

10 Parishes Festival off to flying start

THE 2005 10 Parishes Festival got off to a colourful and musical start on Saturday 10th September, when people gathered in the Square in Wiveliscombe to enjoy the atmosphere.

Children from across the 10 Parishes were "armed" with balloons, the Jazz Quartet from Kingsmead, superbly led by Victoria Osborne, gave us cool, funky music and MP Jeremy Browne launched the Festival, encouraging everyone to visit as many of the open studios, galleries and events happening across the area for the whole 9 day Festival.

Jeremy then spent over two hours visiting galleries in the town centre and talking to artists and visitors. He very much appreciated the range and quality of everything on offer.

The first Saturday and Sunday's studios reported brisk visitor interest with sales being made in galleries and studios.



The balloons go up as Jeremy Browne MP and friends cheer the start of the 10 Parishes Festival North Street Gallery said: "We hardly had time to breathe all day, we were so busy!" Trish Perrin at the

plimentary about our work and the comments in our visitor's book have been brilliant!". Listeners to 10 Radio

were kept updated every morning by a Festival Roundup from 9am, suggesting the best of the day.

Helena Trump

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Salute for Exmoor Gold

EXMOOR Gold is a beer to taste before you die according to Britain's leading beer writer Roger Protz in his new book 300 Beers To Try Before You Die! (CAMRA Books).

The book covers all sorts of beers from around the world, from Best Bitters to Trappist beers.

Writing about the ever popular Exmoor Gold, which was first brewed in the mid 1980s and is seen as the first of the single malt Golden Ales, he writes that 'the beer has a powerful punch of earthy hop resins, lemon fruit, juicy malt and a

hint of butterscotch. Hops and fruit burst across the tongue, underscored by sappy malt and butterscotch. The finish lingers, becomes dry and intensely bitter but juicy malt continues to make its mark on a memorable and refreshing beer'.

Exmoor Ales' Managing Director Peter Turner is delighted to feature in the book. 'We have been brewing Exmoor Gold in cask for coming up to 20 years. For it to be included in a book of the best beers in the world is a tremendous accolade for our Head Brewer and his staff'.

In another sign of the recognition of the quality of

the beers produced by Exmoor Ales, bottled Exmoor Gold won a gold award in the Taste of the West Food and Drinks Awards 2005, while its bottled strong ale Exmoor Beast also won a bronze.

'Bottled Exmoor Gold has now been sold for ten years and it really is a firm favourite in the South West', says Turner. 'It is absolutely excellent that Exmoor Gold has won gold and Exmoor Beast bronze. They are the two bottled beers that we produce and we are very proud of them.'

Exmoor Ales started in 1980, when the idea of micro-breweries was in its infancy. It was originally

called Golden Hill, after its hill-top location in Wiveliscombe, and its creation brought brewing back to the town for the first time since the closure of Arnold & Hancock's in the late 1950s. Almost immediately, Golden Hill made its mark on the beer world when its 13th brew of Exmoor Ale

was voted Best Bitter at CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival in 1980. Since then countless other brewing awards have come their way.

Also lookout for the Silver Stallion, a brilliant new beer created by Exmoor Ales to celebrate 25 years of brewing in Wiveliscombe.

Primary School play scheme

WIVELISCOMBE Primary School has been running a play scheme for just over a year since July 2004 during the Easter and Summer school holidays.

We are open to children aged between 5 and 11 from all schools in the 10 Parishes area and Kingsmead feeder schools.

This year we planned to run for two weeks in the middle of the summer holidays, but due to lack of numbers, only ran for one.

We opened at 10am and finished at 3pm every day, and the children who attended were free to play games, watch videos, do a multitude of art and craft activities and take part in a pirate fun day and scavenger hunt, to name just a few.

We are currently considering opening for a few days during the October half-term and would welcome comments and suggestions from anyone who has attended, or who has children that may be interested in coming along to the play scheme in the future.

Maybe you'd like longer sessions (i.e. to fit in around your work commitments) or would you like to be more involved in the play scheme?

If so, please contact Shelley Parker at Wiveliscombe Primary School or email her at MParker@educ.somer-set.gov.uk

Skate Fest for the 10 Parishes



ON Sunday August 21st at Unit 6 in Wellington the Youth Action Team held its first event for young people in the 10 Parishes.

Unit 6 is a skate park with a difference. It is indoors and provides music, cafe and excellent ramps for all keen skaters.

The event was led by Kate Whitfield who is working as the Youth Champion for the new Youth Action Team.

"It went really well and all the kids had a great time," said Kate. "We had

an MC who was superb and really motivated and inspired everyone."

In all 30 people came along from different youth groups in the 10 Parishes. They were treated to a display by a professional in-line skate team from Yeovil who also went on to judge the skate competition.

This is the first event for the Youth Action Team and more are being planned. If you would like further details then please contact Kate Whitfield on 01984 623031.

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