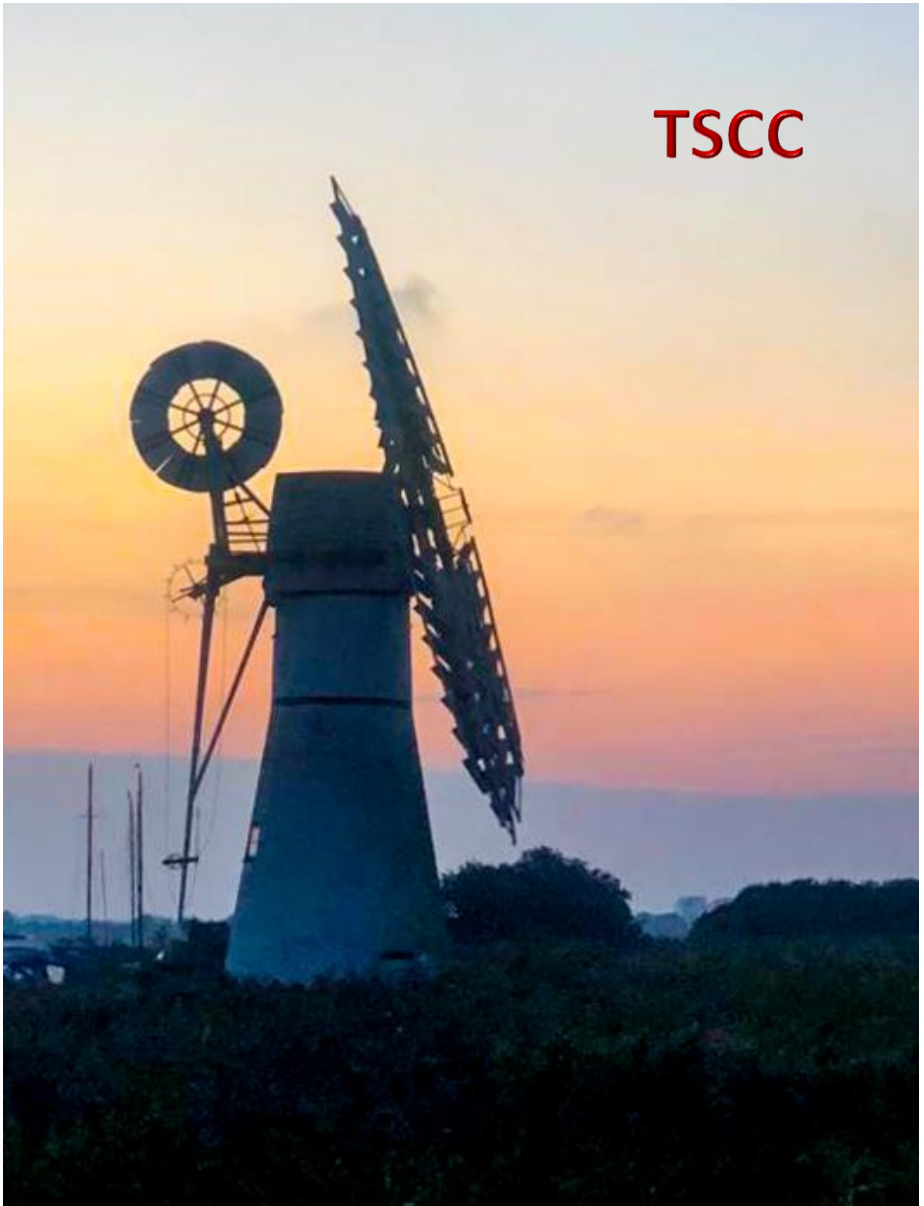


TSCC



**Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No. 123
November 2023**

Chairman's Log



Since the March newsletter members have enjoyed another four events, these being:

Five boats and 14 crew took part in the Thames Cruise on 10th to 13th July.

Our first mooring was at Windsor where we enjoyed an early evening meal at Côte by the Eton Bridge, then on to Cookham Lock where we gathered together for a BBQ. We moored at Hurley Lock on the 3rd day where we all sat together on the Island for a “bring a dish supper” and on the afternoon of the 4th day we were joined by a “shore party” of five who were booked in to The Olde Bell. We enjoyed the, now familiar, games on the Island and the event finished with a supper in The Olde Bell. There was no heatwave this year but the weather was more sunny than rainy.

