

AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

Another great line-up of speakers for conference

Following the success of last year's event, the AGS Annual Conference will again be held alongside our annual general meeting on Saturday and Sunday, November 11 and 12.

The line-up of speakers will include Jim Jermyn, Property Manager/Head Gardener at the National Trust for Scotland's Branklyn Garden in Perth; the AGS Associate Editor Robert Rolfe; and Paul Cumbleton, former head of the alpine section at RHS Wisley. More speakers will be announced soon.

The conference will be held at the four-star Crowne Plaza Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, and will follow the AGM on the Saturday

morning. The E.B. Anderson Memorial Lecture, which is part of the AGM programme and open to all members, will be given by Christopher Bailes, who will be appointed as AGS President at the meeting. Christopher, the former Curator of RHS Rosemoor and the Chelsea Physic Garden, will talk about woodland and shade plants.

At last November's conference the AGS granted several free places to young horticulturists and it is intended to do the same this year.

Members can attend either as residential or day delegates with prices starting from £50. To book, call the AGS Centre or visit our website.



Some of the young people who attended last year's AGS Conference

BOOK NOW FOR OUR AUTUMN BULB DAY – PAGE 3

Book Shop

8

Tours

17

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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, April 13,
and will not reopen until
Wednesday, April 19. It will
also be closed on Bank Holiday
Mondays May 1 and 29. The
AGS garden is open every day.

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Send items for the June 2017 issue
of AGS News to Jackie Cooper at the
address above or email
jackie@alpinegardensociety.net.
The deadline is April 30, 2017.

NOTICEBOARD

AGS shows and plant sales



March 11: Loughborough Show

March 18: Kendal Show

March 25: East Lancashire Show

April 1: Northumberland Show

April 1: South West Show

April 8: Chesterfield Show

April 8: Dublin Show

April 15: Cleveland Show

April 15: Kent Show

April 22: Ulster Show

April 22: Midland Show

May 6: East Anglia Show

May 27: Wimborne Show

June 4: Bakewell Show

July 1: Pershore Show

Sept 30: Loughborough Autumn Show

October 7: Newcastle Show

October 14: Harlow Carr Show

October 21: 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 2016
issue of The Alpine Gardener.

BOOK NOW! A GREAT DAY OUT FOR GARDENERS

AGS Autumn Bulb Day

Sunday, September 24, 2017, 9.30am to 3.30pm

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, lunch, tea and coffee:
AGS members £32, non-members £42

Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre.

AGS members will be given priority booking.

Non-members may reserve tickets after June 1, 2017.

SPEAKERS

Martin & Anna-Liisa Sheader:

Patagonian Bulbs – Amaryllids and
Orchids

Diana Everett: To Central Asia for Tulips

Bob & Rannveig Wallis: Growing Bulbs
in the Wild West

David Haselgrove: Western Australia
with the AGS

Christopher Grey-Wilson: Climbing
bellflowers and their relatives (the
genus Codonopsis)



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

News from the AGS Trustee Board

Website: The Board approved plans to redesign the Society's website. Feedback from a survey conducted last year will influence the construction of the site. This is a major project, particularly given the complexity of the existing site. Certain areas will be prioritised and the redesign will also affect the discussion area. At some point this will be closed while parts of the new site are implemented. Notice will be given when this is likely to occur nearer the time. Obviously there will be many other changes once the new site is up and running. The Board see this as a vital initiative to help secure the future of the Society.

Local Group Co-ordinators: The Board is seeking to appoint another Local Group Co-ordinator and will report on this to groups once an appointment has been confirmed.

Lake District conservation project: The Board was informed that a launch and planting day is scheduled to take place in March at the Haweswater site and a joint press release with the RSPB and United Utilities will be issued nearer the time. By this time fencing of the area should be almost complete.

Committee structure: The Trustees reviewed the existing committee structure and decided to abolish formal committees for seed, publications and tours. Instead each of these areas of activity will be discussed in full Trustee Board meetings. A small Editorial Board is to be established to advise on the Society's publications.

Online Plant Encyclopaedia: Steps are being taken to identify areas where further input is required and work on these areas will then be commissioned.

