

RACS DIARY

THE GATE ANNUAL BEER FESTIVAL

Thursday August 26th to Sunday August 29th

All the usual attractions —

a good selection of beers, ciders & perries, food available, live music

AND

RACS Bottle Tombola

RACS Summer Show — Sunday at 1.15pm

*(see schedule on **RACS** board)*

Prince of Wales, Green Tye, Much Hadham, East Herts SG10 6JP/01279 842517

Beer Festival At “The Prince of Wales”

Friday 3rd September from 5.30pm. All Day on Sat & Sun 4th & 5th

25+ beers all East Anglian Breweries.

Music: Fri Evening Pinch of Snuff (Irish Style)



RACS traditional visit to the

2010 Chappel Beer Festival will take place on
Wednesday September 8th, leaving The Gate at 5.30pm

Contact Jan (meadspanner@ntlworld.com) *As Soon As*

Possible to reserve your place on the coach.

This is a very popular outing so it is a question of first
come first served....

Don't forget that on Club Nights
after 7.30pm, production of your
RACS card gives a discount on
all pints of beer.



Nullam Cerwisiam Timemus

RACS

**The Magazine of the
Real Ale Club of Sawbridgeworth**

JULY & AUGUST 2010

Affiliated to SPBW



YOUR RACS COMMITTEE 2010-2011



JAN MEAD
Chair
meadspanner@ntlworld.com



SPENCER RICHARDS
Vice-Chair



CAROLINE MACY
Secretary
cj43@harlowmill.co.uk



ANN DODKIN
Committee Member



RUFF RICHARDS
Mascot



NICHOLAS MACY
Treasurer

We offer a warm welcome to the new Treasurer of
RACS



MARK TURNER
Webmaster
www.racs.org.uk



HANNAH MEAD
Trip Secretary



DEB EATON JOHN TRIMMER
Merchandising Officers



APPLICATION FORM for MEMBERSHIP of

The Real Ale Club of SAWBRIDGEWORTH

to May 2011

If you wish to join or renew Membership of **RACS**, please fill in this form, in BLOCK CAPITALS, then send to JAN MEAD, 23, Crofters, Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21 0DE or NICHOLAS MACY, 26, Riverside Court, Harlow, Essex CM20 2AD and **INCLUDE** a subscription of £5 per person per year*.

This year (2010-2011) T-shirts celebrating **RACS first 15 years are available - £5 each or only £3 with a subscription*

NAME:.....

ADDRESS.....

COUNTY:..... POST CODE:.....

CONTACT NUMBER, please:

Telephone or mobile.....

or fax or e-mail.....

SIGNATURE:..... Date.....

Size of T-shirt required (if applicable).....

Adnams Brewery

(taken from The Guardian G2 July 6th 2010)

With rural pubs closing down at the rate of 13 a week, and increasingly vocal campaigns against anti-social drinking, the beer and pubs industry has suffered some significant blows in recent years. But the Suffolk-based brewer Adnams has found a way to improve its image and cut costs at the same time — by tackling its carbon emissions. While the company established its environmental principles 20 years ago, it now boasts an innovative range of measures to meet its 10:10 targets, not to mention saving water by washing trucks and flushing loos with rainwater collected from the roof of its distribution centre.

Brewing ale is an energy-intensive process that “relies on boiling a lot of water”, explains sustainability spokesperson Emma Hibbert. Adnams has operated its own energy-efficient distribution centre since 2007 (using lime hemp walls and a sedum roof for natural cooling), so its pledge to reduce emissions by a further 10% in 2010 required new green thinking. The most obvious next step was to start generating low-carbon heat, so Adnams is in the process of installing an anaerobic digestion plant adjacent to its distribution centre in Reydon. From August the digester will use organic material from the brewery and local communities to create bio-gas which can then be sold to the National Grid, generating extra cash. “When fully operational, this plant will have the potential to reduce our carbon emissions by about 30%,” says the chairman, Jonathan Adnams. (The company eventually intends to convert its trucks so they can run on the bio-gas product.) And in the meantime, despite also setting up in a new gin and vodka distillery this year, Adnams is confident it will smash its 10% carbon-reduction target. “It’s surprising,” says Hibbert, “but on the inside of this very old building is one of the most modern and efficient breweries in the country.”

