

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

August 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



Summer Show Saturday 19th July CANCELLED

A message was sent to those members on our email list on 16th July. We regret that some of you will only have found out about the cancellation when arriving at the venue.

A summary from our chairman John Peacock

The committee were very disappointed for the membership when I decided to cancel the show on Wednesday 17th July but, as we only had had 10 members entering (four of who were committee members), it seemed to be the right action to take. Without doubt the very hot weather had a serious effect on the successful production of fruit, flowers and vegetables.

At the next committee meeting we will discuss the state of running future shows. Thank you to those members who did enter some of the classes.

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 th Annual General Meeting
Tue 17 Mar	Talk "Humble hedges - many benefits"

TRADING MATTERS

Don't forget: The trading shed will not be open on Sundays during August.

A few words from Trevor Wilson

The shed has some larger bags (13kg) of strulch. We are well stocked with manure etc. Just as well as there is no way I am lifting any.

I am progressing well and am walking further each day, but I am not going to lift anything for some time!

We are still looking for old garden tools which we can get repaired, sharpened and recycled. We are now recycling your old compost bags.

The Monday morning coffee and cake is back and becoming more popular.

We have some petrol-powered strimmers and hedge cutters, leaf blower, power washer, woodchipper etc to loan if required.

And a few more from our chairman

Members will be very pleased to know that Trevor is making a very good recovery from his recent major surgery. In fact, with Ann and his daughter Alia, Trevor has reinstated his Monday coffee mornings. John Peacock

Thanks

The committee of ERHS would like to recognise and thank **Richard & Julia Tredgett of Huntley and Palmers Allotment Society** for all their thoughtfulness and generous time in helping us out with orders and ordering whilst Trevor has been out of action. Their involvement has been greatly appreciated.

MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. on Monday 8th September at the Crescent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

2 nd	Kay Bridges	Peter Lynch
9 th	Derick Press	Cathy Harris
16 th	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite
23 rd	Don Maclean	Viv Rimmer
30 th	Trudy Rehman	Colin Green

Things to do this month



- Continue to 'deadhead' faded flowers regularly. This means taking off the flowers that have bloomed already which encourages your plants to produce more flowers. Roses, Hemerocallis and Dahlias will all carry on flowering longer if deadheaded. If you have sweet peas, keep cutting for the house - not only will they look and smell amazing, the more you cut, the more flowers they will produce!
- If you haven't already, give your Wisteria trees a summer pruning, cutting back all the long whippy side-shoots to about 20cm (8in) from the main branches.
- Now is the time to collect seed from your favourite plants ready for planting next year. Pop them in an envelope until you're ready and keep them dry.
- Continue to feed tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and beans fortnightly with a high potash feed to promote fruit development, feed such as Tomorite is good for this.

- Harvest garlic and onions when the leaves turn yellow and start to flop over.
- Veggies such as courgettes and beans benefit by regularly picking, this encourages the plants to produce more fruit.
- Be water-wise - water in the evenings or early mornings to reduce water loss through evaporation. And don't forget to keep bird baths and garden ponds topped up in warm weather.
- The combination of rain and warmer weather means weeds can quickly get out of control if not tackled early, so keep an eye on them
- Strawberry plants start sending out runners now - these are long shoots with a cluster of leaves at the end. Peg down the leaf clusters in soil or pots filled with compost and they will root and grow into new strawberry plants.
- Prune plum, cherry and peach trees now. Pruning them while they are in leaf reduces the risk of diseases like silver leaf.
- Keep watering containers regularly, especially in hot weather, and feed flowering plants fortnightly with a liquid high-potash fertiliser like tomato 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: Saturday 30th August.](#)

For sale: Large wheelbarrow, new tyre fitted, in good condition £25.00, also

Flymo chevron 370, new blade fitted £25.00 and Husquarna LRC 3400 lawn rake, new tines fitted £25.00.

Please contact Phil on (0118) 969 3102.

Unless otherwise stated, where items are free, a donation to the Air Ambulance (when you next visit the trading shed) would be appreciated.

Kindly
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MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL