

## East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

May 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 24<sup>TH</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> century building also houses a major 20<sup>th</sup> century art collection - plenty to enjoy.

So far 43 members and their friends have booked places on this trip on the booked 57-seater coach.

**We really need 14 more passengers.**

If members would like to invite friends to join this trip, please contact John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303 to book seat(s).

The cost is £11 for NT members; otherwise, £31. Please deliver your payment, cash or cheque (payable to ERHS) in a sealed, named envelope, with a contact number enclosed, to either the trading shed or to 9 Wychwood Close, Earley.

**Remember: the coach will leave from the bus stop opposite Suttons bowling club, Chalfont Way, Earley RG6 5HQ at 9:30am and return there about 5pm.** Thank you ... John Peacock

### 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.

**80 growing days from 1<sup>st</sup> May.**

How's it going? Making progress?

Whatever your expertise, consider entering. You may be surprised how well you do.

There's a useful document on our website miscellaneous documents page: "notes for Novices". Even if you are not a novice, it is worth a look.

### Other scheduled events 2025-2026

- 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
- Tue 20 Jan Talk "Longstock Park Water Garden"
- Tue 17 Feb 84<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting
- Tue 17 Mar Talk "Humble hedges - many benefits"

### TRADING MATTERS

Many thanks to all the shed helpers and unloaders. Another order is due soon.

By popular demand, we have now introduced **Chicken Manure** in 2Kg bags at £2 each and we still have some dahlias etc available.

The **Air Ambulance charity box** has been well stuffed with £5 notes over the last year. I have just banked £188.49 - well done! The box is now empty and ready for your donations. We also have some gardening tools available to borrow in return for charity donations. Trevor Wilson

### MISCELLANEA

#### Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June at the Crescent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

#### Membership Renewals

We operate a "grace period" for renewals which lasts until the end of May each year. After that, for data protection reasons, we remove members' details from our records and must treat everybody as a new member who will need to complete a membership application form. {Still only £3 for a year.}

#### Shed stewards and assistants this month.

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jackie Leslie	Bob Campbell
4 <sup>th</sup>	Torkill Fozzard	Bob Campbell
10 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Gardner	Bob Campbell
11 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bridges	Bob Campbell
17 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite
18 <sup>th</sup>	Derek Press	Ray Posselwhite
24 <sup>th</sup>	Don Maclean	Bob Campbell
25 <sup>th</sup>	Neal Stockwell	Bob Campbell
31 <sup>st</sup>	John Peacock	Carole Peacock

**Remember: The shed is open on Wednesday evenings from 1830 to 1930 during May.**

## Survey

The ERHS is 83 years old this year and is an established part of the Earley and Woodley Community. The committee decided to undertake a survey to see how members view our services and activities and if they are still relevant to member's needs. We also want to know more about our members and recent joiners e.g. what proportion are allotment holders. The questionnaire will come with your newsletter either as a paper version (hand delivery) or digital version (email). Paper copies (a 4-page A5 booklet) are available at the shed. Larger (A4) copies are available by request to [erhs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:erhs@hotmail.co.uk). Also, please contact us if you have a problem responding and we can help. All data, information, comments and suggestions will be anonymous and non-attributable.

We are interested in what you want and think, so please take 15 minutes to fill the survey in. Thank you for your time and support with this.

## Meetings Start Times

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

The Berkshire Group of the Hardy Plant Society are holding their annual Plant Fair at Earley St. Peter's church hall on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 1:30 - 3:30 pm. All plants grown by their members. Home-made cakes and drinks available. Admission £1.

## New Cultivating Wellbeing app from Thrive

This is the first gardening for health and wellbeing app on the digital market. It has been validated by The Organisation for the Review of Care and Health Apps, with supporting research from the Green Exercise team from the University of Essex. It is available now from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

I have a quite lengthy email, about the app, which I can forward to anyone who might be interested. Just email me at [ERHS@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ERHS@hotmail.co.uk) Neal Stockwell (Ed.)

## Things to do this month



- Plant summer bedding in pots, windowboxes and hanging baskets to add instant colour to patios and front steps.
- Once the leaves of spring bulbs like daffodils, bluebells and tulips have died back, cut them off at ground level. Lift and divide overgrown clumps of spring bulbs.
- Sow annuals like sunflowers, poppies and cornflowers outdoors for a fantastic summer display.

- Sow courgettes, runner beans and French beans in pots in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill for planting out next month.
- Earth up potatoes to keep the tubers covered – if they are exposed to sunlight, they will turn green and become toxic. Plant them this month if you still have any maincrop seed potatoes.
- Pot your tomato seedlings into larger pots, but wait until the end of the month to plant them outdoors, and remember to harden them off first.
- Sow basil seeds in pots on a sunny windowsill for a constant supply of tasty leaves all through summer. You can also sow coriander outdoors now.
- Sow a new batch of salad leaves every couple of weeks for fresh salads throughout summer.
- It's not too soon to start sowing your winter vegetables! Sow kale in pots in the greenhouse and parsnips and Brussels sprouts directly outdoors where they are to grow.
- Make the best use of your water by watering plants in the early mornings or the evenings, always watering the earth, not the foliage. Install a waterbutt to collect rainwater and use this for watering – it's perfect for plants.
- Keep on top of weeds, especially in the vegetable garden. Run a Dutch hoe over the ground to clear annual weeds on dry days. Perennial weeds with long taproots, like docks and dandelions, can be tackled with a hand fork or dandelion grubber.
- Take care when trimming hedges – always check that there are no birds nesting in the hedge before you start cutting. Remember, it's illegal to disturb nesting birds.
- Once they've finished flowering, prune spring-flowering shrubs like forsythia, Japanese quince, flowering currants and choisya to keep them looking neat.
- Water container plants regularly, even if it rains, as their foliage often stops the rainwater from reaching the compost. Feed them fortnightly with a balanced liquid feed.

## **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 18<sup>th</sup> May.*

**For sale:** Vintage wooden deck chair with detachable leg rest and canopy £80 ono. Also

**White ceramic jardiniere** diameter 25 cm height 60 cm £60 ono and

**blue ceramic jardiniere** diameter 30 cm height 55 cm £60 ono and

**wooden step ladder**, 3 steps £25 ono.

Digital photos available to view. Please contact Chris on (0118) 966 3406 or email [kent975@outlook.com](mailto: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