

SOCIETY for the PRESERVATION of BEERS from the WOOD

(founded 1963)

The original beer consumer organisation

PINT in HAND

Number 127

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August 2013



Mike Hall 1946 - 2013

FIFTY YEARS



1963 - 2013

PINT in HAND

- ***Pint in Hand*** is published quarterly, in February, May, August and November. It is issued to all subscribing members and affiliated branches of SPBW.
- All members are invited to contribute articles for publication on beer-related subjects. Contributions for the November 2013 issue should reach the Editor by **25 October**.
- The Editor or the National Executive Committee of SPBW does not necessarily share opinions expressed in *Pint in Hand*.

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Anyone reading this that is not already a member of SPBW might like to know that annual membership costs only £5 (£6 non-UK). For information about SPBW together with a membership form, please send a stamped addressed envelope to the National Membership Secretary as above or visit our website.



MIKE HALL

Mike Hall, NEC Chairman since 2011, died suddenly at the end of June. Mike was originally elected to the NEC as Vice-Chairman in March 1998 and served as deputy to Chris Callow for 13 years before ascending to the Chair.

Mike was a career civil servant, spending most of his working life in the Department of Trade & Industry in its various guises. He was also a member of the Civil Service Club – he was on its committee for many years – and it was there that he was recruited to the SPBW by Richard Graham and Sue Hart. Subsequently he joined Campden Hill branch, which he also went on to chair.

Mike participated in just about everything we did at national and local level; he rarely missed the opportunity to help out when we ran stands at beer festivals and was a regular member of the judging team for the London Pub of the Year competition. As NEC Chairman he was always concerned about the need to move the Society forward by recruiting ‘younger blood’. Mike was a stalwart to the SPBW for many, many years, and many of you will know him, as he was renowned for his friendliness, and approachability, and his inclusiveness. Whereas some organisations suffer from a cliquishness or insularity, Mike ensured that the SPBW projected our sociability.

Amongst Mike’s many social hobbies were jazz, (long term membership of Ronnie Scott’s and the Pizza Express – this continuing just for the pizza, long after the jazz element had gone), cinema (Mike was an expert on films of an older genre), cricket and the inland waterways; he enjoyed a canal boat holiday most years. In his spare time he also managed to donate his blood on well over 100 occasions.

Mike would be happy to talk to just about anyone, so that no one ever felt left out of any social occasion. He would often approach total strangers, with a hopefully ingratiating opening gambit. On one occasion in the Wenlock Arms he asked a local girl, “when is it due?”, much to her annoyance as she was merely a little overweight, rather than pregnant. Many people nationwide recall conversations with Mike, although recollection of their own input into it is a little sketchy.

On a Campden Hill trip to the Severn Stars, Mike freely availed himself of the free bar nibbles, before the proprietor Roxie Beaujolais pointed out to him that they were actually snacks put out for her numerous cats. This was not Mike’s only problem with cats: sharp eyed readers will note the plaster on his drinking hand on the cover photo, masking his wounds following a close encounter with the sharp-clawed Willoughby Arms moggy.

Mike always tried to keep in touch with modern technology: laptops, mobiles, E-mail and messaging, but was something of a technophobe, often regaling us with the difficulty of interfacing with the home power supply and the problems with his dangle.

Mike had the reputation for being somewhat garrulous and a grumbler at times (especially when the price of beer went up or his train was late) but this shouldn’t distract from the fact that he was basically a really good bloke and

one who championed the rights of the individual against the overbearing conglomerate mechanism of modern society, representing the interests of civil servants, pub goers, real ale drinkers (he had been a CAMRA Life member), pensioners, and transport users amongst others.

We'll remember him as one of the most unfailingly polite and courteous people we have known, who would always help out a friend in need.

*With thanks to John Rooth, Bill English (who took the cover photo),
Richard Graham, Alasdair Boyd*

At the time of writing we are still awaiting a date for Mike's funeral; when this is known we'll put the word out via the usual channels.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Following Mike Hall's death, Alasdair Boyd has stepped up to the NEC Chair in his place. The SPBW NEC holds its regular meetings on the second Monday of each month, starting at 7 pm or thereabouts, in the **Royal Oak**, Tabard Street, London SE1 4JU. If possible we use the upstairs room (it's quieter but further from the bar).

These are strictly business meetings, but they are kept as brief as necessary. All members are welcome to attend, particularly branch representatives.

NOT REALLY OPENING TIME

Once again I'm pressed for space although it's very sad that there has to be two obituaries of good friends and SPBW stalwarts in this issue. Happily there are plenty of events to report as our 50th Anniversary gathers momentum. So if you've contributed articles that have yet to appear in these pages – thanks, and I'll try to fit them in whenever I can. At the time of writing I'm sweltering in ideal beer drinking weather; hope you're enjoying the summer.

Roger

Articles on beer/pub related issues for Pint in Hand are always welcome! Contributions to the Perfect Pub Page and Last Orders features (both of which have been absent of late) in particular, as well as responses to editorials and articles. If sending articles by email it would be very helpful if they are in Arial plain 12pt, single spacing with absolutely no formatting! Pictures should be in JPG format. Thanks.

Some back issues of ***Pint in Hand*** are available:- numbers 46; 49; 86-114; 116-126. These can be obtained from the Editor (address on page 2) in return for 15 second class stamps to cover postage for the full set. If you don't want the whole lot, send enough stamps you think may cover costs.