It was good to see that the white willow tree that we planted at Hurley Lock Island at the end of 2022 in memory of Russell Doig was flourishing.

Tickets were made available for an open-air production of Shakespear's Romeo and Juliet at Hatchlands Park on Sunday 30th July. Tony and Irene availed themselves of this opportunity and were joined by two friends. It had been raining during the day beforehand but the rain held off for the performance and their picnic.

Seven boats and 22 crew took part in the Norfolk Broads Autumn Cruise 12th - 19th September 2023. This was the 4th time that our club has cruised the Broads, this time on the Northern Broads. For this event Mark and Jackie put together a very attractive package which included boat hire and evening meals on 3 of the 7 nights as well as fuel, insurance and car parking. On some evenings when no meals were organised, we joined together for al fresco suppers for which the crews provided the food. The arrangements for the event were meticulously put together by Mark and Jackie including a recce of the mooring places and restaurants well beforehand. They also managed to pack into their car the BBQ, a gazebo and tables.

Twenty-nine Members and friends went on the Autumn Getaway to Cardiff on 24th to 26th October and by all accounts this was another very successful short break organised by Mark and Jackie.

Here is a note sent to Mark and Jackie by one “happy customer” thanking them for organising the trip:-

“Just a note to thank you again for organising the trip to Cardiff.

We thought the tours were excellent – full of interest and spectacle and greatly enhanced by the really good Tour Guides.

All of the group meals were very good and thoroughly enjoyed along with the great TSCC company.

Diva was an excellent driver who made all of the travelling very comfortable.

It is always nice when expectations are exceeded and such was the case here – you both did a fantastic job in choosing where we stayed and what we saw – THANK YOU.”

Our original programme for 2023 included a guided tour of Clandon Park. However, they were only offering tours for parties of less than 10 and so we decided not to go ahead with this as a club event.

For the remainder of 2023 we are looking forward to the Annual Dinner at the Drift Golf Club, East Horsley and the Christmas event at 1st Hinchley Wood Scout and Guide Hut.

Planning for the programme for 2024 is well advanced` by your committee and the flyer has been circulated for the Spring Getaway four-day (three-night) break in the Cotswolds at Warner’s Studley Castle Country Hotel Friday 3rd – Monday 6th May. If you wish to participate, please let Jackie know and pay the £10 deposit if you haven’t already done so.

We have continued to support the 1st Stanwell Scout Group this year including funds for their participation in the Essex Jamboree in 2024 and for the purchase of pioneering poles, the money for the poles having been donated by our members in memory of Jesse English who passed away earlier this year.

We also made grants to three young people to help with their fundraising to go to the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in August. The actual event was in the news because of extremely heavy rainfall which forced many of the youngsters to be moved from the camp to other accommodation. However, the organisers ensured that their contingents were able to enjoy alternative activities and the general feedback from participants seems to be that despite the weather a great experience was had by all (see Alice’s article in this issue).

We are hoping that we shall hear more from one or more of these three young people at our AGM.

George Barber

In this issue:

World Scout
Jamboree

Norfolk Broads

Hurley Games

Paris to London

Impossible
Dream

Ray Andrews
Trophy 2023
and 2024

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

Cover Photo: Thurne Mill Drainage Pump (photo Mike Fowler)

World Scout Jamboree 2023

The 25th World Scout Jamboree was held at the 8.84-square kilometre SaeManGeum coastal campsite in South Korea from 01-12 August 2023. Hosting more than 40,000 young people and volunteers from around the world, the theme and focus for the Jamboree was to 'Draw Your Dream'.

