

## East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

August 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



#### Autumn Show

This has always been a celebration of what we, as amateur gardeners can nurture, grow and crop at home or on our allotment.

During May & June and now in July we have experienced very hot weather again and that has severely affected the flowers, fruit and vegetables that we have been able to grow in our gardens and on our allotments. Quite clearly our global weather patterns are changing quite dramatically and, for us at ERHS, its effect over recent years has begun to seriously affect the number of entries that members have submitted to our show secretary.

We felt it was important to avoid further frustrations this year and in view of this the committee have decided to **CANCEL** the Autumn show.

When the committee meets again in September, I feel certain that we will be discussing ideas for a Xmas show and, **most certainly, considering a Spring show next year.** John Peacock

#### TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026

**A date for your diary.**

This is our first ERHS talk for the season and is "An Introduction to the Gardens of Japan" with Graham Bowyer, who has visited Japan many times and led tours for the Japanese Garden Society members.

There will be more information in the September newsletter.

#### Other scheduled events 2026 & 2027

|            |                                                    |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Sat 5 Sep  | ERHS autumn show <b>CANCELLED</b>                  |
| 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" |

### TRADING MATTERS

We are all delighted to know that Trevor has had successful surgery in Oxford, has returned home and is very gently regaining his fitness, energy and enthusiasm for life by going to the trading shed. This seems to be his extra convalescence place after his lovely home!! John Peacock

**Remember:** the trading shed *is only open on Saturdays* during August.

#### Shed Stewards and Assistants in August

|        |              |                |
|--------|--------------|----------------|
| Sat 1  | Jeff Gardner | Bob Campbell   |
| Sat 8  | Kay Bridges  | Alan Waite     |
| Sat 15 | John Peacock | Carole Peacock |
| Sat 22 | Peter Scott  | Cathy Harris   |
| Sat 29 | Kay Bridges  | Peter Lynch    |

### 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)

#### Cheque processing costs.

We were very surprised to learn that every cheque that was presented for the Hidcote visit cost 50p per cheque. As of 1st August, Lloyds bank will charge £1.25 per cheque.

Therefore, the treasurer is preparing suggestions for the next committee meeting to avoid these charges.

## Hillside School Project



As the school term comes to a close, it is great to report that 24 pumpkin and squash plants have been planted in grow bags near to the site manager's house. He will water them during the holidays. Hopefully fruit

will set and grow on during the early part of next term.

In September ERHS and Hillside staff will meet to review this year and plan for next.

## Things to do this month



- Keep deadheading dahlias and roses to keep the flowers coming until autumn. However, if your roses are the types that develop colourful hips in winter (e.g. rugosa roses), then leave the flowers to fade on the plants and don't cut them off.
- Water camellias and rhododendrons regularly this month, as they are developing their buds for next year's flowers.
- Once lavender has finished flowering, cut back the faded flower heads to keep the plant in good shape. Take care not to cut back too hard, as lavender won't grow back if you cut into the old wood.
- Prune rambling roses now. Take out one in every three flowering stems on established plants to keep the plant under control. Tie in any loose stems if needed.
- Give your wisteria its summer prune if you didn't do it last month. Cut back all this year's long whippy stems to within 5-6 leaves of the main woody framework. This helps keep the plant under control and encourages it to form plenty of buds for next year's flowers.

- Water container plants regularly, especially in hot weather, and feed flowering plants weekly with a liquid high-potash feed such as tomato feed. Container-grown tomatoes and peppers will also benefit from a weekly high-potash feed.
- As annuals like poppies, cornflowers and nigella set seeds, collect them in paper bags and store them for sowing in spring.
- Keep ponds and bird baths topped up to give your garden wildlife somewhere to bathe and drink.
- Plant autumn flowering bulbs like nerines and colchicums and start ordering your spring bulbs now so that you're ready when autumn arrives.
- Cut back basil, mint and thyme for a flush of new growth before autumn.
- As strawberry plants send out runners, peg them down in individual pots or on the ground to create new plants. If you don't need any new strawberry plants, cut the runners off to preserve the mother plant's energy.
- Prune summer-fruiting raspberries, cutting back all fruit-bearing canes to ground level.
- Keep picking courgettes, runner beans and French beans. Tomatoes, potatoes and beetroots should also be ready to harvest now, and when onion and shallot leaves turn yellow and flop over, it's time to harvest them too.
- Keep on sowing for those autumn and winter salads. Rocket, mizuna, pak choi and lamb's lettuce can all be sown now.
- Hedgehogs are starting to fatten up before hibernating, and you can help by leaving out food for them. Meat-based cat or dog food is best; don't leave bread or milk.

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> August](#)

**Free to collector:** Many years of **RHS monthly magazines** available if anyone wants them. If you are local, I could drop them off for you. Please call John on 01189 541924. (Don't leave a message, my answering machine has stopped working!)

*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