Congratulations to Rod Leeds

Rod Leeds, AGS Vice-President and Holding Trustee, has been awarded an RHS Veitch Memorial Medal that recognises contributions to the science, art and practice of horticulture. He was presented with the medal at an RHS Awards ceremony in London on February 22 by the RHS President Sir Nicholas Bacon. The Alpine Garden Society sends its warmest congratulations to Rod on this award with our grateful thanks for his continued support of the AGS across many areas of activity.

AGS Essex Group Show and Plant Sale

Saturday, April 29, 2017, 12 noon-4pm. Admission free.

New Village Hall, Church Road, Rawreth, nr. Wickford SS11 8SH.

Competitive show, plant displays, plant sales, plus refreshments.

For details contact either Ruth Jones (Sec.) on 01245 227190, arjones678@btinternet.com, or Mike Sullivan (Show Sec.) on 01277 203481

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 84 (2016), for the following awards:

- ✘ **The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award** for the best article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2016 (Volume 84).
- ✘ **The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award** for the best practical alpine gardening article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2016 (Volume 84).
- ✘ **The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award** to recognise photographic excellence in The Alpine Gardener in 2016 (Volume 84) for the best 'feature' article that must contain a minimum of ten photographs.

All nominations must be submitted on the appropriate form (available from the AGS Centre) and sent to Christine McGregor, Director, AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, WR10 3JP by July 31, 2017.

NOTICEBOARD

AGS SNOWDROP DAY: DATE FOR 2018



The priciest plant for sale and, right, Christine Mole's painted nails

The AGS Snowdrop Day in February was another very successful event, with tickets sold out. Next year's event will be held on **Saturday, February 3**, 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.



A display by Rod Leeds and David and Margaret MacLennan attracted much attention

AGS Bedfordshire Group

Annual Show and Plant Sale

Saturday, March 25, 2017, 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



Fritillaria Group of the AGS

Spring Meeting and Annual show

Sunday, March 26, 2017, 10am-4pm,
at The School of Horticulture, Kew Gardens

Talk: 'Fritillaria in the Wild' by Kit Strange & Norman Stevens.

Guided tour behind the scenes of the alpine/bulb area.

Talk: 'New Insights into Fritillaria' by the Kew scientists.

More information at www.fritillaria.org.uk

AGS Dorset Group Show and Plant Sale

Saturday, March 25, 2017, 11.30am-3pm,
at the Allendale Centre, Wimborne BH21 1AS

Admission £1

Demonstration of making and planting a hypertufa trough.

For further information please call 01300 320247

Kent AGS Show - Guest Speaker

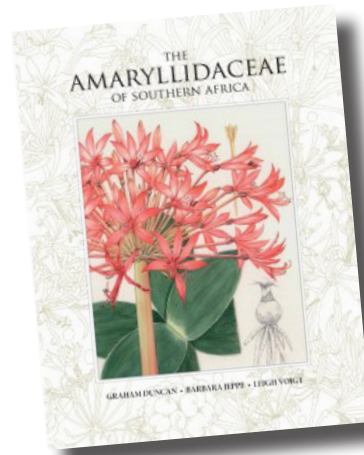
Saturday, April 15, 2017, at Sutton Valence School, ME17 3HL
Plant explorer and author Panayoti Kelaidis from the Denver Botanic Garden will give a lecture at this show on 'Alpine Steppe Flora of the World'

NEW BOOK OFFERS

The Amaryllidaceae of Southern Africa by Graham Duncan (Umdaus Press)

Southern Africa has long been recognised as a major centre of diversity for the Amaryllidaceae, and this is the first comprehensive, illustrated account covering all 18 genera and over 260 taxa in the region.

Author Graham Duncan provides a botanical description for each species, along with synonyms, information on distinguishing features, distribution, habitat, cultivation, and conservation status. Maps accompany the text, along with colour photographs and beautiful botanical paintings by the late artist Barbara Jeppe and her daughter Leigh Voigt. There is a general chapter

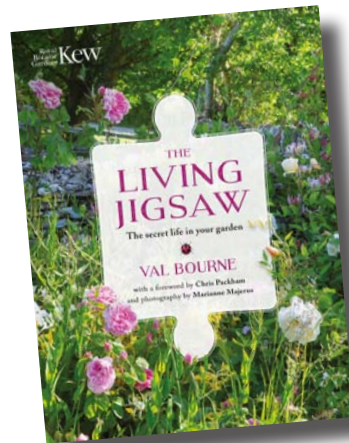


on cultivation of the winter-rainfall, summer-rainfall and evergreen species, and notes on their cultivation in the Northern Hemisphere.

