

# **East Reading Horticultural Society**

NEWSLETTER

**March 2023**

Trading shed opening times: Saturday and Sunday from 09:30 to 11:00 and  
Wednesdays (in April and May only) from 18:30 to 19:30.

**Note:** Shed helpers are not all young, big, and strong so, if you need to get heavy items,  
please try to bring someone with you to help with the lifting.

Shed mobile number: 0738 463 2903. Web site: [www.erhs.org.uk](http://www.erhs.org.uk)

Facebook Group: "East Reading Horticultural Society"

Editor: Tel: 07794 233361, Email: [ERHS@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ERHS@hotmail.co.uk)

{Get your newsletter early (and in colour): ask to be added to the ERHS email list.}



## **1. PROGRAMME EVENTS**



### **CORRECTION**

I gave the wrong address for Ailsa Claybourn's web site. It is [www.ailsaswalksandtalks.com](http://www.ailsaswalksandtalks.com) (Ed.)

### **TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 - Our 81<sup>st</sup> AGM**

This meeting was well attended by 31 members. Jeff Gardner, our president, invited members to remember Geoff Ruffles who died last September. He then urged members to support local food banks by producing extra produce and also suggested growing extra plants that could be sold at the shed and the proceeds sent to a food bank.

The chairman highlighted the urgent need for volunteers who could offer time to be an assistant shed steward on a Saturday or Sunday and the creation of a list of helpers who would be prepared to assist Trevor in the shed weighing out goods for sale. Any member who would be prepared to help should contact John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303.

A presentation was made to Roger Howard as he retired from the committee and a similar gesture will be made to Roger Blay who has also retired. The two jolly Rogers have served ERHS with distinction and loyal commitment and will be missed.

### **TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023**

Join us for the talk by Christina Hughes-Nind on "Gardening for Well-being" in St. Peter's church hall at 7:45 pm. As always there will be refreshments and a raffle.

### **SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**

**Visit to Exbury Gardens & Steam Railway.**

***There are only 25 seats left on the coach for this trip, so hurry! Don't miss out.***

Exbury Gardens is a 200-acre informal woodland site in Hampshire, featuring rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas, which should be at their very best when we visit. Members will be able to stroll through the hydrangea walk, the rock garden, the Iris Garden, the Sundial and Centenary gardens and note the beauty of the Camellia walk.

An added bonus is a trip on the steam railway around the dragonfly pond, the Summer Lane garden, past the rock gardens and into the American garden.

The Little Kitchen company manages refreshments at Exbury for coffees, teas etc., or for brunch, lunch and afternoon tea. Members may wish to treat themselves or take a picnic instead. Sensible walking shoes are essential.

The cost of this outing, including return coach travel, garden entry, railway ride and a driver gratuity is £30 per person.

The coach will leave from outside Earley St. Peter's Church Hall car park at 9:30. We would expect to be back at home from Exbury by 5:30 pm.

If you would like to join the party for this visit, please contact John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303 to book your place(s) on the coach. Members may invite friends to join them on the outing. NB (Seats are not reserved on the coach.)

Please deliver your payment (cheques made payable to 'ERHS') to the trading shed or to 9 Wychwood Close, Earley, RG6 5RB in a NAMED & SEALED envelope. Please include, inside the envelope, a contact telephone or mobile number.

### **SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> September 2023**

Our Autumn Show schedules are in the trading shed and have been emailed to members on our email list. They can also be downloaded from our website or requested by email (see the newsletter heading).

**With 200 days from 1<sup>st</sup> March to prepare, there's oodles of time!**

Let's make this show a good one, after being forced, by the weather, to abandon the summer show last year.

### **Scheduled 2023**

**18<sup>th</sup> Apr\*: talk "Fuchsias"**

*Note: This date is incorrect on your membership cards.*

## 2. TRADING MATTERS



The Suttons Seeds catalogues are now in the shed.

The trading shed is well stocked, especially with manure, and at £4 a bag is still a bargain! Many thanks to all the helpers unloading last week.

