

EASTWICK ALLOTMENTS & GARDENS ASSOCIATION

A brief history of Eastwick Allotments and of the Association

1850

The lord of the manor donated the land of the allotment site to the residents of Bookham

The cost was then 2 shillings per 20-rod plot

This is about 220 ft. The same area today would cost £79

1900

The site was extended to a total of 7 acres and some of the extra space designated as plots for schoolboys

1908

There is a record of a local barbers coming to the site every Sunday morning to give haircuts to plotholders. 2p for men and 1p for boys

1914

The land became largely neglected during the war years but some plots were still worked and the price of a pint would Buy a load of manure (now £25)

1918

After the war the land was offered to the parish council for £100 but it was refused and subsequently sold to a developer. One well known local resident and keen gardener tried to form a syndicate of ten each holding 1 £10 share to buy the land for allotment use but this move proved unsuccessful. A development company bought the land a year later.

1923

The parish council (the forerunner of Leatherhead Urban District Council who later became part of Mole Valley Council who now own the site) had second thoughts and led by Mr Turville Kille were persuaded to buy the land back for £480. By this time the developer (Ansell's) had already built on the land adjoining the main Leatherhead Road. This left just 5 acres. New rental agreements were issued at 3/3p (16p) for 10 rods

1930

Before the land was fenced a local eccentric was found to be habitually pilfering produce. Various measures were taken to stop the female including setting trip wires across the land!

1940

The land was fenced and some water lay on

1955

The 94 10 rod plots were all let (now most of them are let in 2 5 rod plots) 500 leaflets were printed to publish a meeting which was called to form an Association to be known as Eastwick Allotments & Gardens Association. The first Chairman was Mr. Turville Kille. The first Treasurer was Mr Les Osborne

7th February 1955

The council agreed to purchase a hut for use by allotment holders

March 7th 1955

The first meeting of the association was held

It was decided to sell Growmore at 2/- (10p) for 7lb

And Bonemeal for 2/6 (12.5p) for 7lb Lime shortly followed at 2/6 for a hundredweight

15th April 1955

The timber hut was erected. The Association joined the BCA

A wheelbarrow was donated and lent to members at a cost of 6p per hour or part thereof

October 1955

The first AGM held at the co-op hall in Leatherhead

93 members

January 1958

Surrey County Council organised a shoot to curb the numbers of wood pigeons. The Association paid Mr Stradwick £1 for ammunition to fund a shoot on the site

March 1959

The Council started discussions about the need to take a strip of land along Eastwick Road to make a footpath.

1968

The land was re fenced in chain link to replace the original chestnut. Some hardcore was provided to start a track up the middle of the site

July 1971

A new pre cast concrete hut was provided

September 1972

Electricity was installed

June 1978

Membership peaked at 794.

The Association bought another hut for £582.20

2011

The huts were re-furbished with a new floor screed, new lighting and a door built between the two huts. A new counter was built for the small hut and thanks to a connection we have through one of our committee members a firm kindly supplied new racking throughout.

TODAY

All Eastwick allotments are let and there is a waiting list, The Association has a close working relationship with the Council and the site agent who is also our secretary. We have about 280 members each paying £3 annual subscription. We are developing a new web site and using the name Bookham and Fetcham Gardeners Association in order to make clear a greater connection with the local gardening community as anyone, not just allotmenters, can join the Association. All the committee gives their time freely and the Association sells almost all a gardener needs from bubble wrap to composted manure all at very competitive prices. Members assist once a year in the huts on Sunday mornings from 10am - 12noon.