

AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

Book now for our autumn conference in a new venue

This year's AGS conference, which runs alongside our Annual General Meeting, will be held at a new venue.

Members are invited to book a place for the event at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon, a four-star riverside location in the heart of this popular and attractive market town.

The theme of the conference, on Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8, is 'Reaching the Heights' and the speakers will all present lectures that have not been heard before.

They will include Bob and Rannveig Wallis on high Turkish plants, Christopher Grey-Wilson on Nepal and Robert Rolfe on cushion plants. Ireland's Martin Walsh will give a



Part of the interior of the AGS conference venue, the Holiday Inn at Stratford-upon-Avon

presentation entitled 'Bhutan – In the Footsteps of Ludlow and Sherriff'. Geoff Rollinson, one of the AGS's leading growers of cushion plants, will provide a practical demonstration on their cultivation.

The AGS is delighted to announce that Mark Hanger, who led our tour to New Zealand earlier this year, will deliver the E.B. Anderson Memorial Lecture at the

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CONFERENCE BOOKING FORM: BACK PAGE

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Tours 18

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

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Single (UK and Ireland) £32*

Family (two at same address) £36*

Junior (under 18/student) £14

Overseas single US\$56 £34

Overseas family US\$62 £37

* £2 deduction for direct debit subscribers

AGS CENTRE AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The AGS Centre will close at 5pm on Friday, August 28, and will not reopen until 9am on Wednesday, September 2.

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Send items for the September 2015 issue of AGS News to Jackie Cooper at the address above or email jackie@alpinegardensociety.net. The deadline is July 31, 2015.

NOTICEBOARD

AGS shows and plant sales



June 14: Bakewell Show

July 11: Pershore Show

September 26: Kent Autumn Show

October 3: Loughborough Autumn Show

October 10: Newcastle Show

October 17: Harlow Carr Show

Full details for each show are in the AGS Shows Handbook, on the AGS website and in the shows calendar that was included with the December 2014 issue of AGS News.

Cecilia Coller would like to thank all members who have sent her cards and good wishes following her recent stay in hospital. She is now recovering well and hopes to see all her AGS friends and fellow exhibitors at a show again soon.

Dorset Local Group

Christine Chappell has taken over as the sole secretary of the Dorset Local Group following the death of her husband John. Her new email address is christinechappell14@gmail.com

Conference bookings now open

Continued from page 1

AGM, which is free to all AGS members. Mark will also present a second lecture to conference delegates on the Sunday.

Mark graduated in botany from Otago University and is one of New Zealand's leading natural history guides. He worked for the country's National Parks and Reserves Service and set up, with his wife Marina, Nature Quest New Zealand, which specialises in nature, ornithological and botanical tours. Mark has an in-depth knowledge of Australasia's natural history and is planning future AGS tours to Western Australia and Tasmania.

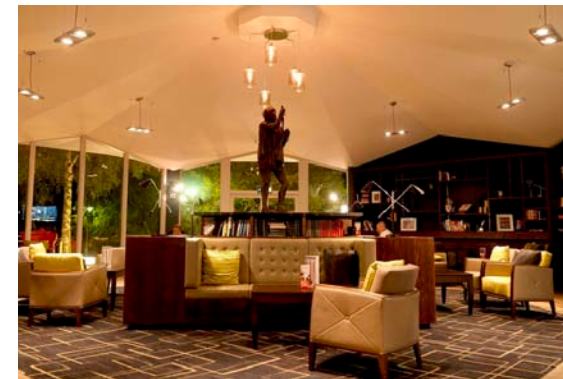
Members can book either residential or day places at the Conference and can choose to attend on both days or just one day. Prices for residential delegates include accommodation, hot buffet lunches on both days and the Conference Dinner on Saturday, as well as coffee and tea during breaks. Day places include lunch and coffee and tea. The Conference Dinner will be followed by a plant auction.

The conference will start at 3.30pm on the Saturday, after the AGM and the E. B. Anderson Memorial Lecture.

