

LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION

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GUZZLETTER NO 102

Dear GUZZLERS.

I again say 'Hello' to all, and begin with my traditional welcome to another GUZZLERS year.

If you have subs outstanding you will receive a separate emailed reminder saying that they are overdue. So if you wish to be included in future correspondence, then please forward your cheque for £5 to me, made payable to 3rd CB GUZZLERS. You can otherwise make a payment online, or better still, set up a Standing Order to GUZZLERS Account number, 56032994 and Sort Code 60-17-44. If you choose this method also send me an email to alert me to the fact that you have made the electronic transaction. THIS IS THE ONLY REMINDER I SHALL SEND.

Our membership was boosted by the very successful recruitment day which was held at 'The Den', in dreadful weather, on August 24th. Membership now stands at 55. John Blackburn writes:- despite the weather we still managed to sign up 11 new members. Only two ventured out on one of the scouts boats and Colin got wet in his boat, but the time was spent drinking lots of beer and having a BBQ. I think everyone enjoyed themselves!

We do so much want to retain your membership and the challenge is to chase up those who have not yet paid their subs and to retain our new members. I attach a Standing Order mandate for you to send to your bank should you wish to do so. Otherwise a SO can be set up on line or by telephone by your bank to the Account number & Sort Code above.

I attach the AGM Minutes from our meeting on 8th October 2013 and for those who receive this by post I have included the Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet that was approved at the AGM plus the three most recent editions of 'The Griff' which have been distributed by email previously.

The trip on 'Calypso' on Friday 26th July to the Whitstable Oyster Festival went ahead, departing from Leigh with the mud still uncovered and a crew of 3 GUZZLERS and 1 extra having an enjoyable trip to Faversham where they had a good evening with fantastic weather but with the realization that if they did not leave at 0400 then they would be stuck there till 1600. So at 0400 Saturday morning 'Calypso' steamed out of Faversham Creek as it was getting light, very still, no wind and everything above grass level reflecting on the water. They arrived in Whitstable at about 0600 so went back to bed until 0900! Andy follows on with:- A great day was had in Whitstable, beer, sun, food, music and a fair bit of 'sightseeing' which made the heart glad. We moored next to sailing barge Greta, he was friendly enough and when quizzed about showers suggested the yacht club where we had had a lukewarm reception in the past but this time they were welcomed and had beer and showers, most acceptable. It later poured with rain from 7 till 9 but we did not care, ate in Birdies restaurant, fine food and then hit the town for when all the idiots started falling over, great entertainment. Breakfasted Sunday morning on choritso sausage and fried potatoes and eggs, toured the sights again, had the traditional Guinness before leaving for home. Brilliant weather, started blowing as we approached the pier so perfect timing.

The Donald Searle trip September 12th – 15th. From the Hamble.

Andy Clapham writes:- After a couple of years break the 14th GUZZLERS sailing trip went well, though it started annoyingly.

We had heavy rain from early evening on the first night, which would have been fine, but the last crew did not leave us much fuel so we had to top up the tanks with about 60 gallons from cans transported from a bowser at the top of the yard.

Early next morning we slipped universal and set off for Cherbourg (Ugh! – Ed). The weather was fine but no wind and we motored all the way there.

After dinner a superb evening of French beer was taken and all were onboard to slip again early on Friday morning.

We had intended to go to Aldernay but the wind was about force 4 to 5 on the nose so progress even with the tide was slow.

After about half an hour of plugging into the seas under power, and with an uncertain forecast, we turned North East towards the Eastern Solent and had a lovely broad reach for the day and ended up in Gunwharf. Easily the best sail of the trip. Beer was taken that evening.

Saturday saw us sailing in the Solent and anchoring for lunch in Osbourne Bay before going up the River Medina to East Cowes in the evening, being joined on the pontoon by Rona 2. It was noted how small Rona seemed from Donald Searle.

All 17 of us crammed into an Italian restaurant for a meal before making sure the beer quality was being maintained in a random sample of pubs.

Finally Sunday came and we had a lateish start and made our way back to Universal for clean up and go home.

I think all traditions were observed, including port and gin & tonic on deck when first moored each night.

There was a good turnout at the AGM / Pub Night on 8th October, all business was concluded by 2149 as you can see from the minutes. Peter Jacobs, one of the current Scout Leaders, was elected onto the Committee, much reducing the average age of the committee members!

GUZZLER Jon Whiteley, another of the current Scout Leaders, spoke under AOB of the intended use of the new facility on Victoria Wharf to store all of the Groups Camping equipment, to store and work on boats and create facilities for classrooms or meeting rooms that are not currently available on The Den site. Of course there will be a need to seriously seek funding both from GUZZLERS, as individuals and those who would be able to make larger contributions perhaps through their business links. I have made a suggestion that to give an incentive to people to make a donation a permanent visible record of their support should be provided.

Last on the agenda was a presentation to GUZZLER Colin Fraser, the new Chairman of the Group's Executive Committee, of a cheque for £750 from our funds to pay for one of the four tents recently purchased for the Group – notionally for the Cub Pack.

After the AGM our GUZZLERS Chairman thanked retiring Committee Members, Barry Sullivan and Roger Pickford, for the many years of service and support they had given to the GUZZLERS whilst on the committee. In fact Barry had been a committee member since inception in 1982. We hope that they will continue to support us in the future, a new phase in the GUZZLERS growth.

