

# 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!**



*Nullam Cerwisiam Timemus*

# RACS

**The Magazine of the  
Real Ale Club of Sawbridgeworth  
MAY 2013**



**Affiliated to SPBW**



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**SPBW ONLINE SHOP:**

Work is still progressing on this and it (<http://spbwshop.co.uk/>) should be live soon.

In the meantime, if you require any of our products, contact Bill English - [products@spbw.com](mailto:products@spbw.com) - for details.

**NATIONAL WEEKEND:**

This year's event will be from 1st – 3rd November, based in Derby. We have arranged a visit to Marston's brewery in Burton on the Friday evening. The rest of the weekend will include a trip to a smaller brewery and some rural pubs in the area, plus a tour of some of Derby's many excellent pubs.

**THE LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

All SPBW branches and individual members based in the London area are invited to nominate their favourite pub in Greater London (one per branch/member only); please contact Bill English for a nomination form. Note we cannot consider any pub unless a nomination form is submitted. Closing date for nominations is 9 June. Judging will be done through the summer and early autumn with a view to deciding the winner by the end of October. If you want to help with the judging please let Bill English know.

**PINT IN HAND:**

The latest issue of PiH should be dropping on your doorstep very shortly. The Editor does an excellent job with this long running and much loved magazine. He is always on the lookout for interesting little stories, facts, titbits etc. especially concerning branches. Please do get in touch with him if you have anything you think he would be interested in publishing.

**FORUM:**

Our discussion Forum is a great place for interesting news, chat, reviews, games (<http://www.spbw.com/bb/games.html>). We do like to hear what our branches are getting up to so, if you are a branch member, make sure someone is keeping their branch section up to date. Then again, if there is no branch near you it is ever so simple to set one up. Just contact John Rooth - [secretary@spbw.com](mailto:secretary@spbw.com) - for details.

Remember, this is our 50th anniversary year and we are organising many events over the year - as are many branches. Feel free to jump on the band wagon and organise in your area. Details here - <http://www.spbw.com/2013.html>

**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**.....

.....

.....

.....

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

**CONTACT NUMBER, please:**

**Telephone or mobile**.....

**or fax or e-mail**.....

**SIGNATURE:**.....

**Date**.....

**RACS MEMBERS** Jan, Harry, Deb and John made their way to East Stratton, between Basingstoke and Winchester, on the Saturday morning of this year's May Day holiday to visit a real ale and cider festival at the The Northbrook Arms. Situated in a very pretty village where the pub is the hub of community life, doubling up as the village shop, space for a playgroup, restaurant, tearooms, B&B and also they hold car boot sales in the courtyard. The latter could lead to a larger farmers' market in the future. The pub is in the centre of the village, opposite the village green where the real ale festival was housed. There was a varied musical line up throughout the festival, mainly local bands from Rock to country music. Piddle Brewery had its own stall which had Cockey Hop, Piddle, Milk Streets and Funky Monkey ales. Other breweries featured were Otter Brewery, which had Seville Bitter, Otter Bright, Otter Bitter, Otter Head, Otter Ale, Otter Dark and Otter Amber. Alfred's Brewery produced Wessex Legend and Saxon Bronze. Plain Ales of Salisbury were selling Sheep Dip, Inspiration, Arty Farty, Incognito, Innulgence, The Wife's bitter, Inn the Sun and Inntrigue. Sharp's were also there with Sharp's Special, Doombar, Ice Ale, Sharp's Own and Junipeurs [a beer with a slightly Gin taste - it was lovely]. Another Brewery

was Flack Manor, they had Black Jack Porter, and Flack Catcher. Last but not least were Bowman Ales with Swift One, South Sea Spice and Quiver. All the beers were in excellent condition, with a good cider stall, a bouncy castle for the children and a local sausage man cooking excellent sausages. We had a great day. The camping, the festival and the pub are well worth a visit. As we awaited breakfast on Sunday morning we could hear the Last Post being played outside the pub. We wondered why until the landlord explained, "We do not

have a cockerel to wake up the village on a Sunday morning..." Albeit the landlord and landlady with their young family have only been running the pub for a year, they have gone from only two hand pumps with real ale to seven with a variety of local ales always on. Thank you to John and Millie our hosts for a super festival. We are already awaiting next year's dates! Nearby is the Wavercrest Line RAT real ale train, there has always been a togetherness with Real Ale and steam and this line goes ten miles from Alresford to Alton where there is a connection to South West trains, There are at least 16 pubs to visit on this line!



## FINE ESSEX ALES



On Sunday May 5th nine RACS members and 2 CAMRA members took the minibus to The Woodbine Public House, Waltham Abbey, for a "Meet the Brewer" evening. It was the first one I have been to, although other RACS members had attended a few previously. This evening the featured

brewery was Crouch Vale and Ollie the Brewer produced a quiz of *Guess the Beer?* There were five ales to recognise and getting four out of five, I thought we did quite well. The cost of the evening included a meal and five pints which were included in the price. We all had a great

night and I can heartily recommend the venue and event. **JAN**

## RACS AGM for 2013

Don't forget that this year's AGM is on Wednesday May 29th at 8.00pm in The Old Bell, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth. This is your annual opportunity to change the current Committee, offer to serve on the Committee or make suggestions for the future running of the Club. We look forward to seeing you there.



