

AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

SPECIAL OFFER FOR AGS MEMBERS!
20% OFF ACCESS FRAMES – SEE PAGE 17

A celebration of gardening with the AGS

Reservations can now be made for two premier AGS events this autumn. Our Annual Conference, which will follow the Society's annual general meeting, will be held on the weekend of November 12 and 13 at the four-star Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon. And our Autumn Bulb Day will be on Sunday, September 25, at Pershore College in Worcestershire, next to the AGS Centre and garden.

The theme of the conference is 'Gardening with Alpines', and our speakers, all with many years experience as alpine gardeners, will offer a deluge of practical advice and useful information.

They will include:

- John Mitchell, Alpine Supervisor at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.
- Former nurseryman, accomplished



AGS conference speaker Steve Furness

plantsman and last year's Lyttel Trophy winner, Brian Burrow.

- John Richards, the AGS online gardening diarist from Northumberland.
- Mike Kintgen from Denver Botanic Gardens in Colorado.
- A rare opportunity to hear Steve Furness from Derbyshire, a nurseryman and superb alpine gardener.

A detailed programme will be published in the June issue of AGS News. To book early and be sure of a place, use the form on the back page of this issue.

Details of the Autumn Bulb Day are on page 3.

£600 in cash prizes to be won in the **AGS Photographic Competition**

Details in The Alpine Gardener accompanying this newsletter

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Worcestershire, WR10 3JP, UK

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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 EASTER HOLIDAY HOURS

The AGS Centre will close at
5pm on Thursday, March 24,
and will not reopen until
Wednesday, March 30. It will
also be closed on Bank Holiday
Mondays May 2 and 30. The
AGS garden is open every day.

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

NOTICEBOARD

AGS shows and plant sales



March 19: East Lancashire Show

March 26: Kent Show

March 26: Cleveland Show

April 2: Northumberland Show

April 9: Ulster Shows

April 9: Chesterfield Show

April 16: Midland Show

April 23: Dublin Show

April 30: South West Show

May 7: East Anglia Show

May 14: Southport Show

May 28: Wimborne Show

June 5: Bakewell Show

July 2: Pershore Show

October 1: Loughborough Autumn Show

October 8: Newcastle Show

October 15: Harlow Carr Show

October 22: Kent Autumn 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 2015
issue of The Alpine Gardener.

PICTURES FROM THE AGM

BOOK NOW! A GREAT DAY OUT FOR GARDENERS

AGS Autumn Bulb Day

Sunday, September 25, 2016

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 £25, non-members £35

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

Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre.

AGS members will be given priority booking.

Non-members may reserve tickets after June 1, 2016.

SPEAKERS

Joe Sharman: Autumn
Flowering Snowdrops

Simon Wallis: Species Tulips
from Cambridge University
Botanic Garden

Paul Cumbleton: Winter
Growing Bulbs from South
Africa

Christopher Grey-Wilson:
Bulbous Encounters



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

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 2015.

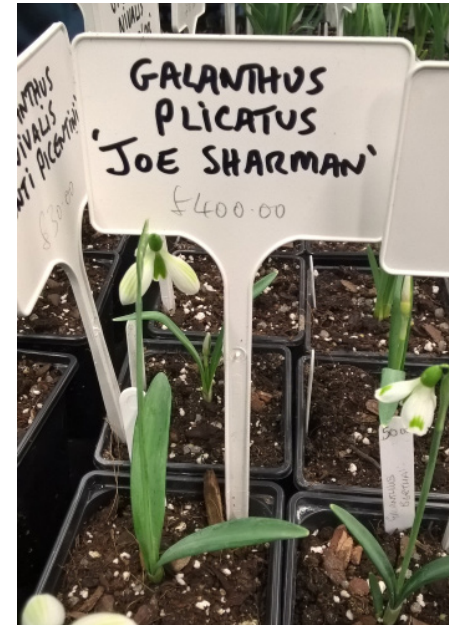
AGS LITERARY AWARDS

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 83 (2015), for the following awards:

- ✦ **The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award** for the best article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2015 (Volume 83).
- ✦ **The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award** for the best practical alpine gardening article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2015 (Volume 83).
- ✦ **The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award** to recognise photographic excellence in The Alpine Gardener in 2015 (Volume 83) 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, 2016.

