

LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION

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GUZZLETTER NO 107

Dear GUZZLERS,

On Tuesday 29th March your Committee met to discuss activities over the coming months. This is a report of the latest news from The Den plus a comprehensive guide of our programme.

An annual event that I have now come to expect is receiving a Christmas Card to us all from Nick Martland, in Oz. The card was seasonably tasteful with a Father Christmas calling Ho! Ho! Ho!. Another expensive \$A25.00 card. Many thanks Nick.

GUZZLERS membership now stands at 65 in 2015/16, all of those expected to continue their membership have paid up and the others that I have given up on have been removed from the mailing list.

There were only 4 takers to visit Chatham Historic Dockyard on 1st March. Visits to HMS Cavalier, HMS/M Ocelot & HMS Gannet were the highlights. We reckoned that the total number of visitors on the day outnumbered the staff on duty at the exhibits. I still get a strange feeling walking about the yard where I spent a lot of my working life and touring a ship older but very similar to those I served in. I was even able to answer a query from one of the 'Guides'. She wanted to know what the markings in minutes & seconds were for beneath the 4" Gun Director which houses the gunnery radar and optical sight. As weapons were my engineering speciality I was able to tell her that they were 'tilt rings' provided to adjust the horizontal plane of the Director to the true after installation. The weather was typical dockyard weather – tipping down with rain. Lunch was taken in the Wagon Stop, 'Oggies' and suchlike before we viewed the Lifeboat Collection. A worthwhile trip and a return to visit 'The Hearts of Oak' exhibition which will open around June this year is open to us as our admission lasts for 12 months.

The Pub Night on Tuesday 22nd March attracted 16 of our members who enjoyed a very convivial get together at The Smack. Roy Salter won the furthest travelled prize. Recent new member, Colin Boughton-Smith, was pleased to see some people he had not seen for 50 years! Roy Salter won the longest travelled prize once we found out that Pat Fairplay was staying overnight in a B&B!

Colin Boughton-Smith writes

'I must tell you it was an absolute pleasure seeing you all again! I cannot believe it's 50 years since and I still recognise some of you! You (referring to me!) were clean shaven the last time I saw you and, if I remember, in a white knitted polo sweater and blue trousers! Was it you who fished me out of the water when I fell in off the wharf the year the Thames froze over – must have been 1963/4! (I cannot recall such an act of heroism by me – SC!)
With the Belfairs' brigade bar discussion, one mystery was solved – who did the "jumbo" whitewash raid on the school, I didn't know we had one of the perpetrators amongst 3CB! However, what we are left to solve is the "8th wonder of the world", how did the school car get up on the first floor roof of the girls' part of the school. It was so amusing to all the boys to go into class in the morning and see out of our windows the car just sitting there!

I have reported back to the brother Nick and Ni (and sister, Lynda) and hopefully we can come along to the next meeting.

Please copy my delight to all and tell them, after 50 years, the Boughton-Smith's are raising their head above the parapet!

Onto our future social events:-

Your Secretary writes

Den Day & Recruiting Day

This is planned for Saturday 4th June when GUZZLERS can display their boating talents as they did when they were 'irks' and at the same time welcome any prospective new GUZZLERS to join in and use the boats and facilities at The Den. Weather as per 2015 has been requested!

Meet at 1030

Boating activities 1100 – 1400 (HW 12.40)

After sailing a BBQ will be held which will be available to members and a Beer and Wine Bar will be run with refreshments able to be purchased at £1.00 a glass.

Social Meeting 1

Summer Pub Night Tuesday 12th July – Crooked Billet. Meet from 1900 to take in the sun and the sights and have a beer with a seafood snack from 'Simply Seafood' the fish & chip bar under the flyover.

Boat Trip 1:-

A trip on 'Calypso' to Whitstable for the Oyster Festival departing from Bell Wharf on Friday 22nd July, returning on Sunday 24th July. There are concerns that 'Calypso' may have sustained some damage and might not be available after all. Are there any other boats likely to go?

Boat Trip 2-

GUZZLERS sailing on RSP 'Merrilyn', 10th – 16th September . She is a Ocean 62 schooner which we are chartering. The boat will be in Hamble this time for a whole weeks sailing with aims to go to the Channel Islands.