A booking form for the AGS Conference is on the back page of this issue of AGS News. Alternatively, you may book on our website or by calling the AGS Centre on 01386 554790. Numbers are limited so please reserve your place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



The riverside setting at the conference venue and, below, the guest lounge



NOTICEBOARD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 7, 2015

The Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Garden Society will take place on **Saturday, November 7, 2015**, at the Holiday Inn, Bridgefoot, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6YR.

The hotel is situated in the centre of Stratford-upon-Avon. There is plenty of parking at the venue. Full details of the event will appear in the next issue of AGS News.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following Officers are eligible for reappointment and are prepared to continue to serve the AGS (see Note 1 below): President (Mr David Haselgrove), Director of Seed Distribution (Mrs Diane Clement), Website Director (Mr Jim McGregor), Treasurer (Professor John Galloway).

NOMINATIONS FOR TRUSTEE BOARD MEMBERS

Nominations, with supporting statements/citations, are invited from members for the following posts:

Two Trustees to serve for four years (see Note 2 below).

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. To receive and confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on November 8, 2014.
2. To receive the report of the Board of Trustees.
3. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's report and accounts.
4. To elect a President, Treasurer and Officers to serve for the ensuing year.
5. To elect two Trustees to serve for four years (see Note 2 below).
6. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year.
7. Any Other Items of Business as notified to the Society Director in writing, no later than August 1, 2015.

Notes on the election of Officers and members of the Trustee Board:

(1) Officers retire annually and are eligible for re-election as per rule 7.1.3.1 of the Constitution. All Honorary Officers listed have agreed to stand for re-election.

(2) In accordance with rule 7.1.4, two Trustees retire annually and are not eligible for re-election for one year.

BOOK NOW! A GREAT DAY OUT FOR GARDENERS

AGS Autumn Bulb Day

Sunday, September 27, 2015, from 9.30am-4pm

Admission is by advance ticket only

At the Frank Parkinson Lecture Theatre, Pershore College, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire. Ample parking. The College is next to the AGS Centre and garden.

Tickets for lectures, plant sales, tea and coffee:

AGS members £24, non-members £34

An optional lunch is available for £10, bookable in advance

Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre.

AGS members have been given priority booking since March but non-members may now purchase tickets.

SPEAKERS

Dr John David, the RHS Head of Horticultural Taxonomy: Hardy Nerines.

Richard Hobbs of Walking & Wildlife Holidays: Colchicum.

Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson: Flowers of the Greek Autumn.

David Stephens of the Crocus Group: Crocuses.



DEMAND FOR THIS EVENT IS EXPECTED TO BE HIGH AND NUMBERS ARE LIMITED, SO BOOK NOW TO BE SURE OF YOUR PLACE

News from the AGS Trustee Board

This is update on activities since the last report in March.

The Trustee Board wishes to thank all those volunteers who have assisted with promotional events, thereby helping to recruit new members.

Local groups received an update on progress relating to the comments submitted as part of the Board's consultation with groups. A further update is due to be circulated shortly.

The Board is still awaiting returns from the majority of groups to enable it to gain a full picture of the health of all local groups and the problems they may face. The AGS has for many years provided all local groups with free insurance cover for their normal group activities and property. It appears that some groups are organising excursions that may include overnight accommodation and overseas travel. Clarification is being sought from the Society's insurers and advice will be issued to groups shortly, but it is apparent that overseas trips organised by groups will certainly not be covered by the Society's insurance.

Show returns: the vast majority of shows this year have completed their show accounts more quickly and in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Trustee Board. This has streamlined the recording of show accounts and made it possible to organise an earlier audit of these accounts that in turn will facilitate an earlier return of any show surpluses. Grateful thanks are due to all show secretaries and treasurers who have co-operated with this process. Thanks are also due to the army of volunteers who help to run national shows and thereby give something back to their groups and the main Society.

