

AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society



Plant explorer and AGS tour leader Harry Jans, seen here in Peru, will speak about his South American travels at the AGS Conference

Don't miss the AGS Conference on November 8 and 9, with its programme of first-rate speakers and practical workshops.

The Conference, entitled The Cutting Edge, will follow the Society's Annual General Meeting at the four-star Stratford Manor Hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

Speakers will include plant explorer and nurseryman Tom Mitchell of Evolution Plants, and the curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden, Chris Bailes,

Last chance to book for our Conference

who will give a talk on orchids and their cultivation. They will be joined by the well-known alpine plantsman from the Netherlands, Harry Jans, who will

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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 for 2014:

Single (UK and Ireland) £32*

Family (two at same address) £36*

Junior (under 18/student) £14

Overseas single US\$56 £34

Overseas family US\$62 £37

* £2 deduction for direct debit
subscribers

For details of life membership apply to
the AGS Centre.

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 2014
issue of AGS News to Jackie Cooper
at the address above or email
jackie@alpinegardensociety.net.
The deadline is October 31, 2014.

NOTICEBOARD

AGS shows and plant sales



September 20: Autumn Show North

September 27: Autumn Show South

October 4: Loughborough Autumn Show

October 11: Newcastle Show

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 2013
issue of AGS News.

If you haven't entered one of our
autumn shows before, why not have a
go this year?

There are seasonal classes for
plants in cone, seed or fruit and plants
showing autumn colour. You can also
bring along any surplus plants to sell at
our members' plant stalls.



Conference programme

Continued from page 1

lecture on the flora of Peru; the Alpine
Supervisor from the Royal Botanic
Garden Edinburgh, John Mitchell,
whose subject will be the plants of
Tajikistan; and the garden innovator
and nurseryman Keith Wiley. There will
be a practical workshop each day.

Members can book either residential
or day places at the Conference and
can choose to attend on both days
or just one day. Prices for residential
delegates include accommodation,
hot buffet lunches on both days and
the Conference Dinner on Saturday, as
well as coffee and tea during breaks.
Day places include lunch and coffee
and tea. The Conference Dinner will be
followed by an auction.

The Conference will start at 4pm on
the Saturday, after the AGM and the
E.B. Anderson Memorial Lecture by
Martin Shearer, entitled 'Along the
Andes with the AGS – from Patagonia
to Peru'. This lecture is free to all AGS
members.

The Stratford Manor Hotel is set in
21 acres of landscaped grounds and is
located just five minutes from the M40.
There is a spa, leisure club, swimming
pool and gymnasium.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

**AGM and E B Anderson Memorial
Lecture – free to all AGS members**

10am Registration & Coffee

10.30am Annual General Meeting &
Presentation of Society Awards

12 noon Presentation of Show Awards

12.45pm Lunch

2pm E.B. Anderson Memorial Lecture:
Martin Shearer, Along the Andes with
the AGS – from Patagonia to Peru

3pm Close of AGM

BEGINNING OF CONFERENCE

3.30pm Opening remarks and lecture:
John Mitchell (RBGE), Tajikistan

4.30pm Practical Workshop

5pm Coffee

5.30pm Lecture: Keith Wiley

6.30pm End of session

7.45pm Conference Dinner, Auction
and Quiz

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

9.30am Registration

10am Lecture: Tom Mitchell (Evolution
Plants)

11am Coffee

11.30am Lecture: Chris Bailes (Curator,
Chelsea Physic Garden), Orchids
and their Cultivation

12.30pm Lunch

2pm Practical Workshop: Brian Burrow

3pm Lecture: Harry Jans, Peru

4pm Closing remarks by David Haselgrove
& coffee

**A booking form for the AGS Conference is on the back page of this
issue of AGS News. Alternatively, you may book on our website or
by calling the AGS Centre on 01386 554790**

NOTICEBOARD

A GREAT DAY OUT FOR GALANTHOPHILES

AGS Snowdrop Day – BOOK NOW

Saturday, February 7, 2015

Admission is by advance ticket only

At the NFU headquarters, Tiddington, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. Ample parking.

Tickets for lectures, plant sales and lunch:

AGS members £30, non-members £40

Tickets for plant sales only plus coffee:

AGS members £5, non-members £10.

Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre.

AGS members will be given priority booking.

