

# Invite a friend to join the AGS

Introduce a friend to the benefits and services offered to members of the Alpine Garden Society. All they have to do is fill in their personal details, together with payment instructions (or call AGS Centre to arrange payment by Direct Debit), and return this page to the address at the bottom of the page. A reduced subscription rate is offered to those paying by Direct Debit. Please allow 28 days for processing this application.

I/We wish to apply for membership as indicated below. Rates valid for 2012.

	UK & Ireland	UK Direct Debit	Overseas
Single	£31 <input type="checkbox"/>	£29 <input type="checkbox"/>	£33 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family (two at same address)	£35 <input type="checkbox"/>	£33 <input type="checkbox"/>	£36 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student/Junior (under 18 years)	£13 <input type="checkbox"/>		

Subscriptions of members joining after July 31 are valid until the end of the following calendar year. The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31 and subscriptions are renewable on October 1 for the following year. Direct Debit subscriptions become due annually in the quarter that you joined.

## Your details (block capitals please):

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If family membership, name of second member \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County/country \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

If under 18, please give date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

If student, please give date of expected end of course \_\_\_\_\_

To pay by Direct Debit, please contact AGS Centre. To pay by cheque or credit/debit card, please complete either of the sections below.

### CHEQUE

I/we enclose a remittance of £ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the Alpine Garden Society.

### CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD (Visa/MasterCard/American Express)

No extra charge for paying by credit card

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card number                      Security code

Start date \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_ Issue No. (some debit cards) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

All information is protected by the Data Protection Act. Your information will not be disclosed to a third party. However, the AGS may wish to pass your details to our local groups. If you do not wish to receive information from our local groups then please tick this box.

AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP, UK  
Phone: 01386 554790 Fax: 01386 554801 email: ags@alpinegardensociety.net

# AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

## Conference may become annual event

The success of the AGS conference run alongside our AGM in November means that plans are being made to repeat the event next year, with the intention that it should become an annual gathering of plants people from around the world.

About 100 members enjoyed a packed programme of lectures and practical demonstrations based on the theme of 'A Celebration of European Alpines'.

Ten compelling lectures delivered over the two days of the conference reminded us of the wealth of plant life and spectacular landscapes that can be seen within just a few hours of the UK, while Keith Lever and Brian Burrow offered invaluable practical advice on the propagation and cultivation of alpine plants.

At the AGM, Cecilia Coller was presented with the AGS's highest honour, the Lyttel Trophy. The trophy is awarded by its previous winners (see the list on page 7) and Cecilia was unaware that she had been



Cecilia Coller receives the Lyttel trophy from AGS President David Haselgrove

chosen as the 2013 recipient until the announcement was made at the AGM by AGS President David Haselgrove.

Cecilia also received her 40th and 41st Gold Bars, meaning that she has won more than 2,100 first places at AGS shows, a record that perhaps will never be beaten.

Two new Vice-Presidents were appointed at the AGM – Professor John Good and Professor John Richards. Both have served the AGS for many years in various roles. The award of Vice-President is in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Society.

**AGS SNOWDROP DAY: PAGE 3 LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!**

Local Group events 4-5

Book Shop 12

Local Groups list 20

Tours 25

[www.alpinegardensociety.net](http://www.alpinegardensociety.net)

PLEASE CUT HERE

AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore,  
Worcestershire, WR10 3JP, UK

Phone: +44(0)1386 554790

Fax: +44(0)1386 554801

Email:  
ags@alpinegardensociety.net

Registered charity No. 207478

Annual subscriptions for 2014:  
Single (UK and Ireland) £31\*  
Family (two at same address) £35\*  
Junior (under 18/student) £13  
Overseas single US\$54 £33  
Overseas family US\$60 £36  
\* £2 deduction for direct debit  
subscribers

For details of life membership apply to  
the AGS Centre.

### AGS CENTRE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY HOURS

The AGS Centre will close on  
Friday, December 20, and  
will not reopen until Monday,  
January 6. The AGS garden is  
open every day.

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Send items for the March 2014  
issue of AGS News to Jackie Cooper  
at the address above or email  
jackie@alpinegardensociety.net.  
The deadline is January 31, 2014.

## NOTICEBOARD

### Applications are invited for a **Director of Shows**

The Alpine Garden Society is  
seeking a new Director of Shows  
to assume responsibility for the  
organisation of the Society's  
programme of national competitive  
Shows.

There are now 24 shows at venues  
around the UK and Ireland. These  
are operated in accordance with  
guidelines laid down by the Shows  
Committee and ultimately the  
Trustee Board. Administrative  
support with certain tasks is  
available from AGS Centre. The  
role is non-stipendiary.

If you are interested in the role  
and would like more information,  
please contact Christine McGregor,  
Society Director  
(Tel: 01386 554790 or e-mail  
ags@alpinegardensociety.net).

The deadline for expressions of  
interest is January 31, 2014.

### Order seed online

The 2013/14 AGS Seed List  
accompanies this copy of AGS News. If  
you do not already order your seed on  
the AGS website, please consider doing  
so this year. The system is easy to use  
and helps the Seed Exchange team to  
process orders more efficiently.

## AGS Snowdrop Day

Saturday, February 1, 2014

**Admission is by advance ticket only**

In the grounds of the NFU headquarters at Tiddington,  
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. Ample parking.

**BOOKING NOW OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS**

**Tickets for lectures, plant sales and lunch:**

AGS members £30, non-members £40

**Tickets for plant sales only plus coffee:**

AGS members £10, non-members £14. Separate lunch tickets £10

**Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre.**

### PROGRAMME

- 8.30 Registration & plant sales
- 10.00 Welcome by David Haselgrove,  
AGS President
- 10.05 Snowdrops in the Wild:  
Bob & Rannveig Wallis
- 10.50 Coffee
- 11.15 The Green Theme: Matt Bishop
- 12.00 Plant sales and lunch
- 13.30 Shropshire Connections:  
Jim Almond
- 14.25 Snowdrops at Avon Bulbs:  
Alan Street
- 15.15 Coffee and close at 16.00



**ONLY A FEW  
TICKETS LEFT!**

## NOTICEBOARD

### SEED ENVELOPES FOR SALE

Glassine envelopes, as used in the AGS Seed Exchange, are available in two sizes:

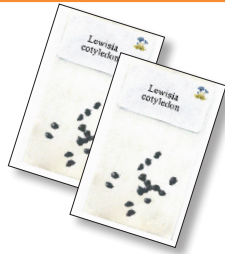
Small 73 x 41mm self-adhesive **50 for £3**

**NEW SIZE** Extra large gummed 117 x 89mm (previous large size is discontinued) **25 for £3**

**Order from the AGS Centre (details on page 2)**

Postage is free to UK members

Overseas members should contact AGS Centre for postage rates



### Take part in the AGS Online Show



The 2013 AGS Online Show is a great opportunity for members who can't normally get to shows – particularly those who live outside the UK and Ireland – to show off their plants and gardens. There are almost 90 classes to enter, ranging from alpine beds in a garden setting to orchids and cut flowers. Visit the AGS website, where you can also view the online shows of the past seven years. GOOD LUCK!

AGS Bedfordshire Group

### The Easy Introduction to Gardening with Alpines

A one-day conference on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at Stratton Upper School, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8JB (just off the A1), from 9am to 4.15pm.

#### Workshops and lectures

**Tony Goode, Vic Aspland  
Professor John Good**

Cost: £15 including lunch. Free for under 18s and students.

**For more information visit  
[www.bedfordshirealpines.com](http://www.bedfordshirealpines.com)  
or contact Robert Amos on  
01767 627487**

AGS West Sussex Group

### Alpines Across the Pacific

A one-day conference on September 6, 2014, at North Mundham Village Hall, School Lane, North Mundham, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 1LA, from 10am to 4.30pm.

**Lectures by  
David Haselgrove, Tim Lever, Martin Sheader  
and Joseph Atkin**

The cost is £20 (optional lunch £5).

**For further information and bookings contact Diann Berry on 01243 786254 or email [diannberry@btopenworld.com](mailto:diannberry@btopenworld.com)**

AGS Birmingham Group

### World of Bulbs 5

A one-day conference on Saturday, February 22, 2014, at the Holy Name Parish Centre, Walsall Road, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 6LN.

**Lectures by Kurt Vickery, Bob and Rannveig Wallis and Ian Young**

The cost is £20 including light refreshments. An optional buffet lunch is available for £6.50. Full details on the Birmingham Group website.

**For further information and a booking form contact Sonia Morris on 01384 378609 or email [sn.morris@talktalk.net](mailto:sn.morris@talktalk.net)**



The Fritillaria Group of the AGS

### Spring Show and Meeting: A Day With Janis Ruksans

**on Sunday, March 16, 2014, 9.30am-3.30pm,  
at New Haw Community Centre, Woodham Lane, New Haw,  
Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3ND ([www.newhaw.cc](http://www.newhaw.cc))**

**Please note change of venue**

**More information on [www.fritillaria.org.uk](http://www.fritillaria.org.uk)**



## NOTICEBOARD

### AGS TRAVEL AWARDS AND GRANTS Applications for 2014

The Alpine Garden Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually. Applications for these awards must be received by January 31, 2014, at the latest.

#### TRAVEL AWARDS

Each year the Society gives a limited number of Travel Awards to enthusiasts wishing to gain field experience in the serious study of alpine plants in native habitats. Applications should be for clearly defined projects, though Awards have been made to those wishing to participate in an AGS Tour if it complements a particular area of interest.

#### HENDRY FUND GRANTS

In addition, grants for specific alpine-related projects are available financed by the E. F. Hendry Fund.

Application forms and further details for Travel Awards and Hendry Fund grants are available from: Jackie Cooper, c/o AGS Centre, or email: jackie@alpinegardensociety.net

### MERLIN TRUST & ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY Travel scholarships for 2014

In 1990 the Merlin Trust was founded by the late Valerie Finnis VMH to provide travel grants for young horticulturists. In 2014 the Merlin Trust is offering jointly with the Alpine Garden Society up to six fully paid travel scholarships on AGS-organised plant tours.

Applicants should be enthusiastic about plants and have a particular interest in alpinism. They must be 18 to 35 years of age or in their first five years of a career in horticulture and have British or Irish citizenship. Students of other nationalities are eligible only if they are currently studying at a UK horticultural training establishment.

If you would like to receive information about the tours and an application form, please send your contact details to: Joanne Everson, Rock Garden Team Leader, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Richmond TW9 3AB.  
Email: j.everson@kew.org Phone: 0208 332 5585



#### Vice-Presidents

C D Brickell CBE VMH  
Mrs M F Randall  
D F Mowle  
Capt P J Erskine CBE RN VMH  
C C Norton  
G S Phillips  
Dr C B C Boyce  
Mrs V Lee  
H McBride  
B E Wardley  
R J A Leeds  
D K Haselgrove  
E M Upward  
B Russ  
Dr C Grey-Wilson VMH  
J J McGregor  
Prof J E Good OBE  
Prof A J Richards

#### Officers 2013-2014

**Director of the Society**  
Mrs C J McGregor  
**President**  
D K Haselgrove  
**Treasurer**  
Prof J Galloway  
**Director of Seed Exchange**  
Mrs D Clement  
**Director of Shows**  
Vacant  
**Director of Tours**  
C Barber  
**Webmaster**  
J J McGregor  
**Custodian Holding Trustees**  
Capt P J Erskine CBE RN VMH  
R J A Leeds  
Dr L Joyce

#### Other Trustees

**To retire in 2014**  
R Horswood  
E C Jarrett  
**To retire in 2015**  
Miss E Barber  
D Mountfort  
**To retire in 2016**  
Miss H Picton  
C Lilley  
**To retire in 2017**  
D Charlton  
M Rogerson  
**Managers**  
**Office Manager**  
Mrs J Cooper  
**Editor**  
J Fitzpatrick  
**Associate Editor**  
R Rolfe  
**Image Library Managers**  
J Evans/P Sheasby

#### LYTTEL TROPHY HOLDERS

E M Upward, B N Starling, D K Haselgrove, B Mathew, G S Phillips, Mrs M F Randall, K A Beckett, R J D McBeath, Capt P J Erskine CBE RN VMH, Dr C Grey-Wilson VMH, C D Brickell CBE VMH, T Hall, R G Rolfe, J M Watson, H & M Taylor, R J A Leeds, Dr K Lever, Dr & Mrs R B Wallis, H Zetterlund, Prof A J Richards, Dr V Holubec, Prof J E Good OBE, R & S White, Mrs C Collier

### TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE SOCIETY'S CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR 2012-2013

The Consolidated Accounts include the combined income and expenditure accounts of both the parent Society (the Alpine Garden Society) and its two subsidiary companies (AGS Publications Ltd and AGS Expeditions Ltd). The full version of the Consolidated Accounts was approved by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on 27 October. It will be sent to the Charity Commission in fulfilment of the Society's statutory obligations.

In line with a previous decision made by the Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM), only a summarised version comprising the Statement of Financial Activities and the Consolidated Balance Sheet is presented to the AGM. It will, however, also be made more widely available both in the Society's newsletter and on its website. Any member wishing to see a full set of the accounts may obtain one by making a

written application to the Society's Director. The comments that follow relate to items in the full accounts and their accompanying notes only where significant variations occur compared with the previous year or where attention is otherwise drawn to particular noteworthy features. If small differences occur between the comparative figures for 2012-2013 in these accounts and those published last year, these probably arise from the late submission of some information or in changes in the way sums of money have been attributed to particular purposes.

The Society is grateful to its independent auditors, Messrs Kendall Wadley LLP, not only for preparation of the accounts but also for their advice on a number of financial issues during the year.

This is my second report to the Society as Honorary Treasurer. My thanks to Christine McGregor and her staff at AGS Centre, who have supported and helped me over the year.

I also want to thank Colin Smith very warmly for agreeing to present my report at this year's AGM in my unavoidable absence.

## **1. Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2013**

### **1.1 Incoming Resources**

The total incoming resources for 2012-2013 amounted to £278,492, made up of subscriptions, gifts, investment income, trading income and funds covenanted from the AGS's two trading companies.

### **1.2 Subscriptions**

There has been a small decrease in the income received from subscriptions: £141,899 against £144,747 in 2011-2012. This reflects the recorded fall in membership of 96 fairly accurately.

### **1.3 Gifts, donations and legacies**

As always the Society is extremely grateful for those legacies and donations that are received and thanks most sincerely members who have assisted the Society in this way. Donations and covenants during the year amounted to £1,901. No legacies were received.

### **1.4 Investment income**

Interest income from investments rose slightly: £66,804 against £66,050 in 2011-2012. (Although there was a need to sell

investments, as in earlier years, to make up the shortfall between income and expenditure, the adverse effects of the sales were offset by the strengthening of the stock market, and the value of the investments rose by around 15%.)

### **1.5 Trading income**

Trading income for the two subsidiary companies, AGS Expeditions Ltd and AGS Publications Ltd, was £75,215, down from £146,251 for the year 2010-2011.

A total of £728 was contributed to the Society under deeds of covenant by the subsidiary companies. However, the outstanding loan of £57,375 made by the Society to AGS Publications Ltd was reduced during the year from £70,357.

