



Turtles Swimming Club Newsletter

March
2018

100th Edition



ESTABLISHED 1964

The Turtles Swimming Club is for anyone with a physical, mental health or learning difficulty.

Based at Highgrove Pool in Ruislip, the club meets every Saturday between 5pm and 6pm

Chair:

Alison Grey

Chief Instructor:

Linda Clarke

Secretary:

Andy Wallis

Turtles email:

**turtlesswimming@
yahoo.co.uk**

Turtles Website:

**http://www.
ruislipturtles.org.uk**



100
Newsletters
since
November
2009



Turtles Newsletter

November 2009 Newsletter
Newsletter for the members of the Ruislip Turtles Swimming Club



Sylvia's Royal Appointment

Friday 4th December 2009 is a very important day for Sylvia Smith because she will be travelling with her son and two of her daughters to Buckingham Palace, to collect her OBE (Order of the British Empire Medal).

Sylvia was notified of her award in June when the Queen announced her Birthday Honours List following the nomination by the Turtles Club.

The Turtles Club was founded in 1964 and Sylvia attended the club from the outset as a young Red Cross postable volunteer. Her award is for her 45 years of dedication and commitment to the development of swimming for those with disabilities, not just for the Turtles but also as a national level through the NASCH organisation (National Association of Swimming Clubs for the Handicapped).

The Long Distance Postal Swim will commence again at the end of November and run through until the last week of February.

Sylvia Smith organises the event on behalf of our club, monitoring how far our swimmers can swim in the allotted one hour.

The first lane of the pool is therefore used specifically for those wishing to participate during this period.

If you wish to participate please contact Sylvia.

Sylvia was appointed to the position of President of NASCH in 2007. Prior to this time, Sylvia was the Vice President of NASCH (from 1999 to 2007) and Vice Chairman from 1991 to 1992. From 1976 to 1988 Sylvia was the NASCH Social Secretary.

Sylvia Smith has therefore become synonymous with the development of swimming for those with disabilities on a national level. Through NASCH, Woodlarks and the various swimming clubs, Sylvia has worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone enjoys themselves, can participate in new opportunities and events and is doing to optimise their abilities in an equitable and challenging environment.

Hillingdon Sports Council Grant

The Ruislip Turtles Gala Team has recently been awarded £950 by the Hillingdon Sports Council. The grant is to be used to fund the cost of mini-bus travel to gigs over the next 12 months and also to contribute towards the cost of Gala Team shirts for the next season.

The grant enables the club to provide a mini bus to 8 scheduled away events in the gala season.

To see the full gala season schedule and results please visit the Turtles website at: http://www.ruislipturtles.org.uk/Gala_Dates/Gala%20Schedule

The club is very grateful to Hillingdon Sports Council for their financial support.

As a former primary school teacher and later as a teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing, Sylvia has dedicated her life to those that are less fortunate than herself.

The OBE is rightly deserved, so enjoy your day at the Palace Sylvia!

Highgrove Pool Management of the centre was taken over by Greenwich Leisure Ltd. from the 1st October.

The new team are yet to decide on Christmas opening hours.

However there will be no club sessions on Saturday 26th December (Boxing Day). We will advise about other club sessions over the festive period once we are informed by Greenwich.

The club hires a Hillingdon Community Transport minibus for gigs, funded by Hillingdon Sports Council until July 2010.



Back in 2009, the Committee decided that it would be a good idea to produce a monthly newsletter to keep the membership informed about the activities of the club.

There was some concern expressed that we may struggle for regular news, but the job of Editor in Chief was duly awarded to the then Chairman, Dave Lee.

Well over 8 years later and Dave Lee (now Club President) is still producing the monthly read! 'I can honestly say that content has never been a problem, there is always something to report'. I hope that the membership enjoy the regular updates and long may it continue!'

All 100 Newsletters are still available on the Turtles website, should you ever want a trip down Memory Lane.

Turtles Swimming Club is a registered Charity Number 1055545

100th Edition

100 NEWSLETTERS –WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

A look back at Issue One



**Sylvia
Smith OBE**
*Fondly
Remembered*
**15/8/1929—
24/8/2016**



***The club logo
back in 2009***

The first Turtles Newsletter in 2009 led with the story of Turtles Club President, Sylvia Smith's impending visit to Buckingham Palace to collect her O.B.E. following her nomination by the Turtles Club.

Also in this edition was the news that Greenwich Leisure was about to take over pool management at Highgrove. They have continued running the pool until present day. The Hillingdon Leisure Centre was reported to be still a year away from opening.

