

Every girl loves a fellow with a big moustache



■ **FIRST CLASS:** Paul poses with his prize, a unique, hand-made, two pint moustache mug

THE world's greatest natural moustache began its life in Shoreham six years ago.

Paul Lewis, 36, who took the natural moustache title at the World Beard and Moustache Championships on Saturday, started growing his facial fluff as part of a friendly challenge between colleagues at Shoreham Airport-based engineering company Ricardo.

His first effort, started in 2002, included a beard, but he shaved off the excess when he realised the moustache had more potential.

A natural moustache is not enhanced by any styling aids, such as wax or hairspray, and has to keep its shape naturally.

Paul said: "It tends to curl naturally in the right direction, which makes it easy to keep in shape."

"When I saw the other competitors I didn't think I stood much chance when compared with some of them."

"I was surprised when my name was called out in the final three, and was convinced Mikael Strauss would win because his moustache was so much larger and longer."

For the last two years, many of his friends, including girlfriend Sarah Booker, a Herald sub-editor from Shoreham, pestered him to enter the championships hosted by Britain's Handlebar Club, because it was taking place in Brighton.

Sarah said: "Paul is quite shy and unassuming, so it was quite a battle to get him to finally fill in the form."

"It was only a week before the competition that he sent in his applica-



■ **HEARTY FELLOWS:** Natural moustache finalists Kev Rogers from Manchester who finished third, winner Paul Lewis, and second place, German Mikael Strauss

tion to the Handlebar Club, which he joined on the day.

"His moustache is impressive and suits him, so I was thrilled when he made the final."

Sarah and Paul's father Geoffrey, whose late parents used to live in Steyning, were at the front of the stage for the winning announcement.

When Mikael Strauss's name was called out in second place, Paul looked visibly shocked.

As soon as he was presented with his first place, giant moustache mug, Paul was whisked off for interviews with ITV local, the Press Association, and TIME magazine.

He has also featured on BBC South

Today, and on the BBC's website.

Paul said: "I'm comfortably relaxed with my new fame. I'm taking it in my stride."

"I've had a couple of comments when I've been out, but I'm used to that as for years people have wanted to have their photograph taken with me, because a moustache this size is so unusual."

The next World Beard and Moustache Championship takes place in Anchorage, Alaska in 2009.

● See Paul's story on video at www.shorehamherald.co.uk.

For pictures of championships contestants' visit to Steyning, see pages 40 to 41.

Tea time for Tollbridge

THE Old Shoreham Tollbridge Community Trust will be holding a cream tea to raise money in aid of The Old Shoreham Tollbridge.

The event will be held at The Old Rectory, Coombes, on September 22, from 2.30pm to 5.30pm.

As well as the cream tea, music will be played by Frank Semus and friends and a talk on the history of the medieval house, Coombes Church and the village will be given by Robin Reeves, the owner of house and churchwarden.

There will be ample time to look around the garden and the church as well as a sale of home-made produce.

All proceeds will go towards the Tollbridge. Work should start on restoring the ancient bridge on October 1 and will take about 40 weeks.

Thieves caused £1,500 damage to hospice shop

BURGLARS stole more than £1,000 and caused £1,500 damage in a raid on a Southwick charity shop.

The intruders broke through three doors, disabled CCTV cameras and broke into a safe to steal £1,600 from the St Barnabas House hospice shop in Southwick Square.

They sprayed bleach over the shop's back room, damaging the manager's desk, paperwork, furniture and stock.

Since the break in customers and neighbouring businesses have rallied to support the shop. A raffle has been held at a slimming club.

St Barnabas spokeswoman Janet Parsons said: "We are sad that people break into any shop but particularly a charity shop."

"But we were up and running the following day."

"Everyone is determined to carry on with their work for the hospice."

"The public have been wonderful and the other shop owners have been kind to us."

A police spokesman said: "Given the nature of their business and the losses involved, this crime has a significant impact on the charity and the wider community."

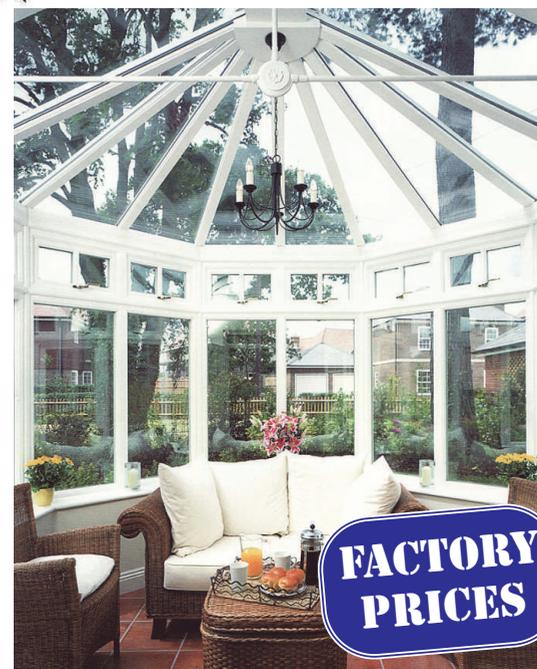
"Everyone is determined to carry on with their work for the hospice"

JANET PARSONS
ST BARNABAS HOUSE

Adur police are appealing for witnesses or anyone with any information about the burglary between Monday, August 27, and the early hours of Tuesday, August 28, to call them or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.



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