### **1.6 Activities for generating funds**

£68,289 (slightly down from last year) was generated by a number of means including: seed sales (£15,000); shows (£34,000); advertising (£7,500) and merchandising (£10,000),

### **1.7 Notes on Resources Expended**

At £354,534, the total resources expended in 2012-2013 showed a decrease of £35,666, around 9.1%, from those of £390,190 in 2011-2012,

Administrative costs, at £100,318, were significantly lower than those in 2012 of £109,382. It appears that these costs probably represent a minimum. Further reductions could be achieved only by reducing the quality and level of service to members.

Expenditure attributable to the two trading companies at £130,733 was reduced compared with £140,307 in 2011-2012, a fall of around 7%

### **1.8 Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources for the Year**

A deficit of £52,178 has been recorded for this year compared with that for last year of £89,935. As in earlier years the deficit was met by the sale of investments.

### **1.9 Other Recognised Gains and Losses**

The market value of the Society's investments has increased by £229,350 over the year, from £1,881,930 to £2,113,417.

### **1.10 The Society's assets at 31 August 2012**

The value of the Society's assets at the end of the year has increased overall by £158,614 and now stands at a total of £2,528,208.

### **Notes on the Consolidated Balance Sheet as at**

## **31 August 2012**

This shows the make-up of the Society's current assets and liabilities. Tangible fixed assets (£296,185) include the value of the lease on the Society's Headquarters Building, the fixtures and fittings therein, and its trophies, medals and library. Investments stand at £2,113,417 (see 1.8).

The net current assets amounting to £118,616 compared with £137,987 last year include: stocks (mostly books) of £22,308; debts outstanding in the Society's favour (£93,391); and cash, either in hand or banked (£63,221). These total £178,920 from which sum must be subtracted the Society's debts, currently £60,304.

The section on Income Funds shows the breakdown between Restricted and Unrestricted Funds. Restricted Funds can be used only for the objects of the charity within conditions specified by the donor. The Revaluation Reserve is the result of the successive annual revaluations of investments, trophies, etc.

### **Commentary**

This year's accounts show a deficit of expenditure over income of approximately £76,000, significantly larger than that of last year. As in past years that deficit has been met by the sale of investments. Notice that in 2012-2013, income from membership subscriptions amounted to only 51% of total income and offset only 40% of expenditure. It would take the recruitment

of about 2,700 new members (with no further losses) to cover the deficit that was met this year by selling investments, or alternatively by increasing subscriptions to existing members by close to £19.

### **Conclusion**

Nothing has changed during 2012-2013 to vary last year's conclusions in any significant way. Overall, the accounts show that the Society is in a relatively healthy financial position with significant investments and that those investments are increasing in value. The existence of those resources cushions the year on year losses but, in doing so, camouflages the fact that the AGS cannot run on its current level of membership subscriptions.

The year on year persistent gap between regular income and levels of expenditure is not sustainable other than in the short term. Subsidising the Society's activities by selling its investments, as was done again this year, is a strategy that on present appearances can continue for no more than a further 9 or 10 years. If the high quality and volume of services and activities enjoyed by members is to be maintained, there is no long-term solution that does not include a strong and enduring commitment by the current membership as a whole to the recruitment of new members.

**John Galloway, Hon. Treasurer, AGS,  
November 2013**

## **Independent auditor's report to the Trustees of the Alpine Garden Society**

We have examined the summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2013 which are comprised of the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet.

### **Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Auditor**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full annual financial statements

and Trustees' Annual Report. We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of the Alpine Garden Society for the year ended 31 August 2013.

Jonathan Marston FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Kendall Wadley LLP	27 Sansome Walk Worcester WR1 1NU 27 October 2013
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	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2013 £	Total 2012 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>				
Voluntary income				
Subscriptions	141,498		141,498	144,747
Other voluntary income	401	1,500	1,901	42,388
Activities for generating funds				
Advertising income – The Alpine Gardener	7,476		7,476	8,814
Seed distributions	15,236		15,236	19,253
Other activities for generating funds income	44,725		44,725	39,941
Conference income	852		852	1,341
Trading income from subsidiary companies	75,215		75,215	146,251
Investment income	60,445	5,322	65,767	66,050
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>345,848</b>	<b>6,822</b>	<b>352,670</b>	<b>468,785</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Charitable activities				
Cost of generating funds				
Staff costs	110,568		110,568	88,686
The Alpine Gardener journal	78,768		78,768	106,156
Costs of major exhibits	10,003		10,003	16,403
Seed distribution costs	10,928		10,928	12,722
Other direct costs	73,231	9,853	83,084	106,119
Other support costs	51,575		51,575	48,131
Expenditure of subsidiary companies	74,169		74,169	130,773
Governance costs	8,662	955	9,617	11,973
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>417,904</b>	<b>10,808</b>	<b>428,712</b>	<b>520,963</b>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(72,056)	(3,986)	(76,042)	(52,178)
Other recognised gains and losses				
<b>Gains on investments</b>	<b>222,132</b>	<b>18,524</b>	<b>240,656</b>	<b>150,815</b>
Net movement in funds	150,076	14,538	164,614	98,637
Fund balances at 1 September 2012	2,188,211	180,383	2,368,594	2,269,957
Fund balances at 31 August 2013	2,338,287	194,921	2,533,208	2,368,594

Summarised consolidated balance sheet as at 31 August 2013

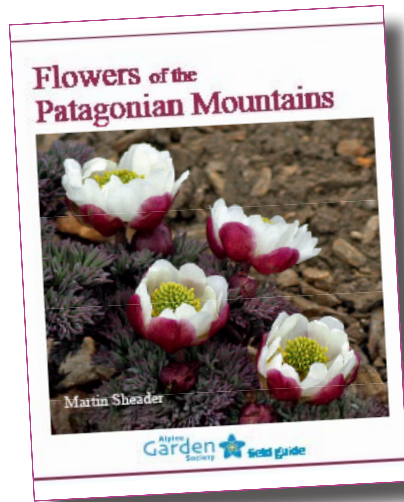
	2013 £	2012 £	2013 £	2012 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible assets	296,185		282,856	
Investments	2,113,401		1,942,745	
		2,409,586		2,225,601
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Stocks	88,379		85,955	
Debtors	54,102		40,223	
Cash at bank and In hand	80,464		52,123	
	222,945		178,301	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>(99,323)</b>		<b>(35,308)</b>	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>123,622</b>		<b>142,993</b>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,533,208</b>		<b>2,368,594</b>
<b>Income Funds</b>				
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
E F Hendry Bequest Fund	162,178		146,046	
Wilscher Fund	13,632		16,271	
Book Bursary	17,000		15,500	
David Harding Foundation	2,111		2,566	
		194,921		180,383
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
Designated Funds	308,881		285,468	
Other charitable funds				
General Funds	1,008,730		1,093,173	
Revaluation Reserve	1,020,676		809,570	
		2,338,287		2,188,211
		2,533,208		2,368,594

**Trustees' Statement**

The summarised accounts contained in this report are extracted from the financial statements prepared by the Society and approved by the Trustees on 26 October 2013. The full financial statements were externally scrutinised by Kendall Wadley LLP, the Society's statutory auditors, and give an unqualified opinion. The full financial statements will be submitted to the Charity Commission in due course.

The summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Society. For further information the Trustees Report, the full financial statements and the statutory auditors' report on those financial statements should be consulted. Copies can be obtained from: AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP. – Christine McGregor (Director)

# NEW BOOK OFFERS



**SAVE 20%**

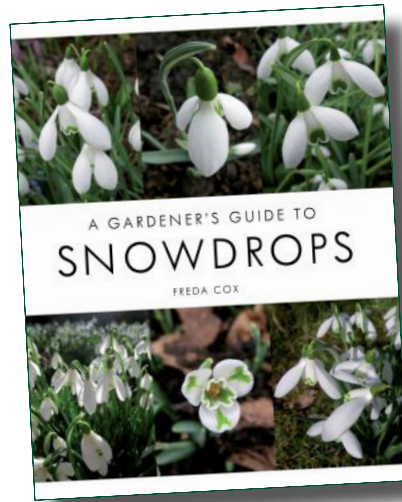
Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains by Martin Sheader

This eagerly awaited book on the remarkable plants of Patagonia is lavishly illustrated throughout its 320 pages, featuring more than 900 images and descriptions of Patagonian plants in the wild. Martin Sheader has travelled extensively in this part of South America and his book is the most comprehensive photographic guide yet published to this diverse and fascinating flora.

