

AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

Members enjoy autumn conference

The two-day AGS conference organised alongside the Society's annual general meeting in November was another great success.

Members enjoyed the excellent facilities at the riverside Holiday Inn in the centre of Stratford-upon-Avon.

The theme of the conference, 'Reaching the Heights', was reflected in the superb lectures, which included Bob and Rannveig Wallis on their extensive travels in Turkey, Christopher Grey-Wilson recounting his adventures in Nepal, Robert Rolfe on cushion plants, Ireland's Martin Walsh intrepidly following in the footsteps of Frank Ludlow and George Sherriff in Bhutan, and New Zealand's Mark Hanger on his native flora.

The Society hopes to stage another conference next year.



Lyttel Trophy winner Brian Burrow in his Lancashire garden

At the AGM, which preceded the conference, the accomplished plantsman Brian Burrow was named as this year's winner of the Lyttel Trophy, the AGS's highest honour. The trophy is awarded by its previous winners (see the list on page 5). Brian was unable to attend the AGM and the trophy was collected on his behalf by Geoff Rollinson, who also spoke on cushion plants during the conference.

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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 Friday, December 18, and
will not reopen until Monday,
January 4. The AGS garden
is open every day.

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Send items for the March 2016
issue of AGS News to Jackie Cooper
at the address above or email
jackie@alpinegardensociety.net.
The deadline is January 31, 2016.

NOTICEBOARD



Diane Clement, Director of the AGS Seed Exchange, receives the Ferrier Charlton Award from AGS President David Haselgrove for her dedicated work with the Seed Exchange



Mary Williams receives a Local Group Award and the Sussex Weald Silver Jubilee Trophy for her work with the South Wales Group

PICTURES FROM THE AGM



Hilary Little receives the Christopher Grey-Wilson Award for her article 'The magic of Patagonia' in The Alpine Gardener



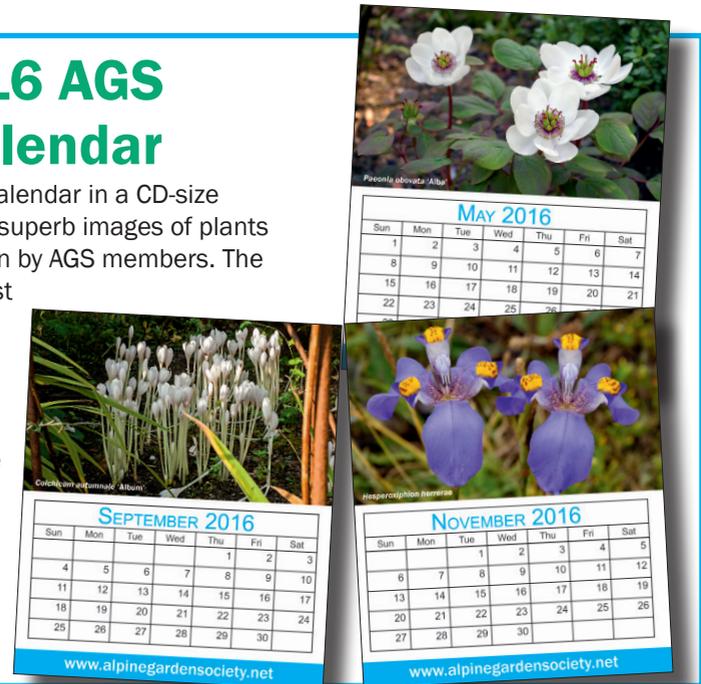
Alan Furness receives the Kath Dryden Award for his expertise in the cultivation of the genus *Celmisia*

The 2016 AGS desk calendar

Our handy desk calendar in a CD-size case features 12 superb images of plants and gardens taken by AGS members. The calendar costs just £4.50, or buy two for £8.

Postage is free in the UK, £2.50 for the rest of Europe and £3.50 for the rest of the world.

To order call the AGS Centre on 01386 554790.



