

LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION

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15th November 2016

GUZZLETTER NO 108

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 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 11th October 2016. For those who receive this by post I will include the Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet that was approved at the AGM.



John Hipsey 30th April 2016

A good show of GUZZLERS was present to pay our last respects at John's funeral at Southend Crematorium on Friday May 27th 2016. Much was said about his commitment during his life to the RNLI and 3rd CB where he was a long serving trustee. John's sons, Richard & Andrew are of course GUZZLERS members. Afterwards we joined the family at The Beach Club on the Eastern Esplanade where there were a lot of photographs showing John in happy days.



Mark Redman 1st May 2016

At the time of his death he was residing in Perth, Western Australia. Although he was never a GUZZLER, Mark will be remembered, as a 'Senior Scout' for introducing the revolutionary glass fibre 'tingle' and a 'Duckling' glass fibre small sailing boat in the 1960's. Thanks to Dave Taylor for letting us know.



Norman Brooks

Colin Waller writes on 19th May 2016. I have been told that Norman, who was in his early seventies, has just died. He was in the London Mile End Hospital following a collision with a car in Southend. He had been in the 3rd CB in his youth. When he was a boy he lived very near Frank Bentley and he once told me that Frank had been very helpful to his family. He was at Frank Bentley's funeral wearing a completely black cycling outfit and came forward to help when Frank's sister (I think) was unwell.

He had had a varied life serving in the Merchant Navy and later in the armed services. Before retiring he worked at Southend General Hospital and after leaving the NHS spent much of his time at a flat in Spain.

Guzzler Boating and Recruiting Day – Saturday 4th June 2016 – Martin Blackett reports:-

The Den day was fun. I think about eight members that I recognized turned up that were not Scouters. Dave Packer's son James turned up with his family and an eastern European rescue dog called 'Woofsky'. Colin ran the bar and the BBQ. We gained a new member, who was in the troop before WWII. Name of Dennis Gade I think. We went for a sail in the gig and got rescued by the new RNLI rib as we ran out of wind close to the Den. Not as dramatic as it sounds as two members of the group were on the crew and the boat was alongside the Den at the time. The second gig cruise suffered the same indignity as they were also towed in by the lifeboat. No wonder the Southend lifeboat is the busiest station in the country. Thanks to Ian Johnson & Chris Daly for all the assistance in getting us afloat.

The Summer Pub Night at The Crooked Billet, on 12th July 2016 was attended well considering the cool and sometimes wet weather. No sitting outside on a balmy evening this year but it didn't stop the beer from flowing freely.

The trip on 'Calypso' on Friday 22nd - 24th July 2016 to the Whitstable Oyster Festival went ahead and Andy Clapham reports:-

The Whitstable trip was a good one this year, with plenty of fun all round. It started with the usual dash on the Friday tide from Leigh starting at 3 hours before and arriving in Faversham around high water where we were made welcome by Iron Wharf boatyard and settled down for a late lunch. Neil organised an interesting cider tasting session on board and we then enjoyed the peaceful and serene setting of Faversham Creek before showers and hitting the town. Silly o'clock next morning, about 0300 found us foaming down the creek to anchor at Harty Ferry so as not to get stranded in Faversham by the tide. Lunchtime loomed and we went ashore using the dinghy to the pub where I had about the best steak ever. They keep a herd of prime beef cattle at the farm next door. We were joined by some 25 hovercraft, not sure what that was all about. Unfortunately someone had forgotten to get fuel for the outboard and Neil broke an oar on the first trip back to Calypso, much paddling ensued. To get the second three back on the boat, we beached up the concrete hard and they had to wade out and climb a ladder to get back on board. I thought it hilarious but not of us all agreed. In the afternoon we steamed to Whitstable where barge Greta made us welcome and the varying delights of the oyster festival were enjoyed. After breakfast and a few fortifying Guinness's we steamed triumphant back to Leigh on Sunday.