The GUZZLERS President, Ron Cox, visited the 3rd CB on troop night on Friday 25th October.. Ron had wanted to make the journey some time ago but arrangements via a coach company unfortunately fell through so Ron enlisted his son, Stephen's, help and they drove a motor home to Leigh & shackled it up to the Den for the weekend. So Ron witnessed Troop Night where Ian Johnson hosted. Ron was RSL in my time (1960's) and was in the Troop / Group between 1949 & 1964 when he moved back 'up north' to Long Eaton. He still remains within Scouting, although but 80 years young, running in some capacity, Wales Scouts Water Activities. (They get a lot of water there). Duncan Clark & I met Ron down the Old Town and had a meal at The Peter Boat on Saturday evening, followed by a few whets when Andy Clapham joined us for some beers afterwards.

Ron writes:- Thank you for looking after us last weekend it, went down very well, put on weight, liquid coming out of my ears, perfect, apart from that

Good to see you. My son, Stephen, wants to come again so next time we will try to link into one of the events such as the Guzzlers weekend, keep me posted on dates and we will see what can be done.

Neil Paxman took it upon himself to arrange a Trafalgar Night Dinner at 'The Swan', Lavenham, Suffolk on Saturday 19th October 2013 for the 208th anniversary of the battle at this point I don't know how the festivities went .

At the committee meeting on November 12th we discussed arranging the activities over the coming months, some of which were raised at the AGM.

Days Out:-

On February 11th 2014 we will visit the Imperial War Museum, meet outside at 1100. Having drinks & lunching locally afterwards of course.

Social Meeting 1

The Winter Pub Night, for inclusion in your 2014 diaries, is on Tuesday March 4th March 2013 at The Elms at 2015. Some may want to take advantage of the Tuesday Steak Menu at 1900 for a pre meeting meal.

Recruiting Day

We intend on holding a Recruiting Day to coincide with the Group Open Day, probably at the end of May, and we will have a stall when additional prospective GUZZLERS will be encouraged to join.

Den Day

This is planned for Saturday 14th July when those recently recruited will be able to join with the rest of the GUZZLERS to display their boating talents as they did when 'youfs'. We want 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.

Meet at 1030-1100

Boating activities 1130 – 1515 (HW 14.15 @ 5.9)

Social Meeting 2

Summer Pub Night 15th July – Crooked Billet 1900 to take in the sun and have a beer with a seafood snack from Osborne's?

Boat Trip 1:-

What is definitely being arranged is another trip on 'Calypso' to Whitstable for the Oyster Festival departing from Bell Wharf at 0930 on 25th July, returning on 27th July 2014.

Boat Trip 2-

GUZZLERS sailing on RSP 'Merrilyn', 8th September. She is a Ocean 62 schooner which we be chartering. The boat will be in London when we pick her up for a 5-7 day period. The cost will be £300. Those wishing to go should register their interest straight away with Andy Clapham by sending an email to andy.clapham@yahoo.com or calling 07952 923251. Andy is looking into the possibility of their being another RSP boat available at the same or similar time to accommodate another crew should we have an excess of people wishing to go.

Social Meeting 3:-

AGM Tuesday 7th October 2014 at The Den at 2000, this will be followed by a Pub Night at The Smack on completion of the AGM.

Social Meeting 4

Shall we have another Trafalgar Night in 2014? We can shall see what arrangements can be made and then put it to you all. Please discuss it at the Winter Pub Night and make your suggestions to one of the committee. We have another Committee Meeting in April to discuss such matters. We know that some of our members are keen on repeating the function which would include our other halves as well.

Nostalgia 1

We were musing about the origins of the Maxwell Pennant some time ago and I received information from Carol Tissington about Mr. Maxwell who owned most of Southend seaford with amusements etc. She says that there was a Moorhouse who owned the Kursaal and Maxwell just about owned the rest. He lived in Chalkwell and drove around in a white Bentley and is thought to have had a philanthropic as well as an entrepreneurial personality and contributed to causes in the Borough. How he came to donate the pennant for a Leigh Sea Scout competition is not known, possibly as a result of a plea in the local press, could be he had Scouting roots, maybe someone else could provide this info.

Nostalgia 2

Carol Tissington (GSL) received an email from:-Richard Owen 138 Alexandra Road Southend-on-Sea Essex SS1 1HB 01702 348687

3rd Chalkwell Bay Sea Scouts

70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RE-STARTING OF THE TROOP 1943

You may not be aware that in 1943 Ron Bentley reformed the troop in the Crowstone Institute in Electric Avenue Westcliff-on Sea.

Ron was a member of the Boys Club and he recruited several members and started weekly meetings.

The troop consisted mainly of boys attending Fairfax Elementary School together with others from Westborough School. When Westcliff High School for Boys returned from evacuation in Mansfield in Derbyshire several pupils found their way to Electric Avenue.

Ron used to take us down to the Den on the down platform of the disused former station. We didn't have a key until Peter Royal visited us whilst on leave from the RN. Access was achieved by climbing over the wall at the base of the footbridge – or if a friendly signal man was on duty he would open the level crossing gates for us to nip through.

The troop profited from the WHS boys membership. The father of two of the boys worked for a shipping line and donated two lifeboats.. Skipper Pennels of the Canvey Sea Scout troop organised a motorboat to tow the lifeboats from London Docks to Leigh. About four Sea Scouts went up river in the motor boat and collected the lifeboats having spent a memorable night on Captain Scott's SS Discovery which was moored on the Thames embankment.

The Groups website <http://www.3rdcb.org.uk> is up and running, GUZZLERS details are shown as are previous GUZZLETTERS. As far as we know the Group is full to bursting with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Rangers all making use of the facilities of the 3rd CB with a strong management team to run all the activities.

Isn't that a wonderful legacy that we were all part of?

All that remains is for me, on behalf of your committee to wish you all well for 2014, and best wishes for an exciting Christmas.

Regards,

Stuart Clay
Secretary