The Half Moon

9th Anniversary  
Beer Festival  
April 25th —  
April 28th 2013

## BEER LIST

Adnams	Adnams Bitter	3.7%	Mauldens	Silver Adder	4.2%
B & T	Fruit Bat	4.5%	Oakham	Bishops Farewell	4.6%
Blue Monkey	BG Slips	4.0%	Oakham	Green Devil IPA	6.0%
Brentwood	BBC2	2.5%	O'Hanlons	Stormstay	5.0%
Brentwood	Chockwork Orange	6.5%	Oldershaw	Great Expectations	4.2%
Buntingford	Twitchell	3.8%	Orkney	Golden Amber	4.5%
Cairngorm	Black Gold	4.4%	Orkney	Wayfarer IPA	5.0%
Colchester	Metropolis	3.9%	Purple Moose	Snowdonia Ale	3.6%
Cumbrian	Langdale	4.0%	Purple Moose	Ysgawen	4.0%
Dark Star	American Pale Ale	4.7%	Quantock	Will's Neck	4.3%
Fynes Ales	Jarl	3.8%	Red Squirrel	Hopfest	3.8%
Fynes Ales	Sublime Stout	6.8%	Salopian	Golden Thread	5.0%
Great Oakley	Welland Valley Mild	3.6%	Salopian	Hop Twister	4.5%
Green Jack	Golden Best	3.8%	Salopian	Shropshire Gold	3.8%
Green Jack	Ripper	8.5%	Tring	Mansion Mild	3.7%
Green Jack	Trawler Boys	4.6%	Young's	Young's Special	4.5%
Hammerpot	Bottle Wreck Porter	4.7%			
Highland	Pale Ale	4.7%			
Little Valley	Hebden's Wheat	4.5%			

A minibus-load of 14 ~~RACS~~ made the journey to Hitchin on Saturday April 27th in order to take part in Howard and Wendy's 9th Anniversary Beer Festival. When we arrived, at about 12.15, the pub was already buzzing and the staff behind the bar — Amy and Amanda — were fully occupied serving, despite Moon, the pub dog, sprawled across the floor in a position not designed to help the girls negotiate him easily!

We settled down quickly and got our first pints in, chosen from the 35 festival beers, ciders and Howard's usual

stable accompanied (as *hors d'oeuvres*) by a plate of Wendy's super plate of three cheeses, a selection of biscuits, and pickle.

There was a wonderful range of beers (*see list above*) all sourced and chased personally by Howard, from all over the UK. The Highland Pale Ale from Orkney was a very good example of where Howard knew EXACTLY what he wanted and refused to be fobbed off by distributors with something else of a similar name but the wrong abv! Every one of the beers was in tiptop condition, but Eleanor and I did decide



8 that Brentwood's BBC2 at 2.5%abv would not be one we'd drink again...



Although some of us ventured out, between showers, to view the Saturday market, most of us remained entrenched in the Half Moon until the



mini-bus came to collect us at 6.00pm. We were home in an hour, having had a really enjoyable, boozy day. Thank you to Howard and Wendy for providing such a welcoming venue and such good food and beers — and we are looking forward very much to their next event.



## GIBBERD GARDEN, HARLOW CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL

Saturday/Sunday June 15th and 16th  
12pm to 8.00pm (last entry 7.00pm)

**Admission:** Adults £4/Concessions £3/  
Children 6-16 £1/ Children under 6 Free

35 beers, ciders and perrys supplied from  
small, local, craft breweries in  
East Anglia and London

*On Sunday there will be a Treasure Hunt, Games and a  
Story Teller for the children*

On Friday evening May 3rd RACS and BMADS were to be found jointly celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the founding of SPBW with a *Meet the Brewer Evening*, which featured Brentwood Brewing Company. Sophie the brewer, gave a good, lively talk about her stock beers and her experimental Elephant School range.

Then she came and sat with us giving a chance to ask questions and go in depth about her plans for the future. Among the beers we sampled were the After Eight (8.3%ABV) brewed with coffee beans, Green & Black cocoa powder and mint tea bags! Other beers included Mild 3.5%, Burton Ale 4.8%, made with Burtonised water and English Goldings hops, Red Riot made with rye malt and caramel and Blonde 4% which uses Austrian hops and gives a citrusy flavour to the beer.

Many thanks to Jan and Deb who provided a splendid buffet, to Jan who organised the raffle and Tony who hosted the evening at the BMADS club in Harlow.



Clockwise: Jan does the raffle; Tony serves in the outside marquee; RACS members enjoying the beer; Sophie, the Brentwood brewer (on the right) joined the drinkers and answered questions about her brewing techniques

