



Orchid expert Phillip Cribb will talk about cypripediums at the AGS Conference

A weekend packed with advice from alpine experts

It promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding weekend! The AGS Annual Conference will feature a line-up of speakers who have a wealth of expertise and experience of growing alpiners and exploring their natural habitats.

The AGM and Conference will take place on the weekend of November 17 and 18 at the four-star Macdonald 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 Shakespeare 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. His area of interest extends much further than orchids, however, and he will talk about woodlanders and shade-loving plants.

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A superb line-up of expert speakers

Continued from page 1

He will give another lecture during the conference, returning to his core subject with a talk entitled: Proud Margarets & Bardolph's nose: where are those slippers?

Conference speakers will also include Sarah Carlton from St Andrews Botanic Garden; former Kew horticulturist Katie Price talking about exploring the mountainous German-Austrian border; David Morris on the joint AGS/RSPB conservation project to rejuvenate a mountain meadow in the Lake District; and nurseryman Steve Furness on trough planting.

Colin Crosbie, former curator of RHS Wisley, will also talk about woodland plants, while Tommy Tonsberg will visit the Conference from his native Norway to tell us how he grows alpines and woodland plants there. There will also be the opportunity to pick up some bargains, including cypripediums, at the Conference auction.

To book a place for the Conference please call the AGS Centre (details on page 6) or fill in the Conference booking form on the back page of this issue of AGS News.



● Katie Price (above) worked in the woodland and alpine sections at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. She has travelled widely and will share her experiences of exploring for alpine plants in valleys and glaciers in Germany and Austria along the Bavaria-Tyrol border.



● Dr Steve Furness (above) runs The Alpine Plant Centre at Calver, Derbyshire. He has single-handedly constructed one of the most impressive rock gardens in Britain.



● Tommy Tonsberg (above) runs a nursery and open garden near Oslo. He is Editor-in-Chief of Hagedrom, Norway's newest gardening magazine, and is a garden writer and photographer.

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



Four-star accommodation and dining in Shakespeare's country

Macdonald Alveston Manor Hotel is one of the finest four-star hotels in Warwickshire, offering great luxury accommodation in one of the most beautiful and historic parts of England. Set in the very heart of Shakespeare country, and in close proximity to beautiful Cotswold villages, the historic Alveston Manor Hotel is set in its own grounds just five minutes walk from all the cultural attractions of Stratford-upon-Avon. It offers an award-winning restaurant, attractive gardens and a luxurious spa.

AGS CONFERENCE 2018 PROGRAMME

There will be members' plant sales and nurseries attending – everyone is welcome to bring plants to sell

SATURDAY, November 17

AGM – OPEN TO ALL AGS MEMBERS

- 10am** Registration, coffee and plant sales.
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: Phillip Cribb – Woodlanders and shade-loving plants
3pm Close of AGM

CONFERENCE – OPEN ONLY TO DELEGATES

- 3.00-3.30pm** Conference registration
3.30pm Opening remarks and lecture: David Morris – Mardale: Recreating a mountain meadow in the Lake District
4.35pm Short presentation: Sarah Carlton – St Andrews Botanic Garden
5pm Tea
5.20pm Lecture: Colin Crosbie – Shady woodlanders!
6.15pm End of session
7.45pm Conference Dinner followed by plant auction (including a range of cypripediums and other choice items)

SUNDAY, November 18

- 09.30am** Registration
10am Lecture: Tommy Tonsberg – Growing alpiners and woodland plants in Norway
11am Coffee
11.30pm Lecture: Katie Price – Flowers of the Alps: the Bavaria-Tyrol border
12.30pm Lunch
1.45pm Lecture: Steve Furness – Everything you ever wanted to know about troughs and daren't ask
2.45pm Lecture: Phillip Cribb – Proud Margarets & Bardolph's nose: where are those slippers?
3.30pm Closing remarks followed by tea
3.50pm 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.**

NOTICEBOARD

AGS Snowdrop Day **BOOK NOW**

Saturday, February 2, 2019

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 are restricted to AGS members until October 31, 2018.

