

AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

**SPECIAL OFFER FOR AGS MEMBERS!
20% OFF ACCESS FRAMES AND BASES – SEE PAGE 7**

New venues for Autumn Bulb Day and Conference

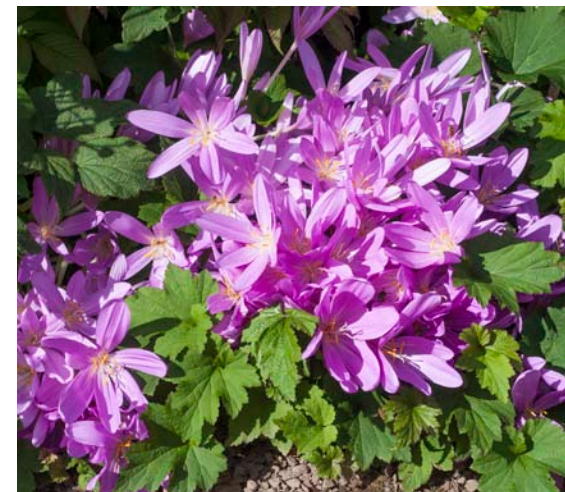
This year's AGS Annual Conference and our Autumn Bulb Day will both be held in new venues.

The AGM and Conference will take place on the weekend of November 17 and 18 at the four-star Alveston Manor Hotel and Spa in Stratford-upon-Avon, which is set in its own grounds just five minutes walk from the cultural attractions of the historic town.

This year's E.B. Anderson Memorial Lecture, which forms part of the AGM and is free to all members, will be given by orchid expert Phillip Cribb from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Conference speakers will include Sarah Carlton from St Andrews Botanic Garden, with more to be announced soon. Full details will appear in the June issue of AGS News.

The Autumn Bulb Day on Sunday, September 23, will be held at the



Colchicum 'W.A. Constable' amid leaves of *Anemone x hybrida*

headquarters of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. Speakers will include John Mitchell from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Kit Strange from RBG Kew, AGS Associate Editor Robert Rolfe and Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson.

There will be two practical workshops, including one on techniques for growing *Cyclamen*.

Bookings are now being taken for the Autumn Bulb Day, and you can reserve your place by calling the AGS Centre.

**Autumn Bulb Day details:
page 3**

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

Phone: +44(0)1386 554790

Fax: +44(0)1386 554801

Email:
ags@alpinegardensociety.net

Registered charity No. 207478

Annual subscriptions:

Single (UK and Ireland) £35*

Family (two at same address) £38*

Junior (under 18/student) £15

Overseas single £37 (\$50)

Overseas family £39 (\$54)

* £3 deduction for direct debit
subscribers

AGS CENTRE EASTER HOLIDAY HOURS

The AGS Centre will close
at 5pm on Thursday, March
29, and will not reopen until
Wednesday, April 4. It will also
be closed on Bank Holiday
Mondays May 7 and 28. The
AGS garden is open every day.

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Send items for the June 2018 issue
of AGS News to Jo Gildea at the
address above or email
ags@alpinegardensociety.net.
The deadline is April 31, 2018.

NOTICEBOARD

AGS shows and plant sales



March 17: Kendal Show
March 24: South West Show
March 31: Cleveland Show
March 31: Kent Show
April 7: Ulster Show
April 7: Chesterfield Show
April 14: Northumberland Show
April 21: Midland Show
April 28: Dublin Show
April 28: East Lancashire Show
May 5: East Anglia Show
May 12: Wisley Show
May 19: Wimborne Show
June 2: East Cheshire Show
July 7: Pershore Show
Sept 29: Loughborough Autumn Show
October 6: Newcastle Show
October 13: Harlow Carr Show

Full details for each show are in the
AGS Shows Handbook, on the AGS
website and in the shows calendar that
was sent to UK members in December
last year.

BOOK NOW! A GREAT DAY OUT FOR GARDENERS

AGS Autumn Bulb Day

Sunday, September 23, 2018, 9.30am to 3.30pm

Admission is by advance ticket only

At Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Lower Smite Farm, Smite Lane,
Hindlip, Worcester WR3 8SZ. Ample parking.

