

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

June 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



FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2026

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

There are still **two places** available. Please phone 01189 867303 to book.

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 9:30am and return there by 5:30pm.

If, on the day, you are unable to come on the trip, please phone John Peacock on 01189 867303 by 8am.

Remember your picnic and NT cards. Non-NT members will have their entry paid at Hidcote.

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

Cheque payments will be banked by the end of May.

The autumn show - Saturday 5th September

By now, you will all have decided what to grow this year in your garden or on your allotment.

Please refer to the Show schedule to see what classes you could enter. It is important that, as a society, we make a special effort this year to have as many exhibits as possible if we are to ensure the future of the show. Records show that ERHS has put on a show since the 1940's but in the last few years entries have fallen. Yes, the weather has been a significant factor, but it would be wonderful if everyone could consider trying to enter at least one class and that would give us an impressive show in 2026.

Show schedules have been emailed to members on the email list, put onto our web site and are available in the trading shed.

Other scheduled events 2026 & 2027

- Sat 5 Sep ERHS autumn show
- Tue 15 Sep Talk: "Gardens of Japan"
- Tue 20 Oct Talk: "Mushrooms - Gourmet & Medicinal"
- Tue 17 Nov Talk: "How the Met Office does Weather Forecasts"
- Tue 8 Dec (Christmas social) To be advised
- Tue 19 Jan Talk: "Working with beneficial Insects"
- Tue 16 Feb 85th Annual General Meeting
- Tue 16 Mar Talk: "Butterflies and butterfly-friendly gardens"

TRADING MATTERS

The shed is still stocked with manure and we will be getting more delivered soon, as well as the popular clover compost. We have some seaweed fertiliser along with chicken pellets, Growmore and fish blood and bone.

The tools are being well used. The small rotavator, moss scarifier, lawn mower, hedge trimmer and strimmers are available.

Our coffee mornings on Mondays, from 0930 to 1100, are still going strong. Trevor Wilson

***This month's trading shed special offers:**
Still available . . .*

***A big tomato grow bag and tray £12.
Fly trap papers £2.***

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 June

Sat 6 th	Kay Bridges	Steve Willis
Sun 7 th	Phill Rogers	
Sat 13 th	Kay Bridges	Colin Green
Sun 14 th	Jeff Gardner	Steve Willis
Sat 20 th	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
Sun 21 st	Trudy Redman	Torkill Fozzard
Sat 27 th	Derek Press	
Sun 28 th	Peter Scott	

Hillside School Grow Project

Here are a few photos of our project. Thanks to your wonderful kindness and generosity!

During **Earth Day** the whole school planted our strawberries, potatoes and various other seeds we had delivered! My thanks to Meg Bloomer (Ed.)



Things to do this month



1. Bedding Plants

Bedding plants are a quick and easy way to add lots of colour to your garden. They are fantastic for borders, containers and hanging baskets. If you've been hanging back with planting them, now is the perfect time as we should be past the risk of frost. Violas, pansies, petunias, impatiens and lobelia are some of the most common bedding plants. It's all about bold colours and patterns and particularly liked are the spotty and stripy varieties of petunias.

2. Plant out remaining fruit and veg

Now that the soil is warmer, you can plant out a variety of vegetables including pumpkins, courgettes, sweetcorn and brassica. Once planted, you can protect the plants from high winds and birds using netting or fleece. This is also helpful for keeping the white cabbage fly off your brassicas to prevent the invasion of caterpillars in your crop!

3. Tomatoes

Tying your plants to supports prevents them from flopping to the ground, especially when they get heavier with fruits. You can use stakes or string attached to a piece of wood above.

Pinch-out side shoots from your tomato plants but make sure you don't pinch out the 'trusses' with yellow flowers as the flowers will turn into your tomatoes! Pinching-out prevents energy being wasted and encourages more fruit.

4. Flower Beds

Daffodils foliage should be ready to cut back (remember you should leave it for about 6 weeks after they have gone over). You could plant some annual flowers to fill the gaps in your border. Some favourite annuals are cosmos, cornflowers and nigella and hopefully they'll fill the space with beautiful blooms later in the summer. Remember to provide supports for your taller plants. Stakes can help support them in high winds and prevent snapped stems!

5. Harvest Early Crops

Enjoy harvesting your early summer crops. Salads and early potatoes should be ready to go any time now. Homegrown tastes much better and it cuts down on any plastic/packaging from ones bought in the supermarket.

6. Weeding

Hoe or hand-weed borders and beds regularly. Weeds like warm soil and will grow rapidly, taking moisture from the soil so it's best to do this regularly to keep on top of them.

7. Lawn Care

Mow your lawn regularly although you might be deciding to mow less regularly. You may be giving the first full cut after 'No Mow May' and probably removing some of the weeds that have gone to seed as the bees can't benefit from them. You may tolerate some clover on the lawn as it really attracts the bees over the summer. Some of us aim to cut some parts less regularly for the wildlife. In dry spells you can water your lawn to stop it drying out and apply some lawn feed.

8. Watering

Water your plants regularly at this time of the year. Early morning and evening are the best time to water - try to avoid doing it in the hottest part of the day as you might scorch the plants and they don't use the water as efficiently. Using a mulch, such as decorative bark, can help with water retention.

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 June.](#)

Nothing received this month

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