The Merrilyn trip September 10th – 16th 2016 - Andy Clapham writes:-

The Merrilyn trip was quite unusual as the first afternoon we had light fair winds to go from Hamble to Yarmouth but then a near gale to go to Poole where we retired to the pub. For the next 6 days we had zero wind and flat seas and motored everywhere. As usual, the company was good and food excellent, Alderney, Cherbourg and Cowes were visited. As there was no wind for sailing, we hired bikes on Alderney and had a brilliant day cycling round with cold beers at the end to reward our labours. Once in Cherbourg, as the wind was still predicted to be nil, Neil suggested staying for a day and visiting some Normandy beaches sites. This turned out to be a great idea as we had trips on local buses and visited St Marie Eglise and one of the beaches. All in all, though almost no sailing was done, the trip was enjoyed by all.

PS Waverley – Thames Trip Sunday October 9th 2016

No takers for this event this year but Duncan Clark and a friend took the trip to Whitstable the day before. Waverley broke down and was just able to repair the problem before it stood the chance of touching the bottom on the ebbing tide.

AGM / Pub Night on 11th October 2016.

There was a very acceptable turnout of 18. Many thanks to Peter Jacob for having some keys so we could get into 'The Den'! All business was concluded by 2100 as you can see from the minutes. We refreshed ourselves at the Smack after the AGM was concluded, much to the pleasure of the bar staff who were set for a quiet evening until we turned up!

Trafalgar Night

We held a most successful and enjoyable Trafalgar Night Dinner at The Dowsing Room, Benfleet Yacht Club on Saturday 22nd October 2016 when 21 GUZZLERS, their wives and

partners, sat down to a traditional dinner. Arrangements were overseen by GUZZLER Richard Findlay, who as a member of the club was in an ideal position to organize the booking of the venue, decoration of the bar, layout of the tables and liaising with the caterers. Our huge thanks go to him and Elizabeth for their involvement. The traditional menu was accompanied by a few drinks and a glass of port for the 'Loyal Toast' which was made by Richard and the toast to 'The Immortal Memory', after a few snippets of Nelson's career, was made by our Chairman. An excellent evening's entertainment followed the dinner with a very amusing sketch, 'Remembering Trafalgar 200 (2005)' featuring Neil 'Nelson', who as you can see was dressed for the occasion, and Barry 'Hardy' who were descendants of our heroes. The next turn was a monologue 'The Tale of Gunner Joe Moggeridge' given by one of his distant relations. We really had such a jolly evening that might be worth repeating in the future. The large White Ensign is the 'Sunday Ensign' from a type 12 Frigate and was liberated in about 1977, from either HMS Berwick or HMS Plymouth!



Your Secretary writes

At the committee meeting on November 8th we discussed arranging activities over the coming months, some of which were raised at the AGM.

Days Out:-

The take up for recent visits has not been great so your committee ask that you make some suggestions which can be followed up.

Social Meeting 1

The Winter Pub Night is on Tuesday March 21st 2017 at The Mayflower at 20.15.

Den Day

The number of GUZZLERS at last years Den Day was not great and the retention of new members who joined over the previous two years was poor. It was decided not to plan for one in 2017.

Social Meeting 2

Summer Pub Night Tuesday 18th July 2017 – Crooked Billet from 1900 to take in the sun and have a beer. Fish & Chips may still be available from a Fish Bar under the Flyover.

Boat Trip 1:-

'Calypso' will be available to go to Whitstable for the Oyster Festival departing from Bell Wharf on 21st July, returning on 23rd July 2017.

Boat Trip 2-

GUZZLERS sailing on RSP 'Merrilyn', September 2017. There was some thought that 'Rona II' might be available but it turns out to be impracticable now, so back to 'Merrilyn'! She is an Ocean 62 schooner which we will 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 2016.

Social Meeting 3:-

AGM Tuesday 10th October 2017 at The Den at 2000, this will be followed by a Pub Night at The Smack on completion of the AGM.

Please discuss our programme at the Winter Pub Night and make your suggestions about visits or other activities, to one of the committee, or email me direct. If there are members who are really keen on us having another 'Den Day' we could always change our minds.

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 2017, and best wishes for an exciting Christmas with your families.

Regards,

Stuart Clay
Secretary