

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

September 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 16TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Keith Boseley will launch our 2025/26 talks programme with "The importance of British Hardy Orchids and their re-introduction into the Landscape", using his experiences,



learning and enthusiasm for conservation, the environment and orchids, built through work with BBOWT, the British Hardy Orchid Society, and on habitat management with Lavell's Wetland Trust. He will give us a practical demonstration and talk on the

propagation, aftercare and reintroduction of these orchids into the Berkshire landscape.

For many of us who don't know much about the subject, it should be a fascinating "show and tell".

The photograph on the left, by Keith, shows the hybrid between Lady Orchid and Monkey Orchid growing in the open at Hartslock. It is also on the home page of the Hardy Orchid Society web site, which is well worth a look {hardyorchidsociety.org}. The other photograph is an example of a pyramid orchid.

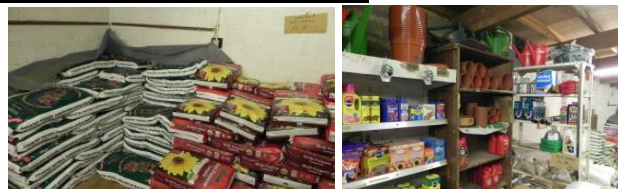


The talk is in St. Peter's church hall, Church Road. Come at 7:15pm for a 7:30 start. As usual, there will be refreshments and a raffle.

Other scheduled events 2025-2026

- 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 84th Annual General Meeting
- Tue 17 Mar Talk "Humble hedges - many benefits"

TRADING MATTERS



I used to include photos of the trading shed (space permitting). These were taken in February 2020. It must be about time I took some new ones! (Ed.)

A word from our Shed Steward and Trading Officer:

Many thanks for all the good wishes after my little episode, I am recovering well and seem to 90% there, just still being cautious of picking up manure etc and am grateful for all your comments and insisting I do not do anything! Lots of walking is helping. The NHS have been fantastic, and I am trying to do my bit to finish off their good work.

The shed will be back to Saturday and Sunday opening and the Monday morning coffee is getting busier. Does anyone have spare plastic chairs? The shed is well stocked with manure etc. Trevor Wilson

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.

6 th	Don Maclean	Tracy Minell
7 th	Torkill Fozzard	Peter Lynch
13 th	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
14 th	Kay Bridges	Ray Posselwhite
20 th	Jeff Gardner	Phil Horsburgh
21 st	Peter Scott	Colin Green
27 th	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite
28 th	Phil Rogers	Tracy Collins

Our Chairman's thoughts:

Summer into Autumn . . .

Since the last newsletter I am delighted to tell you that Trevor Wilson has continued to make an excellent recovery from his heart operation, and he says "I'M BACK", but he cannot lift anything!

Cancelling the Summer show was a great disappointment for Carole Peacock and when the committee next meets, we will discuss dates for next year's show.

So, as the hot summer becomes a frustrating memory, ERHS can now approach the Autumn with renewed enthusiasm. As gardeners and allotment holders we will be reviewing what grew well this year and will be able to start planning for next year.

The trading shed will be the heartbeat of the society, and we urge you to support all the background ordering that Trevor has completed for us, support the monthly shed rota that Mike Fewtrell organises and, as members, help to unload a delivery lorry when called upon.

At the AGM in March, I did express my concerns about the future of ERHS because we have a dwindling membership and, as a society, we have **very few younger members** joining. It is worth remembering that the origins of ERHS started in 1941 as part of the "Dig for victory" campaign and now, 84 years on, do we still have a part to play?

Our **new talks organiser**, Jackie Leslie, has planned a very interesting set of talks, that now start at 7:30pm. I really hope that many members come along to support her efforts.

On behalf of the committee, I extend my very **best wishes to you all** and I hope to meet you at the shed, at the talks and at the Christmas social in December. John Peacock

Things to do this month



- As strawberry plants put out runners (long stems with clusters of leaves), peg down the leaf clusters on the soil where they will root and form new plants. If you don't want new plants, cut off the runners to conserve the mother plant's energy.
- Maincrop potatoes should be ready to harvest this month. Cut down the foliage and leave it for three weeks; then dig up the potatoes. Kids will love doing this! Leave them to dry for a few hours, then store them in hessian sacks or paper bags in a cool dark place.

- Pinch out the growing tips of cordon tomatoes, once they have produced seven trusses, so they can focus all their energies on ripening the fruit.
- When you've picked the last of your French and runner beans, cut the plants down to ground level and leave the roots in the ground to release their stored nitrogen.
- Prune summer raspberries. Cut back all fruited canes to ground level and tie in new canes to supports in preparation for next year's fruit.
- Harvest plums, pears, apples, blackberries, and autumn raspberries in the orchard.
- Get a head start on next year's veg crop. Sow spinach and spring onions for next year and cover the seedlings with fleece to protect them from frost damage. Plant autumn-sowing onion and garlic sets for early harvests. Onion 'Electric', onion 'Radar', garlic 'Germidour', and garlic 'Picardy Wight' are all ideal for autumn planting.
- Direct sow hardy annuals like poppies, cornflowers and nigella outdoors for early flowers next summer.
- Plant out wallflowers and other biennials to give them time to settle in before winter.
- Keep deadheading dahlias and roses for a last flush of autumn colour.
- Cut back faded perennials. Now's a good time to lift and divide geraniums, hostas and other perennials, reducing overgrown clumps and giving you extra plants!
- Plant new perennials while the soil is still warm from the summer. The autumn rains will help to keep them watered.
- It's time to plant spring bulbs like daffodils, crocuses, alliums and irises. Wait until November to plant tulips, as they're less at risk from viruses once the weather is colder.
- Do your autumn lawn maintenance. Scarify and aerate the lawn, and give it an autumn feed high in potassium to harden the grass, ready for the cold winter weather.
- Water camellias and rhododendrons regularly, as they are now developing the buds for next year's flowers.

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 28th September](#)

Free to collector: 3 sheets clear polycarbonate. Each is 2800 x 900 x 10 mm (110.25 x 35.5 x 0.375 inches). Suitable for cold frames or a mini greenhouse. Please call (0118) 935 2981.

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**