PROGRAMME

- 9.00 Registration, plant sales & coffee
11.00 Welcome by AGS President Christopher Bailes
11.05 Richard Hobbs – Plants and People: an A to Z
12.00 Jim Almond – Snowdrops: the Theme is Green
13.00 Plant sales and hot two-course buffet lunch
14.30 Anne Wright – Making more Snowdrops
15.25 Snowdrop question & answer session with the panel of speakers
15.45 Coffee
16.00 Event closes

Nurseries attending include: Monksilver, Glen Chantry,
Woodchippings, Jim Almond, Matt Bishop and Edulis Nursery

There will also be an AGS stand with a selection of
gardening books and merchandise for sale.

**This event is always a sell-out so
book now to be sure of your place**



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Worcestershire, WR10 3JP, UK

Phone: +44(0)1386 554790

Email:
ags@alpinegardensociety.net

Registered charity No. 207478

Annual subscriptions:

Single (UK and Ireland) £36*

Family (two at same address) £39*

Junior (under 18/student) £15

Overseas single £38

Overseas family £40

* £3 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 2018
issue of AGS News to Jackie Cooper
at the address above or email
ags@alpinegardensociety.net.
The deadline is October 31, 2018.

NOTICEBOARD

AGS shows and plant sales



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.

AGS Autumn Bulb Day

September 23, 2018

EVENT FULLY
BOOKED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 17, 2018

The Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Garden Society will take place on
Saturday, November 17, 2018, at the Macdonald Alveston Manor Hotel, Clopton
Bridge, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7HP.

AGENDA

1. To receive and confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on November 11, 2017.
2. To receive the report of the Board of Trustees.
3. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's report and accounts.
4. To elect a Treasurer and Officers to serve for the ensuing year (see Note 1 below).
5. To elect two Trustees to serve for four years (see Note 2 below).
6. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year.
7. Any Other Items of Business if previously notified.
8. 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: Director of Seed Exchange (Mrs Diane Clement), Director of Shows (Mr Martin Rogerson), 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 is £18.95 per person. **Lunch bookings MUST be made in advance** through the AGS Centre (address on opposite page) by Friday, October 19. Pre-booked lunch vouchers will be available from the AGS book sales stand on the day. Morning coffee is provided free of charge.

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

Car parking: The hotel has ample car parking.

TRUSTEE NOMINATION

Mr Jonathan Webster (Devon). Proposed by Prof. John Good, seconded by Jim McGregor. Jon has worked in horticulture since leaving school following his passion of plants and gardens. His training started at Ventnor Botanic Garden on the Isle of Wight and then continued at Cambridge University Botanic Garden as a sandwich year placement while studying at Merrist Wood College. Following this Jon started work at RHS Wisley, first in the team managing Battleston Hill, the ericaceous plant collection, and then moved to the Plant Trials and worked there for nine years. He subsequently moved to RHS Rosemoor where he has been for the past 13 years and is currently the garden's Curator.

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Jon has always been keen on alpinists and is a member of the Exeter AGS Group with his wife Kana, and for the past five years they have been joint show secretaries for the South West AGS National Show, which for the past two years has been held at Rosemoor. For eight years Jon has sat on Plant Heritage's Plant Conservation Committee, which reviews applications of new collections and provides guidance to collection proposals. Currently he is vice-chair. Having been a member of the AGS for many years he is keen to help the Society continue into the future so it can be enjoyed by many keen growers and plants people.

ANNUAL AWARDS

The Kath Dryden Award

Keith Wiley has a renowned and innovative garden, Wildside, near Buckland Monachorum in Devon. He is a popular lecturer and his books have all been highly acclaimed. This award, however, is for his work on a single genus, *Erythronium*. Keith has long had a passionate interest in these spring gems and uses them extensively in a naturalistic way in his garden. More than that, he has hybridised them to produce some excellent and easy new cultivars which are becoming increasingly more widely available year on year. Erythroniums are grown for their enchanting Turk's cap-shaped flowers in a variety of colours but also for their handsome and often excitingly patterned foliage. Kath Dryden would be thrilled to know that this award in her name has gone to someone as passionate about the genus as she herself was.

