

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

September 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 this will be the 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).

14 growing days left from 1st September

Don't miss this 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 are not 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.

Have you already returned your cups to 9 Wychwood Close? If not, please do so a.s.a.p.

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 shed is well stocked with manure and various composts ready for the autumn. Our order for tulips, narcissi etc has not yet arrived but is due very soon.

There is now a road sign on Church Road showing ERHS and indicating the lane leading to the trading shed for those members whom we have not seen there! (For this we owe thanks to Peter Scott, who has chased the council to get the sign put up.)

The road works have made things very quiet in the shed during the summer, but we will be back to normal with Saturday and Sundays opening from now onwards. Trevor Wilson

3. MISCELLANEA

Church Road excavations - Update

At the time of writing, there is no vehicular access to the allotments and trading shed from the direction of the church; the road is blocked, just past St Peter's Road, by the bridge over the railway, but pedestrians, bikes, prams etc. can still get through.

I had a word with the foreman on Wednesday (28th). He told me that **this blockage will be removed by Wednesday 4th September.**

However, he also said that the closure would be moved to somewhere **beyond Eastcourt Avenue**, so people needing access from that direction may then have to follow some sort of diversion. (Ed.)

Next Committee Meeting:

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

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

1 st	Malcolm Iosson	Bob Campbell
7 th	David Hughes	Peter Scott
8 th	Mike Fewtrell	Peter Lynch
14 th	Derek Press	Sita Dakota
15 th	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell
21 st	Jeff Gardner	Alan Waite
22 nd	Kay Bridges	Torkill Fozzard
28 th	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
29 th	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite

Things to do this month



Flowers

- Sow hardy annuals for next year: Hardy annuals are among the easiest plants to grow from seed.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs: Daffodils in particular like their bulbs to be in the ground in September.
- Divide herbaceous perennials: Autumn division is the best way to reinvigorate established clumps of early summer flowering perennials and make new plants.
- Collect and save seed: As plants flower and fade, keep an eye out for seed you might be able to collect and sow, or save for sowing at a later date.
- Plant out biennials: Biennial plants you grew from seed earlier in summer will need planting out now, if you've not already got them in your borders.
- Rudbeckias for autumn colour: Try rudbeckias to give your garden a lift in late summer and autumn with masses of bright and cheerful golden daisy flowers.
- Start a wildflower meadow: Wondering how to create a wildflower meadow in your garden? Create a wildflower meadow loved by bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects.
- Propagate pelargoniums: Take cuttings of your pelargoniums now, and they can be over-wintered to supply the plants you'll need next year.

Fruit, Vegetables & Herbs

- Harvest potatoes: Potatoes planted in spring are ready to lift after the plants have

flowered. The longer you leave them, the larger the potatoes should be. However, it is best to harvest potatoes before potato blight strikes.

- Sow winter salad leaves: Sow a few seeds over the next few weeks and your winter salad requirements will be taken care of.
- Tidy summer fruiting raspberries: The old fruited stems should be cut back to ground level to get them out of the way and give the fresh new green stems room to grow.
- Pot up herbs for winter: Don't let the onset of autumn weather curtail your homegrown herbs. There are ways you can prolong the harvest to ensure pickings throughout the winter.
- Pick blackberries: Autumnal blackberries will stain your clothes and tongue with their sweet juices.
- Plant autumn onion sets: The easiest way to grow onions in your garden is to plant onion sets. In autumn you can plant onion sets that will be ready to harvest in July.
- Harvest and grow quince: Quince prefer a moist but well-drained soil that's loamy and slightly acidic, in a sunny, sheltered location. The heavy-cropping cultivars 'Meeches Prolific', 'Serbian Gold' and 'Vranja' are good choices for the British climate.

Miscellaneous

- Spot autumn birds: From the curious Magpie to the majestic Sparrowhawk, the RSPB helps us identify what garden birds will be paying a visit to our gardens now the autumn leaves are falling.
- Net ponds to protect from falling leaves: Garden ponds need looking after if they're to stay clear, free of pond weeds and their plants continue to grow healthily.
- Lay a new lawn from turf: The autumn months of September and October are a good time to establish a new lawn from bought-in rolls of turf.

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: Sunday 29th September.](#)

Free to collector: Alton Amateur Greenhouse (wooden, all glass intact). 10 feet by 13 feet. Old but still life left in it! Needs dismantling.

Please call (0118) 969 3886. (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