Cover price **£40**

AGS price **£32**

[Order code 867]



**SAVE 20%**

A Gardener's Guide to Snowdrops by Freda Cox

Snowdrops are among the best loved, most popular and widely grown of all bulbous plants. This 256-page, large-format book celebrates their beauty with photographs and more than 500 drawings by the author of many of the named varieties. There are chapters on cultivating and propagating snowdrops as well as a biographical section on leading galanthophiles.

Cover price **£35**

AGS price **£28**

[Order code 866]

**TO ORDER USE THE FORM ON PAGE 18 OR VISIT THE AGS BOOK SHOP AT WWW.ALPINEGARDENSOCIETY.NET**

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
<b>GENERAL ALPINE TITLES</b>		
032	Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good	£6.50
772	Alpines from Mountain to Garden by Richard Wilford	£23.20
028	Alpine Plants: Ecology for Gardeners by John Good & David Millward	£12.00
292	Alpines: An Essential Guide by Michael Mitchell	£15.00
024	Alpines in Pots (New Edition) by Kath Dryden	£4.00
026	Crevice Gardening by Zdenek Zvolanek	£5.50
857	Growing Alpines in Containers by John Good <b>**NEW TITLE**</b>	£5.00
033	Portraits of Alpine Plants by Robert Rolfe <b>**LOW PRICE**</b>	£15.00
453	The Himalayan Garden by Jim Jermyn	£20.00
729	The Rock Garden Plant Primer by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£16.00
<b>SPECIFIC GENERA</b>		
019	Androsace: The Genus by G.F.Smith & D.B. Lowe	£8.00
694	Bleeding Hearts, Corydalis & Their Relatives by Mark C Tebbitt et al	£20.00
277	Dwarf Campanulas by Graham Nicholls	£12.00
643	Clematis (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Mary Toomey	£12.00
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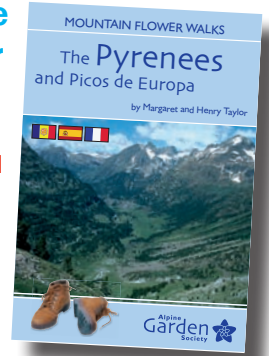
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# LIST OF AGS LOCAL GROUPS

**The Alpine Garden Society has 50 Local Groups across England, Wales and Ireland. Most meet on a monthly basis and offer a varied programme of talks, garden visits, shows and social events. If you are not already a member of a Local Group (some members join more than one), please use this list to find those nearest to your home. A programme of Local Group events can be found on the AGS website. Groups are encouraged to send copies of their programmes to AGS Centre so that they can be included on the website.**

## BEDFORDSHIRE

Hon. Sec: Mr Robert Amos, 9A Ickwell Road, Northill, Biggleswade, SG18 9AA. Tel: 01767 627487. Meetings: Wilstead Village Hall, near Bedford, 7.30pm on 1st Monday of month, February to December. Programme on request. website: [www.bedfordshirealpiners.com](http://www.bedfordshirealpiners.com)

## BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT

Hon. Sec: Mrs Sonia Morris, 55 Grange Road, Stourbridge, DY9 7LH. Tel: 01384 378609. Meetings: The Unitarian New Meeting Church, 31 Ryland Street, Five Ways, Birmingham, B16 8BL, on 2nd Friday of month, September, October, December and January to April. Birmingham Botanical Gardens Lecture, 3rd Thursday in August. Roy Elliott Memorial Lecture, 3rd Saturday in November. Garden visits March to August. Subscription £6, family £10. Visitors welcome.

## BRISTOL

Hon. Sec: Mrs Marion Monahan, 90 Brentry Lane, Brentry, Bristol, BS10 6RQ. Tel: 0117 950 3422. Email: [marion.monahan@agsgroups.org](mailto:marion.monahan@agsgroups.org). Meetings: The Methodist Hall, Westbury-on-Trym, 7.30pm on 3rd Friday of month, September to May. Subscription £10 per person, visitors £2.

## CHESHIRE EAST

Hon. Sec: Mr Kevin Pratt, Alcombe, 7 Bosden Fold Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport, SK7 4LQ. Tel: 0161

456 9009. Email: [k.pratt.fritillaria@gmail.com](mailto:k.pratt.fritillaria@gmail.com). Meetings: Wilmslow Preparatory School, Grove Avenue, Wilmslow, 7.30pm usually on 3rd Monday of month, September to April. Summer outings. Subscription £10, family £18, visitors £2.

## CHESHIRE WEST & WIRRAL

Hon. Sec: Peter Cunningham, 3 The Quillet, Neston, South Wirral, CH64 9QE. Tel: 0151 336 3407. Email: [p.cunnington1@ntlworld.com](mailto:p.cunnington1@ntlworld.com). Meetings: Gladstone Village Hall, The Village, Burton, Neston, South Wirral, CH64 5TH, 7.15pm on 2nd Friday of month, September to May. Subscription £5. Visitors welcome.

## CHESTERFIELD & DISTRICT

Hon. Sec: Mr Dave Newsome, 10 Grasmere Road, Dronfield Woodhouse, Dronfield, S18 8PS. Tel: 01246 416013. Email: [dave@newsome.force9.co.uk](mailto:dave@newsome.force9.co.uk). Meetings: the Schoolroom, United Reformed Church, Cotton Mill Hill, Holymoorside, Chesterfield, 3pm on 2nd Sunday of month, September to May, Subscription £3.

## CHILTERN

Hon. Sec: Dr John Noakes, Old Church Cottage, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Tring, HP23 4QT. Tel: 01296 660072. Email: [john.noakes@btinternet.com](mailto:john.noakes@btinternet.com). Meetings: Great Kingshill Village Hall, near High Wycombe, 7.30pm on 2nd Friday of month, except June, July and August. Visitors very welcome. Subscription £6, family £9.

## CLEVELAND

Hon. Sec: Mr Barry Winter, 92 Oxbridge Lane, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 4HN. Tel: 01642 800373. Email: [barry.winter@agsgroups.org](mailto:barry.winter@agsgroups.org). Monthly winter meetings. Subscription £4 single, £6 family; senior citizens £3 single, £5 family.

## CORNWALL

Hon. Sec: Miss Clethra Matthews, Trenance, Ruan High Lanes, near Truro, Cornwall, TR2 5LH. Tel: 01872 501208. Meetings: St Marks Church Hall, Sticker, St Austell, 7.30pm on 3rd Wednesday of month except August and December. Garden visit in July. AGS members visiting Cornwall are very welcome to our meetings. Subscription £6, visitors £2.

## COTSWOLD & MALVERN

Hon. Sec: Mrs Pam Turner, Bramblegarth, Forge Lane, Upleadon, Newent, GL18 1EF. Tel: 01531 820666. Meetings: Redmarley Village Hall, Redmarley, Gloucestershire, 7.30pm on 1st Wednesday of month, September to June. Garden visits. Spring show on Easter Monday, Maisemore Village Hall, near Gloucester. Subscription £8, family £11, visitors £1.50.

## DERBYSHIRE

Hon. Sec: David Charlton, 41 Cole Lane, Ockbrook, Derby, DE72 3RD. Tel: 01332 668915. Email: [david.charlton41@btinternet.com](mailto:david.charlton41@btinternet.com). Meetings: Breadsall Memorial Hall, Breadsall, Derby, 7.30pm on 1st Wednesday of month, September to May. Garden visits. Subscription £5 per member.