Most issues from 90 onwards can now be found on the SPBW website, in PDF format.

NATIONAL WEEKEND 2013

This year's event will be from **1 – 3 November**, based in Derby. We have arranged a visit to Marston's brewery in Burton on the Friday evening; a Saturday morning trip to Derwentio brewery near Derby, followed by a tour of some rural pubs in the area; a Sunday tour of some of Derby's many excellent pubs; and a stop off in Leicester on Monday to round things off. If you want to come along, please send a deposit of £30 to John Rooth (cheques to SPBW please). This covers the two brewery tours (including food) and part of the cost of coach hire.

LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR

These pubs have been nominated for the 2014 competition:

Blythe Hill Tavern, Forest Hill; **Calthorpe Arms**, Bloomsbury; **Dog & Bell**, Deptford; **Duchess of Cambridge**, Stamford Brook; **Eleanor Arms**, Bow; **Fox & Anchor**, Smithfield; **Grape & Grain**, Crystal Palace; **Green Dragon**, Croydon; **Harp**, Covent Garden; **Hope**, Carshalton; **Old Fountain**, City Road; **Royal Oak**, Borough; **Star Tavern**, Belgravia; **Willoughby Arms**, Kingston

Four former winners as well as four first time nominations among that lot. Judging began in July and the final reckoning will be on 23 October: the winner will be announced in the next issue of PiH and via the usual e-media. Also look out for the usual indulgent but highly entertaining blog on our website.

BEER & BUFFET & BEER FEST

The latest eve-of-GBG B & B event will be on **Monday 12 August** at Ye award-winning **Olde Mitre**, SPBW's current London Pub of the Year. If you receive this issue in time and want to go, tickets are £5; please contact John Rooth.

If you are at the GBBF on the **Thursday**, come and meet fellow SPBW members at the CAMRA information stand at 7.00 and 8.00.

OUT AND ABOUT

Once again we ran a stall at the Ealing beer festival in early July. Our location was far from ideal but we still managed to recruit a few new members and sell some stock; thanks to all those who helped out or came and said hello.

We also hope to run stalls at the Wallington (10 – 12 October) and the former Beckenham festival, now the Chelsfield, Orpington Beer & Cider Festival, Friday and Saturday 25 and 26th October at Westcombe Park Rugby Club. We always welcome volunteers to help out as this is a very useful way to recruit new members, sell products and generally publicise the SPBW. Contact John Rooth if you'd like to help out.

ALAN RISDON 1937 – 2013

We were very sad to hear that Alan died on 15 May after a long battle with bone marrow cancer. Alan originally joined SPBW in 1965 and he became well known in the Society after he joined Wantz branch in the mid-80s. He was quiet spoken with a dry sense of humour, but never afraid to express strong – and well-judged – opinions. By this time he had adopted a fairly bohemian dress style and was renowned for never wearing socks in any weather; by way of contrast he attended at least one major SPBW function sporting two ties! In an article in PiH 100 Alan gave this account of how he came to join SPBW:

“Whilst continuing the increasingly difficult search for pubs offering the proper stuff, a move of work location to the City in 1965 proved to be a turning point. I entered a dry cleaning and laundering shop in Queen Victoria Street one day to deliver a box of soiled and collect one of collars re-dressed by Collars of Wembley. At the end of a short queue stood a gentleman with a seriously beer-stained dress shirt over his arm. I could not help attempting to open a conversation which ran roughly as follows:

“Must have been quite an event”

“Indeed, I don’t remember much about the end of it”.

“I get a distinct aroma of Worthington”.

“By gad, you’re right! Do I detect a member of the SPBW?”.

“Afraid not, but what the hell is the SPBW?”.

“Ah! I just happen to have an application form in my back pocket. Just complete it, stick in an envelope and address to ‘Arthur Millard, c/o The Bank of England’ that will find me”.

He was now at the head of the queue and, upon handing over the said shirt, bade me farewell.”

Having been made redundant Alan decided to retire to Cumbria and acquire an HGV licence. The second part of this plan was scuppered when he was stopped for drinking and driving on the way home from his last Wantz meeting. Nevertheless he settled happily in Ambleside where he had a long involvement with the Golden Rule pub, being joint licensee at one time. At the same time he was very active in local CAMRA, helping to produce local beer guides and organise beer festivals, ending up as Life President of the Westmorland branch. He was also named as one of CAMRA’s top 40 beer campaigners. The remarkable number of breweries in Cumberland is surely a testimony to his efforts. Sadly he was unable to prevent the closure of Hartley’s brewery, whose beers he revered. He still found time to come along to SPBW National Weekends as long as his health allowed; he was always good company. Among Alan’s other main interests were the Isle of Man and the TT races and steam railways.

Alan is survived by a daughter – to whom our condolences – and also leaves behind countless friends and drinking companions. I consider it a pleasure and privilege to have known him - he was one of the genuine good guys.