Cover price **£90**
Offer price £65
 Order code 927

The Living Jigsaw: The Secret Life in your Garden by Val Bourne (Kew Publishing)

Val Bourne's garden is proof that cultivating a healthy ecosystem – what she calls her 'living jigsaw' – really does produce a beautiful and productive garden. By encouraging a wide diversity of birds, animals, insects – and even slugs – your garden will find a natural balance that allows plants to shrug off problems before they become entrenched. The Living Jigsaw is a masterclass in natural gardening, describing tried-and-tested techniques for developing a healthy garden ecology. This book not only champions natural gardening but explains why it works and, in doing so, provides a



compelling reason to make your garden chemical-free.

Cover price **£25**
Offer price £18.50
 Order code 928

NEW BOOK OFFERS

Mountain Flowers: Pyrenees and Picos by Cliff Booker and David Charlton

A ring-bound pocket field guide to the flora of these fascinating mountains, where the flowers of Northern Europe meet those of the Mediterranean region. The book is a sequel to the popular guide to the Dolomites by the same authors, both well-known and active AGS members.

More than 170 species are beautifully illustrated and arranged by flower colour and habitat, avoiding technical language where possible. It will appeal to those with little botanical knowledge but is sufficiently detailed to be enjoyed



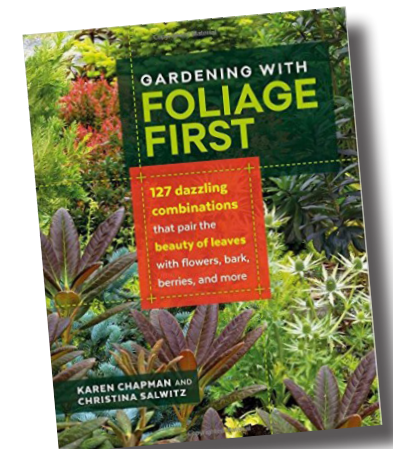
and used by the more experienced plant enthusiast.

Cover price **£9.95**
Offer price £7
 Order code 929

Gardening with Foliage First by Karen Chapman and Christina Salwitz (Timber Press)







The beauty of flowers is seductive, but flowers, by their fleeting nature, are a fickle base to provide gardens with year-round interest. Tackle this problem with the advice in Gardening with Foliage First. Learn how to build a framework of foliage and then layer in flowers and other artistic elements to add the finishing touches.

This simple, recipe-style approach to garden design features 127 combinations for both sunny and shady gardens that work for a variety of climates and garden challenges, including deer, dry shade, and more. Beginners will learn how to choose the right foliage plants, while experienced



gardeners will be inspired by fresh twists on old favourites.

