

1919 Emsworth and District Allotment Association set up.

Although records we hold give the impression that it was a Friendly Society in fact it was never registered as such.

1920 The lease and agreement are signed for the Victoria Road site.

1920 - The Association holds its first Flower Show.

1922

1922 The Flower Show takes place in Dr & Mrs Stephen's field and the members repair the roadway to the allotments.

First mention of rent arrears.

1923 The Flower Show makes a loss.

1925 The Flower Show is held at Northlands thanks to Sir Charles and Lady Hodges.

1926 The Show is held in the Council Schools ground.

1930 The President, the Reverend Charles Poyntz-Sanderson gifts 10 guineas per year to the Association which helps the committee make the decision that they are not obliged to hold a show each year, it being so much work for such little reward.

1930s These are hard times!

1931 A committee is set up to negotiate the terms of the new lease.

Problems with trespassers.

1932 The Committee is still negotiating the lease.

Problems with rats from the railway embankment.

1933 The new lease is in hand but not yet signed. Extra plots are added on new land and all are renumbered. Vacant plots to be given to unemployed men, paid for by Social Services.

The President the Reverend Poyntz-Sanderson dies.

1934 Miss Agata Poyntz-Sanderson accepts the role of President.

The lease is agreed after much discussion and correspondence. The extra land is rented from Mr Tier. The Association joins the National Allotment Society.

1935 With the help of the NAS, the Association negotiates much more favourable terms on the lease. After proposals in the 1920s to sink a well, the Council now agrees that the Association may install a mains water supply.

1936 One minutes' silence at the AGM at the death of King George V.

Mains water installed.

1937 Complains about damage to fences by Council tenants

1938 Fences repaired by Council. Still some continuing trespass & insurance is taken out. The water supply is extended.

Lady White offers a cup for the Potato Competition, in aid of the Hospital. The seed potatoes are provided by Commander Grant.

Plans for a new entrance at the western end of the allotments

1939 A drainage project is suspended for the duration of the war.

The Hospital Potato Competition yields 10cwt 9lbs (½ ton)

Miss Poyntz-Sanderson dies

1940 All plots are let, with 10 new tenants. The Association is granted free use of the land at the western end of Victoria road for the duration of the war.

1941 The Association is granted more land at the north of the recreation ground.

First mention of the Benevolent Fund, standing at £20.8.0

1941 Gas detectors installed at the allotments.

1942 Bulk orders for goods made through the Association on payment of a deposit

1943 Association represented on the local Food Production Committee.

(includes rabbits, poultry, pig and beekeeping clubs)

Strict rules about cultivation and rent are enforced, leniency for members of the Home Guard

1944 Suggestions made for a 'Communal Hut'. Council agrees to buy, dismantle and erect this from Mr Lockyer.

1 ton of National Growmore Fertiliser bought.

Association wins Havant Silver Challenge Cup.

1939- During the war, meetings are held every month

1945

1945 By July the Association has been notified that the Wartime Allotments will end on the 31st December.

1946 In January the membership total 150. This is made up of shareholders, including committee members and honorary members and 41 non-shareholding wartime members.

Negotiations are held to keep the wartime allotments if possible and in April new permanent Allotments are agreed in Warblington Road.

The August Bank Holiday Show is successfully held on the Recreation Ground, in aid of the Hospital.

1947 Problems with non-payment of rent and sub-letting of plots.

A special award of 10/- is made to Middleton Junior who cultivated his father's allotment unaided.

1948 Allotment Hut only opens on Sundays with one committee member present. Committee agrees a 4 month programme of winter lectures

and film shows. The Council agrees to fill in holes in the road.

1948 During 1948, the Association is taking advice on the conversion of the Society as it stands to The Emsworth and District Allotment and Gardens Association. Records indicate that the Association was a Limited Company, but as with the Friendly Society, there is no record of its registration as such.

The name is changed!

1949 Turbulent year! The changeover to the new Association is demanding and there are problems with rent arrears, unused allotments, deficits and trading losses. Even so, the Annual Show goes ahead on 30th July.

1950s

&

**early
'60s**

Check the archives to see what we can find. Suzanne has left me photocopies of a few minutes from 1958, for example

1950s We still do not know the reason for the missing minutes in the period January 1950 – 14th December 1966.

& '60s

1951 The Allotment Association publishes a leaflet entitled, “The Right to Dig” encouraging people to join their local Association.

1952 & 1954 The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries issues a warning leaflet about the Colorado Beetle – a 'dangerous foreign pest' that affects potatoes.

1954 The early 1950s saw a big push from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to get people gardening: for their health, for improving the environment and, above all to provide food.

1954 The Ministry issues a leaflet concerning 'Fowl Pest' and how to deal with it.

1967 Only 50% of the Warblington Road allotments are being cultivated; the Association is worried that HBC will take the land back.