Boat Trip 3

GUZZLERS Medway Trip on PS Waverley Sunday 9th October 2016.



Looking at the PS Waverley schedule for the forthcoming season we have highlighted a GUZZLERS Medway Cruise on Sunday 9th October. The arrangements would be to depart Southend Pier at 1345 and return at 1645. The more ambitious might also book the continuation going up the Thames through Tower Bridge and back to Southend via coach. Might be a nice day out for you and the 'misses'. Cost is £27/head and I think another £33/head for the continuation to Tower Pier, arriving at 2015. The coach gets back to

Southend at 2130. To minimize administration tickets please purchase tickets individually via the website:-

<http://www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk/plan-your-trip/the-thames/>

As the arrangements for the Thames Trip worked very well last year, just assemble at the Pier Head in time to board. You might like to email me when you have booked your tickets & then I can advise those who are going to look out for each other.

TRIP DESCRIPTION:

Waverley is one of the world's greatest historic ships – the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world – magnificently restored with towering funnels, timber decks and gleaming varnish and brass. You can see and hear the mighty steam engines as they propel the paddles that take Waverley majestically through the sea. Medway is a river alive with history. At the mouth of the River is the busy port at Sheerness. Cruise towards the Historic Dockyard at Chatham

AGM & Social Meeting

I give formal notice of our 2016 AGM on Tuesday 11th October 2016 at 2000, which will be held at The Den, as last year. This will be followed by a Pub Night at The Smack on completion. 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

Following conversations at the recent Pub Night, at the committee meeting we discussed a proposal to hold a Trafalgar Night Dinner on Saturday 22nd October 2016 at The Dowsing Room, The Benfleet Yacht Club for GUZZLERS and their wives & partners.

Menu: traditional Roast Beef dinner, Creme Brulee followed by cheese & biscuits. Cost for a minimum of 20 persons £21.75 per head. Probably 7 for 7.30.

Dress: Formal – Black Tie.

After the meal and the traditional toast 'To the Immortal Memory' we hope that a little light entertainment can be provided possibly by 'Gunner Joe' who was there in 1805.

We need a commitment of between 20 – 40 to make the event viable so would you let me know the number who will be coming, by April 12th. Once we know there is enough interest, I will make the booking on your behalf and I will then ask for a deposit of £10.00 per head from you by the end of May. The balance will be payable before the event.

I am told that there is a Premier Inn and some small hotels nearby for those seeking accommodation for the night.

Boat Trip 4

This would seem to be ideal for those who could not make the 'Merrilyn' commitment.

Faramir is a beautiful, 1980's all wood, 45 ton, 72ft ketch; she goes really well in a blow. (see CiranTrust.org for photos etc.). She is not luxury but takes 17 crew, so with Mark Oliver (her skipper) and Colin Boughton-Smith as afterguard, she can take a further 15 crew.

Colin has been sailing on 'Faramir' for the last 25 years as first mate. They often do weekend runs deep into end of October – usually Ipswich back to Ipswich, trying to get across the channel if possible all I am told, for around £110. The charity is really struggling raising money and any that can be raised with trips on vacant weekends is much appreciated; we also fix things for them on the run whenever possible. There is the offer of a weekend on board late summer, 1st and 2nd October and weekend 15th & 16th October available. There may also be a chance of weekend 24th & 25th September. All from/return to Harwich Royal or thereabouts.

So if you would like to go on Faramir please contact Colin directly Colin@meteringtech.com or 07730059405 and if you would let him have your preferred dates before the end of April, he will see what can be arranged.

Days Out:-

We have no plans at present, if you have any suggestions let me know on the Summer Pub Night

Other news:-

The Groups website <http://www.3rdcb.org.uk> contains up to the minute news. Do take a look and explore it. Our GUZZLERS details are included on the website and there is access to

recent GUZZLETTERS. On the Website you will see a number of clips. The most impressive was the Presentation Evening video 'Uptown Funk 3rdCB Style' and some old videos of summer camps.

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 events and functions.

Regards,

Stuart Clay

Secretary