Non-members may reserve tickets after October 31, 2014.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

- 8.30 Registration & plant sales
- 10.00 Welcome by David Haselgrove, AGS President
- 10.05 Growing a National Collection of Snowdrops – David and Margaret MacLennan
- 10.50 Coffee
- 11.15 The Northumberland Yellow Snowdrops – John Richards
- 12.00 Plant sales and lunch
- 13.30 Snowdrops in the Right Place! – Val Bourne
- 14.25 Galanthus: Aspects of Cultivation – Don Peace
- 15.15 Coffee and close at 16.00

NURSERIES ATTENDING WILL INCLUDE:

Monksilver, Avon Bulbs, Glen Chantry, Matt Bishop, Woodchippings

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 8, 2014

The Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Garden Society will take place on Saturday, November 8, 2014, at 10.30am at the Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0PY. (The hotel is situated close to Junction 15 of the M40 on the A46 to Stratford. At the first roundabout take the A439 to Stratford Town Centre. The hotel is one mile on the left). The programme for the AGM can be seen on page 3.

AGENDA

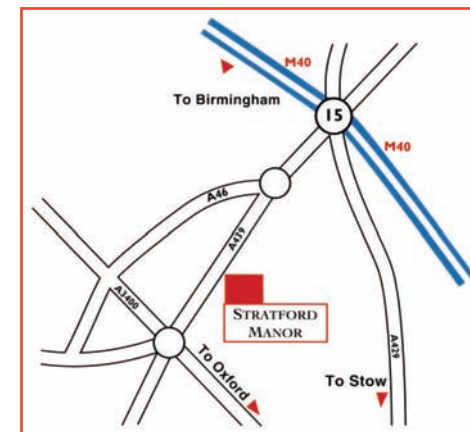
1. To receive and confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on November 9, 2013.
2. To receive the report of the Board of Trustees.
3. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's report and accounts.
4. To elect a President, Treasurer and Officers to serve for the ensuing year (see Note 1 below).
5. To elect two Trustees to serve for four years and one to serve for three 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. To fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr Martin Rogerson, it is necessary to appoint one Trustee to serve for three years.

LUNCH TICKETS: ADVANCE BOOKING ESSENTIAL

A two-course hot and cold buffet lunch (main course and desserts) will be available in the hotel's restaurant, including vegetarian options. The cost will be £16 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 AGS Centre (address on page 2) by Friday, October



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24. 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 car parking for around 200 cars.

TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS

Mr John E. Dower (Whitworth) to serve for three years

Proposed by Clifford H. Booker and seconded by Martin Rogerson

John has been an active member of the East Lancashire Local Group for many years, serving on committee and as vice-chair and chairman. With his background as an innovative and highly successful businessman he has the kind of small business acumen that the Society needs in these difficult times. These skills are allied to a passion for alpine plants that has seen his name become synonymous with the art of creating, promoting and successfully exhibiting miniature gardens. John was also instrumental in the planning and construction of the Society's display gardens at the RHS Tatton Park Show and in the creation of an East Lancashire Group garden at their hall in Ramsbottom. A 20-year AGS member, Gold Bar exhibitor, seasoned lecturer, photographer and traveller, John has the diligence, enthusiasm, knowledge and experience to serve the Society in a competent and professional manner.

Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson (Suffolk) to serve for four years

Proposed by C.D. Brickell CBE VMH and seconded by Capt. P.J. Erskine CBE VMH

Christopher is a freelance horticultural and botanical writer and photographer who, for many years, was a Principal Scientific Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. He will be best known to members as our Editor (1990-2011) and as the author of works on genera such as *Dionysia*, *Cyclamen* and *Pulsatilla*. He has travelled extensively in search of plants and is currently chairman of the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee and vice-chairman of the Royal Horticultural Society's Bursaries Committee, so he has valuable experience of the wider horticultural world. More immediately, his lengthy involvement in our Society and its management as Editor, tour leader, lecturer, builder of Chelsea stands and judge means that he has a good understanding of how our Society works and the difficulties that must be overcome. He has the experience and commitment to make a valuable contribution on the Trustee Board.

Mr Peter Sheasby (Banbury) to serve for four years

Proposed by Jim McGregor and seconded by John Fitzpatrick

A longstanding and active member of the Society, Peter is the custodian of the AGS Slide Library and well known as the author of the very successful book, *Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran*. He is a skilled photographer and a frequent contributor of images and articles to *The Alpine Gardener*. He is very familiar with the workings of the AGS and his business experience and mature judgement would be most valuable on the Trustee Board.

ANNUAL AWARDS FOR 2014

The Kath Dryden Award

Ruby Baker: Ruby was nominated for this award in recognition of her expertise in the cultivation of the genus *Galanthus*. Sadly, she died shortly after the decision was taken to honour her, and the award will be made posthumously. Ruby travelled widely throughout the British Isles and overseas to study snowdrops in natural and garden settings. She was recognised as a foremost authority on the genus, giving advice freely whenever asked and sharing her first-rate collection with other enthusiasts. Several excellent selections have been named in her honour. Ruby championed the genus long before it became as fashionable as it is today.

