

AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society



Conference
speaker
Mike Kintgen

A weekend packed with expert gardening advice

It promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding weekend! The theme of this year's AGS conference is 'Gardening with Alpines' and it will feature a line-up of speakers who have a wealth of expertise and experience of growing alpines in the open garden.

Open to non-members, the conference will be on the weekend of November 12 and 13 at the four-star Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon, following the Society's annual general meeting at the

And a wonderful social occasion in superb surroundings

same venue. Don't miss this chance to tap into a profusion of practical advice and useful information from some of the most accomplished alpine gardeners. Book on our website, call the AGS Centre or use the booking form on the back page of this newsletter.

More details on pages 2, 3 and 4

www.alpinegardensociety.net

Don't miss our line-up of expert speakers

● Mike Kintgen (pictured on the cover) is a curator at the Denver Botanic Gardens in Colorado. He is one of the authors of the recently published book *Steppes*, and grows a wide range of steppe plants and alpines in his own garden. He designed 'Roots 'n' Rocks', a new children's crevice garden at the Denver Botanic Gardens.



● Former nurseryman, author and accomplished plantsman Brian Burrow (above) possesses a wealth of knowledge about growing alpines in the garden and alpine house. Last year Brian was awarded the AGS's highest honour, the Lyttel Trophy, for his outstanding contribution to alpines.



● Professor John Richards (above) from Northumberland is a former AGS President whose informative gardening diary on the AGS website has been running for ten years. John is the author of the books *Primula* and *Mountain Flower Walks: The Greek Mainland*.



● Dr Steve Furness (above) is a superb alpine gardener who runs The Alpine Plant Centre at Calver, Derbyshire. He has constructed one of the most impressive private rock gardens in Britain. Steve has a large collection of dwarf conifers and has bred plants such as *Saxifraga* 'Hare Knoll Beauty'.



● John Mitchell (above) is the Alpine Supervisor at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, where he looks after one of the finest rock and woodland gardens in the UK. John oversaw the construction of the new alpine house at RBGE and the planting of its tufa wall and crevice garden.

A highlight of the weekend will be the conference dinner on the Saturday evening, followed by an auction of superb plants.

Enjoy four-star accommodation and dining in a riverside setting

Book a place for the AGS Conference at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon, a modern four-star hotel in a riverside location in the heart of this attractive and historic market town. Stratford's links with Shakespeare are well known, and the hotel is only 20 miles from Birmingham Airport and 10 minutes off the M40 motorway. There's plentiful on-site free parking for delegates, and the town centre is a two-minute walk away. Stratford-upon-Avon railway station is a mile away, with frequent trains to London and Birmingham.



Conference programme

SATURDAY, November 12

AGM – OPEN TO ALL AGS MEMBERS

- 10am** Registration and coffee
10.30am Annual General Meeting and presentation of Society Awards
12 noon Presentation of Show Awards
12.45pm Lunch
2pm E. B. Anderson Memorial Lecture: Mike Kintgen (Denver Botanic Gardens) – Exploring the New World Steppes for New Garden-worthy Species
3pm Close of AGM

CONFERENCE – OPEN ONLY TO DELEGATES

- 3.00-3.30pm** Conference registration
3.30pm Opening remarks & lecture: John Mitchell – Living the Dream at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
4.30pm Short presentation by Razvan Chisu: Alpines in Romania
4.55pm Tea
5.15pm Lecture: John Richards: High Trees Diary – Ten Years of Alpine Blogging
6.15pm End of session
7.45pm Conference dinner and plant auction

SUNDAY, November 13

- 09.30am** Registration
10am Lecture: Steve Furness – Practical Tufa Gardening
11am Coffee
11.30pm Lecture: Mike Kintgen – Great Garden Plants from the World's Steppes
12.30pm Lunch
1.45pm Short presentation by Simon Wallis – Cambridge Botanic Garden
2.30pm Lecture: Brian Burrow – Plant Propagation
3.30pm Closing remarks: AGS President David Haselgrove followed by tea
4pm Conference closes

BOOK NOW!

Use the booking form on the back page.
Book on the AGS website.
Or call the AGS Centre on 01386 554790.