The Sir William and Lady Lawrence Award

Elsbeth Mackintosh has been associated with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh for several decades, where she is senior horticulturist in the Alpine Department. The immaculate displays in the Heritage Alpine House are mainly her doing, and last May, on the day that it reopened after extensive restoration, she could be found on her hands and knees in the alpine yard, typically making sure that everything was pristine for the evening ceremony. She had long before then masterminded the transfer of plants from the old structure to their temporary home in the back-up alpine nursery, an operation conducted so smoothly that famous specimens including a venerable mat of *Epigaea gaultherioides* didn't turn a hair. She is an excellent supervisor (currently she is guiding the fledgling career of AGS-sponsored trainee Alex O'Sullivan) and various projects are conducted under her watchful eye. The recently constructed glass-protected tufa wall is also under her care. Much of her work is done behind the scenes, curating the extensive collections in the Rovero polytunnel, the back-up alpine houses and the extensive rows of brick-based frames. In the autumn, with student help, she devotes week after week to repotting the bulb collections: a mammoth task that she tackles with characteristic determination and flair. The plantings surrounding the alpine house are also her responsibility, as are the beautifully arranged and planted troughs, which she has recently regrouped and overhauled. She has also been on two collecting expeditions to Siberia, as well as four trips to the Himalayas, the most recent of which was in 2015, thus carrying on the long tradition of significant botanical exploration for which RBGE is world-renowned.

Website Award

John Richards for his Northumberland Diary. John was the first person to write a 'diary' for the AGS website and he has maintained this with regular contributions since 2006.

Each article is full of helpful advice and John's enthusiasm for alpine plants is evident throughout. Readers have been able to benefit from his practical knowledge and experiences in growing a wide range of alpine plants. John has also continued to contribute to other areas on the website, particularly the AGS Encyclopaedia where he has recently updated sections on Paeonies and Hellebores. Although John has been the recipient of this award previously he is fully deserving of receiving it a second time in recognition of the sustained commitment he has shown. His diary entries now total 365!

Local Group Award and Sussex Weald Silver Jubilee Trophy

Celia Sawyer joined the Oxford Group in 1983 and almost immediately became the minutes secretary until taking over the role of secretary in 2013. At that time the roles of speaker secretary and group secretary were separate, but when Celia was appointed the roles were combined, greatly increasing the workload.

Her attention to detail for all events is faultless and she ensures that everything runs smoothly, whether it is a club night, social event or a visit. Celia has done much to promote the group and the AGS to a wider audience and within other clubs and societies. She is also a regular helper with the AGS Seed Exchange and participates in many AGS activities at both a local and national level. Celia gives unstintingly of her time and through her commitment to the group she has helped to create a welcoming and enjoyable environment, thereby helping the group to flourish.

LITERARY AWARDS – THE ALPINE GARDENER, 2017

The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award

Liz Knowles: 'Flowers on the celestial Silk Road' [September 2017]

The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award

James Hitchmough: 'The roof of the world? No, just my Sheffield roof' [June 2017]

The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award

Martin and Anna-Liisa Sheader: 'Glories of the Chilean Andes' [December 2017]

Mardale Mountain Meadow Planting Days

September 20: plug planting 🌱 December 6: tree/shrub planting

Come and help the team at RSPB Haweswater to plant flowers and trees in Mardale Mountain Meadow in the Lake District National Park. This is a joint project between the AGS and RSPB where the habitat is being restored for wildlife and people. Many of the plugs that will be planted have been grown by AGS members from seed collected from the local area. Please bring sturdy footwear, gloves, waterproof clothing and a packed lunch. The RSPB will provide all the tools, plants and direct the work on the day. For both days, meet at 10am at Mardale Head car park at the southern end of Haweswater. You are welcome to join for just the morning or for the whole day.

Please let us know if you plan to come by emailing spike.webb@rspb.org.uk or calling 01931 713376

News from the AGS Trustee Board

Rebranding and new website: It is anticipated that the new site will launch before the end of September 2019. The membership database will be incorporated within the website, offering members the ability to log-in and update their own details. The process of transferring content is under way and will be ongoing for a considerable period of time. Development of the new site has been extremely complex, involving a huge amount of work.