NOTICEBOARD

AGS Autumn Bulb Day

Sunday, September 25, 2016, from 9.30am-4pm

Admission by advance ticket only

At the Frank Parkinson Lecture Theatre, Pershore College,
Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire
(next to the AGS Centre and garden)

Tickets for lectures, plant sales, tea and coffee:
AGS members £25, non-members £35

An optional lunch will be available, bookable in advance

Book your place by calling the AGS Centre after January 4
or book on our website

SPEAKERS

Peter Sheasby: Bulbs of Iran and Turkey

Joe Sharman: Autumn Flowering
Snowdrops

Simon Wallis: Species Tulips from
Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Paul Cumbleton: Winter Growing Bulbs
from South Africa



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TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE SOCIETY'S CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR 2014-2015

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 Trustee Board at its meeting on 24 October 2015. It will be sent to the Charity Commission in fulfilment of the Society's statutory obligations. In line with an earlier decision taken 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

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**

Large 98 x 64mm unglued **50 for £4**

Order from the AGS Centre (details on page 2)

Postage is free to UK members

Overseas members should contact the AGS Centre for postage rates



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 2014-2015 in these accounts and those published last year, these are likely to have arisen 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 fourth report to the Society as Honorary Treasurer. My thanks 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 August 31, 2015

1.1 Incoming resources

Total incoming resources were £539,690. These were made up of subscriptions, trading income including that from the AGS's two subsidiary companies, investment income and gifts and legacies.

1.2 Subscriptions

There is a slight increase in subscription income, of £1,782: £150,942 against £149,160 in 2013-2014.

1.3 The two subsidiary companies

The companies performed less well than last year. Sales for AGS Expeditions Ltd were £105,854 (against £264,677) and the company's gross profit £13,227 (against £75,644). For AGS Publications Ltd, sales were £30,716 (against £49,885) and gross profit £14,350 (against £12,193). AGS Publications contributed a surplus to the AGS of £3,980 (against £4,449) and AGS Expeditions £2,912 (against £58,072)

1.4 Income from other trading and activities for generating funds

Overall, this was marginally below that of last year, £95,101 against £96,866. Income from conferences was down on last year, £18,570 against £23,875; that from seed distribution, however, was up, £17,026 against £13,734.

1.5 Investment income

Interest income from investments was down on last year: £56,887 against £65,616.

1.6 Gifts, donations and legacies

As always the Society is extremely grateful for legacies and donations that are received and thanks most sincerely members who have assisted the Society in this way. A legacy of £70,000 has been received.

1.7 Outgoing resources

Total resources expended in 2014-2015 showed a substantial decrease compared with last year, £522,532 against £728,283. It is worth remembering, however, that a large part of last year's expenditure was incurred by the two trading companies. Expenditure by the two companies this year was significantly lower. Staff costs were slightly higher than last year, resulting from the need to employ a part-time clerical assistant.

1.8 Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year

The difference between the incoming resources (£539,690, see 1.1 above) and the outgoing resources (£522,532, see 1.7 above) is £17,158 and represents the charity's surplus for the year.

1.9 Value of investments

The market value of the Society's investments rose over the year by £47,407. During the year, on the advice of the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), around one-third of the investment (£763,000) was sold and £700,000 was reinvested in a Progressive Capital Growth fund.

1.10 The Society's assets as at August 31, 2015

During the year the value of the Society's assets increased overall by £64,565 and now stands at a total of £2,732,074.

2. Notes on the Consolidated Balance Sheet as at August 31, 2015

This shows the make-up of the Society's current assets and liabilities. Tangible fixed assets (£293,122) 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 £2,209,457.

The net current assets amounting to £229,505 compared with £148,936 last year, include: stock (mostly books) of £58,066; debts outstanding in the Society's favour of £95,164; and cash, either in hand or banked, of £137,398. These total

£290,628 from which sum must be subtracted the Society's debts, currently £61,123.

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.

3. Commentary

From a financial point of view, 2014-2015 has been a very satisfactory year for the Society. This year's accounts show a surplus of income over expenditure of £17,158. Had there not been the receipt of a generous legacy, however, a deficit of more than £50,000 would have been recorded. The Society's investments remain strong: an increase in capital value of more than £47,000 was recorded.

4. Conclusion

Nothing has changed during 2014-2015, however, to alter the conclusions of last year and those of earlier years in any significant way. Overall, the accounts show that the Society is

in a healthy financial position with significant investments and that those investments are continuing to increase in value as well as contributing by way of dividends around 10% of the income. Nevertheless, it remains that members' subscriptions represent only a relatively small part of the Society's income, less than 30% during the last year.

The investments (and the receipt of a substantial legacy during the year) tend to camouflage this figure, which in reality should sound an alarm call for the Society. It points to the need, increasingly urgent, for the Society to reposition itself radically in its relationship with the wider world. Rather than being used merely to provide a feather bed for members and make it all too easy for the Society to stay where it is, the investment should start to be used to underpin that repositioning. Fortunately it is a call that in the last year has been heard, and started to be heeded, by the Trustee Board.

