

**LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION**

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20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**GUZZLETTER NO 122**

*Dear GUZZLERS.*

I again say 'Hello' to all, and begin with my traditional welcome to another GUZZLERS year. I hope that you are all well.

**I will be sending a separate emailed reminder to members whose annual £5.00 subs are outstanding. You can either make a direct payment online, to the GUZZLERS Account number, 56032994 and Sort Code 60-17-44, or better still, set up an annual Standing Order. 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. Alternatively you can forward your cheque for £5 to me, made payable to '3<sup>rd</sup> CB GUZZLERS'.**

**THIS IS THE ONLY REMINDER I SHALL SEND.**

We do want to retain your membership. A SO can be set up either on line or by a call to your bank quoting the Account number & Sort Code above. If you are unable to do that I attach a Standing Order mandate for you to complete and send to your bank by post.

I attach the AGM Minutes (do have a read of the details) from our Den / video meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023. For those who receive the GUZZLETTER by post I will include the approved Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet that was emailed out prior to the AGM.

**Your Secretary writes:-**

**Scout Leaders missing from previous List.**

I have been reminded that I should have included Dave Packer & Dan Lambeth on the list of recently departed Scout Leaders that would have been commemorated at the Groups Renewal of Promise ceremony earlier in the year. Sorry about the omission.

**RIP Pte. Harrison.**

In August Duncan Smith heard that the Booty (Military slang for Royal Marine) who carried off a high profile role in leading Ian Johnsons coffin party at his funeral had just lost his battle with cancer. A few years earlier Ian Johnson attended RM Lympstone just the week before he died to see him pass out after his basic training. I do believe that the Group had a large representation at Harrisons funeral service which was at St. Marys, gathering praise from the RM contingent that attended.

**'The 'GUZZLER'.**

The 14ft. glass fibre Tideway that we part funded in 1994 for the Group was purchased by Martin Blackett some years ago when Ian Johnson decided that it was surplus to requirements. Martin sailed it in the Blackwater but recently felt that he had to let it go. After advertising it The GUZZLER now has a new lease of life having been bought by GUZZLER Rod Shiers who is enjoying the experience I am told. The GUZZLER was built by ex 3<sup>rd</sup> CB man Paul Gray.

**Nigel Baker photograph**

One photograph that is missing from the gallery in the Den of past GSL's / GSM's is that of Nigel who apparently had a dislike of having his picture taken. So the hunt is on! If anyone has a suitable

photograph, preferably of Nigel in Scout uniform, which could be copied and displayed, please let me know.

### **GUZZLERS Photo Album**

While on the subject of memorabilia you will have noted from the AGM minutes that during the Guzzlers' barge trip this year, there was a discussion of an idea of a GUZZLERS project to collate and post online an extensive archive of historical and recent Group photographs. To that end Robin Stephens agreed to lead the project and has had discussions with Chris Daly - the Group's Communications Manager, who has been extremely helpful, and will help to guide him as we progress.

The first stage is to gather as many photographs as possible, but do be selective. Ideally, each photograph should be provided as a digital image at reasonable resolution, together with notes on the approximate year, names of individuals and the location and activity shown. Alternatively, you can send negatives, slides or prints which Robin can digitise then return. He will, of course, take great care of any materials sent, and will ensure that they are returned intact once digitised.

Hopefully, between us all, we have, or have access to, a big selection of 3rd CB photographs. Robin writes that he would be really grateful if you can send your digital photographs to him at [robin\\_stephens@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robin_stephens@hotmail.co.uk). If you have any queries, you can contact him on 07432 846333. Also, if you would prefer to send negatives, slides or prints, please let him know and he will send you his postal address. We could build a really interesting online album showing the Group over the years. Once we get going, Robin will share a web link so that we can all look at the album as it evolves.

### **Succession Planning**

Again from the AGM minutes you will have noted that Duncan Smith has been elected onto the GUZZLERS committee to understudy me - advancing years and all that, so should it become necessary the GUZZLERS would continue seamlessly. In addition, after Martins long standing tenure as Chairman since 1988, Paul Burden has agreed to stand for election as Chairman at the 2024 AGM and as such has been co-opted onto the committee with immediate effect, to shadow Martin. This is a very positive move in my opinion as it gives the chance of the association to develop in other directions in the future. Many will remember my notion of when The GUZZLERS began in 1982, it was my need to have a reason, as I was no longer living in the town (now a City I see!) so I could catch up with my old mates from the 3rdCB, emulating my father's membership of the 'The Chanters Association', the ex 1<sup>st</sup> CB (Highland) Troop which was dealt a blow when the Scout Association banned it in the 1930's! With bagpipes and drums, and a good deal of swagger in the late 1920's, It was seen to be a bit of a rogue organisation which Peter Daws transferred in the maverick behaviour from 1stCB into the 3rdCB when we started!

