

# East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER  
June 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



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

53 members and friends enjoyed a splendid day in the Exbury gardens and the sun shone all day long. Although the camellias had finished, we marvelled at the beautiful azaleas, rhododendrons and acers. The fresh green leaves on the trees gave us all a nod towards summer and the ponds and sound of running water made our meanderings through the gardens very special. The 20-minute miniature gauge rail trip around the gardens was a delight and the engine smoke evoked memories of a time past.

We were sorry that a few members, through accident or illness, were unable to travel. We wish you all good health asap.

Note: I have been organising our visits for well over ten years and it was lovely to see how many names of loyal members kept appearing in my visits book when I turned the pages over recently. Thank you all for your support. I had a fanciful idea about introducing a loyalty discount or an ERHS long service badge too. Then I woke up!!

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

The show secretary is very hopeful that we can put on an excellent show this year. Please collect or download the schedule and see what classes you might be able to enter. This show is all about you and the celebration of your achievements in the garden or allotment or kitchen or greenhouse or work room or any combination. {Go for it - you know it makes sense!}

Show schedules are in the trading shed and have been emailed to all members on our email list. They can also be downloaded from our website or requested by email (see the newsletter heading).

**There are still 108 days from 1<sup>st</sup> June.**

How's it going? Feeling confident? Good luck!

Remember, there are classes for everyone.

### Scheduled events 2023-2024

- 19<sup>th</sup> Sep: talk "Wildlife in the UK"
- 17<sup>th</sup> Oct: talk "National Trust Gardens and Parks"
- 21<sup>st</sup> Nov: talk "Thames Crossings"
- 5<sup>th</sup> Dec: Christmas Social
- 16<sup>th</sup> Jan: talk "First Responders"
- 20<sup>th</sup> Feb: Annual General Meeting
- 19<sup>th</sup> Mar: talk "Spring Gardening"

## 2. TRADING MATTERS



A few notes:

- > Wednesday evening opening will cease at the end of May.
- > Monday mornings are stocking-up days, so we are open then, and any help in the shed would be gratefully received.
- > The potatoes will end soon.
- > We still have dahlias in stock.

### April & May Wednesday trading.

Finding stewards to run this 1-hour slot has been tricky. Trying to open has not been a great success and at our next committee meeting we will review the situation. Apologies for any frustrated visits.

### Shed stewards.

I am sure that many of you will have been surprised to see the email informing you of the shed closure on Saturday 13th May and we apologise for not fulfilling our commitment to the members. However, this is a very clear message: we **URGENTLY NEED MORE MEMBERS** to offer their services to run the trading shed. I appealed recently for more stewards but did not receive any calls. The clear implication is that we will have to consider trading only on Saturdays.

I am sure you can appreciate the frustration for the committee, particularly Trevor Wilson, who is ordering new stock nearly every week and the shed is bursting with top quality products at prices the garden centres cannot match.

Please have another look in your mirror and ask yourself, "*Could I help at the shed?*" Please phone John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303 if you think you could. Thank you!

**Lorry unloaders.** (Another message from John Peacock)

Trevor and I would like to thank you all for getting up very early to unload compost, stable yard manure and sundry items. Your effort and strength are much appreciated.

### 3. MISCELLANEA

#### Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

#### Shed stewards and assistants this month.

3 <sup>rd</sup>	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
4 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bridges	Torkill Fozzard
10 <sup>th</sup>	Trevor Wilson	Peter Lynch
11 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite
17 <sup>th</sup>	Trevor Wilson	Rowena Hughes
18 <sup>th</sup>	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell
24 <sup>th</sup>	Trevor Wilson	Sue Jones
25 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bridges	Mike Fewtrell

#### Card Reader

Members may be interested to know that in late April the card reader recorded over £5K of sales. Whilst cash can still be used at the shed, we hope that, in time, all our sales will be card only.

#### A message from our Membership Secretary, Dr. Malcolm Iosson

*A big thank you to all members who have renewed their membership of ERHS, helping to keep the Society as an active, flourishing organisation.*

*For everyone who has not yet renewed their membership, this Newsletter will be the last you will receive, unless you renew your membership before the end of June. Our Privacy Policy requires us to delete your details from our membership records if you have not renewed your membership by the end of the "grace period" (the end of June). If you renew after that date, you will be regarded as a "new member" and will have to complete a New Member Form to reinstate your contact details.*

#### Things to do this month.



##### 1. Hoe regularly to control weeds

Extra light and warmth encourage the garden to burst into life. However, this also means that weeds come up everywhere. You can keep on top of them by shallow hoeing regularly in dry conditions to kill most weed seedlings. For maximum effectiveness, choose a dry day with a

light wind, so seedlings dry out on the surface of the soil rather than re-rooting into moist soil. Just a little bit of hoeing will help keep things under control.

##### 2. Use water wisely

It is important to water regularly during June, especially when it comes to pots and other containers. Happily, these will make good use of wastewater from the kitchen. It is worth using two-thirds of the water in water butts in June. If there are some thundery downpours later in summer it will top them up nicely, perhaps enough to see you through until the autumn rains. Established trees and shrubs do not generally need watering, whereas newly sown or newly planted areas should be high priority.

##### 3. Plant out and pot up

Planting out and potting up as early as possible in June makes the best use of light and warmth. 'Puddling in' is a good way to set out plants in hot and dry weather. Make a hole that is the right size for the plant's root ball and fill it with water several times before placing the plant in the hole and firming the soil around it.

Finally, water again and ideally apply some mulch around the plant to prevent weeds. Plants will grow quickly as they are sitting in a ball of wet soil.

##### 4. Position summer hanging baskets and containers outside

It is now safe to move pots and other containers outside as there is little or no danger from frosts. Make sure hanging baskets don't dry out, keeping them moist but not too soggy. RHS research shows that just a mugful of water per day can keep hanging baskets healthy and avoid wasting water. Deadhead flowers regularly to prevent the plants going to seed, rather than continuing to flower.

##### 5. Mow lawns at least once a week

June is the time to mow once a week, ideally letting cuttings fall back into the sward to feed the lawn. This also avoids the chore of collecting and composting cuttings. It is also the first time of the year to cut long grass with bulbs in. Instead of watering lawns in dry weather, mow less closely and less frequently. Don't worry if there are any dead patches as they will recover in autumn.

#### 4. WANTED/FOR SALE/FREE

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

[Copy deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June.](#)

For sale: **Golf Clubs** - 8 irons & 2 woods with **new bag** including head cover and 3 pockets, costing over £180. They would suit a new or a seasoned golfer. £65. Please call (0118) 926 4584 in the evening.

Free to collector: Full set of 8 volumes 'Encyclopedia of Gardening'. Can deliver locally. Pls call 0785 592 4656.

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

Kindly  
Printed by



MAIDEN ERLEGH  
SCHOOL