

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

RACSO

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

Spring 2014



Affiliated to SPBW

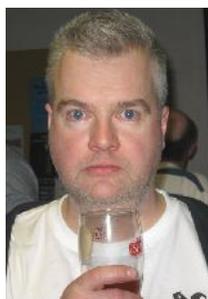
YOUR RACS COMMITTEE 2013-2014



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ROXY MANTON
Mascot



SPENCER RICHARDS
Vice-Chair



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Committee Member



KEITH CAVES
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HANNAH GADMAN
Trip Secretary



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**APPLICATION FORM for MEMBERSHIP
of
The Real Ale Club of SAWBRIDGEWORTH
to May 2015**

**If you wish to join or renew your
Membership of **RACS**,
please fill in this form, in BLOCK CAPITALS,
then send to Caroline Macy,
9, Knight's Court, Knight Street,
SAWBRIDGEWORTH, Herts CM21 9BW
and INCLUDE a subscription: £5 per person per year.**

NAME:.....

ADDRESS.....
.....
.....

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

CONTACT NUMBER, please:
Telephone or mobile.....

or fax or e-mail.....

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



RACS were represented at the SPBW AGM which was held at the Horseshoes public house at Clerkenwell in London. Tucked away in the corner of the street

the venue was a very deceptive pub — it was like walking into Dr Who's Tardis: it looked quite small from the outside but opened up into a large bar and large function room upstairs. We were kept well fed and watered with Sharps Cornish Coaster and Doombar and Young's bitter. Well done to Alasdair for acting as chair during the evening for the meeting .



After the AGM on Monday March 10th the new committee is:
Chairman: Patrick Deller
Vice Chairman: Alasdair Boyd
Treasurer: Jim Woodcock
Secretary: John Rooth
General (7): Pint in Hand editor: Roger Jacobson,
Membership: Roger West, Branch Liaison & Products: Bill English, Technology & Communications: Mark Hutchinson,
Wood Liaison: Garry Wiles also Ken Davison and John Dearing; at the moment Bill is doubling up on two positions, so we will discuss in committee the apportioning of administrative roles.

Our co-opted R&D consultant Dave Samuel has resigned — so if anyone is interested in this position please let John Rooth know as soon as possible.



Beer Festival at The White Lion, London Road, Sawbridgeworth.

Report by Jan and Harry

The White Lion March Beer Fest was held at the pub from Friday 28th February until Sunday 2nd March. We went on Saturday lunchtime and it was very comfortable sitting next to six firkins of beer in the corner. Some beers were on handpumps on the bar and there was a wide choice to suit all tastes, including a good range of Green King beers - IPA and IPA Reserve, Abbot Ale, Trial 2, and White Lion Ale. There was also Milestone Rich Ruby, London Particular, Maulden's Black Adder, Truman's Runner, Potbelly Brewery Crazy Daze, Adnam's Southwold Bitter, Crouch Vale Yakima Gold, Red Squirrel Hopfest, Brentwood Blonde, Double Hop Monster, Oakham's Inferno and Nelson's Trafalgar. It was a very pleasant lunchtime. Well done to Jason for sourcing a wide range of Ales!



Queen's Head, Allen's Green

On the 2nd of March Me, Nanny, Mummy and Grandad went to the Allen's Green Pie competition and we all entered a pie. I entered two and they were Strawberry, Raspberry and Pear and the other one was a Raspberry, Pear and Apple! My mum entered a

Cheese, Bacon and Onion pie and Nanny entered a Leek, Potato and Cheese pie. It was the fourth year of the pie competition and it seemed like the biggest one yet! I think there were about 28 entries which took up a huge table.

The man judge came dressed as Nigella! The judge had finally decided the winners: for the Best Presented Pie the winner was Karen, for the Worst Presented Pie the winner was Leslie, for the Furthest Travelled Pie the winner was David, for the Pie Most Like It's Owner the winner was Rufus. The 1st prize was won by Richard, for 2nd prize the winner was Robbo and for 3rd prize the winner was Magenta.

Report written by Lucy Gadman



**15TH CHELMSFORD
WINTER BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL**
19-22 February 2014

Central location five minutes walk from Bus and Train Stations
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300 REAL ALES, OVER 50 CIDERS & PERRIES
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Opening times
Wednesday 19th February 5pm - 11pm
Thursday 20th February 12 noon - 11pm
Friday 21st February 12 noon - 11pm
Saturday 22nd February 12 noon - 11pm

Admission
Consuming CAMRA members receive Free entry
Non-members admission
Wed Free entry
Thu Sat Free entry before 6pm
After 6pm Thu £3, Fri £3 & Sat £3
Volunteers give support £3

www.chelmsfordbeerandciderfestivals.org.uk

Wednesday February 19th 15th Chelmsford Winter Beer & Cider Festival

A small, but valiant group, of **RACS** set out on the opening night of the beer fest in Chelmsford. To our delight the two beer halls were relatively uncrowded and Jan, true to form, found seats for us at a table on the stage. As is so often the case these days, £10 beer cards were the

currency for the evening and the beers were selling for about £3 a pint.

There was a splendid selection of beers, and to our pleasure, there were good choices of pale beers among the darker winter brews. To make sure that we sampled as many beers as possible, we all opted to drink halves — a bit more leg work for Harry and Mark, but they're young and fit! Beers were supplied from dozens of breweries throughout the country, alphabetically from Abbeydale, Sheffield to Yorkshire Heart, Nun Monkton, and there were more than 50 ciders, perrys and pyders (apple/pear mixed cider) on sale. A really splendid choice all round.