AGS Snowdrop Day BOOK NOW

Saturday, February 4, 2017

Admission is by advance ticket only

At Ford Hall, Lilleshall National Conferencing Centre, Newport,
Shropshire TF10 9AT. Ample parking.

Tickets for lectures, plant sales, tea and coffee, two-course lunch:

AGS members £35, non-members £45

Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre.

Tickets restricted to AGS members until October 31, 2016.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

- 8.45** Registration, plant sales & coffee
10.30 Welcome by David Haselgrove, AGS President
10.35 John Grimshaw (title of lecture to be confirmed)
11.30 Autumn Snowdrops – Joe Sharman
12.30 Plant sales and lunch
14.00 Snowdrops in the Wild – Vojtěch Holubec
14.55 Snowdrop question & answer session with the panel of speakers
16.00 Close of session and coffee
16.30 Event closes

Seed Envelopes – NEW LOW PRICE

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

Small 73 x 41mm self-adhesive: 50 for £2.50 inc. UK postage

Large 98 x 64mm ungummed: 50 for £3.50 inc. UK postage

Special price for larger orders (please enquire)

Order from the AGS Centre (details on page 6)



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) £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 OPENING HOURS

Normal opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, but if you plan to visit please call first to check that the Centre will be open. The AGS garden is open every day.

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Send items for the December 2016 issue of AGS News to Jackie Cooper at the address above or email jackie@alpinegardensociety.net. The deadline is October 15, 2016.

NOTICEBOARD

AGS shows and plant sales



October 1: Loughborough Autumn Show

October 8: Newcastle Show

October 15: Harlow Carr Show

October 22: Kent Autumn Show

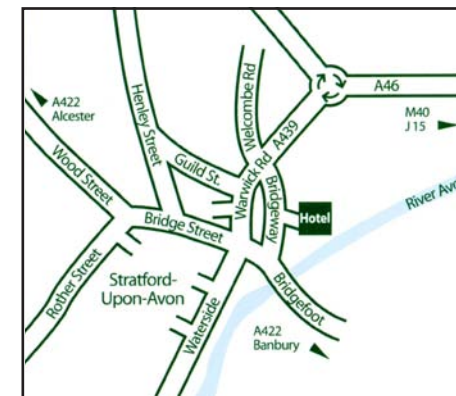
Full details for each show are in the AGS Shows Handbook, on the AGS website and in the shows calendar that was included with the December 2015 issue of The Alpine Gardener.

AGS Autumn Bulb Day
Sunday, September 25
Fully booked!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 12, 2016

The Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Garden Society will take place on Saturday, November 12, 2016, at 10.30am at the Holiday Inn, Bridgefoot, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6YR. (The hotel is situated in the centre of Stratford). The programme for the AGM can be seen on page 4.



AGENDA

1. To receive and confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on November 7, 2015.
2. To receive the report of the Board of Trustees.
3. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's report and accounts.
4. To elect a President, Treasurer and Officers to serve for the ensuing year (see Note 1 below) and to elect Martin Rogerson as Director of Shows.
5. To elect two Trustees to serve for four years (see Note 2 below).
8. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year.
9. Any Other Items of Business as notified to the President/Society Director in accordance with the rules laid down in the Constitution.
10. Presentation of the Society's Awards.

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

1. Officers retire annually and are eligible for re-election as per rule 7.1.3.1 of the Constitution. The following Officers are eligible for reappointment and are prepared to continue to serve the AGS: President (Mr David Haselgrove), Director of Seed Exchange (Mrs Diane Clement), Website Director (Mr Jim McGregor), Treasurer (Professor John Galloway).
2. In accordance with rule 7.1.4, two Trustees retire annually and are not eligible for re-election for one year.

LUNCH TICKETS: ADVANCE BOOKING ESSENTIAL

A two-course hot and cold buffet lunch (main course and dessert) will be available in the hotel's restaurant, including vegetarian options. The cost will be £16.50 per head including VAT. Lunch bookings MUST be made in advance and accompanied by a cheque payable to the 'Alpine Garden Society' and sent to the AGS Centre (address on page 6) by Friday, October 21. Pre-booked lunch vouchers will be available from the AGS book sales stand on the day. Morning and afternoon coffee and tea are provided free of charge.

Plant sales: A members' plant sales table will be available.

Car parking: The hotel has ample car parking.

TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS

Mr Adrian Cooper (Kent)

Proposed by Jim McGregor, seconded by Martin Rogerson (to serve for four years). Adrian is a keen plantsman and has been growing alpinists from a young age. While living in London he grew a wide range, demonstrating his skill as a grower of some of the more difficult alpinists. Adrian moved out of London and now lives in the country near Maidstone, where he is busy developing his garden. In 2016 he took over as Show Secretary for the Kent AGS Show, a role that he has carried out with a great deal of enthusiasm and commitment. Having recently retired he is now able to devote time to helping the Society to develop a strategy for ensuring its success for future generations of gardeners.

Mr Rob Amos (Bedfordshire)

Proposed by David Charlton, seconded by Lee and Julie Martin (to serve for four years) Rob has been an active member of the AGS since joining in 2004 at the age of 12. At national level he supports the shows as an exhibitor, steward and show reporter, and helps with publicity. Rob has assisted with the AGS online Plant Encyclopaedia, is responsible for uploading show reports to the website and in 2015 took over as a steward for the Online Show. Locally, Rob is a committee member of the Bedfordshire Group, organises the group's successful annual show and has served as group secretary. At present Rob is in the final year of his PhD at Sussex University, the title of which is The Protection of Plants in Law, Theory and Practice. In addition to his studies, Rob is writing a report for Fauna & Flora International on the legal context of forest restoration programmes, and recently became a Fellow of the Royal Zoological Society of London. Rob is keen to use his legal expertise to assist the AGS with its conservation agenda.

ANNUAL AWARDS

The Kath Dryden Award

Adrian Young has extensive expertise in the cultivation of the genus *Saxifraga*. He has devoted much of his life to researching and promoting the genus. Adrian worked under the guidance of Valerie Finnis at Waterperry and after her retirement he took over care of her collection of saxifrages. He also assisted Winton Harding with the trialling of many new cultivars. Over the years he has continued to study the genus, travelling throughout Europe to see species in their natural locations and helping to promote an accurate knowledge of the genus. In addition he has written extensively on the genus and recently published the *Porophyllum Cultivars Complete Checklist*. Adrian Young's contribution to the saxifrage world has been outstanding.

Award of Honour

Billy Moore was a founding member of the Dublin Group of the AGS when it reformed in 1985. He has worked in many capacities to support and promote the group, as well as the growing and enjoyment of alpinists throughout Ireland and beyond. He has served on the local group committee in a number of roles, including chair, newsletter editor and membership secretary. He has been very active in the world of showing, carrying out judging, writing show reports and show photography. As may be expected he is also a significant grower of alpinists, having gained a number of Farrer Medals. In 2014 he was part of the small team from the Dublin Group who put together a Postcard Garden called

'Alpinists are for Everyone' at Bloom, Ireland's largest garden festival. Billy has also written articles promoting alpinists and opens his garden to AGS groups and other horticultural societies.

Award of Honour

John Mitchell is the Alpine Supervisor at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and a long-time AGS member. Among his duties he has overseen the creation of a state-of-the-art alpine house at Edinburgh and the maintenance of the rock garden, one of the largest in the world. John has represented the botanic garden on a series of important plant collecting expeditions in Central Asia and was involved in several big expeditions to western and south-western China, including the Alpine Garden Society Expedition (ACE). He has also helped to lead tours for the AGS. At present he serves as a vice-chairman of the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee and as chairman of The Meconopsis Group.

Local Group Award and Sussex Weald Silver Jubilee Trophy

Tony Hale is a long-standing and active member of the Bedfordshire Group and over the years he has supported it in many ways. One of the main roles he has performed has been that of treasurer, which has involved additional work associated with the administration of the Wilscher Legacy. He has also assisted with various garden renovation projects that the group has undertaken such as the Swiss Garden at Old Warden. Tony is an expert plantsman with a particular interest in saxifrages and has propagated many hundreds of plants for donation to plant raffles and group meetings in order to help raise funds for the group. Tony has also assisted with the maintenance of the National Collection of Saxifrages at Waterperry.

Local Group Award

Brenda and Peter Wilson are among the founding members of the Somerset Group, having previously been members of the Devon Group. Peter helped the group to get off the ground by agreeing to undertake the role of treasurer, a task he has continued to perform for many years. Brenda has also been an active member of the group, having served on the group committee in various capacities, including chair. They both give talks on alpinists and write short articles for the group newsletter. They are regular participants in the AGS Seed Exchange, donating and helping to pack seed. In addition they have assisted at the AGS South West Show and helped to stage displays at Taunton Flower Show and Cannington College. More recently they have been involved with the construction of a display garden at the Frank Bond Centre. Their support of the local group has been tireless.

LITERARY AWARDS – THE ALPINE GARDENER, 2015

The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award

Liz Knowles: 'On the Silk Road in India' [June, pages 155-173]

The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award

Martin and Anna-Liisa Sheader: 'How to grow dazzling *Oxalis* from Patagonia' [March, pages 18-30]

The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award

Harry Jans: 'Treasures of Peru' [June, pages 174-191]

NOTICEBOARD

AGS TRAVEL AWARDS AND GRANTS

Applications for 2017

The Alpine Garden Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually. Applications for these awards must be received by January 31, 2017, at the latest.

TRAVEL AWARDS

Each year the Society gives a limited number of Travel Awards to enthusiasts wishing to gain field experience in the serious study of alpine plants in native habitats. Applications should be for clearly defined projects, though Awards have been made to those wishing to participate in an AGS tour if it complements a particular area of interest.

HENDRY FUND GRANTS

In addition, grants for specific alpine-related projects are available, financed by the E. F. Hendry Fund.

Application forms and further details for Travel Awards and Hendry Fund grants are available from: Jackie Cooper, c/o AGS Centre, or email: jackie@alpinegardensociety.net

MERLIN TRUST & ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

Travel scholarships for 2017

In 1990 the Merlin Trust was founded by the late Valerie Finnis VMH to provide travel grants for young horticulturists. In 2017 the Merlin Trust is offering jointly with the Alpine Garden Society up to six fully paid travel scholarships on AGS-organised plant tours.



Applicants should be enthusiastic about plants and have a particular interest in alpinism. They must be 18 to 35 years of age or in their first five years of a career in horticulture and have British or Irish citizenship. Students of other nationalities are eligible only if they are currently studying at a UK horticultural training establishment.

If you would like to receive information about the tours and an application form, please send your contact details to: Sarah Carlton, Secretary of The Merlin Trust, RHS Wisley, Wisley Lane, Wisley, Woking GU23 6QB. Email: info@merlin-trust.org.uk



Election of a President

The current President of the Alpine Garden Society is due to step down in November 2017 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, October 12. The President is elected by the Trustee Board and the decision ratified at the Society's Annual General Meeting.



Director of Seed Exchange

The current Director of the AGS Seed Exchange would like to step down from this role over the next couple of years. The Seed Exchange divides into three sections: Seed Reception, Seed Packeting and Seed Distribution, each with a separate manager. For the past five years, Diane Clement has managed all three roles and now requests applications from volunteers who might be willing to take over the management of one or more of these roles. If anyone would like to find out more about the jobs, please email Diane at: diane.clement@agsgroups.org



The Fritillaria Group of the AGS

AGM and Autumn Meeting

on **October 2, 2016**, at **Theydon Bois Village Hall, Coppice Row, Theydon Bois, Essex CM16 7ER**

9.30am-4pm. Visitors welcome.

Speakers: Willem Wietsma and Pietro Roseo

More information at www.fritillaria.org.uk

Your Seed Exchange needs you!

The Seed Exchange relies on donations from members, so please sort and clean your seed and send it in by October 12 to the seed receiver on the donor form corresponding to your surname. If you have lost your donor form, which was distributed with the June journal, you can download one from the AGS website. Go to the Seed page, then select Seed Donation. If you have late-ripening seed that you cannot get to us by October 12, please contact me by email with the list of your seed and I will give you alternative arrangements. Please do not post to the seed receiver after October 12 without contacting me first. Remember that seed donors get priority when we pick orders because without them there would be no Seed Exchange.

