

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

March 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 18TH FEBRUARY 2025

In an inspiring and informative talk, **Tom Way** shared some highlights from his career as a wildlife photographer, from penguins in the Falklands, to elephants beside Kilimanjaro. He spoke on the difficulties of the job, such as standing for 4 days in the water for a photo of a water vole, hiking for 8 hours a day whilst photographing orangutans in Borneo, or travelling 45 minutes off the coast of Sri Lanka every day for two weeks to catch the perfect shot of a blue whale. He shared interesting facts learned from his career; the audience learned about the right or left-handedness of elephants, the gorilla's magpie-like interest in stealing wedding rings, and the dangers of leaving £30,000 worth of uninsured photography equipment around a cantankerous hippo. He also spoke on conservation, emphasising the drop in the black rhinoceroses' numbers from 80,000 to 4,000 in the past 40 years, and on meeting Craig, the largest of only 16 remaining "supertusker" elephants. Overall, this talk gave a fascinating glimpse into the life of one of the world's most unusual and adventurous professions, complete with his sharing of his favourite photographs, and their oftentimes humorous backstories. **Tom Way's photography and his print store can be found on his website at "www.tomway.co.uk".**

Thanks to Webster Stockwell for this comprehensive summary (Ed.)

TUESDAY 4TH MARCH 2025

Our 83rd AGM. The committee would like to invite members to attend this meeting and afterwards, to enjoy a cheese and wine buffet. This yearly review of the life of the society is important and we hope you can attend to ask questions and hear our news.

TUESDAY 18TH MARCH 2025

Talk: "Lakeside Gardens in Northern Italy". Pamela Holt will present an interesting collection of pictures of her visit there.

Starting at 7:30 p.m. in St. Peter's church hall.

As usual, there will be refreshments and a raffle.

TUESDAY 24TH JUNE 2025

Come on a 57-seater coach to visit **Mottisfont Abbey**. This is a wonderful National Trust property, where we can enjoy the magnificent, and world famous, old fashioned rose collections that flower in June. With the ancient trees, babbling brooks and rolling lawns, the 18th century building also houses a major 20th century art collection, so there is plenty to enjoy.

There are several outlets for refreshments and outdoor seating to have your own picnic.

Please note new pick-up point: the coach will now leave from the bus bay on Chalfont Way (opposite Suttons Bowling club car park where you can park your car) at 9:30am and return at approximately 5pm.

The cost of this visit is £11 for NT members and £31 for non-NT members.

If you would like to join us, please phone John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303 to book your seat(s).

Payment can be cash or cheque (payable to ERHS). Please deliver your payment in a sealed, named envelope, with a contact number enclosed, to either the trading shed or to 9 Wychwood Close, Earley.

Summer Show Saturday 19th July

The show schedule has been emailed to all members on our email list. It is also 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 141 growing days from 1st March.

Get going if you haven't started - oodles of time!

See below for a list of classes.

Other scheduled events 2025

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

Taylors dahlias, begonias, lilies and anemones are now in the shed at very competitive prices compared to garden centres.

Stable yard manure is selling well, and another 150 bags of manure and 24 seed compost bags are due in early March. John Peacock pp. Trevor Wilson

MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

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

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.

FIT Counts: Community based Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS)

The UK PoMS recording season runs from 1 April to 30 September each year. **Flower-Insect Timed Counts...**

Spend ten minutes watching flowers and insects in good weather! This simple survey collects data on the total number of insects that visit a particular flower, ideally chosen from our list of 14 target flowers. Repeat counts add extra value to the survey records. FIT Counts can be done anywhere, including gardens and parks, in warm, dry weather during daylight hours from 1 April to 30 September.

Take part in the FIT Count - download materials here: <https://ukpoms.org.uk/fit-counts>

There's a 2 minute video on "how to" as well as clear instructions to read and download, along with a paper record form. Alternatively, download an "app". You can send the results back using an online form or via the "app".

Anyone who would like a hand with this could speak to Jackie Leslie (ERHS Talks organiser) at any Tuesday ERHS meeting.



Shed stewards and assistants this month.

