

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

October 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

Colin Light and Keith Winter, of the Berkshire Bonsai Society, gave us a lively demonstration and talk about bonsai growing. They demystified the subject, stressing that "Bonsai" simply means "Plant in a Pot" and any woody plant can be used, some with more success than others. They showed us the skill of shaping and wiring branches to achieve their unique and traditional shapes, even creating a new bonsai and donating it to the raffle. They also answered our many questions - a very successful start to the winter talks season. You can find out more at <https://berkshirebonsai.co.uk/>.

(b) SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2019

The visit to Nymans National Trust Gardens: Please be ready to board the coach so that we can leave at 9am. We expect to be back in Earley at approximately 5:30. Members might wish to take a picnic, but there is a restaurant available for coffee, lunch and an afternoon cuppa.

(c) TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2019

The talk on Tuesday 15th October will be stories of the famous, not-so-famous and, perhaps more interestingly, the infamous, that shaped Britain - 'Monumental Britain' given by Jaye Windmill. The 'Swap table' will be there too so bring along any spare plants, seeds and bulbs. As ever, there will be refreshments and a raffle.

(d) WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2019

For our Christmas show and social evening, there will be 23 classes:

FLORAL ARRANGEMENT AND HANDICRAFT CLASSES

1. A circular Christmas wreath. MAXIMUM diameter 12 inches (internal measurement.)
2. A table arrangement, with a candle, using fresh flowers and foliage. MAXIMUM length 14 inches.
3. (MEN ONLY) A Christmas arrangement in a wine glass. Accessories permitted.
4. A Christmas tree decoration made from recyclable materials.
5. Photograph: "Autumn woodland".
6. Photograph: "Life in the garden".
7. Photograph: "Bonfire Night".

VEGETABLES, FRUIT AND FLOWER CLASSES

8. Potatoes - 3. One variety. Round or kidney.
9. Collection of 3 vegetables.
10. A specimen parsnip. Foliage to be trimmed to 4" from the crown.
11. Brussels sprouts, 10.
12. A specimen leek with roots.
13. A winter cabbage. Any variety.
14. Apples, cooking, 3 of one variety.
15. Apples, dessert, 3 of one variety.
16. A single stem of bloom (shrubs permitted.)
17. 9" pan, pot or bowl of a flowering/fruiting plant or plants.
18. 9" pan, pot or bowl of a foliage plant or plants.

HOME COOKERY

19. A handmade soda bread loaf.
20. 6 sausage rolls (short crust pastry.)
21. Traditional meat pie made with hot water crust pastry (any shape or size.)
22. A Stollen (any recipe.)
23. 2 jars of preserve, each containing a different type of preserve.

Copies of the show schedule will be available in the trading shed from 29th September, can be emailed to members by request to erhs@hotmail.co.uk, or may be downloaded from our website.

Planned Talks & Events

- 19th November: The work of Thrive and Top Tips for easier gardening
11th December: Christmas show & social evening.
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 - £2.15 EACH
Daffodils - King Alfred - 10 for 55p and Las Vegas - 10 for 55p
Hyacinth (5 colours) - 50p each
Narcissi - Jet Fire - 10 for £2.20, Tete-a-tete - 10 for £1.60, Border - 10 for £1.75, Garden - 10 for £1.60
Crocus - Species - 10 for 70p
Tulips - Gregi - 10 for £1.60, Darwin Hybrid - 10 for £1.80, Select - 10 for £1.80, Kaufmannia - 10 for £1.60, Species - 10 for £1.30, Red Cardinal - 10 for £1.60
Anemone - 10 for £1.00
Onion sets - Senshyu Yellow - 60p for 200 grams, Autumn Champion (Shakespeare) - 60p for 200 grams, Red Winter - 70p for 200 grams.
Shallots - Eschalote Grise - £1.40 for 100 grams
Rhubarb - Timperley - £1.40 each
Garlic - Dario - £1.60 each, Germidour - £1.60 each, Thermidrone - £1.60 each

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 October

5 th	Chris Dodson	Sue Jones
6 th	Jim Watson	Mary Buck
12 th	Don Maclean	Sarah Rose
13 th	Kay Bridges	t.b.a
19 th	Jeff Gardner	Torkill Fozzard
20 th	Kay Bridges	Ray Posselwhite
26 th	Mike Smith	David Hughes
27 th	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite

(c) We appeal to you!

Malcolm Iosson needs more rubber bands for use in distributing the newsletters. He prides himself on recycling those discarded by the postman, for instance. Please drop off whatever you can spare at the trading shed when you next visit.

(d) Things to do in October



- Care for your lawn by raking or brushing leaves off the grass. Try collecting them in a leaf bag, which will turn them into useful leaf mould. You can also cut the grass for one last time this year. Make that last cut slightly higher to protect the lawn from winter frost.
- Trim hedges so they are crisp and tidy for the winter.
- October's the time for clearing up. Greenhouses, ponds, gutters and water butts may all need cleaning out. Wooden garden furniture will need covering or storing for the winter and terracotta pots will need bringing inside.
- Divide herbaceous perennials. Plant some back in the ground; take others to pot up and give away to friends in the spring.
- In the vegetable patch plant garlic cloves, with their pointed ends up, and spaced 10cm apart.
- Plant bulbs for a colourful spring display. Try planting clumps of five or seven bulbs of the same variety through a border for a really effective display.
- Plant out spring bedding and biennials, such as wall-flowers, for spring displays. Pots and hanging baskets can be planted with spring bedding, and teamed with bulbs, grasses, cyclamen and violas for a colourful and textural display.
- Harvest pumpkins for eating as well as carving.
- Enjoy the apple harvest!

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 Tuesday 26th November.

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.