



Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No. 128

June 2026

Chairman's Log

Dear TSCC Members,
since the September 2025 newsletter, the Autumn and Winter have come and gone, Spring is in the departure lounge and we are now very much looking forward to the next event on 8th June, A Touch of Italy at Mark and Jackie's garden. This event will probably have taken place by the time you are reading this, and I am sure this will have been another memorable occasion.



Looking back at previous events, articles on these are included in this newsletter, however I mention them briefly here. The committee organised six events in this period, (number of attendees in brackets); Annual Lunch at the Grumpy Mole, Brockham (41), Winchester Getaway (14), Festive lunch at the Cock Inn Lewes followed by a Christmas Concert at Glyndebourne (29), Pub Lunch at the Three Horseshoes Laleham (40), Skittles Match between TSCC, WMC and BBC at Hinchley Wood (48 total for all three clubs), Fitting Out Supper at the Sorrento restaurant in Tolworth (44).

Our thanks to **Rob Fry**, Secretary of Weybridge Mariners, who gallantly undertook the scoring for the Skittles Match which was won by WMC.

During the Fitting Out Supper at the Sorrento restaurant I was pleased to present **Greg Beardsall** with his Scout Association 40 years service certificate for his voluntary work in the Scout Movement

The final event in this reporting period was the AGM at Ajax Sea Scouts Water Activities Centre at which we enjoyed a presentation by leaders and young people of the Downs Link Explorer Unit. It is always appreciated when Scouts who have benefitted from TSCC grants come to see us and tell us all about their activities.



Over the last few years TSCC has been enthusiastically supported by **Jo Rogerson**, the County Lead Volunteer, Surrey Scouts, (previously known as the Surrey Scouts County Commissioner). After more than ten very successful years in his Surrey role Jo has stepped down to take up a similar role elsewhere. We are sad to see him go and we wish him well. During his time in Surrey Jo has been very ably assisted by **Julia Kielstra**, Volunteer Development Lead, Surrey Scouts who has also been a great help to us and I am pleased that she is continuing in this role.



Jo's successor is **Kelvin Freeman** who we are looking forward to meeting and we wish him all success.

Sadly, we have lost three of our members: Derek Dale, Derek (Dusty) Miller and Jacquie Churchill.

We have gained three members: Molly and Terry Cooper and Christine Holmes, all of whom have joined in our events recently.

And so, I am happy that TSCC maintains a full programme of events and continues to support the Scouts. Long may it continue.

My thanks to our committee members for all their hard work and to all of you members for supporting our events as well as you do.

George Barber



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Photo
Competition
2026

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

Cover Photo: *Sea View* leaving Goring Lock
(photo PS)

GALA LUNCH

12th November 2025

This years' Gala Lunch was held at the Inn on the Green (Grumpy Mole) in Brockham. This was a good venue for the Club as we had a very bright and attractive dining room for our exclusive use, which was just large enough to accommodate the forty-one attendees. The food and service were good and it was a very happy and convivial event.

Thanks to everyone who contributed items for the Raffle which raised £240 for the Club's funds.



*Photos:
Mike Fowler*



**Our congratulations to
Su Knight on winning
the Ray Andrew's
Trophy 2025 with her
picture of a Black Swan
with Cygnets.**

WINCHESTER CHRISTMAS GETAWAY

7TH DECEMBER 2025



Mark and Jackie organised a one-night getaway for a festive overnight break in the historic city of Winchester.

Fourteen of us stayed at the Voco Hotel just two miles from the centre and used the park and ride facility to avoid the hassle of driving into the city centre.

The highlights were the Cathedral Christmas Market, the Cathedral itself, and a carol concert in the Cathedral.



Ready for the carols



Mulled Wine stall in the Market

On the way home from Winchester, several of us visited Hinton Ampner, a National Trust property eight miles east of Winchester. All of the rooms had been



decorated for Christmas. Each room featured a different pantomime. It was a spectacular display.



Jackie made a cake to celebrate David's Birthday. I think he must have enjoyed it!

Glyndebourne Christmas Concert



12th December 2025



Twenty-nine members and friends attended this event which started with a festive lunch at The Cock Inn, Ringmer. The lunch was very good but, unfortunately, Mark and Jackie decided not to attend the lunch as they both had colds.

This was the first such concert organised by Glyndebourne and it was a very special event. Featuring the Glyndebourne Chorus and Sinfonia. The concert had a well-

balanced program including opera highlights, popular orchestral showpieces, and singalong carols that enabled us to exercise our lungs and work off our festive lunch. The Concert was excellent, with the conductor joining-in the Christmas spirit.



Many thanks to Mark and Jackie for organising this.

Skittles Match

21st February 2026



This year, the organisation of this annual event between TSCC, Byfleet BC and Weybridge Mariners, was the responsibility of TSCC. Nearly 50 people attended. Our thanks to Rob Fry who organised the match and acted as the MC. The food available was excellent, the hall decoration was very attractive, and it was said



that TSCC had set a very high standard. TSCC's skittles' performance was not at its best, the final scores being WMC 10.000; BBC 9.556; and TSCC 9.133.



Congratulations go to Weybridge Mariners. The Trophy was accepted by Brian Townsend.

Our thanks to George and Janet for organising the event and special thanks to Janet for preparing such a huge and excellent table of food.

Scout Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving

On February 20th, together with Jackie as my 'guest', I had the honour of attending the National Scout Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey.



Originally known as the Service of Thanksgiving, the event dates back to 1947 following the unveiling in Westminster Abbey of a memorial stone to Lord Baden-Powell who had died in 1941. Initially it was a small service, followed by a wreath laying. From 1959, it was always held close to BP's birthday on 22nd February. Over time it grew and evolved, and 1976 it became a combined celebration of the Guides' "Thinking Day" and the Scouts' "Founder's Day". This was the year before the death of BP's wife, Lady Baden Powell, the only person ever to hold the

position of World Chief Guide and who, coincidentally, shared the same birthday as BP. In 1981 a memorial to Lord and Lady Baden Powell was unveiled inside Westminster Abbey.

This year's service was attended by around 2,000 adult Scouting volunteers from across the UK and overseas territories. Its purpose is to recognise the achievements of those who have received awards for exceptional service, including the Silver Wolf and the Silver Acorn, and to celebrate their dedication to the Scout movement.



Highlights included an address by **Chief Scout Dwayne Fields**

and another by the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Stephen Lake, who is also a Vice President of Dorset Scouts.

In his presentation which was peppered with engagingly light-hearted moments, the bishop told the assembled body that this year was his 40th wedding anniversary – and he knew this to be true because his wife had told him so!



The Chief Scout, Dwayne Fields, explained how, as a child in north London, he got into



Scouting by pure chance. Whilst at a friend's house, the friend's mother suggested she leave him at a Cub meeting with her son while she ran some errands. He went into the hall with no idea what he was walking into. The Cub leader told him there were no "bystanders" at his Cub meetings and that he should join in the activities.

Although initially "terrified," he found a sense of belonging and friendship, and developed the skills and confidence that eventually helped him to escape the inner-city violence that was all around him. Dwayne explained that he never thought he belonged anywhere until the moment he walked into that hut where he found community and support.

From his beginnings in Cubs, Dwayne eventually became a Leader, and then in 2010 he was the first black Briton to reach the Magnetic North Pole. The expedition was designed to inspire young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to connect with nature and explore the outdoors. Following his return, he was invited to Buckingham Palace to mark the centenary of Scott's expedition to the South Pole. He subsequently embarked on a career as a TV presenter and in 2017, he was appointed a "Scout Ambassador", leading to his appointment as Chief Scout in 2024.

The Service of Celebration was a massive event with the majestic Abbey filled to capacity and, in addition to "us oldies", it was great to see a good smattering of younger volunteers. Unfortunately, when we left the Abbey, in our haste to bag a taxi before they were all snapped up, we did not think to take a selfie – but the photos we did take are hopefully more interesting!

Mark Marriott

New Year's Pub Lunch

12 January 2026

We kicked-off the New Year with a lunch at the Three Horseshoes in Laleham. Forty members attended and it was most enjoyable. Many thanks to George and Jan for organising this event.





*Photos:
Mike Fowler*



Fitting Out Supper at Ristorante Sorrento

8th April 2026

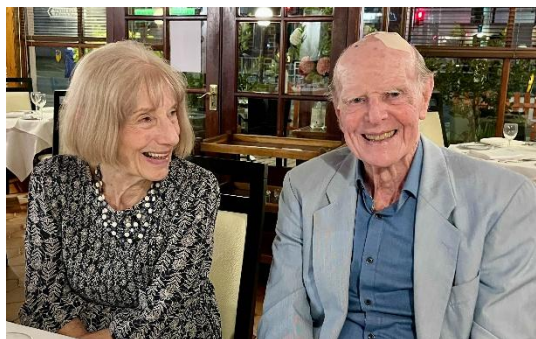
This Start-of-Season celebratory get-together was attended by forty-four guests. We had great fun meeting-up and it was a lively and enjoyable evening.

We were very pleased to get to know, and welcome to the Club, three new members:

Terry and Molly Cooper who live in Highbrook, West Sussex, and

Christine Holmes who lives in Hinchley Wood, Surrey

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



Congratulations to Greg Beardsall on receiving the Chief Scout's 40 Years Service Award.



It was good to see Paul and Marion Norman again.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26th April 2026



We were delighted to welcome back Mark Faulkner to give us a refresher course on the use of a defibrillator. This was especially important because the Club had recently purchased a smaller and lighter device. Mark, as always, gave a concise easy to follow presentation.

The new device will be far less cumbersome to carry to our events.

We also had the pleasure of hearing from the Downlink Explorers to whom we gave a TSCC Grant of £1000 for the purchase of new equipment.

A group of five came to tell us what Downlink are all about. They were led by Mark Taylor, Team Lead Volunteer. They are a very active group and their meetings cover everything from International Cooking to Lego Engineering. In 2025 they took part in the Explorer Belt programme in Poland. This isn't just an expedition, it's a 10-day adventure across some of Europe's most stunning regions. It's a real test of skills, teamwork, and everything learnt in Scouting.



Our friends fondly remembered

Jacquie Churchill

Jacquie Churchill sadly passed away last October at the age of 91. Jacquie had led a full and active life along with her husband of 56 years, Ray. Anyone who knew Jacquie would know that she was a very enthusiastic person, full of life and full of fun. Pictured here with the TSCC in Paris,



Jacquie went to Drama school and, in her early teens, she performed in a pantomime with Frankie Howard who became like an uncle to her for the duration of the production. Jacquie met Ray when she was performing in Half a Sixpence in Putney. They both shared a love of music, especially opera, and jazz. Ray was an assistant leader for the cubs, and Jacquie helped the scouts to run a Gang Show featuring a production of Oliver.

Jacquie taught both tap and line dancing and put on shows - remarkably, she was still teaching dance until she was nearly 80.



Their life in boating started when they purchased their first boat, a Viking 32. Their last boat, Thrupenny, was a Broom. They first joined Weybridge Mariners and they

were later introduced to TSCC by David Sowter.

Jacquie loved to sparkle on stage and she brought a sparkle to everyone's life.

Derek Miller



On the 23rd October we sadly said goodbye to Derek (Dusty) Miller. Dusty and his wife Mary have been TSCC members for many years. They owned a canal boat named Halcyon Daze which they kept on the Oxford Canal. There were occasions when they came down to the Thames and were able to join-in with TSCC river events.

