

LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION

'Old Cleeve'
383, Sandhurst Lane,
ASHFORD,
Kent.
TN25 4PF

01233 – 623732, email clay_oldcleeve@ntlworld.com
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GUZZLETTER NO 96

Dear GUZZLERS.

Hello all, once again I begin with my traditional welcome to another GUZZLERS year.

If you have a red * at the top RH corner of this letter then your subs are outstanding. If you wish to be included in future correspondence, then please forward your cheque for £5 to me. THIS IS THE ONLY REMINDER I SHALL SEND.

Our membership remains at about the same level as last year, 48 at latest count, so please send me your subs if they are outstanding, we do so much want to retain your membership.

To those who receive the GUZZLETTER by email I will send out a separate reminder requesting your subs if you are overdue.

I attach the AGM Minutes from the meeting on 12th October and the Income and Expenditure Account for 2009/2010. This time the accounts were independently audited by Ed Strickland, a friend of mine from Ashford Indoor Bowls Club who has a finance background, who took a little time to become accustomed to the format but was able to sign them off after a while.



You will all know that Frank Bentley passed away on 10th September, aged 88. His funeral service, on 27th September, at Westcliff United Reformed Church was attended by 24 GUZZLERS who joined current 3rd CB members in providing a guard of Honour at the Church. His sons gave tributes and anecdotes, some humorous, of thanks for his life as a family man, professionally, within the City of London, as an artist and musician, and of his love of the sea, in the Royal Navy and with his activities within the 3rd CB.

We also saw Raymond (Titch) Hopkins and Doug Scurry ex 3rd CB types of the 1950's who were also included in our socializing group.

The committal was at Southend Crematorium and afterwards the family put on a great spread at The Roslin Beach Hotel, on Thorpe Esplanade.

In some ways I think that Frank would have appreciated us turning up in such numbers, I didn't, expect to have so many. There were two tables of us and there was quite a lot of catching up going on. There was one photograph in particular that was on display that really summed up the troop in the 1960's. It was of a Leigh Building Supply open lorry packed with Summer Camp equipment, on the way to Dedham with us boys sitting on a canvas on top and Frank standing by the passenger door as 'shotgun'. When Kath saw it she laughed and said that it would not be allowed these days, because of 'elth & safety, but when asked said that she would very much like a copy and GUZZLER Duncan Clark, who took the original, agreed to undertake the task.

In appreciation of Frank I wrote the following to support an application for a national honour some years ago. It was not to be so but you might agree that it probably sums up our thoughts of the man.

'We wish to put on record that we are completely indebted to one Frank Bentley, ex Group Scoutmaster, for providing the necessary moral and practical leadership environments which enabled us to grow as young men and into adulthood having experienced all the benefits that

Frank believed in which manifested in the 3rd CB Sea Scouts. He invented empowerment, before it was fashionable, it was called trust. Trust in his Troop Leader and Patrol Leaders to take younger lads camping or boating. His manner was such an inspiration to us, teaching us on one hand, to sail, become seamen, with knowledge and respect for the sea, and on the other hand to accompany us on his accordion during camp fires at Summer Camp. He gave time, for the good of the youth for quite a number of years.'

I thought that you would like to see this cutting from a local paper following his death:-

Newsdesk (01702) 477666/474455 ADVERT

Scouting fraternity bid farewell to 'troop leader' Frank Bentley



Frank Bentley (centre) pictured at a recent Sea Scouts event at the Arlington Rooms.

LEIGH'S scouting fraternity turned out in force last week for the funeral of one of its longest serving members, Frank Bentley.

He died in his late eighties, but had been active with the 3rd Chalkwell Bay Sea Scouts since the 1950s when he was a troop leader.

A colleague said:

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"Frank was such an imposing figure at the head of so many church parades. We will all miss him so much.

"So many youngsters benefited from the work he did with the Sea Scouts."

Many of his colleagues over the years stayed in touch,

forming themselves into a group which they called 'The Guzzlers'.

Mr Bentley was a proud ex-Royal Naval man and it was inevitable when he left the Senior Service that he would devote his time to the Sea Scouts.

The funeral took place at Westcliff

United Reform Church in Kings Road, where there was a guard of honour for his cortege. This was followed by a short service at Southend Crematorium.

There was also a reception afterwards at the Roslin Hotel on Southend seafront which was packed with his family, friends and Sea Scouts.

At our Committee meeting on 3rd November Duncan Clark was invited to bring the picture 'Advance Party', which he had had enlarged and professionally mounted. It was probably of the Dedham Summer Camp of 1960, and showed Frank Bentley together with 12 scouts sitting on all the camping equipment in the back of a Leigh Building Supply lorry. The excellent photograph was presented to Kath Bentley by Martin & I the next morning on behalf of 'The GUZZLERS' as a mark of appreciation of Frank's dedication to the 3rd CB. She was visibly thrilled with the gift.

Our appreciation has to go to Duncan for his speed in getting the photograph reproduced and mounted.