RJ

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Back in August 1983, one of the 'lead articles' in PiH was to acknowledge the Scottish method of serving draught beer by air pressure; previously the SPBW's stance was to reject the use of 'gas or air pressure dispense'. Funny how these issues drag on. There was a report on the 3rd inter-branch quiz contest (a forerunner of the Tony Littler Trophy) held at the Windmill in Tabernacle Street, London EC2, a popular SPBW venue around that time, and won by Woolwich branch. There was a detailed account of the second National Weekend, based in Skipton and including a visit to Goose Eye brewery, which appears to be still operating, if not in the same location. Elsewhere in a varied and substantial issue was a brief history of Wantz branch, which had just celebrated its 100th meeting; and introduction to the short-lived North Devon branch, plus Richard Graham's feature about Campden Hill branch's then meeting place, the Victoria & Albert Bar on Marylebone station, the first bar on a London rail station to have handpumps restored. The V & A still serves draught beer though Campden Hill has long moved on.

Ten years later, PiH 47 carried two obituaries: David Hewson (Central London) and Steve Johnson (West Riding). We had been carrying out a survey of 100 British breweries about the use of wooden casks and the results ('The Wood Report') were now available to members. The 1993 National Weekend had been held in Devizes again although the brewery visit had been to Ushers, at the time an independent concern but doomed to be closed in 2000. The report of the NW was written by Geoff Coke who had just stepped down from the NEC after three years as Branch Liaison Officer. The Perfect Pub Page (remember that?) featured two classic pubs from the Lake District: the Watermill at Ings (contributed by Alan Risdon) and the Crown at Hesketh Newmarket. Happy to report that both are still thriving. Andy Whitley's travels had taken him to the other side of England, to Hull. I was surprised to see a reference to Hull Brewery, which I thought had been closed – indeed, the original was, in 1985, but the name was revived, albeit fairly briefly.

The cover of the August 2003 PiH was graced by a portrait of Pam Curtis's guide dog taken, like the photos of human beings on the back page, at our stand at the GBBF. This was the year of our 40th anniversary and numerous events were taking place, such as a skittles match between Coate and Special branches at the New Inn, which also hosted a beer festival in June; and Central London's Picnic, Proms and Pints day, spoiled, inevitably, by inclement weather. My roving reporters had covered many parts of the land, not least the Lake District (again), Derbyshire and Lincoln.

STANDING ORDERS

Members can now renew their membership by standing order if they wish. This does mean that you can only renew by one year at a time at the going rate. A link can be found on the standard renewal form.

SPREADING THE WORD

We regularly produce a publicity leaflet for SPBW incorporating a membership application form. Some of you may even have joined us having picked one up! We put these leaflets in friendly and obliging pubs but we would like to spread them as wide as we can, especially outside the London area. If you can help us with this, please let Roger Jacobson (page 2) know and a bundle of leaflets will be sent. Thanks to those of you who have already helped in this way.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you want to receive up to the minute news about SPBW events, you can get this information in the comfort of your own PC monitor. Send your email address to John Rooth and he will add you to his circulation list. We promise that your email details will only be used for the transmission of SPBW material. Also, when events and news are published on the website you can be notified direct to your email by signing up for a FREE notification service on the news page. Go to: <http://spbw.com/news.html> and go to the 'Monitor changes' box in the bottom left corner.



The Holy Inadequate, Etruria (see page 13)



The Sultan, South Wimbledon (see page 9)

BRANCHES IN ACTION

Campden Hill branch was much saddened by the sudden death of its chairman Mike Hall. We suspected a problem when he missed our July meeting, and the consequences were as dire as we had feared.

In happier times, back in May, we met in the Hole in the Wall at Waterloo. This place looks a little run down but the half a dozen cask beers are usually in good shape, this time including Hogsback, and Oxfordshire. The food in there seems to have improved as well. We then moved to Lower Marsh and La Barca, an excellent (if expensive) Italian restaurant, with walls adorned with photographs of the Old Vic thespians.

In July we undertook a 4 pub Hammersmith tour. The Albion had two beers on, including Caledonian Gold. Similar beers were also in evidence at the Swan (Nicholsons) and the William Morris (Lloyds), both of which had at least 8 beers on hand pump. The final port of call (as it overlooks the river) was the famous Fullers pub the Dove, which had a live band – unusual for a Monday night. Our annual away day was in Salisbury. Forthcoming events include a meal at Ozer, Monday 19 August (Meet Argyll Arms 7.00) and our anniversary crawl in Hampstead on Saturday 21 Sept (see page 17).

Kingston members managed to make two beer festivals on one day over the May Bank holiday weekend! We started off in the wonderful Hope in Carshalton - a cooperatively-owned and run pub. We then moved a few hundred yards down the road to the festival at the Windsor Castle. Another pub with plenty of room in the garden and various ales on stillage in a separate room.

On 19 June we visited South Wimbledon starting at the Sultan. This Hopback pub has reduced beer prices on Wednesdays until 9pm. It was a warm evening, so we all sat outside in the garden. We then moved on to the Trafalgar which had some Clarence and Fredericks ales. When we enquired, we were told they are brewed in Croydon. Wimbledon is a handy venue for the group with good rail connections.

On Thursday 4th July a few from the branch visited Ealing beer festival, arriving in early afternoon to secure a table and chairs. Is there a better beer festival in London? Not for the past few years anyway. Brentwood breweries had the tasty BBC2 ale on offer. It was only 2.5% alcohol. Saturday 20 July was the Kingston group outing to Alton (see page 15).