**Potatoes are going well so get them soon.**

Any help with manning the shed or unloading deliveries will be gratefully received.

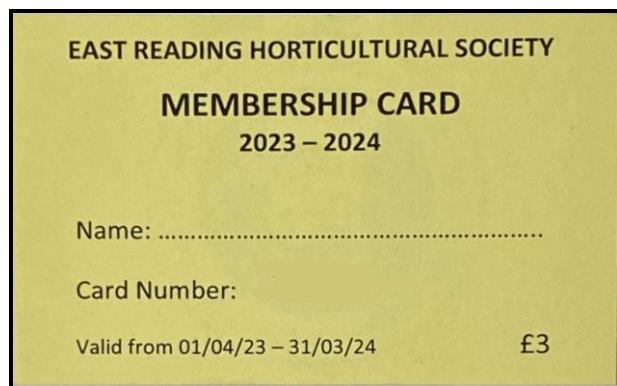
The road leading to the shed is getting worse. If anyone has any stones or gravel, please spread them along the track or let us know where we can collect them. There is another gate to the allotment on Mays Close.

**Please note that the trading shed is no longer open on Monday mornings.**

### Card reader

Don't forget you can now pay for goods using a credit or debit card. (Membership fees must be in cash, though.)

### New Membership Cards in April



Now that we are moving towards mostly sales by credit card, we thought that a card about the size of a credit card would be more useful (and more likely to be on hand when visiting the trading shed). When they were printed, they turned out to be a little smaller. The photograph shows the actual size.

{It doesn't show up very well in the printed newsletters, so I've added a border (Ed.)}

### Membership Renewals

**For members of ERHS who normally renew at the trading shed:** stocks of the new 2023/24 membership card are now available at the shed. You may renew now if you wish: you will need to show your 2022/23 membership card to the shed steward and will need to pay in cash. [For legal reasons, credit or debit card payments cannot be accepted for membership fees at present.]

The renewal fee remains at £3, and your new card will be valid from **01 April to 31 March 2024**. You will also need to collect a copy of the **ERHS Programme Sheet** next month (April), as the details will not be finalised until after the AGM.

**For all other members:** please wait until your Distributor / collector calls to collect your renewal fee and issue you with your new card and Programme Sheet. Please have your money available, and remember that the distributor may not carry much (or any) change. If you are not available when he/she calls, they will leave a note asking you to renew at the trading shed.

## 3. MISCELLANEA

### Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

### Shed stewards and assistants this month.

4 <sup>th</sup>	Don Maclean	Alan Waite
5 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bridges	Mike Fewtrell
11 <sup>th</sup>	Gwen Barton	Torkill Fozzard
12 <sup>th</sup>	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell
18 <sup>th</sup>	Don Maclean	Sue Jones
19 <sup>th</sup>	Malcolm Iosson	Peter Lynch
25 <sup>th</sup>	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
26 <sup>th</sup>	Trevor Wilson	Ray Possekwhite

### Things to do this month.



### Sow outdoors

Broad beans, Beetroot (early varieties), Early carrots, Parsnips, Maincrop peas, Radish, Spinach, Spinach beet, Turnip.

### Plant outdoors

Asparagus, Onion sets, Potatoes, Shallots, Jerusalem artichoke.

### Sow indoors or in greenhouse, in trays and modules

Baby beetroot (M), Brussels sprouts, Kohlrabi (M), Early cabbage, Summer cabbage, Early cauliflower, Bulb onions, Spring onions, Tomatoes - for growing in a cold greenhouse or tunnel, Lettuce.

*Note (M) these plants resent root disturbance and are best raised in module trays only.*

## 4. WANTED/FOR SALE/FREE

Members' advertisements are free of charge. Just telephone or email the editor (see newsletter heading.)

[Copy deadline for the next newsletter is Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March.](#)

**FREE to Collector.** Many plastic plant pots of various sizes. If interested, please call 0780 745 4261.

**Unless otherwise stated, where items are free, a donation to the Air Ambulance (when you next visit the trading shed) would be appreciated.**