

THE BANKES ARMS BEER FESTIVAL

August 2009

Six of us had planned to go to the Bankes Arms Beer Festival in the heart of the Purbeck Hills between Poole and Swanage. Jan, Harry, Debs and I had been before, but it was a first for Peter and Ann. They had decided to stay at the Bankes Arms for the duration of the festival, but “the famous four” were to be there only for the weekend. We set off at 2.00pm on Friday afternoon, hoping to avoid the rush. Disaster struck a mere two miles away, outside Eastwick the engine died and refused to restart.



The AA were with us in 15 minutes and towed us back to Sawbridgeworth where fuel pump trouble was diagnosed. Very expensive! So Jan picked up her car and in a short space of time we were back on the road again. The M25 was horrendous and it wasn't until after 8.00pm that we arrived at our accommodation, where we dumped our bags and set out for some much needed refreshment. First stop at the Duke of Wellington, where they had five real ales including *Summer Lightning* — the first two or three pints hardly touched the sides after the awful journey. The Duke of Wellington does very good food with fresh fish caught in Poole Bay featuring, so we ate there and had a few more before retiring to bed.

On Saturday morning we were up for breakfast bright and early (in fact so early that I got my hair cut before 9o'clock). Peter came and collected us at 11.00 to go to the beer festival.



When we arrived the usual marquee was there with 150 real ales, 30 ciders and perrys, a special Pimm's bar and a barbecue — not forgetting the extensive menu from behind the bar. The Bankes Arms is also a brew pub

with five of their own ales on tap. After a brilliant afternoon, it was time to get our bus back and spruce up before going to an Italian (complete with accordionist) restaurant on the quay at Wareham.

On Sunday we had a wander round Swanage before heading to Sawbridgeworth — a much easier journey!

For those of you interested in going there in the future, it is a stunning setting with views across Bournemouth Bay, there is a website:

WWW.BANKESARMSBEERFESTIVAL.COM

Maybe see you there next August?



High Wych Tomato Competition



Many months ago we were asked whether we would like to purchase some competition tomato seeds for the heaviest 3 tomatoes from Gary at The Rising Sun at High Wych which we duly did. We found that many other **RACS** members had done so too. The months passed and the tomatoes were looked after, fed and watered. Time passed until the Sunday arrived to enter them into the competition . There were many entrants and the excitement grew— the betting was fast and furious and at one point Harry was made favourite! The tension mounted until the time was up, entries were closed, and the winners could be announced.

The results were in reverse order and names were read out. From Anna and James in last place up the ladder the list went — Mark Sears name was read out, then next were Lucy and Peter Evans. Harry was getting very anxious by now since most of the names had been announced. He came second!



A great afternoon's fun was had by all and the proceeds go to the High Wych Village Hall.

We are looking forward to next year where the rumours are the competition crop will be Horseradish!

Watch this space.....*JAN*

