

# East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

July 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



### SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

#### Autumn Show.

Quiz question: What connects 1941 and 2023?

Answer: ERHS had a great show in both years.

Now we have just passed midsummer's day we can begin to look at our gardens, allotments, kitchens and workrooms and start planning, feeding, nurturing, creating and making things that could be entered in the Autumn Show. The hall is booked, the judges are coming, and we hope that you have your schedule, pinned prominently on your notice board and, in your diary, a large red circle around 16th September. It was so disappointing to cancel the show in 2022, so we really hope that this year is a success with many more members being prepared to take part.

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 78 days from 1<sup>st</sup> July.**

Loads of time!

Remember, there are classes for everyone.

#### Scheduled events 2023-2024

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

## 2. TRADING MATTERS



We have had several requests regarding grass care and now have the following in stock:

- Lawn and turf dressing
- Lawn feed and weed-killer
- Moss killer
- Lawn sand.

We also have oasis foam for your home flower decorations and don't forget the September show!

## 3. MISCELLANEA

### Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

### Shed stewards and assistants this month.

1 <sup>st</sup>	Don MacLean	Peter Lynch
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell
8 <sup>th</sup>	Trevor Wilson	Sue Jones
9 <sup>th</sup>	David Hughes	Bob Campbell
15 <sup>th</sup>	Don MacLean	Alan Waite
16 <sup>th</sup>	Phil Rogers	Torkill Fozzard
22 <sup>nd</sup>	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chris Dodson	Bob Campbell
29 <sup>th</sup>	Gwen Barton	Peter Scott
30 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Fewtrell	Bob Campbell

### Ridgeline Trust Event

The Ridgeline Trust, at 25 Whiteknights Rd, Reading, is holding a plant sale on 2<sup>nd</sup> July between 2:00 and 4:30pm. There will be a good variety of plants on offer, all priced very reasonably. Refreshments will also be on sale, so that you may sit and enjoy the garden. All monies raised go towards the horticultural therapy sessions. Trustees, staff and volunteers will be there to tell you more about the Trust.

### Shed steward appeal

We are delighted to report that three members have offered to become shed stewards. Our warmest welcome and thanks go to Trudi Rehman, David Hughes and Derek Press.

## Alexander Devine Children's Hospice

Maggie Nunn of St Peter's Church Earley is making jam to sell on 2nd July to raise funds for this important charity and has asked that if any member has any soft fruit spare, such as gooseberries, would they be prepared to donate the fruit to her for this excellent cause. Her contact mobile is 0794 662 0560.

## Things to do this month.



### **Prune shrubs that have flowered**

Carry on pruning shrubs that have flowered in spring and early summer. It is worth watering and mulching them well even at this stage in the year. It is also important to feed them after pruning.

### **Take cuttings from shrubs and alpines**

This is a good time to take cuttings from shrubs and alpines. Take them from non-flowering shoots and place them around the edges of small pots that are filled with peat and perlite. Water the cuttings in and keep them warm but out of direct sunlight.

### **Dead-head annuals**

Remove seed heads of annuals to encourage the plant to produce more flowers.

### **Watering**

Grow-bags, containers and pots need regular watering in this hot weather. In the hottest parts of the month, you may find yourself watering them every day. The best time to water is first thing in the morning or last thing at night so less of the water will be lost through evaporation. While watering, also remember to feed the vegetables and flowers regularly to improve blooms and crops.

### **Trim hedges**

July and August are key months to trim hedges such as Hawthorn as birds will have stopped using them for nesting. Trimming them keeps them looking neat and restricts their growth.

### **Feed roses**

Feeding will help them produce a second flush of flowers. For any roses that have finished their first flush, trim them back before feeding. Roses need pruning because this encourages them to produce new shoots, since cutting back a branch helps the rose to produce a growth hormone. When cutting them, make a cut 5mm above an existing bud with gardening shears. Ensure the cut is angled away from the plant as this prevents rainwater from collecting and causing disease.

### **Sow vegetable seeds outdoors**

Crops can continue to be sowed outdoors. July is the time to sow French beans, spring cabbage and any other quick crops such as lettuce, spring onion and salad leaves. Ensure you keep the seedlings watered as the warm weather will mean the seeds will germinate quicker and grow into vegetable plants in a shorter time.

### **Harvest vegetables**

As soon as vegetables are large enough, they can be harvested for you to enjoy. For carrots, a size of 1cm across the top is classed as large enough. For beetroot, if they are 2.5cm across the top, they are ready to be harvested. Once courgettes have reached 15cm long, they can be picked. When harvesting vegetables try not to disturb neighbouring roots.

### **Prune trained fruit trees**

Trained fruit trees, such as cordons, fans, dwarf pyramids and espaliers should be trimmed of any unwanted shoots this month.

### **Pick fruits**

Blackberries, early plums, gooseberries, raspberries and blueberries should all be ready to pick now. As soon as these fruits become ripe, pick them so that pests do not take advantage of the fruit. Harvest regularly to encourage more flowers and fruits.

### **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 16<sup>th</sup> July.](#)*

**Free to collector:** Lots of bamboo canes of various lengths (just removed from my back garden). Please call David on 07887 379784 if interested.

**Free to collector:** Two heavy duty, white plastic storage tubs with lids: 1) height 58cm, diameter 50cm, 2) height 50cm, diameter 53 cm. Phone (0118) 926 2323.

**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