

Emsworth British Food Fortnight to take a “Fallow” year

FALLOW - Adjective - (of farmland) ploughed and harrowed but left for a period without being sown in order to restore its fertility or to avoid surplus production. Oxford Dictionaries

Since its inception in 2014, the Emsworth British Food Fortnight has become a much loved and tremendously successful showcase for both Emsworth itself and both local and regional produce. The event won national recognition when it was winner of the Harvest Heroes Competition in 2014 - organised by Love British Food, in conjunction with The Telegraph, as part of British Food Fortnight. The competition seeks to acknowledge the people who organise the most imaginative and inclusive celebrations of local food and the harvest. Emsworth came runner up, on the only two other occasions it entered the competition, to the cities of Bath and Peterborough.

The Emsworth British Food Fortnight very specifically focused on three key words each year:

Education - Community - Celebration

Using these themes, the Emsworth British Food Fortnight has always looked to encourage a wide range of events, encompassing as many people of all ages and backgrounds as possible to take part and get involved. The range of activities was both varied and inclusive and included as some of its core events – local produce markets, wine tastings, food education in local primary schools, working with a local Technical College’s Catering departments, establishing food banks, an open air Harvest Festival Service, charity lunches on Emsworth’s famous quay, community apple pressing and beer festivals.

Organising any event of this magnitude is always both time consuming and complex and requires of a team of volunteers who are able give their time and knowledge. Sadly this year there were not sufficient volunteers to ensure that the same multi layered event could be considered ,and using that old adage that if you can’t do something well, it’s better not to do it at all, the decision for a fallow year in 2019 was taken. This will also allow the organisers to take stock and take a step back, and, perhaps most importantly, come back refreshed and with new ideas for the future for this much loved event.

Note – British Food Fortnight is an annual showcase initiated by Love British Food and the dates for this year are 21st September to 6th October. For more details visit - www.lovebritishfood.co.uk

Love British Food 