1973 The Association contributes to a tree planting scheme.

1966-1986 The minutes are dominated by the allotment Trading Hut & the Association's finances, with the occasional mention of general meetings and the Flower Show

The turnover at the trading hut rises steadily (partly due to inflation no doubt) to the point where in 1976 the committee discusses possibly VAT registration. By this stage, there is a separate trading hut committee.

1970s The new school in Victoria Road means that children now need to walk along the footpath at the allotments. The Association takes out extra insurance.

The Association holds regular talks in different venues, for example the public hall in North Street and there are trips to open gardens and other venues.

1970s & 80s At the trading hut, seed potatoes represent a large proportion of the sales. This requires considerable effort in ordering, storing and bagging up and an oil heater has to be ordered in case of frost.

1978 Talks begin on replacing the trading hut with a more substantial building. This involves fundraising efforts, loans, plans, planning permission and sourcing a suitable building.

The building (which is still the one we use) was officially opened by Commodore and Mrs Daines in 1983

1984 A gas heater is installed in the hut although for a period during the winter months the hut is only open on alternate Sundays.

1987 In 1987 the Emsworth and District Allotments and Gardens Association becomes **The Emsworth Horticultural Society**.

1987-1999 Another gap in the archives! We are still on the lookout for any information from this period. If you come across old minutes,

newsletters, photographs or perhaps your memory may be jogged by this exhibition, please contact **Chris Shaw** via the EHS website. <https://emsworthhorticulturalsociety.org.uk/>

- 1994** The Emsworth Horticultural Society holds a Dinner Dance to celebrate the 75th Anniversary at the Community Centre, and an exhibition is arranged for the Museum.
- 2000** The Royal Horticultural Society asks Emsworth Horticultural Society if we would like to exhibit at Chelsea Flower Show in 2001.
- 2001** The Society's courtyard garden entry, 'A Fisherman's Retreat' is a considerable hit at the Chelsea Flower Show, winning an RHS Silver Gilt medal and a spot with Charlie Dimmock on BBC TV.
- 2002** Liz Stoner designs a courtyard garden called 'Herbal Delight' as the EHS entry to the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show and wins a Silver Medal
- 2003** The roof of the Distribution Hut is repaired.
- Discussion about an EHS Website.
- In October, the membership stands at 600
- 2003** During the erection of the Show on the Friday before, 23 coconuts were stolen from the marquee!
- ????** When did Emsworth Horticultural Society Show begin having non-horticultural stalls, arena events, displays etc?
- ????** When did Emsworth Horticultural Society start holding a garden competition?
- ????** When did the EHS become involved with the Emsworth Food Festival?
- ????** Has the EHS (and its predecessors) always given money to a range

of charities from Show profits?

???? When did EHS 'Natter Mornings' first appear? (Members open their garden for a couple of hours to which members are invited for a coffee, biscuits or cake and a 'natter').

2004 Sue Rylance prepared the Hanging Basket and Window Box for the EHS entry in the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show and was awarded a Silver Gilt Medal. They grew so big a special van had to be hired to ensure they arrived in good shape.

2005 Another Hampton Court entry, again prepared by Sue Rylance, won a trophy for 'Best in Show'.

2006 A new storage hut is erected at the allotments.

2007 Talks during 2007 ranged from 'History of Gardening Tools', to 'The Secret Gardens of Hampshire', 'Sweet Peas' & 'Pesticides'.

2008 Annette Wood designs a garden for the EHS entitled, 'Art in the Garden'— a discovery garden for children linked to famous paintings. The Hampton Court entry wins a Silver medal.

2008 'Gardeners' Question Time' comes to the EHS and is held at Warblington School Hall with Pippa Greenwood, Anne Swithinbank and Chris Beardshaw.

2009 The EHS celebrates its 90th Anniversary, with an exhibition of 'Emsworth Garden History' arranged by Mike Rogers in the Emsworth Museum and a garden party to which members who were 90 years old or more, plus life members, were invited at Angela Baldry's house.

2009 A memorial bench is installed at the allotment hut, in memory of Captain Norman 'Fitz' Fitzgerald, a life Vice President of the Society.

2010 November. The EHS holds an open meeting to discuss the future of the August Bank Holiday Show. An 'overwhelming' majority of members is in favour of continuing.

2011 Although Committee minutes had been produced on a computer word-processor since at least 1994, probably Word or similar, minutes of a meeting in 2011 is the earliest Word file we have in the archive. **Do you have earlier examples hidden on your computer? Please let us know by contacting Chris Shaw at the EHS.**

2011 A new Show Chairman and Grounds Manager volunteer to keep the show running.

2013 Andy McIndoe gives the talk for the EHS in March and Tom Hart Dyke gives a talk in November entitled 'Kidnap and the Setting Up of the Garden'.

2013 An agreement with the New Life Church means that a Show 'Park and Ride Scheme', 600 cars used it with an estimated 2,500 travelling on the accessible bus.

2014 Extremely heavy rain drastically reduces footfall at the Show. A huge financial loss is incurred – which is why is why we have the 'Rainy Day Fund'

2015 A special general meeting is held on the 6th June to discuss the EHS involvement in the 'Emsworth Show'. Three options are presented and all members are balloted. A majority of members vote to continue the show in its current form.

