

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

January 2020

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



WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2019

The Christmas Show and Social was attended by 45 members for a very good evening, with 23 members entering the various classes to show their photographs, vegetables, fruit, floral arrangements, handicrafts, preserves and home cooking. The judges were very complimentary about the standard and quality of the exhibits. Well done and thank you to all those who took part in this part of the evening.

Members enjoyed a tasty buffet with mulled wine and soft drinks and several lucky members won prizes from the raffle, practiced their voting skills, and one of our seven tables won the tricky quiz. The show secretary and committee members worked hard to make this a very enjoyable evening all round and an excellent way to celebrate the end of another interesting and productive gardening year.

TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2020

For our first talk of the new year we have Paul Patton giving us advice and tips on 'Growing for the Kitchen Garden'. There will be refreshments and a raffle.

Planned Talks & Events

18th February: 79th Annual General Meeting.

17th March: Meticulous Auriculas.

21st April: Fragrance in the Garden.

2. TRADING MATTERS



The following Seed Potatoes will be on sale in January:

First Early: Arran Pilot, Foremost, Home Guard, Lady Christl, Pentland Javelin, Winston

Salad: Charlotte, Nicola, Pink Fir Apple, International Kidney

Second Early: British Queen, Kestrel, Maris Peer, Wilja

Main Crop: Cara, Desiree, King Edwards Majestic, Maris Piper, Picasso

Our range of **Bulbs** will be on sale at the end of January: Dahlia, Agapanthus, Canna, Begonia, Gladioli, Lily

Also: Climbing roses, Raspberry and Garlic.

Please note:

The trading shed will reopen on Saturday 11th January.

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 13th January 2020, at the CResCent Resource Centre.

Shed stewards and assistants for January

11 th	Mike Smith	Philip Horsburgh
12 th	Phil Rogers	Alan Waite
18 th	Don Maclean	Mary Buck
19 th	Jim Watson	Sue Jones
25 th	Chris Dodson	Torkill Fozzard
26 th	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell

Urgent need for an accountant

At our AGM in February, Jeff Gardener, our treasurer, will stand down after 25 years of excellent service in this role. ERHS is therefore in urgent need to recruit a new treasurer to manage our financial affairs.

We really hope that a member, with a financial background, might consider taking on this important role, or might know someone they could recommend to the society. So, if you can help, please call John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303.

An outlet for your spare fruit and veg?

Redlands Parish Church holds a craft and food fair on the 3rd Saturday of every month. They would love to invite anyone with spare fruit, vegetables, seedlings etc. to have a free stall at their little market, designed to bring the community together in a celebration of local talent. It all happens from 10am to 1pm at St. Luke's Hall. For more information, please contact office@redlandsparish.org.uk.

Allotment available in South Reading

Full details are given by the owner in an email (which can be forwarded to you by request to erhs@hotmail.co.uk.) Situated in a private garden. 12m x 23m approx. Mature fruit trees, shed, 2 large fruit cages, greenhouse. **No charge but must be kept tidy.** Also fruit from trees can be exchanged for other produce.)

Things to do in this month



Cold January days are the perfect opportunity for planning your garden for the following year. The snowdrops are beginning to emerge from the ground, scented shrubs are beginning to flourish and Hellebores begin to show their faces in the shadiest patches of the garden. January is a time to dream about the gardening season ahead and get your hands dirty too!

1. Continue to clear away any decaying perennials from your borders to deter slugs and snails and allow spring bulbs to grow fully. Empty compost heaps that are ready to use as mulch and spread it on the garden. This will enrich your soil and provide you with healthy plants later in the year.

2. Ensure that you continue to water pots and containers - particularly window boxes and containers that sit on balconies or the lee of the house. Containers planted with bulbs should be given a good water at least twice a week. Try not to water during periods of heavy frost and ensure tender plants are protected with fleece or hessian.

3. Bare root trees and shrubs can be planted now, if the weather is good.

4. Garden birds are active throughout the winter months. Ensure that bird tables and feeders are kept clean and topped up with food regularly.

5. Plant Amaryllis bulbs in pots now for beautiful indoor flowers. Other potted plants such as Hyacinths, Iris and Narcissus can also be brought into the house for striking, scented indoor displays.

6. Check Dahlia tubers in storage and remove any that are showing signs of rot. Make sure that they remain dry and are not exposed to frost.

7. Rose bushes can be pruned whilst they are dormant, cutting them back just above a bud. Dead branches should be cut out and any crossing branches removed. Ensure that wires, trellises and fences are strong and secure. Any loose branches should be secured with strong twine.

8. Wisteria can be pruned now. Cut back shoots by two or three buds on a lateral stem for healthy blooms in Spring.

The committee extends very good wishes, to all members, as another year in our gardens or allotments begins, and hopes that the results of all your efforts will be celebrated at our Autumn Show on Saturday 12th September.

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 Wednesday 29th January.](#)

For sale: Split logs £3.00 per bag. (0118) 966 7964.

Wanted: I am looking for British long-lost fruit/veg, specifically skirret. If you have any tubers or seeds, or other varieties, you are happy to share, please let me know. Rachel rachelgordon3@gmail.com

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

5. CHRISTMAS SHOW RESULTS

First, second and third in each class entered were as follows:

Floral and Handicraft

- 1 Kay Warner, Mary Parry, Ruth Palmer
- 2 Ruth Palmer, Mary Parry, Gwen Barton
- 3 Geoff Ruffles, John Peacock, Gwen Barton
- 4 Kay Warner, Don Palmer, -
- 5 Mrs Finch, Tony Finch, Ruth Palmer
- 6 Ann Lesley, Malcolm Iosson, Penny Lounds

Vegetables, Fruit & Flowers

- 8 Mike Fewtrell, -, -
- 9 Mary Parry, Don Palmer, -
- 10 Malcolm Iosson, D. W. Davis, -
- 12 Gwen Barton, -, -
- 13 Gwen Barton, -, -
- 14 Mary Parry, John Taylor, -
- 15 John Taylor, Don Palmer, D. W. Davis
- 16 Ruth Palmer, Mary Parry, -
- 17 John Peacock, -, -

Cookery

- 19 Kay Warner, Malcolm Iosson, Don Palmer
- 20 Kay Warner, Don Palmer, Margaret Thomas
- 21 Don Palmer, John Peacock, Kay Warner
- 22 John Peacock, Kay Warner, Andrew James
- 23 Malcolm Iosson, Gwen Barton, Andrew James

Embury Cup for Horticulture

This was awarded to Mary Parry.