

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

November 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 20TH OCTOBER 2026

Mark Binns, aka fungi farmer, gave us an interesting talk and a short video on the biology and growth of mushrooms or mycelium. The talk then focused on production, starting with domestic growing kits, through the different mediums and equipment to use for growing in a garden, or on a commercial scale. The key issue with production is to maintain a sterile environment in spore selection and growth to ensure quality stock, and timely "fruiting", minimise competing bacteria and improve yield and efficiency. He discussed growing mediums, spore selection and multiplication and different equipment. Questions gave us the opportunity to hear about medicinal and wellness properties of mycelium. His blog is a starting point:

<https://www.fungifarmer.co.uk/blog-detail/the-magical-world-of-medicinal-mushroom-powders-history-benefits-and-modern-wellness>.

For me and others this is an aspect we'd like to know more about. Mark sells at the Reading farmers market on the 1st and 3rd Saturday each month.

TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2026

Our talk this month by Dr Humphrey Lean is called "How the Met Office forecasts the weather - a story of computer models". Dr Lean works for the "Met" or Meteorological Office and is part of a team collaborating with Reading University on strategically important projects, turning research into useful forecast systems for industry, businesses, security and other services and, of course, us the public.

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

The committee would like to invite members to attend our annual **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** in St Peter's church hall, where there will be a buffet with wine and soft drinks.

We also hope that members will come along, having found a poem or written one, or tell a funny story or appropriate joke, or perhaps play an instrument or sing a song, or do a conjuring trick, and it would be great to see as many members as possible wearing a festive hat too.

We plan to have a festively themed quiz and, at the end of the evening, enjoy singing some carols together. We would also like those really creative members to make a Christmas-inspired table decoration that includes three candles (not four!!!) and bring it along. Everyone will be invited to vote for the arrangement they like the best. There will be a prize.

Please put this date in your diary. We look forward to a 7:30pm start on December the 8th. John Peacock

Other scheduled events 2027

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 well stocked for winter, with plenty of farmyard manure and various composts. There are still some daffodils, tulips and crocus available.

Onions and shallot have nearly finished.

I will be removing some of the tools which have built up by the door.

I am looking for someone who has some survey experience to advise on the cracks which have become apparent on the walls of the shed.

Trevor Wilson

Shed Stewards & Assistants in November

Sun 1	Kay Bridges	Karen Garrod
Sat 7	Peter Scott	Cathy Harris
Sun 8	Phill Rogers	Bob Campbell
Sat 14	Peter Scott	Colin Green
Sun 15	Kay Bridges	Alan Waite
Sat 21	John Peacock	Carole Peacock
Sun 22	Steve Willis	t.b.c.
Sat 28	Torkill Fozzard	Peter Lynch
Sun 29	Malcolm Iosson	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

Over the year 2025-2026 Hillside Primary School wanted to bring the joy of gardening and a passion for observing, exploring and investigating our world outdoors to our community. With the help of your funding, we have been able to bring this passion to both children, parents and teachers alike!

- We held a whole school potato growing challenging, using recycled recycling bags as potato sacks, we measured whose stalks grew the tallest and who yielded the most potatoes!
- Every year group cultivated their own veg patch or flowerbed within their year group garden, and in beds around the school.
- We developed a beautiful flower garden outside the front of our school with Daffodils in spring, and Marigolds for summer to winter. We aim to develop this into a rewilding area.
- We attempted to start pumpkins and squash over the summer, but unfortunately the hot weather got the better of them this year.

We want to extend our utmost thanks for ERHS support, bringing the joy of the outdoors to our community this year, and we look forward to seeing what we will grow next! Meg Bloomer (Hillside)

The RHS John MacLeod Annual Lecture

This year's lecture will be given by soil ecologist Richard Bardgett on 22 October. People can go in person or wait to watch a recording, to be posted after the talk. Last year's talk was on "Wildlife gardening in the face of climate change" given by the editor of Gardener's World magazine. Go to <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/articles/john-macleod-annual-lecture> to watch this video or any of the other 12 presentations from 2012 onwards.

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

This will take place shortly after the winter break closure on **Wednesday 9th December**.

Thank you to those of you who have said they can spare some time on that day. It would be useful, though, to have one or two more, in case any have to drop out. Neal Stockwell



Things to do this month

November is an essential time in the UK garden for clearing debris, protecting tender plants from frost, and planting bare-root trees or spring bulbs.

Protection and Shelter

- Protect tender plants: Move borderline hardy plants, containers, and delicate alpine under cover or wrap them in horticultural fleece before heavy frosts arrive.
- Elevate pots: Stand terracotta and ceramic pots on pot feet to prevent waterlogging and cracking during freezing weather.
- Insulate greenhouses: Fit bubble polythene inside glasshouses to retain heat for overwintering plants.

Planting and Propagation

- Plant tulip bulbs: November is the ideal time to plant tulips in the UK to help prevent tulip fire fungal diseases.
- Bare-root hedging and trees: Plant deciduous trees, shrubs, and bare-root hedging while the soil remains workable.
- Sow garlic and onions: Plant garlic cloves and winter onion sets outside in well-drained soil.

Tidy and Maintain

- Clear fallen leaves: Rake leaves from the lawn and store them in wire frames or bags with holes to create nutrient-rich leaf mould.
- Lift dahlia tubers: Cut back blackened foliage after the first frost, then lift, dry, and store dahlia tubers in dry compost.
- Prune dormant fruit trees: Prune apple and pear trees once the leaves have fallen and the trees are fully dormant. Avoid pruning stone fruit like plums.
- Final lawn care: Give the lawn a final light mow on a dry day with the blades raised high, then clear off debris.

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.](#)

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 ERLEGH
SCHOOL