

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

April 2024

Trading shed opens: Sat and Sun 09:30 to 11:00 (except Sun in July & August) 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 2ND 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 19th March.

SATURDAY 8TH JUNE, 2024

The committee would like to invite members and their friends to visit the beautiful **RHS Wisley gardens** in early June. We have 55 places available on the coach.

We are sure you all have fond memories of strolling round the impressive Wisley grounds, seeing the sights and the glass house and we hope that their early summer flowering borders will be performing to their best effect.

Members will also be able to enjoy listening to live jazz from Chi Jazz on Seven Acres lawn in the Butterfly Lovers Pavilion from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Members can use the impressive cafe for refreshments, or you could take your own food and drink and find a comfortable spot to have a picnic. On the way back to the coach members will enjoy browsing in the

extensive shop and adjoining plant sales area.

As an RHS affiliated society we are allowed one free visit a year so members who wish to go only have to pay for the coach and driver gratuity.

The cost of this visit is £14.50 per person.

If you would like to spend this day at Wisley with us, please contact John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303 to book your place(s).

The coach will leave from outside Earley St Peter's church hall car park on Church Road at 9:30 am and we would expect to be back in Earley about 6 pm.

SATURDAY 14TH 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 167 growing days from 1st April.

With the weather starting to improve, it's a good time to be making plans and sowing seeds.

Let's aim for a super show.

Scheduled events 2024-2025

Sat 8 Jun	Visit to RHS Wisley
Tue 15 Oct	Talk: Wine and Flowers
Tue 19 Nov	Talk: Christmas Birds
Tue 10 Dec	Christmas Social Evening
Tue 21 Jan	Talk: First Responders
Tue 18 Feb	Talk: Wildlife Photography
Tue 4 Feb	83 rd Annual General Meeting
Tue 18 Mar	Talk: Lakeside Gardens in Northern Italy

2. TRADING MATTERS

The trading shed still has a small number of bags of potatoes in stock.

There is also a good supply of various dahlia, begonia, gladioli, crocosmia, agapanthus, paeonia, lily and zantedeschia.

I am looking for help with moving the bags of soil to help fill in the holes in the road leading to the shed, please contact me to arrange timings. Trevor Wilson.

{Many thanks again for the help unloading.}

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

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

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

6 th	Trevor Wilson	Peter Lynch
7 th	Trudy Rehman	Alan Waite
13 th	Jeff Gardner	Derek Press
14 th	Kay Bridges	Peter Scott
20 th	Gwen Barton	Bob Campbel
21 st	Mike Fewtrell	Bob Campbel
27 th	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
28 th	Kay Bridges	Torkill Fozzard

April is Membership Renewal Month

For members who receive their Newsletter by email, but who do not renew their membership at the Trading Shed, please be aware that your local Distributor will shortly be calling to collect your renewal subscription and deliver your new membership and programme cards. If he or she misses you, they will leave a "Sorry I missed you" form, asking you to renew either via them or at the Trading Shed. For those who renew at the Trading Shed, cards will be available from next weekend. **For all members**, the membership fee remains the same at £3.

Also, please advise us of any change in contact details when you renew.

Things to do this month



- There is still time to fill any gaps in your borders with pot grown spring bulbs, creating beautiful flowers that will continue to bloom for years. It's a good idea to add plant markers to remind you where your spring bulbs are when they have died back.
- Continue to deadhead spring bulbs, nipping off the heads and seedpods to allow the energy to divert back into the bulb. Remember to remove faded blooms on pansies, primroses and other spring flowering plants to encourage new growth.
- If you haven't done so already, cut back any dead foliage on perennials, such as Phlox, Rudbeckia and Hosta, to make way for the new season's growth.
- Prepare borders for summer and start to hoe, and weed regularly. It is helpful to dig in a layer of compost or well-rotted manure. You can also work in a general-purpose fertiliser, such as pelleted chicken manure, or fish, blood and bone, this will add nutrients to the soil and improve soil structure. Don't forget to top up your containers too!
- Prune lavenders, trimming back any frost damaged growth. Don't cut into the old growth as it will not grow back.
- Fill any larger gaps in your garden, look at the trees and shrubs that form the main structure and provide year-round colour and interest. Add an April showstopper that will flower for years. The classic spring-flowering Camellia with its spectacular flowers, or a breathtaking Magnolia which has varieties of all sizes - both can be grown in the border or a container.
- Sow some vegetables outdoors. Once you have prepared your soil, now is the time to sow carrots, peas, beetroot, winter cabbages, broccoli, salad crops and more.

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 28th April.*](#)

Free to collector: 5-year-old Webb 41cm petrol lawnmower in excellent condition. Only ever used for maintaining the verges around an allotment. If interested, please contact Neil on 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