

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

September 2026

The trading shed opens: Sat and Sun 09:30 to 11:00 (but only Sat in July & August),
and Wednesday evenings 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.
Just contact the editor, but please include your membership card number.}

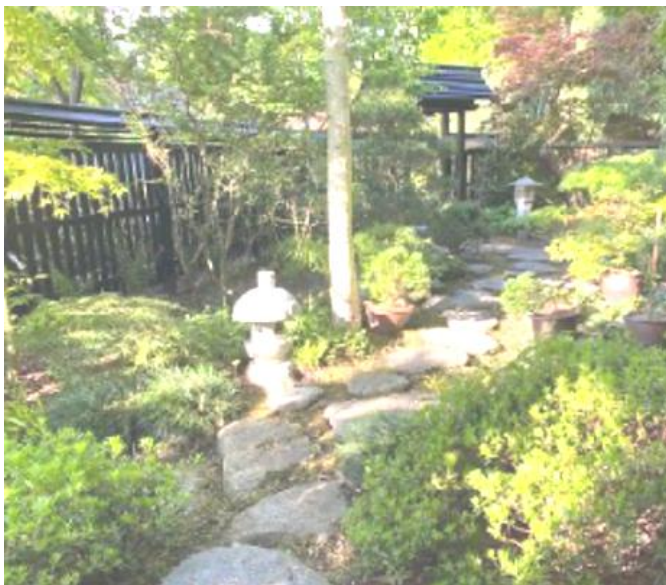


PROGRAMME EVENTS



TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2026

This will be our first talk of the season, entitled "An Introduction to the Gardens of Japan" by Graham Bowyer, who has visited Japan many times and has led tours for the Japanese Garden Society members. Graham's talk will cover aspects of the history, culture, design & planting of Japanese gardens. He will illustrate some of the styles, including the stroll garden of feudal lords, the gravel gardens of Buddhist temples, and a tea garden. We will discover the connection between gardens and the landscape, and components of design, planting and maintenance.



The meeting will be in St. Peter's church hall,
Church Road at 7:15pm for a 7:30 start.
As always there will be refreshments and a raffle.

Other scheduled events 2026 & 2027

Tue 20 Oct	Talk: "Mushrooms - Gourmet & Medicinal"
Tue 17 Nov	Talk: "How the Met Office does Weather Forecasts"
Tue 8 Dec	Christmas social
Tue 19 Jan	Talk: "Working with beneficial Insects"
Tue 16 Feb	85 th Annual General Meeting
Tue 16 Mar	Talk: "Butterflies and butterfly-friendly gardens"

TRADING MATTERS

The trading shed is getting ready for autumn and winter, stocked with composts and manure etc. Bulbs will be arriving soon. We also have manual garden working tools, spades and forks etc. and still have room for more. I will do a bit of a clear up towards the end of September to dispose of some of the older unused ones.

Don't forget: The trading shed will now be open on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 0930 to 1100 and (as before) Monday mornings **with coffee and cake**. Trevor Wilson

Shed Stewards & Assistants in September

Sat 5	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
Sun 6	Neal Stockwell	Steve Willis
Sat 12	Torkill Fozzard	Bob Campbell
Sun 13	Malcolm Iosson	Bob Campbell
Sat 19	Kay Bridges	Colin Green
Sun 20	Neal Stockwell	Peter Lynch
Sat 26	Jeff Gardner	Cathy Harris
Sun 27	Kay Bridges	Tracy Minell

MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. on Monday 7th September at the Crescent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

Hillside School Project

The eight Growbags, that were planted up at Hillside with pumpkins and squashes, suffered badly in the weeks after planting due to the "difficult" weather and despite watering from time to time. I'm disappointed to say they don't look good at the moment. John Peacock

A Little bit of History

Over the years, we have moved slightly with the times, notably by introducing our web site and sending out newsletters by email, as an option, instead of only distributing paper copies. Over 75% of members are now on our email list.

One advantage to those members is that they get their newsletters early, and in colour, because I email out each edition before the end of the previous month. Since the paper copies are printed in a local school, they can arrive quite a bit later. This September is probably a prime example as the autumn 2026 term doesn't begin until the second week of the month.

Another advantage is that information such as late advertisements, cancellation of ERHS events or details of other happenings in the area, can be sent out at any time.

It is currently my responsibility to maintain the web site. I intend to upload each newsletter as soon as it becomes available but the activity at which I am most adept is procrastination (the thief of time!) Also, I can forget to update other information, or I don't notice or correct errors until someone points them out to me.

Feel free to do so. Neal Stockwell

Things to do this month



- Prune late summer flowering shrubs to keep them producing flowers over the next few months.
- Plan ahead and collect seeds from perennials and hardy annuals, and any other plants. Keep them dry until it is time to plant next year.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs now, either in containers or borders.
- Plant any winter vegetables that you want to enjoy later in the year and cover any leafy vegetables with netting to keep birds out.
- Dig up any remaining potatoes before slug damage ruins them. Store them in a dry container such as a sack until you're ready to eat them.

- If you have a garden pond, make sure you net it now to avoid leaf fall in the next few weeks and save yourself the job of scooping out later in autumn.
- Be water-wise. Water in the evenings or early mornings to reduce loss through evaporation, and don't forget to keep bird baths and garden ponds topped up in warm weather.
- There's still time to prune plum, cherry and peach trees. Pruning straight after harvesting, while they are in leaf reduces the risk of diseases.
- Keep watering containers regularly as well as new plants. If you can, use rain or grey water.
- Reduce indoor plant watering but keep an eye on your plants for the compost drying out.
- Mow your lawn less frequently during the autumn months, this will help your lawn to be stronger going into the late autumn and winter months
- Apply an autumn lawn feed, which is high in potassium (not nitrogen - this will result in soft growth which will be prone to disease in the autumn weather). Do this after scarifying and aerating but before applying a top dressing.

WANTED / FOR SALE / FREE

Members' advertisements are free of charge. Just telephone or email the editor (see newsletter heading).

Copy deadline for next newsletter: Sunday 27th September.

For Sale: Acer AZ6L2 Aspire C24-760 Personal Computer, plus keyboard. Manufactured Nov 2016. Windows 11. £60 ono. Please phone 07501 469054 or email mikefa26d@gmail.com

For Sale: Blagdon Clearview pond cover net kit. Unused. 3m x 2m. £6.
Please contact Pam on 07749 201013.

For Sale: Ladies' Dunlop Wellington boots - size 3. and rubber gardening shoes - size 5. £10 ono for each. Also: Plastic carpet protector - 6 ft long, 27" wide. £12 ono. White ceramic jardiniere diam. 25cm H 60 cm. £60 ono. Blue ceramic jardiniere diam. 30 cm H 55 cm. £60 ono. Geeco green plastic 5L long-reach watering can. £8 ono. Digital photos of the above are available to view. Please contact Chris on (0118) 966 3406 or email kent975@outlook.com.

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