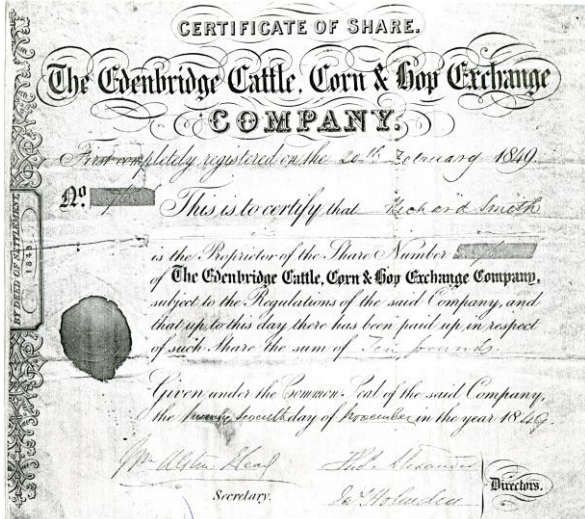


# Hops to Market ...



The museum holds ledgers and minute books for **The Edenbridge Cattle, Corn and Hop Exchange** from 1849 until the company wound up in June 1956, giving an indication to the importance of hops to the local economy from the mid-1800s and well into the 20th century.



Certificate of Share. The Edenbridge Cattle, Corn & Hop Exchange Company, 1849.

Image: P2018.3431

The final value of the crop is assessed by the condition of the hop samples and the skills of a good hop sampler were greatly respected. An examiner will pick a handful of hops, examine the colour and rub them in one hand with his thumb. From this simple test by sight, feel and aroma, he could judge the quality of the sample.

The various testing and sampling processes, included 'nosing' before going to market.

Competitions were held at agricultural shows for the best hops, and hoppers also competed on other aspects of hopping, such as stringing and banding.



Cutting samples of hops for analysis and sales, mid-20th century

Image: RC990



Antony Penman demonstrating a hop sampling tool at Larkin's Farm, Chiddingstone, 1997.

Image: P2003.680



Samples of hops laid out in a hop merchant's showroom for brewers to select their consignment, 1909.

Image: P2018.3376



Competition: Experts 'Nosing' the quality of hop blocks, c.1920. In the picture are William Goodwin from Pauls Farm, Leigh and Gordon Goodwin from Elliotts Farm, Penshurst. Image: P2003.680



Early 20th century postcard showing hop pockets being loaded up to go to market, c.1905. Not local.

Image: P2003.796