This year we will send overseas members their seed lists in a separate mailing, but to try to keep postage costs as low as possible, we will send lists to UK members with the December journal (which will be posted at the end of November).

The charge for seed orders will remain unchanged this year. UK members will be charged £8 per main order of 30 packets for donors and 23 packets for non-donors. Overseas members will continue to receive one seed order 'free of charge' (included in your membership) but those with family memberships may buy a second seed order for a charge of £8. The cost of surplus seed will remain the same. The easiest way for all members to pay is on the AGS website. This reduces bank charges and greatly reduces the work of our volunteers and staff at Pershore.

We strongly request that you order online if at all possible because it makes the work of the volunteers so much easier and saves us a lot of time and expense. The seed list will go live on the website at the end of November. If you wish to use the online ordering system, you do not need to wait until you receive your posted copy of the list. Please watch the website for information and a notice will be posted when the list is live and ready to accept orders. The online system gives access to pictures of the plants, which is a very popular feature. If you do not have internet access, your order will be given the same priority as we allow time for post to reach all areas of the world before we start making up orders.

Please can you help in any way? The Seed Exchange relies on the goodwill and generosity of about 200 volunteers who help in various ways and in various places. I am grateful to everyone who helps, but in an operation of this size we always need new helpers. In late October we need helpers to file and number seed in the mid-Lancashire area. In November we need helpers to pack seed in their own homes. In late November, December and January we need helpers to rack up seed and make up orders at Pershore. If you live nearby and can help out for a few hours or a day, please get in touch. Or, if you live further away, could you organise a car-load of people from your Local Group to come to Pershore for a day to help make up orders? Please consider if you could help this year.

Diane Clement, Director of Seed Exchange.

Email: diane.clement@agsgroups.org Phone: 01902 426024

Regulations for US members wishing to order seed through the AGS Seed Exchange

US members who wish to order seed must send in an Import Permit with their order. If you already have a permit, please check that it is still valid until March 2017 to allow time for postage of your seed order and administrative work by the USDA.

Permits are free and will be valid for 3 years. Details about the permit can be found at:

www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/smalllots_seed.shtml

To apply for a permit online, click on 'Plants and Plant Products Permits' then select PPQ 587 – Application to import plants and plant products, where you will be able to register and apply for a permit. Or you can download PPQ Form 587, print it and fill it in. The completed and signed application must be sent to the address at the end of the instructions. You will then be sent a permit to import small lots of seed and the green and yellow mailing labels, with the address of the Inspection Station already printed on them.

Can I please advise members that the station at New York does give rise to two problems. Firstly, it is the busiest station and seed can be subjected to delay. Secondly, there are problems as the postal system frequently sends the packets to Jamaica, West Indies, instead of Jamaica, New York. Our advice is to choose an alternative Station; for example, Linden, New Jersey, or any of the designated ports of entry which can be found here:

www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/plant_inspection_stations.shtml

To order seed, you will have to mail a photocopy of your import permit and one green and yellow label for every 50 packets or fewer that you order (50 to 100 packets will require 2 permits and 2 green and yellow labels, etc). Please either mail this with your order or, if you order online, please post your permit directly to me at my address which will be printed in the seed list booklet. You do not need to provide an address label. Please consult on the website the lists of seeds which are not allowed under the permit. We will not send seed which is banned from entry to the USA, including seed for which treatment is required, so it would be helpful if you refer to the lists in advance. There are also useful lists of banned species on the NARGS site under Seed Exchange.

The AGS Seed Exchange team will place inside the package with your seeds: a list of your seed order according to the requirements on the permit, the copy of your permit and a printed label with your name and address. Our team will paste the green and yellow label on the outside, to direct the package to the Inspection Station. At the Station, your seeds will be checked and then resealed, and the mailing label will be pasted on the outside of the shipment. The order will be then forwarded to you from the USDA Station. Details of these arrangements will also be provided with the seed list, but it is better to have your permit available at that time so as not to delay your order. Seed cannot be sent without the correct permit and green/yellow address labels. Please include your email address on your seed order in case we need to get in touch with you.

Diane Clement, Director of Seed Exchange

NOTICEBOARD

News from the AGS Trustee Board

AGS Expeditions Ltd: The Board received an update on planned AGS tours for 2017 and noted that AGS Expeditions has met the requirements set down by the CAA for the issuing of an ATOL licence.

Online Plant Encyclopaedia: Plans are progressing regarding expansion of the AGS online Plant Encyclopaedia, the aim of which is to make information widely available to both members and the general public.

Seed Exchange: Further developments concerning the Nagoya Protocol were reported. The AGS is participating fully in joint consultations with the RHS and our Director of Seed Exchange is to attend further meetings in the autumn. Information will be published in AGS News, the Seed List and on the AGS website.

Shows: An advance audit of shows finances has taken place and an interim report received from the auditors. A final report will not be available until after the end-of-year audit in September/October. Returns of any surplus funds to groups can now be made in respect of those shows which submitted their returns on time. Others will have to wait until after the full audit. Some concerns were highlighted as part of the audit and these issues will be taken up separately with individual show secretaries and treasurers.

Thanks are due to all show volunteers who have worked hard to improve the situation regarding show finances and minimise the overall cost to the Society. The Board hopes that shows generally will be able to attract more visitors by reviewing venues, sponsorship and advertising. A publicity pack containing helpful advice for those organising shows is to be produced in readiness for the next show season.

Publicity/Promotion: Approval was given to fund promotional displays at various RHS show venues, including Chelsea and Tatton Park, with the aim of attracting new members to the Society. The working group established to consider promotional activities will submit a set of proposals to the next Board meeting. This includes work on redevelopment of the Society's website and ways in which we engage with members in the future.

Fritillaria Group: Following discussions with the group, arrangements have been put in place by the AGS to assist with the collection of group subscriptions. Group members will have the option to pay by direct debit or through the AGS website.

Local Groups: The Board has supported the Local Groups Newsletter initiative set up by Mala Janes and a further issue is planned for September. As reported in the last AGS News, the role of local group co-ordinators has been established to provide a link between groups and the AGS Centre, offering advice and support. The co-ordinators will be David Charlton, John Dower and Ben & Paddy Parmee. All groups will be sent more information and contact details.

Awards: The Board approved the decisions made by the Awards Committee and details of the recipients appear in this newsletter.

NEW BOOK: SAVE 20%



Mountain Flowers by Michael Scott

This book looks at the British sites that support the richest mountain flora, and discusses the ecology and distribution of the key montane and submontane plants, with a particular focus on the conservation of the rarest species. The book has much to offer wildflower enthusiasts and botanists, not least in its lavish illustrations, and will be an indispensable companion for those who want to learn more about the enigmatic plants of the British mountains.

Cover price £35 **AGS price £28** [Order code 922]
Order form on page 23 or order on the AGS website

The 2017 AGS desk calendar

Our handy desk calendar features 12 superb images of plants and gardens taken by AGS members. The calendar costs just £4.50, or buy two for £8.

Postage is free in the UK, £2.50 for the rest of Europe and £3.50 for the rest of the world.

To order call the AGS Centre on 01386 554790.



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

Visit the AGS website for details of how to enter.
Click on 'Images' and then 'Photographic Competition'

PRE-PUBLICATION OFFERS: SAVE OVER 25%

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 supply _____ copies of **The Garden at Brandy Mount House**

Cover price: £32 AGS pre-publication price: just £22.50

Postage and packing: UK £4.50 EU airmail £8

Rest of the world surface £10 (airmail add £10 to surface price)

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

Please supply _____ copies of **Rock Gardening**

Cover price: £25 AGS pre-publication price: just £18

Postage and packing: UK £4.50 EU airmail £8

Rest of the world surface £10 (airmail add £10 to surface price)

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.