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 receive
priority booking. Non-members may reserve tickets after June 1, 2018.

SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE:

John Mitchell: Central Asian Bulbs and Alpines

Robert Rolfe: Erythronium

Kit Strange: Practical Workshop

Christopher Grey-Wilson: Greek Bulbs – Spring & Autumn

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
165,000 and is an excellent way to recruit 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 opposite page).**

NOTICEBOARD

A PASSION FOR PLANTS AGS Norfolk Group Conference

Saturday, October 6, 2018,
at the Abbey Conference
Centre, Norwich

£25 including lunch and
refreshments

RAZVAN CHISU:

Transylvanian Alpines and Castles

PROFESSOR DAVID RANKIN:

The Search for a Long Lost Primula,
and Meconopsis – In the Wild,
Growing and Showing

**Plant sales, practical
workshops, photo display**

AGS Essex Group Show and Plant Sale

Saturday, April 28, 2018,
12 noon-4pm.

Admission free.

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

Competitive show, plant sales
plus refreshments.

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

AGS Wirral & West Cheshire Group

'ALPINES FOR ALL'

Sunday, June 17, 2018, 10am-3pm,

at Ness Botanic Gardens, CH64 4AY. **Free entry.**

Specialist alpine nurserymen offering a wide range of
plants, plus demonstrations, advice, refreshments and much more.

Contact 0151 336 3407 or 01325 710787 or more information

AGS Bedfordshire Group Conference and Plant Sale

Modern-Day Plant Hunters

Saturday May 12, 2018, at Biggleswade Weatherly Centre,
SG18 8JH. £20 plus optional £5 for lunch.

Speakers: Harry Jans, Martin Walsh, Kit Strange, Martin Sheader

For more information email david_liz_alpines@btinternet.com
or phone 01763 848757

News from the AGS Trustee Board

Rebranding and new website: Work on the new website is progressing well and, as previously reported here, this will be combined with a totally new brand image for the Society, designed to appeal to younger generations of gardeners. This will include a new logo, which will replace both the old gentian logo and the blue flower logo that has been used in recent years. The rebranding will apply across the Society and all its activities. New publicity material will be produced and existing stocks are being run down to keep wastage to an absolute minimum.

It is essential that the new brand is applied across all AGS material, whether it be on paper or online, or at national or local level. Local groups and shows will be helped to replace existing branded posters, banners etc. with those bearing the new logo.

It is important that the Society has one national and international identity, especially as we enhance our online and social media presence on a variety of platforms.

Much has changed since the Society was first established in 1929 and the Trustees want to ensure that it remains appealing to our existing members but is also attractive to potential new members in the future.

On the new website, the Plant Encyclopaedia will provide detailed information in a more structured way to facilitate information searches. It is vital that while maintaining detailed botanical descriptions it should also be accessible to less knowledgeable gardeners and it will include more informal descriptions of plants.

AGS training placement at RBG Edinburgh: The Society is to fund a one-year training placement in the Alpine Section at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. This is an excellent opportunity for someone to expand their horticultural knowledge. Full details and information on how to apply will be published shortly.

Appointment of new Holding Trustee: The Board appointed Joanne Everson as a new Holding Trustee. She is to replace Rod Leeds, who is stepping down from the role after serving for 11 years. The Board wished to express their thanks to Rod for his services during this period.

Local Group Co-ordinators: Trustees received an update on the activities of the two local group co-ordinators, David Charlton and Ben Parmee. David and Ben are proactively communicating with groups and have recently circulated various documents to groups, including information on how to create a local group Facebook presence and a Speakers Best Practice Guide. Any group that would like assistance with Facebook or social media can contact Paddy Parmee, who is the Local Group Social Media Co-ordinator.

AGS National Shows: It was agreed to trial some non-competitive classes for auriculas at the Wimborne Show. The trial will comprise three or four classes but no prize points will be awarded. A number of AGS members in the area grow these plants and the trial classes will provide an opportunity to display a wider range of plants than normally appears on the show benches.

