This day in March in Ports so History...

March 1st 1839 Sep Sussex County Cricket club was formed. Sep Former Portslade resident Jack Arlidge was the main sports reporter for The Argus for 25 years. There is a room named after him at the county cricket ground in Eaton road.



March 2nd 1981 Reverend Ernest Holmes was born. He was vicar of St Nicolas during the recession years or the 1930s and the Second World War. During the war, he kept the church open so parishioners could use it as an emergency air raid shelter if needed.

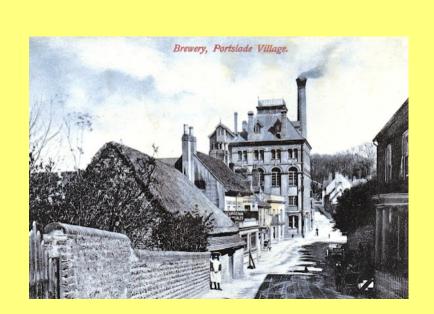


March 3rd 1966 Portsladers were excited to hear that the BBC would begin broadcasting television programmes in colour a year later. The new colour TV cost £300 and the first programme in colour was The Wimbledon Tennis Championships.





March 5th 1929 Herbert Mews, an owner of the Portslade Brewery from 1884 to 1919, died. The purchase price of the brewery was £24,000. That included the large brewery and the land to the side where the estate agents and dentist now sits.





March 6th 2015 Easthill park community cafe first opened. A group of local people came together to transform a disused derelict toilet block into a community cafe. As well as selling coffee and cake, the cafe is also used to train local young people in catering skills.



March 7th 1914 For £150 you could get a property in the old village. The average wage at this time was around £50 per year.



March 8th 1971 Portsladers finally had post again after a 7 week postal strike! The workers wanted a 15% pay rise but were offered 8%.



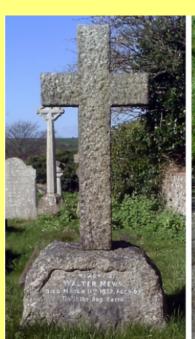
March 9th 1941 Fee All Portslade schools were closed as the second world war intensified. Most children stayed in their own homes but some chose to be evacuated to Yorkshire or Cornwall.





March 11th 1922 Walter Mews, who built Loxdale house in Locks hill, died. The nine bedroom house with its landscaped gardens was the subject of many magazine articles.

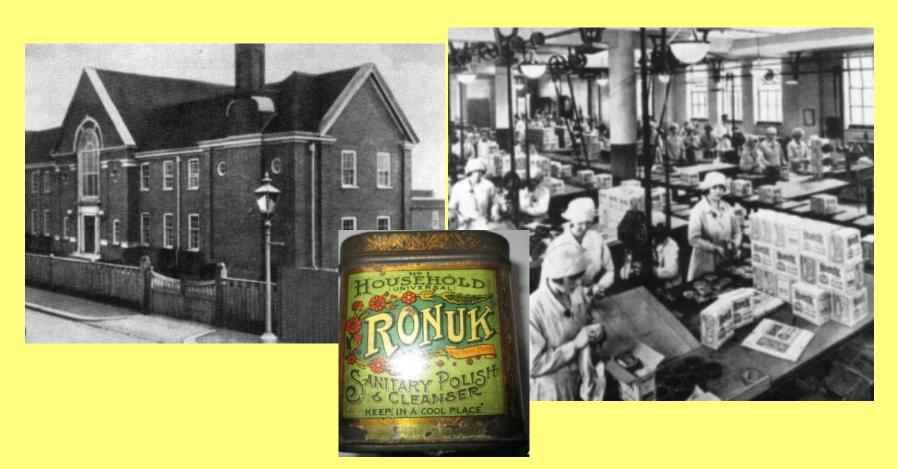






copyright © D.Sharp
The tombstones of Walter and Herbert Mews in St Helen's Churchyard, Hangleton.

March 11th 1869 Horace Fowler was born. He created the Ronuk factory in Portslade in 1902 which later became the brand Ronseal.





March 12th 1935 A 30mph speed limit was imposed in the local area. This was part of a national movement to curtail deaths on the urban roads and those of pedestrians crossing these roads.



March 13th 1873 The will of Hannah
Brackenbury, who donated money for
Brackenbury school to be built, was
published. She ensured the school had
enough funds to be fully completed. She also
left two years wages to the local vicar.



copyright © J.Middleton

The former St Nicolas School (now an annex of the Brackenbury Primary School)

The inscription on the School's west wall reads: These Schools were erected by Hannah Brakenbury for the benefit of the Poor of the united parishes of Portslade and Hangleton A.D. 1872.

