

***SOCIETY for the PRESERVATION of  
BEERS from the WOOD***

*(founded 1963)*

*The original beer consumer organisation*

***PINT in HAND***

*Number 128*

*November 2013*



*Where it all began – the Rising Sun, Epsom*

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 February 2014 issue should reach the Editor by **25 January**.
- The Editor or the National Executive Committee of SPBW does not necessarily share opinions expressed in *Pint in Hand*.

© Copyright Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood

*All photos by Roger Jacobson unless stated otherwise*

\*\*\*\*\*

Editorial address

**Roger Jacobson**, 2 Elizabeth House, St Leonards Street, London E3 3BX; email [editor@spbw.com](mailto:editor@spbw.com); Tel 020 8980 9093 or 07906 400056 (m)

Membership Secretary

**Roger West**, Four Winds, 70 Chalfont Road, Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire HP9 2QP; email [membership@spbw.com](mailto:membership@spbw.com)

Branch Liaison and Products

**Bill English**, email [beeel@myway.com](mailto:beeel@myway.com); tel 07910 657423

General Secretary

**John Rooth**, 20A Station Parade, Northolt Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 8HB; email [john.rooth@gfk.com](mailto:john.rooth@gfk.com) Tel: 07950 770921 [m]

National Chairman

**Alasdair Boyd** (acting)

\*\*\*\*\*

Website: <http://www.spbw.com>.

On-line forum: <http://www.spbw.com/bb>

\*\*\*\*\*

*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.*



## **OPENING TIME**

### *MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BEERS FROM THE WOOD*

*At the insistence, in the first place, of Mr D H H Chamberlain, ably assisted by Mr J P Gore, the following drinkers met in the private bar of the Rising Sun Tavern, Epsom, on the evening of Friday 6 December 1963, to discuss and promote the founding of a society:*

*Mr D H H Chamberlain*

*Mr J P Gore*

*Mr John Keeble*

*Mr E B Lee*

*Mr A R Millard*

*Mr G R S Smith*

*Mr W P Thomas*

*Mr Chamberlain, addressing the meeting, said that a letter which had appeared in the Financial Times of 30 November 1963 (which those present had already seen) had inspired him to suggest the founding of a society for upholding the broad viewpoint expressed in that letter.*

*He roundly deplored the monolithic policies of the brewers which, accepted with a spineless lack of gumption by the bar-tenders guild, were forcing the sale of beers from sealed dustbins and thereby depriving drinkers of their traditional tippie which was, and had been for centuries, beer drawn from the wood.*

*Mr Chamberlain's address having been roundly acclaimed, the meeting proceeded to elect Mr Millard to the Chair and Mr Lee as secretary.*

*The Chairman, having expressed his thanks and humble recognition of the great office he had assumed, thereupon declared the inaugural meeting convened and proposed that the name of the Society should be 'The Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood.' This title was unanimously approved and the meeting proceeded to discuss the aims of the Society. After some debate these were defined as:*

- 1. To stimulate the brewing and to encourage the drinking of beers drawn from the wood.*
- 2. To denigrate the manufacture and sale of beer in sealed dustbins, and to discourage its consumption.*

#### *Membership*

*The meeting discussed that, for the time being, there would be two categories of members:*

##### *1. Founder Life Members*

*This category shall be confined to those present at the inaugural meeting. Exceptionally, and as a mark of recognition, it was decided to invite Mr Cross, the writer of the inspiring letter, to become a founding member and the Chairman undertook to write to him accordingly.*

##### *2. Subscribing Ordinary Members*

*This category shall consist of candidates sponsored by two founder life members and duly elected by a simple majority of all the founder life members. The sponsors shall ensure that their candidates are bone fide drinkers and shall swear affidavits to that effect.*

*The meeting then discussed Standing Orders. After a confused debate, during which the Chairman called the meeting to order and demanded to know whose round it was, the following Orders were laid down:*

*1. All members shall, at all times, eschew the consumption of dustbin beers during public-house licensing hours. Dispensation from this order, which is otherwise mandatory, shall be granted only in the following cases:*

*(a) Unavoidable hospitality*

*(b) Non-availability of beers from the wood within a radius of half-a-mile if on foot and of five miles if travelling by car.*

