

LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION

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GUZZLETTER NO 121

Dear GUZZLERS,

Your committee had a Zoom Video committee meeting on 4th April to see what activities could take place during the forthcoming summer for your enjoyment.

We had received Christmas cards to us all from Nick Martland, but in addition Patrick Fairplay & Richard Thompson all sent cards with seasonal wishes to all.

GUZZLERS membership was 55 in 2022/23 and most of those expected to continue their membership have paid up. David Clements 'Clem' of 1950's / 60's vintage joined recently as have Mike & Phil Perry (1970's) and Katie White (1980's) all as a response to Duncan Smiths initiatives to draw out some new members using social media and some old contacts. Duncan has agreed to be co-opted onto the committee to enable him to continue with his task with some authority.



We received news from Paul Burden that his brother, GUZZLER Ian, died peacefully on 19th January after a long period of illness. Ian's funeral was on 23rd February at Beckenham Crematorium followed by a Wake in Selsdon.

Social Events (Past).

The Winter Pub Night was held at The Mayflower on 14th March with 12 attending, Mike Perry put in an appearance to introduce himself to fellow 2023 Barge Match crew. What enthusiasm! Pat Fairplay wins the prize for the furthest travelled, coming down to visit from Cley by the Sea in Norfolk. Chris Burls brought a recently published booklet entitled 'Old Leigh Port Through Times of Change' from the Leigh Heritage Centre and distributed copies to all those interested. I had recollections of contributors Colin Sedgwick, Ron Sverdlhoff and Mo Deal, with the 3rd CB, Frank Bentley and 'Snappy' Noakes getting mentioned which brought on a fit of nostalgia during my read! There was an expected response from the pub with 'Last Orders' at 2200, by then most had had their fill. John Blackburn & Steve Cocks sent their apologies which were good to receive.

Social Events (Future)

Our Den Day will coincide with 3rd CB Open Day hopefully on a Saturday in July. No date has been set as yet by the Group so once planned I will advise everyone accordingly. We can incorporate our get together with this planned event. It will be a chance to see what the young fraternity gets up to and maybe if you are so inclined, get out on the water in the Groups boats.

Summer Pub Night will be at the Crooked Billet on Tuesday 18th July 2023 at 2000, or earlier if you are so inclined! Hopefully a good number can attend to sit outside and reminisce of old times.

GUZZLERS Barge trip on SB 'Centaur' for the Colne Barge Match 7th - 10th September 2023 is fully subscribed as a full crew of 12 places has been achieved with only two non-GUZZLERS. All deposits have been paid and just final details are awaited from the TSBT.

AGM & Social Meeting

I give formal notice of our 2023 AGM on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 2000, which will be held at The Den. If we can get some technical help there is a chance that we may be able to put it on ZOOM for those who are unable to be there as we did last year. These people will unfortunately be unable to follow us to The Mayflower 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.

Other news:-

The Group will be holding a Renewal of Promise ceremony on Sunday 14th May 1030 – 1200 marching from under the flyover to The Strand. At this time tributes will be made to Group Scouters who are no longer with us and who made a huge contribution over the years, an idea I really liked. In my day the whole of the Southend scouting community marched past along the Cliffs and then took part in the Renewal of Promise at the Odeon in Southend High Street. I have had some thoughts and have sent the list below to the Group for their information but there may be others that are known, but you may be nearer the coal face than I!

Peter Daws – Founder and GSM RIP ? 1985

Mr. ? Ison, SL 'QM' – prior to Ian Johnson having that nickname. (Have a look at the inscription on the bell!!) RIP 1960 ? He & daughter Diane ? were involved for a while.

Mike 'Spike' Cruiks SL, RIP ? 1970's

Peter Royal SL, RIP 8.3.1988

Frank Bentley GSM RIP 10.9.2010

Peter West A/RSL RIP 2014

Nigel Baker GSL RIP 24.6.2018

Ian Johnson GSL RIP 27.11.2018

Ron Cox RSL RIP 26.8.2018

Roy Salter A/RSL RIP 1.5.2022

I commend that you visit the Groups website <http://www.3rdcb.org.uk> which contains up to the minute news. Do take a look and see what the youngsters get up to these days. Our GUZZLERS details are included on the website. Click on 'Our Sections' where you will find a link and access to past GUZZLETTERS etc.

All that remains is for me, on behalf of your committee to wish you all well and very hopefully we will be meeting up soon.

Regards,

Stuart Clay

Secretary