Cover price **£17.99**
Offer price £13.50
 Order code 930

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

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
904	 Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean by Oron Peri	£30.00
027	 Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran by Peter Sheasby	£20.00
034	 Bulbs of Greece (A Field Guide to the) by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£12.00
280	Buried Treasures by Janis Ruksans	£24.00
653	Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies & their Relatives **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
798	Crocuses: A Complete Guide to the Genus by Janis Ruksans	£24.00
268	 Cyclamen by Christopher Grey-Wilson (booklet) **LOW PRICE**	£2.50
864	Daffodil by Noel Kingsbury **LOW PRICE**	£9.00
852	Genus Cyclamen edited by Brian Mathew	£72.00
	Special postage rates: UK £13.50; EU £16; rest of the world £19 (airmail £31)	
317	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Bulbs by Graham Duncan	£15.50
880	The Genus Erythronium by Chris Clennett	£40.00
882	The Plant Lover's Guide to Snowdrops by Naomi Slade	£14.50
860	Growing Garden Bulbs by Richard Wilford	£5.50
859	The Genus Tulipa by Diana Everett	£54.50
266	Tulips (Species & Hybrids for the Gardener) by Richard Wilford **LOW PRICE**	£6.00
892	The Plant Lover's Guide to Tulips by Richard Wilford **LOW PRICE**	£10.50
868	Wild Flowers of Turkey: Bulbous Plants by Yasemin Konuralp	£25.00
	ORCHIDS	
931	A Pocket Guide to the Orchids of Britain and Ireland by Simon Harrap	£12.00
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
698	Ophrys: The Bee Orchids of Europe by H Aerenlund Pedersen & N Faurholdt	£27.00
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
264	Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World by Fred Dortort	£28.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
TREES & SHRUBS		
840	A Natural History of Conifers by Aljos Farjon	£24.00
652	Conifers for Gardens by Richard L Bitner	£32.00
621	Durr's Encyclopedia Of Trees & Shrubs by Michael A Durr	£40.00
926	Essential Pruning Techniques: Trees, Shrubs, Conifers by Tony Kirkham	£28.00
746	Hardy Heathers from the Northern Hemisphere by E Charles Nelson	£48.00
755	Japanese Maples by JD Vertrees & Peter Gregory	£28.00
908	RHS Encyclopedia of Conifers (2 vols.) by Aris G. Auders & Derek P. Spicer	£85.00
MEMBERS OUTSIDE UK: Please email the AGS for postage cost before ordering		
267	The Genus Sorbus (Mountain Ash & other Rowans) by Hugh McAllister	£30.00
858	The Genus Betula by K Ashburner & Hugh McAllister	£54.40
912	The Plant Lover's Guide to Magnolias by Andrew Bunting	£14.50
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	£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
922	Mountain Flowers by Michael Scott **NEW**	£28.00
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
696	Plantsman's Paradise – Travels in China by Roy Lancaster	£32.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
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
917	Wild Flowers of the Western Mediterranean by Chris Thorogood **NEW**	£32.00
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		
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
925	The Garden Photography Workshop by Andrea Jones **NEW**	£14.00
OTHER TITLES		
918	A Botanist's Vocabulary by Susan K. Pell and Bobbi Angell **NEW**	£14.50
774	Bees, Wasps and Ants (The Indispensable Role of Hymenoptera in Gardens)	£15.00
924	Breckland Wild Flowers: Heaths and Grasslands, the Icenis Artists **NEW**	£12.50
909	Carnivorous Plants by Nigel Hewitt-Cooper	£14.50
773	Container Plants (The Encyclopaedia of) by Ray Rogers & Rob Cardillo	£20.00

RHS Plant Finder 2017: special price just £11.50

This special 30th Anniversary Edition of the RHS Plant Finder features 72,000 plants and where to find them including nurseries, nursery contact details, maps, websites and mail order information. It has a 32-page colour section of articles on the Plant Finder's history, a timeline of particular plants across the book's lifetime, and the views of well-known nursery owners and celebrity gardeners. There is a new section on the RHS Award of Garden Merit and information on RHS Perfect for Pollinator plants.

Cover price **£14.99** AGS price **£11.50** Order code 932



Order code	Title and author	Members' price
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
910	Gardening for Butterflies by The Xerces Society	£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
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
923	The Bold Dry Garden by Johanna Silver	£20.00
893	The Plant Lover's Guide to Ferns by Richie Steffen and Sue Olsen	£14.50
920	 The Garden at Brandy Mount House by Michael Baron	£25.50
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

ORDER FORM

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: _____

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.

SOME PICTURES FROM THE 2016 AGM



Clare Oates receives a Bar to the Gold Medal from AGS President David Haselgrove. On the right, Tony Hale collects a Local Group Award and the Sussex Weald Silver Jubilee Trophy.



Don Peace is presented with the Giuseppi Cup for winning the Open Section at AGS shows. On the right, Liz Knowles receives the Clarence Elliott Memorial Award for her article on the Silk Road in *The Alpine Gardener*.



ROMANIA

June 30 - July 9, 2017

Leader: Razvan Chisu

Cost: £1,400 including flights, single supplement £150

This is the first AGS tour to Romania and offers the chance to explore what is one of Europe's last wild places. Romania has just over 3,000 species of plants and many endemics in an area smaller than the UK. The Carpathian mountain range is roughly 1,500km long, half of which is found in Romania. We will visit one location in the western range and two locations in the south.

