

# East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

February 2023

Trading shed opening times: Saturday and Sunday from 09:30 to 11:00 and  
Wednesdays (in April and May only) from 18:30 to 19:30.

**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.

Shed mobile number: 0738 463 2903. Web site: [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



### TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

Ailsa Claybourn's exuberant and exciting talk on "Birds of Berkshire" was enjoyed by an excellent turnout of members, particularly considering the freezing weather that evening.

Not only did she show us how to identify our garden birds by sight, but also played their calls and indicated how to distinguish between them.

Among things I learnt: usually only male birds sing, but female robins also sing in winter to protect their territory; global warming is causing noticeable changes in some birds - over the last few decades, black caps' wings have been getting smaller because they don't need to fly so far when migrating; 90% of oak trees are planted by jays that bury acorns and forget where they left them.

Ailsa has a website [www.ailsawalksandtalks.com](http://www.ailsawalksandtalks.com) that lists guided walks and illustrated talks she does - well worth a look. It was commented, "we must have her back sometime for another talk".

### TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

**Our 81<sup>st</sup> AGM - 8pm in St. Peter's Church Hall.**

The committee would like to invite members to attend the annual general meeting followed by a cheese and wine buffet.

This is an opportunity for members to hear the president and chairman review the year and examine the financial report of the treasurer and ask any pertinent questions. The success of ERHS has always revolved around our desire to promote home gardening and allotment tending for the physical and mental wellbeing of the membership so please join us if you can.

### SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

**Visit to Exbury Gardens & Steam Railway.**

Exbury Gardens is a 200-acre informal woodland site in Hampshire, featuring rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas, which should be at their very best when we visit. Members will be able to stroll through the hydrangea walk, the rock garden, the Iris Garden, the Sundial and Centenary gardens and note the beauty of the Camellia walk.

An added bonus is a trip on the steam railway around the dragonfly pond, the Summer Lane garden, past the rock gardens and into the American garden.

The Little Kitchen company manages refreshments at Exbury for coffees, teas etc., or for brunch, lunch and afternoon tea. Members may wish to treat themselves or take a picnic instead. Sensible walking shoes are essential.

The cost of this outing, including return coach travel, garden entry, railway ride and a driver gratuity is £30 per person.

The coach will leave from outside Earley St. Peter's Church Hall car park at 9:30. We would expect to be back at home from Exbury by 5:30 pm.

If you would like to join the party for this visit, please contact John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303 to book your place(s) on the coach. Members may invite friends to join them on the outing. NB (Seats are not reserved on the coach.)

Please deliver your payment (cheques made payable to 'ERHS') to the trading shed or to 9 Wychwood Close, Earley, RG6 5RB in a NAMED & SEALED envelope. Please include, inside the envelope, a contact telephone or mobile number. Thank you.

### SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> September 2023

Shedules for our **Autumn Show** will be in the trading shed from Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January, have been emailed to members on our email list and can also be downloaded from our website or requested by email (addresses in the newsletter heading).

The show secretary really hopes that members will enter into the spirit of horticultural celebration to show off their garden produce, allotment successes, culinary kitchen triumphs, creative handicraft items and stunning floral art arrangements. If you have never entered anything before, perhaps make it a personal target in 2023 to GET INVOLVED.

### Scheduled 2023

21<sup>st</sup> Mar\*: talk "Gardening for well-being"

18<sup>th</sup> Apr\*: talk "Fuchsias"

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

## 2. TRADING MATTERS



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

The trading shed is well stocked with manure and various composts, and also with potatoes, onions and garlic.

As always, we are grateful for help in unloading the deliveries and for manning the shed at weekends.

**The committee wish to inform members that, from this month onwards, the trading shed can no longer be opened on Monday mornings.**

### Card reader for the shed - LIFTOFF!

The committee are delighted to inform members



that our new card reader is up and running at the shed. As our shed stewards begin to get used to using it, we hope members will be very patient as we all become more confident in 'tapping' the device!!! Our first user was Mr. R. J. Hall (inset).

Members might wish to ask for a sales receipt to check their transaction.

Members can pay for goods with cash or cheque until the end of June 2023 but note that membership fees must be paid in cash.

*As we phase out use of cash, from 1st July 2023, sales trading will be by card payment only.*

## 3. MISCELLANEA

### Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

### Shed stewards and assistants this month.

4 <sup>th</sup>	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
5 <sup>th</sup>	Trevor Wilson	Peter Scott
11 <sup>th</sup>	Don Maclean	Trevor Wilson
12 <sup>th</sup>	Malcolm Iosson	David Hughes
18 <sup>th</sup>	Gwen Barton	Trevor Wilson
19 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Dodson	Trevor Wilson
25 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Gardner	Trevor Wilson
16 <sup>th</sup>	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell

### Urgently required:

**Replacement Newsletter Distributor / collector** for a round covering the Anderson Avenue, Fairview Avenue and Palmerstone Road area.

The round is relatively small, with 10 paper copies of the newsletter to deliver (2 on Anderson Avenue, 1 on Eastcourt Avenue; 4 on Fairview Avenue and 3 on Palmerstone Road.) There are also 7 members who

receive their newsletter by e-mail, so at "renewal time" in April there are a total of 17 members for renewal collections: 4 on Anderson Avenue, 9 on Fairview Avenue, 1 on Eastcourt Avenue and 3 on Palmerstone Road.

If you are willing to take this on, please contact Malcolm Iosson by e-mail: [malcolm@iosson.net](mailto:malcolm@iosson.net) or by phone: (0118) 986 1909 as soon as possible so that paper copies of this newsletter [February] can be delivered. (Full instructions will be given for the renewal collection process.)

### Resignation and retirement

As Roger Howard & Roger Blay, two loyal servants of ERHS, stand down from the committee and Monday morning shed duties respectively, we would like to acknowledge the significant contribution that these two lovely men have made to the life of ERHS and to thank them so much for their unstinting and enthusiastic service over many years. We wish them well.

### Things to do this month



- Buy your seed potatoes and chit them ready to plant from mid-March.
- Cover peaches and nectarines with fleece to reduce peach leaf curl and frost damage.
- Plant bulbs such as snowdrops in the green (when they are growing) as they are more likely to grow.
- This month cut the lawn with the blades set as high as possible on a day when the grass is dry.
- Plant onion sets and shallots on previously prepared ground when the surface is dry enough to rake over and get a fine tilth.
- If you have a greenhouse, start sowing bedding plants ready to prick out when large enough to handle.
- Sow broad beans if the soil conditions are suitable.
- Dead head winter bedding such as pansies and primroses to prolong flowering.
- Finish pruning bush apples and pears.
- Use winter wash on fruit trees to kill off any overwintering pest eggs.

## 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: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.](#)

**FREE to Collector. Wall-mounted hose.**

If interested, please call (0118) 966 3133.

**FREE to Collector. 120 3½" pots, 12 full-size seed trays with holes, 11 tray inserts with 40 cells.** Please call Roy on 0781 789 6825.

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