AGS Bristol Group: All Aspects of Alpines

A one-day conference on Saturday, September 19, 2015,
at The Red Maids' School, Westbury Road, Westbury-on-Trym,
Bristol BS9 3AW. 9.30am to 4.30pm

Lectures by Jim Almond, Christine Skelmersdale, Diane Clement, and Bob and Rannveig Wallis.

The cost is £18 including teas and coffees.

An optional hot lunch will be available for £11.

**For further information and bookings contact Sheila Ashby
on 01275 851254 or e-mail: ian_sheila@hotmail.co.uk**

A GREAT DAY OUT FOR GALANTHOPHILES **AGS Snowdrop Day BOOK NOW**

NEW
VENUE

Saturday, February 6, 2016

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.

Tickets restricted to AGS members until October 31, 2015.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

- 8.30 Registration, plant sales & coffee
- 10.15 Welcome by David Haselgrove, AGS President
- 10.20 Galanthus as Part of the Family Amaryllidaceae – Julian Sutton
- 11.15 Scottish Snowdrop Introductions – Ian Christie
- 12.00 Plant sales and lunch
- 13.30 Eddie Roberts (title of talk to be confirmed)
- 14.25 The Cultivars of Eranthis – Joe Sharman
- 15.15 Coffee and close at 16.00

NURSERIES ATTENDING WILL INCLUDE:

Monksilver, Avon Bulbs, Glen Chantry, Woodchippings, Anita & David Thorp, plus Rudi Bauer from Germany.

The plant sales will remain open until 4pm when the event will close.

There will be an AGS book stand and merchandise for sale.

AGS ANNUAL AWARDS

NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING AGS AWARDS

- ✂ **Lyttel Trophy** for meritorious work with alpinists.
- ✂ **The Sir William & Lady Lawrence Award** for an outstanding contribution to work with alpinists from those new to horticulture in the last five years.
- ✂ **The Award of Honour** for sterling work on behalf of the AGS, not necessarily during the previous year, but over a period of time.
- ✂ **The Ferrier Charlton Award** for outstanding work for the Society in an administrative capacity.
- ✂ **The Kath Dryden Award** to recognise meritorious work on basic cultivation and/or new plant introduction within a single genus or group of alpine plants.
- ✂ **Local Group Awards** to recognise outstanding service within a Local Group over a number of years, the impact of which is felt more widely than just the local area. Nominations for this award must come from the Local Group concerned.
- ✂ **Website Award** to recognise the best contribution to the Society's website during 2014.

AGS LITERARY AWARDS

The Alpine Gardener sets extremely high standards in horticultural journalism and photography and every year the Society seeks to honour the very best contributions. We do this by appealing to the judgement of the most discriminating and informed critics – you, the readership. Members are invited to nominate contributors to *The Alpine Gardener*, Volume 82 (2014), for the following awards:

- ✂ **The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award** for the best article published in *The Alpine Gardener* in 2014 (Volume 82).
- ✂ **The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award** for the best practical alpine gardening article published in *The Alpine Gardener* in 2014 (Volume 82).
- ✂ **The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award** to recognise photographic excellence in *The Alpine Gardener* in 2014 (Volume 82) for the best 'feature' article that must contain a minimum of ten photographs.

All nominations must be submitted on the appropriate form (available from AGS Centre) and sent to Christine McGregor, Director, AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, WR10 3JP by July 31, 2015.

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 are available from: Jackie Cooper, c/o AGS Centre, or email:

jackie@alpinegardensociety.net

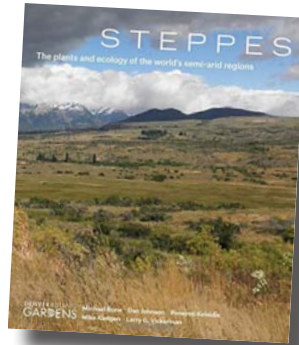
Successful applicants in 2015 are:

- Slawomira Wojtas: £750 to help fund a study of Italian alpine flora and the work of Italian botanic gardens (Hendry award).
- John Fitzpatrick on behalf of *The Alpine Gardener*: £1,500 towards the cost of editorial projects (Hendry award).
- James Armitage: £2,250 to help fund the study of systematics of European species of *Daphne* (Hendry award).
- Peter Watson: £1,200 towards the cost of an alpine study trip to Austria (AGS Award).
- Garry Mentako: £735 towards the cost of a study of sub-arctic flora and local habitats (AGS award).
- Kathryn Braithwaite: £1,235 towards the cost of a study of South African alpine plants and ecology (AGS award).
- Gareth Porteous: £925 towards the cost of a study of New Zealand native alpine flora (AGS Award).

PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER: SAVE 25%

Steppes: The Plants and Ecology of the World's Semi-arid Regions by Michael Bone, Dan Johnson, Panayoti Kelaidis, Mike Kintgen and Larry G. Vickerman

Steppes are expansive grasslands where a huge number of crops and garden plants originated. Despite their horticultural importance, little has been written about them. This book, due to be published in August by Timber Press in association with Denver Botanic Gardens, surveys all the world's steppe regions in North and South America, Africa, Asia and Europe. It highlights the plants in each area and gives climatic and geological descriptions.



ORDER FORM (or order on the AGS website)

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Please supply _____ books

Cover price: £35 AGS price: just £26

Postage and packing: UK £4 EU airmail £11

Rest of the world surface £12 (airmail add £4 to surface price)

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

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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.

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 *NEW TITLE*	£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 **NEW TITLE**	£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 **NEW TITLE**	£54.50
283	Peony Rockii and Gansu Mudan by Will McLewin and Dezhong Chen	£25.00
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 **NEW TITLE**	£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	£25.00
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**	£5.00
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**	£10.50
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
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
246	Snowdrops Booklet by Jackie Murray (second edition, 2011)	£3.50
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 **NEW TITLE**	£14.50
868	Wild Flowers of Turkey: Bulbous Plants by Yasemin Konuralp	£25.00
	ORCHIDS	
265	Growing Hardy Orchids by John Tullock	£16.00
804	Growing Hardy Orchids by Philip Seaton et al	£10.00
642	Growing Orchids from Seed	£7.50
846	Hardy Cypripedium by Werner Frosch and Phillip Cribb	£36.00
698	Ophrys: The Bee Orchids of Europe by H Aerenlund Pedersen & N Faurholdt	£27.00
274	Orchids of Britain & Ireland (A Field & Site Guide) by Anne & Simon Harrap	£24.00
597	Orchids of the British Isles by Michael Foley & Sidney Clarke	£36.00
349	The Genus Cypripedium by Phillip Cribb	£58.50
	SUCCULENTS AND CACTI	
741	Cacti and Succulents for Cold Climates by Leo J Chance	£20.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
749	Succulent Container Gardens by Debra Lee Baldwin	£16.00
883	The Plant Lover's Guide to Sedums by Brent Horvath **NEW TITLE**	£14.50
264	Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World by Fred Dortort	£28.00
	TREES & SHRUBS	
840	A Natural History of Conifers by Aljos Farjon	£24.00
775	Conifers (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Richard L. Bitner	£12.00
652	Conifers for Gardens by Richard L Bitner	£32.00
621	Dirr's Encyclopedia Of Trees & Shrubs by Michael A Dirr	£40.00
746	Hardy Heathers from the Northern Hemisphere by E Charles Nelson	£48.00
755	Japanese Maples by JD Vertrees & Peter Gregory	£28.00
660	Japanese Maples (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by P Gregory & J C Vertrem	£12.00
761	Palms (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Robert Lee Riffle	£12.00
316	Shrubs: A Gardener's Handbook by Ian Cooke	£8.00
267	The Genus Sorbus (Mountain Ash & other Rowans) by Hugh McAllister	£30.00
735	The Pruning of Trees, Shrubs and Conifers by George Brown	£12.00
250	Timber Press Encyclopedia of Flowering Shrubs by Jim Gardiner	£28.00
	FLORAS, FIELD GUIDES AND PLANT EXPLORATION	
680	Endemic Plants of the Altai Mountain Country by A I Pyak et al	£25.00
885	Fathers of Botany by Jane Kilpatrick	£32.00
245	Flowers of Crete by John Fielding and Nicholas Turland	£56.00
733	Flowers of Greece (set of 2 with DVD) by T Lafranchis & G Sfikas	£95.00
867	Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains by Martin Sheader	£32.00
