

LEIGH CREEK GUZZLERS ASSOCIATION

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GUZZLETTER NO 127

Dear GUZZLERS,

Your committee had a Video committee meeting on 14th April to see what activities could take place during the forthcoming summer for your enjoyment.

We received a Christmas card to us all from Nick Martland (A\$25 with A\$3 postage!), which featured an outline of Oz, father Christmas, Kookaburra, Sydney Harbour bridge and of course a sheep together with the annual photograph of his family.

GUZZLERS membership was 54 in 2025/6 and most of those expected to continue their membership have paid up.

Recently I have had to sadly advise members of recent deaths



Mike Riley RIP 26/1/26

Mike was in the troop from 1956 until 1963 when like most of us other pursuits became more interesting. My early recollections were when I accompanied him on his 1st class hike having travelled to Kent via the Gravesend / Tilbury ferry and a walkabout around Springfield. He was followed into the Group by son Jon, who is a GUZZLER and presumably other sons Andrew & Anthony as well as grandchildren I think. Since joining the GUZZLERS in 1985 attended most pub nights and he was most generous in affording some of us adventurous sailing trips in his boats Breakaway, High Flyer and Momentum. His funeral was attended by a good number of GUZZLERS and wives.

Dave and Wendy Taylor RIP 22/2/26 & 19/2/26

Neil Paxman writes: Dave was a Queens Scout at 3rd CB. When I joined in 1963, he was assistant scout leader under Colin Sedgewick. He then became Senior Scout Leader.

Dave met Wendy, who was a Sea Ranger on a group boat trip over to Yantlet Creak in Kent. They married in 1964. In 1967 scouting was reorganised and Senior and Rover Scouts were abolished.

Dave together with Alan Moss from 6th Leigh then set up Shoremead, the new district Venture Scout unit based at the hut next to the Crooked Billet, where all scouts leaving the troop went until the group set up their own unit in the 1980s. He was also pivotal in the setting up of Clarendon, the first joint Venture Scout / Ranger Guide unit in the country which Shoremead was part of.

Dave was the first chairman of the Old Leigh Regatta committee making it a major event and fund raiser for the three Old Town scout units.

Dave worked for the PLA Port of London Authority together with Nigel Baker. Their tenacious work in pollution control in the 60s and 70s was largely responsible for the cleaning up of the Thames for which he received the MBE.

Although there was a group cub pack in the 1950 which folded, Wendy set up a new pack in the 1980 and was its first Akela. The pack continues to this day.

When the water industry was re-structured Dave and Wendy relocated to Norfolk where Dave took up a position with the broads Authority. Dave and Wendy both continued with Scouting there.

Wendy made a loving home for Dave, their three children and then their grandchildren.

She was a volunteer for Samaritans for more than 60 years making her their longest serving volunteer in the country.

Dave and Wendy spent their whole life together sailing, over the years they had a number of yachts and in latter years a boat on the French canals where they enjoyed family holidays with children and grandchildren.

Dave and Wendy were married for over 60 years and were devoted to each other. So much so that they died just four days apart. The family are understandably devastated but comforted by the fact the nether knew the other had died. They were a wonderful couple, kind, caring and great fun. They contributed greatly to the ongoing success of 3rdCB and should not be forgotten. Neil and Sally attended the funeral, the front page of which is also attached to the email.

Mike Regan RIP 1938 - 2026

Paul Cottrell writes; Group Vice President, Mike Regan, recently passed away at the age of 88. His association with 3rdCB began in 1978 when his son joined Scouts and Ian Johnson asked Mike to help with the Leigh Regatta Committee, on which he served for many years. He subsequently joined the Group's Executive Committee, becoming Chairman in the 1980s and overseeing the governance and financial management of the Group. During his tenure, he saw the old Den demolished and rebuilt into the HQ we know today, and the Group grow from strength to strength. He joined the GUZZLERS in 1985/6 and was a member until 2011 attending some pub nights during that time.

Upon retiring as Chairman in 2010, he was named a Vice President of the Group in recognition of his years of dedicated service. His family remain active members of 3rdCB.

Caroline Fisk RIP 1961 - 2026

Alas Caroline was not in membership with the GUZZLERS but Bernie Cammell writes: - Caroline will be remembered by many Guzzlers and 3rd CB alumni of the early 1980's. Caroline through her brother, 'Spud', and their mother's involvement with the 3rd CB, became an assistant leader to Angela Cruiks when the Solebay Sea Ranger crew first became a part of the group. Caroline's enthusiasm for waterborne, camping and climbing activities set a wonderful example to the girls of the Sea Rangers. Caroline attended group trips such as Swanage and Derbyshire where she encouraged Scouts and Rangers alike in activities such as rock climbing and sailing always getting stuck-in herself.

After leaving Essex Caroline worked in The Alps and lived in Dublin and the Canary Islands. Caroline lost two partners to illness. Having settled in the small coastal town of Schull, Co Cork, she now rests with her partner Michael in the graveyard overlooking Schull harbour and the Atlantic Ocean. She adored the magnificent views over the seascape out to the Fastnet Rock and was keenly interested in the local sailing and traditional coastal rowing scene. She was very popular in her adopted home where she worked at the hotel and was very active in the local community.