Zara Maung

Anitas

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This edited piece is, courtesy a CAMRA source, an extract from the latest Tetley's promotion...

The Coming of the Huntsman

This is good; I promise you none of this is made up. As they announced the brewery closure, Carlsberg started a campaign to promote Tetley Bitter. This involved a return to the old style of pump clip, with the huntsman prominent (image shamelessly taken from Carlsberg's web site). This coincided with visits from a character called "The Huntsman" to various pubs, promoting the beer and handing out samples. When asked where Tetley Bitter was to be brewed (before the Wolverhampton announcement) the Huntsman said "A little town in Yorkshire you've probably never heard of." We may never know what he meant by that. At the same time, advertising posters appeared all over the city. They didn't stay around for long, for reasons that will become clear. The deal is that you send a text to the number shown, and "The Huntsman" sends you back the nearest pub where you can try some Tetley's. (It didn't mention that it cost 25p a Pop). This had to be tried. But the results were not as expected. Texting any post code in Leeds directed the texter to Mr Foley's Cask Ale House in the City Centre. A very fine pub this, but not one that has ever sold Tetley's. Second choices were always clubs in the suburbs; there was never any mention of the 50 or so Tetley outlets in Leeds City Centre. The manager of Mr Foley's was surprised when told this, but added that this Perhaps explained why he had received a large and completely unexpected consignment of branded Tetley Bitter glasses the previous week. (These glasses are now in Leeds CAMRA's store of tombola prizes). Providing the post code of the Carlsberg HQ in Northampton resulted in the recommendation of two clubs in Sheffield. Is there really nowhere between Northampton and Sheffield that sells Tetley's? A Birmingham postcode sent you off to Newtown in Shropshire. I could go on ...

The campaign gained negative publicity from the Yorkshire Post, who viewed it as a cynical attempt to draw attention away from the brewery closure. Many other local publications, both print and on-line put forward similar views. It is therefore not surprising that the posters came down very quickly. At the moment, using the service results in a return text message saying that you're too late for the free pint of Carlsberg.....

A VISIT TO HOP BACK BREWERY ON SATURDAY 26TH JUNE 2010

Report by **Chris Sears, RACS** & CAMRA Member

Bernard Boorman, who knows the brewery well, organised a HEB CAMRA trip to Salisbury. We set off early by train and car, both of which took the same time to get there. We met up at the bus station, to get the Bournemouth bus, which passes the brewery about 15 minutes into its journey. Helen Perry said that it was the first time she had been on a public bus to a brewery! Also on the bus was John Gilbert, the founder of the brewery, who was our guide for the morning.

Hop Back Brewery was started at the Wyndham Arms, in Salisbury, in 1986. By 1992 it had outgrown the pub site, and moved to the industrial estate at Downton, where we visited. When we got there, John guided us through the estate to the far end, where several units comprise the large plant, producing regular and seasonal ales. We sampled several of them, including, of course, the famous Summer Lightning. They are brewing a new beer, Taiphon, which is flavoured with lemongrass. This is a favourite as a bottled beer in many Thai restaurants and is well worth looking out for. We later had some on draught.



On the left, John Gilbert, founder of Hop Back talking to us

After our tour, we caught the bus back to Salisbury and were recommended to go to the Royal George for lunch. This GBG pub was cracking and so was the food, which was much needed after our very early breakfasts and rather a lot of beer. The group of ten then split up and visited the various GBG pubs and some equally good other ones, the Queens Arms being notably friendly, with great beer.

We finished up at the Wyndham Arms, where it all began. A famous Salisbury resident was downing pints in there, Phil from Time Team, but we left him in peace while we also enjoyed the beers on offer. We spent the night at the White Horse, in the city centre, with excellent rooms. Breakfast on Sunday was at the Wetherspools, but I don't think anyone had beer with their bacon! It was a very good, well-organised weekend, we recommend the visit to everyone. Thank you Bernard!