The Garden at Brandy Mount House

The Garden at Brandy Mount House by Michael Baron, published by the Alpine Garden Society



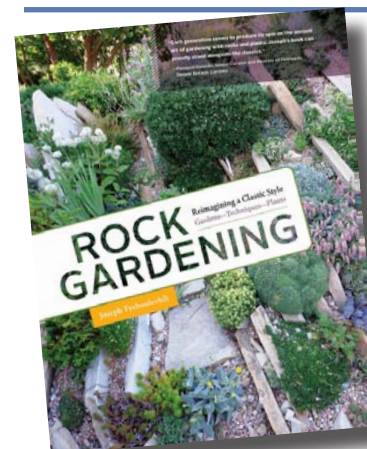
Tucked away in rural Hampshire is a garden of captivating beauty and a fine horticultural pedigree. Michael Baron, its owner and one of the AGS's longest-serving members, developed Brandy Mount over several decades with his late wife, Caryl.

In this beautiful new book, Michael takes us on a tour of Brandy Mount to uncover its history, its many secrets and delights. He is a skilled plantsman, and has created year-round interest in his garden, especially in spring with an abundance of alpines and bulbous plants providing pools of colour. His collection of snowdrops is one of the finest in the UK. There are also many perennials, shrubs, roses, trees and climbers.

Michael shares with us his experiences in growing such a wide range of plants and his recollections of meetings with

fellow enthusiasts and well-known names in the horticultural world. This lavishly illustrated book has a foreword by Roy Lancaster and will be published in time for Christmas. Please use the order form opposite. This book must be ordered separately from other titles on our list.

Cover price £32 Offer price £22.50
Order code 920



Rock Gardening by Joseph Tychonievich

Time and space constraints and increased drought are just two of the reasons for an increased interest in rock gardening in the USA. This book includes a survey of beautiful rock gardens from around the world, the techniques and methods specific to creating and maintaining a rock garden, and profiles of 50 essential rock garden plants. To be published in November. Use the order form opposite.

Cover price £25 Offer price £18
Order code 921

| 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 |
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CHILE: One place left!

December 28, 2016- January 17, 2017

Leader: Martin Shearer

Cost: £5,550 including flights; single supplement £1,150

This will be an extensive 20-day tour in one of the world's rarely visited plant-rich areas.

Participants will fly into Santiago and then transfer to Farellones 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. These will include La Parva, Cajon del Maipo, Conguillo National Park and Lake Colbun. The tour will end at Talca, where you will explore around Laguna del Maule before returning to Santiago for flights home.



The AGS tour to the Peloponnese in October is fully booked

COMING UP IN AUGUST 2017

Western Cape, South Africa, led by Callan Cohen

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



CRETE

Around April 7-20, 2017

Leader: Christopher Bailes

Cost: To be confirmed

This will be a three-centre tour: Chania; Zaros on the south side of Mt. Idi; and Agios Nikolaos.

PROPOSED ITINERARY

Day 1 – Arrive Chania.

Day 2 – Explore the Akrotiri Peninsula; lowland Cretan flora.

Day 3 – Omalos Plain and surrounding mountains; tulips (*Tulipa bakeri*) and crocuses plus more besides.

Day 4 – The Imbros Gorge; excellent cliff plants, including a number of endemic species (e.g. *Origanum dictamnus*).

Day 5 – Chania to Zaros, plus walk up the Zaros Gorge (Mt. Idi).

Day 6 – Orchids and other flowers around Agia Triada, south of Zaros.

Day 7 – The flora around Prina, west of Zaros, noted for its wealth of terrestrial orchids.

Day 8 – Travel down to the south coast; coastal flora.

Day 9 – Zaros to Agios Nikolaos or preferably nearby.

Day 10 – Gournia and surroundings; particularly good for *Ranunculus asiaticus* forms, *Gladioli* and others.

Day 11 – Lasithi Plateau, north side; much to explore.

Day 12 – Lasithi Plateau, south side.

Day 13 – Homeward bound.

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

BHUTAN

June 2017

Leaders: Martin Walsh & John Mitchell

Cost: To be confirmed

This, the first AGS expedition to central Bhutan, will offer participants a unique opportunity to explore an area with 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 be very much following in their footsteps throughout most of this trip.

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.

