

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

December 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 15TH NOVEMBER 2022

About 40 members attended the talk by Derek Press on "Pleasures of the Harris Garden", which occupies 12 acres in the grounds of Reading University. He showed how things have changed over the years, using some pictures by the designer, Richard Bygrove, as well as many of his own. It was interesting to see how the garden changes through the seasons.

I learnt, amongst other things, that the name Erleigh means Eagle Wood.

TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2022

Christmas Show and Social Event

The committee were delighted, at the recent excellent talk by Derek Press, to see so many members attending and we are hopeful that we can have the same number or more at this event.

The committee are keen to provide an evening of festive fun, food and frivolity, and we hope that members will come and enjoy an evening with us.

We also hope that lots of members will have looked at the Show schedule and will decide to take part and enter something or several items into the show.

Details are in the schedule.

This is an early opportunity to air your Christmas jumpers, tinsel hats and bauble earrings.

We look forward to seeing you and extend a very warm welcome.

Please note the times:

For those entering classes, please arrive at 7:15 p.m. to set up your entry or entries.

For those just coming for the social, please arrive at 7:45.

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

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



The trading shed will close at 1100 on Monday 12th December and reopen at 0930 on Saturday 14th January 2023.

(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.)



ERHS

Special Christmas Offer

Buy yourself a bag of Christmas
Stable Manure for just £4



*Bags come in
Christmas Green.*

Support your Xmas tree with 2 bags.

Aunts, uncles, grandmas, granddads.

Everyone needs manure.

*(Not recommended for the under 10s)
but under 10s can give as presents.*

Selected bags are also warm.

They will help to keep the house warm.

*They are full of authentic stable atmosphere
(aroma) of the Christmas nativity.*

Invest in the future, never goes off.

No use-by date.

Every garden needs some.

Good stocking filler!

2 for the price of 2

No Bullshit

Bag yourself an early Christmas bargain.

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 9th January 2023 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

3 rd	Gwen Barton	Alan Waite
4 th	Malcolm Iosson	Bob Campbell
10 th	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
11 th	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell

Volunteer Newsletter Distributors wanted:

Currently, three rounds require new distributors. Duties are to distribute the monthly paper copy of the Newsletter, and to collect renewal subscriptions and issue new membership cards at "renewal time" in April. Each round is fairly small, with some members who receive a paper copy of the newsletter, and the remainder receiving their newsletters by email [but who still renew their membership "at the doorstep"]. Details below:

1. Radstock Lane / Redhatch Drive area

Currently 14 members [for renewal collections], with 6 paper copies.

2. Lakeside/ Andrews Road

Currently 6 members with 1 paper copy.

3. Compton Close / Wokingham Road / Henley Wood Road

Currently 8 members with 6 paper copies

For each round: A list of all members receiving the paper copy will be supplied [and updated as necessary]. Full instructions for the collection will be given at "renewal time", along with the new membership cards and a sheet for recording the details of renewals.

If you could take on one of these duties, please contact Malcolm Iosson on (0118) 986 1909 or by email using the address malcolm@iosson.net.

Many thanks, Malcolm Iosson.

Things to do this month



In the garden:

1. Remove decaying leaves and plants from ponds.
2. After storms, check for broken branches and prune back to healthy wood to prevent further damage.
3. Plant bare-root hedging in dug-over and enriched soil if weather is fine.
4. Plan next year's garden.
5. Send the mower off for servicing and check and repair hand tools.

In the greenhouse:

6. Clear out any accumulated mess, surplus pots and seed trays.
7. Check greenhouse plants for pests and remove any yellow or diseased leaves.
8. Water sparingly early in the day and ventilate on mild days to keep the atmosphere dry.
9. Check heating is working efficiently if you are keeping frost-tender plants in the greenhouse.
10. Check to ensure gutters and downpipes aren't blocked by fallen leaves and debris.

On the allotment and in the vegetable garden...

11. Cover empty beds with fleece or clear (not black) plastic, which will warm the soil, so it is easier to work.
12. Spread compost or well-rotted manure over the beds.
13. Remove netting from fruit cages to allow birds to scratch about for pests.
14. Sort out leftover or half-empty seed packets and throw out any that are out of date.
15. Plan your crops and compile your seed order for next year.

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 14th December.](#)

Wanted: Someone to give an end-of-season service to two petrol lawnmowers, preferably at my home. The chap who has done this, for the last few years, has retired. Please call Ian on (0118) 966 2204.

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

Show classes

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.)