BISHOP'S STORTFORD BEER FESTIVAL 2010

29th - 31st July 2010

The festival, held in the beautiful house and walled garden of the Royal British Legion, on Windhill, started on Thursday evening this year. There was a much larger marquee this year, able to house the 39 different beers from 18 breweries, 5 ciders, 2 perries, a ginger beer and a large number of people! There were well over 1000 people attending, with visitors from Holland, Finland, Italy, Germany.... and Hampshire. Festival Organiser Graham Darby said, "The festival was a big success this year, we were thrilled with the number of visitors and the multi-national range. Our closeness to Stansted makes day trips possible from Europe!" Luckily we had very little rain this year, so most of the time everyone was able to spread out over the grass at chairs and tables, set out in the large garden. The festival was run jointly with the British Legion, who provided a general bar, cold food and an excellent barbeque, with the locally-sourced burgers and sausages being really delicious.

This year the beers ranged from local breweries, such as Saffron, Shalford and Green Tye, to a very wide range of British ales. These were from as far afield as Falkirk, Scotland



to St. Day, Cornwall. West was best from Newtown Powys, Wales and from the east, Essex beers came from Mayland and Coggeshall. The 'Beer of the Festival' was Buntingford's Chinook, with Crown Stannington

Stout as runner up, so a local beer was the favourite!

The extra evening, on the Thursday, was popular with groups of drinkers, the equivalent of 8 firkins were drunk that evening. The Friday was a very busy day with 400 visitors and Brendan Sothcott, our Chairman, had to twist the arms of some local brewers to get some extra beers at short notice! On the Saturday it was busy again. 16 String Jack, a local folk group, played and the beer eventually ran out towards the end of the evening. The group were very popular and it was a lovely way to end a tremendous beer festival.

Brendan said, "This was a very well attended festival, building on last year's, with a much bigger marquee and a better layout, making it much easier to serve the customers."

Chris Sears

On Friday evening we went to the beer festival held at the British Legion club at Windhill Bishops Stortford, on arrival we noticed the changes for the better since last year - a Marquee in the corner of the Garden housed the beer, which was a much larger space. There was a very good selection of ale from all parts of England including many local breweries e.g. Buntingford, Green Tye and Saffron, Shalford and Red Fox.. There were also beers from west Berkshire, Scotland, Wales, Devon, Hampshire, Sheffield and Cornwall — something for all tastes. Food available and a pleasant evening was had in the garden, catching up with friends old and new.



Well done to the organisers for a good festival. One for the diary again next year.

Jan



STAG PARTY in KRACOW

All eight of us - me Harry (my Liege), Peter (my Lord), Chris (Uncle Cider), Mick (Noble Best Man), David (the Tea), Paul, (Big D), John (Strimmer) and Mark (Groom-to-be) left Stansted Airport early in the morning (UGGH!). We arrived safely in Krakow, off the plane on to a coach and we were taken on the longest ride ever to the terminal — all of 50yards! We collected our luggage, met a taxi driver (the image of Albert, Mark's father-in-law-to-be), Christophe, who took us to our hotel. Our hotel rooms were nice and comfy. But first things

first. We wanted a beer so we headed for the main square where we found umpteen bars, so we tried Zywiec and Tyskie — to name just two. We went out for much of the same in the evening, where I found out where David got his nickname — we drank beer, he



ordered a pot of tea! I did not make the 5am Club, I went to the hotel at midnight. Next day while the others went to visit the 14th century castle of the last king of Poland, I waited in the local park. Back to the main square for more beer (and tea) where we saw a top of the range Mercedes

with Mick's surname on the registration plate and a bar named after Mark's sister, Hannah. Off out again that evening to find a karaoke bar, to no avail, so we went to the Flames bar where we were entertained by lovely young dancers, then on to a disco called Legends. The dance floor was no bigger than The Gate snug bar — even I enjoyed the 70s and 80s music with my stick disappearing and then reappearing! I tried various vodkas at the bar and then back at the hotel where Chris and Strimmer were ploughing their way through strong vodkas, including a vicious plum brandy. Big D and I went to bed, so I failed, again, to make the 5am Club. Mick and Mark went clubbing only to find all the ugliest females in a city of beautiful women!