The GUZZLERS Sailing Day at the Den on July 23rd interested about 8 or so people and was enjoyable. We met recent recruit, Dudley Blois (1950's vintage), who had travelled from Eastbourne to have a day at The Den & to meet up with some people he had not met for 50+ years. The Den was rather a construction site as work on replacing the roof, which had 'shifted' was ongoing and an outside paint up sprucing the place up was taking place. Although sailing was limited to a couple of hours due to the tide, and the growth of the marsh grasses, we took Wanderers Nos. 5 & 6 out in a decent breeze at times, for a bit of a 'waggle' before repairing to 'The Smack' for drinks & a bite of lunch. The weather was fine & reasonably warm, a little sun & no rain. I was rather disappointed in the turnout but the occasion was enjoyable nevertheless as most of us rarely get the opportunity for a dinghy sail these days. Whilst the tide was in it was nice to see youngsters enjoying themselves jumping & diving in from Bell Wharf. Nothing changes in that respect. I thought that the small creeks leading into Leigh Creek looked more defined with steep sloping banks than they ever used to be.

Some stayed on board 'Calypso' overnight and undertook a most enjoyable trip to Whitstable coinciding with the annual Oyster Week, picking up some extra crew at the pier. They had an overnight stop, sampling the delights of the North Kent town before heading back, indulging in a bit of fishing. Nick James caught one mackerel so I am told!

The September Sail on Rona was again most successful although a couple of people had to drop out at the last minute. As I understand it there was a sail which once again took in Cherbourg, and Gosport., returning to the Hamble on Tuesday. We are all indebted to Andy once again for organizing it.

There were 16 members at The Pub Night / AGM on 12th October. We have to give apologies to the membership as it coincided with the launch of the establishments Winter Menu and the pub was rather noisy and full but we were still able to get through our small business. The 'furthest travelled' prize was won by Dudley Blois as Roy Salter said he thought it a close call! If we had not of re-arranged the AGM we would have been ok!

The Winter Pub Night, for inclusion in your 2011 diaries, is on Tuesday March 1st 2011 at The Crooked Billet at 2015.

At the committee meeting we discussed activities over the coming months. This is a report of details from that meeting plus a brief outline of the September Sailing and latest news.

We are investigating the availability of a Barge Charter, from Whitstable, ideally around 13th May 2011, which might give us access to a better trip – to Leigh, to come alongside at Bell Wharf. We will need 12 to take up the charter and the cost is likely to be in the region of £200 Would you please email me or phone to advise me of your interest by the end of this month (November) so we can decide if it is worth pursuing the arrangements.

What is definitely being arranged is another Den Day on Friday 22nd July, but it will be a 'Ray day'. As we have to be away to The Ray at 0500, we will sleep at the Den and catch the last of the ebb. After what we hope will be a good day sailing, revellers will return to Leigh, disembarking the 'stay at homes' to put the boats away before catching the evening tide on 'Calypso' and going off to Queenbrough (Friday Night) and onward passage to Whitstable to spend Saturday night. Final details will be posted in the next GUZZLETTER.

Sailing in Rona II is programmed from 15th – 20th September 2011

Pub Night & AGM Tuesday 4th October 2011

I am ever so pleased to advise you all that following his nomination at the AGM, Ron Cox, sending regards to all from the North Wales Branch, has gladly accepted our invitation to become our new President and threatens to join us in one of our jaunts one day!

The project to board the landing stage to make access easier for boats lying alongside the Den is to be revised to have reduced materials and will be presented to the Group Executive Committee shortly.

The old Groups website was unfortunately lost when the hosting group's server died (it was a Scout team that ran it for free, so it's a shame, but not a lot can be done now). When Chris Daly, the 3rd CB Webmaster, presently serving in the R.N. in the Arabian Gulf, on HMS Cumberland, gets back to the UK around Easter next year, he will look into making a new one and he agrees the facebook version is not the answer, but it is a short term fix that just about does the job and it is better than having a 'not found' page come up.

Just to remind you that my email address is clay_oldcleeve@ntlworld.com

If you can receive the GUZZLETTER by email & don't do so at present please get in touch so I can add you to the 47 who are already in my address book. It is so much easier for me to contact you all in that way.

All that remains is for me, on behalf of your committee to wish you all well for 2011, and best wishes for an exciting Christmas. You might like to purchase a book 'The History of Sea Scouts 1909 -2009, details of which I have received from the GSL and attached below.

Regards,

Stuart Clay
Secretary

SEA SCOUTS – A HISTORY 1909-2009 ***by ROY MASINI***

An entirely new book on the history of Sea Scouting in Great Britain is to be published in the near future. Register your interest now.

This unique publication has been written by Roy Masini who has been involved in Sea Scouting for most of his life. This book is the result of 30 years' research, and took 10 years in the writing.

The book will go beyond just Sea Scouting, and covers:

- The Leysdown Tragedy 1912
- The Coast Watching Service 1914-1920
- John Travers Cornwell VC 1916
- RRS Discovery 1937
- Dunkirk 1940
- Admiralty/RN Recognition
- International Sea Scouting and Jamborees
- Offshore sailing

The publication will be illustrated with photographs including material not previously seen.

More than just sentimental nostalgia, this book will offer an important resource for researchers, for those interested in Sea Scouting and for

Send to Roy Masini, 44 Kettering Street, Streatham, London SW16 6PZ,
England

or

Email details below to: r.masini2@ukonline.co.uk

Please register my interest in

Sea Scouts – A History 1909-2009 by Roy Masini

Name (please print):

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