Social Events (Past).

The Winter Pub Night was held at The Mayflower on 24th February with just over 12 attending; Neil Goldie won the prize for the furthest travelled having come all the way down from Ipswich. We had the pleasure in toasting the memory of Mike Riley through the donation from Jon Riley to buy beers for us. There was an expected response from the pub with 'Last Orders' at 2215, by then most had had their fill.

The Long Weekend walking trip in the Peak District, organized by Robin was most successful with 9 attending using Youth Hostelling facilities again.

Social Events (Future)

A Den Day is likely to be arranged on a Saturday in July. The Group are not planning to have an Open Day as such but GUZZLERS are very welcome to join in any sailing day whenever there is a tide as they are sailing every weekend. No date has been identified as yet so but I will advise everyone accordingly. It would be a chance to see what the young fraternity gets up to and maybe, get out on the water in the Groups boats.

Summer Pub Night will be at the Crooked Billet on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 2000, or earlier if you are so inclined! Hopefully a good number can attend to sit outside and reminisce of old times. A

number of us ate at the Peter Boat before the Winter Pub night and others might like to join us this time.

A Late Summer Pub Night in September in London is being considered so those who find it difficult to get to Leigh can attend. I will send out details later once they become known.

We are looking to see if GUZZLERS could get a table to attend Cockle Boat Endeavour's 100th birthday dinner at The Boatyard on Friday 6th November and / or attend an event at Osbornes / Crooked Billet during the summer. If you would like to attend the dinner or the earlier event let me know and I will compile a list to see if it is viable to make a booking.

It is also suggested that if enough people are interested, we could get together during a short break at a Warners Hotel for a Friday, Saturday and Sunday or Monday through Thursday. Hotels are of high level with food and entertainment 1st class. Alan Stone has said that he would take the organisation on if enough are interested. Again, I will compile a list with your preferences to see if it is viable to make a booking.

Robin Stephens will be organizing a Weekend Walking trip in mid-March 2027, this time in the Downs / Swanage area. Those who might not be able to undertake the walks but enjoy the socializing are welcomed. Those likely to be interested please contact Robin on robin_stephens@hotmail.co.uk with your preference.

AGM & Social Meeting

I give formal notice of our 2026 AGM on Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 2000, which will be held at The Den. There is a chance that we may be able to put it on 'Google Meets' for those who are unable to be there as we have done previously. 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: -

Committee member, John Blackburn, has decided to step down from the committee. John was very helpful in arranging BBQ & liquid refreshments at The Den during previous Den Days and we all thank him for his previous involvement.

Now this has to be such a strange set of circumstances as you will see as both correspondents have since 'crossed the bar'. Sometime in December Mike Riley sent me a letter (1962?) he had unearthed from Peter Royal offering Senior Scouts the opportunity to apply as crew and have Tall Ships experience. I have attached that to the email, before continuing reading this do read that, the phrasing is such that I can almost hear Peter speaking. (You will gather from the letter that Seniors were tough in them days!) As he was mentioned I forwarded it to Dave Taylor and I received this response: -

Thanks for your email regarding the 1960 Sailing Race. Colin, Raymond (Tich) Hopkins and myself went for a selection weekend in 1960 in order to be picked for that years Oslo to Ostend. Colin was successfully chosen for the British entry, "Nordwind". I was chosen as first reserve but would go with the "Nordwind" crew to Oslo. Tich was unfortunately not picked. I travelled to Oslo on a Destroyer, HMS Chaplet which was to be the guard ship for the race. Two former members of 3rd CB, James Myatt and Peter Royal were to be Officers on "Nordwind". In Oslo it was found that the Norwegian square-rigger "Christian Radich" was looking for crew. I therefore volunteered and was accepted with my sail-making station being on the fore upper t'gallant. Our ship decided to go close to the Scottish coast for the race and this was a mistake as we arrived at Ostend a day later than most of the others. A storm brewed up and we spent the next two days running up and down off Ostend waiting for the storm to subside before entering harbour. I forget who won the race. I still have my log book.

Best wishes Dave

Rod Shiers contacted me and mentioned that his Tideway 'GUZZLER' has remained under covers this year. She is down in Cornwall in my daughter's garden. I'd hoped to take my grandson out this Autumn half term but the weather had other ideas. Definitely must get in her next Summer. I did manage a marvellous trip in Tasmania in January on a 'Raid' with 30 small boats including a whaler.

GUZZLERS Photo Album

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. They can be sent to robin_stephens@hotmail.co.uk. If you have any queries, call him on 07432 846333. You may be able to send negatives, slides or prints to him at 245 Devises Road Salisbury Wilts. SP2 9LT. He will, of course, take great care of any materials sent, and will ensure that they are returned intact. What we have so far have been collated by Robin on a free Microsoft OneDrive link which we hope eventually will be accessed through a link on the GUZZLERS tab on the Groups website.

Enough to say that Robin is delighted with the contributions that people have made so far and we look forward to having the memorabilia available for people to browse and to that end we will be notifying everyone when an online demo can be given.

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. There is a short video capturing events that the Group has been involved in during 2025. 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