**John Galloway, Hon. Treasurer,
November 2015**

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

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary consolidated balance sheet as at August 31, 2015, and the summary consolidated statement of financial activities for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of the Alpine Garden Society for the year ended August 31, 2015. We expressed an unqualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated October 24, 2015. Those financial statements, and the summary of financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities," issued in March 2005. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Alpine Garden Society.

Trustees' responsibility for the summary financial statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the

summarised financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Auditor's responsibility

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of the Alpine Garden Society for the year ended August 31, 2015, are consistent, in all material respects, with those financial statements.

Jonathan Marston BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Kendall Wadley LLP	27 Sansome Walk Worcester WR1 1NU October 24, 2015
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	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income				
Subscriptions	150,942		150,942	149,960
Other voluntary income	72,614		72,614	15,470
Activities for generating funds				
Advertising income – The Alpine Gardener	8,553		8,553	8,663
Seed distributions	17,026		17,026	13,734
Other activities for generating funds	50,952		50,952	50,594
Conference income	18,570		18,570	23,875
Trading income from subsidiary companies	164,146		164,146	392,399
Investment income	51,999	4,888	56,887	65,616
Total incoming resources	534,802	4,888	539,690	720,311
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities				
Cost of generating funds				
Staff costs	122,455		122,455	109,498
The Alpine Gardener journal	62,201		62,201	70,340
Costs of major exhibits	10,286		10,286	10,957
Seed distribution costs	8,042		8,042	9,636
Other direct costs	86,064	6,840	92,904	128,292
Other support costs	53,685		53,685	57,955
Conference costs	18,450		18,450	15,002
Direct expenditure of subsidiary companies	148,354		148,354	319,684
Governance costs	6,075	80	6,155	6,919
Total resources expended	515,612	6,920	522,532	728,283
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers	19,190	(2,032)	17,158	(7,972)
Transfers	1,500	(1,500)		
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	20,690	(3,532)	17,158	(7,972)
Other recognised gains and losses				
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets	(9,860)		(9,860)	
Gains/(losses) on investments	47,899	(492)	47,407	142,275
Net movement in funds	58,729	(4,024)	54,705	134,303
Fund balances at 1 September 2014	2,482,484	185,025	2,667,509	2,533,206
Fund balances at 31 August 2015	2,541,213	181,001	2,722,214	2,667,509

Summarised consolidated balance sheet as at 31 August 2015

	2015 £	2014 £	2015 £	2014 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	283,252		292,895	
Investments	2,209,457		2,225,676	
		2,492,709		2,518,571
Current Assets				
Stocks	58,066		61,544	
Debtors	95,164		62,024	
Cash at bank and in hand	137,398		94,159	
	290,628		217,727	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(61,123)		(68,789)	
Net Current Assets		229,505		148,938
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		2,722,214		2,667,509
Income Funds				
Restricted Funds				
E F Hendry Bequest Fund	169,575		172,528	
Wilscher Fund	9,315		10,386	
David Harding Foundation	2,111		2,111	
		181,001		185,025
Unrestricted Funds				
Designated Funds		321,163		325,716
Other charitable funds				
General Funds	1,551,891		1,303,195	
Revaluation Reserve	668,159		853,573	
		2,541,213		2,482,484
		2,722,214		2,667,509

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 24 October 2014. 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 2016

The Alpine Garden Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually. Applications for these awards must be received by January 31, 2016, 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 can be downloaded from the AGS website or are available from: Jackie Cooper, c/o AGS Centre, or email: jackie@alpinegardensociety.net

MERLIN TRUST & ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

Travel scholarships for 2016

In 1990 the Merlin Trust was founded by the late Valerie Finnis VMH to provide travel grants for young horticulturists. In 2016 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: Chloe Wells, Secretary, The Merlin Trust, 30 Moor Lane, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1BW. Email: info@merlin-trust.org.uk



News from the AGS Trustee Board

LOCAL GROUPS: Following on from the consultation process with local groups and the Editor's Letter in the September journal regarding local group membership, the Board had received a wide range of comments and opinions. Some people thought the existing restriction, that at least 75% of all group members must be members of the parent Society, was difficult to achieve. Others felt that full AGS membership should be compulsory in local groups. A number of members felt that the issue should not have been raised in the journal, while others felt strongly that it should and welcomed the openness. After a lengthy debate, in which all the views submitted were considered, the Board decided to abolish the 75% AGS membership requirement. It is hoped that groups will continue to try to encourage more non-members to become full AGS members. It was suggested that groups consider introducing a two-tier subscription whereby AGS members pay a lower group fee than non-AGS members. Groups will be required to submit their annual accounts and membership lists to the AGS Centre. This allows the Society to gather information on how many members are in groups, which is required for our insurance cover.

