

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

May 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 18th APRIL 2023

A few days before the scheduled talk on Fuchsias, we learned that the speaker Joy Craig couldn't make it as her daughter had caught Covid.

Gwen Barton offered to collect the fuchsia plants that Joy was intending to bring along for sale to members and would step into the breach with her talk on "Travels of a Dizzy Lady". Derek Press also volunteered to say a few words about fuchsias and answer questions on the topic.

Gwen's talk was most entertaining. She started by reading tips on how to be a good wife to your husband and master. Hilarious! She had travelled widely with her husband, a structural engineer, and had stories from living in Africa, the Middle East and the USA.

Derek demonstrated in-depth knowledge of fuchsias and passed on many valuable tips on the art of growing and propagating them.

Altogether, we enjoyed a most successful evening, well worth making the effort to attend.

SATURDAY 13th MAY 2023

Visit to Exbury Gardens & Steam Railway.

Members are reminded that we are NOT able to park our cars in the playground or church hall car park.

Please make arrangements to park as close as you can.

The coach will leave at 9:30 so please be ready to board at 9:20am.

We expect to arrive back in Earley at approximately 5:30pm.

There are food outlets at Exbury, or you can bring a picnic. We strongly recommend sensible footwear.

SATURDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2023

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 139 days from 1st May.

It is not too late to start sowing seeds.

Soon we will be sure that frost is a thing of the past (for a few months) and we can plant out our seedlings with confidence.

Remember, there are classes for everyone.

Scheduled events 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 trading shed still has seed potatoes. There's no need to chit them; they are now ready to plant!

We still have some begonias and dahlias. We are looking for different peat-free compost and have some New Horizon and a Royal Horticultural Society accredited compost from Melcourt in stock. The Melcourt is nearly sold out already, but we have plenty of the New Horizon.

The stable manure has been selling well and another order is pending.

Many thanks for the help to unload these orders. The manure arrives at 7:15 in the morning. Unloading is good exercise and cheaper than the gym!

Note: The TRADING SHED will be OPEN on WEDNESDAY evenings from 1830 to 1930 during May.

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 12th June 2023 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

6 th John Peacock	Sue Jones
7 th Jeff Gardner	David Hughes
13 th Trevor Wilson	Rowena Hughes
14 th Kay Bridges	Bob Campbell
20 th Gwen Barton	Alan Waite
21 st Neal Stockwell	Bob Campbell
27 th Trevor Wilson	Peter Lynch
28 th Phil Rogers	Bob Campbell

The Berkshire Group of the Hardy Plant Society are holding their annual **Plant Fair** at Earley St. Peter's church hall on Saturday 20th May 1:30 - 3:30 pm. All plants are grown by their members. Home-made cakes and drinks are available. Admission £1.

Card or cash payments

At the recent committee meeting it was agreed that members could continue to use cash at the trading shed.

It is hoped that you will find using credit or debit cards the most convenient method of payment and that using cash would gently cease.

Trading shed stewards

Mike Fewtrell, our committee member who organises the trading shed rota for stewards and assistants, is very concerned that his list of volunteers to run the shed is shrinking.

Therefore, we are appealing to members to consider offering their services. This is becoming an urgent issue.

ERHS NEEDS YOU NOW!!! PLEASE HELP US TO HELP YOU. THANK YOU.

Geoff Ruffles shed equipment sale

£42 was sent to the RNLI from the proceeds of the sale of Geoff's tools.

Things to do this month.



The vegetable patch:

• There is still the potential of late frosts in May, so keep cucumbers, chillies, peppers, and tomatoes in the greenhouse for a little longer.

- Direct sow carrots, lettuce, and spinach and thin out as they start to grow. Sow little and often to prolong the harvest.
- If thinning out carrots, add a protective fleece to ward off carrot fly.
- Plant out peas, garlic, onions, runner beans and broad beans.
- Put in supports for broad beans and pinch out new growth shoots at the base of the plant to strengthen.
- As peas start to grow, add in supports and cover with netting to keep birds at bay.
- If you've planted asparagus, beetroot, and cabbages early in the season, now is the time to harvest.

Fruits:

- Protect soft fruits such as strawberries with a fleece.
- Caned soft fruits such as blueberries and raspberries can be protected by either building a structure around them and surrounding with netting, or a fleece cover.

Flowers:

- If you haven't already, plant annuals such as cornflowers and sunflowers.
- Whilst pruning normally takes place when a plant is dormant, prune flowering shrubs once the flowers have stopped blooming.
- Prune over-crowded and dead stems on clematis. Do not hard prune when in flower.
- If you have planted dahlias, protect new shoots from late frosts.
- Towards the end of the month plant out summer bedding.

Weed, Feed and Water

- As the weather gets warmer, plants will need regular watering. To get the most benefit, water early-morning or mid-late evening.
- It's true that as plants grow, so do weeds! Keep on top of weeds with weekly weeding (or more often as the growing season gets in full flow).

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 21st May.](#)

Free to collector: **Mountfield petrol mower.** Self-propelled. Needs a service. If interested, please ring John on 0788 943 5873.

Free to collector: **Mountfield S451PD petrol lawnmower.** Needs a service. If interested, please call Bob on (0118) 921 0573.

For Sale: 4-year-old **Webb 41cm petrol lawnmower** in excellent condition. Only used to maintain allotment verges. £50 ono. Please contact 07948 245882.

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