Both Dusty and Mary were active in supporting the Scouts and they had various leadership roles, finally being associated with the 4th Crawley Scout Group. There was, however, some conflict with Dusty's working life. He worked for the BBC from the age of 17 and the hours were not very regular thus, he was known to arrive at scout meetings in

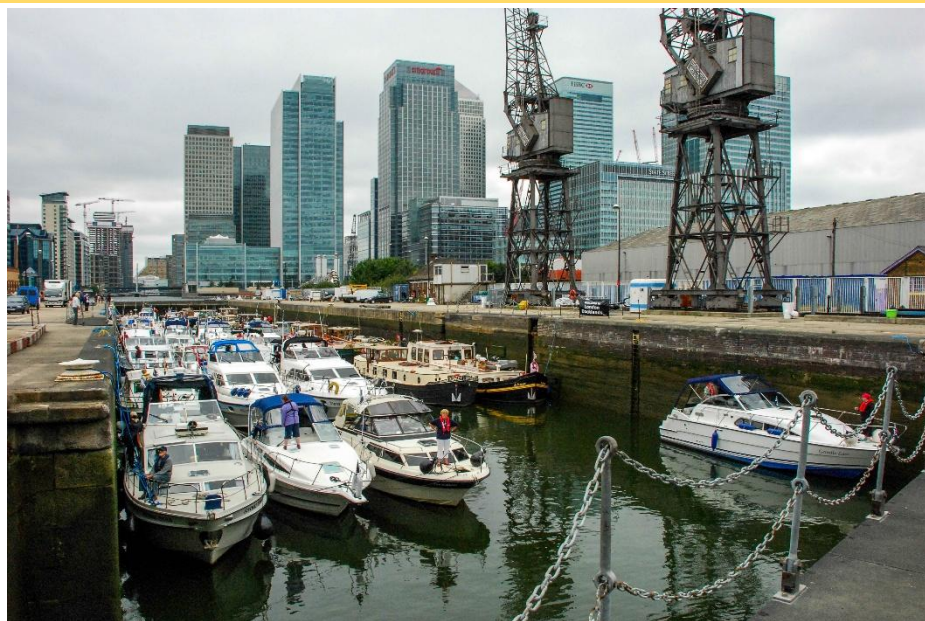
time to say "hats off for the last prayer" and, on one camping trip he arrived just in time to knock-in the last peg. Dusty held various roles in the BBC including Technical Operator, Studio Manager and Manager Outside Broadcasts. He eventually held a senior management role and Mary said he thoroughly enjoyed his career.

Dusty devoted a lot of time and effort into helping younger people in both his working life and through scouts, and he was very highly thought-of and respected.

Dusty was chairman of the trading branch of the Wey and Arun Canal Trust. The objective was to raise money for the preservation and maintenance of the Canal. He was very active in getting a boat built for canal trips and then in organising the running of those trips. He is pictured when on the TSCC trip to the Norfolk Broads in 2018.

Memories of the Thames





The subject for the Ray
Andrews Trophy 2026
has been set by the 2025
winner. The subject is:
“My Favourite Season”

**Photos must be taken by the entrant within the 2026 calendar year.
The winner will be decided by the vote of members at the Gala Lunch
on the 11th November.**

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR 2026

All dates and events are subject to change

A Touch of Italy at Little Compton	Mon 8 th June at 1.30pm
Supper at Wetherspoons followed by 'Jersey Boys' (20th Anniversary Tour)	Wed 17 th June at 7.30pm
Thames Cruise	Sat 20 th June – Wed 24 th June
Warners Getaway to Sinah Warren	Fri 17 th – Mon 20 th July
BMG Cycle Museum and Afternoon Tea	Wed 26 th August at 3.00pm
ATYC Rally at TMYC	Sat 29 th August – Mon 31 st August
Cruise on PS Waverley to Isle of Wight	Thur 10 th September
Norfolk Broads Finale Cruise	Fri 11 th – Fri 18 th September
Race Evening with Fish and Chip Supper at Hinchley Wood Scout and Guide HQ	Wed 21 st October at 7.30 pm
Gala Lunch at Woodlands Park Hotel, Cobham	Wed 11 th November at 12.30pm
Getaway to Thursford Christmas Spectacular	Mon 30 th November – Tue 1 st December

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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Visit our Website: www.tscc.org.uk

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