

## East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

April 2026

The trading shed opens: Sat and Sun 09:30 to 11:00 (but only Sat in July & August),  
and Wednesday evenings 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.  
Just contact the editor, but please include your membership card number.}



## PROGRAMME EVENTS



### TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026

Almost 50 members attended our last talk of the season. We heard from Tijuana Blanusa, RHS scientist at Reading University, about the benefits of hedges as plants for cooling, flood mitigation and pollution management, a very interesting subject that most of us will have had limited knowledge about. Tijuana has since sent us a link so we can see and read about the more effective hedge plant species that she and her team have tested over the years:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/types/hedges/wi-th-environmental-benefits>. She also included a link to the RHS Wellbeing Gardens' Blueprint: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/health-and-wellbeing/blueprint>.

*We hope to see you at our next season of talks, starting on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> of September.*

### FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026

**There are now only 17 places left** on our 51-seater luxury coach to visit **Hidcote Manor**, an interesting **National Trust** property near Chipping Campden. It has a world-famous Arts and Crafts series of garden 'rooms' with the red borders and gazebos being notable features plus the bubbling fountain in the Bathing Pool. Winthrop's cafe is located in the garden serving light lunches, drinks and cakes. There is a picnic area near the car park, and the plant shop is next to the visitor centre. There is plenty to enjoy at Hidcote, so you are encouraged to book your seat(s) early. For NT members the cost of this trip is £23 per person. For non-NT members the cost is £42 per person. Both prices include a gratuity for the coach driver.

If you would like to book your seat(s) please contact John Peacock on 01189 867303.

Please deliver your payment (cheques payable to 'ERHS' or cash) to 9 Wychwood Close, Earley or to the trading shed. Please include your name(s) and a contact number in your envelope. Thank you.

The coach will leave from the bus stop opposite the car park of Suttons Bowling Club, Chalfont Way RG6 5HQ where you can leave your car for the day.

Please be ready to board the coach at 9:15am. We will leave at 9:30 and return there at 5:30pm.

### The autumn show on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Schedules have been sent to members on the email list and put on our web site (Miscellaneous documents page.) If you are not on our email list, you can ask for a copy to be emailed to you; contact me, Neal Stockwell, on [ERHS@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ERHS@hotmail.co.uk) and I'll send it to you.

{Copies are now also in the trading shed.}

### Other scheduled events 2026

- Fri 12 June Visit to Hidcote Manor (NT)
- Sat 5 Sept ERHS autumn show
- Tue 15 Sept Talk: "Gardens of Japan"
- Tue 20 Oct Talk: "Mushrooms - Gourmet & Medicinal"
- Tue 17 Nov Talk: "How the Met Office does Weather Forecasts"

## TRADING MATTERS



The trading shed is well stocked with farmyard manure and various composts. Some potatoes are also still available.

As well, we now have an electric grass scarifier, which is available for loan.

Many thanks for the counter worktop. It works well and was exactly the right size! Trevor Wilson

## MISCELLANEA

### Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April at the Crescent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

### Hillside Primary school project

ERHS and Hillside school would like to thank **Earley Town council** for supplying 6 green recycling bags for the potato growing project.

### Shed Stewards and Assistants in April

Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	Derek Press	Bob Campbell
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bridges	Steve Willis
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	Torkill Fozzard	Bob Collins
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	Neal Stockwell	Tracy Minell
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	Jackie Leslie	Colin Green
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Gardner	Karen Garrod
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Malcolm Iosson	Ray Posselwhite

**April is renewal month!** The new membership and programme cards are now available in the Trading Shed, so if you normally renew your membership there, please visit during normal opening hours and renew along with your next purchase.

If you receive your newsletter by e-mail, please look out for your local Distributor who will collect your subscription and provide your new cards along with your newsletter. Please advise of any changes to your contact details when they call. If you are not available, a "Sorry I missed you" form will be left, inviting you to renew your membership.

Note: All contact details will be removed from our records if you fail to renew by the end of June

### Did you know?

There is a **lawnmower repair workshop** behind the shops at the Three Tuns crossroads. It is down the alleyway between the vape shop and the fish and chip shop. So helpful, and they will collect mowers from your house. Thanks to Margaret Thomas (Ed.)

### Things to do this month



### **Weed and mulch**

Rising temperatures accelerate growth in borders and vegetable beds, so it's important to keep on top of weeds with regular hoeing.

You can also mulch your borders in early spring, provided the soil is moist, to help prevent weeds.

### **Look out for wildlife**

Take care not to disturb nesting birds and always check carefully before pruning hedges or shrubs.

When you tidy and cut back winter growth in spring, remember it may be home to insects and amphibians, or even a hibernating hedgehog.

### **Leave the lawn for pollinators**

Join the growing trend of leaving all or parts of your lawn uncut for a few weeks at a time. This will allow clover, daisies and other lawn species to flower, providing nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects.

### **Container growing**

If you have a small garden, patio or terrace, then container growing could be for you. Here are some useful tips to help you make the most of container growing.

### **Choosing plants for containers**

Bulbs and annuals are great for growing in containers because you can replant each year to create new schemes. Herbs such as parsley, basil and thyme will also grow well in pots - place them near your kitchen door for easy access.

Many perennials and even small shrubs and trees will grow in containers, but species choice is important so make sure you do your research before you buy.

### **Compost and care**

Use good-quality peat-free potting compost for temporary displays. For shrubs and perennials, which will stay in the same compost for a while, choose one with soil in it or add your own.

Plants in containers need regular watering, so ask a helpful neighbour to take care of them when you're away.

## 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 26<sup>th</sup> April](#)

For Sale: New Ladies luxury heavy duty **leather gardening gloves** size medium 6-8 £12 ono.

Ladies **Dunlop Wellington boots** size 3 £10 ono

Ladies **rubber slip-on gardening shoes** size 5 £10 ono

Plastic **carpet protector** 6 ft long 27 in wide £12 ono

Tripod **folding stool** £8 ono.

Gardena Combisystem **set of 5 hand tools** plus 2 short and 1 long interchangeable handles £30 ono

Call (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