

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

July 2024

The trading shed opens: Sat and Sun 09:30 to 11:00 (but only Sat in July & August),
and Wednesdays in April and May 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



SATURDAY 8TH JUNE, 2024

52 members and friends enjoyed a wonderful day at **RHS Wisley**. All the areas were colourful, textural and interesting to admire, and the weather was very kind too.

We all came home determined to make a small part of our own gardens look like Wisley and so the coach had lots of plants in the luggage compartment.

Without doubt, going to the home of horticultural excellence is an inspiration to us all. We recommend that you book early again next year if we take advantage of ERHS being affiliated to the RHS, so members only have to pay for the coach. Another bonus (part of your £3 membership fee).

Note: For future trips the committee members are exploring the idea of a Christmas outing to either Blenheim or Waddesdon Manor this year. Details will appear soon.

SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

ERHS Autumn Show

Carole, our show secretary, is getting very excited about the number of entry envelopes she hopes will come tumbling through our letterbox at 9 WYCHWOOD CLOSE in the days before the show (ideally, no later than Wednesday 11th September please).

We have had the rain; now we have some summer sun. Hopefully, these two elements will ensure your flowers and vegetables are in prime condition to show off in September.

It's not that long to go. Consult your schedule to see what else you could enter. John Peacock

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 (ERHS@hotmail.co.uk).

Still 76 growing days from 1st July.

Let's try to make 2024 a celebration of what we can achieve in our gardens or allotments, in our kitchens and in our workrooms.

Go for it, ERHS.

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

Houston, we have a problem. Church Road will be closed from 1st July for 9 weeks! Gas works like those recently endured in Silverdale Road. I am not sure about access to the allotments or shed. As soon as the work starts, I will go and have a chat and see how they can make things work for us. It may be that they can ensure there is access to the shed at the weekends. It's just as well everyone has their plants in and we are all enjoying watching slugs eat everything! We have a slug pellet product called Slugxx which came in a 25kg sack, so I have had to load up some plastic bottles at £4 each. They are smaller pellets than usual, but you don't need as many. Beer traps work quite well, yoghurt pots sunk into the ground with a bit of beer has some good results the next morning. Birds and hedgehogs then enjoy the slugs. Happy slugs, birds, hedgehogs, beans and my wife as I'm not drinking so much beer. Trevor Wilson

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. - Monday 9th September 2024 at the CResCent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

Shed stewards and assistants this month.

6 th	Don MacLean	Bob Campbell
13 th	David Hughes	Bob Campbell
20 th	Kay Bridges	Bob Campbell
27 th	Derek Press	Torkill Fozzard

In Memoriam

Gwen Barton (Vice President ERHS)

Everybody at ERHS were greatly saddened to learn that Gwen had died on 2nd June.

St Peter's Church, Earley was packed on Monday 24th, at her funeral, to celebrate a full life, well lived. Gwen was an enthusiastic, loyal, hardworking and lively member of ERHS (and lots of other local organisations too) and she will be greatly missed by them all. It was only in February that she was made one of our Vice Presidents. Our thoughts are with Bill, Paul, Alistair and their families at this sad time.

Things to do this month



- Get a head-start on next spring's flowers by sowing biennials like wallflowers, foxgloves and honesty now.
- Sow lettuce, rocket and radish seeds regularly for summer salads. Lettuce tends to bolt (i.e. go to seed) quickly in hot weather, so sow it where it will get some shade during the hottest part of the day.
- If you sowed winter cabbages and leeks earlier in the year, transplant the seedlings now to their final positions.
- Water vegetables regularly. It's crucial to give tomatoes a consistent amount of water, if possible, as the fruits will split if they get a sudden heavy watering after a dry period.
- Feed tomatoes, courgettes, peppers and cucumbers fortnightly with a high potash liquid feed to promote flowers and fruit. Container-grown blueberries and gooseberries will also appreciate a fortnightly high-potash feed (tomato feed is ideal).

- Pinch out sideshoots on cordon tomatoes (these are the little leafy shoots that appear where the leaf stems join the main stem).
- Watch out for blossom end rot on tomatoes. This appears as sunken brown patches at the lower end of the fruit and means the plant isn't getting enough calcium. Regular watering will usually solve the problem, although you will have to discard badly affected fruits.
- Pinch out the growing tips of broad beans once the first pods appear. This will reduce aphid attacks and also give you bushy plants that produce more beans.
- Earth up maincrop potatoes to stop the light getting to them and turning them green and toxic. Harvest early potatoes in July but dig up one or two first to check that they are big enough to harvest.
- Pick courgettes and beans regularly to keep the plants producing more.
- Deadhead roses and sweet peas or cut the flowers for the house to encourage the plants to keep flowering.
- Cut back faded perennials like geraniums for a second flush of flowers.
- Give wisteria its summer prune, cutting back all this year's long whippy shoots back to five or six leaves from the main stem.
- Water in the mornings or evenings when it's cooler to reduce water loss through evaporation.
- Mow lawns regularly, but raise your mower's blades during hot, dry periods to reduce stress on the grass. Try not to water your lawn in dry periods - it may go a bit brown, but it will bounce back as soon as the next rain arrives.

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 21st July.](#)

For Sale: At very reasonable prices...

Electric Golf Trolley. 3-wheel, all weather Motocaddy, folding trolley, white with spiked tyres. **£90 ono.**

Also:

PGA Collection Golf Bag with many accessories: cap, glove, practise balls, golf umbrella, etc. And: Set of **PING golf clubs** including 5, 6, 7, Sandwedge, Wedge, Acer rescue club. **£75 ono.** Call Jill on (0118) 975 5640.

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