



They were here for the beer

FARNHAM Beerex's 39th annual beer exhibition opened its doors on April 23 in a blaze of sunshine and welcomed in 1,300 people on the first day who took full advantage of the 60 ales available on tap.

Opened by the Mayor of Farnham, Cllr Jeremy Ricketts, this year's first night created something of a record. For many years, the evening had been known as the 'Cinderella' of the event, and had not sold out, but new breweries, new beers, St George's Day and sunshine meant there was a record attendance.

There was music from local band Straubenzee and a full bar-

becue, all of which helped the consumption of ales to exceed 20,500 pints with a further 2,000 pints of cider downed. Each session was completely sold out, so 5,200 tickets were sold in total.

Next year will be the festival's 40th in the same venue and a number of special attractions are being planned. The dates are April 21-23 2016.

Pictured above are: the Mayor of Farnham, Cllr Jeremy Ricketts, opening the event, flanked on his right by Keith Harris, president of Farnham Lions and on his left by Peter Matthews from the Beerex committee and Phil Alexander, chairman of the Beerex committee.