808	Flowers of Western China by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£56.00
873	Harrap's Wild Flowers by Simon Harrap	£13.50
101	In the Footsteps of Augustine Henry by Seamus O'Brien	£32.00
569	Mountain Flowers: The Dolomites by Cliff Booker & David Charlton	£7.00
809	Mountain Flower Walks: Eastern Alps Incl. The Dolomites by Jim Jermyn	£10.00
031	Mountain Flower Walks: Greek Mainland by John Richards **LOW PRICE**	£10.00
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871	Patagonian Mountain Flower Holidays by Hilary Little **NEW TITLE**	£24.00
696	Plantsman's Paradise – Travels in China by Roy Lancaster	£32.00
697	Seeds of Adventure – In Search of plants by Peter Cox & Peter Hutchinson	£28.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
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478	The Caucasus and its Flowers by Vojtech Holubec & Pavel Krivka	£45.00
884	Wild Flowers of Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park by J Alonso NEW	£12.50
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899	Southern Peloponnese	£10.00
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773	Container Plants (The Encyclopaedia of) by Ray Rogers & Rob Cardillo	£20.00
886	Designing and Planting a Woodland Garden by Keith Wiley	£20.00
336	Encyclopedia of Garden Ferns by Sue Olsen	£32.00
855	Encyclopedia of Exotic Plants by Will Giles	£28.00
610	Gardening with Woodland Plants by Karan Junker	£24.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
849	Marianne North: A Very Intrepid Painter by Michelle Payne	£9.50
559	Native Plants of Britain & Ireland by Rosemary Fitzgerald	£12.00
307	Ornamental Bamboos by David Crompton	£20.00
588	Ornamental Grasses (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Rick Darke	£12.00
510	Planting the Dry Shade Garden by Graham Rice	£12.00
853	RHS Plant Finder 2015 **NEW TITLE**	£12.50
863	Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker by Ray Desmond	£23.50
850	The American Woodland Garden by Rick Darke	£28.00
841	The A to Z of Plant Names by Allen J Coombes	£10.50
261	The Explorer's Garden: Rare and Unusual Perennials by Daniel Hinkley	£12.00
844	The Kew Plant Glossary: An illustrated dictionary of plant identification terms	£15.00
893	The Plant Lover's Guide to Ferns by Richie Steffen and Sue Olsen *NEW*	£14.50
856	The Wild Garden by William Robinson and Rick Darke	£16.00
517	Timber Press Dictionary of Plant Names	£20.00
515	Waterwise Plants for Sustainable Gardens by L Springer Ogden & S Ogden	£13.50
222	Wildflower Wonders of the World by Bob Gibbons	£15.00

Flora of the Silk Road

Thank you to all the members who supported the Society by purchasing a copy of Flora of the Silk Road when it was offered at a discount in the March issue of AGS News. Unfortunately, we have been advised by the publisher that the book has now sold out and there are currently no plans for a reprint.

SPECIAL MEMBERS' OFFER

ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY BULLETINS

Ten AGS Bulletins (pre 2010 issues) for £20 (post free).
One Special Offer per member.

Please send your written request to: 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.



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Over £100	£15	£20	£25

*Rest of the world airmail: add £15 to surface price

Sub total	
Postage and packing	
Total	

Please make cheques payable to AGS Publications Limited.

We can also deliver books post-free for collection at AGS shows.

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Card number:

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 Security code:

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

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

NOTICEBOARD

Subscription rates for 2016

The Alpine Garden Society, like every other organisation, is not immune from rising costs. Despite carefully monitoring its expenditure and making savings wherever possible the Society has continued to run at a deficit. Postal costs have risen considerably, affecting the mailing of our journal.

