

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER
April 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

Facebook Group: "East Reading Horticultural Society"

Editor: Tel: 07794 233361, Email: ERHS@hotmail.co.uk

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



1. PROGRAMME EVENTS



TUESDAY 21ST MARCH 2023

The talk on well-being in gardening was excellent, good for mental health and keeping active etc. Christina Hughes-Nind was a very good speaker, and the small audience really enjoyed it. It was very sad that there were only 22 people there, but those who came found her so interesting, that many went to speak to her after her talk.

She emailed our talks secretary afterwards to say what a friendly group we are.

She also told us what dates **Thrive** is open.
They are 13th April and 12th September.

TUESDAY 18TH APRIL 2023

Our last talk, until the new season starts in September, is by Joy Craig on "Fuschias". She will be bringing some plants for sale.

As usual, there will be a raffle & refreshments.

SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2023

Visit to Exbury Gardens & Steam Railway.

There are 7 places left. Please contact John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303 to book one or more of the remaining places.

N.B. Car parking. As the music school will be operating on 13th May, and they use the school playground, this will not be available to us. Please plan where you might park on the day. 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 am. We would expect to be back home from Exbury by 5:30 pm.

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2023

The show secretary is very hopeful that members will have obtained a show schedule and have started to plan what they might hope to display. After the disappointment of the 2022 show cancellation, Carole is optimistic that we will have a bumper number of entries in lots of categories for this year's show.

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

There are still 169 days from 1st April.

If you haven't started to prepare, start soon!

There are classes for everyone.

Scheduled 2023-2024

- 19th Sep: talk "Wildlife in the UK"
- 17th Oct: talk "National Trust Gardens and parks"
- 21st Nov: talk "Thames Crossings"
- 5th Dec: Christmas Social
- 16th Jan: talk "First Responders"
- 20th Feb: Annual General Meeting
- 19th Mar: talk "Spring Gardening"

2. TRADING MATTERS



The shed is well stocked with dahlias and begonias from £2 upwards and we still have potatoes at £2.90 for 2.5kg (plus all the other needs for your garden and lawns).

Anyone wanting to help out on Mondays for stocking shelves and bagging up would be welcome. Please give me a call (Trevor Wilson).

Many thanks are due to the helpers for unloading and for manning the shed at weekends. It can get pretty hectic at times!

Please note that the trading shed is no longer open on Monday mornings **but will be open on Wednesday evenings from 1830 to 1930 during April and May.**

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

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

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

1 st	Trevor Wilson	t.b.a.
2 nd	Malcolm Iosson	Mike Fewtrell
8 th	Trevor Wilson	Bob Campbell
9 th	Kay Bridges	Peter Lynch
15 th	Chris Dodson	Alan Baxter
16 th	Kay Bridges	t.b.a.
22 nd	Don Maclean	Viv Rimmer
23 rd	Kay Bridges	Bob Campbell
29 th	Jeff Gardner	Alan Waite
30 th	Kay Bridges	Peter Scott

Friends of Caversham Court Gardens Spring Talk and AGM on Wednesday 26th April, 2023

ERHS members are warmly invited to this event at 7 pm for 7.30 pm, in the Reading Canoe Club on the Warren, Caversham RG4 7TH.

Hester Casey will be giving an illustrated talk on: **New Discoveries about the History of Caversham Court** featuring Ghosts, Gardeners, Good Works and Girl Power.

The talk will follow the briefest of AGMs. Free event. All welcome, you don't have to be a member. Please invite your members, friends and colleagues.

Website: www.fccg.org.uk. Email: friends@fccg.org.uk

Card reader

At the April committee meeting we will discuss the proposal of making all payments, at the trading shed, by card. Details of any decision to phase out cash payments will be announced in the May newsletter.

Gravel and hardcore for Emburey Way

Many thanks to those members who have responded to our request for 'hole filling' material to try and smooth out our potholed access lane to the trading shed.

Things to do this month.



1. Weed beds and mulch with compost or well-rotted farmyard manure to improve the soil structure. This helps your plants cope better with both wet and dry summer weather.
2. Feed your roses and tie climbing and rambling roses back to supports.
3. Once spring-flowering shrubs like Viburnum x bodnantense, Forsythia and Chaenomeles (Japanese quince) have finished flowering, prune them to keep them looking tidy.
4. Hard prune dogwoods like Cornus sibirica and Cornus alba so that they will produce lots of brightly coloured new stems for next winter.

5. Deadhead any faded Daffodils and Tulips but leave the foliage to die back naturally before cutting it off.
6. Water houseplants more frequently as they start to put on growth.
7. Watch out for pests like aphids and slugs and tackle them early before they damage your plants.
8. As the weather warms up, keep on top of weeds by regular hoeing, and dig up perennial weeds like dandelions and docks with a hand fork.
9. Plant herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses to fill gaps in the border. Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials, using the sharp edge of your spade's blade to cut through woody roots.
10. Once there's less risk of sudden frosts, prune penstemons, cutting stems back to new growth lower down. Pinch out the growing tips of fuchsias and sweet pea seedlings to produce bushy plants with plenty of flowers.
11. Add wildflowers to your borders by sowing hardy annuals like cornflowers, love-in-the-mist and Californian poppies, or create a mini-meadow in your garden with a wildflower seed mix.
12. Sow broad beans, carrots, beetroot and parsnips outside now. You can also sow Brussels sprouts and other brassicas into seedbeds outdoors. Indoors, sow runner and French beans, squash, cucumber and courgettes in small pots.
13. If you have tomato seedlings growing in the greenhouse, pot them on into larger pots as they grow. If you haven't sown any tomatoes yet, there's still time to do it this month.
14. Plant early potatoes in the vegetable garden or in grow bags or large containers on the patio.
15. Get your lawn ready for summer by giving it a spring feed and aerate it by spiking it with a garden fork or hollow tine aerator.

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 Sunday 23rd April.](#)

Wanted: Help to dig a hole to plant a tree and dig up turf to make some flower beds. Also, general help with digging my garden. I am happy to pay going rates and would be responsible for removing soil / turf. I just want to get the tree planted and to have some space made for other planting. Please contact Liz on 07711 540070.

Wanted: Water butt/barrel/storage. Happy to make an Air Ambulance donation. Please call: 07717 156866.

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

Kindly
Printed by



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL