

# Invite a friend to join the AGS

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

I/We wish to apply for membership as indicated below. Rates valid for 2014.

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

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

## Your details (block capitals please):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### CHEQUE

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

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

No extra charge for paying by credit card

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

Card number                      Security code

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

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

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

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

# AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society



Keith Lever and Brian Burrow giving practical demonstrations at last year's conference

The success of both the AGS Snowdrop Day last month and the two-day members' conference last November means that both are to be repeated.

Booking for the conference on November 8 and 9 this year will open on our website on March 31. Booking details for both the conference and the Snowdrop Day, to be held on February 7, 2015, will be published in the June issue of AGS News.

As last year, our AGM will precede the conference on November 8. This year

## Conference and Snowdrop Day to go ahead again

the E.B. Anderson Memorial Lecture will be given by Martin Shearer. It is part of the AGM and is free to all members. The conference will commence after Martin's lecture.

This year more time will be allowed

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### SPECIAL FREE BOOK OFFER FOR MEMBERS: PAGE 9

Win cash at Malvern 5

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Tours 19

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

PLEASE CUT HERE

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

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Email:  
ags@alpinegardensociety.net

Registered charity No. 207478

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

For details of life membership apply to  
the AGS Centre.

### AGS CENTRE EASTER CLOSURE

The AGS Centre will close at  
5pm on Thursday, April 17,  
and will not reopen until  
Wednesday, April 23. It will  
also be closed on Bank Holiday  
Mondays May 5 and 26. The  
AGS garden is open every day.

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Send items for the June 2014 issue  
of AGS News to Jackie Cooper at the  
address above or email  
jackie@alpinegardensociety.net.  
The deadline is April 30, 2014.

## NOTICEBOARD

### AGS shows and plant sales



March 15: Kendal Show  
March 22: Kent Show  
March 22: East Lancashire Show  
March 29: Northumberland Show  
March 29: South West Show  
April 5: North Midland Show  
April 5: Ulster Show  
April 12: Midland Show  
April 19: Cleveland Show  
April 26: Dublin Show  
April 27: London Show  
May 3: East Anglia Show  
May 10: Malvern Show  
May 17: Southport Show  
May 31: Summer Show South  
June 15: Summer Show North  
July 12: Summer Show Mid West  
September 20: Autumn Show North  
September 27: Autumn Show South  
October 4: Loughborough Autumn Show  
October 11: Newcastle 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 2013  
issue of AGS News. Please note: there  
are no AGS plant sales at Malvern.



Some of the AGS members who  
attended February's Snowdrop Day.  
Right, Christine Mole enhanced her  
galanthophile credentials by painting  
each of her nails with a different  
snowdrop! Pictures by Doug Joyce

#### Continued from page 1

between Saturday's talks and practical  
demonstrations because many  
members at last year's event felt that  
the programme was just too packed!

The conference speakers will  
include John Mitchell from the Royal  
Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Harry Jans  
from the Netherlands, Tom Mitchell  
from Evolution Plans, Ian Green of  
Greentours, and Christopher Bailes, the  
curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden.

There will also be practical  
demonstrations and workshops. Full  
details of the programme will be  
published in the next issue of AGS  
News.

The first AGS Snowdrop Day, which  
was held at Stratford-upon-Avon in  
February, was a sell-out, with more than  
100 members enjoying lectures and an



excellent range of snowdrop exhibits.  
The nurseries attending all did brisk  
business.

Next year's event will feature an  
improved layout to allow more space for  
plant sales. Speakers will include the  
well known garden writer Val Bourne.

### AGS ANNUAL AWARDS

#### NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING AGS AWARDS

- ✦ **Lyttel Trophy** for meritorious work with alpiners.
- ✦ **The Sir William & Lady Lawrence Award** for an outstanding contribution to work with alpiners 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 2013.

### 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 of the 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 81 (2013), for the following awards:

- ✦ **The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award** for the best article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2013 (Vol. 81).
- ✦ **The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award** for the best practical alpine gardening article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2013 (Vol. 81).
- ✦ **The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award** to recognise photographic excellence in The Alpine Gardener in 2013 (Vol. 81) 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, 2014.**



Three of the many wacky containers planted by AGS members at Malvern last year

### JOIN IN THE FUN AT MALVERN AND WIN CASH FOR YOUR LOCAL GROUP

At the Malvern Spring Gardening Show from May 8 to 11, the AGS is staging an exhibit of planted containers, giving you the chance to win cash prizes! You can plant alpiners in any sort of container – old boots, hats, kettles. In fact the wackier, the better. The only stipulations are that they must fit on the show bench and can be easily moved.

There will be three classes to enter:

1. Alpiners planted in the most innovative container by an individual.  
**First prize £50 Second prize £25**
2. A Local Group exhibit in any container, from troughs to tin baths.  
**First prize £100 Second prize £50**
3. The best planted small trough or miniature garden by an individual.  
**First prize £50 Second prize £25**

So please join in and have some fun. The AGS may be able to help to arrange the transport of your exhibits to Malvern in the week before the show and will take care of them.

To enter, call Jo Walker on 0121 744 3129

**Good luck!**

### AGS LOCAL GROUP SHOWS

#### Dorset Group Show and Plant Sale

Saturday, April 5, at the Allendale Centre, Wimborne, BH21 1AS, from 11.30am to 3pm. Admission £1, AGS members free. For further information contact John and Christine Chappell on 01300 320247 or email johnchappell321@btinternet.com

#### Cotswold and Malvern Group Show and Plant Sale

Easter Monday, April 21, at Maisemore Village Hall, Maisemore, near Gloucester, GL2 8JE. Open to the public from 12 noon to 4pm. Admission £3. AGS members free. Entries to Show Secretary John Fitzpatrick by Saturday, March 30. Please call 01981 580134. Show schedules also available. Refreshments will be served all day.

#### SPECIAL OFFER

##### ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY BULLETINS

10 AGS Bulletins (pre 2010 issues) for £16 (post free). One Special Offer per member.

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

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



#### The Fritillaria Group of the AGS

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

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

**Please note change of venue**

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

## Can you help to run the AGS's tours?

For many years The Alpine Garden Society has organised tours to botanically rich parts of the world, enabling hundreds of our members to see plants in their natural habitats in often spectacular surroundings.

The Society is reviewing the way it organises these tours and is looking for members who would like to volunteer to help with various aspects of booking and running the tours.

If you have an interest in travel, or even have experience of working in the travel industry, then we would like to hear from you.

Please call or email Christine McGregor, Director of the AGS, on 01386 554790, [ags@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net).

AGS Bristol Group

### Inspiring Alpines

A one-day conference on Saturday, September 27, 2014, at The Red Maids' School, Westbury Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3AW from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

**Lectures by David Haselgrove, Professor John Good, Martin Shearer and Kevin Hughes**

The cost is £17 including teas and coffees. An optional hot lunch will be available for £10.

**For further information and bookings contact Sheila Ashby on 01275 851254 or e-mail: [ian\\_sheila@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ian_sheila@hotmail.co.uk)**

(Previous delegates will be sent an application form)

AGS West Yorkshire Group Conference

### Cool and Beautiful

October 18, 2014, at Askham Bryan Agricultural College, York YO23 3FR. 9am start.

**Speakers: Harry Jans, Ger van den Beuken, Christopher Grey-Wilson and Robert Unwin**  
**Nurseries: Pottertons, Aberconwy, Ger van den Beuken**

More information in the next AGS News.  
Contact Liz Barber: [elizabethbarber2@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethbarber2@gmail.com)

## NOTICEBOARD

### SEED ENVELOPES FOR SALE

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

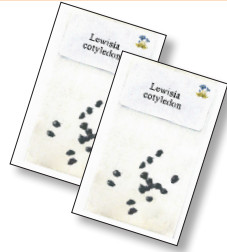
Small 73 x 41mm self-adhesive **50 for £3**

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

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

Postage is free to UK members

Overseas members should contact AGS Centre for postage rates



AGS West Sussex Group

### Alpines Across the Pacific

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

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

The cost is £20 (optional lunch £5).

