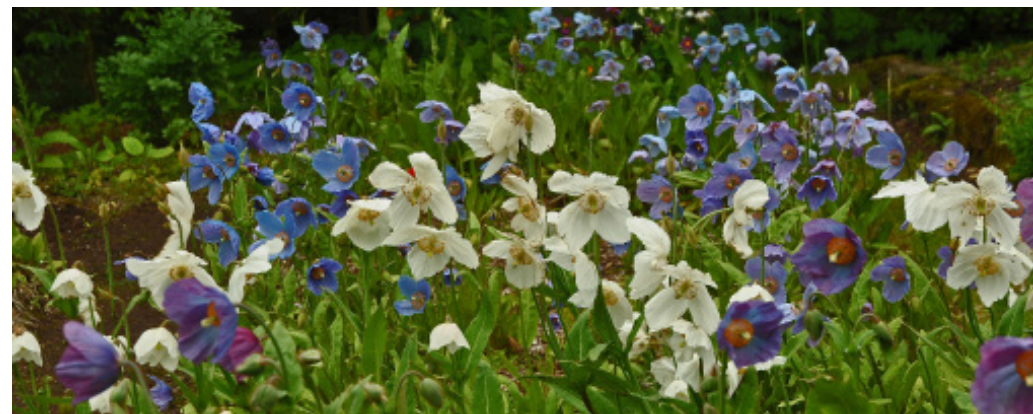


AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society



AGS links with Meconopsis Group for important new book

An authoritative new book, *Meconopsis for Gardeners*, will be published next year in a collaborative project between the Alpine Garden Society and the Scottish-based Meconopsis Group. It will be edited by Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson VMH, with contributions from members of The Meconopsis Group and other renowned growers and experts on the genus in Britain and abroad.

Meconopsis are among the most eye-catching and appealing of all alpine plants. Introduced originally from the wild in the early years of the last century from the Himalayas and Tibet, there is now a complex array of forms and hybrids in our gardens.

The Meconopsis Group was established in 1998 to study all the known forms with the ultimate aim

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Book Shop 12

Tours 21

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:

Single (UK and Ireland) £33*

Family (two at same address) £37*

Junior (under 18/student) £15

Overseas single US\$56 £35

Overseas family US\$62 £38

* £2 deduction for direct debit subscribers

AGS CENTRE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY HOURS

The AGS Centre will close on Wednesday, December 21, and will not reopen until Wednesday, January 4.

The AGS garden is open every day.

© Alpine Garden Society 2016

Send items for the March 2017 issue of AGS News to Jackie Cooper at the address above or email jackie@alpinegardensociety.net. The deadline is January 31, 2017.

NOTICEBOARD

Collaboration for Meconopsis book

From page 1

of identifying with certainty those previously named but also to give names to others deemed of excellent constitution, garden-worthiness and, perhaps most importantly, distinctiveness.

This has led to more than 60 being named and ratified by The Meconopsis Group. The Group has now turned its attention to the rest of the genus – many exciting plants ranging from small high-altitude alpinines to the large and impressive so-called monocarpic evergreen species, whose inflorescences can reach 2.5 metres tall and carry as many as 300 flowers. Although the majority have blue flowers, yellow and red are common, as are purple, lavender and white.

This wide-ranging book will include the history of the genus in cultivation, classification for gardeners, genetics, cultivation and propagation, pests and diseases, maintaining a collection, species and cultivars in cultivation, wild and cultivated hybrids, the big perennial blue poppies and conservation.

It is intended that the book will be launched by the AGS and The Meconopsis Group at the Chelsea Flower Show next year. Details of how to obtain a copy will be published in the March issue of AGS News.

NEW FOR 2017!

An AGS **WALL CALENDAR** featuring beautiful images taken by some of the Society's best photographers.

The calendar is A3 size when opened up and the date panels include enough space for you to write down appointments and AGS events!

The calendars cost just £5.50 each, or two for £10, with free postage in the UK. Postage is £2.50 for the rest of Europe and £3.50 for the rest of the world.

Stock is limited so order now to avoid disappointment.



ALSO AVAILABLE

Our popular **DESK CALENDAR** features 12 superb images of plants and gardens, different from those in the calendar above.

The calendar comes in a CD case and costs just £4.50, or buy two for £8. Postage rates as above.



To order call the AGS Centre on 01386 554790

NOTICEBOARD

AGS Snowdrop Day **BOOK NOW**

Saturday, February 4, 2017

Admission is by advance ticket only

At Ford Hall, Lilleshall National Conferencing Centre, Newport,
Shropshire TF10 9AT. Ample parking.