NOTICEBOARD

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 a person who works in professional horticulture and who has made a significant contribution in their work with alpiners (cultivation, research etc).
- ✦ **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 must come from the Local Group concerned.
- ✦ **Website Award** to recognise the best contribution to the Society's website during 2017. Previous winners of this award may be renominated for their ongoing contributions.

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 informed critics – you, the readership. Members are invited to nominate contributors to The Alpine Gardener, Volume 85 (2017), for the following awards:

- ✦ **The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award** for the best article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2017 (Volume 85).
- ✦ **The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award** for the best practical alpine gardening article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2017 (Volume 85).
- ✦ **The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award** to recognise photographic excellence in The Alpine Gardener in 2017 (Volume 85) 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, 2018.

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

Access Garden Products are offering AGS members an exclusive 20% off their range of cold frames and bases until **April 30, 2018**. 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 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 three lengths: 4ft, 6ft and 8ft.

The **sturdy, pressure-treated bases** for the cold frames raise the frames 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 alpiners 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.



To order, or for a free copy of the Access 40-page catalogue, call 0800 298 6284 and quote 'AGS-18 offer'.

PRICES AND DIMENSIONS

Code	Length	List price	AGS price	3-tier base	Timber floor	Delivery
FF3	4ft/1.21m	£219	£175.20	£125.10	£89.10	£29
SF3	6ft/1.83m	£269	£215.20	£161.10	£143.10	£34
EF3	7ft 9in/2.36m	£299	£239.20	£197.10	£174.60	£39



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: ~~£99~~ £89.10

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

NOTICEBOARD

AGS SNOWDROP DAY: DATE FOR 2019



The AGS Snowdrop Day in February was yet another sell-out. Next year's event will be held on **Saturday, February 2**, 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 Snowdrop Day.



Above left: Matt Bishop with some of his plants for sale

Above: AGS President Christopher Bailes with Vice-President Christopher Brickell and Jeanette Brickell

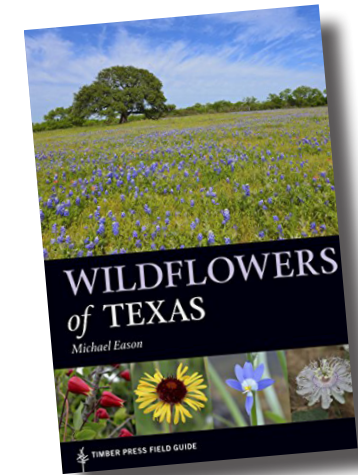


Left: Our speakers David MacLennan, Wim Boens and Andy Byfield

NEW BOOK: SAVE 25%

Wildflowers of Texas
By Michael Eason

In Wildflowers of Texas, Michael Eason describes and illustrates more than 1,100 species commonly encountered in the Lone Star State. This comprehensive guide includes perennials, annuals and bulbs, both native and naturalised, and is organised by flower colour and flower family. Introductory information includes the diverse eco-regions of the Texas climate, an explanation of the plant biology and information on plant names. Species profiles include colour photographs, identification tips and habitat descriptions.



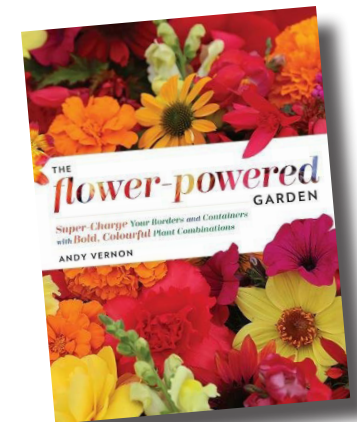
Cover price £20

AGS members' price £15

Order code 948

The Flower-Powered Garden by Andy Vernon

For many gardeners, the low-key colours of the naturalistic gardening movement are just too quiet. Andy Vernon, a self-professed flower fanatic, is one of these gardeners. In The Flower-Powered Garden, he urges everyone to embrace one of the most joyful and important aspects of a garden – colour. The Flower-Powered Garden highlights perennials and annuals that pack a punch, and 15 colour combinations that can be used in containers and gardens. The boisterous combinations are inspired by some of Vernon's favourite things such as sherbet, budgies and candy. A floripedia of 50 marvellous plants includes colourful favourites like dahlias, petunias, hollyhocks, fuchsias and more. A section on growing details the basics of planting, watering, soil needs and growing in containers.



