

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

February 2019

Trading shed: Sat, Sun, Mon (Tue if Mon is a bank holiday) 09:30 to 11:00.

Wed evenings - April and May only - 18:30 to 19:30. Mobile number: 0738 463 2903.

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 you with the lifting.

Web: 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.}



1. PROGRAMME EVENTS



(a) TUESDAY 15TH JANUARY, 2019

Our speaker about the Woodlands Trust, Ted Green, made a passionate case for protecting our indigenous trees, particularly the oak, during an extremely entertaining presentation. He was very knowledgeable and speaks about trees all over the world. He also shared some radical views about Windsor Castle, lawn mowers and diesel lorries that gave us all something to think about.

(b) SATURDAY 26TH JANUARY, 2019

In the Anvil Theatre, 40 members and friends enjoyed three hours of non-stop entertainment. The show was fantastic, the music evoked times past, the costumes were of the period and the comedy parts were hilarious. A very good time was had by all and represented excellent value.

(c) TUESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY, 2019

The committee warmly invites our members to attend the ERHS AGM to be part of our review of the year just gone and to be involved in presenting ideas for the way forward in 2019. After the business part of the meeting you are invited to enjoy a cheese and wine selection. There will be soft drinks too and a raffle, with more excellent prizes to be won. Proceedings start at 8 p.m. in St Peter's church hall.

(d) SATURDAY 13TH APRIL, 2019

The committee invite members and friends to join the coach party to visit the RHS show at Bute Park, Cardiff. This is the first RHS show of the season and will feature the show gardens and the Regeneration gardens showing the work of recent graduates in landscape architecture and garden design. There will be the 'blossoming flower beds' competition to view and there will be plenty of stalls brimming with plants, gardening products, gifts and great tasting food.

Garden celebrities will be there hosting talks during the day and gardening experts will be available to offer tips and advice. An innovation will feature how horticulture can benefit our lifestyle and have a positive impact on our physical and mental health.

The coach will depart from outside Earley St Peter's church hall car park at 8:30am to arrive in Cardiff by 11am and we will leave Cardiff at 4pm to arrive back in Earley by 6:30pm approximately.

The cost of this visit including luxury coach travel, admission ticket and a driver gratuity contribution is £28 per person. There is no Severn Bridge toll now!

If you would like to come, please contact John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303 to book your ticket(s).

Please deliver your payment in a sealed and named envelope to the Trading shed or to 9 Wychwood Close, Earley, with a contact telephone number.

The closing date for bookings is Thursday 21st March.

2. TRADING MATTERS



The following are available this month:

Onion Sets: Red Barron, Sturon, Stuttarter

Shallots: Pendula, Non-top

Lily: Short stemmed

Dahlia: Big Hailstone, Libeccio, Teaset,

Apache, Boom Boom Red, Little Rococo

Robert, Sylvia, Bishop of Leicester, Bishop of

York, Blue Bayou, Edge of Joy, Fire and Ice,

Night Butterfly, Pooh, Totally Tangerine

Soft Fruits

Hybrid Tea Roses

Amaryllis: Large

Seed Potatoes (All varieties 2.5Kg):
 Arran Pilot, Foremost, Pentland Javelin,
 Catriona, Maris Peer, Nicola, Cara, Desiree,
 King Edward, Majestic, Maris Piper..... £2.30
 Homeguard, Winston, Kestrel, Wilja,
 Picasso..... £2.40
 International Kidney..... £2.50
 Lady Christl..... £2.70
 Pink Fir Apple..... £2.80

3. MISCELLANEA

(a) Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 8th April, 2019, at the CResCent Resource Centre.

(b) Shed stewards and assistants for February

2 nd	Mike Smith	Sarah Rose
3 rd	Malcolm Iosson	Sue Jones
9 th	Don Maclean	Ann Leslie
10 th	Mike Fewtrell	Trevor Wilson
16 th	Jim Watson	Torkill Fozzard
17 th	Neal Stockwell	Ray Posselwhite
23 rd	Jeff Gardner	Alan Waite
24 th	John Peacock	Carole Peacock

(c) Welcome

The committee were delighted to welcome Ann Leslie to join them. She has agreed to take over organizing our talks program from Mike Smith. *Many thanks are also due to Mike for his work in this area over several years.*

(d) Do we have any talkers?

We are drafting the ERHS 2019-2020 Programme of Talks and wonder if any of our members would be interested in putting themselves forward as a speaker to give a talk or demonstration on a topic of interest. If so, please do contact Ann Leslie at ann.leslie1@bopenworld.com. Any suggestions for speakers or topics would also be welcome.

(e) New Distributor / Collector wanted

Following the move of an existing Distributor out of the area, a volunteer replacement is needed for the Newtown area. This is only a small round with, at present, all [9] members receiving their Newsletter by e-mail, so the only duty is collection of renewal subscriptions at the end of March/beginning of April. If you can take this on, it would be much appreciated. Please contact Malcolm Iosson on (0118) 986 1909 or by e-mail at malcolm@iosson.net if you are interested.

(f) Things to do in February



Flower garden

1. Although many jobs may still not be possible, there's a multitude of ways to begin preparing for summer. To begin with some more enjoyable tasks, it's worth considering which summer flowering bulbs you want to get. These bulbs need to be planted in spring, so now is the time

to spend some enjoyable time selecting your future favourites.

2. Deadheading faded flowers on winter-flowering plants will encourage the plant to produce dense foliage ready for summer. Similarly, this is a good time to prune hardy evergreens or overgrown deciduous hedges.

3. If large clumps of established bulbs, like snowdrops and aconites, are not flowering well, this is a good time to lift and divide them ready for next year.

4. February is the right time to be planting out bare root roses ready for an explosion of summer colour. When planting out be sure that they are in a sunny position for best results.

5. Finally, if you want to introduce colours into your garden now, pots with early-flowering and dwarf bulbs are a great option. Daffodils and Scillas are wonderful varieties for this situation.

Vegetable garden

1. Get a head start on your vegetable patch this year and start working it over as soon as the ground is soft enough to do so. Make sure to mix lots of organic matter into the soil to give your vegetables as much nourishment as possible.

2. If you plan to sow early vegetables in March, then this is the time to start warming up your cloches. They require at least 3 weeks for the soil to warm up, so don't delay!

3. Get your potatoes ready for planting by chitting, which involves removing all but 3 or 4 of the eyes and placing them in a light place with a little water. A good way to ensure lots of light and enough water is to place the spuds into an egg carton.

4. Some seeds, including onions and celeriac, can now be planted under cover.

5. Although it is not recommended to plant too many seeds now, as the low light levels may produce leggy seedlings, some plants can already be started. Both broad beans and early peas can be planted now. For the broad beans, plant one to a pot and they should be ready to be planted out in March. The early peas will be ready for the outside once they are a few centimetres tall.

4. WANTED/FOR SALE/FREE

Members' advertisements are free of charge. Just telephone or email the editor (see newsletter heading.)

Free to collector: Garden Roller. Please call (0118) 966 6386 if interested.

Unless otherwise stated, where items are free, a donation to the Air Ambulance (when you next visit the trading shed) would be appreciated.