## DEVON - EXETER

Hon. Sec: Mrs Lorraine Birchall, Barratts Cottage, Clyst Hydon, Cullompton, Devon, EX15 2NQ. Tel: 01884 277614. Email: [lorraine@talevalleynursery.co.uk](mailto:lorraine@talevalleynursery.co.uk). Meetings: Longdown Village Hall (on the Exeter to Moretonhampstead Road), Longdown Road, Nr Ide, Exeter, 7pm on 3rd Thursday of month except July and August. Subscription: AGS members £5, family £8, non-members £8, visitors £2 per meeting.

## DEVON SOUTH

Hon. Sec: Andy Whorton, 30 Teignmouth Road, Holcombe, Dawlish, EX7 0JE. Tel: 01626 862455. Email: [andy.whorton24@talktalk.net](mailto:andy.whorton24@talktalk.net). Meetings: Dartmoor Lodge, Pear Tree Corss, Ashburton, 7.15pm for 7.30pm on 1st Wednesday of month, September to May. Subscription: AGS members £8/£12, non-members £10/£17, guests £2.

## DORSET

Hon. Joint Secs: John and Christine Chappell, 3 Church Lane, Frampton, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9NL. Tel: 01300 320247. E-mail: [johncappell321@btinternet.com](mailto:johncappell321@btinternet.com). Meetings: Corfe Mullen Village Hall, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, 7.30 pm on 1st Thursday of month, September to April; 1st Friday in May. Subscriptions: AGS members £7, family £12; non-AGS members £10, family £17; visitors £2.50 per meeting.

## EPPING FOREST

Hon. Sec: Ms Kit Strange, 5A Hartham Road, Bruce Grove, London, N17 6RZ. Email: [Kit.Strange@agsgroups.org](mailto:Kit.Strange@agsgroups.org). Meetings: Theydon Bois Village Hall, Theydon Bois, near Epping, Essex, CM16 7ER, on the 2nd Tuesday of month from September to May. Subscription £5 plus £2 a meeting.

## ESSEX

Hon. Sec: Ruth Jones, Park House, Park Road, Rivenhall, Witham, CM8 3PS. Tel: 01376 583260. Meetings: New Village Hall, Church Road, Rawreth, near Wickford, 7.30pm on last Thursday of month except December. Subscription £3, partners £3.50, plus £2 per meeting. Guests £2.

## HAMPSHIRE

Hon. Sec: Mrs Paddy Hinton, 179 Hursley Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 1JH. Tel: 023 8026 5672. E-mail: [lighthouse1471@yahoo.com](mailto:lighthouse1471@yahoo.com). Meetings: Chilworth Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, 7.30pm on 4th Thursday of month, September to April, 5th Thursday in May, 2nd Thursday in December. Summer outings. Subscription: AGS members £6, AGS family members £8; non-members £7, family £10; visitors £2.50.

## HERTFORDSHIRE

Hon. Sec: Mr Bernard Gane, 65 Ox Lane, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 4PH. Tel: 01582 761416. Meetings: Homewood Road United Reformed Church Hall, Homewood Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4BH (junction of Homewood Road and Sandpit Lane), 3pm usually 4th Saturday of month, September to May. website: [www.hertsags.co.uk](http://www.hertsags.co.uk).

## IRELAND - CORK

Hon. Sec: Mrs Hester Forde, Coosheen, 15 Johnstown Park, Glounthaune, Co Cork, Ireland. Tel: 00 353 21 4353855. E-mail: [hesterforde@hotmail.com](mailto:hesterforde@hotmail.com).

## IRELAND - DUBLIN

Hon Sec: Ms Mary O'Neill Byrne, Larch House, 44 Northumberland Avenue, Dun Ladghaire, Dublin, Ireland. E-mail: [mary.onb@agsgroups.org](mailto:mary.onb@agsgroups.org). Meetings at National Botanic Gardens,

## LIST OF AGS LOCAL GROUPS

Glasnevin, Co. Dublin, 8pm usually 3rd Thursday of month, September to May. See our website [www.alpinegardensociety.ie/](http://www.alpinegardensociety.ie/) for programme of activities. Subscription 12 euros (£7.00), family 18 euros, student 5 euros.

### IRELAND – ULSTER

Hon. Sec: Priscilla Dodd, Mill Cottage, 23 Seven Mile Straight, Muckamore, Co Antrim. Tel: 02894 463989. E-mail: [pdmilcot16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pdmilcot16@yahoo.co.uk). website: [www.alpinegarden-ulster.org.uk](http://www.alpinegarden-ulster.org.uk). Meetings: Main Hall, St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast, 2.30pm on Saturdays, September to March. Summer garden visits. Subscription £9; family £14.

### KENT EAST

Hon. Sec: Gillian Ingram, Copton Ash, 105 Ashford Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8XW. Tel: 01795 535919. Email: [coptonash@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:coptonash@yahoo.co.uk). Meetings: Lower Hardres & Nackington Village Hall, Street End, Canterbury, CT4 5NP, 7pm for 7.30pm on 2nd Friday of the month except October and November when they will be on the 3rd Friday. Subscription £7, visitors £2.

### MID KENT

Hon. Secs: John & Carolyn Millen, Spring Platt, Boyton Court Road, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3BY. Tel: 01622 843383. E-mail: [john.millen1@btinternet.com](mailto:john.millen1@btinternet.com). Meetings: Madginford Village Hall, off Willington Street, Bearsted, 8pm on 1st Friday of month, September to May. Garden visit in June. Subscription £6, visitors £2.

### KENT – TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Hon. Sec: Mrs Anne Hill, Hamptons, Blackhurst Lane, Tunbridge Wells, TW2 4QG. Tel: 01892 824813. Meetings: Main Hall, King Charles the Martyr Church, Warwick Park, Tunbridge Wells, 7.30 for 8pm on 1st Monday of the month, unless it falls on a Bank Holiday, then the 2nd Monday, September to May, with Group BBQ in June/July. Subscription £5, visitors £1.

### KENT WEST

Hon. Sec: Mr Rodney Starmer, Strathmore, Tan House Road, Oxted, Surrey, RH0 9PE. Tel: 01883

713043. Meetings: Crofton Halls, Orpington (adjacent to Orpington Station), 7.30pm on second Tuesday of the month. Subscription £10.

### LANCASHIRE EAST

Hon. Sec: Cliff Booker, 11 Horsefield Avenue, Whitworth, Rochdale, OL12 8SW. Tel: 01706 356385. Email: [bookcliff@aol.com](mailto:bookcliff@aol.com). Meetings: Ramsbottom Civic Hall, near the junction of Bolton St. & Bridge St., Ramsbottom, Nr. Bury, usually on Mondays at 7.45pm, September to June. Summer outings. Subscription £1 plus room charge at each meeting. Lecture programme sent on request, SAE please. Visitors welcome.

### LANCASHIRE NORTH

Hon. Sec: Mrs Liz Walsh, 3 Thirsk Road, Bowerham, Lancaster, LA1 4NF. Tel: 01524 36627. Meetings: Lancaster Methodist Church, Scotforth Road, Greaves, Lancaster, LA1 4TE, 7.30pm on 3rd Thursday of month, September to April. Summer outings. Subscription £5, family £7, visitors £2 [plus 50p per lecture at meetings].

### LANCASHIRE SOUTH

Hon. Sec: Joan Vincent, 34 Burden Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside, CH46 6BQ. Tel: 0151 678 1621. Meetings: Emmanuel Church Hall, Cambridge Road, Southport, 2pm for 2.30pm usually on 2nd Saturday of month, September to April. Subscription £2, family £3.50.

