

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
SUMMER 2013**



Affiliated to SPBW

YOUR RACS COMMITTEE 2013-2014



JAN MEAD
Chair
meadspanner@aol.com

who were unanimously voted
back in at the AGM in May



ROXY MANTON
Mascot



SPENCER
RICHARDS
Vice-Chair



CAROLINE MACY
Secretary
cj43@intosawbridgeworth.co.uk



ANN DODKIN
Committee
Member



KEITH CAVES
Treasurer



MARK TURNER
Webmaster
www.racs.org.uk



HANNAH
GADMAN
Trip Secretary



DEB EATON JOHN
TRIMMER
Merchandising Officers



* Saturday July 27th

Wantz branch trip to Macclesfield: this was a popular destination for the branch 30 years ago and still great for pubs; we'll be visiting small selection of these and sampling some of the local microbrews in company with our SPBW friends in Cheshire and hopefully others (West Riding are coming). Meet at the Treacle Tap, Sunderland Street (250 yards south of rail station), from midday. Contact Roger Jacobson for more details if you're interested.

at editor@spbw.com.

* Monday August 12th

Beer & buffet at Ye Olde Mitre Ely Place Holborn EC1 7.30pm – food at 8.30 £5 tickets from John Rooth cheque payable to SPBW.

* Saturday 24 August - North Dudley Pub Crawl

11am The Old Swan, Netherton leaving at 11:35.
Then The Park Inn, Woodsetton - The Beacon Hotel, Sedgley - The Bull's Head/Mee's Thai - Crispins, Gornal.
Possibly some of The Britannia - The Black Bear - The Fountain - Five Ways all in Gornal
Finishing at The Old Bulls Head, Gornal fairly late.
A multi company day anywhere Bus Pass is useful, as The Old Swan is not near the rest.

Rod Richmond needs to know numbers and can be contacted on rod@aleaficionado.co.uk 0771 208 2608

* On Saturday September 21st Campden Hill are organising a pub crawl of Hampstead –starting at Lunchtime –probably 8 pubs –details to be announced.

*September/October

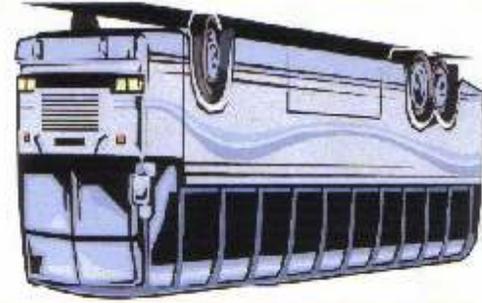
TITANIC TRAIL - A one day tour of Titanic Brewery's 7 pubs, in and around the Potteries area, is in the early planning stages. This would be on a Saturday in September or October. It would start from the Bull's Head in Burslem (the brewery tap) around midday and probably last most of the day. Cost to cover coach hire would be something like £10 - 15 depending on numbers. If you are interested and think you would be able to come along please let Roger Jacobson editor@spbw.com know as soon as possible

01279 661551

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1. The one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends: Boxing.
2. North American landmark constantly moving backward: Niagara Falls .. The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.
3. Only two vegetables that can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons: Asparagus and rhubarb.
4. The fruit with its seeds on the outside: Strawberry.
5. How did the pear get inside the brandy bottle? It grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.
6. Three English words beginning with dw: Dwarf, dwell and dwindle...
7. Fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar: full stop, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation mark, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.
8. The only vegetable or fruit never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh: Lettuce. (OK, I know these days it's sold in pre-shredded packs but does that really count as processed - only for the pedants)
9. Six or more things you can wear on your feet beginning with 'S': Shoes, socks, sandals, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.

ANSWERS to QUIZ page 7

Monday August 12th – Beer & Buffet at Ye Olde Mitre, Ely Place, Chancery Lane (Hatton Garden. Holborn) – excellent Fullers pub, with several guest beers, winner of SPBW London pub of the year 2013. Famed for its hospitality and warm welcome - tickets £5 for buffet, which is always good value here. This is the day before the GBFF starts at Olympia so why not come down a day early or for the weekend.

