

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

September 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 17TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Our first talk after the summer break is entitled 'Introduction to the Art of Bonsai', on Tuesday 17th September 2019 at 8pm, given by Keith Winter from the Berkshire Bonsai Society

(<https://berkshirebonsai.co.uk/>).

We shall also be offering a 'Plant swap' table, open to all members, during Talk evenings. So, bring along any spare cuttings/seeds/bulbs and see what other members are offering to swap. As always, there will be refreshments and a raffle.

(b) SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2019

The visit to Nymans National Trust Gardens: we are now taking a 57-seater coach to Sussex. May we remind you that we cannot park in the church hall car park nor the school playground. Please be ready to board the coach so that we can leave at 9am.

We expect to be back in Reading by 5:30pm.

(c) WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2019

Advance notice: This is the date for our Christmas Show and Social Evening. The show schedule will be available to all our members at the beginning of October. The show secretary really hopes that the show goes well with plenty of entries. Please put the date on your calendar or diary.

{Christmas lights at Kew. November / December

We applied for tickets on Tuesday 13th August and the committee are very disappointed to report that we were informed that, due to an unprecedented demand for tickets, the first evening available to us was 23rd December. We felt that this was too close to Christmas, so we will try to book even earlier next year.}

Planned Talks

- 15th October: Monumental Britain-stories of the famous and infamous that shaped Britain
19th November: The work of Thrive and Top Tips for easier gardening
21st January: Growing for the Kitchen Garden
17th March: Meticulous Auriculas
21st April: tba

2. TRADING MATTERS



We now have on sale the following:

Bulb fibre 10 litre size
Daffodils King Alfred and Las Vegas
Hyacinth..... (5 colours)
Narcissi Quail, Jet Fire, February Gold and Tete-a-tete

Tulips Greigii
Anemone

More varieties to follow.

Onion sets.....Senshyu Yellow, Autumn Champion (Shakespeare) and Red Winter Shallots..... Eschalote Grise to follow.

3. MISCELLANEA

(a) Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 11th November 2019, at the CResCent Resource Centre.

(b) Shed stewards and assistants for September

1 st	Chris Dodson	Mary Buck
7 th	Mike Fewtrell	Sue Jones
8 th	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell
14 th	Jeff Gardner	Trevor Wilson
15 th	Phil Rogers	Ann Leslie
21 st	Mike Smith	Torkill Fozzard
22 nd	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
28 th	Don Maclean	Sarah Rose
29 th	Malcolm Iosson	Ray Posselwhite

We are still looking for shed **assistants** to replace some who are unwell or have moved.

In order to maintain the long-standing 2 openings at the weekend

(Saturday and Sunday 09:30 to 11:00),

we need to recruit 3 or 4 new helpers,
of which 2 can lift bags of compost.

Please contact Mike Smith on (0118) 926 7606
or any other committee member
(phone numbers on membership card.)

(c) **Earley Green Fair on Saturday 3rd August**

The weather was very kind to us on this occasion and we were fortunate to gain 7 new members.

(d) **Reading Gardeners' Club outing**

They have spare places on a trip to 3 Gardens in Oxfordshire on Wednesday 25th September, 2019: Radcot House, Aston Pottery and Ashbrook House. Cost: members £37, non-members £40. Please contact Valerie Caesar on (0118) 327 6535 or email vacaesar@outlook.com to book a place as soon as possible. [I can forward their email giving more details, on request to erhs@hotmail.co.uk (Ed.)]

(e) **Things to do in September**



Dead-head Roses

As autumn approaches you will need to deadhead your roses more and more regularly. Cut off each spent flower head as and when you spot them. On floribunda varieties, wait until all of the flowers on the stem have passed and cut it off at the base (where it meets the branch).

Leave old flower heads on rose varieties that produce attractive hips. Not only will they add extra colour to the garden in the winter, but they're a good food source for garden birds such as Tits, Thrushes and Blackbirds at a time when food is otherwise scarce.

Cut Back Perennials

Many varieties, such as Asters, Chrysanthemums and Delphiniums continue to show their flowers well into the autumn - those that still look good should be left until they're well and truly finished, others that have started to die back should be cut right down to 2 - 3 inches above ground level. Some perennials, such as Echinacea, Acanthus, Eryngium and Honesty produce attractive seed heads after flowering and produce a stunning show through the winter. Plants that you keep for seed heads over the winter can be cut back in January instead.

Collect Seeds from Summer Flowering Perennials
Hollyhocks, Digitalis and Poppies are great examples of plants that produce fantastic seed heads that can be collected and sown for flowers the next year. Snip off all of the seed heads that you will need and keep them in a cool dry place for the winter. Towards the end of winter (January - February) your seed heads will have dried out so you can easily remove the seeds and sow them. Sow indoors and grow on until spring when they can be planted out.

Weeding

The growth of weeds will have slowed down substantially by September so it's a good chance to get on top of things. One final good round of thorough weeding should keep them mostly at bay until the following spring.

Use a hoe on annual weeds growing in beds, borders and on gravel paths, then rake off the hoed weeds to leave a clean and tidy surface.

Plant out Spring bedding plants

It's best to plant your Spring Bedding Plants as soon as possible to give them a chance to take root and maybe even produce flowers before Winter.

Plants like Pansies and Wallflowers will sit dormant through the winter and won't usually flower until the weather warms in the spring. However, if you plant them early enough in the autumn they stand a higher chance of flowering before the winter and will hang on to their flowers until the next spring.

Fork Over Beds and Borders

Because so much time is spent working on your beds and borders at this time of year, the soil can become quite compacted. Give your beds and borders a good tilth and help improve drainage by lightly forking over the soil surface.

Dig Edges

Use a spade or edging iron to cut fresh, clean edges - remember to use a template to cut to, though, it's easy to end up with an odd shaped flower bed! You can mark out your new edge with spray paint, rope or even a stretch of hosepipe. Once you're happy with the shape it's time to dig the edges. To do this, simply push a spade into the soil along the edge of the border and flick the soil towards the centre of the bed to create a gap between the lawn edge and soil. This looks neat and tidy and prevents the soil from overflowing onto the lawn when it rains.

Clip Box, Euonymus and Privet Hedging

Box, Euonymus and Privet hedges should have put on a good few inches of growth and will need a second cut before going dormant. Use a hedge trimmer or shears to snip the excess growth back to the original hedge-line.

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 Thursday 29th August.

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.