

Chairman's Welcome - Friday 30th June and Saturday 01st July 2017
The Ashcott Beer Fest Committee are pleased to welcome you to the
19th annual Ashcott village Beer Fest.

We again have a terrific line up of bands and activities throughout the weekend alongside a great range of the country's finest ales and many terrific local ciders, we are in Somerset after all. We continue to build on the Saturday 'Family Fun Day', with an 'Enchanted Forest' theme and there are a wide range of children's activities to keep the little festival goers busy while the adults enjoy an ale or cider in the sunshine and listen to the music. Always keen to encourage new ideas you will have received a complimentary beer glass as you arrived, and after enthusiastic offers to help, we are also running a new 'Pimms' stall!

All profits are ploughed back into the community with most of the money raised from this event historically distributed between the three village beneficiaries - Ashcott Primary School, Cheeky Chimps Pre-School and the Village Playing Fields Association. The annual Beer Fest has raised well over £90,000 so far and continues to provide a much needed source of annual income for these great causes. So when you use your Beer Fest glass, proudly wear your T-shirt and sample the ales and ciders you can be rightly pleased with yourself for going out of your way to support the local community. This year we are also proud to be helping to raise funds for 4 year old 'Freddy's Fight for Life' crowdfunding campaign, so please give generously when you see the collection buckets at this year's event. Link: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Freddysfightforlife>

Ashcott Primary school is using the money to extend the fantastic school trim-trail, adding new climbing and physical challenge equipment around the school field. Cheeky Chimps is working to further improve it's outdoor play area as it continues to provide excellent pre-school education and after school care, whilst also making a further significant donation to Freddy's fundraising as he is a child at the pre-school. The playing fields committee continue to fund the completion of the wonderful new pavilion and we also make donations to the village hall and to local scout groups for their much appreciated loan of equipment. These resources are at the heart of village and community life for local children and families and it is thank-you to everyone's hard work and support that the annual Beer Fest is able to continue to raise these valuable funds.

The Ashcott Beer Fest Committee would like to say a giant THANKYOU to all of the people who have again given us sponsorship by providing help-in-kind and, of course, by sponsoring the many barrels of beer! Please take time to look at the sponsor's thank-you boards and their details on the programme. Without the support provided by so many local companies we simply couldn't run the festival and this is acknowledged and greatly appreciated and we're always looking for future sponsors if you're interested (*It's a great deal!)

The Ashcott Beer Fest Committee would also like to thank the many people who help by volunteering to run the children's activities, man the bars, organise car-parking and the entrance tent and who help to set up and to dismantle the site. As chairman I would also like to extend a special thank-you to the Beer Fest committee, and to the playing fields food team, who have attended the monthly meetings throughout the year and who have given up a great deal of their time and energy, particularly in recent days and weeks, to make sure that the event continues to be such a well run, safe and enjoyable success.

Lastly, when leaving today I would encourage you to take advantage of the free festival camping offered to festival goers or to leave quietly and safely and to respect our neighbours. We hope that we will see you again for our special 20th year next year with your friends and relatives or, if reading this on the Friday night, then please come back with more people for more fun tomorrow. If you are interested in sponsoring the Beer Fest or in helping to organise the event then please get in touch with us through the website, we look forward to hearing from you.
'Cheers' and Thank You.

Duncan Cameron
Ashcott Beer Fest Chairman