

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

December 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,
but please include your membership card number.}



1. PROGRAMME EVENTS



TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2024

Ailsa Claybourn's talk on "Christmas Birds".
Over 30 members bravely turned out on a very chilly evening and were richly rewarded by a fascinating and very informative illustrated talk, focusing mainly on Robins and the birds featured in the '12 days of Christmas' song. Another excellent raffle from Margaret Thomas and a delicious Ann Wilson cake, to accompany tea and coffee, rounded off an excellent evening.

TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2024

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

The committee would like to invite members to join them for an evening of festive fun and frivolity as Christmas approaches.

There will be a buffet with cheese and wine, a quiz, carols, poems, jokes and possibly, a surprise visitor!!

Carole, our show secretary, also invites creative flower arrangers to design and bring along a table decoration. The design should include at least one candle and some accessories. There will be a public vote and prizes will be awarded.

Finally, don't forget to unearth and don your wonderful Christmas jumpers!

Scheduled events 2024-2025

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

FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY 2025

Anvil Theatre trip

Sadly, this trip had to be cancelled as only 19 members booked a place and hiring a smaller coach increased the price of each seat by £10 making it £50 a head. It was felt this was too much.

2. TRADING MATTERS

Many thanks to all the unloaders for your muscle during the last year, over 1,000 bags of manure etc!

The Monday morning coffee has been good and many thanks to Helen for keeping things going whilst Steve and I have been filling in some of the holes in the lane.

We still have daffodil and crocus available. Stable manure and various composts are well stocked. Trevor Wilson

Shed closure

Please note that the trading shed will close after trading on Sunday 8th December and reopen on Saturday 11th January 2025.

Stocktaking will take place on the 9th and 10th of December.

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. on Monday 6th January at the Crescent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

Talks organiser wanted

As you all know, Gwen Barton, our talks organiser, passed away earlier this year and we miss her. We now need to find another person to take on this important role. Therefore, the committee would really like a member to consider becoming the organiser of our 5 talks programme for 2025/26*. If you think you could help us, please contact me by phone or email.

Thank you. John Peacock

Phone: (0118) 986 7303

Email: johncarolepeacock@hotmail.com

* 2025: September, October, November. 2026: January, March.

URGENT

Following the resignation of Brenda Hayes as our treasurer we are really hoping that there is a member in the society, with a financial background, who would consider taking on this very important position. If anyone feels prepared to accept the role, please contact me to discuss this post.

Thank you. John Peacock

Phone: (0118) 986 7303

Email: johncarolepeacock@hotmail.com

NB. On behalf of ERHS I have thanked Brenda for her excellent management of our finances. John Peacock

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

1st

7th

8th

Membership concerns

At our last Committee meeting, we discussed the current state of membership of your Society and observed that membership was falling as we were all growing older. We need to recruit more members!

If you have any friends or neighbours who share your interests in gardening, why not ask them if they would like to join us in ERHS? Joining is easy - just visit our Trading Shed during our normal opening hours (9:30 to 11am Saturday and Sunday) at Bulmershe Allotments [signed off Church Road just past Mays Close - also shown on Google Maps!], or via our website:

erhs.org.uk/joining.html

For anyone joining in January or February, the membership fee is only £1 for the remainder of the membership year [to the end of March]. Membership includes the monthly Newsletter plus the ability to buy gardening goods at advantageous prices, on production of the membership card, at the trading shed.

Things to do this month



Plants to Prune

- Prune your Wisteria, cutting back any new shoots from the summer to two or three buds
- Prune Apple and Pear trees
- Cut back dead stems on your perennials if you haven't already and apply a layer of mulch such as garden compost, manure or bark

Plants to Move

- If you have lifted and stored plants in your greenhouse, check that the greenhouse heaters are working

Plants to Protect

- A number of plants, including Tree ferns, Cordyline and Olives really need extra protection in very cold weather. It is worth having horticultural fleece on standby in December. Fasten it on with clothes pegs for temporary insulation when it turns very cold. Specially designed fleece bags with drawstrings are available in different sizes and are a great option for single specimens, especially in pots
- If you haven't done already, standing pots on pot feet will protect them from frost damage and stop the roots becoming waterlogged. Be aware that plants in pots are more susceptible to cold weather and may need fleecing even if they wouldn't ordinarily when growing in the ground
- Wrap grease bands around fruit trees to prevent overwintering winter moth

Lawncare & Gardencare

- There may still be patches of fallen leaves to clear up across your lawn and borders - but leave your grass longer now to reduce moss build up

Weather Readiness

- To prevent garden taps freezing, insulate with tap protectors or bubble wrap
- Bubble wrap is also useful for outdoor pipes and insulating your greenhouse
- Keep your paths and driveway safe by having some de-icing salt stored away, ready to sprinkle over any persistent icy patches.

Looking After Birds and Wildlife

- Frequently top up bird food and choose feed with a high fat content, like suet fat
- Put fresh water out daily, as it freezes over easily in winter
- Put up a nest box for added winter shelter, if you didn't do so already in autumn

Now is the ideal time to make sure your tools are cleaned, sharpened and oiled ready for the spring. Putting a new edge on secateurs, shears and even spades will give you a head start come March.

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 15th December.](#)

Nothing received this month

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 ERLUGH
SCHOOL