

# East Reading Horticultural Society

## NEWSLETTER

### October 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 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

Keith Boseley's illustrated talk on British hardy orchids was well received and generated a lot of interest and many questions from the audience. Keith covered the main reasons for the decline in orchid numbers and species. We heard about their unusual characteristics including their symbiotic relationship with fungi, and use of mycelium networks which give colonies of orchids in local Berkshire SSSIs

He ended by explaining how orchids can be propagated (using a weak dilution of bleach!), and brought examples of seed, petri dish and sowing tube and we observed their growth with a hand lens. These seedlings are grown on and are being reintroduced at Lavel's Wetland Trust (opposite Dinton Park). May/June is the best time to see British orchids. BBOWT have three exceptional orchid local reserves at Homefield Wood, (Marlow common), Hartslock (above Goring) and Warburg (Stonor / Maidensgrove).

### TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2025

Andrew Gibb, an avid apiarist and member of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers, will talk on "Why we need pollinators". He will explore what crops require pollination, different types of pollination and how it occurs, the various insects and types of bees involved and how flowers attract insects. He will discuss what pollens are and why they are studied so closely. Finally, the future - the health and abundance of pollinators, what we can do and are doing.

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 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



Trading shed. The picture on the left is of the small storeroom (Ed).

The shed has had its last load of manure and so we are actively looking for a new supplier of manure. Bulbs should be in by the time you read this newsletter - Tete a tete, Hyacinth etc. Amaryllis later in the year. Lots of items are on order so the shed stock will vary each week.

We are still getting old tools to be offered for charity donations and the Monday coffee and cake get-togethers continue to be popular (0930-1100 approx.). Trevor Wilson

## MISCELLANEA

### Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November at the Crescent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

### Shed stewards and assistants this month.

4 <sup>th</sup>	Trudy Rehman	Mike Fewtrell
5 <sup>th</sup>	Malcolm Iosson	t.b.c.
11 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite
12 <sup>th</sup>	Torkill Fozzard	Tracy Collins
18 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Gardner	Karen Garrod
19 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bridges	Ray Posselwhite
25 <sup>th</sup>	David Hughes	Tracy Minell
26 <sup>th</sup>	Phil Rogers	Viv Rimmer

## A Word from our Chairman

### Autumn Show 2026

At our September committee meeting we decided to plan for an **Autumn Show** next year, but we are still waiting for confirmation of our proposed date to use the church hall. Hopefully, in the November newsletter we will have a date to publish.

In the meantime, do call at the shed to collect a Sutton's catalogue to get a 50% discount on seed orders, delivered to your home.

### The December Social

As we have not had Halloween and bonfire night yet, I hesitate, in October, to even consider mentioning the festival that occurs on the 25th of December. However, one of the highlights of the 2024 social evening was when members read a poem, sang a song, told a funny story or played an instrument. So, after reading this article TODAY, it might be a good time to put the date of **9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** in your diary, on your phone or on the calendar and start thinking about what you could present. How about planning a 5-line limerick that could have a bouncy rhythm, hopefully be humorous and may even be nonsensical in subject matter? Lines 1, 2 and 5 should rhyme with each other and lines 3 and 4 rhyme with each other. You might, for example, start with 'There once was a man in his garden'. John Peacock

### A Member's Plea

I support a local charity, Ridgeline Trust Horticultural Therapy Garden at Lakeside [www.ridgelinetrust.org.uk](http://www.ridgelinetrust.org.uk) in Whiteknights Rd.

If you are splitting or uprooting any of your perennials this autumn, that you won't be using, the charity would love to have them to grow on, for their garden, or to raise funds for the charity at their plant sales.

If you are happy to donate something, I am happy to collect from you, so please contact me, Kay, on 0790 586 0838.

### Things to do this month



#### Wildlife

- Put high energy foods like fat balls and sunflower seeds or hearts out for the birds.
- Put hedgehog and bug houses in place if you have not already done so.
- If you want to provide a natural source of food for birds, choose from one of the many attractive berried plants like Holly or Cotoneaster.

#### Trees, Shrubs and Flowers

- Autumn is the perfect time to plant trees and shrubs or to move existing ones.
- Lift and divide overcrowded perennials.
- Trim hedges.
- Have a tidy up, cutting down faded stems and messy foliage (but leave some seed heads like sunflowers or teasels for the birds.)

- Pick up diseased leaves from around the base of roses.
- Prune climbing and rambling roses.
- Dig up Dahlias, brush off surplus compost and store through winter in a cool, dry place.
- Herbaceous perennials such as Heuchera and many evergreen grasses will look good over winter and there are many bedding plants that will brighten up the dreary days.
- Choose from the amazing variety of spring bulbs and plant them in clumps or drifts in the borders or choose smaller ones for containers.
- Use grease bands on fruit trees with a smooth bark to prevent winter moth problems. If the bark is not smooth, then an insect barrier glue is better.
- Plant Autumn bedding in borders.
- Protect half-hardy plants with fleece.
- Plant prepared hyacinths in vases indoors for winter scent and colour.

#### Fruit and Vegetables

- Sow broad beans such as 'Aquadulce Claudia' for an early crop next year. Can be sown direct or in pots for planting out next month.
- Plant fruit bushes and raspberry canes either this month or next. Use Rose Tree and Shrub Compost in the backfill soil to help establishment.
- Dry pumpkins and squash if not already done.
- Cut back yellowing asparagus foliage.
- Move citrus trees indoors to a sunny frost-free position.
- Remove netting from fruit cages to allow birds to eat any pests.
- Clear straw from around the base of strawberries.

#### General Maintenance and Structures

- Cover or store garden furniture.
- Clean out the greenhouse, if not already done, to prevent pests and diseases over-wintering.
- Clean out ponds and cover them with netting to keep the leaves off.
- Clear gutters and drains.
- Clean out water butts.
- Use the last of the dry weather to paint preservatives onto fences or sheds.
- Raise pots off the ground to prevent waterlogging and to prevent pots cracking.
- Have fleece, plant cosies and cloches at the ready to protect plants and crops in colder weather.

### **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 19<sup>th</sup> October.](#)*

**Free to collector:** At my stage in gardening life, I need to switch to containers on legs. I have 4 beds, each with 400 litres of compost to empty. If you are interested, please call Brian on 0774 867 1135 or email [daviesbrianr@gmail.com](mailto:daviesbrianr@gmail.com). I have photos.

*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