

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

August 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



Notification of Talks cancellations

After careful consideration for the wellbeing of both our members and our speakers, at this stage in the management of the pandemic, we have decided to cancel the following Talks:

Carol of the Bells - 20th Oct 2020,

A horticultural 'pick & mix' - 17th Nov 2020.

We will review the Talks booked for 2021 towards the end of this year and keep you informed.

(Received from our Talks Secretary, Ann Lesley.)

Other ERHS events: Please see the statement from our chairman, John Peacock, below.

2. TRADING MATTERS



Would members please note that the trading shed will continue to open on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 until further notice.

We would prefer to have cheques presented for payment but we will accept cash payments.

I would like to thank all the committee members and assistant stewards, particularly Trevor Wilson who has joined the committee as our allotment representative, for offering their time and energy to ensure that the shed can serve the membership. Thank you one and all.

The following are now available:

Stable Manure £3.30 each

J.A.B. Multi-purpose Compost £4.10 each

John Innes Seed compost, John Innes No.1, No.2 and No.3..... All at £4.00 each

Westland Growbags..... £3.00 each

Spring and Summer Lawn £3.30 per 3Kg

Some items are not available from our supplier but be assured they are on a back order.

Please Note:

Masks are to be worn whilst in the shed.

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

Nothing scheduled, but committee members are in touch by email.

Shed stewards and assistants for August

1 st	John Peacock	Bob Campbell
2 nd	Phil Rogers	Sue Jones
8 th	Mike Smith	Torkill Fozzard
9 th	Mike Fewtrell	Alan Waite
15 th	Jeff Gardner	Ann Leslie
16 th	Malcolm Iosson	Viv Rimmer
22 nd	Mike Smith	Trevor Wilson
23 rd	Chris Dodson	Trevor Wilson
29 th	John Peacock	Trevor Wilson
30 th	Phil Rogers	David Hughes

Update on membership from the Membership Secretary Malcolm Iosson

There has been a steady stream of membership renewals at the trading shed, but there is still some way to go, so if you have not yet renewed, I would urge you to do so as soon as possible.

When you visit the trading shed, you will be asked to produce your current membership card, or renew if you have yet to do so. Remember you may renew by post with me as stated in the July Newsletter if this is more convenient for you.

A very big vote of thanks to those Distributors who delivered paper copies of the Newsletter last month, and especially to those who also collected subscriptions - either by calling at members' houses in the normal way, or by getting members to collect their cards from them. An updated delivery list will be sent to each distributor who is willing to deliver further copies of the newsletter.

Chairman's statement

The president, chairman and all the committee really hope that this email or paper copy finds you safe and well and getting used to this new and careful way that we have to live.

Masks now seem to be the fashion item that we should all use to protect ourselves (and others) and if they do, then we must get used to wearing them wherever we are. We can only hope that the very clever scientists we have in the UK and around the world can develop a vaccine to help us minimize, and hopefully obliterate, the risk of catching the

virus. If a vaccine is developed, then we might eventually gain the confidence to go out and meet people as we did before.

Autumn Show

The committee spent a considerable amount of time via email and telephone calls discussing the possibility of holding the Autumn Show in September.

We considered carefully the safety concerns, our inventive ideas to hold the show outside and the physical organisational issues about using the church hall.

It is sad to say but the committee have decided that it is in everyone's best interest to cancel the show this year as we all felt that the benefits of celebrating our gardening achievements did not outweigh the logistical, safety and organisational issues associated with meeting in the church hall.

It is also worth letting you know that the committee knew that other local horticultural societies had similar concerns to ours and we also learnt that our judges had significant reservations about attending our show.

Kew Gardens Christmas Lights visit.

When the visits secretary made his notes in the July newsletter, he was very positive about this visit taking place in December.

It is with great regret that now, on reflection, he has a) been worried about the coach journey and b) more concerned about mingling with thousands of others at Kew and that he is not prepared to offer a visit this year. He trusts that you understand and appreciate his concerns.

Christmas show in December

The committee are also very disappointed to announce that the Christmas show will not take place in December as it is very unlikely that a vaccine will have been found, tested, trialled and manufactured in time for us all to have and be able to meet in the church hall just before Christmas.

It is very frustrating and disappointing to make such statements, but the committee feel sure that you will understand our decisions as we have the very best interests of every member at heart.

As we move into the Autumn season, we trust that you will all stay safe and healthy and we all look forward to a time when we can all meet together to celebrate safer times.

With kind regards - ERHS Committee

Wanted: Paper bags

For when the Autumn bulbs come in. Please drop off at the trading shed or give to any member of the committee.

Things to do this month



Lawns

Don't worry if your lawn starts to look brown, it is extremely common with hot summer weather (if we get any!) The autumn rains will soon make it green again, so avoid watering the unless it is absolutely necessary.

Mow lightly and frequently to create short grass clippings. These can remain on the lawn to act as a moisture-retentive mulch during the summer months.

Lawn weedkillers should be avoided in late summer as they will be more effective when used in the cooler, damper autumn weather.

Pruning and Training

Regularly deadhead flowering plants - Dahlias, roses and Penstemon should be deadheaded to encourage a display of colour into early autumn.

Prioritise cutting back the foliage and stems of herbaceous plants that have already died back.

Once lavender has stopped flowering, trim to maintain a condensed, bushy shape.

Prune Wisteria to improve flowering, whilst controlling the growth and size of the plant.

Flowers

Collect seeds from garden plants and store for sowing later in the autumn - hardy annuals and perennials are ideal. Try Calendula, Nigella, Aquilegia and Geranium.

Throughout the late summer keep camellias and rhododendrons well-watered while their flower buds are forming.

Feed containers and border perennials with a liquid tomato food weekly to encourage flowering into the early autumn.

Kitchen Garden

Plant well-rooted strawberry runners into new beds.

Keep a look out for signs of tomato and potato blight. Remove the affected plants immediately to prevent it spreading.

Ponds

The hot weather means that water levels will be lower this time of year. Ensure that ponds and water features are topped up.

Shallow water features can become green very quickly in the summer months and algicides may need more frequent application than in ordinary ponds.

Blanket weed and duckweed should continue to be removed using a net or rake.

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 July.](#)

For Sale: Mountfield RV40 petrol 150cc lawnmower. 10 years old but not used for over 5. £10. Buyer to collect. Please call 07813 154466.

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