*(c) Those members over 50 years old.*

*Other business*

*1. The meeting expressed its high appreciation to Mr Chamberlain for drawing their attention to this grave matter. But for his vigilance and public house spirit this exploitation and oppression of honest drinkers might well have become an open scandal and a national disgrace.*

*2. It was agreed to ask Mr Cecil Stacey, the landlord of the Rising Sun tavern, to act as the representative of the Licensed Victuallers Association.*

*The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.*

*The next meeting will be held at 8.30 pm on Friday 13 December 1963 in the private bar of the Rising Sun tavern, Epsom.*

The 'Riser' became the birthplace of SPBW because all the Founder Members lived in or near Epsom. It was in 1963 a Charrington pub and Cecil Stacey kept the beer in excellent condition. In those days the 'Riser' had a public and saloon bar and two snug bars; it was rarely overcrowded and no food was available. In later years the pub was taken over by Pilgrim brewery and subsequently by Youngs. It was refurbished and the snugs were demolished to make way for one long bar.

The second meeting didn't actually take place until January 1964, by which time the first 5 'ordinary members' had been recruited. The first branch – Furness & District – was to be set up by one Stanley Cox, formerly of Epsom, now resident of Ulverston. A new rule was added, "to the effect that all elected members shall be expected to make an annual pilgrimage to the HQ of the Society and shall register with the representative of the LVA." In time, a 'visitors book' was produced and kept at the Rising Sun to be signed by 'pilgrims'; this is now in my safe keeping and brought out for special occasions. Members visited the Rising Sun in great numbers – including a coach load from Yorkshire – to sign the book.

The Founder Members didn't take themselves too seriously but the cause was given full attention and they sought as much publicity for the campaign as possible. The press got hold of it and the Daily Mail wrote about the Society at some length. Arthur Millard was interviewed by both Granada tv and the BBC in late 1965, the latter on 'the changing drinking habits of the UK.'

The first SPBW ties – brown casks on a black background – were introduced late in 1964, retailing at 18/6. They were to be worn on Fridays wherever practicable (informally a fine, in the shape of a round of drinks for fellow members, was levied on inadequately attired members). The first AGM was held in January 1965 and one of the attendees was Keith Hudson who later that year would help to found Campden Hill branch.



*Founder members of the 'Society For The Preservation of Beers From the Wood'  
 L to R - DHH Chamberlain, AR Millard, EB Lee, JC Keeble, GRS Smith,  
 HM Brodie\*, JA New\*, JP Gore.  
 \*ordinary members*

In March 1965 the question of female members was raised. It is a sign of the times that this half of the human race was welcomed into the Society but only then as 'associate members'. Around that time, pupils at Monkton Combe school in Somerset had expressed interest in forming a branch. It was decided that "it would be undesirable to allow the formation of school branches under the aegis of the Society, but that individual applications could be considered on their merits."

This is just a glimpse into the formative years of the SPBW. By autumn 1966 the Founder Members began to find the whole business a bit irksome and they had other things to do. Activities and campaigning were carried out at branch level and eventually a National Executive Committee was formed in 1972. But that's how it all started.

I am indebted to the memories of John Keeble, the sole surviving Founder Member, who has also given me the original minute book for safe keeping. Thanks also to Ray Newman, who has been extensively researching the early days of SPBW (for a book, *Beer Britannia, the strange rebirth of British beer*, to be published summer 2014), for helping to prompt John's memory.

RJ

## ***NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE***

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.

## ***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

The 2014 AGM of the NEC will be held on **Monday 10 March** at a venue to be decided. Full details will appear in the February PiH as well as the usual electronic media. All SPBW members are invited to attend the meeting; we expect it will be typically brief and allow plenty of social opportunities.

If you wish to volunteer for a post on the NEC, please let John Rooth know.

## ***MIKE HALL***

Mike's funeral was held at South West Middlesex Crematorium, Hounslow, on 20 August. More than 20 SPBW members were present. Afterwards his former colleagues from the Civil Service Club (where Mike had been on the committee) arranged a coach to take people back to the CSC where a buffet was provided. Tributes to Mike were made by Roy Cozens - one of his oldest friends - and John Rooth on behalf of SPBW. It was always rather to Mike's chagrin that the Club 'sold its soul' to Greene King, but the four beers from the GK portfolio on the bar were in good condition and at a decent price for central London, to be fair. Quite a few of us later decamped to the nearby Harp in Covent Garden where Mike's memory was drunk to until a rather late hour.