**For further information and bookings contact Diann Berry on 01243 786254 or email diannberry@btoopenworld.com**

AGS Bedfordshire Group

### The Easy Introduction to Gardening with Alpines

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

**Workshops and lectures**

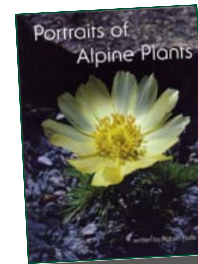
**Tony Goode, Vic Aspland Professor John Good**

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

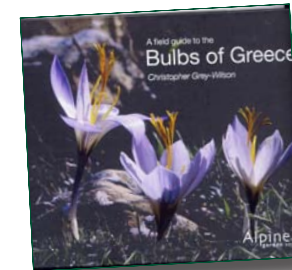
**For more information visit [www.bedfordshirealpines.com](http://www.bedfordshirealpines.com) or contact Robert Amos on 01767 627487**

Alpine Garden Society  MEMBERS' SPECIAL OFFER

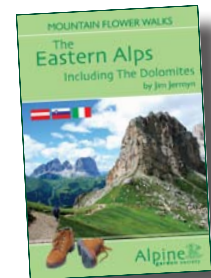
## BUY TWO BOOKS AND GET THE CHEAPEST FREE!



Portraits of Alpine Plants by Robert Rolfe **£22**



A Field Guide to the Bulbs of Greece by Christopher Grey-Wilson **£20**



Mountain Flower Walks: The Eastern Alps by Jim Jermyn **£17.60**



Mountain Flower Walks: The Greek Mainland by John Richards **£10**

Buy any two of these AGS books and we will give you the cheapest one free of charge!

To order, use the form on page 18 and leave blank the price of the cheapest book, or call the AGS Centre.

This offer is restricted to two books per member and is not available on our website.

Special postage and packing rates apply:  
UK - £5; EU - £11; rest of the world - £13.50.

Offer valid until May 31, 2014.

## SPECIAL OFFER FOR AGS MEMBERS: SAVE UP TO 25% ON ACCESS COLD FRAMES

Access Garden Products are offering AGS members an exclusive 25% off their range of cold frames and bases until April 30, 2014. The popular cold frames are ideal for alpine growers because they offer large amounts of space with **excellent ventilation**. The glass panels on the top and sides slide away for easy access and ventilation. For safety, only **toughened safety glass** is used. It is much stronger than standard horticultural glass – the roof glass will withstand 2ft (60cm) of snow on it. If the glass does break, it shatters into tiny pieces.



The sturdy architectural aluminium framework comes with a **25-year guarantee**. Access has been producing these frames for 35 years and original examples are still going strong! For a really special finish, the cold frames are available with an **optional colour coating**. This hard-wearing finish is available in six colours. Please call for samples and prices. The cold frames are 4ft wide and are available in four lengths: 4ft, 6ft, 8ft and 10ft.



Also available are **sturdy, pressure-treated bases** for the cold frames, raising the frame up to reduce bending. The bases are constructed from 1 1/4in deck board which is mitred at the ends for a neat appearance. Stainless steel screws ensure a long life. The base can be filled with soil for direct planting, or a very sturdy timber floor can be added to allow alpines to be placed either directly on the boards or on a couple of inches of grit. A useful option is the **louvre vent**. This replaces one of the 2ft x 2ft sheets of glass at the end of the frame, providing additional ventilation. The louvre aids winter ventilation as the slats prevent rain ingress. A vent can be fitted at either or both ends and is available as a manual or fully automatic vent.



### PRICES AND DIMENSIONS

Code	Length	List price	AGS price	3-tier base	Timber floor	Delivery
FF3	4ft/1.21m	£219	£175.20	£102.60	£66.60	£29
SF3	6ft/1.83m	£294	£220.50	£125.10	£102.60	£39
EF3	7ft 9in/2.36m	£334	£250.50	£165.60	£129.60	£39
TF3	10ft/3.03m	£374	£299.20	£170.10	£156.60	£44

Width: 4ft (1.21m) Height: 2ft 8in (0.82m) Base height: 15in (36cm)

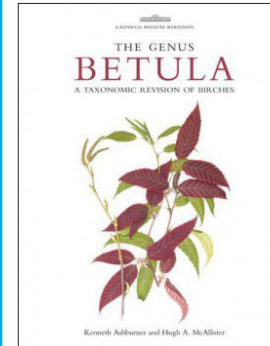
Bases are approx. 3in/6cm wider and longer than the frame.

Manual louvre vent: ~~£74~~ £59.20 Automatic vent: ~~£99~~ £79.20

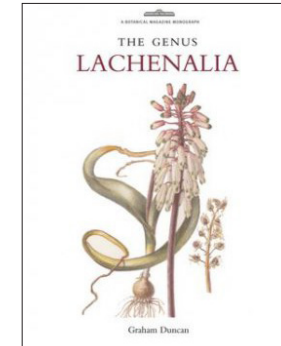
To order, or for a free copy of the Access 40-page catalogue, call 0800 298 6284 and quote 'AGS-14 offer'.

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

## Kew monographs at 20% discount

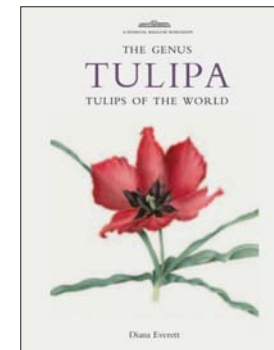


The Genus *Betula* by Kenneth Ashburner and Hugh McAllister  
Cover price £68  
AGS price £54.40 (code 858)

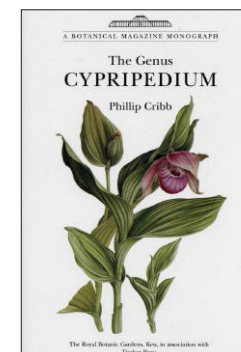


The Genus *Lachenalia* by Graham Duncan  
Cover price £120  
AGS price £96 (code 861)

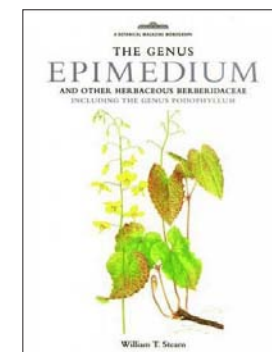
The Genus *Tulipa* by Diana Everett  
Cover price £68  
AGS price £54.40 (code 859)



The Genus *Roscoea* by Jill Cowley  
Cover price £42  
AGS price £33.60 (code 282)



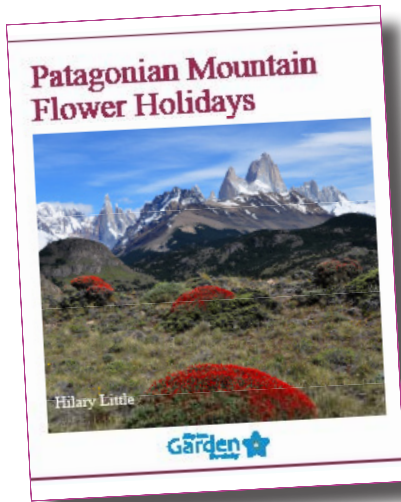
The Genus *Cypripedium* by Phillip Cribb  
Cover price £73  
AGS price £58.40 (code 349)



The Genus *Epimedium* by William T. Stearn  
Cover price £46  
AGS price £36.80 (code 374)

To order, use the order form on page 18 or visit our online book shop at [www.alpinegardensociety.net](http://www.alpinegardensociety.net)

# NEW BOOK OFFERS



**SAVE 20%**

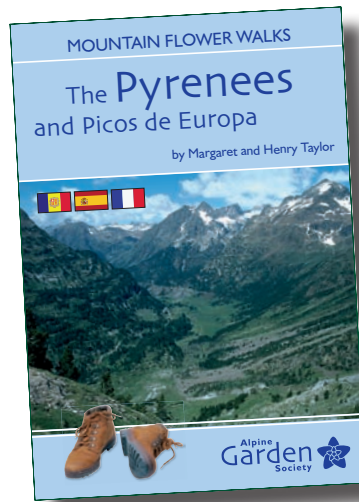
Patagonian Mountain Flower Holidays by Hilary Little

This companion volume to Martin Sheader's Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains is essential for anyone who wishes to explore this plantsman's paradise. Hilary Little has visited Patagonia many times and her guide includes dozens of recommended walks as well as information on accommodation and transport, making it an indispensable travel companion.

Cover price **£30**

AGS price **£24**

[Order code 871]



**SAVE 20%**

Mountain Flower Walks: The Pyrenees and the Picos de Europa by Margaret and Henry Taylor

This is a guide to the best places to see plants in the Pyrenees and the Picos de Europa. Margaret and Henry Taylor have visited the area many times and pass on their knowledge to all those who would like to get the best out of a holiday in these mountains in southern France, northern Spain and Andorra.