Next up for the group - after the monthly meeting in The Willoughby and a brewery trip to Windsor - is Woodies beer festival in New Malden. This is held on the site of the old Fyffes banana sports field. The pub was formerly the pavilion. There is usually plenty of room and a big marquee with the stillage. The joys of an English Summertime!

As part of the 50th Anniversary the **Northern Ireland** branch is making a concerted effort to increase membership by targeting cask ale outlets with special membership forms giving a £1 discount to new members. If anyone would like to help us then the forms can be downloaded at the SPBW NI website: <http://www.spbwni.co.uk> (continued page 12)

MEET the BRANCHES

We have 18 affiliated branches and details of these are listed below. We always encourage members to join a local branch and get involved with its social activities. Most branches would appreciate new members so you can expect a warm welcome. Branches tend to be fairly informal, meetings being free of boring bureaucracy.

We're delighted to welcome a new branch, North Irish Sea, and basic details are below. Hopefully, we'll hear a lot more about this in future.

If you don't have a local branch, why not start one? Bill English, (Branch Liaison Officer, address on page 2), will be pleased to tell you what you need to know.

BMAD: Meetings held first Thursday of each month at the **Burnt Mill Snooker and Social Club** (CIU affiliated) in Harlow, Essex. Contact Tony Syrett (01279 423174)

CAMPDEN HILL: Meetings held first Monday of each month, at the Crosse Keys, 9 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 0DR. Contact John Rooth (see page 2).

CENTRAL LONDON: Meetings usually held on the 18th of each month mostly in the form of pub evaluation walks - usually in central London. Contact Roger West (see page 2).

CHESAPEAKE BAY: Based in the area around Baltimore, Maryland USA - a great area for microbrews and brewpubs. Contact Ed James, email secretary@spbw.org. Website: www.spbw.org.

CHESHIRE REAL ALE PEOPLE: Are based mainly around the Crewe/Nantwich area. Informal meetings are held each Monday from 7.30 in the **Borough Arms**, Earle Street, Crewe, then to **Hops**, Prince Albert Street, Crewe – all real ales £2 a pint for Camra members. Contact Colin Donald 01270 623376 email colinsdonald@sky.com.

COMMON & ALDBRICKHAM: Meetings usually held in Reading; contact John Dearing 0118 958 0377 or gpwild@btconnect.com to find out where and when.

CROYDON REAL ALE PRESERVATION SOCIETY: Meet on the first Tuesday of each month in **The Green Dragon**, High Street Croydon CR0 1NA, and also every subsequent Tuesday at a pub somewhere in, or easily reachable by public transport from, Croydon. Contact Pete McGill 07831 561296 (m) or John Smith 02071884844 (w).

FÝÇÝ: A social group formed by ex-pat SPBW stalwarts Peter Willett and Dave Brightwell. Contact Peter for more details: peterwillettuk@yahoo.com

IPSWICH: Contact Phil (01473 280822) or Iain (07707 465750) for details of meetings.

KINGSTON: Meetings held on first Wednesday of each month in the *Willoughby Arms*, 47 Willoughby Road. Contact

<http://spbwkingston.co.uk/diary> or email mike.lapworth@talk21.com

NORFOLKSOAKS (formerly Norfolk Bears): Meetings held first Thursday of each month at 12.30 in the *Fat Cat*, 49 West End Street, Norwich. The landlord, Colin Keatley, regularly supplies three pins of Fat Cat (and other) beers from the wood. More details at: <http://www.spbw.com/norfolk/about.html>

NORTHERN IRELAND: Normally meet at the *Bridge House* (JDW), Belfast, on a Friday night after 8pm, at the pillar beside the handpumps. Occasionally the Tuesday Bell (JDW), Lisburn, after 8pm on a Saturday. Contact Mark Hutchinson for details of meetings and events:

marksalehousecom@hotmail.com; twitter: <https://twitter.com/SPBWN1>

NORTH IRISH SEA: The Isle of Man based branch meets on Friday evenings, usually in the Douglas area, but also has many unofficial visits elsewhere on the island, and from time to time in the coastal areas of the traditional Lancashire boundaries. Contact David Halliwell (07972807934) david.halliwell@manx.net Always happy to meet up with visitors to the IoM.

RACS: The Real Ale Club of Sawbridgeworth meets last Wednesday of each month in various pubs in Sawbridgeworth. Contact Jan Mead (01279 864398) or email meadspanner@ntlworld.com or the website www.racs.org.

SPECIAL: The branch holds annual, week-long gatherings around the inland waterways network. There are also unofficial visits to pubs of renown in London, Cumbria, Cheshire and Shropshire, or wherever we happen to be.

WANTZ: Meetings are held third Monday of the month at the *Old Fountain*, 3 Baldwin Street (off City Road), London EC1V 9NU, starting at around 7.30 pm. Contact Roger Jacobson (see page 2).

WEST RIDING: Meets (usually) on last Sunday morning in month in various pubs in and around Leeds. Brewery trips, day trips and crawls and other socials. Contact Graham Hewitt (0113 2624574; graham-hewitt@tiscali.co.uk) for further details.

WOOLWICH: Meetings held first Thursday of each month at 8.30 pm at the *Prince Albert* (Rose's), Hare Street, Woolwich. Usually four handpumped guest beers are available. Contact Bill Smith (020 8310 5907).

Branch reports are in pages 17 – 19.



