

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

February 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



TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2020

For the first talk of the new year, Paul Patton gave us a wealth of ideas on 'Growing for the Kitchen Garden' in a well-illustrated and entertaining talk. He covered vertical growing, genetically new plants, companion planting, nutrition and soil testing among other topics, emphasizing the need to keep even a small patch of wildflowers to attract pollinating insects and predators such as ladybirds and wasps. Altogether a worthwhile evening out.

TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2020

The president, chairman and the committee warmly invite members to attend our **AGM** this year, particularly as Jeff Gardner is standing down as treasurer after 25 years loyal service in this role. After the business part of the meeting you are invited to enjoy **cheese and wine refreshments**.

A date for your diary
SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2020
ERHS Autumn Show

We really would like to have more members involved in the show, so please have a look and see what you might consider entering.

It is great fun and just a little bit of competition makes the day even better.

The show schedule will be available in the shed on 3rd February. Anyone who receives the newsletter by email will be sent the schedule before that.

Other members may have it emailed, on request, to ERHS@hotmail.co.uk.

It will also be on our web site to download.

Planned Talks & Events

17th March: Meticulous Auriculas.

21st April: Fragrance in the Garden.

2. TRADING MATTERS



The following **Seed Potatoes** are now on sale in 2.5 Kg bags:

First Early:

Arran Pilot, Foremost and Pentland Javelin (£2.20)

Home Guard, Lady Christl and Winston (£2.40)

Salad:

Charlotte, Nicola, (£2.20)

International Kidney (£2.40)

Pink Fir Apple (£2.60)

Second Early:

British Queen, Maris Peer and Wiljar (£2.20)

Kestrel (£2.40)

Main Crop:

Cara, Desiree, King Edward, Majestic and Picasso (£2.20)

Maris Piper (£2.60)

Onion Sets:

Red Baron, Stuttgarter and Tubo - all 55p for 200 gms

Shallot:

Golden Gourmet - 80p for 200 gms

Garlic:

Germidour - 55p each

Our range of **Bulbs** will be on sale in February: Dahlia, Agapanthus, Canna, Begonia, Gladioli, Lily, Climbing roses
Also Raspberry and Garlic.

Regretfully, the price of the ever-popular sacks of stable manure has had to be increased by 10p to £3.30.

Unusually, the trading shed has a few **flower seeds** at a 10% discount to the price on the packets:

Sweet Pea (Patriotic Mix) X 1
Flowering Carrot (Dara) x 1
Pyrethrum (Large Flowered Hybrids) X 2
Lobelia (String of Pearls) X 1
Helipterum (Brilliant Rose) X 1
Cherry Pie (Heliotrope - Marine)
Busy Lizzie (Cancun Mix) X 1
Busy Lizzie (Impatiens F2 - Super Hybrid Mix)

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 6th April 2020, at the CResCent Resource Centre.

Shed stewards and assistants for February

1 st	Mike Smith	David Hughes
2 nd	Mike Fewtrell	Ray Posselwhite
8 th	Gwen Barton	Trevor Wilson
9 th	Malcolm Iosson	Alan Waite
15 th	Don Maclean	t.b.a.
16 th	Jim Watson	Sarah Rose
22 nd	Jeff Gardner	Ann Leslie
23 rd	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
29 th	Chris Dodson	Philip Horsburgh

Enjoy gardening? Over 60? Want to make new friends?

Why not try the FRIENDLY GARDENERS GROUP

Fridays, 10am-12pm

Friends Meeting House, 2 Church Street, Reading RG1 2SB

Starts again on Friday 6th March 2020

Ring now to find out more and join the group:

0118 9594242 or contact

info@ageukberkshire.org.uk

First session free, then suggested donation of £3 each week

The National Garden Scheme

Recommended is the garden at Compton Elms, Marlow Road, Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead, SL6 6NR, open from February to April. Visitors will have the opportunity to stroll through a delightful spring garden, set in a sunken woodland, lovingly recovered from clay pit workings. This atmospheric garden is filled with snowdrops, primroses, hellebores and fritillaria, interspersed with anemone and narcissi under a canopy of ash and beech.

For more details go to the web site ngs.org.uk and search for Compton Elms (or any other of the many gardens they list.)

Can you help?

We are looking for members who can help with the **unloading of delivery lorries**, usually before the season starts. If you can help on some days, would you please contact Mike Fewtrell on 0791 366 3878 leaving your name and contact number.

Things to do in this month



This is a good time to start planning any changes you want to make in the garden, such as making it easier to maintain, adding patios, paths, summerhouses, you may even want to create a whole new space. Take this time to make notes and research different materials and styles. You can never plan projects too much, good planning will save you time and money.

- Complete routine pruning of established fruit trees (except plum trees, which should be pruned in the summer.)
- Cut autumn fruiting raspberry canes to the ground; cut back summer fruiting to a bud just above the top wire.
- Cover any beds to be used for early sowings with black mulch sheeting to warm up the soil and prevent weeds.
- Sow early carrots, cress and spinach outdoors under cloches.
- Sow tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes and aubergines in seed compost and place on a windowsill or heated greenhouse to germinate.

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 26th February.](#)

For sale: Cordless long reach **hedge-trimmer**, 430mm blade. Total length, excluding blade, is 2.1 metres. Complete with battery and charger. £60.

Please call (0118) 987 3261.

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