### LEICESTERSHIRE

Hon. Sec: Mr Eric Webster, 25 Highfields Drive, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3JS. Tel: 01509 261626. E-mail: [dozzer.lobro@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dozzer.lobro@tiscali.co.uk). Meetings: Braunstone Civic Centre, Kingsway, Braunstone, Leicester, 7.30 pm on 4th Wednesday of month, September to May. Subscription £5 per member.

### LINCOLNSHIRE

Hon. Sec: Mr Mark Childerhouse, The Gardens, 12 Vicarage Lane, Grasby, Barnetby, DN38 6AU. Tel: 01652 629122. Email: [hen.chouse@btinternet.com](mailto:hen.chouse@btinternet.com). Meetings: New Waltham Village Hall, Station Road, New Waltham, Grimsby,

7.30pm on last Wednesday in most months. Website: [www.alpinegardeners.co.uk](http://www.alpinegardeners.co.uk)

### LONDON CENTRAL

Hon. Sec: Mr R Barker, Flat 2, 27 Great Ormond Street, London, WC1N 3JB. Tel: 07946 413258. E-mail: [roy.barker@theforwardgroup.com](mailto:roy.barker@theforwardgroup.com). Meetings: Royal Horticultural Society, New Hall, Greycoat Street, London SW1, 6.15pm on 1st day of RHS shows, September to June. Programme on request. Visitors welcome.

### LONDON WEST

Hon. Sec: John Humphries, Lodore, Star Hill, Hartley Wintney, RG27 8AQ. Tel: 01252 844078. E-mail: [john.humphries@bull.co.uk](mailto:john.humphries@bull.co.uk). Meetings: Horsenden Hall, Perivale Community Centre, Horsenden Lane South, Perivale, Middlesex, UB6 7NP, 8pm for 8.15 pm on 4th Thursday of month, September to November and January to June. No meetings in December, July or August. Summer visits. Subscription £6, additional family member £3.50, visitors £2.

### MID ANGLIA

Hon. Sec: Mrs Veronica Munson, The Priory, Flowton, Ipswich, IP8 4LH. Tel: 01473 658425. Meetings: Community House, Birdbrook, usually the 2nd Saturday of month. Garden meetings in summer. Subscription £2.

### NORFOLK

Hon. Sec: Mrs Diane Blyth, 33 Stoke Road, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7NJ. Tel: 01508 494277. Meetings: Hetterset New Village Hall, Hetterset, Norwich, 7.30pm on 3rd Wednesday of month except January, July & August when meetings are held at different times and places. Subscription £5, visitors £1.

### NORTHAMPTON

Hon. Sec: Geoffrey Oddy, 2 Hawthorn Drive, Brackley, Northamptonshire, NN13 6PA. Tel: 01280 700787. Email: [jean.geoffoddy@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.geoffoddy@btinternet.com). Meetings: Weston Favell Parish Hall, Northampton, 7.30pm on 3rd Wednesday of month except August. Subscription £6, family £8. Non-AGS members £7, family £10.

### NORTH EAST ENGLAND

[Northumberland & Durham]  
Hon. Sec: Mr Terry Teal, Copse End, Ryton Village, Ryton, NE40 3PZ. Tel: 0191 413 2574. Meetings: St Mary's Church Hall, Ponteland, 7.30pm on 2nd Monday of month. Garden visits June & July. Subscription £8.

### NOTTINGHAM

Hon. Sec: Mr Alwyn Foster, Otterpool, 4 Hillcrest Gardens, Burton Joyce, Nottingham, NG14 5DD. Tel: 0115 9312571. Meetings: Wollaton Park Community Association, Community Centre, Harrow Road, Wollaton Park, Nottingham, NG8 1FG, 7.30pm on 2nd Wednesday of month, September to May. Subscription £6, family £9 plus a meeting charge of 50p per attendee. Visitors £1.

### OXFORD & DISTRICT

Hon. Sec: Mrs Celia Sawyer, South Lodge, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3RF. Tel: 01865 316229. Email: [celia.sawyer@btinternet.com](mailto:celia.sawyer@btinternet.com). Meetings: Exeter Hall, Kidlington, OX5 1AB, 7.30pm on 2nd Wednesday of month from September to April. Subscription £5, visitors £2.

### SHROPSHIRE

Hon. Sec: Mr Les Jones, 26 Wharf Close, St Georges, Telford, TF2 9PX. Tel: 01952 619659. Meetings: Bayston Hill Memorial Hall, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0EW, 7.30pm on 1st Tuesday of month, September to November and February to May.

### SOMERSET

Hon. Sec: Richard Horswood, Freshfields, Fenny Bridges, Honiton, Devon, EX14 3BG. Tel: 01404 850868. E-mail: [SKRAH@androsace.demon.co.uk](mailto:SKRAH@androsace.demon.co.uk). Meetings: The Frank Bond Community Centre, 84 Mountway Road, Bishops Hull, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 5DS, 7.30pm on 4th Wednesday of month. Subscriptions: £6 single, £10 family, £1 visitors.

### SUFFOLK – IPSWICH

Hon. Sec: Mr J. J. R. Pratt, 11 Priory Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 7NE. Tel/Fax: 01394 286649. Email: [jemanpratt@btinternet.com](mailto:jemanpratt@btinternet.com).



## LIST OF AGS LOCAL GROUPS

Meetings: Oddfellows Hall, High Street, Ipswich, IP3 0QJ, 7.15pm on last Wednesday of month, September to June, excluding December.

### SURREY EAST

Hon. Sec: Mr David Stephens, Green Hollow, South Terrace, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 2AQ. Tel: 01306 886302. Meetings: Christ Church Hall, Christ Church Road, Stamford Green, Epsom, KT19 8NE (¾ mile from Epsom Station, car park next to the Church), 7.30pm on 1st Tuesday of month. Occasional garden visits and field trips. Subscription £8.

### WOKING & WEST SURREY

Hon. Sec: Mr James Lintott, 8 Liners Drive, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey, GU5 0EJ. Tel: 01483 894056. Email: james.lintott@btinternet.com. Meetings: Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford, Woking, Surrey, GU22 0NN, 7.30pm on 1st Thursday of month except June, July & August. Subscriptions: £10 single, £15 family, £2 visitors.

### SUSSEX WEST

Hon. Sec: Diann M. Berry, 5 Balmoral Close, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 7XQ. Tel: 01243 786254. Meetings: Donnington Parish Hall, Donnington, Chichester, 7.30pm on 2nd Monday of month, September to April. Subscriptions: £6 single, £11 family.

### WALES NORTH

Hon. Sec: Mrs Pam Boardman, Bryn Llwyd, Rhosgadfan, Caernarfon, LL54 7LB. Tel: 01286 831194. Meetings: Llandygai Village Hall on 2nd Wednesday of month. [Note: The Len Beer

Memorial Lecture in March is held at The Main Arts Lecture Theatre, College Road, Bangor]. Subscription £4, family £6.

### WALES SOUTH

Hon. Sec: Mrs R. Wallis, Llwyn Ifan, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8BP. Tel: 01267 275205. Meetings: Pencoed College, near Bridgend, 7pm usually 2nd or 3rd Wednesday or Friday of autumn and spring months. Phone for exact dates. Summer garden visits. Subscriptions: £6 single, £8 family, £1 visitors.

### WARWICKSHIRE

Hon. Sec: Mrs Jo Walker, 9 Bellamy Farm Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 3DH. Tel: 0121 744 3129. Meetings: Bishopton School, Drayton Avenue, Stratford-on-Avon, 7.30pm usually on 4th Tuesday of month, September to May.

### WILTSHIRE

Hon. Sec: Mr Grahame Fowkes, 14 Wells Close, Chippenham, SN14 0QD. Tel: 01249 654918. Email: fowkes810@btinternet.com. Meetings: Westbury Leigh Community Hall, on the main road through Westbury Leigh Village, 7.00 for 7.30pm on 2nd Friday of month, September to May. Subscriptions: £5 single, £8 family, plus £1 per meeting when there is a speaker.

