

*This day in April in Portland
History...*

April 4th 1988 Today marked the end of an era in Portslade TV habits. The British TV soap opera 'Crossroads' came to an end after 24 years.



April 5th 1900 ^{SEP} The first thirteen
members of Portslade fire brigade were
sworn in. Before then, Portslade relied on
the Hove fire service to deal with fires.

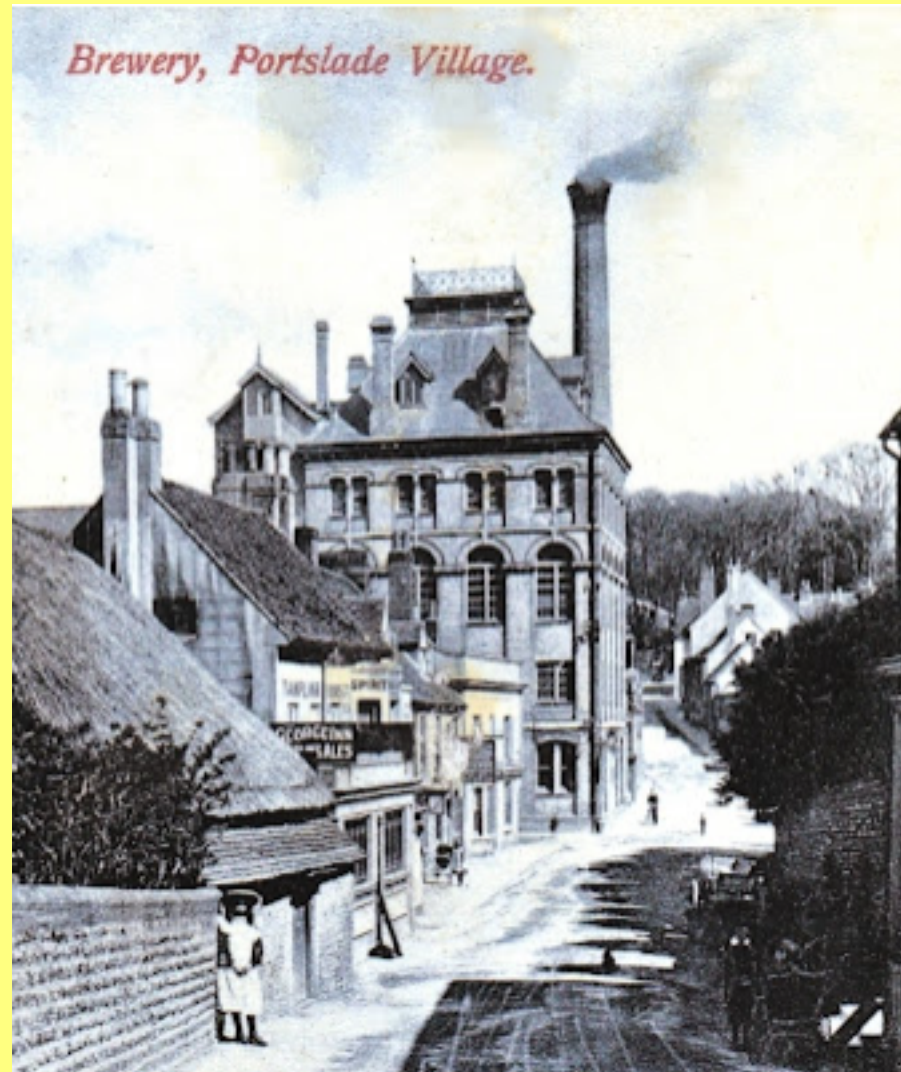


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Portslade Fire Brigade in the early 1900s, at this time their fire appliances were stored in a council yard on the corner of Church Road-Vale Road before the new Fire Station was built in Church Road.

With thanks to Mr G. Osborne for granting permission for the reproduction of the above photograph from his private collection.

April 9th 1884 ^[SEP] The Dudney family sold
Portslade brewery to the Mews brothers
(Walter and Herbert) for £17,000.



April 12th 1606^[L]_[SEP] Portslade had a new flag to fly! The union flag became the official flag of Britain. It combined the flags of St George (England) and St Andrew (Scotland). As Wales was not a kingdom but a principality, it couldn't be included on the flag.



April 14th 2014 ^L_{SEP} Portslade scouts had 17
new badges to earn. New tasks included
geocaching, sending emails and posting
photographs on the internet appropriately.



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The new badges were created to allow younger scouts to develop a wider range of skills, the Scout Association said

April 15th 1991^[SEP] The camera obscura was in action at
Foredown Tower for the first time. A camera obscura is a dark room with a small hole in one wall. When it's bright outside, light enters through the hole and projects an upside down image of the outside world onto the wall opposite the hole. The earliest historical reference to a camera obscura is the 4th century BC.



April 17th 1969^[L]_[SEP] The age at which a person was eligible to vote in Britain was lowered from 21 to 18.



April 20th 1964 ^[L]_[SEP] Portsladers were excited for a new TV channel as BBC Two was launched. The first programme to go out was 'Play school' which was shown at 11am.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01xqrt4>

April 21st 1983 ^[L]_[SEP] Portsladers desperately
checked their jean pockets as it was
announced that one pound notes were being
replaced by coins. It wasn't until 1988 that it
ceased to be legal tender.



April 23rd 1846^{[L][SEP]} Harry Blaker died at age 63. Mr Blaker was the first surgeon appointed to the Sussex County Hospital. He was a surgeon to the royal family and was paid £300 a year retainer for visiting Queen Victoria when she visited Brighton. Mr Blaker lived in the Kemps at the top of Portslade high street.



April 24th 1924^[SEP] Sussex cricketer George Street,
aged 34, was killed when his motorbike swerved at
Southern Cross and crashed into the garage wall. The speed
limit was 10mph but the motorbike was travelling at 20mph.
Mr Street played 197 first class matches for Sussex.



April 29th 1900^[L]_[SEP] The Portslade firing
range was officially opened at Mile Oak
farm.



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Rural Mile Oak as it used to be.