## ***MEMORIAL PUB CRAWL***

The first **Mike Hall Memorial Crawl** will be held on **Monday 25 November** (Mike's birthday). Meet from 7.00 Moon under Water, 84-86 Staines Road, Hounslow TW3 3LF; then to Red Lion, 92-94 Linkfield Road, Isleworth, TW7 6QJ; Magpie & Crown, 128 High Street, Brentford TW8 8EW; Express Tavern, 56 Kew Bridge Road, Brentford TW8 0EW.

*Articles on beer/pub related issues for Pint in Hand are always welcome! 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; 116-127. 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.

## ***LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR***

The **Eleanor Arms** in Bow has been voted SPBW London Pub of the Year 2014. This Shepherd Neame pub is a genuine community 'local' where you are always assured of a warm welcome. Frankie Colclough, the landlord (helped by wife Lesley, and Keilley Grant), is an SPBW member who keeps his beer in excellent condition. He's also recruited most of his regulars to the Society! You can often find some of the less common Faversham brews here and possibly a guest ale or two. There is a monthly charity quiz, live jazz on Sunday evenings and Frankie's 'Minestrone of Sound' on Friday and Saturday evenings. You can also play pool, darts or table skittles if the conversation around the bar isn't enough; major sporting events are shown on a big screen in the back bar. Victoria Park and the Hertford Union Canal are not far away.

Runners up in the voting were the Hope, Carshalton and the Willoughby Arms in Kingston. The Dog & Bell, Royal Oak, Blythe Hill Tavern, Harp, Olde Fountain, Fox & Anchor also received votes.

The presentation to Frankie and Lesley will take place on Monday 27 January 2014. More details will appear on our website and the usual emedia.

**Eleanor Arms, 460 Old Ford Road, London E3 5JP; [www.eleanorarms.co.uk](http://www.eleanorarms.co.uk)**

## ***NATIONAL WEEKEND 2013***

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Weekend was another great success. Almost 30 members from around the country gathered to enjoy two very contrasting brewery tours – to Marston's and Derventio – as well as visiting some excellent pubs in Derby and beyond. The party was expanded on the Sunday when 35 West Riding branch members joined the fun. A detailed account will appear in the next issue.

## ***BEER & BUFFET***

The now traditional eve of GBBF B&B event was held at Ye Olde Mitre in August. As ever there was a good turn-out of members, including a few fresh faces and some from out of London. Scotty provided some Wadworth beers from the wood, along with some others 'from the metal'; whatever the nature of the container, all were highly drinkable and served well to wash down a tasty buffet. Add to this plenty of good conversation and the result: another excellent evening.

## ***OUT AND ABOUT***

We ran stalls at two festivals in October: Wallington and Chelsfield (near Orpington). These proved to be useful in terms of recruitment, product sales and generally meeting the beer drinking public and spreading the word.

## ***NEWS FROM THE WOOD***

It's been an interesting year in terms of brewers using wooden casks for maturation and storage. I hope to have a regular section in these pages in future to keep members up to date; in the meantime look at our website for any news. If you have any information about pubs and breweries using wooden casks, please let Garry Wiles know (grwiles@talktalk.net).

## ***FROM THE ARCHIVES***

30 years ago PiH 18 (or Volume 1 Number 8 as it was dubbed) was still in newsletter form and made no mention of the SPBW's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There was a brief reference to Peter Mann, once landlord of Ye Olde Watling, taking over at the Windmill in Moorgate. Much of the rest of the contents concerned events from much further afield. The first report from Ponds branch was mostly taken up with an account to M & B's Springfield brewery in Wolverhampton – pints in local pubs cost between 50 and 60p! Special Branch had trips to Margate and Loughborough while Woolwich branch's summer frolic was to Winchester where Mike Callaghan, home from a posting to Nigeria, enjoyed himself rather too well and had to be carried most of the way home. A correspondent named 'Arry Manneken Pis outlined a few of the best bars in Brussels and the tone of the whole issue was irredeemably lowered by part 2 of Catweazel's American Journal.