The Society does hold healthy reserves, but these are to ensure the fulfilment of our charitable objectives and to enhance the benefits of membership in the longer term. The reserves should not be used to subsidise current membership subscriptions.

In the light of these factors, the Society's Trustee Board has decided to increase subscription rates by £1 on all bands with effect from 2016.

The new rates are as follows:

		Reduced rate for payment by Direct Debit
Home Single	£33	£31
Home Double	£37	£35
Overseas Single	£35	£33*
Overseas Double	£38	£36*
Student/Junior	£15	

*These rates are applicable only to overseas members who hold a sterling bank account and pay by Direct Debit.

We would urge all UK members to pay by Direct Debit, since this cuts out the cost of processing cheques and reduces the time spent on dealing with hundreds of postal/telephone renewals every year.

The Society will continue to scrutinise carefully all items of expenditure, and is always looking for ways to improve the benefits and services offered to members to make our organisation even more attractive.

AGS Norfolk Group: Alpines Home and Away

A one-day conference on Saturday, September 19, 2015, at the Abbey Conference Centre, Norwich NR1 2DD. £25 including lunch & refreshments.

Speakers will be Peter Korn (Gardening with alpines & steppe plants), Kit Strange (Bulbs, corms & tubers interactive) and Paul Cumbleton (Growing South African bulbs).

Further information: call Diane Blyth on 01508 494277. For booking forms call Roy Mellor on 01603 453450 or email mellor459@btinternet.com



DRAKENSBERG, SOUTH AFRICA

January 9-25, 2016

Leader: Callan Cohen

Tour manager: David Haselgrove

Cost: TBA

South Africa's rugged Drakensberg Mountains form the spine of the eastern part of the country and have a completely different flora from the Cape that lies over 1,500km away on the south-west coast.

The elevated Drakensberg escarpment, with its dramatic basalt cliffs overlooking sandstone valleys, lies at about 3,000m above sea level and is home to true alpine vegetation. It's from these heights that early explorers brought hardy plants back to Europe which have subsequently flourished in cultivation, including species of *Agapanthus*, *Dierama*, *Eucomis*, *Nerine*, *Gladiolus*, *Moraea*,

Phygelius, *Galtonia* and *Kniphofia* (above), and which will be a focus of our tour. The mountains also have a high diversity of orchids, including *Satyrium*, *Holothrix*, *Eulophia*, *Disa*, *Pterygodium*, *Brownleea* and the special genus *Huttonea*, with its fimbriate lips, which is found only in this area.

Midsummer is the peak flowering season and we'll also watch out for pollinators, from sunbirds to the mountain beauty (*Aeropetes tulbaghia*) butterfly.

This tour will focus on the different altitudes, rainfall zones and geologies to get the most from this area. We'll explore from the northern areas of the Drakensberg around the Sentinel Peak, through to the Sani Pass and the Lesotho plateau, known for its sweeping views and bushmen's paintings.

Most of our exploration will take place from famous passes and the walking effort will be easy to moderate, with the option of a longer walk at the Sentinel in search of 'specials'.

WESTERN TURKEY

March 28-April 11, 2016

Leaders: Bob & Rannveig Wallis

Cost: TBA

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 deciduous 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.

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

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SICHUAN, CHINA

**Approximate dates: June 9–28, 2016
(about 18 days depending on flights)**

Leader: Chris Bailes

**Price: in the region of £4,500
(including flights)**

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.

In this part of China there are many minorities who still wear their colourful traditional dress. At Tagong we will visit



one of the finest monasteries with golden roofs with snowcapped mountain peaks as a backdrop.

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.



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



Gentianella luteomarginata

PERU

Dates: around March 22-April 11, 2016

Leader: Harry Jans

Price: in the region of £4,800

Following on from the highly successful first AGS tour in 2014, a return trip is scheduled in 2016. This tour will take in some of the areas visited on the last tour (see the issue of *The Alpine Gardener* that accompanies this newsletter) as well as exploring new territory.