PINT IN HAND BY EMAIL

How would you like to receive PiH by email rather than by post? This would be of particular value to overseas members and would save the SPBW a few bob in terms of postage and envelopes. Beware that PiH is a substantial document (around 5MB) so you may need broadband if it's not to jam your inbox.

If you want to go for this, please email Roger West and Roger Jacobson (details on page 2) and we'll take it from there.

Return of Branches in Action

NI branch's 2012/13 pub of the Year is the **Sunflower Bar**, 65 Union Street, Belfast. The Sunflower opened at the end of 2012 and already it is making a name as a place to go for an eclectic mix of music and clientele. The owner, Pedro, is well known in the trade and is well respected. The downstairs bar, while small, has a lively atmosphere and the staff are all friendly and knowledgeable about cask ales. Upstairs is the live music room with a great and changing range of music. Tasty daytime snacks are now being served making it a great spot for local office workers to drop by and chill out. Members of the branch gathered to present Pedro with their 2012/13 Pub of The Year award to welcome this pub into the small clan of cask ale outlets in the province.

Pictured are Chairman, Mark Hutchinson, bar owner, Pedro, and some branch members.



North Irish Sea branch had a very active first quarter, with visits to National inventory pubs in Merseyside including the superb Philharmonic in Liverpool and the excellent untouched local the Stork in Birkenhead. The beautiful coastal hugging Furness train line was made full use of to the north of Lancaster, with separate visits to pubs in Arnside and the award winning Prince of Wales adjacent to Foxfield station, along with the nearby Manor Arms in Broughton In Furness, two of Cumbria's finest hostelries (albeit pinched from the traditional Lancashire County Palatine boundaries by our Cumbrian friends - who could blame them!). On the Isle of Man there were multiple obligatory visits to the world famous Bushy's beer tent during the TT motorbike races and much of the excellent local brews were imbibed as North Irish Sea SPBW mingled with thousands of bike fans musing over the days racing. Finally, and on a sad note, a few ales were sunk with a visiting Cumbria crowd on the Isle of Man, in fond memory of Alan Risdon, well known and respected in real ale circles throughout the North West, and a frequent visitor to the Isle of Man for many years. It was a privilege to have known him.

RACS have been out and about during the summer months having a change from our usual pubs in Sawbridgeworth. For our June meeting we went to The Rising Sun at High Wych, we will be at The Queen's Head, Allen's Green in July and the venue for August is still to be arranged. RACS picks up the taxi fares for Members on these outings.

We are also planning our annual Summer Show to be held on August Bank Holiday Sunday - all welcome to produce entries!

Special Branch celebrated its 40th anniversary with a canal trip across Cheshire and beyond (Etruria to Whaley Bridge to be exact). Apart from old favourites such as the Blue Bell at Kidsgrove (PiH 99) we had the pleasure of first time visits to some excellent pubs. The **Holy Inadequate** in Etruria is a free house recently reopened under enterprising management. There are numerous rooms apart from the large main bar; Joule's Pale is the regular beer complemented by 5 or 6 others. On our last night there was a beer festival here as well just to add to the fine choice. The **Wharf** at Macclesfield is another to have come on the scene in the last year or so. A true community pub, it was very popular with local pool players and there were tv screens for sports events. The front part of the pub provided a more traditional area for drinking with old photos and artefacts on display. Some 4 or 5 beers included offerings from the likes of Redwillow (brewed just down the road) and Marble. Finally, our pub of the week, the **Young Pretender** in Congleton. If you're into trad canalside pubs, this won't be for you – it's close to the town centre, a fair hike from the canal and it's in the modern 'café' style (it's by no means obviously a pub from the street) with bare floorboards, basic furniture and weird artwork on the walls. But it hit the spot with our bunch of fogies, offering a warm welcome from the enthusiastic young staff and a selection of 4 well-kept ales, from small breweries such as Raw, Marble and Redwillow. We visited on a Sunday evening and took part in the weekly quiz, our three teams hogging the medal positions. The YP is sister pub to the Treacle Tap in Macclesfield which we visited the following day and where we had our favourite beer of the week – Buxton Moor Top.

Wantz branch hasn't been up to much lately. Our only event was the regular 6-monthly visit to the excellent Singburi Thai restaurant in Leytonstone, preceded by a few pints in the Red Lion up the road. Hopefully we'll be exploring a few local pubs in the months to come.

In May **West Riding** visited Jonathan Manby, the resident cooper at Theakstons Brewery in Masham. Between visits to the Black Bull in Paradise bar, Jonathan gave us a detailed and informative demonstration as to how casks are made and the skills involved to make one. A couple of volunteers were called up from the audience to try their hand with some of the procedures and this made for much fun, and further demonstrated how skilful the craft of the cooper is. Many questions from the floor were answered in detail providing a further insight into the craft. A most enjoyable and informative visit. The branch had a trip to the local Kirkstall brewery at the beginning of August. The next meeting is at the Library Tap, Bingley, on Sunday 25 August.

2013 – 50 years of SPBW

6 December is the 50th anniversary of the founding of SPBW. This is a fine landmark and we want to make this a year of appropriate celebration, involving as many of our members as possible.