Moving hastily on 10 years, the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was being celebrated by a beer and buffet event in the Priory Arms in Stockwell, which is still a decent pub. I vaguely recall 3 or 4 casks set up in the upstairs function room to complement the usual 4 or 5 beers on handpump downstairs. Andy's article covered the North Yorkshire coast; not so far away is Black Sheep Brewery, which had been visited by the old North Riding branch. The Perfect Pub Page was a double feature showcasing pubs in Northern Ireland and Scotland. Our newest branch was Nottingham, also now defunct, whose first meeting had been in August. I note that national membership fees were to be increased to £3. Greenwich branch's summer frolic had been in Whitstable to coincide with the start of the Oyster Festival.

PiH 88 was much more Anniversary-oriented as quite a few special events had been arranged during the year. These included the Baltimore Real Ale Challenge organised by the Chesapeake Bay branch; Peter Willett had been the only UK member to participate. A few members of Special Branch had toured that part of the USA the previous month and enjoyed a superb evening with CB members while a hurricane raged outside. The National Weekend had been hosted by West Riding branch, although very few ventured north to enjoy visits to the Salamander and (now defunct) Boat breweries with a trip to Keighley and district in between. Two substantial articles concerned the maturing of beer in oak casks as perpetrated by Innis & Gunn, and the brew pubs of Dusseldorf, all of which served beer from the wood. The branch directory listed groups in Brighton, Hastings (Mayday) as well as the afore-mentioned Nottingham (now called Middle England) and North Riding. Acton and Grimsdyke branches were deemed to be defunct.

## ***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. If you can just recruit the odd friend or colleague, this would be ever so helpful as well. 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.



## ***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.

## ***SPBW ONLINE***

The SPBW **Members Forum** is [www.spbw.com/bb](http://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](http://www.facebook.com). Our online shop can be found on the Products page on our website; just follow the links.

## ***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](mailto:secretary@spbw.org). Website: [www.spbw.org](http://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](mailto:colinsdonald@sky.com).

**COMMON & ALDBRICKHAM:** Meetings usually held in Reading; contact John Dearing 0118 958 0377 or [gpwild@btconnect.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 724356) or email [meadspanner@ntlworld.com](mailto:meadspanner@ntlworld.com) or the website [www.racs.org](http://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](mailto: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.



## ***BRANCHES IN ACTION***

**Campden Hill** branch's AGM was held in October at the Duchess of Cambridge; the new committee is: Chairman: Adrian Parker; Vice Chairman Aidan Kerrigan; Treasurer Bill English; Secretary Robert McGowan. Our Not the Christmas Meal will be on Monday 2 December in Chinatown – restaurant and pub to be advised; we will also informally conduct the monthly meeting should any need arise.

In August **Kingston** branch made a couple of trips to the excellent Woodies beer festival in New Malden. A Welton's beer - Top Dog @ 1.2% caught people's attention but the consensus seemed to be that it was on the watery side - unlike their excellent Pride & Joy which is still only 2.8%. Top Dog is Beer Tax free though. Beers from the local Adventure brewery in Chessington also featured.

Also that month the branch had a midweek visit to the Windsor and Eton brewery. This small modern brewery which only opened in 2010 is located in an industrial unit on the edge of the town within easy walking distance of the train station. The head brewer took us through each stage of the brewing process and copious quantities of Conqueror, Guardsman, Knight of the Garter, Windsor Knot & Republika (a craft lager) flowed. A trip here is highly recommended.

In late September the Bricklayers Arms in Putney had a festival dedicated to beers from Wiltshire. Members visited on the Friday and secured an inside table while most other people were content to remain outside in the sunshine. There was a further visit by some members after the Fulham v Cardiff football match at Craven Cottage.

Kingston SPBW cyclists had a Saturday ride along the autumnally leafy Basingstoke canal. This was really enjoyable (we covered something like 45 miles from Kingston alone). Some of us retired to the very fine Wadworth's pub, Barton's Mill (formerly 'The Millstream') at Old Basing. Pints of Farmer's Glory were heartily enjoyed.

The **Northern Ireland** branch has had at least one event per month this year - all details on [www.spbwni.co.uk/2013.html](http://www.spbwni.co.uk/2013.html). Coming soon will be another Belfast Pub Crawl, most likely a Sunday this time, in November. Friday 6 December: 50th Anniversary Meal. The Bridge House, Belfast. 7:00 pm meet - 7:30pm meal. Please let us know who will attend as we need to book (FREE PINT on the night). Other impromptu events are likely to happen so watch the website & Forum. SPBW NI was invited by Area Manager, Darren Niven, to the photo-shoot at the opening of the JD Wetherspoon Festival at the Diamond, Londonderry.