Day 1 – Fly to Cluj-Napoca from Luton airport, aiming to arrive early afternoon. Visit to the botanical gardens (over 30 acres of diverse habitats, tropical greenhouses and Romania's largest herbarium). Stay overnight in Hotel Capitolina, five minutes from the town centre and the botanical gardens.

Day 2 – Drive to Turda Salt Mines, a popular tourist attraction ranked by Business Insider as the most beautiful underground place in the world, with an underground boating lake. Short botanising walk on salt flats near the mine. Afternoon drive to Rimetea (18 miles away) to botanise on the Piatra Secuiului limestone cliffs. Accommodation for two nights in Perla Trascaului Chalet, with stunning views of the Transylvanian landscape.

Day 3 – A choice of walks in the Transylvanian wild meadows, which should be at their best. Expect to see species of *Centaurea*, *Salvia*



transylvanica and *pratensis*, *Dianthus spiculifolius* and much more.

Day 4 – Drive to the Southern Carpathians. Accommodation for three nights in hotel Balea Cascada, at the base of Balea Waterfall.

Days 5 & 6 – A choice of botanising walks in the Făgăraș Mountains. Expect to see several species of *Saxifraga*, *Aquilegia transsilvanica*, *Viola dacica*, *Dianthus gelidus*, *Phyteuma confusum*, *Aconitum moldavicum*, *Silene dinarica* and many other plants.

Day 7 – Drive to Sinaia in the Bucegi Mountains, with lunch in Brasov. Accommodation for three nights in Hotel Carpathia in the Prahova Valley.

Day 8 – By taking the cablecar we will reach the Bucegi plateau at 2,200m. Spend the day botanising on the plateau around the Sphynx (formed by wind erosion) looking for alpinines like *Silene acaulis*, *Saxifraga demissa*, *Primula minima*, *Campanula carpatica*, *Eritrichium nanum* subsp. *jankae*, several species of *Draba*, *Campanula alpina* var. *bucegiensis*, etc.

Day 9 – Walks in Bucegi around Bolboci Lake and the limestone Zăgoanei gorge.

Day 10 – Fly back to the UK.

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

BHUTAN

June 2017

Leader: Martin Walsh

Cost: In the region of £6,850 including flights

This, the first AGS expedition to central Bhutan, offers a unique opportunity to explore one of the richest floras in the Himalaya. The alpine regions in central Bhutan have not been explored to any great extent since the days of Ludlow and Sherriff. We will very much follow in their footsteps.

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

We will start with acclimatisation in western Bhutan, where we will travel by bus to the botanically rich Chele La, a 3,780m high pass west of Paro. We will then travel to Punakha in central Bhutan.

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

We will travel further north crossing several passes including the Jule La and the Gokthong La. A wealth of desirable alpine plants are to be found here including *Meconopsis bella*, *Primula umbratilis*, *Anemone rupicola* and the Himalayan giant rhubarb, *Rheum nobile*. The alpine meadows in this region are also rich in



Lilium sherriffiae

primulas, pedicularis, anemones, asters and so on. We will also visit one of the few known localities of one of the rarest Himalayan lilies, *Lilium sherriffiae*.

From the hot springs at Dur Tsachu we will head north-east, crossing two further passes, Chachan La and the Tole La – an area which has not been explored since George Sherriff botanised here in 1949. After several days in these alpine habitats we will descend again to the forest zone. Once we reach Tsampa, we will head north to Gangkhar Puensum Base Camp where, weather permitting, we should have spectacular views. We will then head south to finish at Khakthang.

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

CENTRAL PATAGONIA

Approximate dates: November 27 to December 18, 2017 (flight days included)

Leader: Harry Jans

Cost: To be confirmed

Provisional itinerary:

Day 1 – Arrive Buenos Aires. Transfer to Jorge Newbery Airport for flight to Bariloche.

Day 2 – Drive south to Esquel. Should arrive early afternoon in time for a short trip to Trevelin to visit the Welsh tea shop and museum. Botanising where possible en route.

