

LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION

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GUZZLETTER NO 101

Dear GUZZLERS,

On Tuesday 9th April your Committee met to discuss activities over the coming months. This is a report of details from the Winter Pub Night & that meeting plus a comprehensive guide of our programme and the latest news.

A Christmas Card to us all, which cost \$A25.00, from Nick Martland, in Oz arrived as usual and showed a Father Christmas, on skis and a Rock Bob bobsleigh with 4 reindeer on board! Thanks Nick. Tasteful but so expensive!

GUZZLERS membership now stands at 49 in 2012/13, all of those expected to continue their membership have paid up, the others that I have given up on will be removed from the mailing list.



There were 10 takers to visit Cutty Sark on 20th November arriving from start points both north & south of the Thames. It was an enjoyable and interesting visit, there was loads of stuff to see, and we had varied opinions on the way the clear plastic skirting is arranged on the outside. Alan & Mick had a fascination with the old bell and bell rope, old habits having died hard! The day ended with a meal & beers at a local tavern. The food was horrid! Sorry! – we need to vote in a new victualler next time. But I'm glad that I went and that so many were able to attend.

The Pub Night on Tuesday 5th March attracted 10 of our members. There was no furthest travelled prize as all those attending were locals! The bar service was good and plans were hatched to launch a recruiting drive in the summer, more later! The new venue for our social meetings seems to be acceptable although should matters improve we could consider moving back to The Old Town again at some point. One talking point – so we have 'The Maxwell Trophy' which many of us will remember. Who is / was Maxwell?

We did not go ahead with arrangements for the trip to the Imperial War Museum. When we investigated, it appears that it is being refitted & is shut until the Summer. Next winters visit then?

On to future social events:-

I am afraid that there was insufficient response to allow us to go ahead to arrange a narrow boat trip.

BOAT TRIP:-

Andy is taking his boat to the Oyster Festival in Whitstable on **Friday 26th July** carrying over to Sunday 28th July for those who wish to kip and spend some time on 'Calypso'. Diesel and food costs will be shared at the time. Ring Andy on 0795292325 or email andy.clapham@yahoo.com if you would like to be included, space permitting!

RECRUITMENT DAY

GUZZLERS John Blackburn and Colin Fraser have put themselves forward to arrange and hold a 'Recruiting' Den Day, provisionally on August 24th. Dads of children in the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Rangers, who were members, will be invited to come and display their nautical skills as they did when 'youfs' and complete the day with a BBQ and some beers when the tide has retreated. The HW is at 1530 so there should be ample time for people to have some boating time, a beer, a natter & a bite from the fire. Then they can be lulled into completing a Membership Form and relieved of £5.00! We would like current GUZZLERS to be around to welcome other people who might like to recreate the fun they had in days gone by and to use the boats and facilities at The Den. There will be a review meeting in June and I will confirm and circulate final details nearer the time.

BOAT TRIP

Rona Trust – Resurrected!

Andy has been able to arrange the charter of Donald Searle from the RSP (was LSP) between Thursday 12th September – Sunday 15th September 2013. There are a small number of berths that have yet to be filled so if you are interested give Andy a call. The cost will be in the region of £185 - £200, and is to be paid by cheques payable to A Clapham, in July. Likely target is Cherbourg and the crew musters at 1800 on the Wednesday on board, on the Hamble. Full sailing instructions will be issued by Andy, once he has received your payment.

AGM & Social Meeting

I give formal notice of our 2013 AGM & Pub Night on 8th October 2013 at 2015 again at The Elms. As we found out last year, it is easily accessible and we should be able to gather round a couple of booths, and the beer will be fresh & cheap. Bar closes at 2359! Please put the date in your diaries now and if there any items for inclusion in the agenda or revision of Aims do advise me before the end of September.

Trafalgar Night

Trafalgar Night Dinner at 'The Boatyard' for GUZZLERS and wives / partners. Saturday 19th October 2013 is being considered.

To celebrate the 208th anniversary we will be approaching the management of this, or another suitable venue. I do need some indication who would like to attend. So would you kindly let me know, either by email or phone, by the end of June, if you would like to attend.

Dress is optional – suitable for the occasion. Of course I shall set the standard with black tie and medals!

Cost to be in the region of £60 per head. If there is sufficient interest let me know by email and I will go ahead and ask an influential GUZZLER to make arrangements for us.

Days Out:-

Visit to Imperial War Museum & Chatham Maritime to be arranged in Autumn / Winter 2013 / 2014

Other news:-

As I have mentioned in the last GUZZLETTER the Group have purchased the land to build additional storage and facilities on Knapp's Yard. Additional funding will be needed to build the structure and this will be applied for from noted organizations. Personal donations will be asked for at some point in the future but your committee feel that it would be more appropriate that the GUZZLERS contribution should be the funding of a tangible asset, once the structure is in place, e.g. Bike Shed. Architects are drawing up plans for submission so the actual design is yet to be completed.

The Groups website <http://www.3rdcb.org.uk> is up and running. Do take a look and view GUZZLERS details are included on the website and there is access to recent GUZZLETTERS.

All that remains is for me, on behalf of your committee to wish you all well. We do hope you are able to attend some of the functions.

You might remember our Oak Tree (no.3), now minus supporting stake, which was planted in Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park, Rochford, and which we sponsored in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar in 2005 is thriving thanks to the care & attention of our Chairman. 'Hearts of Oak are our Men'! 'Steady, Boy Steady.



Regards,

Stuart Clay
Secretary