Tickets for lectures, plant sales, tea and coffee, two-course lunch:
AGS members £35, non-members £45

Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

- 8.45 Registration, plant sales & coffee
- 10.30 Welcome by David Haselgrove, AGS President
- 10.35 John Grimshaw (title of lecture to be confirmed)
- 11.30 Autumn Snowdrops – Joe Sharman
- 12.30 Plant sales and lunch
- 14.00 Snowdrops in the Wild – Vojtěch Holubec
- 14.55 Snowdrop question & answer session with the panel of speakers
- 16.00 Close of session and coffee
- 16.30 Event closes

Seed Envelopes – NEW LOW PRICE

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

Small 73 x 41mm self-adhesive: 50 for £2.50 inc. UK postage

Large 98 x 64mm ungummed: 50 for £3.50 inc. UK postage

Special price for larger orders (please enquire)

Order from the AGS Centre (details on page 2)



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TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE SOCIETY'S CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR 2015-2016

The Consolidated Accounts combine the income and expenditure accounts of 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 Trustee Board at its meeting on 22 October. It will be sent to the Charity Commission in fulfilment of the Society's statutory obligations. A summarised version only, 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 a particular feature needs to be flagged up. If there are small differences between numbers in these accounts and those published last year, these arise either because of the late submission of information or 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 sixth report to the Society as Honorary Treasurer. My thanks are due, as always, to Christine McGregor and her staff at the AGS Centre who have supported and helped me over the year.

1. Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2016

1.1 Income

The Society's income plus that of its subsidiary companies in 2015-2016 was £668,623, which includes subscriptions, gifts, investment income and the trading income of the subsidiary companies. Neglecting that of the companies (1.5 below), the Society's income was £328,653, to which must be added the two companies' covenanted trading profits of £32,387.

1.2 Subscriptions

This year has seen a fall in income from subscriptions: £142,867 against £148,553 in 2014-2015. Much of the fall followed a decision by the Danish Group, which no longer requires its members also to be members of the AGS.

1.3 Gifts, donations and legacies

As always the Society is most 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 were £28,083; last year's were substantially higher, largely because the Society received a legacy of £40,000.

1.4 Investment income

Income from investments was virtually the

same as in 2014-2015: £55,584 against £56,887. The net value of the Society's investments rose by £239,493 – see 2.2.

1.5 Income of the two trading companies and funds covenanted to the Society

Combined trading income for AGS Expeditions Ltd and AGS Publications Ltd was £339,970. Expenditure at £296,831 resulted in their combined profit of £43,139. Covenants to the Society were £32,387.

1.6 Other activities for generating funds

£102,347 (well up on last year) was raised by a variety of other activities. These included: seed sales (£13,722), shows (£43,413), advertising (£10,054), conference (£13,113), bulb and snowdrop days (£9,629) and the Chelsea stand (£6,727).

2. Notes on resources expended

At £713,496, the total resources expended in 2015-2016 were considerably more than in 2014-2015. For the Society itself, not including resources expended by the subsidiary companies, expenditure was £416,665.

The main items of expenditure were direct charitable activities (£148,202), staff costs (£126,974) and specific costs incurred by the journal, shows, conferences and the Seed Exchange.

2.1 Net (outgoing/incoming) resources for the year

A deficit of £44,873 has been recorded for this year compared with that for last year of £17,158.

2.2 Performance of the Society's investments

The market value of the Society's investments has increased by £245,825 over the year, from £2,209,457 to £2,455,282.

2.3 The Society's assets at 31 August 2016

The value of the Society's assets at the end of the year has increased overall by £194,620 and now stands at a total of £2,916,834.

3. Some notes on the Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2016

This shows the make-up of the Society's current assets and liabilities. Tangible fixed assets (£278,244) 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 £2,455,282.

The net current assets, amounting to £183,308 compared with £229,505 last year, include: stocks (mostly books), debts outstanding in the Society's favour of £105,161, and cash, either in hand or banked, of £126,040.

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 donors.

4. Commentary

This year's accounts show a deficit of almost £45,000, larger than that of last year when the Society received a substantial legacy. Income from membership subscriptions amounted to only 39 per cent of the Society's income and offsets only around 34 per cent of its expenditure.

5. Conclusion

Nothing has changed during 2015-2016 to vary last year's and earlier years' conclusions. The Society is in a relatively healthy financial position. This is in large part because it holds substantial investments that tend to increase in value year on year. Those resources cushion the persistent losses. But they also camouflage the fact that the AGS cannot run on its membership subscriptions alone. If the high quality and scale of services and activities enjoyed by members is to be maintained and the AGS is to fulfil its obligations as a charity, there is no long-term solution without a vigorous and enduring commitment by the present membership to the recruitment of new members.

