

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

November 2022

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 with the lifting.

Web site: 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 OCTOBER 2022

Last month's talk on the "Age of the Pyramids" was excellent, very informative, and was accompanied by detailed pictures, found in the tombs, over 4000 years old.

It was disappointing, though, that only about 20 people attended.

TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2022

Our talk this month, in St. Peter's church hall, at 7:45pm for an 8pm start, will be by Derek Press on "Pleasures of the Harris Garden". This is situated in the grounds of Reading University.

We are hoping for a good turnout from members. Why not bring your friends for a memorable evening?

There will be refreshments and a raffle.

Christmas Show & Social event - Tuesday 6th December.

Let's all meet to celebrate. Please come and enjoy some festive fun.

The Show Schedule has been sent to people on the email list, is available in the trading shed or can be supplied, on request to ERHS@hotmail.co.uk.

Show classes this time are as follows:

FLORAL ARRANGEMENT AND HANDICRAFT CLASSES

1. An arrangement to be seen all around to represent the carol "The Holly and the Ivy". Additional plant material may be used. **MAXIMUM** size (in any direction) 18 inches.
2. A Christmas wreath, suitable for a front door. Accessories permitted. **MAXIMUM** diameter 12 inches (internal measurement.)
3. (MEN ONLY) A Christmas arrangement in a gravy boat.
4. Photograph: "Fallen leaves".
5. Photograph: "Bird(s) on a feeder".
6. A Christmas table decoration to include a candle.
7. A Christmas lantern (using either a candle or LED light). Maximum height 30cm.

VEGETABLES, FRUIT AND FLOWER CLASSES

8. Potatoes - 3. One variety. Round or kidney.
9. Collection of 3 vegetables.
10. A specimen parsnip. Foliage to be trimmed to 4" from the crown.
11. Brussels sprouts, 10.
12. A specimen leek with roots.
13. Pears, 3.
14. Apples, cooking, 3 of one variety.
15. Apples, dessert, 3 of one variety.
16. A single stem of bloom (shrubs permitted.)
17. 9" pan, pot or bowl of a flowering/fruiting plant or plants.
18. 9" pan, pot or bowl of a foliage plant or plants.

HOME COOKERY

19. A rich fruit cake (Christmas cake) without icing or decoration. Own recipe. 8" diameter.
20. 6 mince pies (short crust pastry.)
21. A jar of chutney.
22. A Stollen (own recipe.)
23. 6 sausage rolls (puff pastry.)

Something for everyone!

Scheduled 2022-2023

- 17th Jan: talk "Birds of Berkshire"
21st Feb: 81st AGM
21st Mar*: talk "Gardening for well-being"
18th Apr*: talk "Fuchsias"

*Note: Dates marked with * are incorrect on your membership cards.*

2. TRADING MATTERS



**Use of a face covering is optional.
Shed stewards: Please still open the double doors
at the far end, to keep a through flow of air.**

The shed is now well stocked with a new load of **stable manure**. Many thanks to the unloaders, Alan, John, Paul and Bob, for your help; many hands made a daunting task easier.

We also have some new **garlic** in stock, including some big cloves of **elephant garlic**. It will be interesting to hear about your results next year.

Note: The Suttons Seeds catalogues are now in the trading shed.

Card reader for the shed - update

Still nothing to report.

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 14th November 2022 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

5 th	Don Maclean	Peter Lynch
6 th	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
12 th	Gwen Barton	Alan Waite
13 th	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell
19 th	Chris Dodson	John Stroud
20 th	Phil Rogers	Ray Posselwhite
26 th	Trevor Wilson	Sue Jones
27 th	Jeff Gardner	Phil Horsburgh

Things to do this month



It's now getting a lot colder and there are fewer daylight hours, but don't put your garden to bed for the winter just yet! You can still pot up some colourful winter containers, start planning next year's garden and of course, don't forget to feed your garden birds!

There's still some colour to be found among leaves and berries. Winter-flowering shrubs such as Mahonia media hybrids, winter Honeysuckle and Viburnum Bodnantense will bring gorgeous fragrance to the short days.

Try and spend a little time tidying up your borders - you'll be pleased you did when spring comes round. This is a good time of year to plant shrubs.

Clear leaves and compost them

Leaf mould is worth its weight in gold, so it's well worth collecting up leaves to make your own. Contain the leaves in a simple open frame made of chicken wire, or pack them into black bin bags. Sprinkle with Garotta, moisten the leaves and tie them up. Leave the bags for a couple of days before piercing all over with a garden fork. Then move out of the way to a shady place and leave for a year by which time the leaves should have rotted down to a rich dark pleasant-smelling mixture. This can be used as a mulch or dug in as a soil improver - especially useful for woodland plants.

Plant shrubs, evergreens and conifers

Continue to plant evergreens and conifers at the beginning of the month, while the soil is moist and still retains some warmth. Do remember to water well if the weather is dry - new plants still need moisture at their roots even in winter.

November is a good time of year to plant new hedges. You'll see bundles of bare-rooted hedging plants in garden centres now. Prepare your site well, digging in lots of organic matter such as homemade compost, or farmyard manure before you plant.

Protect tender plants from frost

Protect tender plants such as Phormiums, tree ferns and Cordylines in case frost should strike. It may be easiest to move large containers into a sheltered corner and cover them altogether with horticultural fleece rather than covering each plant individually.

Autumn lawn care

There is still time to aerate and feed your lawn before the weather turns cold.

- Rake up leaves
- Adjust settings on your mower
- Aerate your lawn
- Treat moss and weeds
- Feed and condition
- Carry out repairs

Plant spring flowering bulbs

You can still plant Tulips in November. Sow Sweet Peas at the beginning of the month in a greenhouse for an early display next year.

Feed the birds

Shorter daylight hours mean that wild birds have less time to forage. Save them a wasted journey by making sure your feeders are topped up daily with a good quality all round bird food. Remember, once you start feeding the birds, they will come to rely on you, so make sure you're consistent!

4. WANTED/FOR SALE/FREE

Members' advertisements are free of charge. Just telephone or email the editor (see newsletter heading.)

[Copy deadline for next newsletter: Tuesday 29th November.](#)

Nothing received this month

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