Financial matters: The Treasurer presented an annual overview of the Society's investments. The Board noted that over the years our investments have consistently performed well. The Board will consider in more depth the types of funds in which investments are held both in the light of ethics and future sustainability.

90th birthday celebration: The first Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in December 2019. The Trustees will consider various ways in which the Society can celebrate its 90th year, one of which will be a display at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. There will also be an official opening of the new alpine house at Pershore and more information on these and other events will be announced in due course.

Local Group Co-ordinators: Members received an update on activities. David Charlton and Ben Parmee have made available to groups a membership 'template' form, together with suitable GDPR wording that groups have found helpful.

AGS National Shows: A number of issues relating to show timings and venues need to be resolved. The availability of suitable venues is a major concern.

Conservation project: Trustees were provided with an update on recent activities following the meeting of the Steering Group in July. A large number of plants are waiting to be planted out and it is hoped AGS members will help (see page 9).

Seed Exchange: It was agreed that this year the Seed List will be mailed out separately to all members, rather than as part of the journal mailing, to ensure that it fits in with the anticipated ordering deadlines.

Fritillaria Group: In recent years the AGS has been trying to work more closely with its Fritillaria Group, helping to publish the Group's newsletter and to collect its subscriptions. Unfortunately, because of changes in data protection laws and new database technology on the Society's new website, the Society has had to ask the Fritillaria Group to make changes in the way these things are handled. This has led to lengthy discussions between the Society and the Fritillaria Group.

To make members aware of the situation, below is an extract from a letter from the AGS Trustees to the Fritillaria Group, dated July 2.

As explained at our meeting (in March 2018), the way in which the Society currently deals with membership payments and subscriptions is going to change dramatically and these changes will also affect our BACS collection service. It is clear that the current service we have provided to the Group cannot continue as it is now. The

Trustees were of the opinion that the administrative burden placed on the Society by the present system was not sustainable, nor can we be involved in holding data and processing financial transactions for individuals who are not members of the main Society. The Trustee Board considered the matter carefully and came to the conclusion that if the Fritillaria Group wishes to retain a separate database, administered by themselves, then it is probably now better for both parties if the Fritillaria Group were to separate from the Society. This will give the Group total autonomy for running its own affairs and enable the Society to transfer responsibility for the Group's charitable funds.

The other option open to the Fritillaria Group is to remain as an integrated group within the AGS but to enable this to happen the Group data would have to be held centrally and administered by the Society itself. All monies pertaining to the Group would be held by the AGS in its bank account but in a designated fund specifically for the use of Fritillaria Group. These funds could also be invested alongside the AGS investments and any interest credited to the Group. Our auditors can provide the Group with an annual statement recording expenditure and income in relation to the designated Group fund. This will form the basis of your Group accounts. At our meeting this option did not appear to be acceptable to the Fritillaria Group and so the only alternative is for the Fritillaria Group to separate from the AGS under the process outlined below:

The Fritillaria Group will in effect become an unregistered charity and the Group committee will need to assume full responsibility for the affairs of the Group. Fritillaria Group committee members will need to act in the capacity of 'charity trustees', thereby accepting the associated responsibilities.

The Group committee must ensure that Group funds, both now and in the future, are only used for charitable purposes and in line with those specified in the Constitution of the Alpine Garden Society, under whose umbrella the funds have been collected. In the case of the Fritillaria Group these are as stipulated in the 'Objects' of your Group constitution approved by the AGS: 'To extend knowledge and understanding of the genus Fritillaria through study, conservation, cultivation and propagation (if appropriate) by means of (as appropriate) meetings, publications, lectures, shows, displays, plant and seed exchanges, visits to collections and sites of interest.'

A Trustee of the Group should bear in mind any potential 'conflict of interest' that may arise when determining how Group funds are used and act responsibly by excusing themselves from such discussions.

