

Next Question Please

Emsworth Horticultural Society's long awaited day finally came, the B.B.C. entourage with their conglomeration of wires, mikes, speakers, headphones, clip-boards, etc, etc. descended on Warblington School.



In the evening, a capacity crowd of 300 who had been first off the mark for tickets arrived promptly and expectantly with their carefully prepared questions for two recordings of Radio Four's 'Gardeners' Question Time' one from the 'EHS' and one from Hampshire.

The 24 questions selected by the producer just prior to the recording sessions - to be answered by the celebrity gardening panel of Chris Beardshaw, Pippa Greenwood and Anne Swithinbank - got off to an interesting start. With one member suffering from wind, and then going on to other localised issues such as the most beneficial (or possibly illegal??) use of seaweed gathered from the shore, and how to restore a garden completely flooded by seawater earlier this year.

The two hours passed surprisingly quickly for the audience who applauded rapturously on cue and who rather enjoyed the one or two occasions when answers had to be reworded or repeated for 'technical hitches' - in particular when Pippa carelessly referred to Toblerone- shaped soil ridges (tut! tut!, no advertising on the B.B.C.).

'Gardeners' Question Time' turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening for everyone attending and it is perhaps hardly surprising that this hardy perennial programme continues to thrive after more than 61 years (one year longer than the N.H.S!).

Dennis Doye

Art in the Garden

The Emsworth Horticultural Society were delighted to be awarded a R.H.S. Silver Medal at this year's Hampton Court Palace Flower Show; the largest annual Flower Show in the world. It was achieved for their small garden entry, designed by member Annette Wood, entitled 'Spot the Art in the Garden - a resource for a Primary School', intended to foster children's interest in, and enthusiasm for, not only plants and gardens but also art and artists.

After months of intensive planning and preparation, the time finally came for creating the garden at Hampton Court - unfortunately in some challenging weather conditions which included a heat wave initially, followed by monsoon like rains, hail, thunder, lightning and destructive drying winds. Nonetheless, it all came together in the end with teams of E.H.S. members arriving every day to construct, plant and steward the garden.



The adjacent garden designer and his wife from London, largely working on their own, remarked that they had formed an impression of Emsworth as being an "idyllic little seaside village populated by friendly and hardworking people".

The garden attracted an enormous amount of public interest during the week of the Show, not least amongst teachers and children who enthusiastically opened and closed the lids on the Art Posts containing the questions, before searching for the Art. It is also heartening to know that a Primary School could well install the garden in their own grounds in the future.

Dennis Doye

The Emsworth Show

An exuberant and colourful display of flowers, amongst a total of over 800 various entries in the giant marquee, more than made up for the absence of any sunshine at the annual Emsworth Show on August Bank Holiday Monday. Some 5,000 adults and children flocked to the Hordean Road Recreation Ground to enjoy the atmosphere of this local family event.

The Solent Veteran Bicycle and Tricycle Club were a favourite attraction in the main arena, amongst other performances of flying falcons, tumbling clowns, dog agility and young footballers. Whilst the popular fun dog show and traditional music and dance featured in the small arena, with over 60 stalls, rides and entertainments for children, filling the rest of the Showground.

With the indifferent weather prior to the Show, some growers had found it difficult to bring their plants to perfection for exhibiting in the marquee, but nonetheless there were some excellent displays. Fifteen-year old Peter Rogers of Highland Road, Emsworth, challenging the 'Old Hands', was delighted to walk away with several awards and prize monies.



Junior Winners: left to right, Katy Baines (9), Jessica Valentine (9), Toby Valentine (6)
Picture by Frances Sweeney

The Emsworth Horticultural Society would like to thank Havant Borough Council, the many sponsors, and the 180 volunteer helpers for all their support in helping to bring about another successful Show for the community. At the time of writing, the financial result is unknown, but should there be a net income over expenditure, this will as usual, be distributed to local organisations/charities.

Dennis Doye

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South East in Bloom

The Emsworth Memorial Garden has won the Community Action Award for the South East in Bloom competition. This is a tremendous achievement considering that six months ago the flowerbed in the garden was just a rough patch of earth with a few poppies in it. Our garden designer Sarah Sanderson, Emsworth Horticultural Society, is to be congratulated for her tremendous efforts and work for the garden. If you want to be part of this success, please join the Friends. Contact me on 373744 or our Secretary Maurice Clarke 371486. *Virginia Wilson-Smith*

Other South East in Bloom winners

Seafields and Beacon Square gardens were awarded certificates of excellence, as were the Friends of Nore Barn Woods. Jingles Hotel won the Hotel category. We are delighted that Emsworth has once again done so well in this prestigious regional competition.

Brendan Gibb-Gray



The eleventh hour of the eleventh day 1918

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice on 11th November 1918.

Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden have always said that we would observe the 2-minute silence on the 11th of November regardless of the day it happens to fall on. Whilst realising that this makes it impossible for many people to join us, we do feel that we should abide by the commitment made to observe the actual day. Last year, it coincided with Remembrance Sunday and we had our ceremony at 11am but this year it will be on a Tuesday.

Please join us if you can to observe the two-minute silence at 11am on Tuesday 11th November. It is hoped that a contingent of soldiers from the 47th regiment of the Royal Artillery on Thorney Island will be with us. They are looking forward to meeting any residents who can attend. Please look on the notice board in the Garden for more details or on other notice boards in and around Emsworth.

Virginia Wilson-Smith

Remembrance Sunday 9th November. Special Service in St James' Church 3pm, all welcome especially young people.

Emsworth Memorial Roll

A new list has been compiled of those from Emsworth who were killed on active service during World Wars I & II, the Falklands Conflict and in Northern Ireland. This list differs from that in St James' Parish Church as a number of inaccuracies have been found. These include the names of people who are and are not from Emsworth or its immediate surrounds (Westbourne & Southbourne).

Most of this extra information comes from two local military historians, Andrew Nichol and Steve Rogers (brother of Sue Treagust). Steve travels the world photographing war graves and has a very comprehensive data-base of those who gave their lives for their country in all wars. I thank both Andrew and Steve for their help in compiling this new list.

Last Chance

There is still a chance to add or amend names but we need any new information very soon as the list will shortly be going to the craftsmen who will be making the plaques for the Memorial Garden. If you spot any errors, please contact me urgently on 01243 377929.

David Lee

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