

# 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 600+ 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.



*Nullam Ceuvisiam Finemulus*

# RACS

**The Magazine of the**

**Real Ale Club of Sawbridgeworth**

**JUNE 2012**



**Affiliated to SPBW**

# YOUR RACS COMMITTEE 2012-2013



**JAN MEAD**  
Chair  
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**RUFF RICHARDS**  
Mascot



**SPENCER RICHARDS**  
Vice-Chair



**CAROLINE MACY**  
Secretary  
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**ANN DODKIN**  
Committee Member



**KEITH CAVES**  
Treasurer



**MARK TURNER**  
Webmaster  
[www.racs.org.uk](http://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 2013

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:**.....

.....  
.....

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

**CONTACT NUMBER, please:**

**Telephone or mobile**.....  
**or fax or e-mail**.....

**SIGNATURE:**.....     **Date**.....



Fleet Lions  
"Beer Olympics"

18 August, 2012

*Fleet Lions' sixth annual beer festival will be a gold medal winning event!*

\*\*\* TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW \*\*\*

We've lined up some lively (and not too loud!) acoustic sets from a couple of local bands for you this year.

[NRGLivemusic](#) are playing the lunchtime session.

**Matt & Sally Squibb** are playing the evening session.

Andy Johnson has deigned you a very special commemorative glass for this Olympics year ([www.andyjohansonart.com](http://www.andyjohansonart.com))

28 Real Ales + Local Ciders + BBQ

The sixth Fleet Lions' Beerfest will take place on Saturday 18th August 2012 at the Ancells Farm Community Centre

Fleet, Hants GU51 2XF Hampshire GU51 2XF.

As usual there will be two sessions:

lunchtime, from 11.30 - 3pm,

evening, from 5.30pm - 9.30pm.

- and we hope they're both sold out - they nearly were last year!

Purchase tickets in advance £6.00 (£7.00 on the door) subject to availability.

Including A VERY SPECIAL commemorative glass designed by

Andy Johnson, [www.andyjohansonart.com](http://www.andyjohansonart.com)

## SPBW ANNUAL TRIP AWAY

**Friday November 16<sup>th</sup>** -

Frodsham brewery 7.00 cost £20 including hot food. Train from Chester, then we will need to go to the brewery by taxi - approx 2 miles, shared cabs should not cost too much.

**Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup>** -

Northern brewery cost £15 including cold buffet and then either hired or public transport to local pubs - if we hire a vehicle this charge will be advised & collected on the day.

**Sunday November 18<sup>th</sup>** -

Pub trips around Chester.

*If you wish to book your place please send*

*John Rooth, GfK NOP Business & Technology, Ludgate House, 245 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 9UL a cheque made payable to SPBW for £35 as a deposit.*

## Buffet Event

**SPBW are holding a Beer & Buffet event on Monday August 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Old Mill tree,**

**Ely Place/Hatton Garden, Holborn EC1.**

**This commences at 7.00pm, the food will be served about 8.30pm.**

**Tickets are £5 from John Rooth**

*(SAE to John Rooth, GfK NOP Business & Technology,*

*Ludgate House, 245 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 9UL and cheque*

*made payable to SPBW, or by reservation [john.rooth@gfk.com](mailto:john.rooth@gfk.com)).*

**This is an excellent Fuller's GBG pub, with guest beers.**

**We shall have use of the upstairs room in this famous and historic hostelry.**

## The Gibberd Garden



The fifth annual beer festival run by CAMRA and the Gibberd Garden Trust was held over the weekend of June 16th/17th. The weather was as kind as one could hope for in this long, wet summer. Sunday, Father's Day, saw a splendid story telling, a treasure hunt with the prize being a cuddle of a gorgeous baby ferret and a wonderful selection of beers and ciders from independent small breweries - all from a 50 mile radius.

An event to be highly recommended to those who have not yet discovered the pleasures of this venue.

# Anitas

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## SUMMER TRIPS

Contact Viv or Hayley on 01279.661551  
or [anitas.coaches@btconnect.com](mailto:anitas.coaches@btconnect.com)

Thursday July 26th

Clacton/Walton

Adults £13.50/OAP/Children £12.50 (2-5 years £7.50)

Thursday August 2nd

Colchester Zoo

Inc entrance — Adults £23.50/OAP £19.50/  
Children £18 (under 3's £5)

Tuesday August 7th

Great Yarmouth

Adults £19/OAP £17.50/Children £15 (2-5years £10)

Friday August 10th

Disco Ice-Skate, Chelmsford

Inc entrance — Adults £13.50/Children £13.50

*(Should trips be cancelled for lack of interest, any monies will be refunded)*

Ivan Bullerwell, the CAMRA Herts & Essex Borders Pubs Officer, has told **RACS** about a new publication that HEB have produced – “Beer Necessities”. It covers, in detail, pubs in the area. Copies of the first edition have been distributed to local Sawbridgeworth pubs. Items from **RACS** would be considered for inclusion.