Assuming the Fritillaria Group wishes to pursue option 1, the AGS will do all it can to ensure that there is a smooth transition process. The Board wishes the Group every success for its future and would be happy to collaborate on any appropriate joint activities or events.

AGS SEED EXCHANGE No 67: 2018-19

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 11 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 11, 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 11 without contacting me first.

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. Please consult the website for full information about the Seed Exchange.

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 seeds 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 near these areas and can help out for a few hours or a full 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? If you think you are able to help this year, please contact:

Diane Clement, Director of Seed Exchange.

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

Regulations for US members ordering seed through the AGS Seed Exchange

US members who wish to order seed must send in an Import Permit with their order or their seed donation. If you already have a permit, please check your permit is still valid until March 2018 to allow time for postage of your seed order and administrative work by the USDA. Permits are free and valid for three 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, scroll down the page to How to Apply for a Small Lots of Seed Permit and follow the instructions given. You can then print your 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.

You do not have to use the station nearest your home. At the current time, it is suggested that you do not use Los Angeles, Miami or New York. Alternative ports of entry can be found here: www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/pis/ct_plant_inspection_stations

More information about US Import Permits can be found on the AGS website.

NOTICEBOARD

2019 AGS CALENDARS

The AGS WALL CALENDAR features beautiful images taken by some of the Society's best photographers.

The calendar is A3 size when opened up and the date panels include enough space for you to write down appointments and AGS events!

The calendars cost just £5.50 each, or two for £10, with free postage in the UK. Postage is £2.50 for the rest of Europe and £3.50 for the rest of the world.

Stock is limited so order now to avoid disappointment.

ALSO AVAILABLE

Our popular DESK CALENDAR comes in a CD case and costs just £4.50, or buy two for £8. Postage rates as above.



To order call the AGS Centre on 01386 554790

NEW BOOK

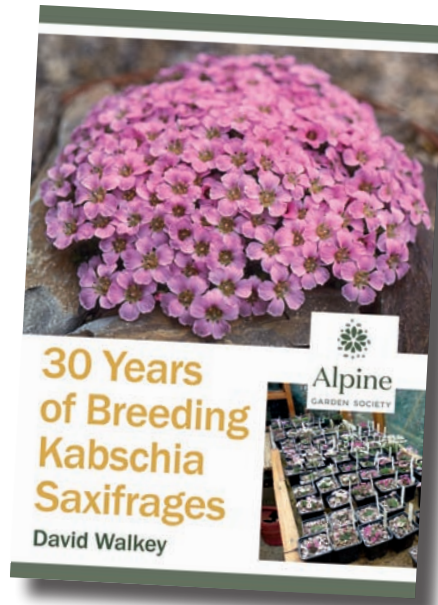
30 Years of Breeding Kabschia Saxifrages
by David Walkey

AN AGS PUBLICATION

David Walkey completed this book just before his death early last year. A lifelong AGS member, he had already agreed with the Society that we would publish his account of 30 years of breeding Kabschia (also known as Porophyllum) saxifrages.

In this highly detailed portrayal, David explains techniques that will fascinate anyone who is interested in breeding alpine plants. He gives insights into his successes and failures, and opens up a record-keeping system that is in-depth but essential for those who wish to foster new cultivars of saxifrages and other plants. David is pictured below in his alpine house at Tysoe, Warwickshire, where he bred his Tysoe hybrids.

It is terribly sad that David did not live to see his book published, but he leaves a legacy that will be invaluable to alpine plant breeders for generations to come. This book will be available in October.



Cover price
£5.00

AGS price
£4.00

Order code
960

NEW FROM THE AGS: GARDEN TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES

We're pleased to offer a new range of garden tools and accessories at discounted prices. They are made by the well-regarded British company Burgon & Ball, and represent British craftsmanship and excellent quality at a very reasonable price. This is a small selection – there is much more on our website!

These should be ordered on the same order form as books, or buy online.



This rockery trowel is an updated classic design, one originally developed by pioneering Victorian gardeners. It's extremely robust, as the metal body extends the full length of the tool for optimal strength. It's incredibly useful for all sorts of transplanting around the garden, not only in rockeries!