AGS SNOWDROP DAY: DATE FOR 2017



The priciest plant for sale and, right, *Galanthus* 'Heffalump'

The AGS Snowdrop Day in February was another very successful event, with tickets sold out well in advance. Our move to a new venue, the Lilleshall National Conferencing Centre in Shropshire, proved to be very popular. Next year's event will be held on Saturday, February 4, and tickets will be advertised for sale in the June issue of AGS News. As usual, AGS members will be given priority. Here are some pictures from this year's event.



There was plenty to tempt members on the nursery stands

NOTICEBOARD



Election of a President

The current President of the Alpine Garden Society is due to step down in November 2016 and your Trustee Board invites nominations for a successor. A brief outline of the duties of a President and the role he or she is expected to perform on behalf of the Society can be obtained from the Society Director. It is advisable that anyone who is considering this position has read through these details before having their name put forward. The Society Director will also be happy to be contacted to talk through what is involved in more detail. Please note that a person nominated must have given their consent beforehand to having their name put forward and all nominations must be submitted on the official nomination form, copies of which can also be obtained from the Society Director, Christine McGregor (01386 554790 or e-mail ags@alpinegardensociety.net). The closing date for nominations is Wednesday, April 27. The President is elected by the Trustee Board and the decision ratified at the Society's annual general meeting.



Fritillaria Group of the AGS Spring Show and meeting

**Sunday, March 20, 2016,
9.30am-4pm, at the Hillside
Centre, RHS Wisley**

**The speakers will be Ron
Mudd and Arthur Nicholls.**

**There will be an open
discussion about selected
fritillaries from the show
benches.**

**More information at
www.fritillaria.org.uk**

AGS Wirral and West Cheshire Group Alpines for All

**Sunday, June 19, 2016,
10am-3pm, at Thornton
Hough Village Hall, Thornton
Hough, Wirral CH63 1JB**

Free admission

**A taster for all who would like
to know more about mountain
plants and how to grow them.**

**Alpine nurseries, workshops,
demonstrations, refreshments.**

Ample parking.

**For further information please
call 0151 336 3407**

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPONSOR THE AGS AT CHELSEA

The Alpine Garden Society is looking for sponsors for its display in the Great Pavilion at this 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).

AGS Bedfordshire Group Annual Show and Plant Sale

**Saturday, March 26, 2016, from 11.30am-3pm at Wilstead
Village Hall, MK45 3BX. Open to all AGS members to exhibit.**

**For details or a schedule visit www.bedfordshirealpines.com
Or contact Rob Amos 07765 183291; robertamos13@hotmail.com**

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



PRE-PUBLICATION ORDER FORM
(or order on the AGS website)

Membership number: _____

Order to be sent to (block capitals please): _____ Address to which your credit/debit card statement is sent, if different: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

Post/Zip code: _____ Post/Zip code: _____

Please send me the following books: (UK POST FREE)	Price each	Number of copies	Total
The Plant Lover's Guide to Primulas	£13.50		£
The Plant Lover's Guide to Hardy Geraniums	£13.50		£
The Plant Lover's Guide to Clematis	£13.50		£
The Plant Lover's Guide to Magnolias	£13.50		£
Please send me all four books	£50		£

OVERSEAS ORDERS			
EU airmail add £6 per book postage	£6		£
Rest of the world surface mail add £8 per book	£8		£
GRAND TOTAL			£

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

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

Name on card: _____

Card number: Security code:

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

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

Primulas 🌸 Geraniums 🌸 Magnolias 🌸 Clematis
PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER

SAVE 25% WITH FREE UK POSTAGE

Order all four books and we'll take off another 5%

Four new titles in the Timber Press series of Plant Lover's Guides

These four lavishly illustrated books – on Primulas, Hardy Geraniums, Magnolias and Clematis – written by leading experts will be published in March and April. The AGS is offering each title at a discount of 25% on the £17.99 cover price with free postage in the UK. Order all four and we'll take 30% off, still with free postage. The books are being published by Timber Press in association with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

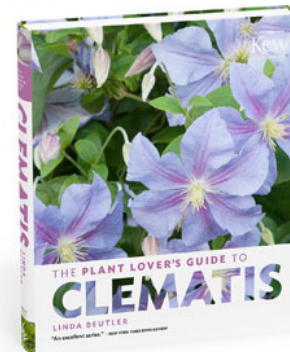
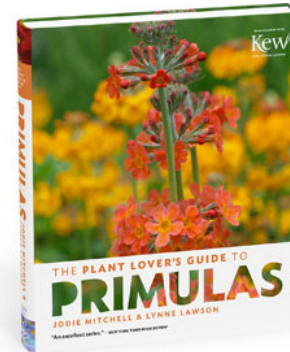
Primulas by nursery owners Jodie Mitchell and Lynne Lawson highlights 93 of the best species and varieties for the garden.

Hardy Geraniums by Robin Parer looks at plants for ground cover, shade, the rock garden and borders, and offers expert advice on cultivation and propagation.

Magnolias by Andrew Bunting covers 146 choices, from large shrubs to towering trees, with essential information about how to care for and use them.

Clematis by Linda Beutler recommends the best varieties for different situations and offers inspirational ideas for plant combinations.

TO ORDER USE THE FORM OPPOSITE

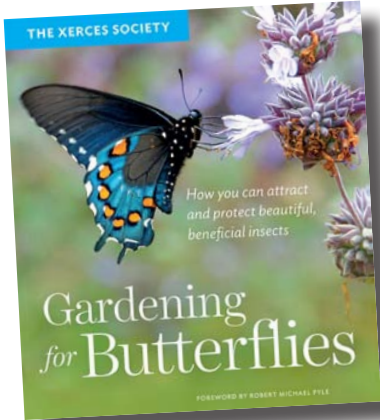


Order code	Title and author	Members' price
	 Denotes AGS publications	
	GENERAL ALPINE TITLES	
032	 Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good	£6.50
772	Alpines from Mountain to Garden by Richard Wilford	£23.00
028	Alpine Plants: Ecology for Gardeners by John Good & David Millward	£12.00
292	Alpines: An Essential Guide by Michael Mitchell	£15.00
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	£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**	£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
881	Meconopsis by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£54.50
283	Peony Rockii and Gansu Mudan by W McLewin and D Chen **LOW PRICE**	£20.00
799	Phlox: A Natural History and Gardener's Guide by James H Locklear	£28.00
282	The Genus Roscoea by Jill Cowley	£33.50
887	The Plant Lover's Guide to Dahlias by Andy Vernon	£14.50
911	The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias by John Whittlesey	£14.50
700	Saxifrages: A Definitive Guide by Malcolm McGregor	£28.00
021	 Silver Saxifrages by Beryl Bland **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
	BULBOUS PLANTS	
843	A Gardener's Guide to Bulbs by Christine Skelmersdale	£20.00
866	A Gardener's Guide to Snowdrops by Freda Cox	£28.00
599	Autumn Bulbs by Rod Leeds	£8.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
904	 Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean by Oron Peri **NEW**	£30.00
027	 Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran by Peter Sheasby	£20.00
034	 Bulbs of Greece (A Field Guide to the) by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£12.00
280	Buried Treasures by Janis Ruksans	£24.00
653	Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies & their Relatives **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
798	Crocuses: A Complete Guide to the Genus by Janis Ruksans	£24.00
268	 Cyclamen by Christopher Grey-Wilson (booklet) **LOW PRICE**	£2.50
864	Daffodil by Noel Kingsbury **LOW PRICE**	£9.00
852	Genus Cyclamen edited by Brian Mathew	£72.00
	Special postage rates: UK £13.50; EU £16; rest of the world £19 (airmail £31)	
317	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Bulbs by Graham Duncan	£15.50
240	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Nerines by Graham Duncan	£5.00
880	The Genus Erythronium by Chris Clennett	£40.00
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
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	£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
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
749	Succulent Container Gardens by Debra Lee Baldwin	£16.00
883	The Plant Lover's Guide to Sedums by Brent Horvath	£14.50

