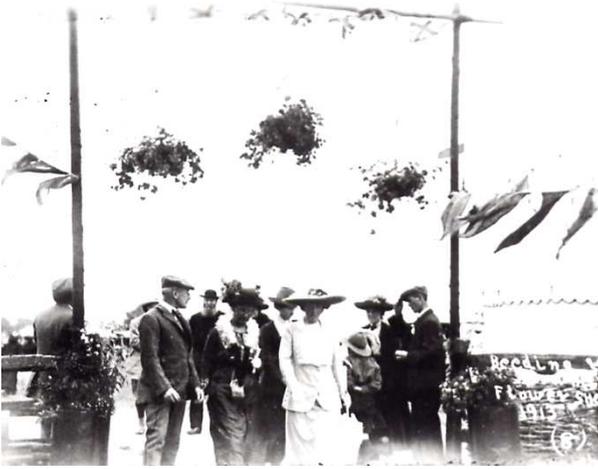
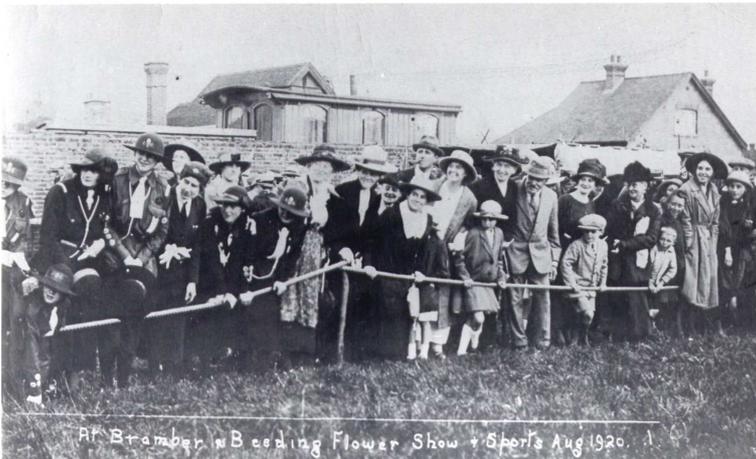
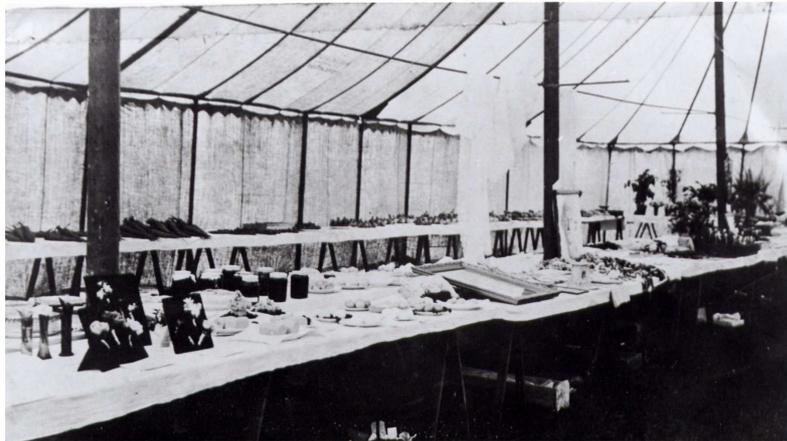


## The HISTORY of BEEDING & BRAMBER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



It seems that Beeding and Bramber Horticultural Society was founded in 1905, but little is known about its early history. Flower Shows were held annually in a marquee erected on Follies Field, where Dawn Close now stands. A 1913 photograph shows a timber archway erected at the entrance to the field, decorated with flowers and bunting. The marquee can be seen on the right. One photograph survives showing the interior of the marquee with produce laid out on trestle tables.

A photograph from 1920 shows that the Flower Show was sometimes combined with a Sports' Day. Girl Guides and cheerful ladies in large hats are seen cheering on the contestants. Does anyone know where this photograph was taken?



At some time after the Village Hall was completed in 1930, the Flower Shows were held there, except for some of the war years. In the 1950's, records show that a Summer Show and Sports' Day were being held in August and an Autumn Show in November, but 1957 was

to be the last year for this to happen. The autumn show that year ran at a loss and the following year it was decided to only hold one Show in August in the Village Hall with children's games and side-shows outside. However, after a disastrous clash of dates with the Conservative Association forced a change of date, the committee seems to have lost

heart and no more shows were organised. The Society was officially disbanded in 1965 and all the cups that had been presented in 1958 left with those who had won them.

It was to be 15 years before the Society would be reconstituted, but in 1973, following a meeting called by Harry Phillips and Chris Grinyer, it was re-formed and a Summer Show was held at the Calabash Rooms, Bramber. Some of the old cups were retrieved and new ones donated and the society went from strength to strength, returning to the Village Hall for their annual show from 1975 onwards. In 1983 a Spring Show was held for the first time which has also become an annual event and for the first time in 2009 a “mini-show” and sale of produce took place at the village fete.

A few years ago, with fewer people growing their own produce, making their own jam, knitting, sewing, or even baking a cake, the number of entries to the shows declined. But now the trend has been reversed. More people, especially women, have taken on an allotment and are keen to grow their own fresh fruit and vegetables. The spring and summer shows are still popular events and attract many visitors.

Pat Nightingale, Aug. 2005, amended Sept 2009