Thursday October 17th -50th Anniversary social in the pub where the SPBW was formed in 1963 –The Rising Sun, 14 Heathcote St, Epsom. From 7.30pm - tickets £5 to include a buffet. Please reserve at john.rooth@gfk.com



NEWS from SPBW

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.....

ANNUAL BEER FESTIVAL

run by **CAMRA**



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

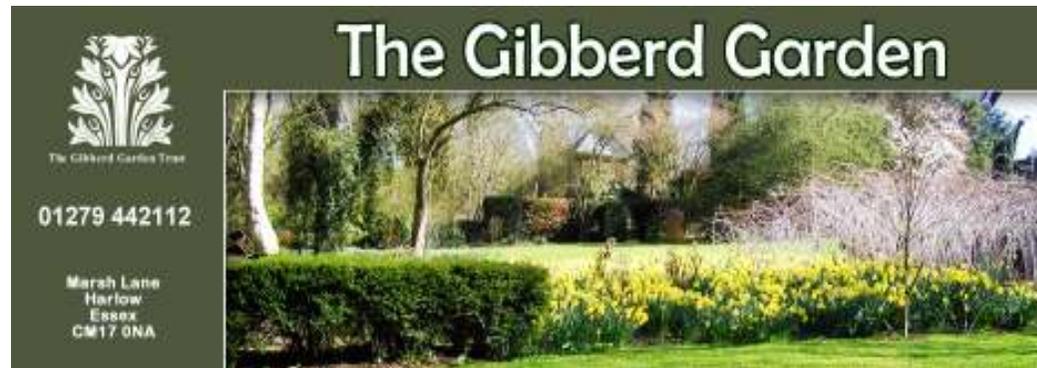
**Herts & Essex Borders Branch &
The Gibberd Garden Trust**

Sat & Sun 15th & 16th June 2013

There were over 35 beers to sample, plus ciders, and on Sunday there was free entertainment for children with a superb story teller, a treasure hunt, a splendid colouring competition and other games.

The admission charges included access to the whole Garden and there were two large marquees to protect visitors from the weather, which were very valuable on Saturday afternoon when the heavens opened for a spectacular thunderstorm.

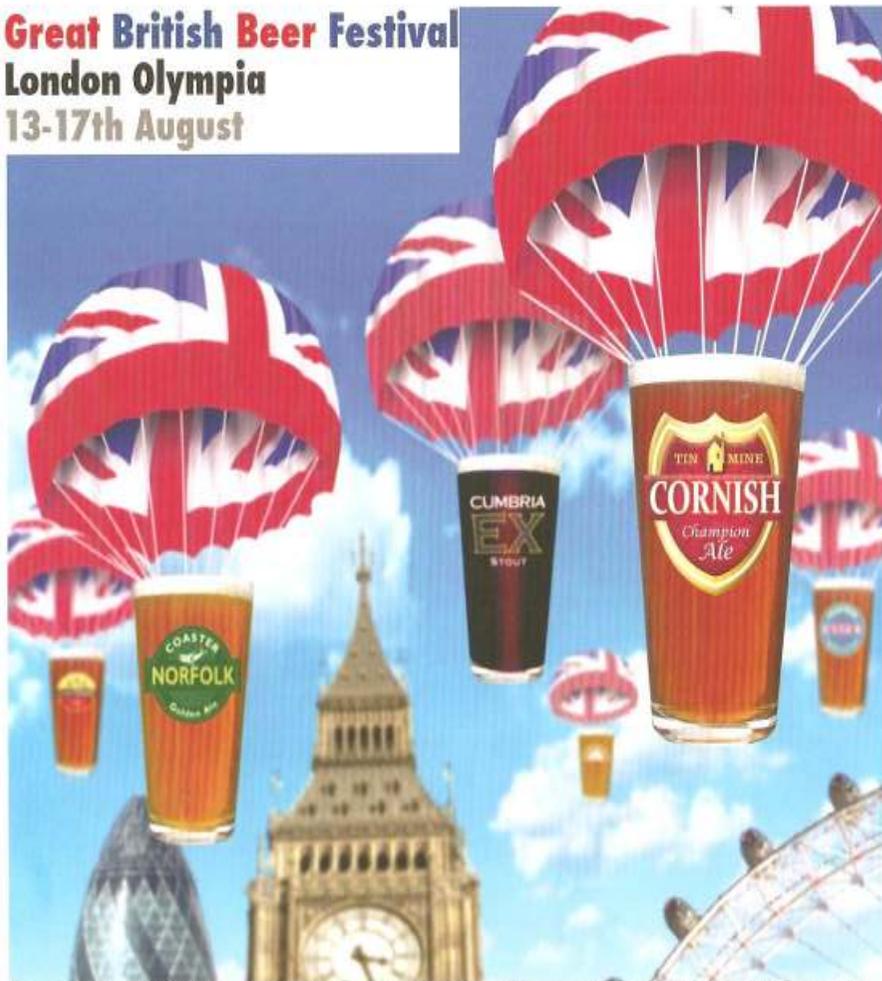
It was a great opportunity to visit & explore the tranquil and unique Gibberd Garden, whilst enjoying some of the finest ales and ciders,



