

LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION

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GUZZLETTER NO 109

Dear GUZZLERS,

On Tuesday 28th March your Committee met to discuss activities over the coming months. This is a report of the latest news from The Den plus a guide of our programme.

Once again we received a Christmas Card to us all from Nick Martland, in Queensland. The card showed a beach scene with a Father Christmas, 2 koalas and a kangaroo. Another expensive \$A25.00 card + \$5 he referred to as a 'Trump Tax'. Many thanks Nick.

I have had two letters from Richard Thompson from La Motte d'Aigues, France, who in the first would like to extend his best wishes to all of the Leigh Creek fraternity and in the second included some items of memorabilia; an invitation to the opening of The Den, Leigh Hill, on Friday 26th September 1958, and two theoretical 'Pilot Badge' (for 'Senior Scouts'?) questions which I expect are as valid today as they were then. He adds that the course was run by Arthur Hands, who was Frank Bentley's counterpart at 6th Leigh. Peter Jacob has agreed to add these items to the Group archive and I will pass them over at the next Pub Night.

GUZZLERS membership now stands at 60 in 2016/17. All of those expected to continue their membership have paid up and others, that I have given up on, have been removed from the mailing list.

The Pub Night on Tuesday 22nd March attracted 13 of our members who enjoyed a very convivial evening get together at The Mayflower.

Onto our future social events:-

Your Secretary writes

Den Day & Recruiting Day

We have decided not to run this year as recruitment and retention expectations had not been reached. So many of those who came to the subsidised BBQ and Sailing Days over the last two years did not renew their GUZZLERS subscriptions. However all GUZZLERS will be made really welcome at the Groups Open Day on Sunday 9th July, there is a midday tide, when there will be the opportunity to go afloat in the Groups boats.

Social Meeting 1

Summer Pub Night, Tuesday 18th July, at the Crooked Billet. Meet from 1900 /1930 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 which I understand is still in operation. Last year the weather was awful but one hopes we will be able to sit outside and do a bit of lamp swinging.

Boat Trip 1:-

A trip on 'Calypso' to Whitstable or other Kent Coast resorts will depart from Bell Wharf on Friday 21st July, returning on Sunday 23rd July. The Oyster festival may be visited but recent events may have altered the facilities on offer.

Boat Trip 2-

GUZZLERS sailing on RSP 'Merrilyn', 9th – 15th September. She is an 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. There are a couple of places available should anyone like to go. Contact Andy on 07952 923251 if you are interested.

Boat Trip 3

GUZZLERS River Thames Trip on PS Waverley Friday 29th September 2017.



Looking at the PS Waverley schedule for the forthcoming season we have highlighted a possible GUZZLERS Thames Cruise on Friday 29th September calling at Gravesend on route to Tower Bridge. Depart Southend Pier at 1000 and return at 1745. I suggest that if you are interested in going please send me an email to me by the end of July and I will put those in touch before you purchase tickets.

To minimize administration tickets please purchase tickets individually via the website:-

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

AGM & Social Meeting

I give formal notice of our 2017 AGM on Tuesday 10th October 2017 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.

Days Out:-

One suggestion that we might like to look into is a brewery visit to the Shepherd Neame brewery at Faversham, probably around October time. Initial thoughts are a boat trip across on 'Calypso' and spending the night on board before returning on an available tide. Others could travel by car or train. If there is enough interest we will make enquiries with the brewery. Other than that we have no plans at present, if you have any suggestions about the brewery visit or other visits that would be of interest let me know on the Summer Pub Night.

Other news:-

We are told that the Groups plans for Knapps Yard have been much reduced into that of providing a storage and boat maintenance facility which could include an upgrade of the facilities at The Den site.

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.

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