Cover price **£22**

AGS price **£17.60**

[Order code 869]

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

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
<b>GENERAL ALPINE TITLES</b>		
032	Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good	£6.50
772	Alpines from Mountain to Garden by Richard Wilford	£23.20
028	Alpine Plants: Ecology for Gardeners by John Good & David Millward	£12.00
292	Alpines: An Essential Guide by Michael Mitchell	£15.00
024	Alpines in Pots (New Edition) by Kath Dryden	£4.00
026	Crevice Gardening by Zdenek Zvolanek	£5.50
857	Growing Alpines in Containers by John Good	£5.00
033	Portraits of Alpine Plants by Robert Rolfe	£22.00
453	The Himalayan Garden by Jim Jermyn	£20.00
729	The Rock Garden Plant Primer by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£16.00
<b>SPECIFIC GENERA</b>		
019	Androsace: The Genus by G.F.Smith & D.B. Lowe <b>**LAST FEW COPIES**</b>	£8.00
694	Bleeding Hearts, Corydalis & Their Relatives by Mark C Tebbitt et al	£20.00
277	Dwarf Campanulas by Graham Nicholls	£12.00
643	Clematis (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Mary Toomey	£12.00
374	Epimedium: The Genus by William T Stearn	£36.80
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
288	Hostas (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Diana Grenfell & Michael Shadrack	£12.00
778	The Book of Little Hostas by Kathy Guest Shadrack & Michael Shadrack	£14.50
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
282	The Genus Roscoea by Jill Cowley	£33.60
700	Saxifrages: A Definitive Guide by Malcolm McGregor	£28.00
870	Saxifrages: Porophyllum Cultivars Complete Checklist by Adrian Young	£10.00
021	Silver Saxifrages by Beryl Bland <b>**LOW PRICE**</b>	£3.00
766	Thyme Handbook by Margaret Easter and Susie White	£8.00
<b>BULBOUS PLANTS</b>		
860	A Gardener's Guide to Bulbs by Christine Skelmersdale	£20.00
866	A Gardener's Guide to Snowdrops by Freda Cox <b>**NEW TITLE**</b>	£28.00
599	Autumn Bulbs by Rod Leeds	£8.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
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 <b>**LOW PRICE**</b>	£5.00
798	Crocuses: A Complete Guide to the Genus by Janis Ruksans	£24.00
268	Cyclamen by Christopher Grey-Wilson (booklet) <b>**LOW PRICE**</b>	£2.50
864	Daffodil by Noel Kingsbury <b>**NEW TITLE**</b>	£14.40
852	Genus Cyclamen edited by Brian Mathew	£72.00
	<b>Special postage rates: UK £13.50; EU £16; rest of the world £19 (airmail £31)</b>	
795	Galanthomania by Hanneke van Dijk	£23.00
241	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Agapanthus by Graham Duncan	£4.50
240	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Nerines by Graham Duncan	£5.00
861	The Genus Lachenalia by Graham Duncan	£96.00
860	Growing Garden Bulbs by Richard Wilford	£5.60
608	Pocket Guide to Bulbs by John E Bryan	£12.00
848	Snowdrops by Gunter Waldorf	£12.00
232	Snowdrops: A Monograph of Cultivated Galanthus by Mat Bishop et al	£48.00
246	Snowdrops Booklet by Jackie Murray (second edition, 2011)	£3.50
859	The Genus Tulipa by Diana Everett <b>**NEW TITLE**</b>	£54.40
266	Tulips (Species & Hybrids for the Gardener) by Richard Wilford	£10.00
868	Wild Flowers of Turkey: Bulbous Plants by Yasemin Konuralp <b>**NEW TITLE**</b>	£25.00
	<b>ORCHIDS</b>	
265	Growing Hardy Orchids by John Tullock	£16.00
804	Growing Hardy Orchids by Philip Seaton et al	£10.00
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	£58.40
	<b>SUCCULENTS AND CACTI</b>	
741	Cacti and Succulents for Cold Climates by Leo J Chance	£20.00
817	Hardy Succulents by Gwen M Kelaidis	£12.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
749	Succulent Container Gardens by Debra Lee Baldwin	£16.00
264	Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World by Fred Dortort	£28.00
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## AUTUMN IN THE PONTICS

**September 11-22, 2014**  
(approximate dates)

**Leaders: Bob & Rannveig Wallis**

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



*Crocus kotschyanus*  
subsp. *suworowianus*

This ten-day tour to see the autumn flora of north-east Turkey starts and ends in Trabzon. The north side of the Pontic mountains are clothed in wonderful mixed forest, which is supported by the high rainfall in this area. The ridge is an area of grazed moorland with short grass and lots of alpine and bulbs, whereas the south side is much drier. The flora has characters of both the Caucasus and of the Anatolian plateau. We will team up once more with our excellent guide, Alper Ertubey of Hike 'n' Sail, to take in all the best areas of these wonderful mountains. The tour is timed to see three very local *Crocus* in flower. It will start with the Zigana Pass which should be studded with *Crocus vallicola* and *Colchicum speciosum* at this time. There are rivulets of yellow *Crocus scharojanii* on the Soğanli Pass where it hybridises with the very abundant *C. vallicola* to produce all intergrades from the yellow, through Cornish cream to white. As we progress eastwards, the huge Ovitdagi Pass provides sheets of all three crocuses (the third is *C. kotschyanus* subsp. *suworowianus*) and their hybrids in the

meadows. They grow here with nice stands of *Gentiana gelida*. Our tour will take in the beautiful Kavron Yayla above Ayder where we can walk around the valley below the 4,000m Kaçkar Dag and/or back down to Ayder through carpets of white *Crocus* and take in the fabulous autumn colour of the trees. At the World Biosphere reserve of Çamili we hope to see *Crocus* and *Colchicum* as well as the late woodland flora of *Gentiana asclepiadea* and *Campanula lactiflora*. The mountain above the hill town of Artvin is the home of colonies of *Colchicum umbrosum* and *Gentiana septemfida*. We will cross the high Çam Pass to see the meadow flora and, once again, fabulous colonies of *Crocus kotschyanus* subsp. *suworowianus*. The tour is limited to 18 participants and we will travel by small coach with minibuses for the rougher roads.

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

The AGS tours to the French Alps and China in June are fully booked.



*Ranunculus insignis*



*Ourisia macrocarpa*

## NEW ZEALAND

Departs December 29, 2014, (19 days in New Zealand)

Leader: Mark Hanger

Cost: in the region of £4,700 (single room supplement applies). Optional four-day extension to Stewart Island and Dunedin.

This tour offers the chance to visit some of New Zealand's most spectacular habitats with expert naturalist guides. It represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for travellers because the guides will take you to areas where public access is normally restricted.

The tour is on the South Island, where the mountains themselves are magnificent, but you will also enjoy exploring beach forests, coastline and beautiful lakes. There's even the opportunity to take to the ocean to see sperm whales and albatrosses.

The native flora of New Zealand is rich and unique, having evolved in isolation for millions of years. No fewer than 80 per cent of New Zealand's native plants and trees are endemic. Although few have showy flowers, the variety of foliage colour, texture and shape is remarkable.

Areas visited on the tour will include Mount Arthur, the beautiful lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa, Blackbirch, the Clarence Valley with its abundance of gentians, Mount St Patrick, Mount Hutt, Peel Forest Park, Mount Cook National Park and its spectacular Hooker Valley, the Hollyford Valley and the Gertrude Cirque, which has arguably one of the finest accessible communities of alpine plants in the Southern Hemisphere.

You will be delighted by species of *Ranunculus*, *Celmisia*, *Aciphylla*, *Raoulia*, *Donatia*, *Ourisia*, *Swainsona* and many more.

There are several optional extras on this tour, such as a sightseeing flight over the mountains and a four-day extension.

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*Iris grossheimii*

## AZERBAIJAN & NAKHCHIVAN

April 30-May 13, 2014

Leaders: Ian Green & Seda Soylu

Cost: £3,295

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

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



*Iris lycotis*

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

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

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*Eritrichium nanum**Physoplexis comosa*

## THE DOLOMITES

June 25-July 4, 2014

Leaders: Paul Cardy & Stefano Doglio

Cost: £1,795

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

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

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

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

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

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## NORTH-WEST INDIA

June 26-July 9 (13), 2014

Leaders: Chris Gardner & Başak Gardner

Cost: £3,795 (£695 for the extension)

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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