

RACS

(The Real Ale Club of Sawbridgeworth)

We were founded in 1995 and are affiliated to the Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood (SPBW).

The purpose of **RACS** is to enjoy good beer, visit breweries and beer festivals and be companionable over a glass of decent ale.

It costs £5 a year to join (AGM in May). Meetings are monthly - usually the last Wednesday of the month.

We have a free - almost monthly! - magazine about the exploits of members and Club activities. Generally, it is distributed by e-mail for those who are computer literate, but we can always provide printed copies on request. In the past we have had trips to Ostend, Bruges, Brussels, Lille, and nearer home pub crawls round Cornwall, Great Yarmouth, Cambridge, Ramsgate and Whitstable.

We regularly attend beer festivals at Chelmsford, Ascot (which includes a full day's racing), Ridgewell, St. Albans and Ware. The favourite is always the CAMRA Chappel Beer Festival held in the sidings of Earl's Colne station in early September. Sup your choice from 400+ beers in a railway carriage (or cattle truck!) and wait for the hog roast to be ready. An outing not to be missed.

Come and enjoy the fun. We hope to meet you soon.

*** Rumour has it that another Real Ale Club has recently appeared in Sawbridgeworth. Remember **RACS** is THE original and long-established group. Don't be fooled — or accept second best!*



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RACS

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

AUTUMN 2014



Affiliated to SPBW



Sadly, this year the Tony Littler Trophy was competed for on the monthly RACS evening, so we were unable to send a team.

South Ealing will be under the projected flight path of the Heathrow Third Runway. I am therefore proposing to have a pub crawl in the area to alert residents to what might await them e.g. the end of a peaceful night's drinking and a lot worse besides.

This will be held on Saturday November 29th. The itinerary will be
Rose & Crown 5pm / New Inn 6pm / Castle Inn 7pm /
Red Lion 8pm / Questors Theatre Bar 9pm

I hope as many of you as possible can attend and will pass the word to others. For years we have had to put up with the exaggerations and disinformation from the aviation lobby not to mention the dodgy statistics of Back Heathrow. Time to start fighting back!

London Pub of the Year

The judging is on going. Check out the Blog: <http://spbw.com/lpoty.html>
CHRISTMAS IS HEADING OUR WAY! Even though it is only October many shops are showing signs of the dreaded holiday. What to buy for presents Here's a thought: <http://www.spbwshop.co.uk/shop/>

NATIONAL WEEKEND

This year's National Weekend is based in Huddersfield from 14 – 16 November and is being organised by West Riding Branch. This is a provisional outline of events: **Friday:** hopefully a visit to Mallinsons Brewery in Huddersfield. Also visiting other pubs in the town including brewpubs the Sportsman and Rat & Ratchet as well as highly rated pubs such as the King's Head and the Grove.

Saturday: we will do the West Yorkshire part of the Rail Ale Trail starting from Huddersfield. First to Marsden, home of the Riverhead Brewery Pub where hopefully the brewster can be present to answer any questions. There are other pubs in Marsden too. Then by bus to Slaithwaite for a visit to Empire Brewery; the beers can be sampled at the nearby Commercial Inn. Then by train to Mirfield and Dewsbury and, if time permits, to Batley.

Sunday: to Holmfirth possibly for a visit to the Nook Brewery and its nearby pub; several other good pubs in town. Then possibly to Holmbridge as well, where a new brewery and pub have just opened. Also a visit to the Sair Inn at Linthwaite, one of the oldest brew pubs in UK. Beer here is not often seen outside of the pub and a look in the brewery can probably be arranged.

-51ST ANNIVERSARY EVENT SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

There will be a social to celebrate the SPBW's anniversary at the Rising Sun, 14 Heathcote Road, Epsom KT18 5DX. This is where the Society was founded back in 1963.

The event will be from 12 noon onwards. A buffet will be provided.

The Rising Sun serves Youngs beers and a guest or two. It's about half a mile south of Epsom rail station.

If you want to come along please send £5 to Roger Jacobson (details page 2 of Pint in Hand; cheques payable to SPBW please).

Chair Spencer Richards' tribute to one of our past Chairs

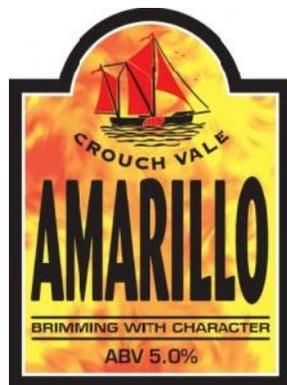
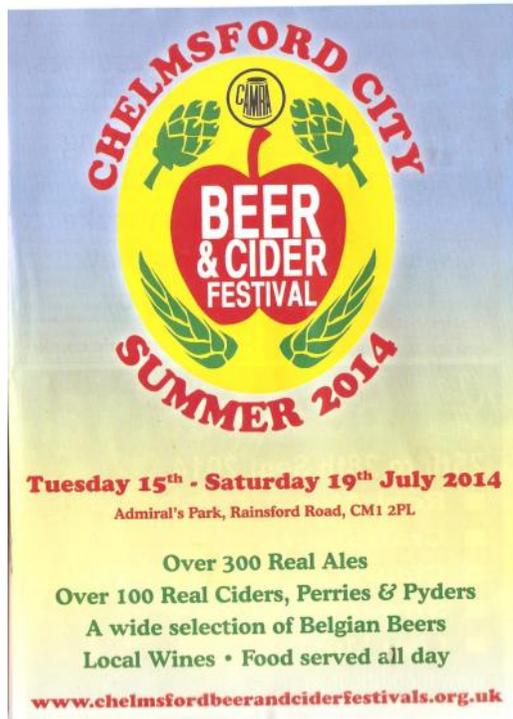
*Unfortunately, **RACS** first Chairman and founder member, Mike Holland has recently passed away. I know that many of you won't know Mike but he was an active member back in the day, Pat will vouch for that. Present at our memorable trip to York many years ago, and with his little 'tache, I remember us ribbing him mercilessly as we kept stumbling into York's gay bars on our first night out. He was an easy going chap with a great love of sport, indeed two of his sons proving quite exceptional in this regard, playing for West Ham and Ipswich and cricket for Hertfordshire amongst others. He moved back home, up north a number of years ago and recently struggled with bad health. We saw him only occasionally in the last few years but will remember him fondly.*