TSCC was pleased to be able to help Alice O'Neill with the cost of her involvement and here is her report:

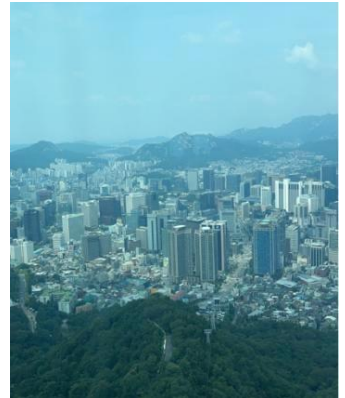
Thank you so much for your generous support for the Jamboree, the Jamboree was amazing, and I wouldn't have been able to go if it wasn't for you, I really appreciate it. The whole experience from every training camp, getting to meet so many new people, make new friends and experience new cultures, I am so grateful. Thank you so much, this trip gave me so many memories that I will cherish for a lifetime.



The experiences and memories I gained from the jamboree are invaluable. Furthermore, it helped me grow further as a person by helping me develop my social skills, resilience, adaptability to change and so many skills I would have not gained anywhere else. Even though the time at the physical jamboree site was limited, I still made friends from all over the world who I hope to keep in contact with for as long as possible.

I am so thankful for going to the jamboree that I am going to try my best to help as many other people as possible with their personal jamboree journey.

I'm doing this in the spirit of paying forward the kindness you showed me. Currently, I'm going to help on the next selection event for the next international Girlguiding trip and I'm going to run more sessions at the brownie unit I already volunteer with.



I have added photos from some of my favourite memories on the trip. From the sun setting over the jamboree itself to seeing traditional Korean dancing, trying on traditional dress, visiting markets, and going to two separate stadiums for a concert and a baseball game. I am so grateful for each and every one of these experiences and will remember it for a lifetime. Thank you so much.



Alice O'Neill

Norfolk Broads

12th – 19th September

This year's trip to the Broads was full of fun with seven boats taking part and carrying twenty-two people.

The first day and night presented with some rain but, after that, we were incredibly lucky with the weather – blue sky and sunshine with little in the way of wind.

The first evening was spent at Wroxham Broad, by way of the Rivers Thurne and Bure, where we all moored-up at the Norfolk Broads Yacht Club for a BBQ. Mark organised the mooring and set-up the BBQ while Roy was chief cook and Jackie and Jaquie



prepared the vegetables and salad. It was raining but, fortunately, we were all able to sit under an awning which kept us dry.

On day two we cruised back down the Bure to Upton Dyke which was extremely narrow. Mark had arranged with the marina at the end of the Dyke to reserve space for us and by some miracle the five boats, that had chosen to have dinner at the White Horse, were able to get moored. It was a very peaceful and attractive spot. The pub was just a short walk from the boats and we had a very good meal.



Day three was somewhat of an adventure as the plan was to moor at Womack Staithe for a BBQ. Unfortunately, the Broads were extremely busy – much busier than on previous TSCC holidays. Womack is a very popular stop and we were unable to moor there. This gave Mark a very busy time phoning round all the boats to tell them



that we were going to have to change our plan and cruise back down the Rivers Thurne and Bure to moor at Salhouse Broad. It's fair to say that, by this time, we were all becoming very familiar with the Northern Broads and by the end of the week we will have passed some landmarks several times in our efforts to find moorings. Nonetheless we all got moored at Salhouse and enjoyed a group BBQ. As most of us had planned to buy our meat from the butchers in Ludham (just behind Womack Staithe) the BBQ became a bring-and-share affair – but there was more than enough to go round.

Day four was to end with a group dinner in (another) White Horse at Neatishead. This involved cruising back down the Bure and turning left onto the River Ant. The Ant is quite different to the other rivers as the surrounding countryside is no longer that of flat marsh-land bordered by reed beds but is more picturesque with trees, attractive riverside properties and farmland beyond. Navigation was, let's say, interesting as the river becomes very narrow and full of bends. We were lucky to all get moored in Neatishead Staithe. From here we were taken by coach to the beautiful and fascinating East Ruston Old Vicarage Garden – a very worthwhile second visit for the club. In the evening we all enjoyed dinner at the White Horse.

Day five started with all the boats manoeuvring out of the narrow Neatishead Staithe where we were facing the wrong way – there weren't any red faces though – everyone did a great job. So, back down the River Ant and across Barton Broad on our way to Thurne Dyke. A very picturesque location with the backdrop of the iconic Thurne Dyke Drainage Mill which was built in 1820 and was in operation until 1936 after 116years. However, it is still in working order today. There was a lovely sunset behind the Mill and we all enjoyed a group BBQ for which Mark was chief cook. For one of the birthday surprises conjured-up by her family, Diana was delighted when her son Mathew appeared (by road) to join-in the celebrations for her 80th Birthday.

