

LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION

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

01233 623732, email clay_oldcleeve@ntlworld.com
9th November 2015

GUZZLETTER NO 106

Dear GUZZLERS.

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

Those who have subs outstanding will receive a separate emailed reminder saying that they are overdue, so if those people wish to be included in future correspondence, 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 the GUZZLERS Account number, 56032994 and Sort Code 60-17-44. If you choose either of these methods please 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.

We do so much want to retain your membership and our 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 by post 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 13th October 2015. For those who receive this by post I will include the Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet that was approved at the AGM.

The GUZZLERS were delighted to hear of the award of an MBE to Ian Johnson. I sent a message to him on behalf of his many old friends and colleagues in the GUZZLERS extending our congratulations on the award which is so well deserved. His contribution in channelling young people's lives has rightly been recognized. I am sure that the formal citation says more than that, but no more succinctly.

I am sad to mention that current GUZZLERS have 'crossed the bar', in Naval parlance, since your last GUZZLETTER. Mini obituaries for both of them appeared on the groups website which you are invited to access.



Dave Packer 23rd May 2015

Dave had been a leader with 3rd CB for many decades and was a regular fixture at Summer Camp, Derbyshire and as many Group and GUZZLER occasions that he could attend. A card expressing our condolences was sent to Liz.



Ron Cox 26th August 2015

Ron Cox, President of The Guzzlers, lived in Wales, where he was the Scout Association's Water Activities Advisor for Wales. Before moving away from Leigh, Ron was very active as the Group's Rover Scout Leader in the early 1960's. When asked to become the President of the Guzzlers in 2010 he was absolutely delighted and remained a dear friend of the Group. A card expressing our condolences was sent to Betty.

Guzzler Boating and Recruiting Day – Saturday 4th July 2015 – John Blackburn reports:-

It was an excellent day and yes, we had some newbys including James Packer (son of Dave Packer) and at least 4 others. Some came down later who couldn't make the water part of the event. The weather was excellent and we had a good wind!

The Summer Pub Night at The Crooked Billet, on 14th July 2015 was again exceptionally well attended with over 20 coming along. I seem to have mislaid the list of those who attended but all seemed to enjoy themselves. I collected some outstanding and new peoples subs and had the privilege of introducing the latest recruit, I think that it was Dom Herriott, to the most senior (eldest – who I thought was Mike Riley but who hastily deferred to Alan Stone) which was quite good fun. It is an event that is really well worth continuing as we sat outside on a calm and mild evening, some in shorts, on Osborne's tables and the beer flowed freely.

The trip on 'Calypso' on Friday 24th -26th July 2015 to the Whitstable Oyster Festival went ahead and Andy Clapham reports:-

Leaving Leigh early on the Friday morning in fair weather was good but it was not to last. Our crew of 6 went up the Medway to Stangate Creek for breakfast where it started to rain. Lunch time found us moored to the public landing stage at Rochester, where we sat under a large awning and had lunch and a real ale tasting organised by Neil Paxman, all in the rain. In the afternoon we took the tide up to Allington Lock, where we went ashore for a couple of beers in the Maltings, before riding the ebb down to Chatham Marina for the night. Overnight force 9 winds went overhead, but the day cheered up and we went to Harty Ferry, got the dinghy launched and went ashore. As we walked up the path, a bar person detached himself from the pub and met us halfway. Disaster, it was the only day of the year the pub was closed for a private wedding party. No amount of persuading and pleading produced a beer, so we retired to the boat to lick our wounds. Nothing else for it, lunch and on to Whitstable. Weather was fair if a bit overcast and after the usual tussle on where to moor, the resident Thames Barge Greta made us welcome alongside. We settled in to the delights of Whitstable Oyster Festival and steamed back to Leigh on Sunday afternoon in fine style.

The Merrilyn trip September 13th – 18th 2015 - Andy Clapham and Martin Blackett write:-

A Sunday in mid September saw a crew of ten Guzzlers assemble at Universal Boat yard on the Hamble River for our annual sail on a Rona Trust yacht. With one drop out due to ill health we cast off around 17:00 on the Sunday. We tore up our original passage plan of going to the Channel Isles because the weather gods were not cooperating, with storms and severe gales forecast. The decision was made to go west out of the Solent keeping an eye on the weather. Having departed the Hamble we had a reasonable passage down to Yarmouth where we picked up a buoy in the gathering dusk just as the Waverley was coming onto Yarmouth pier. About half past midnight we let go and took the tide out past the Needles and into the Channel, aiming for Weymouth. Soon after passing the Needles the weather started to deteriorate and about 01:30 the wind suddenly veered 90 degrees and it was noticed that the glass had dropped 8 mb in 6 hours so the decision was taken to divert to Poole arriving first light on Monday. Once tied up, our bunks seemed the best place to be. We spent a pleasant day and night in Poole listening to the wind in the rigging and sampling the local beverages. The weather did come with a vengeance that night however, Roy was awake and he said he had never seen a boat heel that far over when tied up in a marina. The following day we opted to sail back to Yarmouth which was cracking, and the next day, although it rained all day, we had a fine sail to Gun Wharf Quays in Portsmouth which was text book. On Thursday we did the tourist bit and went to Bucklers Hard on the Beaulieu river for lunch and then to Cowes for the night. After an evening in Cowes, we had a quick trip across the Solent back to Universal where we cleaned up the boat and dispersed. Not one of our best trips but nevertheless a good week with pleasant company, good food, the odd visit to the local hostelrys, plus a couple of really good sails. After all, Andy says, a bad weeks sailing beats a good week of anything else. We have got to thank Andy Clapham, once again, for organising such a memorable trip.

