

LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION

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18th November 2025

GUZZLETTER NO 126

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 '3rd 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 meeting on 7th October 2025 and attach the link to the recording of the Meeting with the AI synopsis minutes (!) that are provided. You might find it interesting to see the internal views of The Den in the background. For those who receive the GUZZLETTER by post I will include the approved Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet that was emailed out to members prior to the AGM.

Your Secretary writes:-

The Honours Boards are now completed and in place. Thanks are due to the energies of SL Peter Jacob, the manufacturing skills of Alan Stone and parent Phil Cunningham and Myall Signs. The cost of about £1800 has been met by the GUZZLERS. A letter of thanks has been received from the Group for the creation of the boards to acknowledge the achievements of members.

PL Katie Kelleway has written thanking us for the £200.00 donation for her World Challenge to Sri Lanka in 2026. The itinerary is attached so you can see the challenges that she faces. She writes *'This is absolutely amazing, and I really am so grateful! This money will make a huge difference to my fundraising and will be a massive help. Thank you once again to yourself and the GUZZLERS for even considering me, and if I can ever help the GUZZLERS in return please let me know. I will be sure to let you know how my trip goes next year!'*

We have been in correspondence with Leigh-on-Sea News regarding 3rdCB & Wendys Cafe in 1950's/60's. Following a query from one of their family members I replied to the Editor:

At a recent networking event a cutting was shown from the paper sent by 'Trevor in Belfairs', asking for information about Wendy's Cafe which in the 1950's was on Leigh Hill roughly adjacent to Leigh Steps. I remember that this was indeed the business of Bill and Queenie Burrige and named after their daughter Wendy who had gone to America. The 3rd Chalkwell Bay Sea Scouts, having moved the HQ known as The Den, from the down platform of the old Leigh Railway Station at the bottom of the hill to a

reworked 60 foot Salvation Army hut located where the footbridge now stands, were constant customers of the cafe where Sausage & Chips followed by Spur & Ice Cream could be bought for about 1/6d, welcome fodder for teenage boys needing refreshments after a mornings boating activities. Much nicer than having to break our days enjoyment to travel home to our mothers Sunday lunch which was generally waiting at home to be steamed and had for supper anyway! On wet days we would crowd into the table area under the stairs where a cup tea at 3d (?) would last for hours whilst Bill tried to get you out so that other customers could be seated! Happy days! Bill always referred to each boy as Mr..... So polite! Widening of the road in the late 1950's necessitated the Den to be fortunately relocated to the other side of the railway onto Victoria Wharf before the level crossing was closed and the footbridge built, so our allegiance transferred to the Beach Cafe (now Mayflower) and for me Wendy's disappeared from my knowledge.

It did take me 5 days to finally remember Queenies name from my back memory of events near 70 years ago!

GUZZLERS Photo Album

Gathering as many photographs as possible has had considerable interest. You can see for yourself how far Robin has got by using the link [Leigh Creek Guzzler Photos](#). If you have photos for inclusion please provide them as a digital image at reasonable resolution, together with notes on the approximate year, names of individuals and the location and activity but do be selective. Send them to robin_stephens@hotmail.co.uk. If you have any queries or wish to send negatives, slides or prints, please can contact him on 07432 846333 and he will let you have his address. He will, of course, take great care of any materials sent, and will ensure that they are returned intact. He has some of the thousands of photos in the Groups archives i.e. Frank Bentleys, Ian Johnsons & other notables contributions, Robin will spend all the winter digitizing & uploading. What a job! But it was his idea and he did volunteer! We are building a really interesting online album showing the Group's activities and history over the years.

Social Events (Past).

GUZZLERS Den Day 28th June 2025 - 8 attended

As far as I am concerned The Den Day on 28th June could not have been bettered. With 7 of us turning up, the welcome by Ed Kemp, the Duty Officer, was very agreeable with an RS 14' Quest, Yellow Boat and RIB being offered for our use. At the same time some 20 Scouts / Explorers were readying their Toppers etc. for a day on the water. The youths capsize at will but in our case you will know that a capsize drill was completed (unintentionally) but Paul Burden righted the dinghy and after I had been hauled onboard the rescue RIB and returned to the RS we continued the sail in gusty (my excuse) conditions. Perhaps a RS14 is rather tender for older folk (crews age totalled 150) in those conditions! After drying out and enjoying a warm freshwater shower in the facilities we had premier positions to sit in the warm sunshine, dry out, enjoy the hospitality of a BBQ & beers from the 'Mayflower' with those Officers who had stayed, and enjoy the views from the south end of the Den whilst those celebrating the 'Old Leigh Folk Festival' were crammed on the outside staging in 'The Boathouse'. I think that those who were unable to attend really missed out! As you might guess from what I have said it was for me for me a really memorable day. The Den looked really smart internally having been redecorated with the renewed Honours Boards complementing the place.

Summer Pub Night 15th July 2025 – On a blustery evening 10 of us gathered in a comfortable corner of the Crooked Billet with Duncan Smith winning the Furthest Travelled prize. He returned to Cornwall overnight and was at work the next morning!

AGM & Pub Night – Tuesday 7th October 2025 at The Den o/c Pub Night at The Mayflower - 11 attended a convivial evenings gathering in The Mayflower afterwards.

Dates for your diaries in 2026

Social Events (Future)

Winter Pub Night

We will meet up at The Mayflower – to avoid a possible clash with the below event we have a revised date of 24th February at The Mayflower 2000. Should you wish it there is an open invitation to eat before that at the Peter Boat at 1800.

Long Weekend Away

As this years trip was so successful another is planned for Friday 20th March – 23rd March 2026. 14 are interested so far. Any others please contact Robin expressing your interest.

Den Day

A Den Day TBA in conjunction with a Groups Boating/Sailing Day is supported by the Group as there would be less reliance on GUZZLERS attending to make it worthwhile. Names and numbers of those likely to attend will be requested prior to the event

Summer Pub Night

At the Crooked Billet on a Tuesday TBA in July 2025 at 2000

Summer Sailing Event Sailing Trip – Possibilities to join Colin BS trips on Faramir should they be offered. Although TSBT had sent their 2026 prospectus none of committee would be likely to organize and attend the activity now.

AGM & Pub Night

AGM & Pub Night (with Googlemeet facilities as in 2025) – Tuesday 6th October 2026 at The Den o/c Pub Night at The Mayflower.

Other related News

The Groups website <http://www.3rdcb.org.uk> contains up to the minute news. Our GUZZLERS details are included on the website. Click on 'Our Sections' where you will find a link and access to past GUZZLETTERS etc.

Paul Burden has agreed to set up a Whatsapp Group to allow informal conversations throughout the year between GUZZLERS wishing to keep in touch. The link is

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/L4ymBVYJ5q87WdYmpiD3Lw>

Register and keep track of the Guzzlers' activities by following our Facebook Group at <facebook.com/groups/leighcreekguzzlers/>.

All that remains is for me, on behalf of your committee, to wish you well for 2026, and send you all best wishes for a Christmas with your families.

Regards,

Stuart Clay

Secretary