Normal price: £12.99

AGS price £11.50



Brie Harrison secateur
and holster set

Normal price £19.99

AGS price £16

Sophie Conran
Gauntlet Gloves (blue)

Normal price £16.99

AGS price £14



4" coloured labels
in red, green,
blue, violet,
yellow or orange.

AGS price £1.75
for 50 Please
specify colour



Slate Kneelo
Normal price £14.99

AGS price £12

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

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
Books listed in red are 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
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	£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
SUCCULENTS AND CACTI		
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
TREES & SHRUBS		
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
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Order code	Title and author	Members' price
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AGS TRAVEL AWARDS AND GRANTS Applications for 2019

The Alpine Garden Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually. Applications for these awards must be received by January 31, 2019, at the latest.

TRAVEL AWARDS

Each year the Society gives a 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 on the AGS website or by contacting Jackie Cooper, c/o AGS Centre, or email: jackie@alpinegardensociety.net

CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO AGS GROUPS!



Congratulations to our Southport Group who were awarded a Silver Medal for this attractive display at the Southport Flower Show. The display was put together with alpines from around the world, many of the plants contributed by local AGS members. Congratulations also to the AGS Shropshire Group who won a Gold Medal at the Shrewsbury Flower Show to add to the Gold they picked up last year. It is heartening to see local groups promoting the Society, recruiting new members and extolling the delights of alpine plants to the public at large.

SPRING IN THE PELOPONNESE

March/April 2019 TBC

Leader: Răzvan Chișu

Cost: TBC

With more than 2,000 species of plants, the Peloponnese is one of Europe's biodiversity hotspots. The peninsula has a most varied landscape ranging from wild beaches and coastal all to the high peaks of the Taygetos mountains.

But it's not just the landscape that drove the evolution of so many plant species. The Mediterranean climate and the influence of man through millennia of agriculture have also impacted the ecology of the area.

From the first capital of modern Greece, Nafplion, to southernmost Cape Tenaro, which has an outdoor Roman mosaic but also fields of wild tulips, the tour will wind its way through towns and villages on both the east and the west coast of the peninsula.

During the ten days of the tour we will look out for masses of spring flowering annuals, cyclamen, tulips and other bulbs, highly variable orchids, shrubs and trees.

Be sure to have enough battery power and storage on your camera to take pictures of tapestries of flowers such as *Tulipa goulimyi*, *Ophrys lutea*, *Leontice leontopetalum*, *Silene littorea*, *Anemone coronaria*, *Euphorbia acanthothamnus*, *Papaver argemone* (right), *Iris cretensis*, *Fritillaria graeca* and many more.



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

OTHER TOURS IN 2019

THE PICOS

Led by Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson.
Eight days at the end of May/early June.

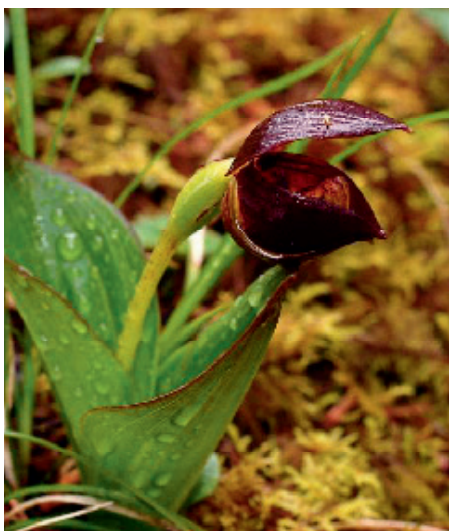
CHINA Sichuan & Yunnan

Led by John Mitchell of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.
21 days in June.

Further details regarding itineraries for these tours are currently being finalised and will be available shortly.



Saxifraga felineri in the Picos



Cypripedium bardolphianum and *Arisaema candidissimum* in China



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

SOUTHERN PATAGONIA

November 28 to December 15 (approx. dates) 2019

Leader: Martin Sheader

Cost: TBC

Accommodation: Hotels & Estancias (Ranches)

This is a tour in the austral spring to the extreme south of Patagonia, visiting both Chile and Argentina. Here we find a diversity of habitats, from the Atlantic coast to dry steppe, woodland, temperate forest and mountains, together with a range of wildlife including penguins, condors, armadillos and guanacos. The tour focuses on the plants, but there is ample opportunity to observe wildlife, the spectacular scenery and the complex geology of the area.