John Galloway
Honorary Treasurer
November 2016

Independent auditor's statement to the Trustees of the Alpine Garden Society

Opinion

The Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 August 2016 is derived from the audited financial statements of the Alpine Garden Society for the year ended 31 August 2016. In our opinion, the accompanying Summarised Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities and Summarised Consolidated Balance Sheet are consistent, in all material respects, with those audited financial statements.

Summary financial statements

The summarised financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by FRS102, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", the statement of Recommended Practice for Charities applying FRS102; the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015. Reading the Statement of Financial Activities, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Alpine Garden Society. The summarised financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred

subsequent to the date of our report on the audited statements.

The audited financial statements and our report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 22 October 2016.

Trustees' responsibility for the summarised financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the summarised financial statements extracted from the audited financial statements in accordance with the wish to present short form financial information.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summarised financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with the International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised) Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Jonathan Marston BA FCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Kendall Wadley LLP

27 Sansome Walk
Worcester
WR1 1NU
October 22, 2016

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £
INCOME FROM:				
Voluntary income				
Subscriptions	142,867		142,867	148,553
Other voluntary income	24,083	4,000	28,083	72,499
Activities for generating funds				
Advertising income – The Alpine Gardener	10,054		10,054	8,720
Seed distributions	13,722		13,722	16,473
Binders, badges and shirts	964		964	4,736
Conferences and events	22,742		22,742	18,175
Chelsea stand	6,727		6,727	1,396
Show donations	43,413		43,413	45,213
Fritillaria Group	4,725		4,725	3,117
Bad debts	(228)		(228)	(225)
Trading income from subsidiary companies	339,970		339,970	164,146
Investment income	52,797	2,787	55,584	56,887
Total income	661,836	661,836	668,623	539,690
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Cost of generating funds				
Staff costs	123,717	3,257	126,974	122,455
Journals	65,570		65,570	62,201
Seed distribution costs	9,722		9,722	7,949
Show expenditure	46,283		46,283	45,919
Conference expenditure	18,819		18,819	18,450
Chelsea stand	12,546		12,546	10,286
Fritillaria Group	2,031		2,031	2,723
Major projects	28,246		28,246	
Other direct costs	43,591	10,750	54,341	52,269
Other support costs	45,369		45,369	45,772
Expenditure of subsidiary companies	296,831		296,831	148,354
Governance costs	6,764		6,764	6,154
Total resources expended	699,489	14,007	713,496	522,532
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before investment gains	(37,653)	(7,220)	(44,873)	17,158
Net gains on investments	225,319	14,174	239,493	47,407
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	187,666	6,954	194,620	64,565
Other recognised gains and losses				
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets				(9,860)
Net movement in funds	187,666	6,954	194,620	54,705
Fund balances at 1 September 2015	2,541,213	181,001	2,722,214	2,667,509
Fund balances at 31 August 2016	2,728,879	187,955	2,916,834	2,722,214

Summarised consolidated balance sheet as at 31 August 2016

	2016 £	2015 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	278,244	283,252
Investments	2,455,282	2,209,457
	<u>2,733,526</u>	<u>2,492,709</u>
Current Assets		
Stocks	58,874	58,066
Debtors	105,161	95,164
Cash at bank and in hand	126,040	137,398
	<u>290,075</u>	<u>290,628</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(106,767)</u>	<u>(61,123)</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>183,308</u>	<u>229,505</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	<u>2,916,834</u>	<u>2,722,214</u>
Income Funds		
Restricted Funds		
E F Hendry Bequest Fund	177,078	169,575
Wilscher Fund	8,766	9,315
David Harding Foundation	2,111	2,111
	<u>187,955</u>	<u>181,001</u>
Unrestricted Funds		
Designated Funds	351,809	321,163
Other charitable funds		
General Funds	2,377,070	2,220,050
	<u>2,728,879</u>	<u>2,541,213</u>
	<u>2,916,834</u>	<u>2,722,214</u>

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 22 October 2016. 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)

AGS TRAVEL AWARDS AND GRANTS

Applications for 2017

The Alpine Garden Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually. Applications for these awards must be received by January 31, 2017, 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 2017

In 1990 the Merlin Trust was founded by the late Valerie Finnis VMH to provide travel grants for young horticulturists. In 2017 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: Sarah Carlton, Secretary of The Merlin Trust, RHS Wisley, Wisley Lane, Wisley, Woking GU23 6QB. Email: info@merlin-trust.org.uk



News from the AGS Trustee Board

Accounts: One of the main discussion items at the Trustees' October meeting is always the Society's annual accounts and those of the two limited companies, AGS Expeditions Ltd and AGS Publications Ltd. A summarised version of the accounts can be found in this issue of AGS News.