### YORKSHIRE WEST

Hon. Sec: Miss Liz Barber, 68 Eden Close, Woodthorpe, York, YO24 2RD. Tel: 01904 704459. Meetings: St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Leeds 16, 2.30pm on 2nd Saturday of month, September to May. Subscription: £15 single, £2 visitors.

### SPECIAL OFFER

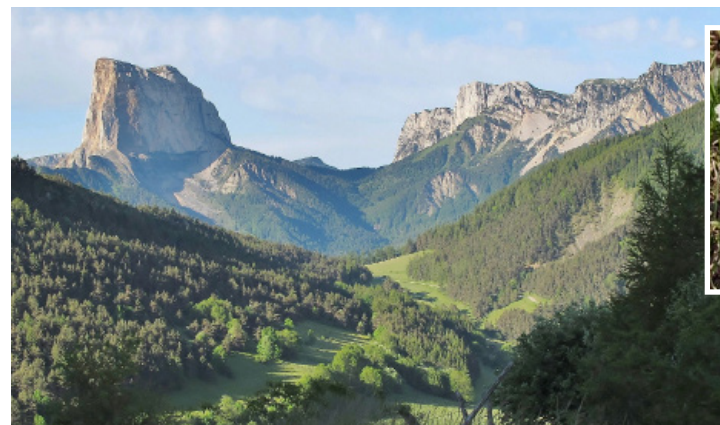
#### ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY BULLETINS

10 AGS Bulletins (pre 2010 issues) for £16 (post free).

One Special Offer per member.

Order from: AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Alpine Garden Society', or give a credit/debit card number with expiry date MM/YY and three-digit security code. If using a debit card please add the issue number (if on card) and start date.



Mont Aiguille at Vercors and, above, *Pulsatilla alpina* subsp. *cottianaea*

## FRENCH ALPS

June 16-26, 2014 (11 nights)

Leader: Christopher Grey-Wilson

Cost: in the region of £1,100 per person (excluding flights and car hire)

This tour is designed to cover the peak spring flowering period in an average year. It is a three-centre holiday to allow as many sites as possible to be visited.

The French Alps, a jewel in the mountainous regions of Europe, encompass deep valleys, high passes, bustling rivers and splendid mountain views. The flora is rich and varied, from lowland pastures and woods to high alpine meadows, screes and rocky peaks. The high passes are often snowbound into late spring and early summer, depending on the season. Expect to see drifts of pulsatillas, gentians and violas and a rich assortment of meadow plants,

as well as the discreet gems of the high passes. Once much visited by AGS members, this region has been rather neglected in recent years for locations further afield and yet it is as rich as any temperate mountain. The tour will have three locations spanning the Haute-Alpes and the Vanoise and there will be plenty of time to walk and explore. We will start in Vercors before moving on to Briançon and then Lanslebourg, allowing plenty of time to explore some of the famous passes of the region, such as the Col de Galibier and the Col d'Izoard. Plant highlights include *Gentiana ligustica*, *Pulsatilla alpina* subsp. *cottianaea*, *Ranunculus keupferi* and *Viola calcarata*, but these only serve to whet the appetite.

Accommodation will be in local hotels/auberge. Travelling will be by sharing self-drive hire cars. Flights are available to Lyon or Grenoble from several UK airports.

For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre  
Phone 01386 554790 or email [ags@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net)

The AGS tour to the Peloponnese in March and April 2014 is fully booked.  
The tour to North Wales in May has been cancelled.

## YUNNAN, CHINA

Around June 4-22, 2014  
(16 days in China)

Leader: Phillip Cribb

Cost: in the region of £4,400 per person, including flights

The south-western Chinese province of Yunnan is rich in plant life, but it is only since the 1980s that the favoured territories of the famous plant collectors have become accessible again to western enthusiasts. Visitors to Lijiang, Dali and Zhongdian can at long last marvel at the abundance of flowers, shrubs and trees that dazzled the early adventurers into these botanical paradises.

This tour will visit some of the richest areas of western and north-western Yunnan. The itinerary has been designed to provide plenty of time to see plants in their natural habitats and to explore some of the best preserved ancient cities.

From Kunming, we will drive west to Baoding and Tengchong, ancient cities that many of the early plant hunters visited. North-west from Tenchong the wooded hills near the Burmese border are rich in rare trees and shrubs and the home of many delightful herbaceous plants, notably arisaemas, pleiones and calanthes.

We will head south to the famous walled city of Dali, nestling beneath the flanks of the Cangshan range. The slopes above the city boast a rich variety of trees and shrubs. Highlights include rhododendrons, *Magnolia wilsonii* and *Paeonia lutea*. Cangshan is most famous for being the home of the golden pleione, that most prized of orchids.



*Arisaema candidissimum*

Jade Dragon Snow Mountain forms the backdrop to Lijiang and is one of the wonders of China. The precipitous limestone slopes are home to a wonderful diversity of plants including many species of rhododendrons, gentians, lilies, meconopsis, primulas and anemones. The golden daphne, whose fragrant mounds can be smelt before they are seen, is a speciality of the screes. In the pine and spruce forest on the flanks above the torrential streams can be found carpets of orchids.

Zhongdian's meadows are rich in candelabra primulas, irises and marsh marigolds. The slopes around the rim of its plateau abound in spectacular rhododendrons beneath which can be found rare slipper orchids, lilies, arisaemas, meconopsis and anemones. This tour will be an experience to savour for a lifetime.

For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre  
Phone 01386 554790 or email [ags@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net)

## AUTUMN IN THE PONTICS

September 11-22, 2014  
(approximate dates)

Leaders: Bob & Rannveig Wallis

Cost: In the region of £2,350 per person including London flights. Single supplement £300.

This ten-day tour to see the autumn flora of north-east Turkey starts and ends in Trabzon. The north side of the Pontic mountains are clothed in wonderful mixed forest, which is supported by the high rainfall in this area. The ridge is an area of grazed moorland with short grass and lots of alpine and bulbs, whereas the south side is much drier. The flora has characters of both the Caucasus and of the Anatolian plateau.

We will team up once more with our excellent guide, Alper Ertubey of Hike 'n' Sail, to take in all the best areas of these wonderful mountains. The tour is timed to see three very local *Crocus* in flower. It will start with the Zigana Pass which should be studded with *Crocus vallicola* and *Colchicum speciosum* at this time. There are rivulets of yellow *Crocus scharojanii* on the Soğanli Pass where it hybridises with the very abundant *C. vallicola* to produce all intergrades from the yellow, through Cornish cream to white. As we progress eastwards, the huge Ovitdagi Pass provides sheets of all three crocuses (the third is *C. kotschyanus* subsp. *suworowianus*) and their hybrids in the meadows. They grow here with nice



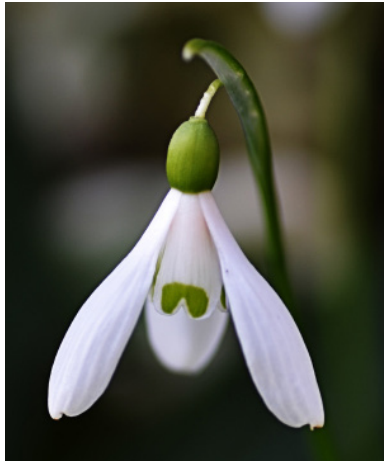
*Crocus kotschyanus*  
subsp. *suworowianus*

stands of *Gentiana gelida*. Our tour will take in the beautiful Kavron Yayla above Ayder where we can walk around the valley below the 4,000m Kaçkar Dag and/or back down to Ayder through carpets of white *Crocus* and take in the fabulous autumn colour of the trees. At the World Biosphere reserve of Çamili we hope to see *Crocus* and *Colchicum* as well as the late woodland flora of *Gentiana asclepiadea* and *Campanula lactiflora*. The mountain above the hill town of Artvin is the home of colonies of *Colchicum umbrosum* and *Gentiana septemfida*. We will cross the high Çam Pass to see the meadow flora and, once again, fabulous colonies of *Crocus kotschyanus* subsp. *suworowianus*.