Cover price £22.99 AGS members' price £17 Order code 947

To order use the form on page 15 or visit the online AGS Book Shop at www.alpinegardensociety.net

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
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**	£5.00
026	 The Crevice Garden and its Plants by Zdenek Zvolanek	£6.50
921	Rock Gardening by Joseph Tychonievich	£20.00
	SPECIFIC GENERA	
890	The Plant Lover's Guide to Asters by Paul and Helen Picton	£14.50
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
916	Kniphofia: The Complete Guide by Christopher Whitehouse	£32.00
881	Meconopsis (monograph) by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£54.50
933	 Meconopsis for Gardeners Ed. Christopher Grey-Wilson	£42.00
	Special overseas postage rates: Europe £14; rest of the world £16 (airmail £21)	
283	Peony Rockii and Gansu Mudan by W McLewin and D Chen **LOW PRICE**	£20.00
942	Peony: The Best Varieties for Your Garden **NEW**	£17.50
	by David C. Michener and Carol A. Adelman	
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
021	 Silver Saxifrages by Beryl Bland **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
	BULBOUS PLANTS	
843	A Gardener's Guide to Bulbs by Christine Skelmersdale	£20.00
599	Autumn Bulbs by Rod Leeds	£8.00
904	 Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean by Oron Peri	£30.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
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	£10.00
653	Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies & their Relatives **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
268	 Cyclamen by Christopher Grey-Wilson (booklet) **LOW PRICE**	£2.50
852	Genus Cyclamen edited by Brian Mathew	£72.00
	Special postage rates: UK £13.50; Europe £16; rest of the world £19 (airmail £31)	
241	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Agapanthus by Graham Duncan	£4.50
317	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Bulbs by Graham Duncan	£15.50
240	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Nerines by Graham Duncan	£5.00
927	The Amaryllidaceae of Southern Africa by Graham Duncan	£65.00
	Special overseas postage rates: Europe £18; rest of the world £20 (airmail £26)	
880	The Genus Erythronium by Chris Clennett	£40.00
859	The Genus Tulipa by Diana Everett	£54.50
882	The Plant Lover's Guide to Snowdrops by Naomi Slade	£14.50
937	The World of Crocuses by Jānis Rukšāns **NEW**	£41.00
	Special overseas postage rates: Europe £13; rest of the world £15 (airmail £21)	
860	Growing Garden Bulbs by Richard Wilford	£5.50
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
804	Growing Hardy Orchids by Philip Seaton et al	£10.00
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
941	Designing with Succulents by Debra Lee Baldwin	£13.50
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

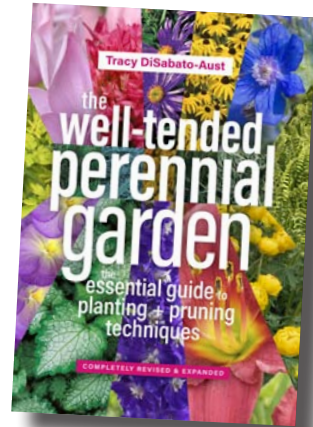
Order code	Title and author	Members' price
	TREES & SHRUBS	
621	Dirr's Encyclopedia Of Trees & Shrubs by Michael A Dirr	£40.00
926	Essential Pruning Techniques: Trees, Shrubs, Conifers by Tony Kirkham	£28.00
746	Hardy Heathers from the Northern Hemisphere by E Charles Nelson	£48.00
755	Japanese Maples 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
	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
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
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
569	Mountain Flowers: The Dolomites by Cliff Booker & David Charlton	£7.00
929	Mountain Flowers: Pyrenees and Picos by Cliff Booker and David Charlton	£8.00
922	Mountain Flowers by Michael Scott	£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
	JUST A FEW COPIES LEFT	
944	Joseph Hooker: Botanical Trailblazer by Pat Griggs	£8.00
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