# **RACS AWAYDAY TO CAMBRIDGE** **Saturday May 26th**

*(thank you, Mark, for the photographs)*

At last the Christmas trip to Cambridge went ahead, albeit that only eight **RACS** members came on the train, but a good day was had by all. Although it was the last day of the Cambridge Beer fest on Jesus Green, we only visited a few good pubs with excellent Ale — The Live and Let Live, The Cambridge Blue, The Radigan and the Kingston Arms. The weather was perfect, hot and sunny, so there was no excuse but to keep drinking to keep cool... roll on the next trip. **Jan**



## 2012 RACS AGM Wednesday May 30th in The Old Bell, Sawbridgeworth



### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

*(given by Jan and it was written in big letters in case Jan forgot her glasses)*

"Welcome to everyone at the **RACS** 2012 AGM. Thank you to The Bell for letting us hold it here.

This has been a difficult year for **RACS**, we started the year at the original home of many years, The Gate, but numbers of members started to dwindle, then our discount was cancelled for no apparent reason – they claimed that members were not using it, but we know that was not true as members took advantage at meetings, socials, quizzes and at other times. The Committee held an emergency meeting and we canvassed members to see what they wanted and it was decided to try other public houses. We started off at George IV, where we saw several members we had not seen for some time; then it was the White Lion and we have now has two meetings in The Bell. All have made us very welcome and members are increasing once again. We have lost a few members – but that is their loss. We are now looking forward to build up our numbers. Recent trips have not been successful, but we are hoping to get new interest in our new venues. We are not forgetting the Rising Sun or The Queen's Head, Allen's Green, both have been refurbished and are looking great.

**RACS** have supported SPBW at their AGM and the annual Tony Littler Trophy. We are still hoping to hold our Summer Show over the August Bank Holiday weekend – the venue to be announced later. As a club we still have items at The Gate – a hostess trolley, *bain marie* and notice board. The rest of the stock, collage and display cabinet are in our possession. I am thanking my Committee wholeheartedly for their support through a difficult time and although we lost our Treasurer earlier in the **RACS** year through illness, he is always with us in spirit and will never be forgotten!

Many thanks to Pat for seeing to the accounts for the year.

There are no amendments to the Constitution this year.

So let's raise our glasses firstly to Nicholas's memory and then to the future of

### **RACS"**

**Spencer** then took the chair for the start of the elections and stood to make a speech ("*Nothing to do with me*" said *Christie*).

"Hello, nice to see you all... Well, it's been an interesting year one way and another for us here. A lot of change, unforeseen, unwanted. First of all, I would like to personally honour our late friend Nicholas Macy. Many things Nick, our Treasurer and resident Liberal, former Chair of the Council,

Campari consumer extraordinaire, cricket-loving, all round good chap. I,

and I know a lot of you have some great memories of fun times with Nick, trips at home and abroad. So on behalf of the club, raise a glass to one of the long-standing members, friend and good man.

Another big change this year, has seen the club move away from its roots, The Gate pub, and move round the village for the first time in an official capacity. The reasons for this are many and I am not going into those again. Personally I am amazed that the club stayed put for so long and for the club it makes sense if we are to grow and thrive to spread our wings and message and really be The Real Ale Club of Sawbridgeworth. That is the spirit that we should embrace and not get embroiled into silly feuds and nonsense.

**MORE** change. I for one got married and another **RACS** member is about to, so no longer Miss Trip but **MRS**. All the best for the future H.

So thanks:

to Jan and Caroline, two indomitable women who hold this club together for founding members like myself to get on with the real business of beer...!! Thank you for all that you continue to do, Caroline especially in what has been a difficult time

to Debs and John, for all your stuff

to Mark for being the techno guru behind the scenes

to all the rest of the Committee, what has been an interesting year and for steering the club through those choppy waters.

So, we are still here, despite all that weather, life and governments can throw at us – that, my friends, is worthy of a beer... Cheers

All the Committee were prepared to stand for re-election and the following positions were filled with a unanimous show of hands:

**Jan Mead** Chair

**Spencer Richards** Vice Chair

**Caroline Macy** Secretary

**Hannah Mead** (soon to be **Mrs Gadman**) Trip Secretary

**John Trimmer** and **Deb Eaton** Merchandising Officers

**Mark Turner** Webmaster

**Ann Dodkin** Committee Member

**Pat Lewis** Auditor

**Ruff Richards** Mascot (he took this lying down!)

The meeting welcomed **Keith Caves** as the new Treasurer