The tour is limited to 18 participants and we will travel by small coach with minibuses for the rougher roads. Accommodation will be three-star or in the best available pensions.

For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre  
Phone 01386 554790 or email [ags@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net)





*Galanthus woronowii*, *Iris lazica* and, below, *Paeonia caucasica*

## GEORGIA & NORTH-EAST TURKEY

March 14-23, 2014

Leaders: Ian Green, Seda Soylu & Shamil Shetekauri

Cost: £1,995

The far north-eastern corner of Turkey and the adjacent parts of Georgia have a unique biome, the Euxine province, in essence a kind of temperate rainforest. Our trip concentrates on the very earliest spring bulbs, particularly *Galanthus* species. There are a number of snowdrops that are found only here. On the Georgian side we'll find *Galanthus krasnovii* with pale yellow *Paeonia wittmanniana* and pink *Paeonia caucasica*, all mixed with scillas and *Corydalis*. *Galanthus shaoricus* flowers in rich woodlands around Shaori Lake alongside *Helleborus abchasicus* and



*Erythronium sibiricum*. Clumps of *Galanthus rizehensis* bloom below silver-trunked oriental beech, *Primula megaseifolia* and cyclamens colour roadside banks and on high pastures is *Crocus aereus*. We'll explore mixed woodlands of fir and spruce, hornbeam and wingnut, where we'll find *Iris lazica*, some lovely forms of *Crocus biflorus* and, among rocks, *Galanthus woronowii*. Here we'll no doubt get involved in the debate over *Galanthus alpinus* and *Galanthus koenenianus*!

Call Greentours on 01298 83563, email [enquiries@greentours.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@greentours.co.uk) or visit our website at [www.greentours.co.uk](http://www.greentours.co.uk)



*Iris grossheimii*

## AZERBAIJAN & NAKHCHIVAN

April 30-May 13, 2014

Leaders: Ian Green & Seda Soylu

Cost: £3,295

Descending from the snowy High Caucasus, the impressive and beautiful landscapes of Azerbaijan pass through steppe-covered foothills down into the arid basin through which flows the Kura River. Southwards the land rises again to the mountains of Nakhchivan and the Talysh Mountains, straddling the border with Iran.

There are unusual forms of *Iris paradoxa* and of *Iris acutiloba* here, forms now given specific status as *Iris medwedewii* and *Iris helenae* respectively. There is dark-lined *Iris grossheimii* and even darker *Iris lycotis*. Two irises offer a different colour palate from the Turkish or Levantine species – *Iris schelkownikowii* and lovely *Iris camillae* in yellows, blues and



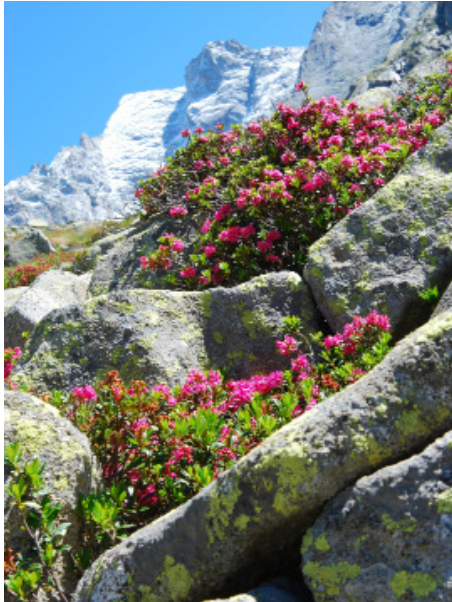
*Iris lycotis*

whites. These form hybrid swarms of bewildering variety in dry steppe around Lake Kazan-Gel, both mixing with the true *Iris iberica*.

*Galanthus caucasicus* flowers still on the high passes, while lower down are the diminutive *Iris atropatana* and *Tulipa schmidtii*. Add to this a plethora of bellevalias, fritillarias, muscaris, ornithogalums, gageas, a good scattering of orchids and a colourful steppe flora, and you have a very rich mix of wild flowers indeed.

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*Rhodothamnus chamaecistus*



*Physoplexis comosa*

## THE DOLOMITES

June 25-July 4, 2014

Leaders: Paul Cardy & Stefano Doglio

Cost: £1,795

Reckoned by many to be unsurpassed in Europe for their wealth of wild flowers, the Dolomites offer some of the finest mountain scenery anywhere in the world. The great pinnacles and buttresses that rise high above idyllic hay meadows and forests are truly spectacular.

At sunset, the many-hued cliffs of crystalline magnesium limestone – the dolomite rock from which the region takes its name – are a photographer's

dream, and during the day a botanist's heaven!

The flowers really are amazingly beautiful and diverse. Black vanilla orchid, globe orchid, bearded bellflower and dwarf alpenrose, *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus*, adorn fragrant meadows, while no less than a dozen species of *Gentian* decorate splendid alpine turf.

Cliffs are festooned with the pink *Potentilla nitida*, a variety of pretty saxifrages, androsaces and bellflowers, while wooded glades hold rampions, wolfsbane and orchids such as the lovely lady's slipper. In particular we will search out the enigmatic devil's claw, *Physoplexis comosa*, and the beautiful *Eritrichium nanum*, King of the Alps!

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## NORTH-WEST INDIA

June 26-July 9 (13), 2014

Leaders: Chris Gardner & Başak Gardner

Cost: £3,795 (£695 for the extension)

The Indian State of Himachal Pradesh, which rubs shoulders with the fabled flower-rich valleys of Kashmir and mysterious arid lands of Ladakh, contains a diverse selection of flora within a leech-free slice of the high Himalaya. It is replete with its own spectacular peaks topping 6,000m, including the 6,220m Indrasan, which rears up close to the bustling hill station of Manali.

Here there are slopes that host the elegant emerald spathes of *Arisaema jacquemontii*, the lovely *Roscoea alpina*, and higher passes thronging with alpenines now the snows have finally receded.

This tour will follow a circuit north via the Rohtang Pass, where we'll find the ravishing purple *Primula macrophylla* var. *moorcroftiana*, *Iris kemaonensis*, and tall *Fritillaria roylei*, while above Marhi are ledges festooned with sweet-scented *Primula reidii*, dwarf *Primula reptans*, choice and delicate *Paraquilegia anemonoides*, shimmering blue *Meconopsis aculeata* and the amazing woolly 'balls' of *Saussurea gossypiphora*, surely one of the finest high alpenines.

Close to Ladakh the 5,100m Bara-lacha La has stands of *Aquilegia fragrans* and rocky stream-sides with *Geranium regelii* and the lovely, woolly-leaved *Waldheimia tomentosa*. Nearby superb high passes have *Lilium oxypetalum*, gorgeous blue-flowered *Geranium wallichianum*,



*Meconopsis aculeata* and, below, *Saussurea gossypiphora* and *Androsace delavayi*



*Cortusa brotheri* and tall, golden-yellow *Pedicularis bicornuta*.

A tour extension will take a short trek onto the Nalgan Pass in search of the beautiful *Corydalis meifolia* var. *violacea*, *Saussurea simpsoniana*, *Primula stuartii* and many other choice high alpenines.

Call Greentours on 01298 83563, email [enquiries@greentours.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@greentours.co.uk) or visit our website at [www.greentours.co.uk](http://www.greentours.co.uk)