

# East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

October 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](http://www.erhs.org.uk)

Facebook Group: "East Reading Horticultural Society"

Editor: Tel: 07794 233361, Email: [ERHS@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ERHS@hotmail.co.uk)

{Get your newsletter early (and in colour): ask to be added to the ERHS email list.}



## 1. PROGRAMME EVENTS



### ERHS events

Cancelled: All talks this year, the Christmas show and Social event and the Kew Gardens visit to see the Christmas lights.

We will continue to issue the monthly newsletter, however, and will use it to tell you when we feel it is safe to resume events.

## 2. TRADING MATTERS



### Suttons seeds catalogues are now available in the trading shed.

The following items are now on sale:

#### Narcissi

King Alfred, Tamara ..... 80p for 10

Sealing Wax ..... 90p for 10

Tete-a-tete. Sweetness, Pueblo,

Vervin ..... £1.50 for 10

Hill Star, Tresamble, Sailboat,

February Gold..... £1.80 for 10

#### Tulips

Red Riding Hood, Calypso,

Albion Star, Cape Cod,

Marquise de la Coquette ..... £1.70 for 10

Darwin Hybrid, Apeldoorn Elite,

Golden Apeldoorn, Van Eijk, Daydream,

Red Impression ..... £1.90 for 10

Shallot Jermor..... £2.00 for 200g

**Note:** Masks must be worn when in the shed.

## 3. MISCELLANEA

### Next Committee Meeting:

None, but committee members are in touch.

## Shed stewards and assistants for October

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gwen Barton	Trevor Wilson
4 <sup>th</sup>	Phil Rogers	Viv Rimmer
10 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Smith	Ann Leslie
11 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Gardner	Sarah Rose
17 <sup>th</sup>	Don Maclean	Travor Wilson
18 <sup>th</sup>	Malcolm Iosson	Alan Waite
24 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Dodson	David Hughes
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Fewtrell	Peter Lynch
31 <sup>st</sup>	John Peacock	Carole Peacock

## Update from the Membership Secretary

I would like to express my sincere thanks on behalf of the Society to those members who have made door-to-door collections of renewal subscriptions during the past month: 55 people renewed their membership by this means, as opposed to 17 renewals at the trading shed and just one by post. Because of this, the Committee has agreed that the deadline for removal of personal details of non-members [see the September Newsletter] has been extended by a month in the hope that more people will renew their membership. Most of the people who have yet to renew do not have a local distributor, and are regarded as "Shed members" - many of whom receive their newsletter by email. Renewal at the Trading Shed is the best option, but postal renewal is also a possibility - details of how to do this were given in the July Newsletter.

The situation is a little more "healthy" than was reported last month, but at the last count, there were still 121 members who have yet to renew their membership. **Are you one of them?** If you are, **this will be the last edition of the newsletter you will receive until you renew your membership** as we are required to delete the personal details [including name, address, e-mail address if relevant] of non-members from our records no later than the end of October. **To avoid this**, please visit the Trading Shed before 25th October to renew your membership - this will allow time to update the membership records to ensure you receive the November newsletter.

If you renew after that date, you will be regarded as a "New Member", and be required to complete a new Membership form [which asks for personal contact details, and signifies your agreement to the ERHS Privacy Policy] - you will then be issued with a new membership card which will allow you to make purchases at the trading shed.

Malcolm Iosson, Membership Secretary.

### A message from our chairman John Peacock

The president, chairman and all the committee send their very good wishes to every member of ERHS as the daily challenge to beat this virus continues to be the main focus of our lives. We all need to be safe and to keep vigilant.

We have all been listening to so many opinions and views about this virus, but the Prime Minister's recent broadcast clearly informed us that we have some way to go to be over this pandemic.

It seems that the sooner a vaccine can be successfully created, trialled and approved then the sooner we can begin to see the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel.

Until that time Mike Smith, the stewards and their assistants would like to record how very appreciative they have been of our co-operative members who have visited and supported the shed, particularly those with their cheque books.

It was very disappointing that on Saturday 12th September nothing happened for our planned Autumn Show. It was a sad day. So, we really hope that we can all meet again next year to celebrate our gardening successes, culinary exploits, artistic endeavours and floral skills. So positive thoughts, good planning and preparation is the plan of action as we move towards 2021.

Good wishes to you all.

### Things to do this month



#### **BEDDING PLANTS**

It's fair to say that summer bedding plants have had their moment in the sun. However, we can still enjoy colour in our gardens, so think about polyanthus, pansies and primroses.

#### **HARDY ANNUALS**

If you're looking ahead to next spring, then now's the time to sow hardy annuals. Cosmos, marigolds or cornflowers can either be sown directly into the soil or into seed trays with sieved seed compost.

Place in water-filled tubs, and let the trays soak the water up, as watering overhead will disrupt the soil, and spoil the seed. Place carefully in a warmed greenhouse and keep an eye on them throughout winter. You can also sow sweet peas in pots and let them grow on in the greenhouse.

#### **TENDER PLANTS**

It's been a great summer for sun-loving plants. But as the nights draw in, and temperatures begin to drop, this is the time to bring in your tender plants and give them some winter protection. Cannas are not made for colder weather, so find a spot in your greenhouse or shed, where it's light and frost-free. Cut away dead flowers or leaves to help prevent rot. For further protection, you may want to consider wrapping them in fleece. Over the colder months, check plants regularly.

#### **BULBS**

Finally, you can think about planting your tulip, daffodil and allium bulbs. Whether they're going into pots, containers or the ground, the golden rule is plant them to the depth of three times their height. Ensure the soil is well drained, as sitting in water over winter will increase their chances of rotting, so consider adding grit for drainage.

#### **LIFTING BULBS**

If you haven't done so yet, then now's the time to lift both dahlia and gladioli bulbs. Once lifted, foliage should be cut back to several cms above the tuber, turned upside down and left to drain for a few days. Once dried, these can be placed somewhere cool, dark and frost free.

#### **PERENNIALS**

By now, they may be looking shabby, but these plants can still offer benefits for winter wildlife. If you're not going to leave them for the winter, cut the plants back to the base. If they're summer flowering perennials, this is the time to divide and re-plant, to increase next year's summer blooms. For protection against dropping temperatures, ensure you mulch around the plant. Don't cover them over, or touch the stems, as this will encourage rot.

#### **FRUIT**

Now's the time to lift and divide rhubarb crowns. Using a sharp spade, divide the crown, ensuring each section contains at least one growing point. Re-plant in well drained, fertile soil, ensuring each crown is well spaced.

#### **GARLIC**

Garlic needs a good cold period to help develop its cloves, so now's the time to plant it.

In well-drained, fertile soil, place the individual cloves at 20cm apart, in rows 30cms apart. The cloves tips should be all you see of the garlic. You may want to cover over with either a fleece or netting, just to stop birds from pulling them up.

#### **HERBS**

Herbs, such as basil, parsley and coriander are not frost hardy. Therefore, pot them up and bring inside. Placing on a well-lit windowsill, should keep them happy over winter.

#### **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 21<sup>st</sup> October.](#)*

**For sale:** A Draper garden power blower / vacuum / shredder 2200w. Hardly used. Good condition. £25.00 or nearest offer. Tel: (0118) 969 3102.

**Free to collector:** Aluminium-framed cold-frame with two opening lights. Size approx. 4ft. 2" x 2 ft. 2", max height approx. 15". Needs 3 new glass panels, and a bit of a cleanup, but otherwise OK. Please phone (0118) 986 1909.

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