

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

May 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

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.
Just contact the editor, but please include your membership card number.}



PROGRAMME EVENTS



We hope to see you at our next season of talks, starting on Tuesday 15th of September.

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2026

Our visit to Hidcote Manor, a National Trust property near Chipping Campden:

When all places were taken, we were fortunate to be able to book a larger coach. Even so, at the time of writing, **only 2 places remain.**

For NT members the cost of this trip is £23 per person. For non-NT members the cost is £42.

Both prices include a gratuity for the coach driver. To reserve your seat(s) please contact John Peacock on 01189 867303.

The details about timings and where to meet will be repeated in the June newsletter (but can also be found in the April edition on our web site).

The Christmas Social

At the AGM I outlined my concern about the small number of members attending the event and questioned its value. At April's committee meeting this was discussed and we decided that more email reminders, nearer the date, might encourage more members to attend. A final decision will be made in June. John Peacock

The autumn show on Saturday 5th September

Schedules have been sent to members on the email list and put on our web site (Miscellaneous documents page.)

Other scheduled events 2026

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



Quite a few machines are available for members to use, electric and petrol grass trimmer, petrol stihl leaf blower, long reach petrol hedge trimmer, petrol grass/weed trimmer.

This month's trading shed special offers:

A big tomato bag and tray £12.

Fly trap papers £2. Trevor Wilson

MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

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

Shed Stewards and Assistants in May

Sat 2 nd	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
Sun 3 rd	Kay Bridges	Peter Lynch
Sat 9 th	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite
Sun 10 th	Malcolm Iosson	Cathy Harris
Sat 16 th	Mike Fewtrell	Colin Green
Sun 17 th	Neal Stockwell	Tracy Minell
Sat 23 rd	Don MacLean	Steve Willis
Sun 24 th	Peter Scott	Bob Campbell
Sat 30 th	Torkill Fozzard	Bob Collins
Sun 31 st	Derek Press	Karen Garrod

Hillside School Project

News from the school: The first earlies are growing well, and more compost has been delivered. Seed sowing is taking place, and the strawberries have been well watered and fed.

Reading Walks Festival

Reading Walks Festival runs from 9th to 17th May. This year's programme is more diverse than ever and includes over 40 walks. The festival is as much about telling the stories of Reading as walking for its own pleasure, so you don't need to be a seasoned hiker to take part, and you'll find that the volunteer guides have lots to share. Have a look at

<https://whatsonreading.com/venues/reading-walks-festival/whats-on-events> to find out about the walks. Some are wheelchair accessible.

Things to do this month



Flowers:

- **Annuals** like cosmos, nigella, calendula, cornflowers, and marigolds can now be sown directly into the soil. Rake over your soil to create a fine tilth, scatter the seeds, cover lightly, and keep watered until they germinate.
- **Deadheading spring flowering bulbs** such as daffodils and tulips is essential. Remove the spent flowers but leave the leaves intact to allow the bulbs to store energy for the next blooming season.
- **Summer bedding plants**, such as petunias, begonias, lobelias, and geraniums, can go into containers, window boxes, and hanging baskets after hardening off. Keep them well-fed and deadhead regularly for long-lasting displays.

Vegetables:

- **Direct sow** carrots, beetroot, parsnips, radishes, spring onions, salad leaves, and spinach. Make sure soil is well-prepared and weed-free.
- **Sow French and runner beans**, peas, courgettes, and squash seeds outdoors once the soil is warm.
- **Sweetcorn and pumpkins** can also go in towards the end of the month after the risk of frost.
- **Potatoes** should be earthed up again, as their shoots grow, which protects them from late frosts and increases yields. To earth up potatoes, cover the emerging plants with soil or compost to prevent the leaves from turning green or being damaged by frost.
- **Sow winter brassicas** like Brussels sprouts, kale, and cabbage for a bountiful autumn harvest.

Hardening Off:

- **Tender plants** (like tomatoes, chillies, and courgettes grown indoors) and new plants should be gradually acclimatised to outdoor conditions. Start by placing them outside during the day and bringing them in at night for 7 to 10 days before planting them out.

General Garden Maintenance

- **Mulch borders** with compost, bark, or well-rotted manure to retain moisture, improve soil structure, and suppress weeds.
- **Staking perennials** early prevents damage from wind and rain. Tie plants loosely to supports like bamboo canes, metal hoops, or natural-looking hazel rods.
- **Managing climbing plants** is crucial in spring, especially in May. Tie in the stems of climbing plants like roses, clematis, and honeysuckle, and support climbing vegetables to ensure proper development.
- **Watering** is essential for any newly planted trees, shrubs, veg, and bedding plants. Water deeply a few times a week rather than little and often, encouraging deep root growth.
- **Giving plants a good soak** during dry spells in spring ensures their optimal growth and prevents stress from lack of moisture.
- **Feeding** helps boost growth and flowering. Use a general-purpose feed on shrubs and borders or a high-potash feed (like tomato fertiliser) on flowering plants and fruiting veg.
- **Dividing overcrowded clumps** of perennials rejuvenates them for optimal flowering. Tidy up these clumps during the growing season to enhance the garden's health and appearance.
- **Managing pests and diseases** is vital. Remove dead stems and foliage from perennials to prevent pests and diseases from establishing, contributing to healthier plants.

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 17th May.](#)

For Sale: Vintage wooden deck chair with detachable leg rest and canopy £80 ono.

White ceramic jardiniere diameter 25 cm height 60 cm £60 ono.

Blue ceramic jardiniere diameter 30 cm height 55 cm £60 ono.

Mayell glass rosebowl silver EP top and base £15 ono

Kitchen Herb Chopper metal & plastic, hand operated vintage £12 ono

Digital photos of the above available to view, please contact 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