Social activity covered the recent trip to Cotswolds Wildlife Park.

The Turtles Website had recorded 1000 visits having been launched a

year earlier, and Waitrose Ruislip donated £260 through their Community Matters scheme.

Over the 100 issues we have had three different 'Chairs' (Dave, Peter and Alison) but the roles of Treasurer (Rosemary) and Chief Instructor (Linda) have remained unchanged throughout. Of the 12 Committee Members listed in Issue One, only 4 remain on today's Committee (Dave, Rosemary, Linda & Ann Chivers).

The 2009 club' objectives are represented below and remain true today except that in 2013, the Turtles decided to leave NASCH and therefore no longer participate in the National Gala at Leamington Spa.

CLUB OBJECTIVES—NOVEMBER 2009

The aims of the club are to provide a safe, friendly, family atmosphere where the art of swimming can be taught to disabled persons and where disabled persons can enjoy swimming for pleasure, exercise, and if desired, can participate in competitive swimming. Help and tuition is available in the pool but this cannot be guaranteed on a one to one basis for the entire session in the pool.

The competitive instincts of many members are catered for by several annual swimming galas. These are mainly run under the auspices of the National Association of Swimming Clubs for the Handicapped (NASCH) and include the Annual Club Championships, friendly races against other clubs in the local region, as well as the National Gala usually held in November at Leamington Spa. Badges for distance swimming are also available and every year the club participates in the British Long Distance Swimming Association 'postal swim' involving other swimming clubs throughout the country.

100th Edition

AND SOME OF THE HEADLINES.....



Issue 3 - Jan. 2010— Princess Anne meets the Turtles Club President



Issue 6—Apr 2010— Boris Johnson also meets the Turtles Club President, Sylvia Smith OBE



Issue 31 - Aug. 2012 — Turtles train with the Korean Olympic Swim Squad



Issue 37 - Feb. 2013 — Sophie Grey, Hillingdon Disability Sports Person of the Year



Issue 49— Jan 2014 — Turtles fundraising by singing carols @ Sainsbury South Ruislip



Issue 79— June 2016 — This edition marked the very sad passing of Neil Dew, seen above meeting the Mayor when National Junior Champion

100th Edition

AND SOME OF THE SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS.....



Issue 57– Aug 2014



– Turtle 50th Anniversary Party



Issue 72– Dec 2015 – Don Lamb's 'Significant' Birthday celebrations.



Issue 43– July 2013 – Beaulieu Outing



Issue 18– May 2011 – Off to Cadbury World



100th Edition

AND MANY MEMORIES.....



**Issue 30–
July 2012
– Bluebell
Railway &
Sheffield
Park**



**Issue 33– Oct. 2012
– Harry Potter World**



**Issue 21– Sept. 2011 – Great House,
Sonning**



Issue 46– Oct. 2013 – The 2013 Successful Gala Squad

BIG THANK YOU TO PATRICIA BONNEY

*Long Service
Volunteer*



100th Edition



The Turtles volunteers are an essential part of the club. With no salaried staff in the history of the club, all Swim Teachers, Pool Helpers and Administrators give up their time to help others. But the club's current longest serving volunteer is Patricia Bonney. Patricia joined the Turtles with her daughter, Claire, and husband Ron back in 1970. Claire went on to become the Junior Champion (1978) and the Diving Champion (1979 & 1980). Both Ron and Patricia soon became club volunteers making the weekly club raffle their sole responsibility and were jointly awarded the Pitman Moore Cup in 1997 for services to the Turtles. Patricia joined the Turtles Committee in May 2010.

When Ron lost his brave battle with cancer, Patricia continued running the raffle on her own, usually financing the prizes herself.

So for close on 50 years dedication to the Turtles, and over 20 years dedication to 'the raffle', a very big thank you to Patricia!

A 'Meet the Committee' interview with Patricia (**Issue 35, December 2012**) is represented below.

So Patricia, when did you join the Committee ? I joined the Committee 3 years ago but I have been in charge of the raffle for 15 years.

Tell us about how you joined the Turtles. Well it was 42 years ago, I joined because my daughter Claire has epilepsy.

Tell us about your background. I was born in Kingsbury but I now live in Eastcote. I have been a teacher for the last 60 years!

What do you enjoy in life? I like poetry (the rhyming stuff), a really good joke, knitting, reading, crosswords, jigsaws, teaching and globe trotting.

And your pride and joy? My lovely family.

