

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

April 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 4TH MARCH 2025

Our 83rd AGM. This was a successful meeting to review the work of ERHS. The chairman highlighted his concerns about the future running of the society as members get older. The meeting also welcomed Dr Malcolm Iosson as a new vice president to ERHS. The evening concluded with a raffle and cheese and wine.

TUESDAY 18TH MARCH 2025

Talk: "Hardy Annuals" This talk was a surprise for those of us expecting "Gardens of Northern Italy". It was a timely talk by Pamela Holt, though, as we discovered that we should be sowing now for a colourful garden display. She gave us a knowledgeable illustrated talk on a range of flowers from *Gypsophila elegans* (baby's breath) to *Salvia viridis* (annual clary). There were lots of interesting and useful details; for example, I found it helpful to know about the plants' country and habitat of origin. With this, I better understand the conditions I can expect the plant to do well in or to tolerate, as well as firing my imagination knowing my seed packet descended from an African cold desert, or the baking prairies. My thanks to Jackie Leslie for this contribution (Ed.)

TUESDAY 24TH JUNE 2025

Come along with us to the wonderful National Trust **Mottisfont Abbey**. Enjoy the magnificent, world famous and 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 - plenty to enjoy.

As of Thursday 27th March, 26 members and friends have put their names down to go on this visit. Hopefully, over the next few weeks, another 31 members would like to go to fill the coach. Please contact John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303 to book your seat(s).

The cost is £11 for NT members; otherwise, £31. 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).

There are a few in the trading shed as well.

110 growing days from 1st April.

The show secretary hopes that more members decide to enter something in this year's show. It is great fun to be part of our annual celebration.

Go on. Have a go. You know you want to!

Other scheduled events 2025

Tue 16 Sept	Talk "British hardy orchids"
Tue 21 Oct	Talk "Why we need pollinators"
Tue 18 Nov	Talk "Essential oils and plant-based wellness"
Tue 9 Dec	Christmas social

TRADING MATTERS

The trading shed will be open on Wednesday evenings for the next 2 months.

We are well stocked with manure, compost etc including dahlias, begonias, etc. In particular, Strulch (slug-hating, straw-based) compost, is now in stock.

We also have some tools available for hire, such as a petrol-powered scarifier for lawn moss, a hedge trimmer with extension, a branch shredder and a fruit-tree branch cutter. A donation to the air ambulance would be encouraged. Trevor Wilson

MISCELLANEA

Brenda Hayes. Retiring treasurer.

The chairman delivered a patio rose called 'Thank You' and a card to recognise Brenda's contribution to our financial affairs over the last few years.

Apology

We would like to apologise to members and their families who attended our meeting particularly to hear about Gardens in Northern Italy. It was an administrative oversight, and we are sorry to cause frustration.

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.

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

5 th	Jeff Gardner	
6 th	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite
12 th	Phil Rogers	
13 th	Chris Dodson	Torkill Fozzard
19 th	Derek Press	t.b.c
20 th	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell
26 th	Trudy Rehman	Peter Scott
27 th	Kay Bridges	Peter Lynch

Remember: The shed is open on Wednesdays from 1830 to 1930 this month and next month.

Meetings Start Times

Please note that our talks, AGM and Christmas Social will start at 7:30pm from now on in St. Peter's Church Hall.

Things to do this month



- There is still time to fill any gaps in your borders with pot grown spring bulbs, creating beautiful flowers that will continue to bloom for years. It's a good idea to add plant markers to remind you where your spring bulbs are when they have died back.

- Continue to deadhead spring bulbs, nipping off the heads and seedpods to allow the energy to divert back into the bulb.
- Remove faded blooms on pansies, primroses and other spring flowering plants to encourage new growth.
- If you haven't done so already, cut back any dead foliage on perennials, such as Phlox, Rudbeckia and Hosta, to make way for the new season's growth.
- Prepare borders for summer, start to hoe, and weed regularly. It is helpful to dig in a layer of compost or well-rotted manure. You can also work in a general-purpose fertiliser, such as pelleted chicken manure, or fish, blood and bone, this will add nutrients to the soil and improve soil structure. Don't forget to top up your containers too!
- Prune lavenders, trimming back any frost damaged growth. Don't cut into the old growth as it will not grow back.
- Fill any larger gaps in your garden, look at the trees and shrubs that form the main structure and provide year-round colour and interest.
- Add an April showstopper that will flower for years. The classic spring-flowering Camellia with its spectacular flowers, or a breathtaking Magnolia which has varieties of all sizes - both can be grown in the border or a container.
- Sow some vegetables outdoors. Once you have prepared your soil, now is the time to sow carrots, peas, beetroot, winter cabbages, broccoli, salad crops and more.

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 27th April.](#)

Wanted: Clear photos of the **Green Monkey Restaurant** that stood at Shepherds House Hill on the corner of Pitts Lane until 1965. Please contact Shaun on 07584 044161.

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