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
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
938	Wild Plants of Southern Spain by Tony Hall **NEW**	£24.00
	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	
945	The Professional Design Guide to Green Roofs by Karla Dakin	£20.00
838	Rock Landscapes: The Pulham Legacy by Claude Hitching	£28.00
854	Planting: A New Perspective by Piet Oudolf & Noel Kingsbury	£24.00
	PHOTOGRAPHY	
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	£14.50
774	Bees, Wasps and Ants (The Indispensable Role of Hymenoptera in Gardens)	£15.00
934	Beth Chatto's Shade Garden by Beth Chatto	£24.00
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
886	Designing and Planting a Woodland Garden by Keith Wiley	£20.00
910	Gardening for Butterflies by The Xerces Society	£14.50
930	Gardening With Foliage First by K. Chapman & C. Salwitz **NEW**	£14.50
610	Gardening with Woodland Plants by Karan Junker	£24.00
936	Glorious Shade by Jenny Rose Carey **NEW**	£14.50

NEW BOOK

The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: The Essential Guide to Planting & Pruning Techniques, by Tracy DiSabato-Aust

Since its original publication nearly 20 years ago, The Well-Tended Perennial Garden has helped gardeners successfully plan, plant and tend their gardens. Now Tracy DiSabato-Aust's trusty advice and reassuring tone are back and better than ever in this completely revised edition. Novice and experienced gardeners alike will benefit from Tracy's thorough details on the essential practices of perennial care – including deadheading, pinching and thinning – along with information on new species and cultivars, garden design advice, a monthly planting and maintenance schedule, and details on native plants and gardening for wildlife. The Well-Tended Perennial Garden is a valuable ally in the quest for a beautiful, well-maintained garden.



Cover price **£25** AGS price **£20** Order code 946

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
849	Marianne North: A Very Intrepid Painter by Michelle Payne	£9.50
510	Planting the Dry Shade Garden by Graham Rice	£12.00
940	Potted: Make Your Own Stylish Garden Containers **NEW**	£12.00
906	Seeing Seeds by Robert Llewellyn and Teri Dunn Chace	£16.00
863	Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker by Ray Desmond	£23.50
935	Sowing Beauty by James Hitchmough	£17.00
894	Steppes by Michael Bone et al.	£28.00
841	The A to Z of Plant Names by Allen J Coombes	£10.50
923	The Bold Dry Garden by Johanna Silver	£20.00
945	The Gardener's Guide to Weather and Climate by Michael Allaby	£16.00
928	The Living Jigsaw by Val Bourne	£20.00
946	The Well-Tended Perennial Garden by Tracy DiSabato-Aust	£20.00
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: email the AGS for a 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.

SIKKIM

June 19-July 9, 2018

Leader: Harry Jans

Cost: in the region of £3,500

Day 1 – International flight to Dehli and domestic flight to Bagdogra.

Day 2 – Transfer to Darjeeling, crowned by the majestic Himalayas and fondly called the ‘Queen of the Hills’.

Day 3 – Heritage Walk covering the Bhotay Busty Monastery and the Tibetan Self Help Centre. Drive to the Takvar Tea Factory for tea tasting.

Day 4 – Transfer to Gangtok passing through attractive temperate forests which are the habitat for orchid species and arisaemas.

Day 5 – Sightseeing in Gangtok covering the Plant Conservatory, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, local market and experience the Cable Car ride.

Day 6 – Botanising at Tsomgo Lake and Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary, rich in both flora and fauna. Rare, endangered ground orchids and rhododendrons are among the important plants present.

Day 7 – Travel to Lachung through remote areas with narrow valleys, botanising en route. Lachung provides the base for exploring Yumthang, the Valley of Flowers, a paradise for nature lovers and botanists.