INSURANCE COVER: The cost of the full AGS insurance package that includes local groups was discussed and it was agreed to ask groups to make a small payment towards the cost of the cover they receive. A charge of £50 per annum for each group was agreed and this will be introduced in 2016. Groups will be allowed up to 12 months to pay.

ACCOUNTS: The Board received and approved the Consolidated Accounts for the year ending August 31, 2015. The Auditor gave a detailed report to the Board on each section of the accounts and summarised the gains/movements on investments. Specific funds taken from investment reserves have been set aside to assist with marketing research and further development of the website. The Auditor reminded Trustees that the investment reserves are held to maintain the long-term future of the Society and that they should not be used to subsidise the costs of benefits enjoyed by members.

SHOWS: Show financial results were discussed and it was noted that considerable progress had been made towards reducing the overall shows deficit. The move of the Tewkesbury show to Pershore had proved to be a very successful decision, both financially and in terms of visitor numbers. Shows must attract the public as well as provide venues for members to exhibit and purchase plants.

AGS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION: The organisation of the AGS Photographic Competition and the photographic classes at AGS shows was revisited following consultations. Since the last meeting, external factors had reduced to three the number of shows where there is scope to stage photographic classes. Taking other concerns into account, it was decided to discontinue the photographic classes at shows. Botanical art and needlework classes will remain unchanged. It was also agreed to expand the annual Photographic Competition by including additional classes to draw in more entries. This competition gives overseas members more opportunity to compete and display their images. The option of awarding points as well as prize money is under consideration to allow entrants to compete for medals. As usual, a selection of the entries will be featured in the journal and they will be made available for display at shows where there is sufficient space to stage a small display, and for a larger display at the Annual General Meeting. All entries will also be placed on the website for viewing once judging is complete.

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR A DIRECTOR OF TOURS

The Alpine Garden Society is seeking a new Director of Tours to assume responsibility for the organisation of its tours programme run by AGS Expeditions Ltd. AGS tours visit a variety of destinations and offer members the opportunity to see alpine plants growing in their natural habitat. The Director of Tours is responsible for planning tours and liaising with leaders accordingly and will attend meetings of the Trustee Board. Administrative support is provided by the AGS Centre which deals with bookings, accounts and payments.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Christine McGregor, Society Director (Tel: 01386 554790) in the first instance. The deadline for expressions of interest is January 31, 2016.

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR A DIRECTOR OF SHOWS

The Alpine Garden Society is seeking a new Director of Shows to assume overall responsibility for the organisation of its annual programme of shows in England, Wales and Ireland. The Director of Shows will work closely with all members of the shows team to ensure the smooth running of the programme, will chair the Shows Sub-committee and will attend meetings of the Trustee Board. The Director of Shows will be required to operate in accordance with Society policy, as determined by the Trustees.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Christine McGregor, Society Director (Tel: 01386 554790) in the first instance. The deadline for expressions of interest is January 31, 2016.

AGS Snowdrop Day

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Fully booked

WIN PRIZES IN OUR ONLINE SHOW

Ever wondered how that plant in your garden would have fared at an AGS show? Or did you have a potential star plant that never quite made it 'on to the bench'? Or are there no AGS shows for you to 'show' at?

The AGS Online Show offers an opportunity for all members, including international members, to participate in an AGS show. Plants exhibited must have been cultivated by the exhibitor and photographed during the season of the show. This is not a photographic competition but photographs should be good enough to display a plant's true qualities.

The AGS is providing gift vouchers as prizes. In 2015 three prizes are



Kirsten Andersen's *Daphne cneorum* var. *pygmaea* 'Herskind Star' – 'best entry of a single species, variety of a species or hybrid' in 2014

available, each consisting of £40 worth of vouchers. **The closing date for entries is Christmas Eve.** The categories for which the prizes are awarded are:

- The best entry of a single species, variety of a species or hybrid. The entry may contain more than one specimen (for example, a clump of bulbs).
- The best entry of a group of more than one variety of plant in a garden or in a container such as a trough.
- The highest number of 'first prize points'.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPONSOR THE AGS AT CHELSEA

The Alpine Garden Society is looking for sponsors for its display in the Great Pavilion at next year's Chelsea Flower Show. The display helps to fulfil the Society's charitable objectives by promoting the growing of alpine plants to an audience of 160,000 and is an excellent way to recruit new members.