July 2014

A minibus took RACS members to the Chelmsford Beer Festival on Wednesday evening July 16th. It was beautiful summer weather and we soon managed to bag a table and seats, (Jan would have been proud of us!) not too far from the beer tents. There were more than 300 beers and 100 ciders and perries, as well as a good choice of Belgian beers and local wines.

Deb and John brought a couple of boxes of their famous selection of sandwiches, and Caroline produced olives, salsa and breadsticks.

We stuck to beer, enjoying the vast array, sampling *Abbeydale Moonshine* (4.3%), *Bath Ales Summer's Hare* (3.9%), *Bluestone's Stodden Pilsner* (4.4%) *Brentwood's Summer Virgin* (4.5%), *Bristol Beer Factory Independence* (4.6%), *Crouch Vale Amarillo* (5%) and *Boadicea* (4.1%), *Felstar Hopy Hen* (5%) *Oakham Gangster* (4.9%), *Helter Skelter* (5%), *Improbability* (3.9%), *Inferno* (4%) and *Thornbridge Jaipur* (5.9%).



CHELMSFORD PUB CRAWL

Saturday August 16th

On a bright sunny morning, Deb John and Caroline set off (wheelchair in tow) to catch buses to Chelmsford. We got off at the Chelmsford Bus Station, amid hordes of teenagers off to the V Festival in another part of town, and went into the Ale House, underneath the arches of the railway. A splendidly wide selection of beers confronted us and we began sampling. After a couple of pints we caught the bus to Lower Anchor Road (not far from the cricket ground) and despite the appalling pavements, John valiantly pushed the wheelchair to The Orange Tree and then, after a few sandwiches and pork pies to support the "inner man" we made our way to The Queen's Head. We caught the bus back to the Bus Station and visited the Railway Tavern, which was busy, but we found seats and John checked the football results. Then on to The Plough which was just over the road and after a pint or so we walked to The Royal Steamer.

We finished with a pint in the Ale House before catching the buses back to Sawbridgeworth. A good day out with excellent beer in every hostelry we tried.



The 2014 LOCAL PUB of the YEAR is The Orange Tree, Chelmsford. (above).

The 2014 'CIDER PUB of the YEAR is The Ale House, Chelmsford. (above).



The Queen's Head

The Railway Tavern



The Plough

The Royal Steamer



Sunday September 7th Woodbine, Waltham Abbey
ALE SAMPLING SOCIETY



The Downtown Brewery in Wiltshire grew from a research and development branch of the already famous Hopback Brewery.

Our brewer of the evening, Martin, told

us how he had begun his training with Fuller's and was a lab technician for 11 years. He then began his association with Hopback. Downtown Brewery is now an independent producing a large selection of ales year-round and at least four seasonal ales.

Our five beers to sample were Dark Delight 5.5%, Honey Blonde 4.3%, New Forest Ale 3.8% (this brewed to rival Marston's Ringwood), September's special brew Thirst XI 4%, and the August/October seasonal special German Pale Ale 4.2%. All the beers were fresh and enthusiastically imbibed by the RACS and CAMRA members present.

The food, as always, was enjoyed and many thanks go to Rob and his father for their hospitality.



An Autumn afternoon with Felstar Brewery
Saturday September 27th



*Marcello Davanzo,
known as Franco*



A CAMRA-organised minibus full of eager drinkers set off for Felstead,

Essex on a super late summer afternoon. The brewery and established vineyard, taken over in 2001 by brothers Marcello (Franco) and Guiseppe Paolo), is found at the Old Bonded Store of Felstead Vineyard, which is the oldest commercial vineyard in East Anglia.

Sitting in the grounds we drank beer straight from the barrel at £2 a pint and red, white, and rosé wine at £2.50 a glass. To accompany these beverages we had freshly-cooked, delicious pizza from the authentic wood-fired pizza oven which has been built next to the brewery. We sat comfortably on hay bales to drink our beer and were investigated from occasionally by several free-range chickens — there were also a flock of turkeys in a pen behind the brewery building.

Members from other Essex CAMRA groups joined the fun, watching jovial Franco driving his amazing home-constructed brewery dray round and round in the yard, allowing others to try their hands at the wheel. A tour inside the brewery showed how inventive Franco is with him adapting and creating equipment.

We sat until the sun went down and then on our way home dropped into The White Horse at Stebbing for a final nightcap.