Local Group Co-ordinators: The Board has appointed three Local Group Co-ordinators who will each take responsibility for liaising with local groups. The aim is to help improve the flow of communications between groups and the parent Society, as well as enabling the sharing of best practice among groups. It is also hoped to encourage closer bonds between neighbouring groups. Each co-ordinator will contact the groups allocated to them to offer help and will also be prepared to visit groups if it is felt to be useful. The co-ordinators and the groups allocated to them are as follows:

Ben & Paddy Parmee: Cornwall, Devon & Exeter, Devon South, Dorset, Hampshire, Mid Kent, London Central, Kent Tunbridge Wells, Sussex West, Kent West, London West, Somerset, Surrey East, Woking, Wiltshire and Kent East.

David Charlton: Derby, Leicester, Norfolk, Nottingham, Northampton, Chesterfield, Birmingham, Mid Anglia, Oxford, Warwickshire, Bedfordshire, Chilterns, Essex, Hertfordshire and Epping.

John Dower: Cheshire East, Lancashire East, Wales North, Wales South, Cheshire West, Cotswold and Malvern, Lancashire South, Shropshire, Lancashire North, Cork, Dublin, Ulster, North East England, Cleveland, Yorkshire West and Bristol.

Alpine Roots: The *Alpine Roots* newsletter that is being compiled by Mala Janes has been well received by local groups. This is an independent project put forward by Mala and she is to be congratulated for her hard work and achievement in getting this idea up and running.

Conservation Project: Another main topic of discussion at the Board meetings has been the Society's joint conservation project with the RSPB. A full report on this appears in the December issue of *The Alpine Gardener* that accompanies this newsletter.

Online Plant Encyclopaedia: A progress report on further developments was presented to the Board. The *Primula* section has recently been updated by John Richards and updates on other genera are in the pipeline.

Joint Rock: The Board received the annual report from the chair of the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee, together with details of changes in its membership. Suggestions for new plant trials were also discussed and news on these will be publicised, pending decisions by the RHS.

PRE-PUBLICATION ORDER FORM

(or order on the AGS website)

These books are due to be published early in 2017

Membership number: _____

Order to be sent to (block capitals please): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post/Zip code: _____

Address to which your credit/debit card statement is sent, if different: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post/Zip code: _____

Please supply _____ copies of *The Garden Photography Workshop*

Cover price: £17.99 AGS pre-publication price: just £13.50

Postage and packing: UK £4.50 EU airmail £8

Rest of the world surface £10 (airmail add £10 to surface price)

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to AGS Publications Limited or please charge my debit/credit card with £ _____ as instructed below.

Please supply _____ copies of *Essential Pruning Techniques*

Cover price: £35 AGS pre-publication price: just £26

Postage and packing: UK £4.50 EU airmail £8

Rest of the world surface £10 (airmail add £10 to surface price)

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to AGS Publications Limited or please charge my debit/credit card with £ _____ as instructed below.

Visa/MasterCard/American Express details (no extra charge for paying by credit card)

Name on card: _____

Card number: Security code:

Start date: _____ Expiry date: _____ Issue No. (some debit cards): _____

Send this form to AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP, UK.

PRE-PUBLICATION OFFERS: SAVE 25%

The Garden Photography Workshop by Andrea Jones (Timber Press)

One of the most rewarding aspects of gardening is sharing its beauty in person with those who visit and virtually with those who see it on a screen. But capturing a garden's true essence is difficult. In *The Garden Photography Workshop*, internationally known garden photographer Andrea Jones shares the trade secrets that make her images sing.

Profiles of real gardens from around the world exemplify the most common problems a photographer can face, such as harsh light, wet weather and cramped spaces, along with techniques for addressing specific concerns.

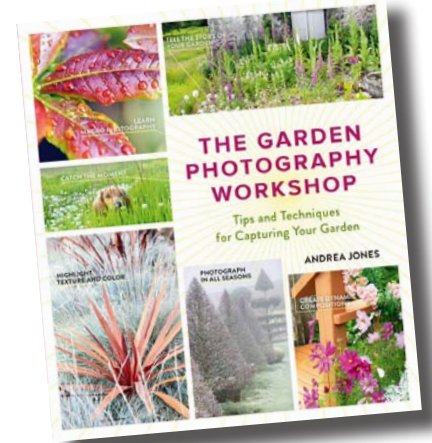
Please use the order form opposite.

Essential Pruning Techniques: Trees, Shrubs, Conifers by Tony Kirkham (Timber Press)

Pruning is necessary to regulate and control growth and to encourage the flowering and fruiting of trees and shrubs. To prune well, gardeners must have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the attributes, growth and flowering habits of the plants under their care and of the effects likely to be produced by making the cut.

All this and more is covered by Tony Kirkham, who shares decades of knowledge and expertise in this fully illustrated, comprehensive guide.