On day six our destination was Ranworth Broad which is home to the Broads Wildlife Centre. The centre contains a wide range of habitats and a fantastic variety of wildlife which can all be seen from a 750m.....





boardwalk and can be accessed on foot from Ranworth or by a short boat trip to the floating visitor centre. Many of us made the trip and also visited St Helen's church known as the "Cathedral of the Broads". This church built around 1450 has medieval origins and its size and stature is due to the wealth of the local merchants in the medieval wool trade.

Two of us climbed the 89 steps, ascended a pair of ladders, and navigated a trap door to see the panoramic views from the top of the tower. That evening we ate in the Granary Restaurant where the very talented 18-year-old chef, Anya, delighted us all with some excellent food at old-fashioned Norfolk prices.

On day seven we headed for our final moorings at Sutton Staithe where, in the evening, we were collected by coach and taken to the Swan at Ingham for our group last-night-dinner. The Swan is a thatched, originally 14th century, pub which now has an award-winning restaurant. We were seated in a charming room which Diana's daughter Alison, as another surprise, had organised table decorations to mark Diana's 80th Birthday. The food was excellent and Jackie had made a beautiful birthday cake for Diana. We were very pleased that Brian and Doreen Townsend together with Graham Bucknell, who lives in Stalham, were able to join us for one or two of the meals.

Our thanks to Mark and Jackie for researching and organising this memorable holiday. They found us some really enjoyable restaurants, organised transport and group BBQ's, and helped us to navigate the very busy Broads, which threw-up unexpected problems that were quickly dealt with. A fantastic job which is very much appreciated.

Peter

The Thames Cruise – Hurley Games Day



The games took place among some light showers but that did not dampen the fun or the enthusiasm. The winners were Jackie, Judy, and double winner Andy.

PARIS TO LONDON ON ORDINARIES TO CELEBRATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINARY

The Pickwick Cycling Club and the French Velocipedistes Club decided to celebrate the anniversary of the Ordinary bicycle by the ride from Paris to London in 2023. The French appeared to be far more enthusiastic than the Brits with only 4 Brits brave enough to tackle it. I decided that I would get



sponsorship for the ride for the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund, for obvious reasons after mum was diagnosed with this horrible disease. Rather than do the ride on a modern, repro, penny farthing I decided to use one of my originals, a 54" Dan Rudge dating back to 1888. Obviously, it was treated to new bearings and a thorough overhaul before attempting the ride. Interestingly enough the four original machines caused the least mechanical problems. A couple of the repro machines were virtually destroyed.

The start was the Eiffel Tower and the French TV were in attendance. There were six of us in the British contingent, four riders and two team back up. The French contingent was considerably larger and we all were accompanied throughout the French section by various cycle clubs who helped manage the traffic.

Along the route we were welcomed by the mayors of the communities and fed and watered at Civic ceremonies. It was very popular with schools and they had a lot of school children lining the route all of whom wanted to sit on a penny, of course. This appeared to be the main difference between the two Countries, the French people embraced the whole concept and made the riders so welcome wherever we were.

I did have a slight accident right at the start but no harm done and the handlebars were soon straightened out.

This article, from Dave and Brenda Gray's son Mike, is a follow-up to the brief announcement in the previous newsletter.

When we arrived at Newhaven there was a short stop whilst the bicycles were off-loaded and then we were off to the first nights stop at Missing Link Glamping. It was not actually confirmed if this location was chosen as a fitting name or because there was a brewery on site. We were joined here by another British Penny rider.

The British part of the ride was kept to cycle paths as much as possible as the traffic, especially into London was not good. It was a Friday afternoon after all. POETS day for those that know. In fact, one of the French riders was hit by a car but luckily, he was not badly hurt. We visited all the tourist spots in London and caused a lot of photo opportunities for the tourists.

