

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 beer.

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!**



2014 is the 20th anniversary since **RACS** began

RACS

The Magazine of the Real Ale Club of Sawbridgeworth

January/February 2014



Affiliated to SPBW

YOUR RACS COMMITTEE 2013-2014



JAN MEAD
Chair
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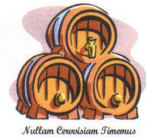
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**APPLICATION FORM for MEMBERSHIP
of**

THE REAL ALE CLUB OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH

to May 2014

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
and INCLUDE a subscription of £5 per person per year.**

NAME:.....

ADDRESS.....

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

CONTACT NUMBER, please:

Telephone or mobile.....

or fax or e-mail.....

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



2013 was an excellent year for the SPBW, celebrating fifty years with many events across the country and even our brethren in the USA put on a good show. A good year for highlighting the Society and gaining new members.

Let us hope that the campaigning spirit continues into our next fifty years.

Our AGM is scheduled in March. You will remember that our past Chairman, Mike Hall, passed away this year.

We need to elect a new Chairman so feel free to contact the Secretary with your details. All other posts are there and we always do need extra members on the Committee to help with campaigns and organisation. Please do consider helping us continue our work.



This year's SPBW AGM will be upstairs at The Horseshoe in Clerkenwell Close at 7.00pm on Monday March 10th 2014. This pub was in the GBG 2012 and now has 4 hand pumped beers (Harvey's Best, Sharps Cornish Coaster, Jennings & Sam Brooks) – a buffet will be provided. This room holds 60 and has a separate committee podium, so everyone should be able to see and hear, and they also do a good buffet so hopefully that will be better than last year.



Sunday December 1st 2013

Beer-tasting at The Woodbine

Yet another splendid session at The Woodbine Ale

Tasting evening and

the brewery featured was the Colchester Brewery, which started up about two years ago..

The brewery is at Wakes Colne (close to the station site of the wonderful beer festivals) and they use traditional brewery methods and a double drop fermentation. The yeast used is a 1956 strain and they pride themselves that a different type of water is used for each separate brew.

Tom the brewer is an enthusiastic person with plenty of “get up and go” ideas for the future of the Brewery and one will watch with interest how it all develops.



SUNDAY JANUARY 5th 2014

Beer-tasting at The Woodbine

The 10-barrel plant in E10 was the result of a great deal of

thought and a fair whack of hard graft. Stuart and Claire started thinking



about it all seriously when they were expecting their second child; Stuart was increasingly disenchanted after 20 years as an industrial chemist and Claire was

contemplating several months of maternity leave. They say there is nothing like the sleep-deprived insanity of a new baby to warp one's better judgement and by February 2011, they had made the leap, had no jobs between them, a two-year old, a four-month old and – as if that weren't enough – also an embryonic micro-brewery. The resulting beers we tasted were brilliant — good, interesting and complex flavours, which we as (CAMRA & **RACS** & SPBW) members) heartily recommend.



Sunday February 2nd

Another month, another new brewery. This month we were introduced to Simon Tippler who has opened up a brewery in Chelmsford, the first since Grays ceased their brewing in 1974.

With such an appropriate surname, he can't fail to win. Simon started off with home brewing, using brewing kits in his garden shed. From here he could create 25 litres of beer at a time and got to know the noble art of brewing by trying out different recipes. After three years of researching and experimenting Simon felt it was time to take a step up and move into real commercial brewing. He made his debut at the Chelmsford Winter Beer Festival 2013. These days he brews 250 litres at a time — but is looking to increase this very soon. When he first bottled his beers his long-suffering wife stuck the labels on by hand, but they have now invested in an automatic labelling machine! We tasted :

Shim 4.4%, Friction 4.7%, Roller 4.8%, Vortex 3.5% and the Winter (Christmas) edition Stout 5.5%.

These were accompanied by the usual tasty meal, this evening a breast of chicken with potatoes, carrots and beans. It was another splendid evening.



RACS



WILL YOU BE OUR NEXT CHAIR?

