

**LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION**

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12<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**GUZZLETTER NO 116**

*Dear GUZZLERS.*

I again say 'Hello' to all, and begin with my traditional welcome to another, but a very different GUZZLERS year. At this strangest of times I hope that you are all well and will be able to see your friends and families when this lockdown is lifted.

**Those whose annual £5.00 subs are outstanding, maybe yours as you generally pay with cash when attending one of our activities, will receive a separate emailed reminder saying that they are overdue. If you know that you are owing 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 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 from our video meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020. 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. As a follow up regarding the photo of the whaler at the Den we are told that the photo has been boxed up with many others as the Den & Wardroom is being redecorated. It will be put up again when all the work is complete.

**Your Secretary writes:-**

Regrettably this is a list of all the planned activities that got cancelled!

**Social Meeting**

The Winter Pub Night was cancelled on Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 which was due to be held at The Mayflower at 20.15.

**Den Day Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

The Den day was cancelled

**Social Meeting**

The Summer Pub Night at the Crooked Billet on July 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 was cancelled.

**Boat Trip**

The barge trip on SB Centaur for October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 was cancelled.

**Dates for your diaries in 2020**

**All GUZZLERS activities are suspended at the moment but your committee will meet in January 2021 to discuss any activities that can be arranged when circumstances allow.**

**Pub Quiz**

I have had a suggestion that a pub quiz could be held online, maybe in February which members could do on Zoom and catch up with one another? Adult members of the Group could be invited to join us as well. If anyone would like to run this or has any ideas on how this could be arranged please let me know.

### **AGM & Social Meeting**

AGM Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at The Den at 2000, this will be followed by a Pub Night at The Mayflower on completion of the AGM. If this is not possible the AGM will be via Zoom.

### **Other Group News**

Although those on email received this message in July I include the information for those who only do 'post'. I was informed that the 3rdCB have been honoured with **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK, and equivalent to the MBE for voluntary organisations. The message goes on to say that they are one of 230 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups (and the only Scout Group) to receive the prestigious award this year. It's fantastic recognition for the 100+ volunteer leaders, instructors, fundraisers, Explorer Scout Young Leaders and supporters at 3rd Chalkwell Bay. The team comes from all walks of life, but what they have in common is their dedication by running new activities and teaching new skills to the young people of our town every single week.

I have sent our congratulations to the Group as it is a great accolade for all the leaders and others connected to the Group who give up so much of their time towards the activities for the children.

Dan Parsons (GSL) replied to me by saying:-

*'Thank you for your kind words, we are thrilled, but I would very much encourage the Guzzlers to celebrate as part of 3CB as you have all participated in the building blocks of this great organisation. Please ask your members to share (the information) far and wide and to be clear of their association with us.'*

To be honest I acknowledge the point Dan makes but I had not thought of 'GUZZLERS' in this way, but I suppose that if we, and others of our kind, had not taken up scouting with the 3<sup>rd</sup> CB in the 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's through to the current time and enjoyed our activities, the Den and all it encompasses would not be there today. So you can have a beer or three to celebrate your achievement Dan says! Any excuse!

Martin took this photograph of 'the twig' during this summer. The Oak tree was planted in 2005 to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. We sponsored Tree No. 3 for the Group and it was not 6 foot high when planted. How everything has grown!



The Den is currently being refurbished by filling in the base, extending the 'Heads' and incorporating a training room at the south end.



On the other side of the site, the Executive Committee has agreed the supplier for the new boating centre, and work is underway to secure planning for this.

**The Groups AGM** was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> July and was a new experience as it was held virtually over Zoom and carried out all the required business very effectively. GUZZLERS were invited to participate as we are considered eligible. Almost all of the existing Executive Committee retained their posts. The very pleasing Annual Report can be accessed via the Groups website.

### **And now for a bit of Bell swinging!**

From Patrick Fairplay I have heard that he visited Leigh Old Town on March 13th, to join Pip Rowley (nee Hawkes) and family for the committal of the ashes of Rosemary Hawkes, her Mother, and the wife of the late Phil. (Ed. Who was a Sea Scout leader in the 60's who your Secretary remembers was then with 1<sup>st</sup> Westcliff?). Patrick writes: Her ashes were scattered just after the afternoon high water from the Den boat landing and took passage to the east in the waters that she & Phil had sailed together. So off she went to where the tide would take her, and I thought of the Old Bargeman's tidal jingle and offered it for her passage: "High Water London Bridge/ Half Ebb at Swin/ Low Water Yarmouth Roads/ First Flood at Lynn". Reminiscing, Rosemary was one of a group of young servicemen and women who came back to Civvy Street in circa 1945 and gave so much of their time to the 3<sup>rd</sup> CB and its future, and as Assistant Scout Masters to Fred Burden, to move the Group ahead into the post war years. So it was: Derek Thompson, "Sparks", Phil Hawkes, "Pilot", Peter West, "Ping", still using their RN nick names, Frank Bentley RN, and Kath Bentley WRNS, Peter Royal RN, and Rosemary Pilbean, WRNS, Fleet Air arm, later Rosemary Hawkes. (Note: RN may have been RNVr.), but whatever the umbrella, they served during WW2, and then the 3<sup>rd</sup> CHALKWELL BAY, and other Sea Scout Groups and Sea Rangers. That year has been remembered nationally as the end of World War Two, and for me it was the year that I joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> CB aged 11 years, up from a Cub Pack, the 7<sup>th</sup> Westcliff, at St Andrews Church up the road from Electric Avenue. Paddy Sheen was already there, and the Troop Leader was Spud Murphy, from somewhere up at the Highlands, Leigh. My friends Keith Dixon and Colin Waller joined later, then Nigel Baker and David Capstick, Dudley Blois and Mike (Jock) Howard. Also in addition, the 1945 Electric Avenue Troop included the Woodley Bothers, Dickie and ????. Mrs Woodley was the caretaker at the Electric Avenue Hall and lived in the Flat above it with her two sons; the subs were 6d a week! Fred Burden had us doing all sorts of Naval activities, not exactly the content of Scouting for Boys, (Ed. More emphasis on the 'Sea' rather than 'Scouting', which I always felt was the case!) But after all he had been a Regular Chief Petty Officer RN Torpedo Branch. He sorted us out, and I for one still appreciate the direction he moved us towards for our future lives, and I am sure the names I have mentioned would endorse this. So I have exposed you to some of my long memories, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> CB. He adds; Do have a new experience, a Zoom AGM, so my best wishes to all, and I hope we shall all be able to meet in the near future and to watch this space for other flashes of memory!

All that remains is for me, on behalf of your committee, to wish you well for 2021, and send you all best wishes for a Christmas with your families as I hope that current restrictions will be lifted. GUZZLERS will then be able to arrange some activities for the New Year.

The Groups website <http://www.3rdcb.org.uk> contains up to the minute news. Do take a look and view the Annual Report 2019/20 where you can see what each section has been up to in the last year. 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