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
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	£10.00
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	£10.00
761	Palms (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Robert Lee Riffle	£10.00
908	RHS Encyclopedia of Conifers (2 vols.) by Aris G. Auders & Derek P. Spicer	£85.00
Special postage rates: EU £25; rest of the world surface mail £30		
267	The Genus Sorbus (Mountain Ash & other Rowans) by Hugh McAllister	£30.00
858	The Genus Betula by K Ashburner & Hugh McAllister	£54.40
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		
904	 Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean by Oron Peri **NEW**	£30.00
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
888	Flora of the Silk Road by Christopher and Basak Gardner	£28.00
245	Flowers of Crete by John Fielding and Nicholas Turland	£56.00
733	Flowers of Greece (2 vols. 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 & Dolomites by Jim Jermyn	£5.00
031	 Mountain Flower Walks: Greek Mainland by John Richards	£5.00
454	Frank Kingdon Ward's Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges	£28.00
871	 Patagonian Mountain Flower Holidays by Hilary Little	£24.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
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
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	£12.50
905	Wild Flowers of Mainland Greece by Johannes Flohe **NEW**	£20.00
902	Wild Flowers of New England by Ted Elliman **NEW**	£15.00
874	Wild Flowers of the Algarve by C. Thorogood and S. Hiscock	£28.00
SUNFLOWER TRAVEL GUIDES		
894	Lake Geneva & Western Switzerland	£12.00
895	Madeira	£10.00
896	Northern Portugal	£10.00
737	Picos de Europa	£10.00
897	Pyrenees	£10.00
898	Sicily	£10.00
899	Southern Peloponnese	£10.00
900	Turkish Coast: Antalya to Demre	£12.00
901	Western Crete	£10.00
GARDEN DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION		
303	Colour in the Garden by Val Bourne	£15.00
565	Designing and Planting Borders by Roger Harvey	£10.00
103	Designing Small Gardens by Ian Cooke	£8.00
807	Designing With Conifers by Richard L. Bitner	£16.00
838	Rock Landscapes: The Pulham Legacy by Claude Hitching	£28.00
854	Planting: A New Perspective by Piet Oudolf & Noel Kingsbury	£24.00
PHOTOGRAPHY		
631	Digital Photography (A-Z of Creative) by Lee Frost	£12.00
704	Macro Photography for Gardeners and Nature Lovers by Alan L Detrick	£15.00
OTHER TITLES		
774	Bees, Wasps and Ants (The Indispensable Role of Hymenoptera in Gardens)	£15.00
909	Carnivorous Plants by Nigel Hewitt-Cooper **NEW**	£14.50
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



NEW TITLE – SAVE 20%

Gardening for Butterflies: How You Can Attract and Protect Beautiful, Beneficial Insects, by The Xerces Society

Join the effort to conserve butterflies and moths with proven strategies for welcoming these extraordinary visitors into your garden.

Cover price **£17.99**

AGS price **£14.50**

Order code 910

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
336	Encyclopedia of Garden Ferns by Sue Olsen	£32.00
855	Encyclopedia of Exotic Plants by Will Giles	£28.00
910	Gardening for Butterflies by The Xerces Society **NEW**	£14.50
610	Gardening with Woodland Plants by Karan Junker	£24.00
240	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Fynbos Plants by N. Brown & G. Duncan	£15.00
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
510	Planting the Dry Shade Garden by Graham Rice	£12.00
906	Seeing Seeds by Robert Llewellyn and Teri Dunn Chace	£16.00
863	Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker by Ray Desmond	£23.50
894	Steppes by Michael Bone et al.	£28.00
907	The Art of Gardening by the Chanticleer Gardeners and R. William Thomas	£20.00
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	£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

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Order to be sent to (block capitals please): _____ Address to which your credit/debit card statement is sent, if different:

Name: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

Post/Zip code: _____ Post/Zip code: _____

Order code	Qty.	Title	Book price £	Total price £

Postage and packing rates (please tick as appropriate)

Value of order	UK	EU airmail	Rest of world surface*
Up to £15	£1.50	£3	£4
Up to £30	£4.50	£8	£10
Up to £50	£7	£11	£13
Up to £100	£10	£14	£17
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.

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

Name on card: _____

Card number: Security code:

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

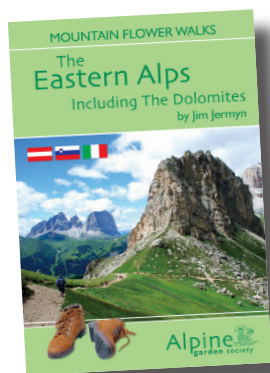
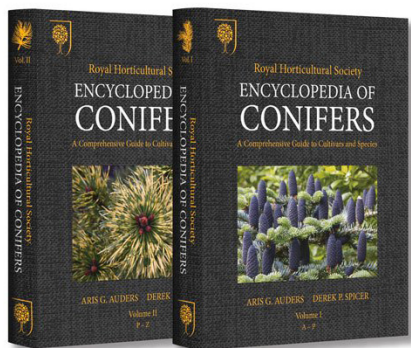
Send this form to AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP, UK.

