

# East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

June 2024

The trading shed opens: Sat and Sun 09:30 to 11:00 (but only Sat in July & August) and Wednesdays in April and May 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 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2024

Visit to **RHS Wisley gardens**:

The coach is now full and there is a small reserve list. We will leave from outside Earley St Peter's Church Hall car park at 9:15am. Please be ready to board the coach at 9:00am.

You might like to park your car in Sol Joel. The gates are closed at dusk, but we will be back well before then.

Please remember your picnic, umbrella and wear comfortable shoes.

We will receive our entry ticket on arrival at Wisley and expect to arrive back in Earley at about 5:30pm.

If you are unable to come on the trip, please phone me on 01189 867 303.

Should you be unable to travel on the day please phone before 8:30am.

Thank you. John Peacock

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

#### **ERHS Autumn Show**

Carole, our show secretary, has booked all the judges and hopes that members are perusing the show schedule to decide the classes to enter. Hopefully, we have had enough rain and now we want the sun to come out and make our plants thrive.

*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).*

#### **Still 106 growing days from 1<sup>st</sup> June.**

There are classes for everyone: flowers(19), vegetables(17), fruit(7), floral art(5), cookery(9), homecraft(6), novelty(2) and novice(2).

**Plenty of time left.**

### Scheduled events 2024-2025

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 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 Mar  | 83 <sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting  |
| Tue 18 Mar | Talk: Lakeside Gardens in Northern Italy |

## 2. TRADING MATTERS

A couple of pics of the helpers who have unloaded 2 lots of manure deliveries this month, a jolly lot at 7am! The other half of the team are camera shy. With 5 or 6 of us it only takes 15 minutes to offload 200 bags. Cheaper than going to the gym! As you can see, we're well stocked with manure now (18<sup>th</sup> May). Trevor Wilson



## 3. MISCELLANEA

### Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

### Shed stewards and assistants this month.

|                  |                |                   |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Derek Press    | Alan Waite        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Neal Stockwell | Webster Stockwell |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | David Hughes   | Mike Fewtrell     |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Phil Rogers    | Peter Lynch       |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | John Peacock   | Carole Peacock    |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Kay Bridges    | Phil Horsburgh    |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Jeff Gardner   | Torkill Fozzard   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Trudy Rehman   | Sue Jones         |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Don Maclean    | Mike Fewtrell     |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Malcolm Iosson | Mike Fewtrell     |

## Signage to the shed

The chairman wishes to thank Peter Scott, a member, for all his background work with Reading, Earley and Wokingham councils respectively, to try and arrange for signage to be erected on Church Road to show the trading shed entrance. We all wait with hope!!

## Things to do this month



- Sow basil seeds for a supply of fresh leaves all summer. The seeds germinate very quickly in warm conditions, so don't sow them too densely and thin out once they emerge.
- Sow lettuce, radishes, carrots and beetroot in the vegetable garden. Now's also an excellent time to sow runner and French beans directly outdoors.
- Plant out courgette, tomato, pepper and sweetcorn seedlings. If you started out runner and French beans indoors last month, plant them out as well. Plant tomato seedlings deep so that the first set of leaves is just above ground level. This will encourage the plant to produce more roots and give you bigger, more vigorous plants.
- Pinch out side-shoots on cordon tomatoes to concentrate the plant's energy on producing plentiful trusses of fruit. There's no need to pinch out side-shoots on bush tomatoes.
- Feed pot-grown tomatoes, peppers and courgettes fortnightly with a high potash liquid feed to promote the development of flowers and fruit.
- Now that the leaves of daffodils, tulips and other spring bulbs are fading, cut them back to ground level to keep the beds looking tidy.
- The weeds will be growing just as fast as all your other plants, so weed

regularly to stop them from taking over. On dry days, use a Dutch hoe to cut down annual weeds like chickweed and hairy bittercress and leave them on the soil to dry.

- Plant up hanging baskets with summer bedding like petunias, calibrachoa and geraniums to give you months of colour. Fuchsias, begonias and busy lizzies are fabulous for pots and hanging baskets in shady spots.
- First early potatoes should be ready to harvest once the flowers have opened but dig up one or two first to check whether they are big enough.
- Strawberries will be starting to ripen now, so cover the plants with nets to stop birds from stealing the delicious berries.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs like weigela and forsythia once flowering has finished, cutting back the flowered shoots to vigorous side shoots and taking out one in every four old stems at ground level.
- Check evergreen hedges for nesting birds before trimming them and take care not to disturb nesting birds.
- Deadhead roses and pick sweetpeas regularly to keep them flowering for a long period over summer.
- Make the most effective use of your water by watering the garden in the morning or evening when it's cooler.
- Mow the lawn once a week. In hot, dry spells, raise the mower blades to a higher setting to not stress the grass.

## **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 23<sup>rd</sup> June.](#)*

**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.

(There is an answerphone).

*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