Day 8 – Drive to Dambung valley to explore the rich forest where we will find *Iris*, *Pleione*, *Arisaema*, *Cardiocrinum*, *Asarum*, *Paris*, *Roscoea*, *Trillidium*, *Rhododendron* and many more.

Day 9 – Botanise in Yumthang valley, famous for *Rhododendron* species.



Day 10 – Further botanising in Yumthang valley.

Day 11 – Explore the Yume Samdong area and zero point (Zadong).

Day 12 – Transfer to Thangu.

Day 13 – Botanise in Yathang valley to see *Cypripedium* species.

Day 14 – A full day in the Thangu area.

Day 15 – Botanise east of Thangu towards Jachu Valley. We will encounter plants such as *Arenaria*, *Saxifraga*, *Gentiana*, *Thermopsis barbata*, *Meconopsis horridula*, *Cyananthus*, *Omphalogramma* and more.

Day 16 – Transfer back to Gangtok.

Day 17 – Transfer to Kalimpong, botanising along the way.

Day 18 – Fly to Dehli then drive to Agra.

Day 19 – Visit Taj Mahal and Agra Fort.

Day 20 – Flight home.

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

WESTERN CAPE

August 30 to September 13, 2018

Leader: Callan Cohen

Cost: in the region of £4,400

South Africa owes much of its unique botany to the tiny Cape Floral Kingdom, situated in the mountains of the southernmost tip of the continent.

Although tiny compared with the world’s other floral kingdoms, it encompasses a staggering diversity of plant species that are found only here (for example, there are over 670 species of *Erica*!). In addition, the adjacent Succulent Karoo is the world’s richest area for succulents, and the clay soils that form the common border of these two regions hold the greatest concentration of bulbous species in the world. We’ll explore all these areas in spring, the peak time for flowering.

We’ll begin our exploration on the 70km long mountainous spine of the Cape Peninsula. Here the Table Mountain National Park protects the unique ‘fynbos’ vegetation and patches of rare Afromontane forest.

Nestled below Table Mountain is the world-famous Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, where we will have time to explore the wide collection of plants from across the country.

The sandy shores of the West Coast, just north of Cape Town, hold a completely different flora, and we’ll explore both the flashy displays of daisies on the coastal sands and the endemic-rich granites of the West Coast National Park. The nearby shales in the Darling area have



a profusion of bulbs, such as romuleas, babianas and the stunning geissorhizas.

We’ll also explore the southern edge of Namaqualand, where the Cape Mountains give way to the valleys and plains of the arid Karoo and the landscape is dominated by small succulent bushes, prone to bursting into pink flower at this time of year. We will stay at charming local guesthouses and lodges.

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

THE PELOPONNESE

October 2018 for 10 days

Leader: Răzvan Chișu

Cost: in the region of £1,500.

Although the Peloponnese might be considered the cradle of Greek civilisation, with numerous archaeological sites to be explored, the peninsula is also a hotspot of biodiversity. There are more than 300 endemic plant species here and there are few places in the world that are better for autumn-flowering bulbs. Join us for ten days exploring the Greek countryside in search of a wide variety of bulbs and the very last of the summer flowers.

We will visit Mycenae, where *Sternbergia sicula* and *Arisarum vulgare* grow in profusion; Mystras, a medieval city that has been deserted for centuries but where, apart from glorious views, one can see *Campanula versicolor*, *Allium callimischon*, *Scilla autumnalis* and *Biarum tenuifolium*; and Monemvasia, the island citadel that has good variable populations of *Colchicum cupanii* and *Cyclamen crassifolium*.

For three nights we will be based at Gythio, a lovely coastal town where, on the island of Cranea, *Cyclamen graecum* grows in every nook and cranny and each plant has a different leaf pattern. From there we will make several incursions into the Mani peninsula to visit sites where *Narcissus serotinus*, *Crocus boryi*, *Crocus niveus* and the endemic *Crocus goulimyi* grow.