It offers up-to-date pruning advice for 379 woody plants, step-by-step instruction on the latest techniques



This book must be ordered separately from other titles on our list.

Cover price £17.99

Offer price £13.50







Order code 925



and practices, and specific advice for addressing climate challenges. Use the order form opposite.

Cover price £35 Offer price £26

Order code 926

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
	 Denotes AGS publications	
	GENERAL ALPINE TITLES	
032	 Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good	£6.50
772	Alpines from Mountain to Garden by Richard Wilford	£23.00
028	Alpine Plants: Ecology for Gardeners by John Good & David Millward	£12.00
292	Alpines: An Essential Guide by Michael Mitchell	£15.00
857	 Growing Alpines in Containers by John Good	£5.00
033	 Portraits of Alpine Plants by Robert Rolfe **LOW PRICE**	£8.00
026	 The Crevice Garden and its Plants by Zdenek Zvolanek	£6.50
921	Rock Gardening by Joseph Tychonievich **NEW**	£20.00
	SPECIFIC GENERA	
890	The Plant Lover's Guide to Asters by Paul and Helen Picton	£14.50
277	Dwarf Campanulas by Graham Nicholls	£12.00
374	Epimedium: The Genus by William T Stearn	£36.50
891	The Plant Lover's Guide to Epimediums by Sally Gregson	£14.50
271	Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide by C. Colston Burrell and J. Knott Tyler	£20.00
248	Heucheras & Heucherellas by Dan Heims & Grahame Ware	£16.00
916	Kniphofia: The Complete Guide by Christopher Whitehouse **NEW**	£32.00
881	Meconopsis by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£54.50
283	Peony Rockii and Gansu Mudan by W McLewin and D Chen **LOW PRICE**	£20.00
799	Phlox: A Natural History and Gardener's Guide by James H Locklear	£28.00
282	The Genus Roscoea by Jill Cowley	£33.50
913	The Plant Lover's Guide to Clematis by Linda Beutler	£14.50
887	The Plant Lover's Guide to Dahlias by Andy Vernon	£14.50
914	The Plant Lover's Guide to Hardy Geraniums by Robin Parer	£14.50
915	The Plant Lover's Guide to Primulas by J Mitchell and L Lawson	£14.50
911	The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias by John Whittlesey	£14.50
700	Saxifrages: A Definitive Guide by Malcolm McGregor	£28.00
021	 Silver Saxifrages by Beryl Bland **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
	BULBOUS PLANTS	
843	A Gardener's Guide to Bulbs by Christine Skelmersdale	£20.00
866	A Gardener's Guide to Snowdrops by Freda Cox	£28.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
599	Autumn Bulbs by Rod Leeds	£8.00
904	 Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean by Oron Peri	£30.00
027	 Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran by Peter Sheasby	£20.00
034	 Bulbs of Greece (A Field Guide to the) by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£12.00
280	Buried Treasures by Janis Ruksans	£24.00
653	Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies & their Relatives **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
798	Crocuses: A Complete Guide to the Genus by Janis Ruksans	£24.00
268	 Cyclamen by Christopher Grey-Wilson (booklet) **LOW PRICE**	£2.50
864	Daffodil by Noel Kingsbury **LOW PRICE**	£9.00
852	Genus Cyclamen edited by Brian Mathew	£72.00
	Special postage rates: UK £13.50; EU £16; rest of the world £19 (airmail £31)	
317	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Bulbs by Graham Duncan	£15.50
240	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Nerines by Graham Duncan	£5.00
880	The Genus Erythronium by Chris Clennett	£40.00
882	The Plant Lover's Guide to Snowdrops by Naomi Slade	£14.50
860	Growing Garden Bulbs by Richard Wilford	£5.50
859	The Genus Tulipa by Diana Everett	£54.50
266	Tulips (Species & Hybrids for the Gardener) by Richard Wilford **LOW PRICE**	£6.00
892	The Plant Lover's Guide to Tulips by Richard Wilford **LOW PRICE**	£10.50
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The Garden at Brandy Mount by Michael Baron

Tucked away in rural Hampshire is a garden of captivating beauty and a fine horticultural pedigree. Michael Baron, its owner and one of the AGS's longest-serving members, developed Brandy Mount over several decades with his late wife, Caryl.

In this new book, to be published in January by the AGS, Michael takes us on a tour of Brandy Mount to uncover its history, its many secrets and delights. He is a skilled plantsman and has created year-round interest in his garden, especially in spring with an abundance of alpines and bulbous plants. His collection of snowdrops is one of the finest in the UK. There are also many perennials, shrubs, roses, trees and climbers. Michael shares with us his experiences of growing such a wide range of plants and his recollections of meetings with fellow enthusiasts.