Much of the botanising will be close to our vehicle, with a maximum of a few kilometers walk per day and a couple of moderately strenuous uphill climbs. There should be no problems with altitude as the maximum elevation we reach will be around 1,800m.

In addition to areas which we have previously visited and know to be of interest, we are exploring some sites for the first time. For the most part we are staying in hotels, but we will also be staying in estancias (ranches) where it might be necessary to share rooms, depending on numbers. This provides a wonderful experience of life on these remote sheep farms and gives us access to places that are rarely visited.

We fly to Buenos Aires and then



Viola auricolor



Magellanic penguins

south to the town of Río Gallegos in the extreme southeast of mainland Argentina. During the tour we travel through Argentina's Santa Cruz Province along National Route 40, making a detour into Chile early in the trip. For more details see the itinerary outlined on the AGS website or contact the AGS Centre.

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



NEW CALEDONIA

September 2019 for 15 days

Leader: Mark Hanger

Cost: With flights in the region of £5,100. Land only in the region of £3,850. Single supplement £600.

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 to 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.



Crocus biflorus subsp. *crewei* and, right, *Crocus lyciotaureus*

CROCUSES OF THE TAURUS MOUNTAINS

March 2-16, 2019

Leaders: Yasemin Konuralp & local leader

Cost: London to London, £2,495; Antalya to Antalya, £2,315

A staggering 28 species of *Crocus* are on the agenda for this tour. Your Turkish leaders have helped make many new discoveries in western Turkey; indeed Yasemin has one named after her, *Crocus yaseminiae*.

We'll seek *Crocus roseoviolaceus*, *Crocus beydaglarensis*, ice-blue *Crocus baytopiorum* and *Crocus fleischeri* with its brilliant reddish style. On the high pastures of Gemboş Yayla egg-yolk yellow *Crocus gemboşii* and purple-striped blue *Crocus mavii* hybridise freely producing a kaleidoscopic array

of colours. The gorgeous, large and very rare *Crocus calanthus* inhabits cedar of Lebanon forests and, in more open locales, we'll see *Crocus xanthosus* and lilac *Crocus katrancensis*.

Close to Antalya we'll find *Crocus oreogenus*, tiny *Crocus minutus* and another *Crocus* discovered so recently it doesn't yet have a name. Here also are *Crocus antalyensis* subsp. *antalyensis* and *Crocus ziyeretensis*. There will be plenty of other spring bulbs on show with stands of *Galanthus elwesii* blooming under oriental planes and the blue stars of *Scilla bifolia* everywhere.

Two special bulbs we'll encounter on Baba Dağ are *Fritillaria forbesii* and *Scilla forbesii*. Alongside paths are *Fritillaria kitaniae*, *Fritillaria serpenticola* and *Fritillaria carica*, blue *Chionodoxa forbesii*, pink *Anthemis rosea*, *Corydalis paschei*, *Cyclamen alpinum*, rare *Iris pamphylica* and attractive *Iris stenophylla*.

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

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ORCHIDS OF DARJEELING & SIKKIM



Renanthera sp. and, right,
Pholidota imbricata



March 30-April 14, 2019

Leaders: Sailesh Prabhan & Oron Peri

**Cost: London to London, £4,295;
Delhi-Delhi, £3,810.**

The gorgeous forests of Darjeeling and the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Sikkim harbour an astounding variety of orchids. Sikkim alone has more than 500 species, but it is the sheer beauty of some of these that takes the breath away.

Highlights include *Paphiopedilum venustum*, whose amazing multi-hued blooms look they ought to be able to fly, the lovely *Cymbidium hookerianum*, and the glory that is *Paphiopedilum fairrieanum*, discovered in 1963 by the father of Sailesh Prabhan, our very

knowledgeable guide for this tour.

