommodation of lawyers and that they maintain the Temple Church. The church was built in 1163 and has a circular sanctuary to remind worshippers of the circular church built over the empty tomb (the Holy Sepulchre) in Jerusalem. The main part of the church with its pointed arches was probably the first Gothic style building in England.



The public illumination of the Temple site at night is by gaslights and by sheer coincidence, as we walked to the Temple Church we saw a 'lamplighter' up a ladder working on one of the lights. We started speaking to him and found that he is one of only four public lighting engineers employed by British Gas. There is gas public lighting in The Temple, the Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, some of the Royal Parks, and a number of other historic locations. There are about 200 public gas lamps in London.

After a wonderful day immersed in the legal profession and its history, we returned to modern-day Fleet Street in the mid-afternoon and made our ways to our respective homes.

Tony Scott

Race Night

On the calm early evening of Wednesday 26th October some 32 eager punters arrived at the Ditton Reach racecourse - formerly known as Ajax HQ.



As always, the hospitality area was well prepared for our arrival and it was good to catch up with everyone.

Soon the runners and riders for the first race of the evening were under-starters orders. They were ably assisted along the course by George. Mind you we all had to help them on their way by throwing two dice ... one a horse number the other with a possible bonus dot.

Some races were over the flat course and others were over the National hunt type field with fences.... trust George to put obstacles in our way.

Tony made a good job of working out the starting prices ready for Pauline to pay out the winners. Jackie and Mark organised the tote for the evening.

Part way through the evening our meal of fish and chips or chicken and chips arrived to be accompanied by an assortment of homemade fruit crumbles with ice cream and custard (heavenly). Janet had been a busy-bee making these.... Thank you. Coffee rounded off our meal before the runners and riders came back into the paddock for the final races of the evening - those poor tired horses had to manoeuvre round two extra hurdles now.

Racing over, the horses were retired to their stables and the race goers made their way home with their winnings... or sadly, some losses. But a fun evening was had by all in good company. Thank you to all on the Committee who worked hard to help our evening be enjoyable.

Pam Dennis

CANTERBURY

November 15th to 17th

Tuesday 15th November was a very wet, windy, and misty morning as we all set off from our homes to meet up as a group at Sandown Park, Esher to await our coach to Canterbury. Due to various mis-adventures delaying even the arrival of our coach, we got on our way around 9.40am and headed via various motorways to the city of Canterbury.



Our hotel... The Hampton by Hilton, being in a pedestrianised area, we had just a short walk through the precinct from the coach, and the hotel staff greeted us with tea, coffee and cookies, before we joined our various blue badge guides for a leisurely walk... yes still raining... to learn something of the history of this old city. The old Roman roads originally part of the Old Pilgrims Way... the various types of buildings after so many centuries leaning at some odd angles!! Our tour of the town area ended at the Blue Parrot the oldest hostelry in Canterbury where lunch awaited us all. The rest of the afternoon

was free to enjoy at leisure...or do a little retail therapy... or, wander around the Christmas Market which added to the festive atmosphere.



Early evening saw us meeting up for liquid refreshments before our short walk to **Côte Brasserie** for an enjoyable meal and social gathering to round off our day. Guess what? Wednesday morning, and all that rain you gardeners prayed for in the summer is falling from the skies again. But not to be deterred, after breakfast it was time for a stroll to the beautiful and ancient Canterbury Cathedral. We again had small groups with our different guides to take us around. The cathedral was founded in 597 when Augustine became the first English Archbishop and is the Mother

church of worldwide Anglicanism. It is also historically known as the place where Thomas Beckett was murdered.



It was then time to gather our thoughts ...find lunch... and prepare ourselves for our visit to the Marlowe Theatre for the Chichester Festival Theatre's superb performance of South Pacific. A trip down

memory lane for most of us with the songs taking us back a number of years. ... Dites-Moi... A Cockeyed Optimist... Some Enchanted Evening,.. and who hasn't said "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair" or, even wished they were in Bali Ha'i? And of course, the song that turned the spotlight on the hateful nature of racism 'You've Got to be Carefully Taught'.