Cover price £32 AGS price £25.50 Order code 920



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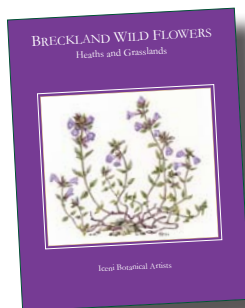
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NEW BOOK

Breckland Wild Flowers: Heaths and Grasslands, illustrated by the Icenii Artists

The book is a celebration of the East Anglian Brecks, a very special area in Britain with a unique flora. The Icenii Botanical Artists have produced 45 lovely watercolour plates showing a range of Breckland flowers including its specialities. It will be of interest to all those keen on the British flora and botanical art. The main text is by Christopher Grey-Wilson. There is an introduction by James Parry, chairman of The Breckland Society.



Cover price £15 **AGS price £12.50** Order code 924

SPECIAL OFFER FOR AGS MEMBERS

20% OFF NEW ALPINE FRAME FROM ACCESS

Access Garden Products are offering a special discount to AGS members on their new alpine frame.

Measuring 4ft x 4ft (1.21m x 1.21m) and 1ft 8in (51cm) in height, the frame provides plenty of room under the glass, but the absence of side glass ensures



there is a free flow of air at all times. The four sheets of glass in the top slide for easy access and can be removed if necessary.

For very exposed areas, there is an optional end glass kit, which provides glass at both ends but still leaves the sides open.

The framework is manufactured from architectural aluminium, which comes with a 25-year guarantee, and the glazing is toughened safety glass.

The cost of the alpine frame is normally £159 plus £19 delivery, but AGS members can purchase it for just £127 plus delivery. A pack of glass for the two ends is an additional £25.

Please call **0800 298 6284** to order. Frame order code: FF1. End glass pack: GT-AC. Offer code: AGS1016. Offer valid until December 31, 2016.

Access Garden Products, Crick, Northampton, NN6 7XS
www.garden-products.co.uk sales@garden-products.co.uk



CRETE

Around April 7-20, 2017

Leader: Christopher Bailes

Cost: To be confirmed

This will be a three-centre tour: Chania; Zaros on the south side of Mt. Idi; and Agios Nikolaos.

PROPOSED ITINERARY

Day 1 – Arrive Chania.

Day 2 – Explore the Akrotiri Peninsula; lowland Cretan flora.

Day 3 – Omalos Plain and surrounding mountains; tulips (*Tulipa bakeri*) and crocuses plus more besides.

Day 4 – The Imbros Gorge; excellent cliff plants, including a number of endemic species (e.g. *Origanum dictamnus*).

Day 5 – Chania to Zaros, plus walk up the Zaros Gorge (Mt. Idi).

Day 6 – Orchids and other flowers around Agia Triada, south of Zaros.

Day 7 – The flora around Prina, west of Zaros, noted for its wealth of terrestrial orchids.

Day 8 – Travel down to the south coast; coastal flora.

Day 9 – Zaros to Agios Nikolaos or preferably nearby.

Day 10 – Gournia and surroundings; particularly good for *Ranunculus asiaticus* forms, *Gladioli* and others.

Day 11 – Lasithi Plateau, north side; much to explore.

Day 12 – Lasithi Plateau, south side.

Day 13 – Homeward bound.

The AGS tour to Chile in December is fully booked

COMING UP DECEMBER 2017: PATAGONIA led by MARTIN SHEADER and AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA led by MARK HANGER

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018: WESTERN CAPE led by CALLAN COHEN

For further information please contact the AGS Centre.
 Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net

BHUTAN

June 2017

Leader: Martin Walsh

Cost: To be confirmed

This, the first AGS expedition to central Bhutan, will offer participants a unique opportunity to explore an area with one of the richest floras in the Himalaya.

The alpine regions in central Bhutan have not been explored to any great extent since the days of Ludlow and Sherriff. We will be very much following in their footsteps throughout most of this trip.

This exciting trek, which is the first of its kind, will take us close to the south-east face of Gangkhar Puensum, the highest unclimbed mountain in the world.

The trip will start with acclimatisation in western Bhutan, where we will travel by bus to botanise the botanically rich Chele La, a 3,780m high pass west of Paro. We will then spend two days travelling to Punakha in central Bhutan in order to begin the trek.

The trek will start at Dur in the Bumthang district, which is relatively low at just under 2,700m. During the first few days we will trek through near pristine Himalayan forests that are home to many of the classic woodland plants from this region including cardiocrinums, arisaemas, maianthemums, primulas, orchids, ferns, rhododendrons and numerous spectacular trees as well as shrubs.

