

Annual Report 2017

Introduction .

2017 was a good year for the Society. Membership remained stable, the hut did better than it has done in recent years, and we had a good selection of talks, trips and open garden mornings. The weather on show day was perfect and the show was very successful. In June we held an exhibition entitled 'Emsworth Show: Then and Now' at the Emsworth Museum, based on the EHS archives, going back to 1922. All this work has been done by our members, both on the committee and off, apart the Show where much work was done by non-members. I would like to thank everyone for their help and support.

Membership (Colin Beale)

The total Society membership for 2017 was 381, which is a decrease of 4 from 2016. The 381 comprises 17 Life members and 364 paid members. During 2017, we had 53 new members, of which 12 signed up at the Emsworth Show. There were 57 members (just 15% of the total) who did not renew their subscription. We have, therefore, managed to keep the overall membership at a consistent level, whilst welcoming a number of new members.

Of the 2017 paid members, 67 renewed via Standing Order. For 2018 all the existing Standing Orders had to be cancelled as the Society moved its bank account and the subscription increased from £5 to £7. To date, 37 new Standing Orders have been set up. 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, on the website or from Colin (at the back of the hall) this evening.

Currently we don't have email addresses for 84 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 events and news regarding your Society on more frequently than the quarterly newsletters.

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.

Distribution Hut (Suzanne Holroyd)

Thanks to the volunteers who staff the hut on Sunday mornings, weigh up the dry fertilisers, keep track of the ordering and maintain the price lists.

Business in 2017 was quite brisk, with the usual lull in trade in the summer months. We continue to be price competitive for wet and dry fertilisers, and our seed potatoes are much cheaper than other outlets. We sell the quantity you need for seed potatoes, fertilisers and textiles such as fleece and Mypex.

The Hut exists to serve EHS members so please make the most of it. We are open on most Sundays of the year, apart from a month over Christmas and New Year and the Sunday before August Bank Holiday Monday (Show day). Please check the website for current information on the hut: www.emsworthhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

Events

Talks were held on the third Thursday of the month except for June, July, August and December. Naomi Pattison organised talks on a wide range of subjects which were well attended. We have (mostly) solved the problem of people being unable to hear the speaker by the use of microphones, though if the speaker doesn't speak clearly there isn't much that can be done.

Four popular day trips were run this year to gardens in Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. In addition, Angela Baldry ran a three night trip to Nottinghamshire. Thanks to all the organisers.

The committee decided to re-name natter mornings to give a better picture of what they are: member's gardens open to other members to have a look round, a chat and a cup of tea or coffee. They are now called 'Open Garden Mornings'. Four gardens were opened, including one allotment. Thanks to Heather Hayter and Gill Sadler for organising the programme and to the members who kindly let us into their gardens.

Plant sales organised by Daphne Tomsett were held at meetings as well as the annual plant sale at the Hut. Christmas drinks and nibbles were served to members after the November meeting.

Website (Shiraz Jamal)

The EHS web site has been well accessed by the members and continues to receive excellent feedback. It covers gardening activities beyond our society as it promotes other societies in the vicinity. One unused feature is the small ads section where members can advertise their gardening equipment and or plants for sale.

Archives

Since the paper archive is now with Emsworth Museum, Chris Shaw and Shiraz Jamal have been investigating how records, photos and other material which has been produced electronically can be stored and an electronic archive system developed.

Looking forward...

2019 is our centenary year and we are starting to plan events to celebrate it. Do join us if you'd like to help. Chat to a committee member or email Lyn Davies at emshorticultural@gmail.com.