The trip will start with acclimatisation in western Bhutan, where we will travel by bus to botanise the botanically rich Chele La, a 3,780m high pass west of Paro. We will then spend two days travelling to Punakha in central Bhutan in order to begin the trek.

The trek will start at Dur in the Bumthang district, which is relatively low at just under 2,700m. During the first few days we will trek through near pristine 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 as well as shrubs.

Over the course of the following few days we will travel further north crossing



Lilium sherriffiae

several passes en route including the Jule La and the Gokthong La. A wealth of desirable alpine plants are to be found growing on these passes including *Meconopsis bella*, *Primula umbratilis*, *Anemone rupicola* as well as the supreme Himalayan giant rhubarb, *Rheum nobile*. The alpine meadows in this region are also rich in species including primulas, pedicularis, anemones, asters and so on. One of the expected highlights of the trip will be a visit to one of the few known localities of one of the rarest Himalayan lilies, *Lilium sherriffiae*.

Once we reach the hot springs at Dur Tsachu we will then head north-east, crossing two further passes, Chachan



Cypripedium tibeticum

La and the Tole La – an area which has not been explored since George Sherriff botanised here in 1949. After spending several days exploring the various alpine habitats we will once again descend into the forest zone.

Once we reach Tsampa, we will head north to Gangkhar Puensum Base Camp and where, weather permitting, we should have spectacular views. After spending some time here we will then head south to Khakthang, the end point of our trek.

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.



ROMANIA

July/August 2017

Leader: Razvan Chisu

Cost: To be confirmed

Day 1 – Fly to Cluj aiming to arrive at our hotel in early afternoon. Afternoon visit to Cluj-Napoca Botanical Garden (14 hectares, greenhouses, largest herbarium in Romania of over 650,000 sheets, some 300 years old).

Days 2 & 3 – Drive to Turda Salt Mines, a recently redeveloped area that is now a very popular tourist attraction (Salina Turda was ranked by Business Insider as the most beautiful underground place in the world, has an underground boating lake and is 112m deep). Botanising on limestone cliffs in Remetea.

Days 4, 5 & 6 – Drive to Transfăgărășan and botanise on both sides of the Carpathians.

Days 7, 8 & 9 – Drive to Bușteni. Take cable car and botanise around Bucegi plateau at over 2,000m. Walks around Ialomicioara with day trips to Bolboci lake and Zănoagei gorge.

Day 10 – Drive to Bucharest and fly back to UK.

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



Galanthus krasnovii is just one of many snowdrops that will be seen on this tour

NORTH-EAST TURKEY & GEORGIA

March 7-14, 2017

Leaders: Andy Byfield & Oron Peri

Cost: £1,750

The far north-eastern corner of Turkey and the adjacent parts of Georgia have a unique biome, the Euxine region. In essence a kind of temperate rainforest, this has resulted in a distinctive flora that includes a large number of species found nowhere else in the world.

Our trip concentrates on the very earliest spring bulbs, particularly *Galanthus* species, a number of which are found only here. On the Georgian side we'll find *Galanthus krasnovii* and pink *Paeonia caucasica*, all mixed with scillas and *Corydalis*. *Galanthus schaeoricus*

flowers in rich woodlands around Shaori lake alongside *Helleborus abchasicus* and a spectacular display of *Erythronium sibiricum*.

On the Turkish side, the Oriental beech forests are a delight at this season as they'll have the very first hints of green appearing, their silver trunks set against the orange leaf-litter where clumps of *Galanthus rizehensis* bloom. *Primula megaseifolia* and *Cyclamen* shower mossy banks with their blooms. We'll explore mixed woodlands of fir and spruce, hornbeam and wingnut where *Paris incompleta*, a host of pretty violas and the elegant pipes of *Aristolochia* are already in bloom. Here we'll find *Iris lazica* and, among rocks, flowers *Galanthus woronowii*. We'll look for *Crocus aereus* and we'll no doubt get involved in the debate over *Galanthus alpinus* and *Galanthus koenenianus*!

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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 puschkinoides* 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.

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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
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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!

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Autumn Conference booking form

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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 | <input type="text"/> | Security code | <input type="text"/> |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|

| | | |
|------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| 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.