

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

August 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

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



SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

ERHS Autumn Show

Everyone on the committee is getting very excited about our forthcoming show. We think that mid-September will be a perfect time to show the vegetables you have grown, the flowers you have nurtured and the fruits that are hanging ripe and heavy - all just waiting to be picked.

In addition, there are classes for you to demonstrate your culinary and baking skills, your handicraft talents and your mastery at flower arranging.

Carole is looking forward to lots of entry envelopes tumbling through her letter box at 9, Wychwood Close hopefully on or before Wednesday 11th September. John Peacock

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 (ERHS@hotmail.co.uk).

See end of newsletter for a list of classes available.

Still 51 growing days from 1st August.

This is a great opportunity to take part in the show and have that eager sense of anticipation in the afternoon to see if the judges have awarded your entry a place.

**If you have never shown anything before,
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!!**

Even if you aren't exhibiting, **everyone** is very warmly invited to visit the show, at 3 pm, to see what others have entered, and to enjoy some tea and cake before the cups are presented at 4 pm.

NB. Cup winners in 2023.

Carole would be delighted if your cup(s) could be returned to 9 Wychwood Close during August.

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 rd Annual General Meeting
Tue 18 Mar	Talk: Lakeside Gardens in Northern Italy

2. TRADING MATTERS

The roadworks along Church Road are causing some concern but the shed is accessible on foot from both directions but only from the Woodley end by car. Don't forget we are only open on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11am.

We are well stocked with plenty of your compost and manure etc.

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 9th September 2024 at the Crescent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

Our Membership Secretary is appealing ...

... for donations of rubber bands for bundling up the newsletters for distribution. They can be left in the trading shed.

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

3 rd	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
10 th	Jackie Leslie	Bob Campbell
17 th	Derek Press	Torkill Fozzard
24 th	Jeff Gardner	Peter Scott
31 st	Phil Rogers	Bob Campbell

Things to do this month



From trimming Wisteria to caring for box hedges, as we head into August there are lots of jobs in the garden.

Trim back

Trim topiary and yew, box and beech hedges.

Start on your lavender towards the end of the month, cutting back to a neat 23cm (9in) ball that will give you good structure through Winter. This may mean losing the last few flowers, so gather them up for drying.

If you're growing the oh-so-popular wisteria, keep it in check by cutting back the whippy green shoots to six leaves.

Care for roses

Check roses for black spot and rust, picking off and burning affected leaves. If they fall to the ground, the spores will linger in the soil.

If the plant is badly affected, you may need to spray with a fungicide. Try to find one that doesn't include an insecticide to be kind to pollinating insects.

Tend to the grass

Cut areas of wildflower meadow. Leave the grass to lie for a day or two before you rake it up, so any remaining flower seeds can drop.

Pick your summer vegetables

If you're growing vegetables, pick beans before they become stringy and courgettes before they become marrows.

Top up ponds and bird baths

Keep your pond topped up with water in hot, dry weather, and fish out blanket weed as soon as you see it – a hairbrush tied to a pole makes an excellent implement. The same goes for your bird baths – make sure to top them up regularly so that the birds that visit your garden have enough water to drink and bathe in during the summer.

Make the most of your garden furniture

August is the best month to enjoy time in your garden – so make sure your garden furniture is clean and you have an umbrella to keep you shaded. For a cheaper way to make the most of the hot weather, hang up a hammock. The garden is slowing down a bit right now, and so can you!

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 Friday 30th August.](#)

Free to collector: 14" Black and Decker Lawn Raker, old but in working order. Please call (0118) 966 3816.

