

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

May 2024

Trading shed opens: Sat and Sun 09:30 to 11:00 (but not Sun in July & August) 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 2ND APRIL, 2024

The talk, by Alan Gould of Henry Street Garden Centre, was very successful and had an excellent attendance of 58 people. There were lots of lovely plants for sale and Alan included many informative points on growing for the Spring Garden.

SATURDAY 8TH JUNE, 2024

Visit to the beautiful **RHS Wisley gardens**.

Note: *We only have 15 places left, so hurry to make your bookings. Remember, you can include friends who might like to join you.*

The closing date is Sunday 19th May.

We are sure you all have fond memories of strolling round the impressive Wisley grounds, seeing the sights and the glass house and we hope that their early summer flowering borders will be performing at their best.

Members will also be able to enjoy listening to live jazz from Chi Jazz on Seven Acres lawn in the Butterfly Lovers Pavilion from 1 to 4 pm.

Members can use the impressive cafe for refreshments, or you could take your own food and drink and find a comfortable spot to have a picnic. On the way back to the coach, members will enjoy browsing in the extensive shop and adjoining plant sales area.

As an RHS affiliated society we are allowed one free visit a year so we only need to pay for the coach and a driver gratuity.

The cost of this visit is £14.50 per person.

Payment by cheque, please, payable to ERHS, and delivered to either the trading shed or 9 Wychwood Close.

If you would like to spend this day at Wisley with us, please contact John Peacock on (0118) 986 7303 to reserve your place(s).

The coach will leave from outside Earley St Peter's church hall car park on Church Road at 9:30 am and we would expect to be back in Earley about 6 pm.

SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2024 - AUTUMN SHOW

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 137 growing days from 1st May.

Still, plenty of time if you haven't started yet.

Scheduled events 2024-2025

Tue 15 Oct	Talk: Wine and Flowers
Tue 19 Nov	Talk: Christmas Birds
Tue 10 Dec	Christmas Social Evening
Tue 21 Jan	Talk: First Responders
Tue 18 Feb	Talk: Wildlife Photography
Tue 4 Mar	83 rd Annual General Meeting
Tue 18 Mar	Talk: Lakeside Gardens in Northern Italy

2. TRADING MATTERS

Stop press news: Potatoes SOLD OUT and only a few dahlias left.

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 10th June 2024 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

Alexander Devine Children's Hospice

Maggie Nunn, who is a good friend to several members of ERHS, makes delicious jams and chutneys to raise funds to support this wonderful local charity.

Maggie is asking members to offer her the extra rhubarb and soft fruit you might have this season and she would be delighted if you would contact her on 07946 620560 to offer your fruit. She makes a range of goods from her very berry jam, spicy Indian chutney and her whiskey marmalade. All are highly recommended. Thank you for your support.

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

4 th	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite
5 th	Malcolm Iosson	Peter Lynch
11 th	Chris Dodson	Viv Rimmer
12 th	Malcolm Iosson	Torkill Fozzard
18 th	Kay Bridges	Derek Press
19 th	Phil Rogers	Phil Horsburgh
25 th	Don MacLean	Bob Campbell
26 th	Trudy Rehman	Peter Scott

Where is the Trading Shed?

You 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 it disappeared a few years ago! There is ample room to park, about 50 yards beyond the shed.

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

Berkshire Group of the Hardy Plant Society

Their Plant Fair, which will interest many of our members will be held in St. Peter's Church Hall on Saturday 18th May 1:30 to 3:30 pm. There will be good quality plants. Homemade cakes, tea and coffee will also be available. Admission is £1.

Things to do this month



Weeds

Warm weather means weeds will sprout, so you need to keep weeding by hand between bedding plants and veggies. Fear not, as they mature, the plants will take over the weeding process from you by blocking out sunlight! You'll want to hoe your bedding borders regularly to keep weeds down too.

Lawns & Hedges

Your grass will love the heat of May days, and you need to mow often. Make sure to collect grass cuttings and add them to your compost. If you have seeded or turfed a new lawn, make sure it's well-watered during hot spells - you don't want it to fail now! Use a spade to edge your lawn, leaving about a 3-inch gutter to stop grasses creeping into your beds. If you want wildlife to flourish in your garden, leave a patch unmowed either on the lawn or around tree trunks.

Regular clipping and pruning of hedges will mean you'll never have to do that single, heavy prune. Check there are no nesting birds in your hedges before you start working on them, and if prunings aren't too woody, they can go in the compost too.

Flowers

Plan and plant (at the end of the month) your summer beds. Think dahlia bulbs, chrysanthemums,

begonias, lovely cascading lobelias, and geraniums. Nasturtiums are easy - just sow seeds directly into damp compost. Tubs and hanging baskets can be planted now but keep an eye on frosts still! Tip fuchsias as they sprout to encourage them to branch out and not just grow tall. Deadhead pansies to encourage further flowering and do the same to camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas, too. Lift and divide clumps of daffodils and other spring bulbs, and primroses too. Prune clematis after flowering, and make sure any taller plants in the garden have the support they need.

Water

Water in the morning and evening to minimise evaporation. Install water butts if you don't have them already because it's good to have a reservoir of water ready in case a hosepipe ban comes into force - it seems unlikely after the rainfall we've seen this year, but it's best to be prepared!

Fruit & Veg

If you have grapevines, pinch out new buds two leaves beyond any developing fruit to promote fruit growth. Open greenhouse doors & vents on hot days but be careful because May can also see frosts. Earth up your potatoes once they reach about 10 inches high. If you're growing sweetcorn, plant in blocks, not rows. Get poles ready for tomatoes, peas and runner beans, which should be growing in the greenhouse now. Seedlings can be planted out at the end of the month and remember to pinch out new sprouts on the main plant to encourage better tomatoes.

Wildlife

Help out wild birds in the garden by leaving out mealworms, which can then be fed to hungry chicks. Look out for red lily beetles and be aware this is when the war on slugs and snails begins! Also, keep an eye out for aphids as they are much easier to deal with when they're in small numbers.

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 19th May.](#)

Free to collector: Conical green plastic compost bin, height 85 cm, base diameter 75 cm. Also

Folding metal sawhorse, length 80 cm, folded height 100 cm. If interested tel. (0118) 987 1817.

For sale: Strawberry plants. My daughter is a keen gardener and has produced a few too many cuttings of strawberry plants so she would like to sell some from £2 to £4 for more established plants. You can choose on the day. First come, first served. Pick up in Earley. Please contact David on 07887 379784.

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