

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

February 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

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.}



PROGRAMME EVENTS



TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2025

Over 30 members attended a fascinating and informative presentation by Jacqui Watts, a local voluntary **First Responder**, who clearly explained what happens when we dial 999 for an ambulance. She outlined her significant contribution to saving patients' lives as she is often first on the scene.



The committee are keen to support South Central Ambulance charity and will make a donation on behalf of ERHS. John Peacock

Things I learnt: South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) covers Berks., Bucks., Hampshire & Oxfordshire. There are over 800 first responders who attend 999 calls and often arrive before the ambulance. Typically 3 minutes versus 7 minutes. Their bag opens to reveal a plethora of equipment: blood sugar test, blood pressure measurement, oxygen, .. They even have a defibrillator. A GPS phone app takes them accurately to the scene. We learnt current thinking on CPR, how they are trained (thoroughly) and much more. A worthwhile evening (Ed.)

TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2025

The return, by popular acclaim, of Tom Way to speak on "**Wildlife Photography**". Tom is a renowned international wildlife photographer who will deliver an excellent illustrated talk. At the time of writing, he is working in Africa.

Please come to this special illustrated talk. Tom gave a superb presentation two years ago, which is why Gwen Barton rebooked.

We would like to invite you to bring a friend or neighbour as your guest to this talk as the committee hope to have a full house.

Tom will have some of his beautiful cards for sale so bring cash just in case he doesn't have a card machine!

This talk is certainly **not to be missed**, so come along to St. Peter's church hall at 7:15 for a 7:30 pm start.

<<< NOTE THE EARLIER START TIME >>>

As usual, there will be refreshments and a raffle.

{Cheeky note: Margaret Thomas will always be delighted if members are able to donate raffle prizes to her table.}

TUESDAY 4TH MARCH 2025

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

Summer Show Saturday 19th July

The show schedule is being prepared and will be emailed to all members on our email list as soon as it is complete.

They will then be downloadable from our website or can be requested by email (see the newsletter heading).

We'll get copies into the trading shed a.s.a.p.

There are **169 growing days** from 1st February.

The committee would like members to put **July 19** in their diaries and start planning what they can 'grow, make, bake or create for the show'.

There'll be a list of classes in the March newsletter.

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.
Sat 19 July	ERHS Summer Show
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 shed has loads of potatoes: Cara, Charlotte, Foremost, Kestrel, King Edwards, Maris Piper, Nicola, Picasso, and Wilja. All are £4 for 2.5 kg. I am afraid the Desiree have already gone.

We have a fresh load of stable manure but for the first time in 5 years it's gone up. It is now £4.50 - still a bargain!

The Monday morning coffee will be on hold until I come back from Australia, next one will be 10th March. Trevor Wilson

MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

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

Treasurer

We are delighted to announce that Colin Green, a member, has offered to take control of our financial affairs after our AGM on 4th March.

We will welcome him to his first committee meeting in April.

We are indebted to Brenda Hayes for bringing her expertise to our affairs and we send our thanks for her excellent contribution.

As you can imagine, the rest of the committee are very pleased, that in a short space of time, we have welcomed Jackie as our talks organiser and now Colin as our treasurer. John Peacock

Membership renewal begins in early April

Currently the price is an excellent £3 a year. If you have a local distributor, you can renew on your doorstep (so please have your cash ready and available); otherwise you can renew at the trading shed. This may be the last year at £3.

Coach trips

We are looking at organising some trips in 2025 and details should appear in the March newsletter.

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

1 st	Don MacLean	Tracey Collins
2 nd	Phil Rogers	Tracey Minell
8 th	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
9 th	Malcolm Iosson	Bob Campbell
15 th	Trudy Rehman	Bob Campbell
16 th	Torkill Fozzard	Bob Campbell
22 nd	Kay Bridges	Bob Campbell
23 rd	Jeff Gardner	Alan Waite

Urgently Wanted

Two new Collectors / Distributors

Due to ill-health, we need to appoint new Collectors / Distributors for two Newsletter delivery rounds. The jobs entail delivering a limited number of paper copies of the Newsletter and collecting renewal subscriptions from members in early April.

The first round covers **Hightree Drive** [7 members] and **Barrington Close** [5 members], with 6 paper copies to be delivered each month, the remaining 6 receiving copies of the Newsletter by email.

The second round, which covers **Church Road**, **Oldfield Close** and **The Orangery / Loudon Square** [off Woodlands Avenue], currently has 12 members, with 3 paper copies and 9 on email.

If YOU can take on one of these rounds, please contact Malcolm Iosson.

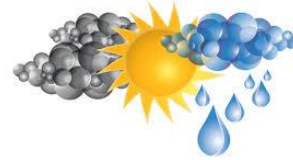
Email: malcolm@iosson.net

Phone: (0118) 986 1909.

Future start times

At our January committee meeting we decided to bring forward the start time of all our evening meetings to 7.30 pm. This will take effect immediately. Therefore, Tom Way (see above) will begin his presentation at 7:30 pm.

Things to do this month



1. Plan for an early vegetable crop

Gardeners with greenhouses or polytunnels can begin planting early carrot, broad bean and beet varieties in border soil, containers or growbags that will crop well ahead of those grown outdoors.

2. Net fruit and veg to keep birds away

Wildlife has been struggling through the harshest season of the year, and it's only natural for individuals to cash in on the gardener's labours for an easy meal. The woodpigeon is by far the worst offender and these large birds - whose numbers are swollen by winter migrants from Scandinavia and other cold regions - can strip cabbage and pea foliage, soiling what they don't destroy.

3. Protect fruit trees from frost

Our fruit trees and bushes, which are virtually dormant over winter, are generally resilient to the worst of weather. However, during the month very early apricots, nectarines, peaches, pears and plums can become vulnerable to frost as their buds and flowers open and shoots develop. Large trees and bushes must take their chances, but dwarf or wall-trained fruit can be protected.

4. Prune hardy evergreen hedges

Straggling deciduous hedges can be rejuvenated with considered renewal pruning during January and February, before bird nesting begins from March. Vigorous new growth will follow any cutting, so the plan should be to rejuvenate an old hedge over successive winters by taking out a few of the oldest and poorest-performing branches. Staggering the pruning will pay dividends in the long run.

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 23rd February.

For Sale:

Mayell glass rosebowl silver EP top and base £15 ono.

Plastic carpet protector 6 ft long 27" wide £12 ono.

Dunlop ladies wellington boots size 3 green £10 ono.

Morland ladies sheepskin ankle boots size 5 1/2 £50 ono.

Please contact Chris on (0118) 966 3406 or email

kent975@outlook.com.

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