Next morning we went to Auschwitz concentration camp — we decided this as a mark of respect to the brave people who died at the hands of the Nazis. It was a two hour visit and our guide was a local girl. The true horror of the scale of the tragedy is hard to

forget. We then went a few miles further to Birkenau, to the main extermination camp. We saw the railway tracks going through the infamous gates, went up into the tower above the gates - you could see for miles and appreciate what the Nazis did to try and achieve their objective, row upon row of huts stretching miles to the woods which concealed the gas ovens. A very sombre morning indeed. Christophe our taxi driver then took us to a salt mine dating back to the 17th century. Walked down some 300 steps and our guide took us on a tour showing mining through the ages. The models were all carved from salt of a green variety. There were two chapels and a cathedral made of the green salt, too. The latter being plunged into darkness and being an English tour they played "Land of Hope and Glory" while the chandeliers built up to their full brilliance. There were also carved pictures and figures including "The Last Supper", Jesus, many Saints and several generals. Chris had a go at operating the rope lifts with no trouble! The tour ended in a large cavern where souvenirs were on sale. We then found a bar, deep below ground, celebrated with beer (oh! And David's tea) and took the speedy lift (130mtrs in 90seconds) back to the surface where Christophe was waiting to take us back to Krakow.

The next day was the last day, so we headed for the square and soon found a bar to watch England play Japan. It was full of English football supporters. We ordered a round for seven and tea for David, who was promptly told to collect his drink himself. When I returned from a loo break the others were all laughing because I had been mistaken for a Polish guide since I was wearing a Polish hat. I tried a few more



vodkas then off to find food before reclaiming our bags from the hotel and leaving with our faithful driver for the airport, where our flight was delayed so that we were not home until the early hours of Monday morning. If you get the chance do visit Krakow — a beautiful city (with lovely girls), great bars and not too expensive.



HARRY MEAD



The Sawbridgeworth Contingent ... There we all were— in Dawlish, Devon — on Friday June 11th 2010 to celebrate the wedding of **RACS' Members Joanne Collins and Mark Mead. The sun shone and a good time was had by all.**



A view from the Reception



Joanne, Sophie & Mark



Jenny & Trevor



John & Deb



Ann & Peter



Nicholas & Caroline



Chelmsford Summer Beer Festival Friday July 16th 2010

Not as warm as it had been the previous week — no! it didn't rain and yes! the sun was shining, but a strong south/westerly wind blew until late on in the evening, keeping the temperature low. Despite that 17 eager **RACS** arrived, courtesy Anita's, just after 6.00pm to sample all the delights the Beer Festival had to offer: over 350 real ales, more than 120 ci-

ders/ perries, a wide selection of Belgian beers, local wines, a hog roast, vegetarian options, curries and pickled eggs (though it must be admitted that in the range of pickles Jan and Harry's pickled onions were more mind blowing than any commercial ones could possibly be). We were delighted to meet up again with Brian – a regular at Chelmsford fests. This beer festival rates VERY HIGHLY and is a good annual trip to be fitted into the **RACS** regular schedule.



EXETER BEER FESTIVAL REPORT from HARRY

While other **RACS** members were boozing the night away at the Chelmsford beer festival I was fortunate to be taken by Mark and Jo and little half pint to the Exeter beer festival held at Exeter football club. There was a choice of 60 real ales and some tried and tested were

Crouch Vale, Sonnett, Cairngorm, Trade Winds Jarrow, Joblings Gibbert, Orkney Northern Lights, Wolf Granny Wouldn't Like It, Bath Brainstormer, Beer Engine Shunter 0-4-0 Branscombe Vale Summa That and Pint of two halves Dartmoor Jail Ale, Exe Valley Rodgers & Hammerstiened, Gargoyles Dawlish Summer, Jo's favourite Funky Monkey, to name but a few. It was an excellent beer festival and superbly run by a few stalwart members of Exeter and East Devon CAMRA.

All too soon time to go, but I bought the T-shirt and am looking forward to the Winter Festival in January ...



CAMRA

THE EAST ANGLIAN RAILWAY MUSEUM!