Over the course of the following few days we will travel further north crossing



Lilium sherriffiae

several passes en route including the Jule La and the Gokthong La. A wealth of desirable alpine plants are to be found growing on these passes including *Meconopsis bella*, *Primula umbratilis*, *Anemone rupicola* as well as the supreme Himalayan giant rhubarb, *Rheum nobile*. The alpine meadows in this region are also rich in species including primulas, pedicularis, anemones, asters and so on. One of the expected highlights of the trip will be a visit to one of the few known localities of one of the rarest Himalayan lilies, *Lilium sherriffiae*.

Once we reach the hot springs at Dur Tsachu we will then head north-east, crossing two further passes, Chachan



Cypripedium tibeticum

La and the Tole La – an area which has not been explored since George Sherriff botanised here in 1949. After spending several days exploring the various alpine habitats we will once again descend into the forest zone.

Once we reach Tsampa, we will head north to Gangkhar Puensum Base Camp and where, weather permitting, we should have spectacular views. After spending some time here we will then head south to Khakthang, the end point of our trek.

As parts of this trip are pioneering in nature, a fair degree of fitness will be required. However, it has been carefully planned so that we walk on average less than 10km per day for most of the trip.



ROMANIA

July/August 2017

Leader: Razvan Chisu

Cost: To be confirmed

Day 1 – Fly to Cluj aiming to arrive at our hotel in early afternoon. Afternoon visit to Cluj-Napoca Botanical Garden (14 hectares, greenhouses, largest herbarium in Romania of over 650,000 sheets, some 300 years old).

Days 2 & 3 – Drive to Turda Salt Mines, a recently redeveloped area that is now a very popular tourist attraction (Salina Turda was ranked by Business Insider as the most beautiful underground place in the world, has an underground boating lake and is 112m deep). Botanising on limestone cliffs in Remetea.

Days 4, 5 & 6 – Drive to Transfăgărășan and botanise on both sides of the Carpathians.

Days 7, 8 & 9 – Drive to Bușteni. Take cable car and botanise around Bucegi plateau at over 2,000m. Walks around Ialomicioara with day trips to Bolboci lake and Zănoagei gorge.

Day 10 – Drive to Bucharest and fly back to UK.

For further information on this tour please contact the AGS Centre.
Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net

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Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net



Galanthus krasnovii is just one of many snowdrops that will be seen on this tour

NORTH-EAST TURKEY & GEORGIA

March 7-14, 2017

Leaders: Andy Byfield & Oron Peri

Cost: £1,750

The far north-eastern corner of Turkey and the adjacent parts of Georgia have a unique biome, the Euxine region. In essence a kind of temperate rainforest, this has resulted in a distinctive flora that includes a large number of species found nowhere else in the world.

Our trip concentrates on the very earliest spring bulbs, particularly *Galanthus* species, a number of which are found only here. On the Georgian side we'll find *Galanthus krasnovii* and pink *Paeonia caucasica*, all mixed with scillas and *Corydalis*. *Galanthus schaoricus*

flowers in rich woodlands around Shaori lake alongside *Helleborus abchasicus* and a spectacular display of *Erythronium sibiricum*.

On the Turkish side, the Oriental beech forests are a delight at this season as they'll have the very first hints of green appearing, their silver trunks set against the orange leaf-litter where clumps of *Galanthus rizehensis* bloom. *Primula megaseifolia* and *Cyclamen* shower mossy banks with their blooms. We'll explore mixed woodlands of fir and spruce, hornbeam and wingnut where *Paris incompleta*, a host of pretty violas and the elegant pipes of *Aristolochia* are already in bloom. Here we'll find *Iris lazica* and, among rocks, flowers *Galanthus woronowii*. We'll look for *Crocus aereus* and we'll no doubt get involved in the debate over *Galanthus alpinus* and *Galanthus koenianus*!

Call Greentours on 01298 83563, email enquiries@greentours.co.uk or visit the website at www.greentours.co.uk

TAJIKISTAN & UZBEKISTAN

April 7-18, 2017 (extension to April 20)

Leaders: Oron Peri & Andy Byfield

Cost: £3,695

What a fantastic way to start a holiday – five million *Iris bucharica* stretching for miles in dense drifts of yellow blooms along the Karatag Valley. Eight fantastic Juno irises and eight tulips are the cream of an amazing array of bulbous species that cover the spectacular mountains and steppes of Tajikistan and nearby parts of Uzbekistan.

Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe, is surrounded by flowery mountainsides. Hillsides are covered in pink-centred white *Anemone tshernjaewii* and scarlet *Anemone bucharica*. There's white and yellow *Iris vicaria* and pale lilac *Fritillaria bucharica*, *Scilla puschkinoides* and extra-large flowered *Corydalis popovii*, with long slender pink spurs and purple-black outer perianths.

On the Ansob Pass we'll find *Tulipa praestans* while dense carpets of golden yellow *Crocus korolkowii* produce bands of gold stretching from the road into spectacular high snowy mountains.