Shiraz Jamal takes over and transforms the EHS Website

2016 The 2016 show goes ahead successfully but the temporary Show Chairman cannot continue and the Show is again comes under threat.

The current President of the EHS steps in as temporary Show Chairman and a new president is elected.

???? When did the 'Flower Show' or 'Horticultural Show' become 'The Emsworth Show'?

2017 The annual subscription is increased from £5 to £7. This hardly

causes a stir; remember, it includes family membership.

2017 The Show may lose part of the available ground if the field we use (Tiers Field) is sold for housing. Discussions are held to assess the feasibility of alternative venues.

2018 Chris Shaw takes over the process of digitising EHS archives. New computer hard drives are now being used. The Society Website advertises a continuing campaign to find stored files, photographs and records to supplement the large collection already catalogued and stored in the Emsworth Museum by the previous archivist, Suzanne Holroyd.

2018 After further problems with parking at the Emsworth Show, and the continued threat of losing the field, the EHS is now working with the New Life Church on whose land we plan to hold the 2019 Show

2019 **The Emsworth Horticultural Society celebrates the 100 years of its existence.**

Celebrations include a garden party at Hollybank House; a centenary exhibition in the museum with a comprehensive history of the Society; a centenary slideshow at a quiz evening; a BBC Radio Solent gardeners' Questions broadcast held in the Baptist Church;

2019 A successful show held in the New Life Church grounds with all the usual events – a good indicator of the security of future shows, especially since the sale of Tiers field is now going ahead.

2020 **The Global Covid-19 pandemic strikes.**

February saw the last public meetings of the EHS at the Community centre due to the 'lockdown' and other restrictions. Subsequently, members adapted to virtual meetings held on Zoom, the first Zoom meeting being a full committee on 7th April.

The EHS Show was cancelled and the Show Committee organised a 'Virtual Show' - a photographic competition with a smaller range of

entry classes.

We held the first discussions leading to the separation of the organisation of the Emsworth Show into two committees: the Marquee Committee and the Show committee. We plan to hold a Show in 2021, regulations and conditions permitting

We hold the first online Zoom talk on 15th October with a talk by Alan Williams on 'The Allotment Year'. 23 members logged in to watch.

2021 We hold our first online AGM hosted by Chris Shaw.

Colin Beale is now co-chair of the EHS with Lyn Davies. Colin also takes on the role of Treasurer from the retiring treasurer, Michael Ponsonby.

Richard Suter takes up the role of Distribution Hut manager and the new position of Marquee Manager for the show. Brenda Abbott takes over the position of Membership Secretary from Colin Beale. She also now handles the dissemination of information for the public as well as to members, publicity and newsletters.

2021 The EHS restarts the Emsworth Show with extensive Covid-19 precautions including social distancing, masks and hand disinfectant. Numbers inside the marquee are restricted. To encourage attendees to buy tickets online the online price is £5.50 and the gate price is £7.

In October the Show committee reports that there are considerable vacancies for the jobs required to run the next show: Vice-Chair, Sponsor Manager (for the main Show, not the Marquee), Posters, Flyers and Programme designer, Asst Manpower Manager, Ground Manager, Stores Manager, Traffic Manager and a traffic entry supervisor, Showground supervisor, Arena Events manager.

2022 Members' Open Gardens (Natter Mornings) began again – in February!! Postponed for a week due to high winds, Ann Moss opened her garden which provided a rich display of snowdrops, hellebores and winter foliage as well as a plant and craft sale. Open gardens continued throughout the year.

One of the main attractions of the year was the July Garden Party held for EHS members as well as open to the public. Activities and

displays included, a flower arranging competition, games for children, a plant stall, a mobile refreshment truck and a large display of photographs from the archive. The inspiration and organisation for this event held in the old Emsworth Hospital Garden (Community Garden) came from Sarah Furness, but there was also an army of volunteers and all the Committee helped. 10 new members joined!

2022 A very successful Emsworth Show Held in the grounds of New Life Church. Some teething problems with the new online ticketing and card machines on the gates. A beautiful sunny day and the showground was packed. The Show committee chaired by Christina Newton still has difficulty recruiting members to the major roles.

2023 This year there are considerable changes to the committee. The current chair (Colin Beale) will step down in 2024 so we begin looking for a replacement. A new treasurer (Rob Turner) steps forward and will work alongside the current treasurer (Colin Beale) until October when he will take over. Jan Butler retires from the committee but continues to lend support to the work of the Main committee and the Hut committee. Shiraz Jamal steps down as Website manager but continues to help with graphic design and printing. The committee decide to use a commercial company to design and run a new website. Sarah Furness and Jane Kidd take on major roles on the committee with Sarah being the main social events organiser and Jane dealing with the website updates. They also co-ordinate the Members Open Gardens, support trips organisers and plan talks.

2023