SPRING BOOK SALE

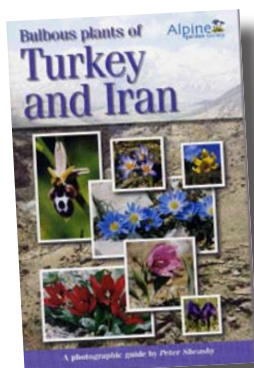
SAVE £64

RHS Encyclopedia of Conifers
by Aris G. Auders and Derek P. Spicer

This lavishly produced, 1,500-page, two-volume set is the definitive guide to conifers. It features over 5,000 photographs and all the world's 615 conifer species, plus their subspecies and about 8,000 cultivars. Cover price **£149** AGS sale price **£85** Special overseas postage rates apply (code 908)



Mountain Flower Walks: The Eastern Alps by Jim Jermyn
Cover price £22
Sale price **£5** (code 809)



Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran by Peter Sheasby
Cover price £32.95
Sale price **£20** (code 027)

A Field Guide to the Bulbs of Greece by Christopher Grey-Wilson
Cover price £26
Sale price **£12** (code 034)



Daffodil by Noel Kingsbury
Cover price £17.99
Sale price **£9** (code 864)



SPECIAL OFFER FOR AGS MEMBERS: SAVE 20% ON ACCESS COLD FRAMES AND BASES

Access Garden Products are offering AGS members an exclusive 20% off their range of cold frames and bases until **April 30, 2016**. 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 have been producing these frames for almost 40 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, which raise the frames to reduce bending. The bases are constructed from 1½in 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	£120.60	£89.10	£29
SF3	6ft/1.83m	£269	£215.20	£152.10	£134.10	£34
EF3	7ft 9in/2.36m	£299	£239.20	£192.60	£165.60	£39
TF3	10ft/3.03m	£349	£279.20	£206.10	£210.60	£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: ~~£69~~ £62.10 Automatic vent: ~~£89~~ £80.10

To order, or for a free copy of the Access 40-page catalogue, call **0800 298 6284** and quote **'AGS-16 offer'**.

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

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

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

September 4-23, 2016

Leader: Mark Hanger

Cost: £3,800 including flights; single supplement £460

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.



CHILE

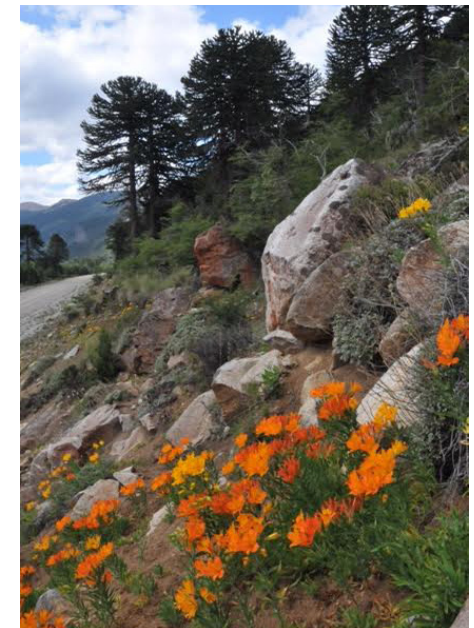
Departure in late December 2016

Leader: Martin Shearer

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.



UPCOMING TOURS FOR 2017

June - Bhutan

June-July - Romania, led by Razvan Chisu

August - Western Cape, South Africa, led by Callan Cohen

The AGS tour to China in June 2016 is fully booked

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

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Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net

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.



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*.

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



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.

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



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 the richest meadows in Europe.

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

Autumn Conference booking form

AT THE HOLIDAY INN, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Two-day residential delegates:

£195 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

£225 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; £65 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 £390)
- I would like to reserve a residential place in a single room (total £225)
- 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 (£65 each)

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

YOUR DETAILS (block capitals please):

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

County/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.