To illustrate the difference between France and the UK, in France we had press and TV coverage but in London all we had was a jobsworth of a security guard shouting that we couldn't ride the Pennies outside the Tower of London. He went off with a flea in his ear delivered rapidly by mum and the French took no notice anyway. He was lucky they didn't burn his hut down 😊 One of the French riders demonstrated Penny trick riding, outside the Tower Hotel, much to the delight of the tourists and diners in the restaurants there. So far, I have raised well over £3,200 with money still coming in. I would like to thank you all,

from the bottom of my heart, for your generous donations to this worthwhile charity. There is also information on: <https://www.pcrf.org.uk/news/penny-farthing-challenge/>



Mike (front) and another Brit (Doug) at the finish. 18.15 on 30th June 2023



Mike Gray

IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

Thames Sailability (<https://www.thamessailability.org.uk/>) provides accessible boating for wheelchair users, people with reduced mobility, and those with learning challenges. Thames Sailability's specially adapted motorboat, Impossible Dream, allows passengers to enjoy boating on the Thames. Impossible Dream sails all year round, and can make short and longer trips for groups and individuals.

The River Thames Society (Teddington to Windsor branch) offered to host trips in it along the Desborough Cut and back along the old river at Shepperton.

Greg Beardsall went along and here is what he had to say:



Our day out in "Impossible Dream" was brilliant. We ended up with two electric wheelchairs and ten other people. Lovely smooth trip down to Shepperton via the back route around Desborough Cut, made our way to the weir area, then back to Shepperton Marina via Desborough cut. I was accompanied by Simon Turner who I have known since he was a Beaver at 3rd Alton in Rotherfield District. I followed him and his brother through Scouting and he became one of my ASL's. I have been involved in Scouting since 1962 and on the water since 1965. I have quite a few narrowboats that I have used for Scouting & Guiding which Simon helped on. I still have a 14-berth boat that I use and is in London. (scoutnarrowboat.co.uk). I also employed him as a



trainee mechanic and he lived at home with his parents. He was a very active person who did motor racing, running and of course narrow-boating and Scouting. At home he had a swimming pool which he used a lot but being very adventurous and pushed himself to the limit, he used to jump off the fence into the pool which he had done quite often. Then he decided to jump from the shed roof but didn't make it and hit his head on the side of the pool breaking his neck. He was lucky that there was someone at the property to get him out. This is why he is now in a wheel chair. He is still helping me in Scouts.

Thank you for this trip, I would recommend it to anyone who would love a trip on the Thames. Simon really appreciated it, this is what he needed to get back on the water.

Greg Beardsall

The Ray Andrews Trophy



Congratulations to David Wilford on winning the Ray Andrews Trophy 2023. This was voted for by the attendees at the TSCC Annual Dinner.

The subject was *Happy Holidays* and this photo of Jo, Peter, and Pauline was taken at Bucklers Hard.



The subject for
the Ray Andrews
Trophy 2024 has
been set by the
2023 winner. The
subject is:

“RED”

There is room for you to use your imagination here – there is no restriction on where the photo is taken or what the photo depicts – it just needs, in some noticeable way, to echo the subject **RED**.

WELCOME ABOARD!

TSCC extends a warm welcome to new member:
IRENE BURROUGHS



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

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR 2024

All dates and events are subject to change

Christmas Festive Tea at Hinchley Wood Scout and Guide HQ	Sun 10th December 2023
AGM at Ajax Water Activities Centre	Sun 7th January
TSCC, WMC, BBC Skittles Match at Byfleet Boat Club	Sat 10th February
Fitting Out Lunch	March
Race Night with Supper at Hinchley Wood Scout and Guide HQ (TBC)	April
Spring Getaway to Warner Hotels, Studley Castle	Fri 3rd – Mon 6th May
Guided tour of Highgate Cemetery followed by lunch at Table du Marché	Tues 21st May
Supper followed by Simon and Garfunkel Story at the New Wimbledon Theatre	Tues 11th June
Thames Cruise	Mon 17th – Thurs 20th June
Hog Roast at Little Compton	Wed 10th July
Visit to the State Apartments of the Speaker's House followed by lunch	Tues 24th September
Autumn Getaway to Salisbury	Tues 29th – Thurs 31st October
Annual Dinner	Mon 18th November
Carol Service at Guildford Cathedral in support of Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance (TBC)	Mon December 16th

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