These events took place during the last quarter:

On 3 May BMAD branch arranged a **meet the brewer tasting session** at the Burnt Mill Snooker & Social club in Harlow. The club usually has at least three real ales on the bar, but this was augmented by 6 Brentwood beers on stillage. Sophie the Brentwood brewer gave a talk about the brewery and the beers represented and RACS provided the food and organised a raffle. About 6 months ago Brentwood added the elephant school brewing plant to their site. This is so named because up to 1959 there was an elephant training school in Brentwood. This new micro facility enables them to try out some new unusual brews. Three of these were represented at the tasting session. Aussie Blonde at 4% uses Ella Australian hops and had a notable citrus/grapefruit taste. Red Riot (4.3%) uses red and rye malts and Bramling Cross Hops and as a result is very malty/fruity red rye ale. The most unusual beer was the 8.3% After 8 which used roasted chocolate malt and roasted coffee beans and had mint tea added at the end of the boil. A small amount of Green & Blacks cocoa powder is also added to each cask. The result is a strong dark chocolate and mint tasting beer. There were also 3 regular Brentwood beers served in the “marquee”. Brentwood Maple mild is a 3.6% mild flavoured with Maple syrup. Burton Ale (4.8%) uses Burtonised water – this means that magnesium and calcium sulphate is added to replicate the hard water in the Burton area and to enhance the bitterness, a process aided also by East Kent Goldings hops. The last beer was Brentwood Blonde, (3.8%), a spring seasonal made with Slovenian Hops.

The **SPBW quiz night** at the Eleanor Arms (Bow, east London) on 9 May was a great success. Organised by pub landlord Frankie Colclough – an SPBW member and supporter himself – the event drew 3 SPBW teams and 3 teams of other customers. The theme of the quiz was beer, other drinks and drinking and perhaps it was no surprise that the SPBW teams filled the medal positions. Wantz branch followed up its Tony Littler Trophy win two weeks earlier by coming first and winning a bag full of bottled beers. The quiz was followed by a raffle and this, combined with quiz entry fees, netted a tidy sum for the SPBW’s coffers, helped by product sales and the recruitment of a new member. The Eleanor Arms (460 Old Ford Road, E3 5JP) is a superb community local serving well-kept Shepherd Neame beers and is highly recommended.

On the last Saturday in June a coach load of us (about 12) visited Kent, the land of the hop. Our main port of call was the **Golding Hop** in Plaxtol, which boasted a sign of beer from the wood. Sadly the wooden Wadworth’s Henry’s IPA had all gone, but there was another Wadworth beer and a couple of Adnams from metal stillage, and a couple of traditional ciders. The rural

setting is idyllic on a nice summer's day, so we were able to recline outside. The service is eccentrically brusque, although less euphemistic descriptions may well apply. The next stop was the **Old Red House** in Ightham Common, which had a large number of real ales, and both a busy and a quiet indoor section, as well as a little outside seating. I can say that the Hopdaemon and Wickwar beers were very good.

In Borough Green the **Black Horse and Hoodens** was a disappointment, with "please do not" notices everywhere, including plastered around the otherwise pleasant rather wild garden. The only marked beer was Doom Bar, and the groans solicited the information that the unmarked hand pump was Sunchaser, apparently from Cornwall. Coastal Sunseeker is 6% and this one tasted more like Everards Sunchaser strength (3.8%).

The **Duke of Wellington** at Birling had 2 large indoor rooms and another large outside patio area. Drops included Old Dairy, Westerham and Harvey's and all were very good. Also in Birling, the **Nevill Bull** had Kent Pale and Harvey's best, and another pleasant outside area in the unseasonal summer sun. The Nevill family have owned land in Birling since 1435. For those of you who watched the *White Queen* on BBC1, Richard Nevill "Warwick the Kingmaker" was one family member. The pub, formerly the Bull, was renamed to commemorate Lt Michael Nevill, who died in WW II in 1943.

Finally the **Vigo Inn** at Fairseat had some Goody beer – very goody, in fact from Heaven. This had a quant wood panelled small bar area, and another huge outside area, with a pleasant country vista. This Inn is 400 years old and set in a 5 acre space.

Kingston branch supported the **Alton classic bus and country pub day** on 20 July. They got there early for a breakfast in a local cafe and a look around the famous church which was damaged during a civil war engagement. It still has musket holes in the doorway. They were joined by Peter Willett, former member of Wantz branch, now living in Turkey. He had returned to England hoping for a break from the hot weather - but Saturday was a day for sun cream. They went out to The Flowerpots in Cheriton and enjoyed their famous pub-brewed ales. The Golden at 4.8% went down well. Next stop was The Ship. This had Palmers ale and Cotleigh Tawny on offer but the general feeling was that the ales were disappointing compared to the Flowerpot. Heading back to Alton, they had to do a quick change of bus to get to the Hawkley Inn. This had several ales and cider on offer and was well-liked. They missed our first bus back as they did not get on straightaway-believing the driver was just turning the vehicle around. Eventually the penny dropped that he had looped around using a different route. Back to Alton it was straight to the Railway Arms for Triple fff beers. The last of the group caught the 22:15 back to Surbiton. Time flew by.