PS Waverley – Thames Trip October 2nd 2016

Arrangements for this trip involved people individually booking on line which really seemed to work well as 18 of us formed the GUZZLERS party, ladies as well, meeting at the end of the pier in time to board PS Waverley before casting off at 1000. The weather was perfect, calm, sunny and quite warm at times and we occupied the stern section of the boat, as you can see, thanks to Roy & Marion who bagged the seats quickly. It was really a lovely day and an experience for me. I had never been all the way up the river by boat before. We viewed all the

scenery as we sped up river, Paul Burdens GPS read 18 knots at one point, but the tide was on the flood! We got to Tower Bridge which was raised especially for us (!) whilst we passed underneath and idled about viewing the Tower of London from the water. Refreshments were taken at regular intervals and there was plenty to see and catch up on. We arrived back at the pier, on time at 1700 to go our separate ways home. A good day out, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.



At the AGM / Pub Night on 13th October 2015, there was an acceptable turnout of 15. All business was concluded by 2102 as you can see from the minutes. I think that more turned up at the Smack after the AGM was concluded!

Your Secretary writes

At the committee meeting on November 3rd we discussed arranging the activities over the coming months, some of which were raised at the AGM.

Days Out:- (for inclusion in your 2016 diaries)

On Tuesday 1st March 2016 we will visit Chatham Historic Dockyard, travelling by road in time to meet outside the entrance at 1100. Lunch can be enjoyed at some stage of our visit at the Wagon Stop Canteen, perhaps having a pint in The Ship & Trades before departing. Entrance is £16.50 at present. I will send out more details a week or more before the visit and will ask for an email from you if you are going so that transport can be beneficially arranged.

Social Meeting 1

The Winter Pub Night is on Tuesday March 22nd 2016 at The Smack at 20.15.

Boat Trip 1:-

Once again we are looking at the possibility of getting a Narrow / Canal Boat for 10 of us for a week in April 2016 but it is dependent on the numbers of those wishing to go. We are looking at a slot roughly 8th – 15th April 2016, perhaps in the Oxford / Rugby area. Cost is expected to be in the region of £220 per person. Please get back to me by email by 23rd November, latest, if you are interested in going so some further enquiries can be made.

Recruiting / Den Day

We would like to have this on Saturday 4th June 2016 but the date is not yet confirmed as we don't know as yet if The Den is available. Meet at 1030, HW is at 1240 so we could get some sailing in before having a beer in the afternoon. We would like to have a mix of GUZZLERS to be around to welcome those who might like to recreate the fun they had in days gone by and to see & use the boats and facilities at The Den.

Social Meeting 2

Summer Pub Night Tuesday 12th July 2016 – Crooked Billet from 1900 to take in the sun and have a beer. Fish & Chips was available last year from a Fish Bar under the Flyover.

Boat Trip 2:-

We hope that 'Calypso' will be available to go to Whitstable for the Oyster Festival departing from Bell Wharf on 22nd July, returning on 24th July 2016.

Boat Trip 3-

GUZZLERS sailing on RSP 'Merrilyn', 10th – 16th September 2016. She is an Ocean 62 schooner which we be chartering. 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. Priority will be given to those who crewed in 2015.

Boat Trip 4

We will look into what arrangements can be made to repeat our trip on PS Waverley; but this time sailing between Southend / Whitstable / Southend, which is likely to be in early October 2016

Social Meeting 3:-

AGM Tuesday 11th October 2016 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 a local Trafalgar Night in 2016 or would you like to arrange it? 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 there may be some of our members who are keen on repeating the function locally which would include our other halves as well.

The Den Bell Rope

For those of you who are aware of the history of the aforementioned item you might be interested to see this photo of Alan Stone eyeing up the current HMS Trincomalee (ex HMS Foudroyant)'s ships bell rope during a visit, to Hartlepool, this summer!



The Oak Tree

Our Chairman reports that our Oak Tree, (tree No. 3) planted in 2005 at Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park is reported to be healthy but naturally devoid of leaves at this time of year.

Many thanks for those who have passed on reports from the activities that I did not attend. All that remains is for me, on behalf of your committee, to wish you well for 2016, and best wishes for an exciting Christmas with your families.

Regards,

Stuart Clay
Secretary