Other species we hope to see during the tour include the autumn-flowering



Narcissus tazetta and, below, *Sternbergia sicula*



snowdrop *Galanthus reginae-olgae*, *Narcissus tazetta*, *Cyclamen hederifolium*, *Sternbergia lutea* and *Crocus melantherus*.

Good food, a glass of retsina wine and a touch of history make for the complete Greek experience.

For further information on this tour please contact the AGS Centre.
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NORTHERN PATAGONIA AND MENDOZA

November 28 (fly from Heathrow) to December 19, 2018

Leader: Martin Sheader

Cost: TBA

The Andean mountains and steppe of northern Patagonia and Mendoza support a rich and fascinating flora set within spectacular landscapes. Our tour begins in northern Argentine Patagonia and from there we travel north into the wine-growing province of Mendoza.

At the very most, we walk a few kilometres a day, generally at a slow pace, to allow time for botanising and photography. At sites visited, altitude should not be a problem – we travel over one high pass at 3,800m. We aim to include elements of exploration in the tour, such as visiting a few sites in Mendoza that are new to us.

Zapala is our base for two nights. Our first visit is to the nearby Laguna Blanca National Park, a reserve supporting a rich steppe flora around a large lake. Here we expect to find several species of *Junellia*, including the rare *J. cedroides*, *Viola tectiflora*, *Rhodophiala mendocina*, cacti and several *Adesmia* species.

Next we travel westward towards the Andes, staying two nights at Villa Pehuenia on the shore of Lago Aluminé, a large glacial lake. En route, we travel through mountain passes with many flowers of interest, including *Jaborosa volkmannii*, *Viola coronifera* and *Calandrinia affinis*. Next we travel north to the town of Caviahue on the slopes of



Viola coronifera

the active Volcán Copahue. Interesting plants in this area include *Viola caviahuenensis*, *V. cotyledon*, *Famatina maulensis*, *Rhodophiala araucana* and *Olsynium frigidum*.

Travelling further north, we spend four nights at Chos Malal, visiting a high pass, Paso Pichachen on the Chile/Argentina border, and spend two days exploring in the Tromen National Park. From here, we drive north to Mendoza Province before crossing the border to Chile, where we will spend a night at Los Andes.

At Malargüe we visit the scenic Reserva Provincial La Payunia, a spectacular dryland reserve, known for its volcanic landscapes, flora and fauna. At Los Molles, we visit a high mountain lake, Laguna Escondida above the ski resort of Las Leñas, where we should find *Viola* aff. *atropurpurea*, *Calandrinia affinis*, *Discaria nana*, *Olsynium bodenbenderi* and *Tristagma sociale*.

From the Argentine side of the Andes we botanise on the high slopes before travelling through the Uspallata Pass (3,800m) into Chile.

For further information on this tour please contact the AGS Centre.
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NEW CALEDONIA

September 2019 for 15 days

Leader: Mark Hanger

Cost: TBA

New Caledonia, an archipelago halfway between Australia and Fiji, is an extraordinary place. While it has all the features you might expect of tropical islands – white sands, blue lagoons and graceful palms – it is also home to some remarkable plants and wildlife. There are abundant conifers belonging the ancient plant family Araucariaceae, including the Cook pines, or *Araucaria columnaris*, which grow in the coral-derived soils along the coast.

New Caledonia is considered one of the world's most botanically important, and critically endangered places. Unlike many of the Pacific Islands, which are of relatively recent volcanic origin, New Caledonia is an ancient fragment of the Gondwana super-continent and 76 per cent of its flora is endemic.

The factors contributing to such a rich variety of plant life include the diversity

of climate, elevation and the type of soil. The biogeography of the island chain has been shaped by a complex and fascinating geological history.

But New Caledonia is mainly known for its lagoon. It is one of the three biggest reef systems in the world. It contains a rare diversity of coral and fish species, with reef structures that are among the most diverse on the planet.