24th Chappel Beer Festival

at the
EAST ANGLIAN RAILWAY MUSEUM
CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE STATION

Just off the A1124 - near the viaduct
TUESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER
to
SATURDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

"COME ALONG TO THIS UNIQUE LOCATION"

Organised by CAMRA as a Fund Raising Event for the East Anglian Railway Museum

OPEN: Tuesday 6pm-11pm
Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 11am - 11pm
Friday 11am - 5pm & (by Advance TICKET Only) 5.30pm - 11pm

FEATURING: BEERS FROM SMALL LOCAL BREWERIES,
RARE BEERS NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE IN ESSEX,
REAL CIDERS, HOT & COLD FOOD, SOUVENIR GLASS,
ENTERTAINMENT (Saturday Only) - See Website for Details.

ADMISSION: (Before 5pm): Wednesday to Friday £3.00, Saturday £4.00 all day.
(After 5pm): Tuesday & Wednesday £3.00, Thursday £5.00,
Friday Evening (after 5.30) £8.00 (incl. glass) by Pre-Booked TICKET only.
NB: Tickets for Friday evening are valid for Admission from 11am on that day
Tickets via Website www.camra.co.uk/beer or phone 01206 242524 (10am-4pm)

Regular trains from Colchester, Marks Tey, Bures & Sudbury.

www.essex-camra.org.uk/chappel

www.earm.co.uk/beer

OVER 400 BEERS

CIDERS 50+ PERRIES

Friday Evening: No Admission without a Pre-Booked Ticket - No Tickets on the Door

RACS will be visiting on WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8th
leaving The Gate, Sawbridgeworth about 5.30pm
To reserve your place on the coach,
contact Jan Mead on meadspanner@ntlworld.com

The finalist of the Hertfordshire's Beer of the Year award are listed below. Judging will take place on Tuesday 29 September at 6.30pm at the St Alban's Beer Festival.

BUNTINGFORD	Polar Star and Royston Red
GREEN TYE	Hadham Gold and Union Jack
McMULLEN	Cask Ale and Country Bitter
RED SQUIRREL	London Porter and RSX
SAWBRIDGEWORTH	RACS and Selhurst Park Flyer
TRING	Colley's Dog and Side Pocket for a Toad
VERULAM	Clipper IPA and Farmer's Joy

Adrian Jolliffe, **RACS** member and conductor of the De Merc Singers who have entertained us so splendidly at Christmas and Burns' Night events, was involved in a cycle accident in Harlow on Thursday August 5th on his way back home from curry night at the William Aylmer. He collided with a lad crossing the road at the Gilbey's roundabout and whilst not doing him any injury, Adrian fell from his bike and struck his head. The emergency services were very quickly on the scene and he was taken to Princess Alexandra Hospital. He was transferred to the specialist neurological unit in Queen's Hospital, Romford where he was been put into an induced coma to aid the recovery of the brain and reduce swelling. He is likely to be hospitalised for several weeks and until consciousness is restored, it will not be possible to assess what further affects there may be. It may be some time before there is anything further to report.

RACS send him best wishes for a speedy recovery and our thoughts are with his wife, Gail, and the family.

THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL



I was fortunate to obtain four tickets and went to represent **RACS** at the trade day on Tuesday August 3rd at the 2010 GBBF. The first thing that struck us on arrival was the lack of a queue to get in and as we made our way to the entrance it was nice to see a horse and dray outside Earls Court, representing

Thwaites. We purchased our glasses and made our way in, found seating quite easily and made ourselves comfortable. Harry, me, Deb and John were soon tasting our first beers of the day and we were joined by Brian who we have met several times at other beer festivals, including Chelmsford (Winter & Summer) and



The Champion Beer of the 2010 Festival from Castle Rock Brewery, Nottingham: Harvest Pale 3.8%

Bishop's Stortford. Also we met some other members of Chelmsford CAMRA branch. After a while there was a noise of drums beating and we were confronted by the Falmouth steel band in their kilts and the Skinner's singers. They marched around Earls Court singing and parading - led by Betty Stoggs in full dress - it was a very jolly atmosphere. We enjoyed a number of the 500 beers on offer, all in excellent condition, but could not try everything—let alone the bottled beers. We had a excellent

afternoon and were told the full Falmouth band would be there next year - perhaps one not to be missed **Jan**