

## East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

July 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



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

Our visit to **Hidcote Manor**: 57 members enjoyed a splendid day at this beautiful NT property, including some wonderful topiary and lovely planting in their 'garden rooms'. John Peacock

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

Carole really hopes that we can put on a great show this year after recent disappointments. Please look at the schedule and try to enter at least one class.

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                                   |
| Tue 19 Jan | Talk: "Working with beneficial Insects"            |
| Tue 16 Feb | 85 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting            |
| Tue 16 Mar | Talk: "Butterflies and butterfly-friendly gardens" |

### In Memoriam

It is sad to report that we learnt recently that **Ray Field**, our former president and vice president had died.

Our thoughts are with his family.

### TRADING MATTERS

Members will wish to send Trevor every good wish when he attends John Radcliffe for a major medical treatment in early July. John Peacock

Trading shed special offers:  
*A big tomato grow bag and tray £12.  
Fly trap papers £2. (Et Al ?)*

**Don't forget:** the trading shed *does not open on Sundays* during July and August (as in the newsletter heading).

#### Shed Stewards and Assistants in July

|                      |               |                |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Kay Bridges   | Alan Waite     |
| Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> | Jackie Leslie | Peter Lynch    |
| Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> | Kay Bridges   | Bob Campbell   |
| Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> | John Peacock  | Carole Peacock |

### MISCELLANEA

#### Next Committee Meeting:

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

#### ERHS Programme Card Correction

In the "OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE" section, the phone number for Mr. M. Fewtrell should be **0791 366 3878**.

#### Thanks to all those members who responded

to my request for any surplus plants to be donated to the *Ridgeline Trust Therapeutic Garden* plant sale. The event was held on 17<sup>th</sup> May and raised £4,145 from plants and refreshments. Ridgeline were absolutely delighted with the variety of plants received and funds raised and wanted to pass on their thanks to the ERHS members that supported their sale. Many thanks to Trevor Wilson for letting me have recycled pots. The next sale is on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026, so if there are plants surplus to your requirements, please let me know and I'll pass them along (0790 586 0838). I am happy to collect. Kay Bridges

### Vice President

The committee are delighted to announce that Margaret Thomas, our secretary, has accepted their proposal that she become a VP of ERHS. A fitting accolade for her commitment to the society.

### Hillside School Project

The exceptional hot weather has curtailed activity there recently, but the chairman has great plans for the pumpkin patch in the Autumn!

### Gwen & Bill Barton

We are very grateful to their two lovely lads, Paul & Alistair for donating gardening items to the trading shed. The big roll of greenhouse netting might be very useful for several members!

### Things to do this month



- Start sowing the seeds of overwintering crops - kale, spring cabbage, radicchio, chicory and spinach to mature in early summer next year. Now is also the best time to sow the main crop of carrots.
- Regular deadheading bedding and perennial plants directs energy into stronger growth and more flowers. This is because once the flowers are pollinated, seed heads and pods form at the expense of further growth and flower development.
- However, to attract birds with the tasty seeds, you can leave the faded flowers on plants including rudbeckia, cornflower and sunflower, or those with ornamental seeds or fruits such as alliums, love-in-a-mist (Nigella), and stinking iris (Iris foetidissima). There is also no need to deadhead rose cultivars that bear hips or other plants that bear berries in the autumn.
- Applying used coffee grounds, eggshells, chopped-up banana peels, and other organic matter directly to your soil (no composting required) can offer plants nutrients as they decompose. For already-growing beds, scatter and bury the items within the first few inches of soil.
- Water thirsty plants such as celery, beans, peas, courgettes, and pumpkins regularly. Water fruit trees and bushes, then lay a thick mulch of garden compost around their base to hold in the moisture. Water tomatoes daily to prevent drying out, which can lead to split fruits and blossom end rot.

- Cover brassicas with fine netting to prevent cabbage white butterflies laying their eggs on the leaves.
- Pinch out the side shoots of cordon tomatoes, which grow upright with a single stem and need specific care for the best growth. This encourages the plant to produce flowers and so fruits. Remove the growing tip once four flower trusses have formed.
- Feed tomatoes, chillies and cucumbers with high-potash tomato fertiliser every week to encourage fruiting.
- Sow a last batch of peas and dwarf beans around mid-July for an autumn crop.
- Fruit crops need trimming and thinning. With strawberries, trim off the foliage to just above the crowns after fruiting; remove unwanted runners and rake away old straw. For raspberries, continue thinning out crowded new canes, pruning unwanted canes down to soil level to leave remaining ones about 15cm apart.
- Cane fruit including loganberries and tayberries can have their old, fruited canes cut to the ground once the fruit has been picked. Tie in all the new canes that have formed this year to support wires, spreading them out evenly.
- Clean accumulated dust off large-leaved houseplants to keep them looking their best. Take leaf cuttings from houseplants including Begonia rex, African violets, Cape primroses, crassula and kalanchoe.
- Be vigilant for aphids, vine weevils and other pests, and treat immediately so infestations don't get out of hand. Pests including aphids and pea moth can be sprayed with insecticidal soap. Nematodes will deal with caterpillars, such as cabbage white caterpillar.

### **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> July.](#)

**For sale:** 8 Cloche Hoops suitable for polythene or netting. Simply push into the ground. They are made from 28mm galvanised steel tube, width 4ft, height 3ft 7in. Also included: 2 pieces of **Fruit Cage Netting**, good for vegetable patch or raised bed. **All for £25 ono.** Please contact Steve on 0777 187 0242 or by email at [stephen.wills1@outlook.com](mailto:stephen.wills1@outlook.com).

**For Sale:** Pair of **Aluminium Cold Frames**. Glazing largely broken (local fox) so need replacement glass or poly-carbonate sheets. They come with opening tops and props. Sloping tops allow rain/snow to disperse. £25 the pair - collect from Earley. Dimension (cm): 127 L x 64 W and 37 - 32 H tops (slide off sideways). Phone 07802 715569. {Picture: by request to [erhs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:erhs@hotmail.co.uk) }.

**Wanted:** **Gardening help** for a garden in Earley. About half a day a week in season. Pay negotiable. Would suit a retired keen gardener. Phone Brian on 0792 750 8760.

*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