

# East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

September 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 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 ERHS Autumn Show

The show secretary and all the committee are very excited about our show in mid-September. We hope that members will have a copy of the schedule already and are currently planning which classes to enter. You can still download a copy from our web site, though, or request it to be emailed to you (see newsletter heading). The weather has been very interesting this year and it has certainly helped plants of all types to grow successfully and crop well.

Just look out of your window, walk round your garden or allotment and marvel at what you have grown, and be VERY BRAVE and decide to enter something in the show. HAVE A GO!!!

Walk into your workroom or kitchen and come and show us your best floral art creation, your culinary triumphs, your handicrafts and allow us to enjoy looking at your entries.

The show is all about celebrating your achievements collectively.

Particularly after the disappointment of the cancellation last year, we want this show to go very well.

Come and see the show at 3pm, after the judging has taken place, and enjoy a cup of tea and some cake.

*The show secretary does need some help on the day. Carole really needs a volunteer to serve teas and cake. Please phone her on (0118) 986 7303 if you could offer help.*

**Previous trophy winners: Please return your trophies to the trading shed, or to 9 Wychwood Close, no later than Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September.**

There are classes for everyone: 23 for flowers, 14 for vegetables, 7 for fruit, 4 for floral art, 7 for cookery, 6 for homecrafts and even 4 for children.

**NOTE:** In the printed show schedules and any emailed out prior to 15/8/23, There is an error in Section F. Where it says, "In classes 48-49, digital photography is permitted", this should refer to classes 57-58. The schedule on the web site was corrected on this date, so any emailed since then will be correct.

### TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2023

**Tom Way**, an accomplished speaker, will be talking about "Wildlife in the UK".

Tom's work has won awards in the world's leading photographic competitions, including European Wildlife Photographer of the Year and The World Sony Awards.

His web site, [tomway.co.uk](http://tomway.co.uk), is well worth a look. You can see examples of his work, largely in his favoured fine art black and white style of photography.

He runs a number of workshops and tours in the UK with the main objective of improving your photography, whatever your level of expertise, and even goes on photographic safaris, around the world, with a limited number of guests.

**This is a talk that must not be missed!**

As usual, there will be refreshments and a raffle.

### Scheduled events 2023-2024

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



Many thanks for the **stones and gravel** for the lane (Embury Way) that leads to the trading shed. Please keep them coming.

The **shed clock** is becoming erratic. Does anyone have a suitable replacement?

Many thanks, also, to those who have helped **unloading deliveries**. I will be in touch soon!

The bulbs should be arriving soon, and onions are on order, so the shed will start to get busier from now on. **Stewards and helpers** are much appreciated in keeping the shed open.

*Don't forget that I hold the **Wisley discount card** if you are planning a visit.*

. . . . Trevor Wilson

## 3. MISCELLANEA

### Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

### Remember: The Latest Newsletter is now on our Web Site

### Shed stewards and assistants this month.

2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Trevor Wilson	Bob Campbell
9 <sup>th</sup>	David Hughes	Bob Campbell
10 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Gardner	Phil Horsburgh
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Fewtrell	Alan Waite
17 <sup>th</sup>	Trudy Rehman	Bob Campbell
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Gwen Barton	Torkill Fozzard
24 <sup>th</sup>	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell
30 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bridges	Peter Lynch

### Things to do this month.



- As strawberry plants put out runners (long stems with clusters of leaves), peg down the leaf clusters on the soil where they will root and form new plants. If you don't want new plants, cut off the runners to conserve the mother plant's energy.
- Maincrop potatoes should be ready to harvest this month. Cut down the foliage, leave it for

three weeks and then dig up the potatoes - kids will love doing this! Leave the potatoes to dry for a few hours, then store them in hessian sacks or paper bags in a cool dark place.

- Pinch out the growing tips of cordon tomatoes once they have produced seven trusses so they can focus all their energies on ripening the fruit.
- Once you've picked the last of your French and runner beans, cut the plants down to ground level and leave the roots in the ground to release their stored nitrogen.
- Prune summer raspberries. Cut back all fruited canes to ground level and tie in new canes to the supports, in preparation for next year's fruit.
- Harvest plums, pears, apples, blackberries, and autumn raspberries.
- Get a head start on next year's veg crop. Sow spinach and spring onions for next year and cover the seedlings with fleece to protect them from frost damage. Plant autumn-sowing onion and garlic sets for early harvests. Onion 'Electric', onion 'Radar', garlic 'Germidour', and garlic 'Picardy Wight' are all ideal for autumn planting.
- Direct sow hardy annuals like poppies, cornflowers and nigella, outdoors for early flowers next summer.
- Plant out wallflowers and other biennials to give them time to settle in before winter.
- Keep deadheading dahlias and roses for a last flush of autumn colour.
- Cut back faded perennials. Now's a good time to lift and divide geraniums, hostas and other perennials, reducing overgrown clumps and giving you extra plants!
- Plant new perennials while the soil is still warm from the summer. The autumn rains will help to keep them watered.
- It's time to plant spring bulbs like daffodils, crocuses, alliums and irises. Wait until November to plant tulips, as they're less at risk from viruses once the weather is colder.
- Do your autumn lawn maintenance. Scarify and aerate the lawn and give it an autumn feed high in potassium to harden the grass, ready for the cold winter weather.
- Water camellias and rhododendrons regularly, as they are now developing the buds for next year's flowers.

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> September.](#)

### **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.**

Kindly  
Printed by



MAIDEN ERLEGH  
SCHOOL