

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

July 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) SATURDAY 29TH JUNE 2019

Summer Show. It's too late to give the results of the show in this newsletter, but I'll try to squeeze them into the August edition (Ed.)

(b) SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2019

The committee would like to invite members and friends to join us on an outing to Nymans National Trust Gardens in Sussex.

The grade 2 listed garden is one of the great 20th century gardens with beauty, colour and interest all year round, with fascinating and rare plants from around the world.

We can visit the charming Messel family rooms, enjoy wonderful views of the Sussex Weald and, at our leisure, wander through the ancient woods, round the lakes and up and down the avenues.

Nymans has a well-stocked plant centre and the shop sells a wide range of products, some locally sourced. There is a cafe with a selection of homemade food and drinks, but members might prefer to take a picnic.

The cost of this visit includes the coach and a contribution to the driver's gratuity. For NT members it will be £16 per person; for non-NT members it will be £30 per person, to also include an entrance ticket. We have booked a 38-seater luxury coach for this visit. The coach will leave at 9am

from outside Earley St Peter's Church Hall car park and we will leave Nymans at 3:30, expecting to be back in Earley by 5:30pm. If you would like to join us, please phone John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303 to book your seat(s).

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

Please make cheques payable to 'ERHS' or send cash. Thank you.

2. TRADING MATTERS



The following items are available now:

Grow Bags (Clover)	£2.60
New Horizon 60 litre	£6.95
J. Innes Compost 25 litre - 1, 2 & 3 ..	£3.65
J. Arthur Bowers Multipurpose Compost 50 litre	£4.00
Bark Chips 75 litre	£6.60
Rose Food 3 Kg	£2.80
Spring/Summer Lawn Feed 3 Kg	£3.20

On sale at the end of August:

Onion Sets: Red Winter, Autumn
Champion (Shakespeare), Senshyu.

Shallots: Eschalote Grise.

3. MISCELLANEA

(a) Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 12th August 2019, at the CResCent Resource Centre.

(b) Shed stewards and assistants for July

6 th	Chris Dodson	Trevor Wilson
7 th	Malcolm Iosson	Sarah Rose
13 th	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
14 th	Mike Fewtrell	David Hughes
20 th	Gwen Barton	t.b.c.
21 st	Mike Smith	Alan Waite
27 th	Jeff Gardner	Mary Buck
28 th	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell

(c) Trading shed matters

As always, we need a few more assistants to help in the shed - they need to be reasonably strong - able to lift bags of compost etc. onto and off the wheelbarrows. Please contact Mike Smith if you can help (about 10 times a year from 09:30 to 11:00 on Saturday or Sunday.)

When you use the shed, please try to bring someone with you to help with any lifting, if you need to. We know this isn't always possible, so don't worry if you can't.

Also, as well as trying to bring change with you, please remember your membership card. If you forget, though, we try to keep a list of members in the trading shed.

(d) Earley Green Fair on Saturday 3rd August

The fair runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the entrance to the Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve - entry from Beech Lane or from Andrews Rd.

Your Society will have a stall there, so come along and chat to members of your Committee. As usual, there will be lots of stalls from local organisations, so you'll find plenty to see and do.

Bring along a gardening friend and get them to join up - there is a special "event offer" for new members - only £2!

Please also think about whether you could spend a little time at the fair helping to (wo)man the ERHS stall. If you can, please contact John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303.

(e) Things to do in July



1. It's time to keep an eye out for plant pests. Check tips on young growing plants for clusters of greenflies, or for any distortion which might be aphids

inside. An environmental way of dealing with greenfly is to either rub them off with your fingers or to spray them with diluted washing up liquid.

2. Check for black spot on rose leaves. Pinch off leaves or stems showing symptoms of this fungus and bin or burn them. Don't put them into your compost as that will harbour the disease.
3. Continue to deadhead and pick flowers to keep them blooming lovely.
4. Prune early-flowering shrubs, such as wisteria and lilac, to keep them in check and give them a good shape.
5. Keep up regular watering and feeding of plants in containers, particularly geraniums. The soil should be damp to the touch.
6. Cut lavender flowers this month, then hang them to dry - perfect for that smelly sock drawer.
7. Harvest and eat fruit and veg. Now's the time to enjoy eating beans, carrots, beetroot and strawberries.
8. Why not try a cup of your own home-grown fresh mint tea - an easy, refreshing drink to make. Simply pour boiling water over fresh mint leaves, and add a little sugar if you like.
9. If it's really hot, let the grass grow for a week rather than mowing it too often. This stops it from scorching and is great for wildlife.

4. WANTED/FOR SALE/FREE

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

The copy deadline for the next newsletter is Monday 22nd July.

Free to collector: Glass and aluminium cold frame, 51" (130cm) x 25" (63 cm). Half of the lid is damaged and needs straightening and partially re-glazing. Free to the first handyperson willing to dismantle and remove it! Please call Celia Weber: (0118) 926 5200.

Free to collector: **Wooden front door** - first class - 6ft 5.5in high, 33in wide, 2in thick with 2 frosted glass panels.

Also a **wooden frame** with clear glass: 32.5in by 38in. Please ring (0118) 966 3244.

Free to collector: 2 rolls of **chicken wire**, no longer needed. Please call (0118) 969 1370.

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