**North Irish Sea** branch grew steadily during the quarter, gaining several new members. There were several visits around the UK including a trip to the September Kent Green Hop Beer Festival in Canterbury, using fresh hops, picked and used all within 12 hours, hence retaining flavours and tastes normally lost during the drying process. An additional visit to London took place with a superb introduction to some of the capital's finest pubs, kindly organised and hosted by Bill English. Closer to home, a brand new microbrewery, Hooded Ram, has just commenced production in Douglas, Isle of Man. Four wooden barrels have been purchased from the Speyside Cooperage for ageing the beers, and plans are afoot to purchase fresh oak barrels next summer.

**RACS** Summer Show in August was a great success - more entries than last year - and held in the garden of the George IV, Sawbridgeworth, where a great quantity of MucMullen's beer slipped down throats! The following week saw a bus load of RACS and members of the Burnt Mill Ale Drinkers (BMADS) off to the September Chappel Beer Festival. The evening was warm and a splendid selection of beers was consumed sitting in the open cattle trucks and carriages of the railway museum. A trip to the Ascot Beer Event was, sadly, cancelled through lack of numbers, but the regular monthly meetings, held in various pubs throughout Sawbridgeworth and surrounding areas, still have a core of 20+ members. Plans for a Christmas celebration are in hand.

**Wantz** branch expanded its gastronomic horizons in September with a visit to the Afghan Kitchen on Islington Green. This is a tiny and very cosy restaurant but with very tasty food. We got warmed up in the York, a Nicholson pub in Upper Street. A couple of weeks later we explored some pubs old and new in Bethnal Green. The Hare is very traditional whereas the Old George and Well & Bucket on Bethnal Green Road are in the modern 'basic old-fashioned' mode, both very popular with a younger set. The OG in particular has a good range of ales. We finished in the Brew Dog (formerly Mason & Taylor) a few doors down from the W & B. This is craft/keg only and not cheap but, to be fair, there are some interesting beers to be tried here. There are numerous new and worthwhile pubs to be explored in east London and I'm sure this will occupy us in months to come.

**West Riding** branch enjoyed a tour pub of village pubs in the Selby area as well as a visit to the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Beer & Music Festival. Next branch meetings are 24 November at Guisely Factory Worker's Club and 22 December at Haigy's in Bradford. The branch Christmas party is on 28 December at the Grove, Holbeck.

## ***2013 – 50 YEARS of SPBW***

With our 50<sup>th</sup> year approaching its end, we can look back on a fair programme of events – with a couple still to come – involving members from all over the country.

***These events took place during the last quarter:***

On Saturday 10 August a group of 16 SPBW members and "fellow-travellers" convened at Reading Station for a mini-bus crawl of **country pubs in the Reading area** kindly arranged by Common and Aldbrickham branch member, Andy Church. Reading was the scene of a celebration on that day to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of morris dancing first being recorded in the town and so there some colourful scenes as the morris dancers arrived and we left!

First stop was the **Red Lion**, Upper Basildon, a village to the north-west of Reading. Although one of the beers was well and truly "off" it was replaced with a good grace by the barman on duty. Clearly a pub that relies a lot on the food trade but it has a good range of beers. After a pint or more it was off to the **Bell** at Aldworth, one of the classic pubs in the area, a genuine freehouse run by the McAuley family. Father, Iain, who died some years ago, famously barred a local council official who booked him for smoking behind the bar! Son, Hugh, has

carried on the tradition of excellent innkeeping and there seem to further generations to come.... The party enjoyed the excellent Arkells and West Berks beers, the simple bar snacks and relieved themselves in the somewhat primitive necessaria, as well as admiring the pub's prominently displayed SPBW Branch POTY certificate.

The third pub, the **Six Bells** at Beenham on the way to Newbury, was a new one to me but evidently well deserved it's place in the Good Beer Guide, although some might find it a little too upmarket for their taste. From there we crossed the border into Hampshire and to the village of Little London, which no doubt made our visitors from the metropolis homesick! The **Plough Inn** is an excellent traditional village pub with much of the beer served from gravity. The present writer was disappointed to find the bar billiards table out of action.

