

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

December 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 21ST NOVEMBER, 2023

Around 60 people attended Tony Weston's talk on "Thames Crossings". It was wonderful to see so many people had made the effort to come, and they were not disappointed. With a top quality presentation, Tony covered the 215 miles of the Thames from Roman times to the present day, from fords to ferries and, eventually, bridges.

{I have since been asked for Tony's contact details. Ed.}

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 to 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. We look forward to a great evening.

SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

A date for your new 2024 diaries.

We will again have an **autumn show** in 2024. The show schedule will be available as soon as possible (but don't hold your breath!)

The committee would like to wish all members and their families a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

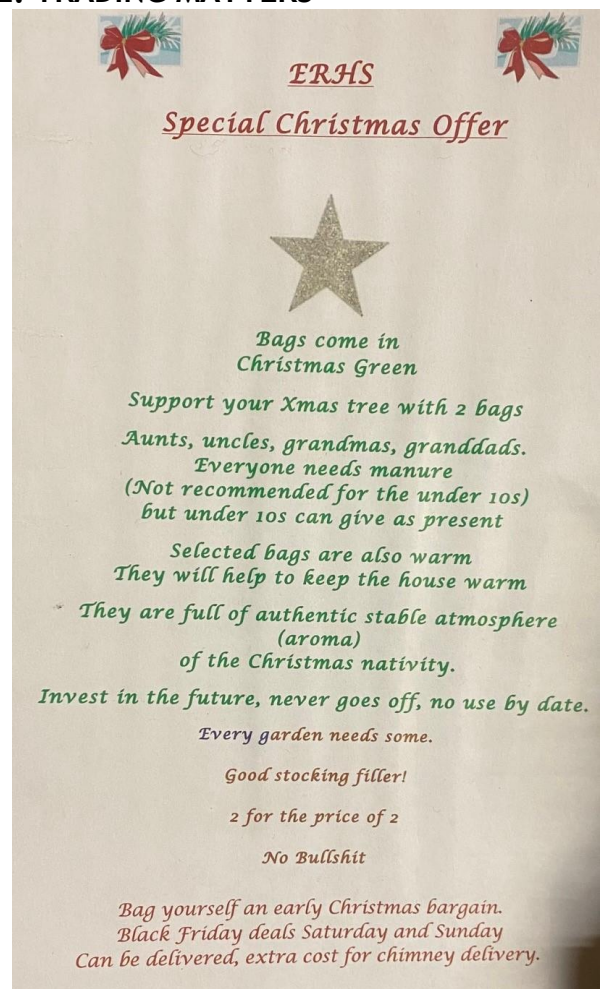
Scheduled events 2023-2024

16th Jan: talk "First Responders"

20th Feb: Annual General Meeting

19th Mar: talk "Spring Gardening"

2. TRADING MATTERS



Joking aside, the shed is well stocked, but we need more of the popular stable manure very SOON. {The original of this notice is pinned outside the trading shed}.

Note: The trading shed closes for our seasonal break after Sunday trading on 10th December.

Gift vouchers must be redeemed by then.

We will resume trading on Saturday 13th January 2024.

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 8th January 2024 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

2 nd	Kay Bridges	Bob Campbell
3 rd	Mike Fewtrell	Peter Scott
9 th	Trudy Rehman	Bob Campbell
10 th	Mike Fewtrell	Jackie Lesley

Where is the Trading Shed?

Approach via Embery Lane that leads to the Bulmershe allotments, but you cannot see the name plate until you are halfway to the shed! Going down Church Road towards Woodley, past St. Peter's church, just beyond the bridge and Mays Close, the lane is on the right by a bus shelter. There used to be a sign, on the left of Church Road, but that disappeared a few years ago! There is ample room to park, about 50 yards beyond the shed, on the left.

{Opening times are shown in the heading of the newsletter.}

Stocktaking volunteers

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help with the stocktaking this year. I will put together a schedule and be in touch shortly. Neal Stockwell.

Auditor wanted

Our long-standing auditor has moved to the north of England so, once the Stocktaking has been completed and the accounts have been put together by our treasurer, we need to find a volunteer to audit those accounts.

This is not an onerous job; we are not a major trader, and do not involve huge amounts of money.

Anyone with a reasonable head for numbers would, perhaps, even enjoy the process.

Please consider whether you might be able to take over this annual necessary function or know someone who could.

[As an incentive, the process attracts a modest honorarium.]

Web Site lost?

At the very successful talk on Thames crossings, I was told that our web site could no longer be accessed. I don't know why this has happened - it was fine a few days earlier.

I will naturally try to find out why this has occurred and will try to get it reinstated. If you try to connect to www.erhs.org.uk and manage to get there, you will know that I have found out what caused the problem and was able to fix it! ... Neal Stockwell.

Things to do this month.



Tidy and clean your tools

Get secateurs sharpened, fix loose spade handles and wash your gardening gloves. Sharp tools are safer and better for your plants, as a clean cut when pruning is less likely to let in disease. If you have a greenhouse or potting shed now's the time to give it a good clear-out.

Bring your Christmas tree indoors

If you keep a live tree outside in a pot, bring it in a few days before Christmas and leave it for 24 hours before you decorate it. Conifers are very happy in the freezing cold, and miserable in a centrally-heated house, so give it plenty of water and keep it away from the radiators.

Plan ahead

Take stock of your gardening year. Do not be disheartened by your gardening imperfections or failures but devote some time to pondering what you will do differently in the coming year.

Plant garlic and fruit bushes

Garlic can go into the ground now as long as the soil isn't frozen or waterlogged. Rhubarb can be divided, and bare-root fruit trees and bushes can be planted now, as can raspberries and blackberries.

Store up root vegetables

Crops harvested in winter that can be stored include carrots and parsnips, cabbage, maincrop potatoes, late season apples and pears, pumpkins, squashes, beans, onions, shallots, garlic and root vegetables. Whether you're wrapping apples in paper or digging a clamp for your carrots, inspect your harvest thoroughly and discard anything that is not in perfect condition; not only will it rot, but it will also contaminate the rest of your crop.

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 10th December.](#)

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 ERLIGH
SCHOOL