

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

November 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

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 17TH OCTOBER, 2023

No report was received about David Hunt's talk on "National Trust Gardens and Parks", except that it was interesting and that it was sad that only 19 members attended.

TUESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER, 2023

Talk: "Thames Crossings" by Tony Weston.
Gwen Barton, who organised our talks, was disappointed at the low turnout for the October talk and she and the committee hope that many more members will attend this talk. The last one cost us £50 and the fee for this one will be £80. Members have these events provided for them *with no entry charge*, so we do hope that we fill the hall next time!

Please join us in St. Peter's church hall, at 7:45 pm for an 8 pm start.

As always, there will be refreshments and a raffle.

TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 2023

The committee would like to warmly invite all members to our Christmas social, where we will host an evening of carol singing and quizzes, with a buffet of food, wine, soft drinks and lots of fun and laughter. We would like to invite members to bring a novelty, Christmas-inspired, table decoration and also wear your Christmas jumpers. Why not take some time to make a festive Christmas hat.

We also wonder if anyone who knows a Christmas poem, joke or piece of prose, would like to present it. They could start rehearsing their presentation now ready for 5th December. We look forward to a great evening.

Scheduled events 2023-2024

16th Jan: talk "First Responders"
20th Feb: Annual General Meeting
19th Mar: talk "Spring Gardening"

2. TRADING MATTERS



The shed is well stocked with various versions of compost. Any feedback on quality would be good. Again, many thanks to the 7 unloaders who arrived at 0715 to unload manure. It was unusually late and your sense of humour was tested. I have never seen a lorry unloaded so quickly!

We still have some daffodils and other bulbs available and there's plenty of garlic and onion seed. If anyone can help fill some holes in the road, please get in touch with me, Trevor Wilson, and we can arrange a time.

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 13th November 2023 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

4 th	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
5 th	Phil Rogers	Torkill Fozzard
11 th	Jeff Gardner	Mike Fewtrell
12 th	Chris Dodson	Viv Rimmer
18 th	Gwen Barton	Phil Horsburgh
19 th	Malcolm Iosson	Ray Posselwhite
25 th	David Hughes	Peter Lynch
26 th	Neal Stockwell	Webster Stockwell

Stocktaking volunteers wanted

This year we will once again undertake our annual stocktaking after the final opening before Christmas, which is Sunday 10th December. Last year, the process only took a little over 1 day - (I allowed for 3 days). This year I will only schedule 2 days (with a bit of preparation beforehand by Trevor and I).

The process simply involves counting how many there are of every item we stock in the trading shed and entering the numbers on pre-prepared forms.

This can be quite time-consuming unless we can, once more, find a few stalwarts willing to spend an hour or two with us on Monday 11th or Tuesday 12th of December, probably starting about 10 am.

If you feel you could help, please let me know what days you could join us and how much time you would be prepared to give (*see newsletter heading*). I will then schedule the work.

Neal Stockwell (newsletter editor)

IN MEMORIAM
MR FRED PALMER 1927 - 2023



With great sadness we must tell you that Fred died on Saturday 30 September 2023, 12 days after his 96th birthday. He had been unwell for a short while and was in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, but cancer complications suddenly proved fatal. He was a very kind, thoughtful person who had not complained about his condition. Even in his last few days, he was concerned about others including making an appropriate telephone call to ERHS. Fred was involved with our society for 40 years or more, including being the top-level Newsletter Distributer for many years and most recently one of the Vice-Presidents. He was supported by his wife, Peggy, (who also helped at the ERHS) until her death in October 2018. He also gave his time to several other organisations.

ERHS was represented at the funeral and wake by our president, Jeff Gardner, and another long-standing member, Gwen Barton. Jeff wrote:

“I have known Fred for the past 30 years. He was the newsletter organiser in those days, having taken over from my father in the early 80s. He was passionate about his sweet peas and dahlias and there was a friendly rivalry between him, Geoff Ruffles and me at show time! He was a real gentleman and a loyal supporter of the society, with his wife Peggy, before moving to Wokingham in recent years. May he rest in peace.”

Card or Cash in 2024?

The committee will meet later this month and, among other things, will be discussing the use of cash in the trading shed from January. It has been 11 months since we successfully introduced the card reader, and it has modernised our trading operations. Over recent months, very little cash has been used to buy goods.

If you have any views about the shed becoming ‘card only’ in 2024 please make them known to the shed steward on your next visit there. Or you can email us using ERHS@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you. John Peacock (committee chair)

Things to do this month.



- Give your soil some attention and make sure it's a healthy growing space even throughout winter. That means not only removing unwanted matter but also adding nutrients such as manure.
- Remove any plants that have finished cropping, particularly those that appear to be moulding. Anything that is moulding but appears to be disease free can be added to your compost pile.
- After cleaning up around your plot, your focus should turn to protect the soil and/or anything you already have growing. Cover your soil with a frost blanket even if there's nothing growing to provide a protective layer against any snow that comes. This also helps to reduce the development of weeds that might use up the nutrients that you added for planned crops.
- A greenhouse is the perfect addition for any gardener as it shields plants from extreme weather conditions and pests, whilst extending the growing season. However, if a greenhouse isn't looked after it can do more harm than good. Often, throughout winter, your greenhouse does not get much attention, which allows time for unwanted things to enter, such as dirt, green algae, moss, pests and disease.
- Leaves are important to look out for when gardening in autumn. Of course, you should be collecting any fallen leaves that aren't unhealthy and adding them to your compost. Any that show signs of mildew, burn or any other disease should be disposed of, not added to your heap!
- Pay close attention to the leaves of the plants you are growing, such as sprouts, cabbages or other brassicas. If you notice any yellow leaves, remove them or risk the spread of grey mould.
- Inspect your stored fruits/vegetables and immediately throw out any that show signs of rot or moulding before spread occurs.
- Now is the perfect time to plant bulbs and broad beans.

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 26th November.](#)

For Sale: Golf Clubs - 8 irons & 2 woods with new bag including head cover and 3 pockets, costing over £180. Would suit a new or seasoned golfer. £65. Please call (0118) 926 4584 - evenings.

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

Kindly
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MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL