

## East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

January 2025

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,  
but please include your membership card number.}



## PROGRAMME EVENTS



### TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024

The Christmas Social was a great success. 35 members enjoyed an evening of festive fun that included quizzes, prizes, stories, poems, jokes, a tabletop decoration competition and a delicious buffet. A rousing performance of the 12 days of Christmas rounded off an excellent evening and everyone went home with smiles on their faces.

Unfortunately, one expected visitor had to take one of his reindeer to the vet so didn't arrive. Maybe next year!! John Peacock

**A big thank you to John and Carole Peacock for all their hard work preparing for the evening.**

### TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2025

In this, the first talk of the new year, we are delighted to welcome back Matt Lovegrove and Will Parish to tell us about "First Responders". Find out about what happens when we dial 999.

This talk is certainly not to be missed, so come along to St. Peter's church hall at 7:45 for an 8 pm start.

As usual, there will be refreshments and a raffle.

### TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

The return, by popular acclaim, of Tom Way to speak on "Wildlife Photography". Tom is a renowned international photographer who will deliver an excellent illustrated talk.

### TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

Our 83<sup>rd</sup> AGM. This is an important meeting for the membership and there are major issues to discuss. Please make an effort to attend.

Since members should receive this newsletter before festivities begin, the committee wishes you a

*Joyful Christmas  
and a very  
Happy New Year*

### Other scheduled events 2025

Tue 18 Mar	Talk: "Lakeside Gardens in Northern Italy". Pamela Holt will present an interesting collection of pictures of her visit there.
Tue 16 Sept	Talk t.b.a.
Tue 21 Oct	Talk t.b.a.
Tue 18 Nov	Talk t.b.a.
Tue 9 Dec	Christmas social

## TRADING MATTERS

**The trading shed reopens on..  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Many thanks for all your help last year with unloading and manning the trading shed. I'm looking forward to another busy year.

The potatoes should be available in the shed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January. Trevor Wilson

### Stocktaking 9<sup>TH</sup> December

Neal Stockwell and Trevor Wilson would like to thank all those members who very efficiently and precisely carried out the stocktaking on Monday morning. It was definitely a case of "many hands make light work".

## MISCELLANEA

### Next Committee Meeting:

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

### Talks organiser

We are delighted to announce that Jackie Leslie has offered to become our talks programme organiser, and we will welcome her to the committee meeting in January.

### Treasurer

I was delighted to receive one call from a member who would like to consider accepting this role. In the very early New Year, he will meet Brenda Hayes to assess the extent and breadth of the position and then make a decision. John Peacock

“Just in case” I’m repeating part of the ad: We are 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 the post. Thank you.

Phone: (0118) 986 7303

Email: [johncarolepeacock@hotmail.com](mailto:johncarolepeacock@hotmail.com)

### Shed stewards and assistants this month.

11 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Fewtrell	Peter Lynch
12 <sup>th</sup>	David Hughes	Torkill Fozzard
18 <sup>th</sup>	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
19 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Gardner	Bob Campbell
25 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bridges	Bob Campbell
26 <sup>th</sup>	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell

### Autumn Show trophies

These have been engraved and delivered to the winners.

### Good Wishes

Everyone at ERHS sends Mrs Fewtrell our good wishes for a speedy recovery from recent surgery.

### Things to do this month



### Mulch Fruit Bushes

This is the ideal time to give fruit bushes a good covering with well-rotted compost that will break down into the soil over the next few months and encourage a good crop.

### Sow Early Veg Seed

When the weather restricts the gardening we can do, it’s nice to start the year feeling active. A good way to do this is to get on with sowing the seed of veg and salads that will produce an early spring crop. Things like radish, and certain salads, are ideal.

### Winter Prune Wisteria

To inhibit lateral growth and encourage flowering, the shoots and branches of wisteria should be pruned in mid-winter. Over time, this will help form a framework of flowering spurs that will produce larger, plumper, flowers.

### Leaves off Bulbs

Over the next few weeks, a succession of different bulbs will be emerging, from small, early flowers such as snowdrops, to larger bulbs like tulips later in the season. None of these bulbs enjoy being covered with leaves, so to ensure they get plenty of sunshine, make sure you remove garden leaves regularly.

### Write New Labels

Labels for your new plants and seeds are a small detail that can either make your garden look scruffy because you’ve not bothered and scribbled them off, or can add a little edge by being neat, or even decorative. So, allow yourself plenty of time and write them now when you’re not in a hurry. It will also help you concentrate on what you want to grow.

### Feed the Birds

This is the time of year when a lot of garden birds will be struggling to find food so, either put up a bird table, or, if you already have one, make sure it is regularly topped up with offerings.

## 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 26<sup>th</sup> January.*

**Free to collector:** I have a twin-burner Eltex paraffin heater for a greenhouse, which I last used 15 years ago.



It was working fine then. It's been stored indoors ever since but would need some basic maintenance now. (WD40 and a wire brush would probably fix it). The base is 15" x 9", the height is 14" when

assembled, and the vent width is 17". It is similar to the photo but is a double-burner model.

Email Stuart Neal on [stuartn99@gmail.com](mailto:stuartn99@gmail.com) - collect from Mays Lane, Earley (near Bulmershe allotments)

*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