There's fabulous clumps of pleiones, brilliant *Dendrobium hookerianum*, improbably cute *Bulbophyllum leopardinum*, and Sikkim's state flower, *Dendrobium nobile*.

We'll also visit picturesque old monasteries, enjoy swarms of multicoloured primulas and wonderful rhododendrons, and cobra-lilies will enthrall with a magical mix of mysterious shapes and patterns. Sikkim's Buddhist heritage will not be forgotten. We'll visit old monasteries as well as meeting the friendly mountain peoples, a mix of Nepalese, Lepchas, Bhutias and Limbus, whose language gave the state its name: 'sukh-im', meaning 'happy homeland'.

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Soldanella alpina and, right, *Pulsatilla alpina*



PYRENEES

June 1-14, 2019

Leaders: Paul Cardy & Peter Steiger

**Cost: London to London, £2,965;
Toulouse to Toulouse, £2,785**

We start in the verdant Vallée d'Éyne and Cerdagne, before crossing Andorra to the magnificent 'enchanted mountains' of Aigüestortes, one of Spain's most beautiful national parks, finishing the tour in the famed Cirque de Gavarnie.

Everywhere are carpets of beautiful blue gentians, pink primulas and elegant snowbells. The yellow turk's-caps of *Lilium pyrenaicum* are a magical sight. Tight cushions of delightful *Androsace vandellii* bloom on rocks above displays

of *Crocus vernus* subsp. *albiflorus*, yellow, white and 'hairy' pulsatillas, and golden *Potentilla aurea*. Alpine turf on the slopes of the Pic d'Aneto hosts *Nigritella austriaca*, *Dactylorhiza caramulensis*, *Lomatogonium rotatum*, *Ranunculus gouanii*, green-flowered *Tofieldia calyculata*, *Pedicularis mixta*, and purple *Iris latifolia*, all alongside a most marvellous display of *Viola cornuta*.

Elsewhere are gems such as *Androsace carnea* subsp. *laggeri*, purple and orange *Linaria alpina*, *Vitaliana primuliflora*, *Primula viscosa* and lovely *Adonis pyrenaica*. *Sarcocapnos enneaphylla* adorns cliffs by Gaudi's Inspiration while white Pyrenean saxifrages cascade from rocks alongside lovely blue *Ramonda myconi*.

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Glaucidium palmatum in the snowy valley at Hakuba-jiri



JAPAN

June 6-20, 2019

Hokkaido extension, June 20-24, 2019

Leaders: Yasemin Konuralp & a local leader

Cost: London to London, £6,390; Tokyo to Tokyo, £5,740. Hokkaido extension: £1,900.

Japan's memorably scenic archipelago is also home to a mesmerising show of spring flowers. Hakuba-jiri's famous snowy valley holds *Glaucidium palmatum*, *Primula jesoana* and palest pink *Pogonia japonica*. *Convallaria keiskei*, *Primula japonica*, and *Rhododendron kaempferi* are easy to reach on Mount Nyugasa.

Fine lilies include *Lilium rubellum*, *Lilium maculatum* and *Hemerocallis middendorffii*. We'll visit the botanically rich Miura Peninsula where *Lilium auratum*, *Arisaema serratum* and *Astilbe simplicifolia* are among the highlights. Ozegahara Marsh has fine displays of *Lysichiton camtschatcensis* and blue *Iris laevigata*.

An extension takes us to scenic Hokkaido where we'll find *Erythronium japonicum* and both white *Trillium camtschatcense* and red *Trillium smallii* in the mountains.

Lower down are the spectacular *Cardiocrinum cordatum* as well as *Fritillaria camtschatcensis*, *Clintonia udensis* and orchids such as *Oreorchis patens* and *Platanthera sachalinensis*.



Opuntia oligacantha and, right, *Trichocereus terscheckii*



ARGENTINA CACTI

October 23-November 7, 2019

Leaders: Willy Smith & Ian Bennallick

Cost: London to London, £5,745; Buenos Aires to Buenos Aires, £4,995

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!

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Autumn Conference booking form

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