RACS AGM WEDNESDAY MAY 28TH 2014

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

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John (and Deb)'s Jaunts

CORNWALL EXCURSION 2013

which included two breweries, a beer festival, a kilted gentleman of the road, a ferret and a peek at Nude Fest 2013...read on

Deb and I had made our usual pilgrimage to Falmouth for our Autumn visit to include the Skinner's brewery and the Falmouth beer festival. Because of my shift pattern, I had a couple of extra days and so we decided to stay in Porthleven Harbour, just outside Helston for two



nights at the Harbour Inn. It is a St Austell pub and as such we had Tribute, Trelawney and H.S.O. to drink.

Also in Porthleven we found the Atlantic bar with its view across the bay and a really fantastic selection of beers, which ranged from Skinner's, Bays, Chough and, to me the find of the holiday, Penpont

Brewery. Based in Liskeard (only *just* in Cornwall), everywhere we tried their beers they were superb.

While we were in Porthleven we took the short bus ride into Helston and the Blue Anchor, legendary home of the Spingo brewery. We tried Middle 5% abv, Floral Daze 4%abv and Jubilee 4.5% in the historic and atmospheric, classic pub. After a fabulous meal in the hotel (Smoked haddock chowder) we retired.

Suitably refreshed the next morning, we again headed for the bus, this time we were going further West — Penzance, Newlyn and Mousehole

were our targets. Penzance came up trumps and we found two gems: The Turk's Head and the GBG-listed Admiral Benbow, which has to be the most (in a nice way) cluttered



we have ever been in. All the nautical decorations are from various shipwrecks and it really has to be seen to be believed - oh! and the beer was good as well, from Dartmoor Brewery. The Turk's Head was more food orientated, but no less atmospheric. They had Betty Stogg's



4% and Penpont Cornish Arvour 4%. Once back in Porthleven we went to the opposite side of the harbour, where we had Skinner's Porthleven 4.8% at The Ship Inn.

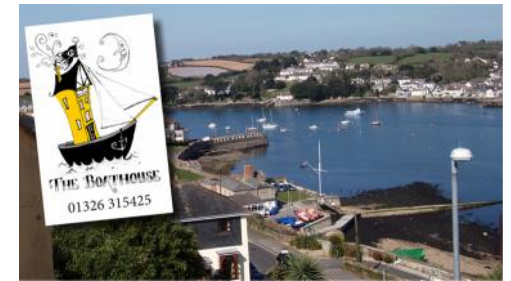
Saturday came and we moved to our home for the week in Falmouth. We couldn't get

into our flat until 4pm, so we just parked up for the week and went into town. First to the Wetherspoon's and had Hook Norton Flagship 5.5% and then Cornish Chough Kynance Blonde 4.2%, before heading for the Flushing Ferry and the Seven Stars. There we had Skinner's Porthleven and Knocker 4.5%, as well as Cornish Sunset 4% from the Rebel Brewery, Penryn.

Once back in Falmouth and settled in our flat, which has fabulous views over the harbour, we headed down into town and our favourite pub, The Front bar, Cornwall's Pub of the Year and justly so, with up to eight beers on offer, mostly on gravity, as well as many real ciders. We had Bay's Happy Daze 4% and Castle Gold from Tintagel at 3.8%. On the way back to the flat we stopped at The Star and Garter for a couple of nightcaps - Black Rock 4.8% and Dartmoor Legend 4.4%, both from Rebel Brewery.



Sunday dawned with torrential rain and strong winds. We had planned to get the ferry across to St Mawes, but by the time the rain had cleared and the skies were blue all the ferries had been cancelled for the day!. So we headed back to the flat and the pub right next door, The Boathouse, for a Spire Brewery Sgt Pepper Stout 5.5% and one of the best cheeseboards of exclusively Cornish cheeses we've ever had. So tired and happy we traversed the 10 yards home to bed.



In the next instalment we take in Skinner's brewery and the fabulous Falmouth Beer Festival.