The **Macclesfield Meander**, organised by Wantz branch on 27 July, attracted members from London, Cheshire and a coach load of 45 West Riding branch folk. We visited a small but excellent selection of the town's many pubs, enjoying plenty of local ales. Pick of the pubs were probably the Waters Green Tavern, handy for the rail and bus stations, which had the

widest beer choice of the day, including from Buxton, Phoenix and Magic Rock breweries; the Park Tavern, owned by Bollington brewery and offering 5 or 6 of their beers plus a couple of draught ciders; and the Wharf (see also page 13), although I was a little perturbed to find beers from two of my local breweries – East London and Redemption – on tap; all very well, but it's not what I go drinking in Cheshire for! Thankfully, beers from Pictish and Phoenix were worthy alternatives. All in all, a day of much good drinking and bonhomie, and the sun shone all day.



These are planned forthcoming events:

Titanic Trail We are hoping that this tour of Titanic tied houses, starting at the Bulls Head in Burslem, will take place but we don't yet have a date. If it goes ahead we'll send out information in the usual e-way.

Saturday 10 August Common and Aldbrickham branch is hosting a trip to four country pubs of a classic variety, not easily accessed by public transport: the Red Lion, Upper Basildon, the Bell, Aldworth, the Six Bells, Beenham, and the Plough, Little London. Leaving from Reading Station at about 10.20/30, and arriving back in Reading to the Nag's Head ca. 4 pm. Cost will be in the order of £10 and pre-booking required. Please indicate interest to John Dearing: 0118 9580377/ gpwild@btconnect.com.

Saturday 24 August A guided tour of Black Country pubs using public transport (and a bit of walking). Pubs include: Olde Swan, Netherton (Mrs Pardoe's), Park Inn, Woodsetton (Holden), Beacon Hotel, Sedgley (Sarah Hughes) and Old Bull's Head, Gornal (Black Country brewery). For anyone travelling to the area the day before, an additional pub crawl in the Dudley

area can be arranged. Further details, including a full itinerary, from organiser Rod Richmond rod@aleaficiondo.co.uk.

Thursday 12 September Visit to the Chiltern Brewery, Terrick, near Aylesbury at 1pm. The brewery has offered this special tour outside the normal schedule for the reduced price of £8.50 a head. The 1 hour tour includes a tutored tastings session. This event is fully subscribed but contact Garry Wiles at grwiles@talktalk.net as soon as possible just in case a place becomes available.

Saturday 21 September Campden Hill branch 'Arry Hart memorial pub walk in Hampstead and Belsize Park. 'Arry was a stalwart both as organiser and social participant of SPBW, and he organised many meticulously drafted crawls and trips. Walk starts 12 noon at the **Duke of Hamilton**, 23 New End, NW3 1DD. Then to the Holly Bush, Horseshoe, Flask, Freemasons Arms, Magdala, Garden Gate, White Horse, Roebuck, finishing up at the George on Haverstock Hill.

Food is available in all the pubs throughout the day and evening. The first 4 pubs are close to Hampstead tube station. The next five are close to Hampstead Heath train station and between Hampstead and Belsize Park tube stations. The last pub is close to Belsize Park tube station. Contact John Rooth for more details.

Thursday 17 October Pilgrimage to the birthplace of SPBW: the **Rising Sun**, 14 Heathcote Street, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5DX. Meet from 19.30, buffet will be provided - please send £5 to John Rooth if you want to go along. These days the Rising Sun serves Youngs beers plus a guest or two.

Friday 6 December Anniversary Dinner at the Magpie, New Street, London EC2M 4TP (off east side of Bishopsgate, close to Liverpool Street Station), in the upstairs bar 7.00 for 7.30pm. Cost is £25 which will cover a 3-course meal and probably some extras. Places are limited so we can only take bookings on a first come first served basis and no bookings can be accepted without payment. Please make cheques available to SPBW and send to Roger Jacobson (address on page 2); please make sure you include your postal or email address. The pub's menu is seasonal and not yet available; we will send to details to all attendees nearer the time so pre-orders can be made. The Magpie is part of the Nicholson group and offers up to 8 draught beers. 6 December is the actual 50th anniversary of the SPBW's founding so this should be an excellent way to celebrate!

We are hoping that some special Anniversary beers can be brewed for us. Hopefully we'll have more details by the next issue. You could drink them from our commemorative mugs – see Products on back page for details.

SPBW ONLINE

The SPBW **Members Forum** is www.spbw.com/bb. The Bulletin Board is intended as a way for members to exchange information. You can also join SPBW on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com. Our online shop can be found on the Products page on our website; just follow the links.

MONKEY BUSINESS

Andy's Roving Report

Given the number of pubs that have closed in Leeds city centre over the last decade or so, it came as a bit of a surprise when the **Crowd of Favours** (henceforth referred to as COF) opened near the end of June. The premises had been a fish and chip shop/restaurant for many years and stands just off of Kirkgate. The COF is owned by Leeds Brewery and is, I believe, the sixth in their estate.

As you roll in through the doors you'll see the bar counter directly in front of you, bearing 8 handpumps and 11 fonts (I think). As for the cask beers available on my last visit, there were 5 from Leeds Brewery and 1 apiece from Rooster's, Kirkstall and Liverpool Organic. Note the rather unusual bar counter, the frontage of which is a glass fronted book case, complete with literature!

This main bar area is quite lengthy with a separate section up to the left, which in turn leads to a small room at the other side of the bar. There is a sort of cellar as well, complete with sofas, tables and plus a fairly hideous 1970s lamp stand in a corner. By the way, if you go down here, as you must to get to the loos, note the rather nice glazed tiling next to the stairs. I gather that there are DJs on Friday and Saturday nights so things may be noisy then.

The beer quality at the COF is definitely good and service likewise. As for food, there's a pretty varied menu but get someone else to pay. In conclusion, certainly worth calling in for a pint and, by the way, I am not at all sure where the pub name comes from.

Lots of things planned at the COF so check them out on the Leeds Brewery website or twitter.

Crowd Of Favours, Harper Street, Leeds LS2 7EA. Tel 0113 2469405

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday noon - 2300; Friday & Saturday 10.00 - midnight; Sunday 10.00 - 2300.

Owned by the eponymous Brewery, the **Hand Drawn Monkey** is yet another bar with a bizarre name, I gather that the brewery started up last year, while the **HDM** is much younger even than that. It is situated in a back street close to Huddersfield train station which is only about 5 minutes walk away come to think of it.

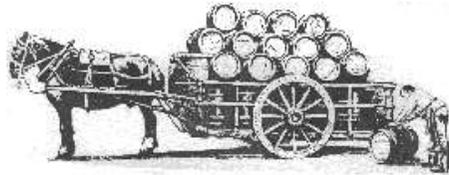
Entering in, (and up the stairs) you have a choice of two rooms, left and right of you, both with their own bar counter. The right hand room is the original one, with the one on the left being a very recent addition - in fact it was still undergoing construction when we called in on the 3rd Saturday in July. It was in use mind you, with assorted sofas and tables already *in situ*. On the left side bar counter there were two handpumps, one of which was dispensing the **HDM** brewery's very own "Monkeys Love Hops"; made with Citra hops, this 4.2% beer cost £2.90 a pint and was superb - much better than some IPAs that I've tasted. I think there were three fonts dispensing other beers from this company alongside the pumps.

In the main bar, you've got two other **HDM** beers on the pumps, plus six fonts for beers from Magic Rock and Summer Wine breweries. If this isn't enough, there's an impressive range of bottled offerings, as you'd expect, given that the bar has its own beer shop. Seating in here is what I always think of as "sandwich shop style" - a long shelf for glasses and plates going along the walls and in front of the windows, with those tubular type chairs with the moulded seats available for the weak and weary. There is also a pretty decent delicatessen here and the food is reasonably priced, although there's a gargantuan feat called the Ultimate Plate, which contains meat, cheese, antipasti, etc, etc and costs a cool £15.00.

The **Hand Drawn Monkey** is a very good addition to the pub/bar scene in a town that already has some notable hostelries. Definitely visit if you are ever hereabouts.

Opening times: Mon to wed, 11.00 - 11.00; Thursday and Friday, 11.00 - midnight; Saturday, 10.00 - midnight; but Sunday closed all day.

Hand Drawn Monkey, 28 Wood Street, Huddersfield HD1 1DU. Try www.hdmbeershop.co.uk for further info.



LAST ORDERS...AFTER THE BOMB

When reading 'Physics World,' I came across a reference to the 1955 Nuclear testing in Nevada. As part of 'Operation Teapot,' the Americans exploded nuclear devices on bottles and cans of beer

Operation Teapot was a series of fourteen nuclear weapons tests, some specifically for obtaining information on nuclear effects. Hence, during two tests, a number of types of bottles and cans, filled with different liquids, were put in various positions relative to Ground Zero (GZ). The closest ones were 400 m away.

Even the bottles close to the test had a fairly high survival rate. Only the bottles closest to GZ had radioactivity: "well within the permissible limits for emergency use."

But ... how did it taste? examination showed no observable appearance changes. Immediate taste tests indicated that the beer was still of commercial quality, although there was a slight flavour change in some of the beer closest to GZ. Those farther away showed no change.

Samples of the various beers, as well as un-exposed controls, were then sent to five qualified laboratories for taste-testing. The cumulative opinions ranged from "commercial quality" to "aged" and "definitely off." However, all agreed, that the beer could be used as an emergency source of liquid.

Mike Pickersgill

SPBW PRODUCTS

All the products below carry the SPBW 50th Anniversary logo, as shown on the front cover.

Ties Windsor purple, green, navy blue	£11.50 (£13 inc P & P)
T-shirts XL black, royal blue, jade, red; L black, royal blue, red.	£9 (£14)
Sweatshirts XL black, jade, royal blue, red	£15 (£21.50)
Polo Shirts XL royal blue, red, jade; L jade, royal blue, black, red	£13 (£19.00)
Hats Acrylic knitted, royal blue, red, burgundy	£5 (£7.50)
Baseball Caps black, green)	£7 (£10.70)
Glasses Straight handled pint mugs with etched logo	£8 (£14)
Please contact Patrick Deller if you wish to order a glass – pgadeller@gmail.com	

We also have sweats, polo and t-shirts, hats and caps with the 'old' logo, plus rugby shirts, fleeces, enamel badges and sew-on badges: check the website for details.

You can admire our product range on the SPBW website! And you can buy products through our on-line shop: <http://www.spbwshop.co.uk>

- **Please send your orders to Bill English** (see page 2)
- **Please make cheques payable to SPBW** and include a telephone number or email address with your order. Allow up to 28 days for delivery.
- **Products are cheaper if they can be collected in person; contact Bill to see if this can be arranged.**



A motley crew outside the Flower Pots, Cheriton (see page 15) picture by David Laing