The Society would like to attract financial sponsorship from individuals or businesses. If you run a business that could help in this way, or sponsor us by donating plants or materials, or know a person or a business who might like to help, please let us know. Sponsors will all be acknowledged in a special leaflet about the display, which will be given to Chelsea's visitors. Thank you to those who have already offered their support.

For further details please contact Christine McGregor, Society Director, at the AGS Centre (details on page 2).

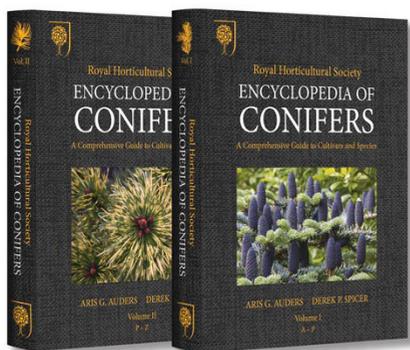
Order code	Title and author	Members' price
GENERAL ALPINE TITLES		
032	Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good	£6.50
772	Alpines from Mountain to Garden by Richard Wilford	£23.00
028	Alpine Plants: Ecology for Gardeners by John Good & David Millward	£12.00
292	Alpines: An Essential Guide by Michael Mitchell	£15.00
024	Alpines in Pots (New Edition) by Kath Dryden	£4.00
857	Growing Alpines in Containers by John Good	£5.00
033	Portraits of Alpine Plants by Robert Rolfe **LOW PRICE**	£15.00
026	The Crevice Garden and its Plants by Zdenek Zvolanek **NEW EDITION**	£6.50
729	The Rock Garden Plant Primer by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£16.00
SPECIFIC GENERA		
019	Androsace: The Genus by G.F. Smith & D.B. Lowe **LAST FEW COPIES**	£8.00
890	The Plant Lover's Guide to Asters by Paul and Helen Picton	£14.50
694	Bleeding Hearts, Corydalis & Their Relatives by Mark C Tebbitt et al	£20.00
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
778	The Book of Little Hostas by Kathy Guest Shadrack & Michael Shadrack	£14.50
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
669	The Daylily: A Guide for Gardeners by John Peat and Ted Petit	£18.00
282	The Genus Roscoea by Jill Cowley	£33.50
887	The Plant Lover's Guide to Dahlias by Andy Vernon	£14.50
700	Saxifrages: A Definitive Guide by Malcolm McGregor	£28.00
021	Silver Saxifrages by Beryl Bland **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
766	Thyme Handbook by Margaret Easter and Susie White	£8.00
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
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	£20.00
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)	
241	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Agapanthus by Graham Duncan	£4.50
880	The Genus Erythronium by Chris Clennett	£40.00
861	The Genus Lachenalia by Graham Duncan	£96.00
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
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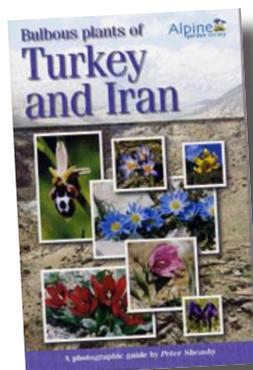
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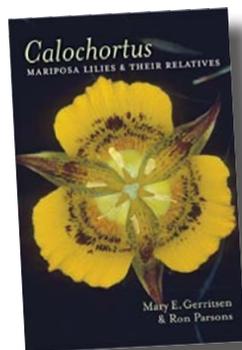
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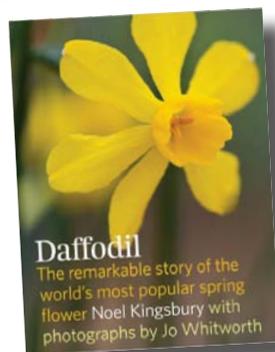
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WESTERN TURKEY

March 28-April 11, 2016

Leaders: Bob & Rannveig Wallis

Cost: In the region of **£2,850 per person including flights**

The Mediterranean region of Turkey is a botanical gem that no one interested in spring bulbs should miss. The varying geology, climate and altitude have permitted a diverse evolution of many geophytic genera and we invite you to explore them with us.