Back to Reading the final port-of-call, at least officially, was the **Nag's Head**, recently the regional winner in CAMRA's Pub of the Year contest. With a rolling selection of twelve real ales and run by a friendly collection of Reading folk, who could want more?



*The Olde Swan, Netherton*

The **North Dudley pub walk** on 24 August started at the **Old Swan (Ma Pardoes)** brew pub in Netherton. All 5 of us drank Black Swan Mild, just the right beer to start with. We then took the bus to the **Park Inn** in Woodsetton, Holden's brewery tap. Thereafter we walked briskly to the other pubs. The next two were in Sedgeley: the **Beacon Inn** brew pub is a beautifully preserved Victorian example, famous for Sarah Hughes' Dark Ruby Mild. Then we had lunch at the Wetherspoons pub, the **Clifton**, a former cinema. Next stop was Upper Gornal where we visited the **Jolly Crispin**, Fownes brew pub and the Batham's pub **Britannia (Sally's)**. In Lower Gornal we visited the **Black Bear** and **Fountain**, which both had a very good choice of ales. We finished the crawl at **Old Bull Inn** in Gornal Wood, Black Country's brewpub.

Our visit to **Chiltern brewery** on 12 September attracted 23 members for what proved to be an enjoyable day out. Having got to Aylesbury by train we piled on to a bus for the remainder of the journey, rather freaking out the driver who was clearly not used to taking money or having a full vehicle! Arriving at the brewery, based in a former farm in the tiny village of Terrick we were each given a glass of Beechwood bitter from the wood (the first time this beer had been so casked). After a brief look at the surprisingly small brew house we sat down for a tutored sampling of two Chiltern cask beers plus a commemorative 7.2% ruby ale. This was accompanied by locally produced cheese, biscuits bread and fruit cake, all of which were very tasty. Like many small breweries, Chiltern lean heavily on retails sales and many of us spent some of our hard earned cash in the brewery shop. Chiltern was one of the earliest of the new generation of small and micro-breweries, having been set up in 1980 by Richard and Lesley Tomlinson. It's now run by their sons George and Tom and the cask beers – brewed with English ingredients only - are distributed mostly around the Chilterns area. The brewery runs the **Farmer's Bar** at the King's Head in the centre of Aylesbury (see PiH 121), where beer from the wood is usually available. The King's Head dates from 1455 and is now owned by the National Trust. Needless to say, our party ended up here, sitting in the spacious courtyard and enjoying the range of three Chiltern beers; a guest ale from Arbor and a draught cider were other options.



*Old and new casks at Chiltern Brewery*



*The Hop Pole, Aylesbury*

Between times we had ventured out of the town centre for a few pints at the **Hop Pole** on Bicester Road. This is home of the Aylesbury brewery, a sister set up to the Vale Brewery in Brill and most of us had a look at the small set up at the back of the pub and the adjoining shop. Only one Aylesbury beer was available, in a range of 6 or so beers.

On 21 September, Campden Hill branch organised the **'Arry Hart memorial pub crawl** in NW3, to honour a long time stalwart of the branch. It was attended by at least 20 people. We started at the Duke of Hamilton. This was recently saved as a pub by the local community and served Fuller's London Pride and 5 guest beers like Dark Star Hophead, Plain Arty Farty and Plain Innocence. We then moved to the Holly Bush - also saved from redevelopment before being purchased by Fuller's and left unspoilt. It served Fuller's beers plus Butcombe Bitter. Other pubs visited included the Horseshoe, owned by Camden Town Brewery, and the Flask

(Young's beers plus Sambrook's Wandle Ale) before the crawl finished at the George on Haverstock Hill where we had a choice of 6 ales.

As the **Titanic Trail** scheduled for 28 September had to be cancelled, 2 members from London and 2 from Cheshire ventured out into Staffordshire anyway, visiting pubs in Stone and Stoke on Trent. We did manage two Titanic pubs, the Royal Exchange in Stone and the White Star in Stoke, where the beers went down well.

The **Pilgrimage to the Rising Sun**, Epsom, on 17 October was much enlivened by the surprise and most welcome arrival of Founder Member John Keeble, who had been kindly ferried up from Sussex by his wife Pam. John was in good form, and had some interesting old SPBW artefacts with him. 20 or so members came along and well-kept beers from Youngs, Sambrook and St Austell helped to wash down a tasty buffet. The Rising Sun may be much changed from 50 years ago but is still worth a visit; it's in Heathcote Road, no more than 10 minutes' walk from Epsom Station.