Looking at the food other people on our table bought, it did appear to be an interesting variety and good value for money, but the wonderful and traditional sandwich box provided by Deb and John takes a lot of beating.

A fest to be recommended and remembered for next year.



Wednesday 19th February – Saturday 22nd February 2014

Back to his roots.....

On a recent visit to Norfolk to visit our friend Sid we found out that The Blackfriars brewery has been taken over. And as many RACS members who came on our seaside visit to Yarmouth will remember, we went to a local pub with Big John in charge and he looked after us very well.

We first met this gentle giant of a man many years ago when we camped at the Grange at Caister where he worked behind the bar,. It was a great surprise when we popped into the Grange hotel /pub to find John now running this great real ale pub with the old pool room dedicated to polypins of real ale. It is well worth a visit if you are in the area.....A great array of real ale on offer and with a discount of 10% if you show your CAMRA card.



RACS AGM 2014

**in The Old Bell, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth
on Wednesday May 28th at 8.00pm**

**This is your chance to volunteer to sit on the
Committee(!), renew your subscription — still only
£5 per person per year**

AND

**to say farewell to Jan and Harry who are off to the
delights of Devon**



Woodbine ASS Trip 06.04.14

On the first Sunday of the month the Woodbine Pub in Waltham Abbey holds its Ale Sampling Society or ASS for short. The idea being that each month a brewer is invited to give a talk about his or her brewery and beers. We sample five of their featured ales and enjoy a substantial supper all for £20.00 (5 pints), what could be

better! There was another reason for going in April, but more of that later.

The brewery that was showcased this month was the Felstar brewery from Felsted. The brewery opened in 2001 with a five barrel plant and is based in the old bonded warehouse of the Felsted Vineyard.

The brewer was Franco, originally from Venice in Italy, and it soon became apparent how passionate he was about his craft. The beers tried were Felstar bitter 3.6% with maris otter and goldings hops, and old Essex 3.9% which was a darker beer with hints of caramel and a dry finish. We then had a short break for supper which in view of the brewer's origin was spaghetti bolognese!

The third beer was tried was light burst 4% with pale malt and American hops including citra. The last two were stronger red devil 5% a reddish lager which takes three months to brew and goodnight 5% a sweet beer made from nettles.

The other reason from going to the Woodbine, as well as serving great beer, it won the local Camra branch best cider pub of the year for Herts. and Essex borders. The certificate was presented by Brendan Southcott, local branch chairman to publican Rob Chapman. Rob said "we try and support all local ciders brewers, especially London Glider, and hope to extend our range in the future".

Brendan praised Rob for promoting real cider and said "there has been a new revolution in small cider makers and such cider is now the new drink to drink!"

The ciders on offer were:

London Glider medium dry 7%

London Glider dry 7%

London Glider Perry 8%

London Glider crab apple cider 7%

Wibblers brewery Dengie dry 5%

Congratulations to Rob and the team at the Woodbine for a brilliantly organised evening as well as their well deserved award and a big thanks to Franco for an entertaining talk and lovely beers.

Chris Sears



**JUNE:
NEWARK DAY TRIP**

West Riding branch is organising a day trip to Newark on Saturday 19 July and all SPBW members are invited to join them on a tour of the town's best pubs.

Meet at the Sir John Arden (Wetherspoon), 1 Church Street, NG24 1DT (corner of Marketplace) from midday (or earlier if you like!). Graham Hewitt will provide maps and pub details and folks can go round as they please - too many people to be going to the same pubs all at a set time and some may want to visit more pubs than others.

Contact Graham for further information: 0113 2624574 or graham-hewitt@tiscali.co.uk

REPRESENTATION AT BEER FESTIVALS (2014)

SPBW Stalls at the following:

Kidbrooke festival (May 1st - 3rd) - Charlton RFC

Ealing Walpole Park July 2nd - 5th.

Bromley fest Club Langley 2 Hawksbrook Lane Beckenham BR3 3SR (September 18th - 20th)

Wallington. Usual Venue Wallington Hall Oct 16th - 18th.

NATIONAL WEEKEND

This year's National Weekend is based in Huddersfield from 14 - 16 November and is being organised by West Riding Branch. More details on the Events page - <http://www.spbw.com/events.html>

Deverell's Brewery Evening at The Woodbine, Waltham Abbey on Sunday May 4th

Yet another informative and social evening with a brewer — this month Ben Deverell from Deverell's brewery in Grays, Essex. A RACS/CAMRA group of eight members enjoyed their evening outing. Some of us had on the previous day visited Ben's brewery tap, The Traitor's Gate, in Little Thurrock. Ben turned his hobby of home-brewing into a business in 2012 after he was made redundant and he now brews 10 casks per brew. He brought with him to The Woodbine, Greg, who helps with distribution — and drinking the beer! We tasted AU79 at 4%abv, a golden beer and Hot Blonde 4%abv, both these have a Maris Otter hop



Ben Deverell speaking to his audience at The Woodbine on Sunday evening

base. Then we had Aleman 4.6%abv, followed by Ben's two favourite beers. Redemption 4.5% a red beer, based on an Irish recipe using American hops and the finishing pint was a much-acclaimed Dark Side at 4.8%.