The New Caledonian lagoon is home to unique marine biodiversity and a considerable number of iconic or endangered species, such as turtles, whales and dugongs: 15,000 of the 23,000 square kilometres of this area have been registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Ancient plant families are more heavily represented on New Caledonia than their more modern counterparts. The larger flora include *Nothofagus*, *Beilschmiedia*, *Adenodaphne* and members of Winteraceae and Myrtaceae. But the angiosperms are also fascinating, among them *Amborella trichopoda*, which is the sole member of the oldest living flowering plant lineage, Amborellaceae.

For further information on these tours please contact the AGS Centre.
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Ophrys drumana and, above, *Cypripedium calceolus*

THE VERCORS

May 25–June 1, 2018

Leaders: Stefano Doglio & Paul Green

Cost: London to London, £1,695; Lyon to Lyon, £1,525

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. The Vercors offers some of France's most beautiful scenery and a wonderful range of fauna and flora, including 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 two very special orchids, the renowned lady's slipper and the endemic bee orchid *Ophrys drumana*.

Globe and vanilla orchids are two of over 60 species of orchids known from the Vercors. Butterflies will be starting to 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 an area of great natural beauty encapsulating the very best of the French countryside.

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

Glaucidium palmatum in Hakuba-jiri's famous snowy valley



JAPAN & VLADIVOSTOK

May 26-June 9, 2018

Leaders: Ian Green, Shigeto Tsukie & Seda Soylu

Cost: see Greentours website

Though the south of Japan's memorably scenic archipelago experiences a sub-tropical climate, the northernmost parts of the island chain have more in common with Siberia. A visit in June thus allows us to find many early spring bulbs where the snows are still receding and the more exotic flora of lower latitudes and elevations.

Hakuba-jiri's famous snowy valley on the slopes of Mount Shirouma (almost

3,000m) hold *Glaucidium palmatum*, *Anemone flaccida*, *Primula jesoana*, *Paris japonica* and the delicate, palest pink *Pogonia japonica*. A cable car allows an easy ascent of Mount Nyugasa in the centre of the Honshu Highlands. Here are *Convallaria keiskei*, *Primula japonica*, *Rhododendron kaempferi*, *Polygonatum humile* and *Rhododendron japonicum*. At Oyomi Bog deepest blue *Iris laevigata* is found with *Iris sanguinea*.

Lilies will be a major feature of this tour, as on Niigata we'll see *Lilium rubellum* growing amongst *Rhododendron japonicum*, while Oonokame hosts both *Hemerocallis middendorffii* var. *exaltata* and *Lilium maculatum*. *Primula nipponica* and *Geum pentapetalum* are two of Mount Zaou's many beautiful flowers.

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Gymnocalycium capillense and, right, *Trichocereus terscheckii*

ARGENTINA CACTI

October 1-17, 2018

Leaders: Willy Smith & Ian Green

Cost: London to London. £5,595;
Buenos Aires to Buenos Aires, £4,845

A vast array of cacti species are found in the mind-boggling landscapes of north-western Argentina, ranging from 300-year-old *Trichocereus pasacana* growing 3m tall, to the improbably tiny *Blossfeldia liliputana*.

The extraordinary growth forms of these cacti are many and varied and so are the often magnificent blooms. Tall, white-hairy *Cleistocactus hyalacanthus* has beautiful tubular pink flowers while the impressive orange-yellow blooms of *Lobivia aurea* dwarf the plant itself. We'll see saguaro-like *Trichocereus terscheckii* and exquisite *Parodia mesembrina*, the globular ball of spines overtopped by brilliant yellow blooms. *Soehrensia formosa* is a study



of brilliance, its scarlet blooms obvious from afar, and we'll see the extraordinary *Rebutia senilis*, a beauty whose squat little body is garlanded with magnificent blooms of red, yellow or orange.

Hieroglyph-engraved menhirs sit among dry Chaco forest where the arching columns of *Echinopsis grandiflora* serve as a vase for their red flowers and *Rebutia jujuyana* is encircled with jubilant orange blooms. We'll find plenty of evidence of the Inca's Empire of the Sun and other cultural wonders include picturesque Purmamarca, nestling at the foot of the Mountain of Seven Colours, its church adorned with cactus woodwork!

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

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