

# East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

March 2024

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



### TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

The committee would like to thank the 32 members of ERHS who attended a very lively and interesting meeting. It is encouraging to report that our finances are in a very healthy state, that the trading shed is well stocked, and the card reader has worked really well. It was good to have an active debate about whether to subsidise visits. More will follow on this idea after the April committee meeting. In the meantime, a visit will be planned for May to either Wisley or some NT property. The committee were delighted to invite Gwen Barton and Neal Stockwell to become vice presidents, to recognise their contribution to ERHS, and we were pleased that the meeting confirmed their appointments.

Delicious cheese and wine followed and we all went home knowing that ERHS is in a very good state of affairs.

Thank you to everyone who plays a part in making us such a successful horticultural society. John Peacock.



### TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL, 2024

We have a talk by Alan Gould (from Henry Street Garden Centre) on "Spring Gardening". Alan is a very knowledgeable speaker, and we understand he will be bringing along some plants for sale. Come to enjoy the talk (and maybe pick up a bargain) in St. Peter's church hall at 7:45 for 8 p.m. As always there will be refreshments and a raffle.

**Note:** This talk has been rescheduled from 19<sup>th</sup> March.

### SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2024

Carole, our show secretary, has organised all the judges for our **autumn show** and the schedule has been published. She really hopes that, as you sow and plant in the coming weeks and months, you will be saying to yourself, "I'm growing for the show as well as myself".

*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 198 growing days  
from 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

How's your planning going?

*There must be something for you to have a go at; there are 67 classes available.*

**Scheduled events 2024-2025**

**Watch this space**

## 2. TRADING MATTERS

The trading shed has just taken delivery of various dahlia, begonia, gladioli, crocosmia, agapanthus, paeonia, lily and zantedeschia.

We have had yet another delivery of stable manure so there should be plenty available as Easter presents for family members.

There are still some seed potatoes available.

Many thanks again to all the shed stewards, helpers and unloaders. It amazes me that I can make phone calls requesting help at 7am when a lorry-load of 200 bags of nice warm manure arrives, and everything gets loaded cheerfully into the shed. Trevor Wilson

## 3. MISCELLANEA

### Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

### Shed stewards and assistants this month.

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gwen Barton	Alan Waite
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Malcolm Iosson	Peter Lynch
9 <sup>th</sup>	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
10 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Dodson	Torkill Fozzard
16 <sup>th</sup>	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell
17 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bridges	Peter Scott
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Don Maclean	Viv Rimmer
24 <sup>th</sup>	Phil Rogers	Phil Horsburgh
30 <sup>th</sup>	Trudy Rehman	Bob Campbell
31 <sup>st</sup>	Jackie Lesley	Bob Campbell

### Statement entries for trading shed card purchases

Entries begin with "Sumup", but the rest of the entry varies from one concern to another.

A member has told us that their bank doesn't show who took the payment *at all*, so they can only match up using the amount paid.

Sumup has a limit of 30 characters that can be used for identification. Ours is

"East Reading Horticultural".

I had a look at my Barclaycard statements and found several entries structured as

"Sumup \*East Reading H, Reading"

So, it seems that Barclaycard uses the first 14 characters of the identification, preceded by "\*" and followed by ", " and the town name.

I don't know what other banks or credit cards use but, reportedly, at least one bank includes none of the supplied identification. (Ed.)

### Things to do this month.



- Tidy up your borders. If the recent gales have brought down branches or leaves, now's the time to clear these and remove any weeds. Watch out for any bulbs or perennials coming through.
- There's still time to cut back your herbaceous perennials. As the new growth starts to emerge, remove last year's old stems completely.
- Sow some sweet peas for Summer. If you love a vase of fragrant sweet peas in the summer, it's time to sow these easy to grow climbers indoors. Sow seeds individually about 1.5cm deep in seed compost, water well and place on a warm windowsill, in a greenhouse or a propagator.
- Lift and divide any Spring flowering plants once their flowers have faded. Spread the colour in your borders by splitting primula or bulbs such as snowdrops, crocus or aconites.
- Deadhead your daffodils as necessary, leaving the stems to die back naturally. This ensures all of the plant's energy goes back into the bulb and helps to strengthen the bulb so it produces more flowers for next year.
- Sow some salad leaves this month. By sowing them at regular intervals you'll be able to enjoy delicious leaves all summer long.

### 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 24<sup>th</sup> March.](#)*

**Free to collector:** Sturdy metal, direct drive, 240V, yellow ALCO H1300 garden shredder. It is about 25 years old but still works, though the blades would probably benefit from sharpening. Please contact Chris by email on [comesj@gmail.com](mailto:comesj@gmail.com) or **by text** on 07910 767597 if you are interested.

**For Sale:** Golf Clubs - 8 irons & 2 woods with new bag including head cover and 3 pockets, costing over £180. Would suit a new or seasoned golfer. £65. Please call (0118) 926 4584 - evenings.

**For Sale:** Two sets of aluminium plunge beds in good condition. Each has five compartments, with shelves underneath. Dimensions of each set are: Height 76 cm, Width 50 cm, Length 248 cm. The depth of the plunge bed itself is 15.5 cm. Each unit is disassembled into 3 pieces for ease of transport. The screws for reassembly are available but replacements will be required. £50 per unit or £90 for both. Buyer to collect. I have digital photographs for interested persons to view. Please contact Marcia on 0770 682 8201.

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

Kindly  
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MAIDEN ERLIEGH  
SCHOOL