*John Keeble in the Rising Sun*

***These are the remaining forthcoming events:***

**Gathering at Pig's Ear**, the excellent annual East London beer festival on **Wednesday 4 December**. This year the organisers are promoting SPBW's 50th anniversary and we have helped them get some beer from the wood. Meet from 6pm onwards near the stage at the far end from the entrance. Address is The Round Chapel, Powerscroft Road/Lower Clapton Road, Hackney E4 0PU. Buses 38, 48, 55, 106, 253, 254, 425, 488 pass close by. Near rail stations Hackney Downs (National Rail from Liverpool Street) and Hackney Central (London Overground). Admission £4 or £2 for CAMRA members.

**Friday 6 December** Anniversary Dinner at the Magpie, New Street, London EC2M 4TP. This is sold out so apologies for those who missed out. The Magpie is a Nicholson pub offering a good variety of ales and is worth visiting if you're in the Liverpool Street area (but it's closed weekends).

## **BEERS IN BEASTLY LEEDS**

### ***Andy's Roving Report***

The **Pack Horse** is definitely one of the better preserved public houses in Leeds (certainly anywhere near the centre) and I recall it being a Tetley's house in the past. The beer range is certainly more adventurous now - when I called in there were two beers from Kirkstall Brewery, Betty Stoggs from Skinner's and Castle Rock's Harvest Pale which was excellent. I noticed another two handpumps which were unused, but may come into play at the weekend. Even though there were a goodly number of customers I got served quick enough.

The layout is, as I indicated earlier, worthy of note. The central corridor with its mosaic floor has no less than three rooms leading off of it; one immediately to the left as you enter and two on the right. All the rooms have plain wood decking and bench type seating. Passing the bar counter (on your left) there's an opened out area which I read on a website once possessed dark wood panelling and engraved glass. If so, it is a shame that it has been removed. Out back there is a beer garden, whilst upstairs there's a room that is used for live music. The Pack Horse has a great reputation for the variety of bands that play here.

I don't often stray up this part of town any more, but I'd say the Pack Horse is worth the short journey from the city centre.

**Pack Horse, 208 Woodhouse Lane, Woodhouse, Leeds LS2 9DX. Tel: 0113 245 3980.**

Far better known as the Scarborough Taps, there's a fair bit of history to the **Scarborough Hotel**. It is listed in the local trade directory of 1826 as the "King's Arms" (Scarborough's Hotel), owner being one Mr Henry Scarborough whose family were to run this establishment until 1848. That year it was bought by John Baptiste Fleischmann and the name changed to "Scarborough Hotel". Brer Fleischmann was an astute businessman and the trade directories show him as a wine and spirit merchant, proprietor of the "Scarborough Family and Commercial Hotel and Posting House" carriage owner and manager of the "Wellington Hill Commercial and Family Hotel and Billiard Rooms". During his tenancy there, on September 15th, 1858, one of his guests turned out to be the well known novelist Charles Dickens. Old C.D. was no fan of Leeds though, remarking during a train journey to the north that "we shall have to sleep in Leeds, which I particularly detest as an odious place". He also referred to the city as a beastly place, one of the nastiest I know". I wonder what he would say if he saw it now?

A later landlord of the Scarborough Hotel was Frederick William Wood, who took over in 1888. Along with JC Whiteman, manager of the City Varieties Music Hall, he ran talent nights at the Hotel, the better acts being put on at the Varieties. Some famous names of the period appeared at the Scarborough Hotel, including Dan Leno, comedian and clown. In 1898 Frederick Wood bought the City Varieties thus becoming an impresario. The music hall connection continued after Fred's departure and in 1910 live performances were broadcast, with G.P.O. permission, from the City Varieties and the Queen's Theatre to the Scarborough Hotel and the Pack Horse (the original one which was just off Briggate). Both hostelries had 6 pairs of earphones for customers to listen in with.