1 st	Torkill Fozzard	Bob Campbell
2 nd	Derek Press	Phill Horsburgh
8 th	Kay Bridges	Peter Scott
9 th	Malcolm Iosson	t.b.c.
15 th	Kay Bridges	Peter Lynch
16 th	Mike Fewtrell	t.b.c.
22 nd	Don Maclean	Alan Waite
23 rd	Jeff Gardner	Viv Rimmer
29 th	Trudy Rehman	Bob Campbell
30 th	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell

Summer show (19th July) Classes

Flowers

- Vase of sweet peas (Spencer type) – colour variation allowed – 7 stems – sweet pea foliage only.
- Vase of sweet peas – any type (colour variations allowed) – 9 stems - sweet pea foliage only.
- Vase of large flowered (HT) roses – mixed varieties – 3 blooms.
- 3 stems of miniature or patio roses – one or mixed varieties.
- One specimen bloom of large flowered (HT) rose.
- Vase of 3 large flowered (HT) roses – one bud, one exhibition bloom and one full-blown bloom – one variety..
- Vase of any other roses except large flowered (HT) – mixed varieties – 3 stems.
- Vase of pinks – 7 stems – not budbudded.
- Vase of pansies or violas with foliage – 7 blooms – single or mixed colours allowed.
- Vase of any other annual flowers (hardy or half hardy) not more than two kinds – colour variation allowed (excluding classes 1 & 2.)
- Vase of any other perennial flowers – not more than two kinds – colour variation allowed.
- Vase of mixed flowering shrubs – minimum 3 kinds (excluding roses.)
- A single stem of bloom (shrubs permitted) – excluding roses.
- Container of cactus and/or succulent plant(s). Number of plants not to exceed 6, in a container up to 9" diameter or length.
- One flowering plant in a pot, not to exceed 9" diameter.
- One foliage plant in a pot, not to exceed 9" diameter.

Vegetables

- Carrots – one variety – 5.
- Broad beans – one variety – 6 pods.
- Peas – one variety – 9 pods (not mangetout.)
- Potatoes – one variety – 5 – round or kidney. Any colour.
- Lettuce, with roots – one variety – 2.
- Herbs – 3 kinds – to be displayed in 3 separate vases (2.5" diameter.)
- Rhubarb – 3 sticks with not more than 3" of leaf blade left attached.
- Courgettes – 3 of any single variety – no longer than 6".
- Any other vegetable – one variety – number optional.
- Collection of one each of 3 types of vegetable, but not more than 2 types from classes 17 to 21.

Fruit

- Blackcurrants – 15 bunches displayed individually.
- Gooseberries – dish of 20.
- Raspberries with stalks – dish of 20.
- Strawberries – dish of 10.
- Dish of any other fruit – number optional.
- Collection of mixed fruits, to consist of 3 separate fruit varieties; number optional.

Floral Art

- A petite exhibit. Max 9" width & depth.
- A vertical exhibit using 3 blooms, plus foliage. Max 12" wide by 18" high.
- "Your garden in Summer". Max 24" in any direction.
- A Trug (basket or box) of flowers, fruit and vegetables for Sunday lunch.
- Men only. An exhibit in a hollowed-out vegetable.

Cookery

- One jar of lemon curd.
- One jar of chutney.
- One jar of marmalade.
- 6 cheese scones.
- 6 bread rolls (50/50 white/wholemeal).
- 6 Ginger biscuits.
- 4 vegetarian tarts (max 4" diameter).
- Carrot cake (own recipe).
- Marmalade cake (own recipe).

Homecraft

- Photograph "Along the riverbank".
- Photograph "A local church tower".
- Photograph "Reading brickwork".
- Photograph "Working on your garden or allotment".
- A handmade "Get well" card.
- A fabric tote bag.
- An item of handmade jewellery.
- A picture of a flower (any medium except photograph).
- A doorstep.
- A soft toy - knitted or sewn.

Things to do this month



- Now's the time to plant your chitted first early potatoes.
- Once the daffodils have finished flowering, deadhead them and leave the foliage to die back naturally.
- Dig up large snowdrop clumps while their leaves are still green and divide them into smaller clumps for replanting. This will encourage them to spread.
- Choose a day when the grass is dry and cut your lawn on a high setting.
- Sow tomato seeds and chillies in pots and put them in a greenhouse or warm sunny windowsill to germinate and grow.
- Clear weeds from borders and dig compost or well-rotted stable manure into your vegetable beds to get ready for spring planting
- Top-dress shrubs in pots by removing the top 5cm (2in) of old compost and replacing it with fresh.

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 30th March.](#)

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 ERLEGH
SCHOOL