### **Derbyshire Weekend**

A group of Guzzlers is planning a trip to Derbyshire for a weekend in the Dales over 2nd-4th Feb. We are looking to go firm on accommodation asap. and anyone interested, please email Robin Stephens (email as above)

### **Social Meeting**

The Summer Pub Night at the Crooked Billet on 18<sup>th</sup> July was advertised to all but the weather was not that good and attendance was understandably affected. We welcomed David Clements, known universally as 'Clem' There he was this lone soul sitting outside the Billet who I slightly recognised before realising who it was. Had not seen him for 50+ years! So we made use of the chance to meet up with others and have a natter and a beer. Previously that evening Duncan Clark & I had been in the Mayflower and seeing that The Den was open chanced our hand and met Sydney (one of the o/18 group) and viewed the Den. In particular I wanted to see the bell which I knew had been presented to the Group in memory of a Mr. Ison, Scout Leader, possibly with the title 'Q' in the 50's. And there it was, the inscription worn away with 60 years of polishing by 'urks but you could still just about read that he was a SL of Nelson Troop and died ???.59.

### **Barge Trip**

The barge trip on SB Centaur to act as passenger crew for the Colne Barge Match from 7<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> September was another spectacular success following much the same arrangements as in previous years. Tony DeWinton was skipper again and contributes to our enjoyment. Once again were met by tranquil conditions on the day of the race, the Colne looked very peaceful and although we made Colne Bar and Eagle the course was shortened due once again to lack of wind. GUZZLERS 3 course dinner on board on the Friday night with Tony De Winter (Skipper) and Jonathan Jefferys (Mate) attending. We were suitably dressed in our Barge Match polo shirts organised by Bert Frame. We were however definitely not impressed with the Presentation, held in an austere Community Hall in Brightlingsea and we should perhaps forgo this event in the future as long as no embarrassment is caused to TSBT. No injuries this year allowing our families to get us back home in one piece. Iain Blair, having returned from Oz after 30+ years was able to meet up with lads of his era and join us for the Thursday evening meal in The Queens Head and Mark Sears had once again crossed the pond from Boston to be on the trip.

## **Dates for your diaries in 2024**

### **Winter Pub Night**

We will meet up at The Mayflower on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 2000 for some beers and a chat.

### **Den Day**

At our next Committee meeting, we will decide on a date sometime in July depending of course on the tides and on the availability of the Den. For ease of planning it is likely to be in conjunction with the Groups Open Day. It would give us the chance to see all the new equipment in action.

### **Summer Pub Night**

At the Crooked Billet on a Tuesday TBA in July 2023 at 2000

### **Barge Trip 2024**

The Colne Barge Match 2024 from Thursday evening to pm Sunday. We will make a provisional booking for the 12 places once the match date and details has been received from the TSBT. I will be sending out invitations in the New Year for those who are interested to book their place, hoping that we can supply a full crew again. I think that we have got the arrangements pretty much right and I expect the overall cost per head to be in the region of £320+ but that is just a guess as I have not been told of the charter cost as yet.

### **AGM & Social Meeting**

Due to The Den having an activity booked on the date notified at the AGM we have changed it to Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 2000, hopefully with a Zoom link set up for those unable to attend in person. This will be followed by a Pub Night at The Mayflower on completion of the AGM

### **Other related Group News**

All that remains is for me, on behalf of your committee, to wish you well for 2024, and send you all best wishes for a Christmas with your families.

The Groups website <http://www.3rdcb.org.uk> contains up to the minute news. The GUZZLERS details are included and there is also access to recent GUZZLETTERS.

Register and keep track of the Guzzlers' activities by following our Facebook Group at [facebook.com/groups/leighcreekguzzlers/](https://facebook.com/groups/leighcreekguzzlers/).

Regards,

*Stuart Clay*  
Secretary