

Emsworth Horticultural Society

Annual report 2018

The EHS had a wide ranging and successful programme this year, including plant sales, talks, trips, a holiday, a quiz, open garden mornings, garden and container competitions, the Show and regular Sunday openings of the Distribution Hut. Faith Ponsonby will be reporting on the Show and I will report on the Distribution Hut. They both have challenges to face as does the committee which urgently needs new members to take the EHS forward into the 2020s.

Membership Report 2018

The total Society membership for 2018 was 356 (comprising 18 life members and 338 paid memberships) which is a decrease of 25 from 2017.

There were 86 memberships that did not renew for 2018 and this was partly as a result of the need to change all Standing Orders to reflect the increase in subscriptions and because the Society changed its bank. We were pleased to welcome 61 new memberships and have, therefore, managed to keep the overall membership at a consistent level.

We would encourage you to pay by Standing Order in the future as it is easier for the Society to collect your subscription in this way and should also be easier for you. Standing Order forms are available at the hut, at the monthly talks, on the website or directly from Colin Beale.

We don't currently have email addresses for 70 members. Whilst we appreciate that not everybody has email, if you can provide an email address we will be able to keep you updated, on a more frequent basis than the quarterly newsletters, of events and news regarding your Society.

If any of your details change, please let Colin Beale know so that he can update his records so that we can keep in touch. **Colin Beale**

Archives.

During 2018 the EHS archives built steadily in digital form thanks to the regular input of reports, photographs, minutes, newsletters, advertisements and contributions from a variety of members. In addition, I have begun scanning photographs and paper records from the Museum collection to supplement the work done by Suzanne Holroyd. Although we have not attempted an indexed database, it is possible to search for records chronologically under a range of headings. To make searching easier, the EHS and show records each have a separate root directory. As announced previously, we still have some gaps in our records, particularly in the late 1990s and early 2000s. We are always on the lookout for historical

photographs and reports and I have been promised more as people find time to search their attics and drawers. Please keep sending photographs, reports and notes. **Chris Shaw**

Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies (HFHS)

The EHS is affiliated to the HFHS. The HFHS website, which can be accessed from our website, is improved and members can now access the Members element which will mean that the Show Secretary can access the updated Judges List and the Talks Organiser can access the Speakers List. Members need to register their log in details and then they will get access. There has to be a login arrangement to ensure that it is only club members accessing the site as HFHS is only providing the Judges and Speakers for member organisations, such as the EHS.

Events.

We offered a great range of events this year and I would like to thank the members who organised them. Heather Hayter, Gill Sadler, Doug and Sally Outram, Jan Morgan, Angela Armstrong and Annette Wood organised trips to wonderful gardens in Sussex, Hampshire and Oxford, and Angela Baldry ran a very popular three day holiday visiting gardens in the Cotswolds.

Daphne Tomsett, Jean Gilbey, Paul Bennett and Rob Turner hosted open garden mornings, organised by Heather Hayter and Gill Sadler. An informative programme of talks as well as a popular quiz and a woodland walk were organised by Naomi Pattison. Daphne Tomsett organised the annual plant sale at the hut in May assisted by Pam Phillips and Jackie Stanley. She also organises the plant sale table at talks.

Garden, containers and allotment competitions were organised by Karen Beale. They aren't part of the Show as such because they are at a different time, but entries are photographed and displayed in the marquee at the Show.

Centenary planning.

Since September the committee have been planning centenary events in 2019: Radio Solent Gardeners' Questions and a Garden Party. There will also be a trip with a difference in October – watch out for details.

The Committee.

The committee meets 11 times a year (we have September off) and at the moment we have 10 members. Some including myself are coming up for retirement from their positions at the end of this year and we need new members to become familiar with the way we work and eventually take over. Everyone has something they can offer – please offer it to us for without new people coming in to organise it the Emsworth Horticultural Society will cease to exist.