Day 3 – Drive short distance to La Hoya. Botanise at ski resort.

Day 4 – Drive to Esquel. Botanise on steppe towards Piedra Parada. Lots of plants here.

Day 5 – Los Alerces National Park. Guided tour boat trip from Puerto Limonoa or Puerto Chucao and walk through temperate rainforest.

Day 6 – Drive to El Bolson. Early start would allow visit to Cerro Pilitriquitron on the same day.

Day 7 – Drive to Bariloche. Afternoon relaxing in Bariloche.

Day 8 – Drive to Mirador de Nirihuau. We will walk up to Mirador de Nirihuau or even higher if time permits.

Day 9 – Drive to Bariloche steppe. Drive towards Pilcaniyeu, stopping to look at plants along the way.

Day 10 – Drive to Cerro Catedral and take cable car/chairlift. Botanise on mountain all day.

Day 11 – Boat excursion to Puerto Blest



Volcán Lanín

and walk to Cascada Los Cantaras and forest to see forest plants.

Day 12 – Cerro Bayo ski resort with chairlift. This is a late mountain so you may find plants here that were flowered out elsewhere. Good walks at various levels.

Day 13 – Drive to San Martin de los Andes via the Paso Cordoba, botanising en route.

Day 14 – Drive to Cerro Chapelco and spend day on mountain.

Day 15 – Visit Cerro Colorado.

Day 16 – Drive to Junin de los Andes and L'Escorial on Lagunas Epulafquen.

Day 17 – Cerro Colu Huincal.

Day 18 – Volcán Lanín.

Day 19 – Drive to Bariloche and catch flight to Buenos Aires.

Day 20 – Fly BA to UK.

TASMANIA AND SE VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

December 30, 2017, for 16 days departing from Hobart, Tasmania, ending in Melbourne

Leader: Mark Hanger

Cost: To be confirmed

This tour, led by one of Australasia's leading naturalists, will spend ten days visiting some of Tasmania's finest botanical sites before flying on to Melbourne for six days of exploring south-east Victoria.

Tasmanian highlights will include a visit to Mount Field National Park, with alpine moorlands, spectacular mountain scenery and an excellent diversity of alpines including several endemic *Richea*, *Ewartia* and *Celmisia*.

In the central highlands, we will drive through the pass between the Cradle Mountain region and the Franklin-Gordon River National Park, looking for *Billardiera*, *Callistemon*, *Diplarrena* and other sub-alpine herbs such as *Milligania*.

In the vicinity of Lake Dove we will hike to Crater Lake and Cradle Mountain, with a wide array of subalpine shrubs and, above them, cushion flora.

On a day excursion to Ben Lomond National Park we'll use the ski-field access road to reach a plateau at 1,500m to make the most of magnificent scenery and unsurpassed alpine flora.

We will travel to the fascinating and scenic Freycinet National Park, staying in the oceanside Freycinet Lodge for



Blandfordia punicea

two nights, where you will see granite outcrops, rugged peaks, crystal clear water, beautiful orchids, wonderfully barked local *Eucalyptus* trees and Oyster Bay pines (*Callitris rhomboidea*).

From Melbourne we will visit the high peaks of the central section of Alpine National Park as well as several other fabulous sites.

During the tour there will be a host of wildlife to see, including platypus, wallabies, ospreys, snakes and wombats.

An air-conditioned coach will be used throughout the trip with microphone, ample luggage storage in the trailer, and tea and coffee provisions. All accommodation is of a very comfortable standard and all rooms have private facilities. In most locations it is of 3-star equivalent, although better than this on occasion.

TAJIKISTAN & UZBEKISTAN

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

Leaders: Oron Peri & Andy Byfield

Cost: £3,695

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

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

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

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

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



Corydalis sp.

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

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

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

BIG SNOW MOUNTAIN TO THE BALANG SHAN

May 12-30, 2017

Leader: Chris Gardner

Cost: £5,325

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

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

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



Meconopsis integrifolia

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

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

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



Ophrys drumana and *Cypripedium calceolus*



THE VERCORS

May 26-June 2, 2017

Leaders: Stefano Doglio & Paul Green

Cost: £1,595

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

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

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

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

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

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

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