



Squerryes Estate and Westerham Brewery announce plans to build new craft brewery and sparkling wine winery in Westerham



Embargoed until 24 May 2013

Henry Warde of the Squerryes Estate and Robert Wicks of Westerham Brewery Co. Ltd are delighted to announce plans to build a state of the art sparkling wine winery and craft beer brewery in Westerham. The businesses, which will remain independent, will be located in a redeveloped redundant sawmill at Charmans Farm, Beggars Lane, Westerham.

In addition to the winery, Squerryes Estate plan to convert the barn at Charmans Farm into an Estate Farm Shop to sell wine, beer and other estate and farm products.

The Westerham Brewery, established nine years ago at Grange Farm in Crockham Hill, plans to relocate its plant and equipment to a new purpose built 6000 square foot building. They plan to sink a borehole into the same rock strata that provided the brewing liquor for both the Black Eagle Brewery and the Swan Brewery in Westerham for 300 years. The brewery will continue its close relationship with the National Trust, producing the Scotney range of beers using hops from the National Trust's only hop garden at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent. Spent hops from the brewery will continue to be supplied to the gardeners at Chartwell and spent brewers grains will be sent to Squerryes Farms to feed their dairy herd.

In 2006 the Squerryes Estate planted 35 acres of Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay vines to supply grapes to the English Wines Group. The Estate now plans to build a winery at Charmans Farm to produce the new Squerryes Estate range of Blanc de Blancs, Rose and Brut sparkling wines. The quality of the wines from produced with Squerryes grapes have already established their position as one of the highest quality grape producers in Kent.

Henry Warde and Robert Wicks have a strong Christian faith in common and are very much looking forward to working together on this project.

Henry Warde said: "The Squerryes Estate is very excited about the plans for the new winery at Charmans Farm. We are also delighted to help bring brewing back to Westerham town after nearly 50 years. We are working with local businesses to maximise the benefit for the town and look forward to hearing from the community as plans progress."

Robert Wicks said: "The Westerham Brewery has established itself over the last nine years as one of the top producers of craft beers in the South East. The move to Charmans Farm will enable us to grow our business and provide better facilities for our visitors. We look forward to working with the Squerryes Estate to establish Westerham as a great place to visit. The National Trust attractions of Chartwell and Quebec House combined with a craft brewery and winery will make Westerham one of the best places for a day out near to London."

Notes for Editors

The Westerham Brewery Co. Ltd was established in 2004 to make craft beer in Kent. Established at the National Trust's Grange Farm in Crockham Hill, the brewery has won multiple awards at the Society of Independent Brewers regional beer competitions including Supreme Champion Cask Beer in 2009 and 2010 for their Audit Ale and Supreme Champion Bottled Beer in 2011 with their Viceroy India Pale Ale. It has also won several National awards. The brewery supplies over 300 pubs in the Kent, London, and South East region as well as local Waitrose and Sainsburys supermarkets. The company has a strong ethical basis to their business, producing a Fairtrade beer, William Wilberforce Freedom Ale, donating a proportion of the proceeds to Stop the Traffik, a charity that highlights the issues of modern day slavery.

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The Warde Family has owned Squerryes Estate since 1731. Squerryes Estate comprises of 2,350 acres around Westerham.

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