

LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION

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GUZZLETTER NO 95

Dear GUZZLER,

It is with huge regret that following Frank Bentleys death in September I have to announce that two more GUZZLERS have 'crossed the bar' in Naval parlance, in March.



Stephen Pugh

As some of you will know, most of us who saw Stephen at Frank's funeral in October remarked on how poorly he looked. He passed away on Wednesday 2nd March, in a local Hospice, after a cancer related illness.

I had contacted Marie just before Christmas and she revealed that Stephen had received treatment but indicated that there was little hope and that palliative care was likely to be the only result.

The funeral was on Friday 11th March 2011 at Croydon Crematorium. Carol & I attended a very sympathetic ceremony and some of his artifacts were on display. Pride of place went to his camp blanket from his Sea Scouting days. We always had a competition between us to see whose was the best.

A card expressing our condolences was sent to Marie.



Dan Lambeth

I heard from Dave Packer on the 8th March that the former ASL in the Group during the late sixties and seventies had passed away at home in Swanage, Dorset. He was 90 and is survived by his wife Diana, son Geoff and daughter, Rosemary. The funeral was planned for Wednesday 16th March at Poole Crematorium. I had responses from a dozen GUZZLERS, from UK, USA & Australia, who had sent emails of tribute which were passed on to the family by Dave whilst attending the funeral.

A card expressing our condolences was sent to Diana.



Roy Kidwell

I have also heard from Duncan Clark that Roy Kidwell, not a GUZZLER but never the less a 3rd CB type, had passed away on 8th April, in Thailand where he was resident. Roy was about 64 I guess and had a career in the Royal Navy and as a member of the Fire & Security staff at Shellhaven. Roy also served on the Southend Lifeboat at some time.

On Tuesday 23rd March your Committee met to discuss activities over the coming months. This is a report of details from that meeting & the Winter Pub Night plus a comprehensive guide of our programme and the latest news.

Nick Martland's Christmas Card showing a Koala with a Christmas Wreath on its shoulders again showed typical Auzzie class. Thanks Nick. Incidentally Neil Paxman has been in contact with Nick after the Queensland floods and all appears well but I have no further details.

GUZZLERS membership now stands at 50 in 2010/11, all of those expected to continue their membership have paid up, others have now been removed from the mailing list.

The Pub Night on 1st March attracted 16 members including 4 new from the 1980's. We were able to welcome Colin Fraser, Adam Smith, John Blackburn and Jonathan Riley to our fold. It was so nice to see these 4 having a chat whilst the elder brethren of Roy Salter, Dudley Boise and Patrick Fairplay browsed over some photographs of the late 1940's era. Dudley pointed out a young Colin Waller but after greater study I am sure I can detect Peter Royal, Pete Daws, Mike (Spike) Cruiks and Nigel Baker. Patrick Fairplay would have got the furthest travelled prize, followed by Dudley Boise but they were cheating as they stayed in a B&B overnight so again it went to Roy Salter!

I have had a message from Ian Johnson saying that Franks ashes are to be scattered on Sunday 5th June at the Den HT 1537.

Kath has expressed a wish to go afloat and we are not sure how many of the family will go. Ian's plan is to load the family at Essex Yacht Club onto the Gig (Frank B) and move down to the Den area escorted by the Peter R and one or two ribs. After the service return to EYC unload the passengers then back to the Den for refreshments.

It has been suggested that the GUZZLERS provide a pulling crew for the gig. We think that four oarsmen plus one coxswain will be needed. Can I ask for volunteers to crew the Gig? The selection will be carried out by the Chairman & myself, replies to me please if you have not already done so! Nick James has indicated that all will be welcome for a "memorial" pink gin at his gaff after the formalities.

The Group have given their approval for us to have another 'Den Day' for messing about in boats, gig or dinghy sailing on **Friday 22nd July** carrying over to Saturday / Sunday 23rd / 24th July for those who wish to kip and spend some time on Andy's 'Calypso' before heading off to Whitstable for the Oyster Festival. Diesel and food costs will be shared at the time.

Friday has again been chosen for our 'Den Day' as most of those who attend these days are no longer working so we can take advantage of a weekday Ray Day tide at a time when the Group is about to leave for Summer Camp. A 0500 start is needed so we will need to have a sleepover in The Den or onboard Calypso on the Thursday night. I am sure we can find some entertainment in the evening and food is generally available in the Old Town.

I give formal notice of our 2011 AGM & Pub Night on 4th October 2011 at 2015 in The Crooked Billet. The Committee were hoping that we could try The Ship but have been unable to fully investigate. As long as it does not coincide with a wake, or the Autumn Menu launch we should be ok.

Please put the date in your diaries now and if there are any items for inclusion in the agenda or revision of Aims please advise me before the end of September.

The project to board the landing stage has been abandoned but alternatives are that we fund either additional moorings to west side of the Den or provide an improved internal sound system for The Den.

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

All that remains is for me, on behalf of your committee to wish you all well. We do hope we see you at the functions

Regards,

Stuart Clay
Secretary