Longest running landlord? Actually, it is a landlady, one Sarah Atkinson who was here from 1899 to 1921. This is a bit before my time as I only started patronising the "Scarborough" in the early 1980's. It then had a lounge to the left (complete with Formica topped tables) and a tap room on the right, which had only a gents loo - ladies used the facilities in the best room. I remember seeing the actor John le Mesurier in the lounge; he was sat at a table reading what may have been a script and his neck was adorned with a paisley cravat as one would expect of actors of a certain period. Very resplendent.

Tetley's bought the Scarborough Hotel from Ind Coope & Allsop in 1957 for £25,000, which was a fair old sum back then. It is presently owned by Nicholson's and I daresay they forked out a bit more than 25K.

To the present day: There has recently been a major refurbishment of the bar area, with the counter being moved back to make more space for customers. The pub was knocked into one big room (booooo) years ago and the succeeding layout encouraged groups of customers to gather around the door, stopping people getting in and out. The new straight counter has done away with that annoyance. Now as you enter you'll notice the central area bar area has a stone flagged floor with wooden boarding on either side. To the right there is a wood panelled wall and illuminated display cabinet; where the room curls around the side of the counter there's some prints and posters of the music hall era. On the left hand wall there's more of this memorabilia and a potted history of the hostelry. Tables and chairs for drinkers and diners are available throughout.

As for the beers, there are 9 handpumps of which one is reserved for a cider. The other eight serve a marvellous variety of beers usually including one from Scotland as well. As you'll normally find in Nicholson's pubs, there's obviously an effort made to present the customers with a better than average choice of ales. The Scarborough Hotel is just outside the railway station, so is very convenient for anyone travelling into Leeds from distant realms.

**Scarborough Hotel, Bishopgate Street, Leeds LS1 5DY. Tel 0113 243 4590;**  
[www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk](http://www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk).

## **LIBERATION LIBATIONS**

My first trip to Jersey was in the mid 1970's when The Jersey Brewery, or Ann Street Brewery as it was originally known, was in full flow and winning many awards, even after dropping the Mary Ann label. In July 2008 a management buyout formed the Liberation Group who have since brought the Mary Ann name back - nobody knows how the name came to be but urban myth tells of a certain Mary Ann Beer living in Ann Street. The brewery has also relocated to a new purpose built brewery at Tregear House in Longueville and renamed in 2010. The new brewery has a capacity of 120 barrels per week and continues to brew Mary Ann Best and Mary Ann Special as well as beers for Guernsey. It has been joined at Longueville by the Topsy Toad Brewery centralizing production and resources. In the Brewery reception we met Patrick Dean, Process Brewer, and I took an instant liking to him. Pat is chock full of knowledge that is only surpassed by his energy and enthusiasm for the firm and its products. He gave us the best guided brewery tour I have been on, starting in an area filled with so much fascinating memorabilia I found I had to shake myself and listen to Pat's wealth of facts about brewing in the Channel Islands.

My hand was quickly filled with a glass of beer and the tasting started. Normally I am used to a couple of small glasses of beer at this stage, but Pat was far too enthusiastic for small samples. He made sure we sampled the ales properly, describing the brew process for each ale and pointing out the nuances in the flavours.

Past the small wood clad brewing equipment salvaged from the Topsy Toad, we entered a chilly room to spot a wooden barrel. Pat told us about the experiments with several types of wood barrels, including Jamaican Rum, Laphroaig and Jim Beam casks. The test beers were still conditioning out but that did not stop Pat from giving us tasters, even blending a couple of beers on the spot for our education. Sadly, Pat had to leave us as the local media were on his heels for information about the Group and the upcoming Jersey Beerfest. We could have stayed in the reception centre for some more beer, but it had been a long day and food was calling.

Following on from that, we took part in the Groups "Ale & Walk", visiting eight pubs across the island. This was a couple of days of fun finding the pubs and getting the card stamped for the free T-shirt. Six walking trails and eight pubs, history and scenery.

*Mark Hutchison*

## **CLOSING TIME**

Once again I've cast myself out of my usual editorial prominence. But it's been a pleasure to commemorate 50 years of SPBW. Let me thank everyone who's played a part in us getting so far and encourage you all to help us carry on for a good few more years. Thanks also to Tom Stainer, my counterpart at *What's Brewing*, for printing my article about SPBW in the November edition. Enjoy the festive season and look forward to a happy 2014.

*Roger*

## SPBW PRODUCTS

**All the products below carry the SPBW 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo, as shown on the front cover.**

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

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.spbw-shop.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.**