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

Sections and Classes of the Show Schedule are as follows:

A: Flowers	classes 1 to 19
B: Vegetables	classes 20 to 36
C: Fruit	classes 37 to 43
D: Floral Art	classes 44 to 48
E: Cookery	classes 49 to 57
F: Homecraft	classes 58 to 63
H: Novelty	classes 64 to 65
I: Novice	classes 66 to 67

- 1 Vase of HT Roses - 3 blooms, any variety.
- 2 Specimen large flowered (HT) Rose, 1 stem.
- 3 Specimen Floribunda Rose, 1 stem spray.
- 4 A specimen Sunflower stem
- 5 Vase of mixed Dahlias, at least 2 varieties, greater than 52 mm diameter, 5.
- 6 Any other Dahlias, not cactus or decorative, 3.
- 7 Specimen Chrysanthemum, single bloom, either reflex or incurved.
- 8 Vase of Chrysanthemums, spray type, single or mixed varieties, 3 sprays.
- 9 Vase of mixed Annual Flowers - minimum 2 kinds.
- 10 Vase of Annual Flowers, single variety, 5 stems.
- 11 Vase of mixed Perennial Flowers - minimum 3 kinds.
- 12 Vase of Perennial Flowers, single variety excluding shrubs, 5 stems.
- 13 Flowering shrub, 1 stem.
- 14 Fuchsia, any variety, up to 10" pot.
- 15 Cactus and/or Succulent plant in a container not to exceed 10" diameter or length.
- 16 One Flowering House Plant in a pot not to exceed 10" diameter.
- 17 One Foliage House Plant in maximum 10" pot.
- 18 Pelargonium in flower, 1 plant in maximum 10" pot.
- 19 One specimen Gladiolus bloom
- 20 Carrots, one variety, 5.
- 21 Beetroot, globe, one variety, 3.
- 22 Runner Beans, one variety, 6.
- 23 Tomatoes with stalks, medium size fruit 35 - 60 mm diameter, 1 variety, 5.
- 24 Tomatoes with stalks, small (less than 35 mm diameter), 1 variety, 5.
- 25 A truss of tomatoes, single stem, any variety, may include unripe fruits.
- 26 Potatoes, Round or Kidney, any colour, one variety, 5.
- 27 Lettuces with roots, one variety, 2.
- 28 Onions, to pass through a 75 mm diameter ring, one variety, 3.
- 29 Onion, specimen large globe more than 100 mm diameter.
- 30 Courgettes, one variety (any colour, approx. length 150mm), 2.
- 31 French Beans, one variety, 6
- 32 Shallots, one variety, 9
- 33 Marrows, one variety, 2
- 34 Herbs, 3 kinds, each staged in a separate vase of 2.5" diameter.
- 35 Any other Vegetable - number optional.
- 36 Collection of 5 kinds of vegetable, Not more than 2 from classes 23 - 35, one specimen of each.
- 37 Dessert apples, 3.
- 38 Cooking apples, 3.
- 39 Pears, 3.
- 40 Plums or Gages, dish of 7.
- 41 Raspberries with stalks, dish of 20.
- 42 Dish of any other fruit, number optional.
- 43 Collection of mixed fruit, to consist of at least 3 separate fruit varieties, number optional.
- 44 "Celebration" - A table arrangement for a Golden Wedding. Accessories are permitted. No bigger than 15" in any direction.
- 45 An arrangement on the theme "Wonderful in White". Maximum size 15 inches in any direction.
- 46 "Harvest" - An exhibit with flowers, fruit and/or vegetables. Maximum size 18" in any direction.
- 47 A petite arrangement not to exceed 9" in height, width and depth.
- 48 **MEN ONLY.** An arrangement of flowers and foliage in a wine glass.
- 49 One jar of marmalade.
- 50 One jar of jam.
- 51 One jar of chutney.
- 52 5 shortbread (fingers or petticoats.)
- 53 6 sausage rolls (shortcrust pastry.)
- 54 A mixed grain loaf (any shape or size.)
- 55 6 2" squares of gingerbread (see recipe.)
- 56 Lemon drizzle cake (own recipe.)
- 57 6 homemade chocolates.
- 58 (Photograph) "My favourite landscape".
- 59 (Photograph) "Sky".
- 60 (Photograph) A building (ruins permitted.)
- 61 4 decorated coasters - 4" square (any material.)
- 62 3 Christmas decorations.
- 63 A greetings card using pressed flowers.
- 64 The longest runner bean.
- 65 The ugliest potato.
- 66 The best of the vegetable patch: at least 3 vegetables.
- 67 The best of the flower bed: any amount.