

## Kelsey's Brewery

### Spa town's famous beer from the 1800s



100-year-old beer bottle

A rare bottle from a spa town's brewing history has been put on public display.

Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery has been given the reminder of the town's main beer producers – Kelsey's Brewery.

The museum says it has a good collection of bottles from local mineral water makers, but until now it has lacked one from Kelsey's Brewery.

The bottle was found by a resident who was clearing brambles on land near Ashurst.

The brown glass is marked with the name E & H Kelsey.

Brothers Edward and Henry founded the firm in 1855 and by 1895 they owned more than 100 pubs in Kent, Sussex and Surrey.

In 1877 the brewery had to be rebuilt after a fire, when flames - fed by hundreds of sacks of hops - could be seen for miles around.

Kelsey's Brewery lost its independence in 1948, and eventually became part of Whitbreads. Its Culverden Brewery survived until 1962.

Tunbridge Wells was a good location for a brewery business because it lay at the heart of the High Weald, with a hop growing industry dating back to Tudor times.

The museum said it would be grateful for any other objects or pictures that would shed further light on the story of Kelsey's Brewery.