The tour will be led by Bob and Rannveig Wallis with their popular Turkish Guide, Alper Ertubey of Hike and Sail. We aim to start and finish in Dalaman Airport and take a figure-of-eight tour starting along the south coast to the spectacular Datça peninsula and then inland to Boz Dağ and Nif Dağ before heading south-eastwards back towards the south coast. The dates have been chosen to match the tour leaders' experiences of flowering times in this area. Although we will pinpoint certain very local species (12 species of *Fritillaria* can be hoped for), the whole area is a flower garden of anemones, the occasional *Ranunculus asiaticus*, lots of orchids, *Corydalis*, *Crocus*, *Galanthus*, *Sternbergia*, *Scilla* and so on.

We will take in:

- The famous Baba Dağ which supports the only known population of *Fritillaria forbesii* and of the white *Sternbergia candida* among the fabulous cedars.
- The forests which support both subspecies of *Fritillaria sibthorpiana*.



- Sites for *Fritillaria mughlae* and *F. bithynica* on the spectacular route to Datça.
 - The area of Milaş with its wonderful umbrella pine forests and swathes of *Fritillaria milasense*.
 - Two mountains called Boz Dağ: the first, the home of *Chionodoxa luciliae* and *Corydalis lydica*; the second supports a large population of a deep yellow *Fritillaria carica*, a high-altitude form of *Sternbergia fischeriana* and lots of the beautiful blue *Crocus baytopiorum* and *C. biflorus*.
 - A minibus trip up Nif Dağ where we should see more *Fritillaria carica*.
 - The serpentine summits from where *Fritillaria serpicicola* was first found.
 - Swarms of *Fritillaria kittaniae* on the limestone plateau of the Sinekçibeli Pass.
- Travel will be in a small bus and we aim to use minibuses to access some of the higher routes. There will inevitably be some walking on rough terrain in order to find the best plants but it should not involve prolonged uphill or downhill treks. Accommodation will be in three-star hotels or equivalent.

To order use the form on page 21 or visit the AGS Book Shop at www.alpinegardensociety.net

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

SICHUAN, CHINA

TWO EXTRA PLACES AVAILABLE!

Dates: June 9-28, 2016

Leader: Chris Bailes

Cost: in the region of £4,450 (single supplement £520)

The tour will start and end in Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan. From there we will drive north towards Songpan. After a few days of botanising in this area we will drive west and stay overnight in Hongyuan. Then we will travel south toward Maerkang (Barkam), Danba, Bamei and Kangding. From Kangding we will go south again towards Moxi and then back to Chengdu.

During this tour you will travel to a part of China that has masses of plants and areas that were botanised by the original plant-hunters more than a century ago. The whole route will take you to areas with spectacular views. You will see *Lilium regale* growing on rooftops on the houses along the Min river as Ernest Wilson saw them. The trip will pass some of the well-known cities as Songpan and Kangding, where Rock and Wilson were once based.

You will cross parts of the Min Shan and Gongga Shan as well a part of the Tibetan plateau with breathtaking colourful flower meadows near Hongyuan, with thousands of yaks. At Huanglong, a Unesco World Heritage



Site, you will be able see hundreds of *Cypripedium* growing at the edges of the turquoise tufa pools.

On this trip you will encounter many different habitats and plants. Around Huanglong you should find at least six different *Cypripedium*. At other places you will see many *Meconopsis* species, with *Meconopsis punicea* in large and smaller forms. The almost back *Primula melanantha* at the Zheduo pass near Kangding is another highlight. At least 600-700 plant species should be seen.

During this tour there will be no long or steep daily treks, making it suitable for most people. You will travel by air-conditioned coach and accommodation will be in three-star or four-star hotels.

The AGS tour to Peru in March and April next year is fully booked.

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

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

September 4-23, 2016

Leader: Mark Hanger

Cost: to be confirmed

Australia is a vast, ancient and ecologically diverse continent. Isolated for eons by desert and ocean, the state of Western Australia is home to one of the most diverse floras in the world with over 12,500 plant species.

Spring in Western Australia is the perfect time to study and enjoy this incredibly rich and spectacular flora and the unique wildlife. The national park at Kalbarri includes dramatic canyons, gorges and wildlife. Desert predominates inland, and luxuriant jarrah/karri (*Eucalyptus marginata* and *E. diversicolor*) forest, not to mention excellent vineyards, dot the deep south. To round it all off, the Western Australian coast is magical.

The leader of the programme is ecologist and botanist Mark Hanger from Nature Quest. Travel is by a comfortable, air-conditioned small coach equipped with an excellent nature library of reference books. Accommodation is in comfortable hotels and motor lodges, usually with private facilities.