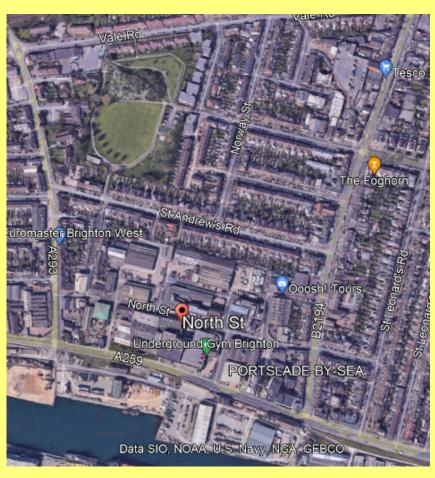
March 14th 2007 Cherie Blair, wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair, visited Emmaus in Portslade as part of its 10th anniversary celebrations. She is a supporter of Emmaus which supports homeless people with accommodation, work and guidance.





March 16th 1911 SEPA cinema opened in North Street, Portslade with seats for 450 people. The cinema closed down in 1958.





March 17th 1649 Portsladers were now living in a republic. Oliver Cromwell abolished the position of king of England and the house of lords, and declared England a commonwealth. It wasn't until May 1660 that Portsladers would have a monarch again - King Charles II.





March 18th 1996 SEP Southwick Hill tunnel on the A27 was opened, forming the final part of the A27 by-pass road.



March 20th 2015 Portslade had a solar eclipse which peaked at around 9.30am. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between Earth and the Sun. The next solar eclipse in Portslade will be on March 29th 2025.



March 21st 2020 Today marked the first day of covid closures of cafe's, pubs and restaurants in an effort to combat coronavirus. Ironically, it was also 'international day of happiness'.



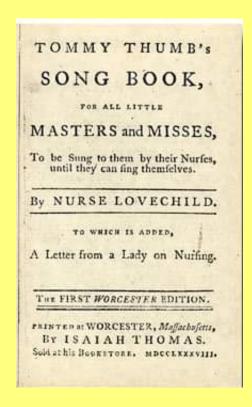
March 22nd 1774 Wealthy Portsladers

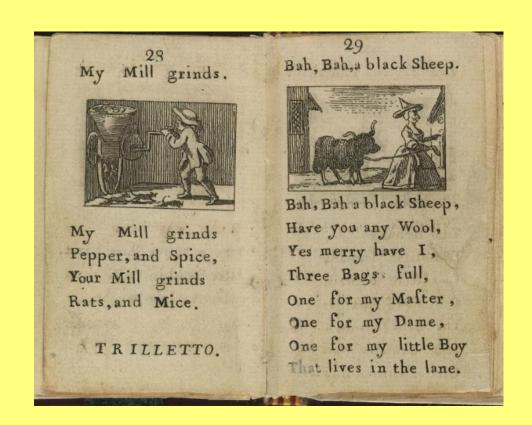
purchased the first published book of

English nursery rhymes. The book was called

'Tommy Thumb's song book' and included

'Baa Baa Black Sheep'.

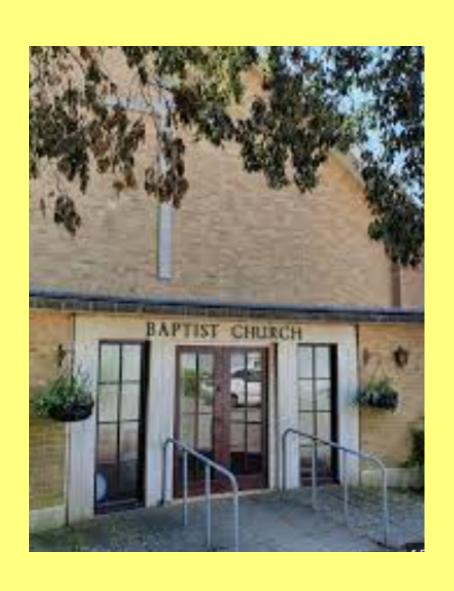




March 23rd 2020 The first full covid lockdown began. The prime minister, Boris Johnson, addressed the nation and told the public that they were only permitted to leave their homes for essential needs.



March 27th 1961 The opening ceremony of Portslade Baptist Church took place.



March 28th 1895 John Dudney, the founder of the Portslade Brewery, died. March wasn't a good month for Portslade brewers as the Mews brothers, who also owned the brewery at one time, died in March too.



March 30th 1997 Portsladers had a new channel to watch - channel 5! The station was launched by the Spice Girls singing.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBxOVp6ix20