

## LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION

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### GUZZLETTER NO 113

*Dear GUZZLERS,*

Happy Easter one and all!!

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 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 Father Christmas, campervan, koala bears & reindeer sunbathing. Another expensive \$A25 card! Many thanks, Nick. Other Christmas wishes were received from Dudley Blois, Patrick Fairplay, and Richard Thompson, extolling the benefits of living in the South of France with the temperature at a mean 15°C but moaning at the amount of Tax he has to pay! Says we should pay him a visit on a weekend sail but it is a bit too far.....

GUZZLERS membership is now 51 in 2018/19. All of those expected to continue their membership have paid up and others, which I have given up on, some unexpectedly, will be removed from the mailing list.



As news of Ian's death on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 became widespread I received many messages from GUZZLERS by return, telling of some memorable incidents, 'the influence he had on people as they were growing up', 'an amazing man, and must have positively influenced thousands of youngsters during his life' and 'truly a life for us to celebrate and give thanks for'. It came as a great shock to everyone and he will of course be very sadly missed. He was part of the group for over 50 years and had supported & led so many young people over that time.

The memorial service was conducted at Leigh Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea at 1230 Thursday 10 January 2019 and thereafter at the Cliffs Pavilion. The funeral cortege was fully escorted and went past the Den, with Guard of Honour, after the Church on its way to the crematorium where after a short family service his body was committed. The wake took place at the Cliffs Pavilion after the funeral and I recorded at least 32 GUZZLERS attending, all wishing to show their personal tribute to this remarkable man. There were many who brought their wives and family members to the occasion, all adding to what was an excellent reunion. Ian would have been both pleased and proud to see those he considered to be 'his boys and friends', celebrating his life all together and to know of your continued membership of a very special (Sea) Scouting Community. Furthest travelled must have been Mark Sears who came across from Boston, MA.

Nick Martland notes soon afterwards: I'm currently in Hobart Tasmania possibly the most southern part of the world you can be and I watched everything live, amazing tribute to a most wonderful person. RIP Ian



GUZZLER Martyn Smith passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> February St James' Hospital in Dublin after a long fight with Mylofibrosis. He has lived in Ireland for over 10 years and in keeping with the Irish way, his wake happened on Thursday 28th Feb and he was cremated on March 1st in Dublin. His ashes were scattered off the Aran Islands near Galway. Brother Duncan writes; It's

incredible how 3rd CB friendships have made the last few years more tolerable and already today, we have had calls, messages and visits from former group members which meant a lot and once again it was a wonderful reminder of how childhood friendships which originated in the world of Boy Bob and EVP of Leigh can and do sustain. There was a memorial service on Friday April 12th at 1400, at St Mary's Church, Harkstead, Suffolk, IP9 1DD where Martyn & Rachel got married. There was an Evening Echo obituary which you might like to see at: <https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/17490485.tributes-paid-to-royal-navy-officer-martyn-smith-from-leigh/>



James Baker, Nigel Bakers son, sadly passed away last night on 26<sup>th</sup> November after suffering from cancer for 3 years. The funeral was held in Slough on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018

The Pub Night on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March attracted 15 of our members who enjoyed a very convivial evening get together at The Mayflower. Patrick Fairplay again getting the furthest travelled prize on this occasion. We were joined by Adam Smith who re-joined after 7 years absence (!) and Jack Veitch, who is currently one of the Explorer Leaders who insisted on joining! New GSL Dan Parsons also came along and was able to be introduced to the membership.

Onto our future social events:-

#### **Social Meeting**

Summer Pub Night, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 hope is still in operation or take dinner in the Billet. Good place for some evening views of The Old Town and to sit outside and do a bit of lamp swinging.

#### **Den Day**

The committee felt that we should again have a Den Day. The tides in June and July are not really suitable but Saturday August 31<sup>st</sup> looks ideal. HW at 1400, (6.4). The Scouts have a boating day as well. John Blackburn will be running things and anticipate welcoming you a couple hours before HW. We will use best endeavours to get all people afloat in private or the Groups boats.

#### **AGM & Social Meeting**

I give formal notice of our 2019 AGM on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 2000, which will be held at The Den. This will be followed by a Pub Night at 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.

#### **Boat Trip-**

At the Committee Meeting it was pointed out that opportunities for us to sail together recently have not been possible so we floated the idea for asking who would be interested in making up the 12 crew necessary to charter a barge, probably from Maldon for a weekend in October this year. We would arrange our own beers and catering. Hopefully..... So far I only have 6 positive enquiries.

#### **Days Out:-**

During the Pub Nights I have been not overwhelmed with enquiries or interest regarding visits to places or days out so we have no plans at present, if you have any suggestions about any places of interest that we might like to visit let me know by some means or at the Summer Pub Night.

#### **Other news:-**

Dan Parsons has been appointed the new Group Scout Leader of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chalkwell Bay and is keen to help in some way in promoting the GUZZLERS and trying to tap into those in their 30's & 40's to get their membership. It was a missed opportunity but totally inappropriate to attempt to recruit at Ian's funeral although some application forms were passed around. Regrettably I can report – there has been no follow up.

The Group ask that they need a suitable photograph of Nigel Baker in Scout Uniform to be suitably mounted and displayed on the wall of The Den along with other holders of the top position. If you have such a photo please let me know and I will pass on details.

GUZZLER and ASL Chris Daly, in his day job as Principal Warfare Officer (Underwater) on HMS MONTROSE, which is on a world deployment, had a mention in Navy News which also announced his promotion to Lt. Cdr. He writes: 'A bit of a surprise to have the Captain come and find me in the shower to tell me I was on the (promotion) signal. Glad to hear news of MONTROSE's antics is making it back to the GUZZLERS. We've had a pretty impressive deployment so far, and including the flight home I'm going to call it a global trip (the ship's staying in Bahrain for the next few years, and we'll swap around with another crew to keep her at sea). Singapore was a great stop, but New Zealand was my favourite so far with an amazing welcome and a lot of "hospitality" from the RNZN (berthed in Devonport of all places, overlooking Auckland..

We had a Time journalist on for a big ASW exercise off Japan and managed to get a couple of articles in the paper as well. Probably a little less propaganda than the dockyard dandy (Navy News): Royal Navy charts new course east of Suez

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/royal-navy-charts-new-course-east-of-suez-f6bpqfjzp?shareToken=2caf0ee24a6b5867bb2496a6b2263023>

Royal Navy catches tankers smuggling fuel to North Korea

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/royal-navy-catches-tankers-smuggling-fuel-to-north-korea-sb3pw9qwc?shareToken=cda110862d7b2ece17e7223f7b09b554>

Into the Middle East now and off Dhow-bothering - it's not quite as exotic as chasing North Korean tankers but someone has to do it'. Chris hopes to be home for our Summer Pub Night.

The committee have set aside a good sum of money to allow the Group to purchase a new BBQ. Yes, this must be modern day scouting – Frank would hold his head in his hands! But it must no longer be eco-friendly to chop down live trees and create a wood fire to cook some sausages.

Cherry Orchard Jubilee Park contains an avenue of 200 Oak Trees to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and The GUZZLERS, on behalf of the 3<sup>rd</sup> CB sponsored No.3. (sic). What was a twig in 2005, is rather majestic now, and Martin, who took the recent photo says that it is one of the largest in the avenue. All due to his nurturing & fertilizing in previous years!



The Groups website <http://www.3rdcb.org.uk> contains up to the minute news. Do take a look and explore it, especially the impressive 'You tube' clips.

Our GUZZLERS details are included on the website and there is access to all the 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 activities.

Regards,

*Stuart Clay*

Secretary