The south-west of Western Australia is a vast botanical garden. The arid interior stands in stark contrast to a magnificent and dramatic coast. Both offer a huge variety of endemic spectacular flowering plants. Tall forests, woodland, shrubland and heath are home to over 4,000 species,



80% of which grow nowhere else – a truly remarkable flora.

Mid-spring is the time when the flowers are at their best: Banksias, Grevilleas, Hakeas, Wild Peas, Myrtles, Kangaroo Paws and many more all combine to create a colourful botanical extravaganza. Many are alongside the roads, so for the most part, walking is easy on this trip. There are a small number of walks in rougher hill country. The climate is 'Mediterranean', with temperatures from 16-30°C expected.

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



CHILE

Departure in late December 2016

Leader: Martin Sheader

Cost: to be confirmed

This will be an extensive tour of approximately 21 days in one of the world's rarely visited plant-rich areas. Participants will fly into Santiago and then transfer to La Parva for a two-night stay. Following on from there will be several short stays in a number of different locations, chosen because of their wealth of plant life. The tour will end at Talca, where you will explore

around Laguna del Maule, before returning to Santiago for flights home.

Members who are interested in joining this tour should contact the AGS Centre to place their names on a list to receive further details in due course.

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

AUTUMN BULBS OF THE PELOPONNESE

October 28-November 7, 2016 (TBC)

Leader: Christopher Grey-Wilson

Cost: to be confirmed

The Greek Peloponnese offers a plethora of autumn bulbs such as crocuses, colchicums, cyclamen, sternbergias, a scilla and a snowdrop, besides a rich assortment of other autumnal flowers. Nowhere else in the Mediterranean region offers such a rich assortment of autumn bulbs and this tour is designed to see as many as possible.

From the ancient Greek site at Delphi, to world famous Olympia and the Byzantine churches of Mistras on the slopes of the Taygetos Mountains close to Sparta, the tour encompasses some of the finest archaeological sites in southern Greece. There will be the chance to enjoy the harbours at Nafpaktos and Gythio and to explore the ancient alleyways of Monemvasia, and the stern beauty of the Mani Peninsula.

The tour will start in Athens and travel by coach to Amfissa near Delphi before heading south into the Peloponnese via Nafpaktos. Accommodation will be in hotels with meals in local tavernas.

There will be walks, none too strenuous, and ample time to see, observe and photograph the flowers and sites. The leader has an intimate knowledge of the flora of the region and in the evenings there will be time to reflect on the day's finds and to enjoy the splendid Greek autumn.



ITINERARY

- Day 1** – Fly to Athens. Travel on to Amfissa.
- Day 2** – Delphi and Mount Parnassus. Stay in Amfissa.
- Day 3** – Travel by old road to Nafpaktos.
- Day 4** – Travel to Olympia and then on to Sparta.
- Day 5** – Mistras and Profitis Elias; stay in Sparta.
- Day 6** – Travel to Gythio.
- Day 7** – Mani Peninsula; Areopolis, Pyrgos Dirou and Vathia.
- Day 8** – Travel to Monemvasia, Sykia and Lambokambos.
- Day 9** – Monemvasia.
- Day 10** – Nafplion.
- Day 11** – Athens and home.

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



The city of Ronda and, right, a *Narcissus triandrus* hybrid



NARCISSI OF WESTERN IBERIA

February 28-March 9, 2016

Leaders: Ian Bennallick & Oron Peri

**Cost: From London, £2,195
Faro to Malaga, £1,820**

This tour takes us to the *Narcissus* hotspot of Iberia, the centre of evolution and diversity of these wonderful flowers.

In central Portugal drifts of *Narcissus asturiensis* and *Crocus carpetanus* colour the mountains of the Serra da Estrela. *Narcissus calcicola* and *Narcissus obesus* prefer the rugged limestone of the Serra de Porto de Mós, while in the coastal Serra da Arrábida, *Narcissus bulbocodium* is abundant among *Tulipa sylvestris*, *Arisarum simorrhinum* and *Anemone palmata*. *Narcissus triandrus*

(and some fine hybrids with the rare *Narcissus scaberulus*) and sweetly scented *Narcissus papyraceus* enjoy loamy banks in the Tagus basin. In Andalusia we'll encounter *Narcissus assoanus* and endemic *Narcissus cuatrecasasii*. *Narcissus hispanicus* is plentiful in Spanish fir forests, and in the Sierra de Alcaparain is ghostly *Narcissus cantabricus*.

