

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

November 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 21ST OCTOBER 2025

Apologies to members, not on our email list, who couldn't hear about the change of speaker and subject until they arrived for the talk.

The report about Tony Lack's talk on Bees, Hornets, beeswax, mead etc. will be in the December newsletter (assuming space permits).

TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2025

Debbie Lawrence ITEC.MCD(arom) is an Essential Oil Educator, teaching people how they can use essential oils as a powerful form of plant-based medicine. Her talk on

"Essential oils and plant-based wellness" will include:

- What an essential oil is and how they work,
- Different ways you can use them and
- Explore and try the top 10 oils and blends that can help with many everyday health complaints such as headaches, stress, sleep, pain, digestive issues, skin, natural ways to boost the immune system

This should be a friendly and fun session, sitting around tables we can try each of the oils as Debbie speaks and answers questions. If anyone wants to buy an oil, she will bring individual ones and also packs of therapeutic grade oils.

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.

A Date for Next Year's Diary

We have decided to have an autumn show in 2026, hoping to avoid having to cancel (as happened with the last two efforts for a summer show). It will be on **Saturday 5th September 2026**.

Schedules will be emailed to members on the email list as soon as possible, hopefully before the end of November, so we can get some printed for the trading shed before we shut down for the winter break.

Other scheduled events 2025-2026

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"
Sat 5 Sept ERHS autumn show

TRADING MATTERS



Trading shed. Trevor Wilson. Pictured in his second home!

The shed has plenty of bulbs left.

We are now out of manure and looking for alternative suppliers but realise we have been very lucky to have had a good supply for many years. We now have a problem as the only suppliers deliver on pallets and on large lorries which currently can't get up the lane to the shed! Some tree surgery is required.

The counter in the shed has been used for many years, and I wonder if anyone is doing any kitchen refurbishment and may have something we could use.

We have some gardening equipment for use including leaf blower, shredder, long reach loppers, lawn mower and strimmers.

Trevor Wilson

MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

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

Wanted: Rubber bands..

.. for bundling up paper copies of the Newsletter. Please leave them at the trading shed.

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

1 st	Kay Bridges	Colin Green
2 nd	Derek Press	t.b.c.
8 th	Trudy Rehman	Bob Campbell
9 th	Malcolm Iosson	t.b.c.
15 th	Peter Scott	
16 th	Kay Bridges	Steve Willis
22 nd	Torkill Fozzard	Peter Lynch
23 rd	Jeff Gardner	Cathy Harris
29 th	Peter Scott	
30 th	Phill Rogers	Ray Posselwhite

A Word from our Chairman

The December Social

As mentioned last month, 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, it might be a good time to put the date of 9TH DECEMBER in your diary, on your phone or on the calendar and start thinking about what you could present. A brand new, original limerick was suggested. John Peacock

Things to do this month



- Sow sweet peas now for earlier flowers next year. Soak the seeds in water overnight before sowing, then place the pots in a cold frame or greenhouse to overwinter.
- November's the ideal month for planting tulips, and it's not too late to plant other spring bulbs like daffodils and crocuses for a brilliant display of colour in spring.
- Plant up pots with violas, cyclamens and other winter-flowering plants to cheer up your patio through the cold winter months.
- Get a headstart on next year's crops. You can direct sow broad bean 'Aquadulce Claudia' outdoors for an early harvest next May in temperate areas. Put netting down over the soil to stop mice from getting to your seeds.
- Plant garlic cloves now so that they get the winter chilling they need to grow well. You can also plant overwintering onion sets like 'Radar' or 'Electric' in well-drained soil for an early crop. (If your soil is heavy clay, grow the sets in modules in a greenhouse for planting out in spring.)

- Plant new soft fruit bushes such as blackberries, blueberries, raspberries and currants.
- November's a good time to prune apple and pear trees and soft fruit like blackcurrants, redcurrants, whitecurrants, and gooseberries. Prune autumn-fruiting raspberries, cutting all the old canes to ground level.
- Keep harvesting the last carrots, cabbage and celeriac, but wait until after the first frosts to harvest parsnips, when they will have a sweeter flavour.
- Mow your lawn on a high setting and rake up fallen leaves. If you haven't aerated and scarified the lawn yet, there's still time to do it this month.
- Once you've harvested all your veg, spread well-rotted farmyard manure on the beds so that it has time to work into the soil over winter.
- Cut back shrub roses by a third to reduce the effect of wind rock.
- Lift dahlia, gladiolus and begonia tubers and store them in trays filled with dry compost over winter, ready for replanting in spring.
- Cut old hellebore leaves off at ground level. This makes it easier to see their gorgeous winter flowers and also helps stop the spread of hellebore black spots.
- Protect patio pots against icy temperatures and winter rain by wrapping them in hessian or bubble wrap and raising them up on pot feet.
- Put up a bird feeder and fill it regularly with high-energy foods like sunflower seeds or suet balls. Keep birdbaths topped up and free of ice so that birds can wash, helping them stay warm through icy 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 23rd November](#)

For Sale: Set of **Gardena Combisystem** tools, including 67 cm wooden and 13 cm plastic handles, hand trowel, hand fork, 3 prong metal grubber/weeder, 30 cm wide metal rake and 43 cm wide plastic lawn rake. £30 ono.

Also, **Ladies Dunlop Wellington boots** size 3 £10 ono. Please call Chris on (0118) 966 3406 or email 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