RACS were all sad to hear of the recent death of SPBW's Chair Mike Hall and send their deep condolences.

Stalwart Members are so valuable to any organisation and Mike will be missed very much by SPBW.

Great British Beer Festival
London Olympia
13-17th August



The 2013 Great British Beer Festival returns to Olympia and is expecting approximately 55,000 people to visit the event over the five days of the event. With over 800 real ales, ciders, perries and foreign beers to choose from there is plenty for both the experienced and inexperienced visitor to enjoy but it is not all about the drink. There will also be plenty of different food to purchase and music to listen and relax to. If the music does not interest you then there are plenty of old traditional pub games to play, but these can be very popular! So if you see a spare alley, table or 'Shut The Box' going free then make the most of it whilst you can! CAMRA is always looking to recruit new members at the festival and always offers some great membership packages. So if you have been meaning to sign-up for some time then visit the Membership Stand.

www.gbbf.org.uk

Festival Opening Times:

Tuesday 13th August – 5 pm – 10:30 pm

Wednesday 14th to Friday 16th August – 12 Noon – 10:30 pm

Saturday 17th August – 11 am – 7:00 pm

Entry £10 per session £8 CAMRA members.



27th CHAPPEL
BEER FESTIVAL 2013
Tuesday 3rd September
from 5.00pm to 11.00pm.
Wednesday to Saturday
4th to 7th September





Minutes of the 200th Meeting – the 2013 Annual General Meeting

held on Wednesday May 29th 2013 held in The Old Bell,
Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth

Meeting began at 8.14pm (by Harry's watch)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Proposed: H. Mead

Seconded: K. Caves

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

None

4 CHAIR'S REPORT for 2012-2013

No amendments were requested for the Constitution this year so **Jan** signed the one for 2013-2014, then summed up the past year:

*"Welcome to RACS AGM 2013, our 200th meeting being held at The Old Bell, Sawbridgeworth. Firstly, I must thank the Bell for letting us hold our meeting here! This has been a difficult year for RACS, but we have held the Club together through these times, although we lost a few Members, the majority have stuck with us, trying to build the strength of the Club again. It has worked going to a different venue each month and I thank The White Lion, The Bell and The George IV for their hospitality. Although we have not had many trips, we have tried to keep the costs down by using a minibus on a first come, first served basis and we had successful outings to Chappel, Ascot, Chelmsford and Hitchin. We have also celebrated the SPBW 50th Anniversary at the Burnt Mill Snooker Club with a "Meet the Brewer Evening" – and a thank you goes to **Tony** for sharing this venue with us. RACS have been socially active with both SPBW and CAMRA.*

*I thank the Committee for their work over the past year – **Caroline** for keeping the paperwork in order and producing RACSQ, **Keith** for cooking the books, **Spencer** (when he was with us) for wielding the gavel, **Deb & John** sorting the merchandise, **Turn** for his Webmaster duties, **Mrs Trip** and **Ann** for support and not forgetting **Pat**, who audited the books.*

Remember, you as members are the most important for supporting and keeping the Club going. So let us look forward to the coming year and raise our glasses in a toast to RACS"

5. TREASURER'S REPORT & ACCEPTANCE of the ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Total club funds on 29th May 2013 = £594.38 plus the value of merchandise held by **John** and **Deb**.

Sale of Lloyds Bank Assets

As you may be aware, the sale by Lloyds banking group of some of its assets, as directed by the EU, has been called off. Apparently the Co-Op bank got cold feet and decided it did not want to buy the assets after all. The intention expressed by Lloyds is that the assets earmarked for sale, of which the RACS account is one, will now be floated on the

London Stock Exchange as a stand alone new bank to be called the TSB bank.

Watch this space!

6. ELECTIONS for 2013

All the Committee were prepared to stand for re-election and the following positions ("two-legged variety first" said Eleanor) were filled with a unanimous show of hands:

Jan Mead Chair

Spencer Richards Vice Chair

Caroline Macy Secretary

Hannah Mead Trip Secretary

Keith Caves Treasurer

John Trimmer and **Deb Eaton**

Merchandising Officers

Mark Turner Webmaster

Ann Dodkin Committee Member

Pat Lewis Auditor

The position for Mascot was contested by **Ruff Richards**, **Roxy Manton** and **Oshie** and **Waggle King**. Voting was:

Ruff – no votes

Roxy – 13 votes

Waggle & Oshie – 2 votes.

Therefore **Roxy Manton**, a golden

Labrador who will be flying into the country in a few weeks, was elected Mascot for the year 2013-2014

7 TRIP UPDATES

It was agreed that the annual trip to the Chappel Beer Festival in September would still be on – numbers permitting.

A trip to the Brentwood Brewery was requested.

Peter Manton said there was talk about holding a floating beer festival with 12-15 real ales at the Marina on tourist boats. More details when available.

8. MERCHANDISE

Jan said there was stock with the old logo which was being sold off at knockdown prices – umbrellas and pens went quickly and **Harry** was allowed enough pocket money to buy a shirt..

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Keith said how good the SPBW event was and thanked **Jan** and **Deb** and **John** for the food and commented on the splendid selection of beers. **Jan** said she had written to thank **Tony** and sent him a copy of RACSQ with a write-up of the event.

Keith also thanked **Mark** for renewing the RACS website and getting it at half price. ("I threatened to move it" said **Mark**. "Can I get **Mark** to negotiate a rise in my pocket money?" asked **Harry**)

Audited accounts for 2012-2013

Continued overleaf →

Peter and **Kerry** said they were looking forward to a summer of real ale drinking. **Caroline** mentioned the Summer Show schedule – see end of these Minutes. It will need to be confirmed, but hopefully it will be held in The White Lion, as last year. She also read out a missive from Spencer:

Typing this in a caravan near Paris in the pouring rain.

Please accept my apologies for not being there, a much needed holiday has taken precedence. A couple of things...

I am willing to stand again if anybody still wants to have me! And Ruff is as well.

Please could you read this short statement!

"Can I thank our dynamic duo, Jan and caroline, for all their work, their unfaltering enthusiasm, and just damned good work in keeping our little society going, in whatever is going on, personally and with us all.

Thank you, personally and behalf of all in the club."

Thanks!! Off to buy wine and supplies...

Micc thanked the Committee for doing the work, so that he didn't have to!

Peter Dodkin said **June 29th** was the **Cambridge Blue Street Beer Festival** – and that it was well recommended for a good day out.

Hannah asked if there would be a visit to Allen's Green, **Jan** said certainly.

RACS

13th SUMMER COMPETITION SCHEDULE

(2013)

CATEGORIES

1. **Heaviest Onion**
2. **Three Onions from a set**
3. **Jar of Jam**
4. **Jar of Pickled Onions or Shallots**
5. **Jar of any other Pickled Vegetable**
6. **Brown or White Loaf of Bread**
7. **Loaf of Speciality Bread**

JUNIORS

Bake & decorate a Gingerbread person

To take place on Sunday August 25th — entries midday, judging 1.00pm. Venue to be confirmed, but hopefully at George IV, Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth

Quiz for Bright People!

This is a quiz for people who know everything! These are not trick questions. They are straight questions with straight answers.

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backwards?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. One can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name six or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'

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