A brief time to relax before our final dinner in Canterbury at the beautiful Cathedral Lodge. An enjoyable meal, after a busy but enjoyable time in Kent. Thursday saw us leaving our hotel after breakfast for our journey to Knole House a National Trust property in Sevenoaks. Originally built as an Archbishops Palace and passed down through royalty to the Sackville family, who still live there today, the family having evolved to be Sackville-West. The estate has grand courtyards... a tranquil Orangery and a deer park, which is now the last medieval deer



park. Late afternoon saw us all safely back at Sandown Park for our onward journeys home. The weather may not have been kind to us in Kent, but we all enjoyed a special pre-Christmas break in each other's company and thank you to Jackie and Mark for the organisation and attention to detail that went into our trip... here's to the next time.

Pam Dennis



Mike Fowler



Knole House Sevenoaks



Annual Dinner

6th December



After last year's successful dinner, we again held this event at the Leatherhead Golf Club (now known as the Leatherhead Club). There was a very good attendance of forty-nine members and it was a most enjoyable evening

Frank Gaylard was presented with the Chief Scout's 50-year service award – what a remarkable achievement! – congratulations Frank.



Spot the photo bomber!



Thank you to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle. This raised a valuable sum of money for our charitable fund.



Frank Gaylard receiving his 50 years' service award



The Ray Andrews Trophy 2022



Congratulations to Ray Mears on winning the photo competition 2022 with this picture of a neighbour's daughter (suitably masked) at a Jubilee street party.

The subject was "The Queen's Platinum Jubilee"

The winner was decided by a vote of the members present at the Annual Dinner.

AGM

15th January 2023

The Chairman, George Barber, welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially the invited guests: Joe Rogerson (Surrey County Commissioner), Julia Kielstra (Deputy County Commissioner) and Mary Osborn (Assistant County Commissioner SASUs). He also welcomed Ben Twine, a Worthing District Explorer Scout, who would be speaking later in the meeting in connection with his trip to the World Scout Jamboree in Seoul, South Korea, later in the year. Ben was accompanied by his mother, Kim Twine. The meeting was very well attended and the 'bring and share' food was excellent – thank you to everyone who contributed.



Ben, a 14-year-old Explorer Scout needed to raise £4000 to get to the World Scout & Guide Jamboree. He had requested, and was awarded, £570 from TSCC to assist his fundraising efforts. Ben's major fundraising project was to take part in a sponsored hike along the whole of the 100 miles of the South Downs Way from Winchester to Eastbourne, averaging approximately 12 miles per day. Sponsorship of this hike raised £2000. Ben

related his exploits with great proficiency and humour much to the delight of the audience.

Joe Rogerson thanked Ben Twine for his very clear and concise oral presentation and his initiative and enterprise in planning and undertaking the hike. Joe thanked TSCC members for raising and donating £2239 over the year to Scouting and Guiding charitable causes.

Joe presented 15-year service awards to Ray Mears and Peter Simpson.



TSCC 2023 Programme of Events

All dates and events are subject to change

Sounds of the 60s Live with Tony Blackburn at the New Victoria Theatre, Woking	Tues 28 th March
Fitting Out Lunch at Glenmore House	Sun 2 nd April
Visit to Guildford Union Workhouse followed by Lunch at Lakeside Restaurant	Mon 15 th May
Warners Getaway	Wed 7 th – Fri 9 th June
Jazz Brunch at Little Compton	Sun 25 th June
Thames Cruise	Mon 10 th – Thurs 13 th July
Open Air Theatre at Hatchlands Park	Sun 30 th July
Guided Tour of Clandon Park Restoration (TBC)	Sat 2 nd September
Norfolk Broads Cruise	Tues 12 th – Tues 19 th Sept
Autumn Getaway	October
Annual Dinner	Early November
Christmas Event	Sun 3 rd December (TBC)

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