

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

November 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 5TH OCTOBER 2019

The visit to Nymans National Trust Gardens: 54 members enjoyed an excellent visit to the extensive grounds and woodland areas and, happily, the weather was very kind to us. Mention has to be made of the excellent introductory presentation made by a NT member of staff before we even left the coach and several less mobile members certainly enjoyed their buggy rides around the gardens and woods. We all left Nymans feeling very contented after a lovely day out and we all recognised how safely our coach driver Alex had performed too.

(b) TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2019

Jaye Windmill's talk, 'Monumental Britain', proved not only to be informative but had members amused by tales of the local folklore that is connected to each monument as they were whisked around a historical tour of the Kingdom.

(c) TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2019

The gardening for health charity, Thrive, will give us a talk about the important work they do together with practical information on how to make garden jobs easier. Always welcome! So do come along and, of course, the Swap Table will be there plus refreshments and the raffle.

(d) WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2019

Christmas show and social: A diary / calendar reminder for all our members. Write the date in today!!!

Please come and join us at our Christmas show and social at St Peter's Church Hall.

There will be several festive classes for members to enter. The show secretary hopes for a bumper number of entries.

Exhibitors' staging is from 7:15 to 7:45pm; social activities are from 7:45 to 10pm.

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

Planned Talks & Events

21st January: Growing for the Kitchen Garden.

17th March: Meticulous Auriculas.

21st April: Fragrance in the Garden.

2. TRADING MATTERS



We now have on sale the following:

Bulb fibre 10 litre size£2.15 each
Daffodils: King Alfred, Las Vegas..... 10 for 55p
Hyacinth: (5 colours) 50p each
Narcissi: Jet Fire 10 for £2.20
Tete-a-tete, Garden 10 for £1.60
Border 10 for £1.75
Crocus: - Species 10 for 70p
Tulips: Gregi, Kaufmannia, Red Cardinal
..... 10 for £1.60
Darwin Hybrid, Select..... 10 for £1.80
Species 10 for £1.30
Anemone: 10 for £1.00
Amaryllis: Red Velvet, Christmas Star, Snow Queen, Florida£4.80 each
Onion sets: Red Winter.....70p for 200 gm
Shallots: Eschalote Grise £1.40 for 100 gm
Rhubarb - Timperley.....£1.40 each

Note: The seed catalogues are now in the shed. Orders must be in when the shed closes for the Christmas Break on Monday 9th December. It's well worth buying your seeds through our bulk order; we usually get a 50% discount on seeds (as well as reductions on other catalogue items.)

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 November

2 nd	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
3 rd	Kay Bridges	Trevor Wilson
9 th	Don Maclean	Ann Leslie
10 th	Phil Rogers	Sue Jones
16 th	Mike Smith	Mary Buck
17 th	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell
23 rd	Jeff Gardner	David Hughes
24 th	Jim Watson	Ray Posselwhite
30 th	Chris Dodson	Sarah Rose

(c) Things to do in this month



As winter approaches, take advantage of the cool days and the slower pace of gardening to prepare your plants for winter. November is in the midst of the dormant period so it's the perfect time to keep up your garden maintenance and prepare your garden for the future frosts.

Sowing and Planting

Bulbs should preferably be planted earlier in autumn, but there is still time for tulips, daffodils and crocuses. These bulbs can be planted through to the end of the month if the weather is mild before the soil loses the heat from the summer months.

Winter bedding plants such as pansies, violas and wallflowers can still be planted if you are experiencing mild weather. Make sure you plant winter bedding plants on a sunny day, in rich, moist soil. Adding grit is especially important for soil drainage in case you experience frequent showers this winter.

Tidying - pruning, cutting back and dividing

November is your last chance to prepare your soil before winter sets in. Soil can easily be damaged; make sure you dig up any unwanted plants and turn over your soil while it still contains some summer heat.

Protect any bare patches of soil with mulch, compost, leaf mould or even plastic sheeting. This will make the soil easy to plant or sow into next spring. Perennials should be divided and pruned to soil level now to ensure they return next spring as healthy as ever. Work from the middle outwards, pruning back quite harshly, especially if the plants are looking over-crowded. All annuals should have been removed, as they have nothing else to offer, replace these with winter bedding plants to keep the colour in your garden this winter.

Maintenance

Leaves are a commodity in any garden, perfect for adding to both mulch and compost once your leaf pile has transformed into mould. Firstly, separate your leaves and keep them in a garden container, bag or create a heap in a quiet corner of your garden. The bacteria that break the leaves down to mould need oxygen to work, so make sure you puncture any bags you collect your leaves in. Raise any patio containers by adding bricks or feet underneath, this will protect your plants and soil from becoming waterlogged during winter showers.

Protection

Don't become complacent if you've been fortunate enough to have mild weather so far; it only takes one night of frost to damage or even kill off most garden plants. Move them into a sheltered, well insulated place such as a green house or conservatory to make sure they survive this winter. If you don't have room to keep your plants indoors make sure you cover anything vulnerable to the weather with plastic sheeting or garden fleece.

As you tidy your garden, you'll find that you uncover many pests hiding beneath plants. Encouraging hungry birds into your garden can help slugs and snails to be a thing of the past.

Fruit & Vegetables

Most vegetables won't grow very well if they are planted between November and February because the short days don't provide enough sunlight. All root vegetables should have been dug up by now, if you haven't harvested carrots, turnips, potatoes and other similar vegetables they need to be dug up as soon as possible.

Don't worry too much about your vegetable patch looking bare; fill your plot with hardy broad beans, onions, garlic and shallots. Make sure you protect new crops and sowings for winter by covering them with frames or cloches

Continue to harvest and store your fruit. When apples and pears are ready they should be picked, and stored in a cool, dry, place to reach their peak of flavour.

You should also be cutting back any berry canes to soil level, so they grow back strong and healthy next year. Order any new fruit trees and bushes now, and plant them out when directed. Check that your fruit ties are still in place as fruit trees and canes can easily be damaged due to wind. Tidy your fruit garden and remove any debris to be added to your compost pile.

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.

For sale: Wilkinson Sword digging spade and fork. Never been used. £8.00 each or £15.00 for both. Please call (0118) 969 3102.

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