Tulipa montana and *Tulipa micheliana* join elegant *Corydalis maracandica* and a lovely *Corydalis* species with flowers an extraordinary mix of cherry-red, gold and pink as we move into Uzbekistan.

Famous Chimgan has *Corydalis darwasica*, *Tulipa tshimganica*, *Tulipa kaufmanniana* and *Fritillaria sewerzowii*, and nearby mountains are home to *Iris*



Corydalis sp.

tubergeniana, abundant *Gymnospermium albertii* and pretty pink *Fritillaria stenanthera*.

Pale lilac *Iris magnifica* is a fantastic sight among the large granite boulders of the Amankutan Pass. Here little striped *Colchicum kesselringii* will hardly get a look-in as we admire the huge glossy goblets of *Tulipa fosterana*, dark pink *Primula fedtschenkoi* and the fine purple, blue and yellow *Iris warleyensis*.

We'll have a full day among the incomparable blue-tiled mosques and palaces of magical Samarkand and an extension to enjoy Bukhara's elegant Islamic architecture too.

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BIG SNOW MOUNTAIN TO THE BALANG SHAN

May 12-30, 2017

Leader: Chris Gardner

Cost: £5,325

These Chinese mountains are bejewelled with so many choice and coveted flowers including, of course, several species of *Meconopsis*, these in blue, yellow, red and even (just about) black!

Ernest Wilson scoured western Sichuan for exciting flora finding plant after fine plant including the red poppywort. However, it was Wilson's rival, Frank Kingdon Ward, who first found the mysterious black *Primula*, originally far to the west, but now rediscovered in Sichuan and we'll see this extraordinary flower alongside the inflated pouches of *Cypripedium calceolus*. Here also is electric-blue *Corydalis curviflora*, fantastic *Corydalis pachycentra* and pale blue *Paraquilegia microphylla*.

We'll visit lamaseries and enjoy the different styles of houses that decorate the pastoral landscapes coloured by anemones and more than 60 species of many-hued *Pedicularis*. Around Tengchong we'll visit one of the favoured haunts of that most determined of plant-hunters, George Forrest, where he collected many species of rhododendrons, notably *Rhododendron glischrum* with huge trusses of pink flowers and *Rhododendron sinogrande* beset with pale cream flowers and huge paddle-shaped leaves.



Meconopsis integrifolia

In the Cangshan we'll find the scarlet *Rhododendron neriiflorum*, big-leaved *Rhododendron lacteum* and showy white *Rhododendron pachypodum*. Tucked in among dwarf rhododendrons are two charming lilies, *souliei* and *lophophorum*, and light woodlands are full of the pink saucers of *Nomocharis pardanthina*.

We'll see at least six species of slipper orchid, among them huge colonies of big maroon-pouched *Cypripedium tibeticum*. Other highlights will include 30 species of *Primula*, golden mats of *Androsace bisulca*, some fine pleiones, vivid orange *Primula cockburniana*, an array of cobra lilies, *Paeonia veitchii*, asarums, *Iris chrysographes* and drifts of deep pink *Incarvillea mairei*.

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Ophrys drumana and *Cypripedium calceolus*



THE VERCORS

May 26-June 2, 2017

Leaders: Stefano Doglio & Paul Green

Cost: £1,595

A panorama of the snow-capped Alps forms a splendid backdrop to the Vercors, an entrancing mosaic of subalpine meadows, karst, gorges and mountain forests.

This is one of Western Europe's foremost wilderness areas – a limestone masterpiece whose origin lies far back in coral reefs that flourished in the Cretaceous period. We are offering two tours to this remarkable region – both set amid some of France's most beautiful scenery and both offering a wonderful range of fauna and flora.

May finds us among meadows full of colourful finery with massed displays of elder-flowered, lady and military orchids accompanied by cowslips, oxlips, wild tulips and pasque flowers. We'll encounter pretty citril finches and

jaunty crested tits, while everywhere the abundance of birds of prey is notable with golden eagle, short-toed eagle and black kites.

On this early tour we'll encounter two very special orchids, the renowned lady's slipper and the endemic bee orchid *Ophrys drumana*. The Vercors is extremely rich in orchids with over 60 species known and our June tour will focus on some of the later-flowering species such as globe and vanilla orchids as well as offering a chance to see the capricious ghost orchid. In May many blue butterflies will already be on the wing but later, in June, the butterflies really come into their own. Both purple and lesser purple emperor frequent tranquil wooded valleys and twin-spot and niobe will be among a host of fritillaries. Idyllic Vercors is home to some of the finest flowers and butterflies in Europe and is in an area of great natural beauty encapsulating the very best of the French countryside. So good you could go twice!

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