What is your biggest claim to fame? In 1948 Princess Margaret at St. Paul's Cathedral shook my hand and said that I had 'a lovely voice'. Nowadays I am known locally as, 'That woman wot knits on the buses'.

So what was your most embarrassing moment? While staying in a Florida villa with 15 family members, I swam in our private pool while the others were indoors. As it got dark I came out, stripped off and was feeling about for my towel when my daughter-in-law shouted, "Oh poor Grandma is swimming in the dark," and she turned on the floodlights as everyone rushed to the windows.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE DONATIONS

Whenever the Club receives a donation it is recognised and recorded in the next Newsletter and for the following 12 months. The club is dependent on these donations and listed below are the various organisation who have been recorded as supporters of the Turtles in the one hundred Newsletters. Thank You once again!

100th Edition
Our Current Supporters.....



And a special Thank You for all the Private Donations!



Throughout the 100 Newsletters, all of the above donations together with all aspects of the Turtles financial affairs have been superbly managed by our long serving Treasurer, Rosemary Noyes.

A very big thank you to Rosemary!



ADDENDUM TO THE 100TH NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHAIR, ALISON GREY



A HUGE THANK YOU TO DAVE

Sometimes an organisation is fortunate enough to find a truly exceptional volunteer. Turtles Swimming Club have that in Dave.

Dave joined Turtles in 1990 with his children, Cheryl and Gary. Back then he really didn't know what he was letting himself in for. At the time he was working hard for the BBC - if you're lucky he'll show you his BAFTA - gaining lots of skills that would come in handy for running a swimming club! In 2008, on retirement, Dave was gently persuaded to stand for Turtles' Club Chair and was duly elected. It is fair to say that he turned the fortunes of the club around and made us the successful, growing club that we are today.

Dave continues to work tirelessly for Turtles (on some Saturdays, as he has a season ticket to watch his beloved QPR lose on the occasions he is not at the pool) He currently: produces our newsletters; drives a mini bus to away galas and social events; maintains our website; teaches our members; manages our gala teams (20+ years in this role) and provides words of wisdom and experience at our committee meetings. As our club President, Dave follows in the very big footsteps of Sylvia Smith OBE, a worthy successor!



Words of wisdom from the man himself (Newsletter Issue 37 -February 2013)

When & why did you join the Turtles? I joined the Turtles in 1990 because of Gary (need I say more?).

What is your role? Chairman (since 2008), Swim Teacher, Gala Team Manager, Mini-bus Driver, and Fund Raiser with a history of gullible volunteering!

Birth place & where do you live now? Born and raised in Queens Park (Paddington) but now live in Loudwater, Hertfordshire.

What do you do for a living? I was Chief Executive Officer of Red Bee Media Ltd. until I retired in 2008. In an earlier life, I was BBC Director of Multimedia and also Group Financial Controller, BBC Worldwide Ltd.

What is your biggest claim to fame? Being presented with a BAFTA in 1999

Do you have any hobbies? Huge train set, model collection....I really am very sad....

Your best kept secret? My creative side.....I spent many years at the BBC before moving to the commercial side.

What would be your Karaoke song? Hi Ho Silver Lining – they play the song at QPR every time we win a match – so not hearing it very often I would need the words on the Karaoke machine!

Most inspirational person? No one person, but generally it has to be the achievements of some of our Turtle members.

100th Edition



AND NOW FOR 2018 NEWS

HANWORTH & FELTHAM GALA SQUAD

The following 12 swimmers have been entered for the above Gala on Sunday 18th March:

Matthew, Dominic, Solomon, Tillie, Shaida, Jeannette, Sophie, Josh, Don, Gary, Karen and Jamie



[Hanworth Air Park](#)
[Leisure Centre](#)

FUN SESSION 25TH MARCH



A reminder that the Fun Session is scheduled for Sunday 25th March (arrive at 5pm for 5.15start) at Hillingdon Sport & Leisure Centre, Gattin Way, Uxbridge. The event is free to all Turtles members, but please note that we cannot accommodate guests to this event. If you are interested in coming along to try your hand on the inflatables, please make Bijan or Alison aware at Saturday registration.

TURTLES 2018 CALENDAR

Sunday 18th March	Hanworth & Feltham Gala
Sunday 25th March	Fun Session, Hillingdon Leisure Centre
Saturday 14th April	Hatfield Gala
Saturday 21st April	Hitchin Gala
Saturday 28th April	Turtles Diving Championship
Saturday 12th May	Turtles Swim Championship
Saturday 9th June (tbc)	Turtles AGM
Saturday 15th September	Turtles Invitation Gala