Peru, well-known as the land of the Incas, awakens the imagination for many tourists. It boasts the cultural capital of South America, Cusco; the lost city of Machu Picchu; the Colca Canyon, the deepest in the world; Arequipa and Lima, both World Heritage cities; and the Cordillera Blanca, a hiking paradise.

This tour is designed for the nature and plant lover. Peru has three major ecosystems: coast, highlands and

jungle, and over 80 micro-ecosystems. Its geographic position in the Central Andes means it has a huge number of plant species, around 15,000. Still many species remain to be discovered.

This tour includes three highlights of the Andean region: Arequipa and the Colca Canyon; Cusco and the Sacred Valley with the option to visit Machu Picchu; and a four-day visit to the Cordillera Blanca. Expect to see the most fantastic landscapes and plants such as cushions, ground rosettes, giant bromeliads, colourful gentianellas in boglands and plenty of others.

The botanical exploration will combine nature and the cultural elements of Peru. Almost every day will involve the exploration of remote areas by four-wheel drive vehicle. Most of the roads are paved but in places like Huascarán National Park and Colca Canyon you will travel over some bumpy gravel roads. Hotel accommodation will include breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Saxifraga flagellaris subsp. *flagellaris* and, right, *Lilium monadelphum* var. *szovitsianum*

GEORGIA

June 28-July 11, 2015

Leaders: Shamil Shetekauri, Kurt Vickery & Oron Peri

Cost: From London, £2,595

Tbilisi to Tbilisi, £2,195.

Summer in the wild untamed Greater Caucasus is the perfect time to assimilate fully Georgia's breathtaking floral diversity. *Lilium kesselringianum* blooms with many beautiful delphiniums, foxgloves and monkshoods in meadows on the volcanic Javakheti Plateau.

Dianthus raddeanus glows pink from rocky outcrops, where red *Sedum sempervivoides* blooms with clusters of *Campanula aucheri*. Yellow globe orchids and endemic *Gladiolus dzavakheticus* mix with pink and yellow centaureas. The range of campanulas is impressive and includes several delicate rock-dwelling species such as



Campanula petrophila. Pink and deep purple primulas (as well as creamy-white *Primula bayernii*) bloom alongside azure *Corydalis alpina*, yellow *Corydalis emmanuelii* and gentians. Steel-blue swertias and shining red louseworts line sinuous streams. In scenic Racha the subalpine meadows are alive with many species of geraniums, inulas and salvias as well as *Lilium monadelphum* var. *szovitsianum*, dracocephalums, *Polemonium caucasicum* and the strange primula relative *Sredinskya grandis*. Higher up you will find *Paeonia wittmanniana* alongside the rare *Daphne pseudosericea*.

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

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

Autumn Conference booking form: **NEW VENUE**

AT THE HOLIDAY INN, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Two-day residential delegates:

£190 per person for one night with breakfast in a shared room at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon, two hot buffet lunches and three-course Conference Dinner

£220 per person for one night with breakfast in a single room at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon, two hot buffet lunches and three-course Conference Dinner

Day delegates:

£50 for Saturday including lunch; £60 for Sunday including lunch

The four-star Holiday Inn is situated on the riverside in the centre of Stratford-upon-Avon. The hotel is set in landscaped gardens and has parking for 350 cars. Stratford train station is one mile from the hotel.

Please tick as applicable or book on our website

We would like to reserve two residential places in a shared room (total £380)

I would like to reserve a residential place in a single room (total £220)

I/we would like to reserve day delegate places for Saturday including lunch (£50 each)

I/we would like to reserve day delegate places for Sunday including lunch (£60 each)

A non-refundable deposit of £50 per person is payable at the time of booking.

YOUR DETAILS (block capitals please):

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Country/country _____

Post/Zip code: _____

CHEQUE PAYMENT

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

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

Please charge my 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.