

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

October 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

Our first talk this season was an introduction to Japanese Gardens and was well attended by over forty members. Graham Bowyer gave a very interesting and knowledgeable talk on the geology and physical aspects influencing the Japanese landscape, its gardens and elements. We were shown two "Stroll gardens" of the aristocracy, i.e. the Samurai. We learnt of their district roles and work as well as their armour and military equipment - including an asymmetric long bow. Photos and plans showed how the gardens unfolded to give the visitor new vistas. Temple gravel gardens for our imagination were illustrated with their rock patterns and links to myths. He also gave us examples and pictures of the meticulous maintenance of these and other Japanese gardens. See the Japanese garden society for more ideas and inspiration.

<https://jgs.org.uk/aspects-of-the-japanese-garden/>

TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2026

Mark Binns will talk about "Gourmet and Medicinal Mushrooms: Products, Production and Development". He will focus on the production side of his mushroom farming journey which began in his spare room. A small experiment to grow gourmet mushrooms quickly became something much bigger as his company and mushroom operations expanded into shipping containers on local farms. The long-term vision for the company has evolved beyond mushrooms and Mark now has designs for new technologies as a user and advocate of sustainable change in food growing!

See his website <https://www.fungifarmer.co.uk/>.

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.

TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2026

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

We are already planning the programme for our festive and seasonal celebration. Full details will be published in the November newsletter. John Peacock

???? 2027 SPRING SHOW

At our recent committee meeting it was decided to plan for a Spring show in 2027 in Earley St Peter's church hall. We are still waiting to confirm a date. John Peacock

Other scheduled events 2026 & 2027

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 shed has a good stock of tulips, daffodil and crocus. We are well-stocked with various versions of compost and manure. We had a very good year for the air ambulance with £350 donated from the old tools you have donated, and which have been re-used, I will need to clear out some of the tools not used.

The Monday coffee and cake in the shed (0930 to 1100) is still popular. Trevor Wilson

Shed Stewards & Assistants in October

Sat 3	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite
Sun 4	Jeff Gardner	Cathy Harris
Sat 10	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
Sun 11	Mike Fewtrell	Steve Willis
Sat 17	Kay Bridges	Colin Green
Sun 18	Phill Rogers	Bob Campbell
Sat 24	Torkill Fozzard	Karen Garrod
Sun 25	Derek Press	Tracy Minell
Sat 31	Peter Scott	Bob Campbell

MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting:

7:30 p.m. on Monday 9th November at the Crescent Resource Centre. (Warbler Drive, Earley, RG6 4HB)

Hillside School Project

Nothing to report this month. John Peacock

Trading Shed Winter Break

The trading shed will close at 1100 (after trading) on **Sunday 6th December** and reopen at 0930 on **Saturday 16th January 2027**.

Trading Shed Stocktaking - Volunteers?

This will take place shortly after the winter break closure on **Wednesday 9th December**. The process simply involves counting the items that we sell and recording the number on prepared forms, plus any changes you spot such as a different price, size or description.

If you feel you could help on this day, either in the morning, in the afternoon or both, please let me know by email to erhs@hotmail.co.uk.

I will send information about the process straight away and will check, probably in late November, to see if you are still able to join in.

I will then schedule the process, which has easily been accomplished on the first day in the last 3 years, with a short session by me with one other person, maybe the next day, to record details of rolls of goods that are sold by the metre and to resolve any immediate queries.

I will let you know, in good time, which area(s) I would like you to work in and with whom. We operate in pairs so one of you can be the scribe. Neal Stockwell

Things to do this month



General

- **Plant Spring Bulbs:** Get daffodils, crocuses, and hyacinths into the ground early, and save your tulips for planting later through October and November.
- **Lift Tender Tubers:** Dig up dahlias, begonias, and gladioli corms before hard frosts strike; clean off excess soil and store them in a cool, frost-free shed or garage over winter.
- **Tidy Borders & Mulch:** Cut back herbaceous perennials that have completely died down (or leave some seed heads standing to shelter garden wildlife), then insulate remaining roots by applying a thick layer of well-rotted manure, bark chips, or leaf mould.
- **Protect Vulnerable Plants:** Move potted tender perennials and aquatic plants into a greenhouse, conservatory, or sheltered porch before temperatures drop.

Fruit and Vegetable Patch

- **Finish the Harvest:** Gather the last of your runner beans, maincrop potatoes, squashes, and pumpkins before ground frosts ruin them.
- **Overwintering Crops:** Plant out spring cabbages, garlic cloves, and overwintering onion sets so they can establish strong root systems ahead of next spring.
- **Clear and Cover Bare Soil:** Cut spent bean plants down to ground level (leaving the nitrogen-fixing roots in the earth), clear fallen debris, and cover vacant beds with garden fleece to prevent heavy autumn rains from leaching vital nutrients.

Lawn and Wildlife Care

- **Manage Fallen Leaves:** Regularly rake leaves off the grass to block fungal diseases and pile them up in black bags or wire cages to rot down into rich leaf mould.
- **Final Lawn Tidy:** Give the lawn its final light mow of the season if the weather remains mild, adjusting your blade height slightly higher for the colder months.

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 18th October](#)

Free to a good home: 18 glass louvres to go in a greenhouse to aid ventilation. Normally sold as 24" panes they are actually 22.5" x 4". Please contact Richard at fredgett@gmail.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
Printed by



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL