

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

March 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 18TH FEBRUARY 2020

At our AGM, the chairman raised several important issues concerning ERHS's future.

At this meeting, Jeff Gardner, our long serving treasurer, stood down and was invited to become a Vice President of the society. As his father had also been a VP too, Jeff felt very honoured to follow in his father's footsteps. Jeff has been a loyal and hardworking treasurer and we will miss him.

But now we desperately need a member (or a friend you may know) to replace him. As you read this today, if you have a financial background and would like to be involved in running our financial affairs, John Peacock, our chairman would be delighted to hear from you on (0118) 986 7303 to give you more details.

The other area of concern is the continued operation of the trading shed. There is a distinct possibility that the shed may have to shut if we cannot staff it properly. We are very short of **assistant stewards**. He or she would need to work for 90 minutes, once every six weeks to assist the shed steward, on a Saturday or Sunday morning 9.30 to 11am. The duties are lifting bags of compost into members' cars, measuring and cutting ground cover and generally helping within the trading shed. If, as you read this, you think that you could do that, please do not hesitate to contact our committee member Mike Smith, on (0118) 926 7606, who organizes the shed rota. He will be delighted to hear from you.

After the business section of the meeting members enjoyed a **cheese and wine buffet** and some members were very fortunate to have winnings tickets in the raffle.

TUESDAY 17TH MARCH 2020

The talk this time is about "Meticulous Auriculas". Sounds interesting (and intriguing!)

As always, there will be refreshments and a raffle.

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2020

The committee have booked a 57 seater coach for a visit to **Hidcote Manor**, near the Vale of Evesham. This National Trust property is very well known as an influential Arts and Crafts garden with its linked 'rooms' of hedges, rare trees, shrubs and herbaceous borders. These 'rooms', such as the White garden and fuchsia garden are linked by vistas and display topiaries, whilst some have ponds and fountains and they all surround the 17th century Manor house and kitchen garden.

We have booked an introductory talk about the property on arrival.

Visitors are advised to wear strong, sensible shoes as the paths and some steps are uneven.

Winthrop's cafe offers delicious meals and Hidcote boasts the largest plant centre in the National Trust and a well-stocked gift shop.

Members may choose to take a picnic.

The cost of this visit, including driver gratuity, is £19 per person if you are a member of NT, or £32 if you are not.

Whilst making the booking we have secured two individual mobile buggies.

The coach will leave at 9am from outside St Peter's Church Hall car park and we would expect to be back in Earley by 6pm.

If you and your friends would like to join the coach party for this visit please contact John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303.

Please make your cheque payable to ERHS and deliver it (or cash) to the trading shed, or to 9 Wychwood Close, Earley in a sealed and named envelope. Please include a contact telephone number. Note: your cheque will not be banked immediately and most likely will be done in May when the trip has viable numbers.

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2020

ERHS Autumn Show

196 days to go from 1st March.

Loads of time to plan and prepare!

The show schedule is available now in the shed, or you can email ERHS@hotmail.co.uk to request a copy. It is also on our web site to download.

Planned Talks & Events

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, Pentland Javelin..... £2.20
Home Guard, Lady Christl and Winston... £2.40

Salad:

Nicola £2.20
International Kidney £2.40

Second Early:

British Queen, Maris Peer, Wilja £2.20
Kestrel £2.40

Main Crop:

Cara, King Edward, Majestic, Picasso £2.20
Maris Piper £2.60

Onion Sets:

Red Baron, Stuttgarter, Turbo ... 55p for 200 g

Shallot:

Golden Gourmet..... 80p for 200 g

Garlic:

Germidour..... 55p each
French Garlic, Cristo Arno .. £1.70 pack of two

Our range of **Bulbs** are on sale now:

Dahlia (17 Varieties)
Agapanthus: Twister.....£3.10 each
Canna: Tropicanna.....£3.10 each
Begonia: Pendula..... 70p each
Non Stop 80p each
Gladioli: Mixed Colours..... £1.75 per pack
Lily: Londrina, Lily Rio de Janeiro...£1.80 each

Callas Lillies: Mercedes..... £2.45 each
Climbing roses: £3.90 each
Raspberry: Rubus..... £2.20 each

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

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

Shed stewards and assistants for March

1 st	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell
7 th	Mike Smith	Sue Jones
8 th	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite
14 th	Mike Fewtrell	Trevor Wilson
15 th	Kay Bridges	Ann Leslie
21 st	Jeff Gardner	Mary Buck
22 nd	Kay Bridges	Ray Posselwhite
28 th	Don Maclean	David Hughes
29 th	Kay Bridges	Philip Horsburgh

New Membership Cards

This edition of the Newsletter is the last one for the current membership year. New membership cards should be ready by the last week of March. Your local Distributor will call around the end of March or the beginning of April to deliver your next Newsletter and collect your renewal subscription - still only £3 - so please have your money ready. If you normally renew at the Trading Shed, cards should be available there from 28th of March.

Things to do in this month



- Plant summer bulbs, such as Dahlia and Lily.
- Pruning month: Roses, Buddleia, Cornus, Hydrangea and more.
- Plant snowdrops for next year's display.
- prepare the veg plot.
- Sow hardier seeds and half-hardy annuals under glass.

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 Sunday 29th March.](#)

Wanted: Small garden shed, about 4' by 6' or a bit smaller. Dorothy Flint (0118) 969 1370.

For Sale: Bosch 34Gc electric lawnmower with cable and grass box. £30.

Also, Flymo Garden Vac 1500 with extra cutting lines. £25. Please ring (0118) 966 3047.

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