Narcissus bulbocodium, *Narcissus cordubensis* and *Narcissus jonquilla* adorn meadows dotted with cork oaks. Based in one of Andalusia's most beautiful 'white villages', peaceful Benaoján, we'll also find plentiful orchids, fritillaries and linarias in rich limestone turf, while cliffs hold a plethora of charming saxifrages and elegant *Ornithogalum reverchonii*.

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



Purple and yellow forms of *Iris reichenbachiana*

GREEK RHODOPI

April 23-30, 2016

Leaders: Ian Green & Seda Soylu

**Cost: From London, £1,495
Thessaloniki to Thessaloniki, £1,295**

This area boasts some of the most dramatic scenery in Greece. Mounts Phalakron and Orvilos have a colourful pastiche of *Crocus chrysanthus* mixing with blue *Scilla biflora* and both white and deep pink forms of *Corydalis solida*. Rarer is the local endemic *Crocus orphei*, a lovely plant with indigo-streaked undersides to the tepals.

Wands of deep red *Saxifraga sempervivum* emerge from glaucous rosettes on roadside rocks. Totally

amazing groups of huge-flowered *Pulsatilla halleri* bloom across alpine turf, also littered with tight clumps of *Viola perinensis*, whose lilac and blue heads completely obscure the leaves. Under Rhodopi's famous forests are green-belled *Fritillaria pontica*, *Soldanella rhodopaea* and remarkable displays of *Crocus veluchensis*, which stretch in their millions across the hills towards the Bulgarian border.

Lower down are *Fritillaria graeca* and *Orchis quadripunctata* as well as the strange endemic *Lathraea rhodopaea*. Cascades of pale mauve *Haberlea rhodopensis* drape the limestone cliffs of the Nestos Gorge, jostling for space with both yellow and purple forms of *Iris reichenbachiana*.

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Calypso bulbosa and, right,
Trillium grandiflorum



TRILLIUMS OF ONTARIO

May 8-22, 2016

Leaders: Owen Mountford & Jennifer MacDonald

Cost: From London, £3,745
From Toronto, £3,325

Between winter snows and summer leaf-burst, there's a magical time in Ontario's woodlands – the great spring flower show. The provincial flower, *Trillium grandiflorum*, blooms throughout in magnificent stands of white and green, often with dark red *Trillium erectum*.

With plentiful yellow trout lilies are *Streptopus lanceolatus*, *uvularias*, nodding trilliums, jack-in-the-pulpits and the colourful Indian paintbrush. Pitcher plants and goldthread emerge

from mossy black pine-dotted bogs and there's fringed *Polygala* and trailing *Arbutus*, and fantastic shows of *Trillium undulatum*.

The impressively diverse tertiary relict Carolinian forests of the Niagara Gorge are rich in spring ephemerals including more trilliums, dicentras, *Corydalis* and stands of lovely aquilegias. The limestone pavement of the botanically rich Bruce Peninsula is tinged blue with endemic dwarf lake iris and gold with the lakeside daisy. Orchids include the first flowers of small yellow lady's slipper, the tiny red and white ram's-head lady's slipper, and striped coralroot, *Corallorhiza striata*. Even these can't beat lovely colonies of *Calypso bulbosa* nestling among bright green mosses.

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Allium flavum and, right,
Leontopodium alpinum or edelweiss



SLOVAKIA

June 24-July 2, 2016

Leaders: Martin Hrouzek & Oron Peri

Cost: From London, £1,995
Bratislava to Krakow, £1,820

The High Tatras reach 2,500m yet chairlifts and roads provide easy access to the highest regions where we'll find ciliate rock-jasmine, blue saxifrage, edelweiss, and Styrian, spotted and snow gentians. There's also *Campanula tatrae*, and the rare orchid *Chamorchis alpina*.

Primula minima, *Anemone scherfelii*, *Ranunculus glacialis*, *Saxifraga carpatica*, *Erysimum hungaricum*, *Callianthemum coriandrifolium* and half a dozen species of pretty milk vetch are

just some of the high alpine gems.

Here meadows and forests host round-headed orchid, moor king, Jacob's ladder, and both Hungarian and Carpathian snowbells. Clumps of endemic pink *Dianthus nitidus* mix with musky saxifrage, *Campanula serrata*, *Tozzia carpatica*, *Gentianella fatrae* and *Androsace lactea* in the White Carpathians, the western edge of the great Carpathian mountain chain. Abundant Martagon lilies, dense-flowered orchid, marsh gladiolus and *Melampyrum cristatum* bloom in some of the richest meadows in Europe.

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