Award of Honour

Peter Sheasby: Peter has worked quietly and efficiently for well over 14 years managing the AGS slide library. He is an excellent photographer himself and his skills have enabled him to select and catalogue more than 40,000 images. The image database has allowed the Society easily to extract images for use in various AGS publications and also to support the AGS *Encyclopaedia* section of the website. Peter has lectured widely to many groups and societies on alpine plants and always strives to promote the AGS at every opportunity. In addition Peter is the author of the *Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran*, one of the society's most successful publications.

AGS Website Award

Ray Drew: Since 2010 Ray has been regularly writing plant portraits for the Plant of the Month section on the AGS website. His 50 or so articles have ranged from *Adonis 'Fukujukai'* to *Viola 'Jackanapes'*. Ray is a superb plantsman with a tremendous range of knowledge and his articles have reflected this, containing information about the plants and their origins as well as how to grow them. Less well known is the fact that Ray also manages the popular AGS Online Show on the website, editing the rules, adjusting the classes and managing the judging process. Ray Drew is a very worthy recipient of this award for 2014.

Local Group Award and Sussex Weald Silver Jubilee Trophy

Mike and Ann Taylor: Both are longstanding members of the AGS and the Bristol Local Group. They have served the group in many capacities, including both having held the position of chair as well as each serving on the group committee. They have also opened their garden on numerous occasions to AGS members and other outside organisations. Mike was responsible for organising the annual Bristol Group Conference for 25 years, ably supported by Ann. The conference has attracted AGS members from all over the country. Ann has helped with other activities for the group, including plant sales, giving advice on cultivation and also donating plants to help boost group funds.

Local Group Award

Joan Vincent: Joan has been a secretary of the South Lancashire Local Group for a

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combined period of 11 years. She has taken responsibility for booking venues, arranging speakers, sorting out the group programme and producing and distributing the group newsletter. Joan has also assisted with the organisation of the group display at Southport Flower Show each year. Over the years the display put on by the group has been very successful, having been awarded a Gold Medal on a number of occasions. Joan has been very 'hands-on' in helping with this annual event. This has involved liaising with the show organisers, producing a rota and helping on the stand to promote the AGS and recruit new members. She has travelled widely overseas and gives talks on her trips to the group and other local societies, as well as helping with the AGS Seed Exchange. Joan is an extremely reliable and devoted member of the group who has also helped to promote the society nationally.

Local Group Award

Sonia and Neville Morris: Sonia is secretary of the Birmingham Local Group and Neville is its treasurer. They have both been keen members of the AGS and the group for many years and have always been willing to offer help and support. Since taking on the role of secretary, Sonia has put together displays on the history of the group and created a group noticeboard. In addition she organises social evenings, refreshments and catering at meetings, as well as collating, printing and distributing the group newsletter. Since taking over the role of treasurer, Neville has reorganised the group accounts, including the Roy Elliott Memorial Lecture Fund. Both serve jointly as membership secretaries for the group. In the past they have helped put together promotional display gardens and publicity exhibits for the AGS nationally and more recently assisted on the publicity stand at the Malvern Show.

Lyttel Trophy

The winner of the Society's highest award, the Lyttel Trophy, will be announced at the AGM.

LITERARY AWARDS – THE ALPINE GARDENER, 2013

The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award

Robert Rolfe and Jon Evans

'Blackthorn' [June, pages 166-187; September pages 310-329; December pages 412-433]

The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award

Doug Joyce

'Learn how to build a stylish slate trough' [March, pages 22-29]

The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award

Miroslav Řičánek

'A land of orchids, bulbs and alpiners' [March, pages 76-85]

AGS TRAVEL AWARDS AND GRANTS

Applications for 2015

The Alpine Garden Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually. Applications for these awards must be received by January 31, 2015, 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 2015

In 1990 the Merlin Trust was founded by the late Valerie Finnis VMH to provide travel grants for young horticulturists. In 2015 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: Joanne Everson, Rock Garden Team Leader, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Richmond TW9 3AB.
Email: j.everson@kew.org Phone: 0208 332 5585



NOTICEBOARD

News from the AGS Trustee Board

This is a brief summary of some of the items under discussion within the Trustee Board at meetings earlier this year. It is intended that this will become a regular feature in *AGS News* to keep members up to date with developments.

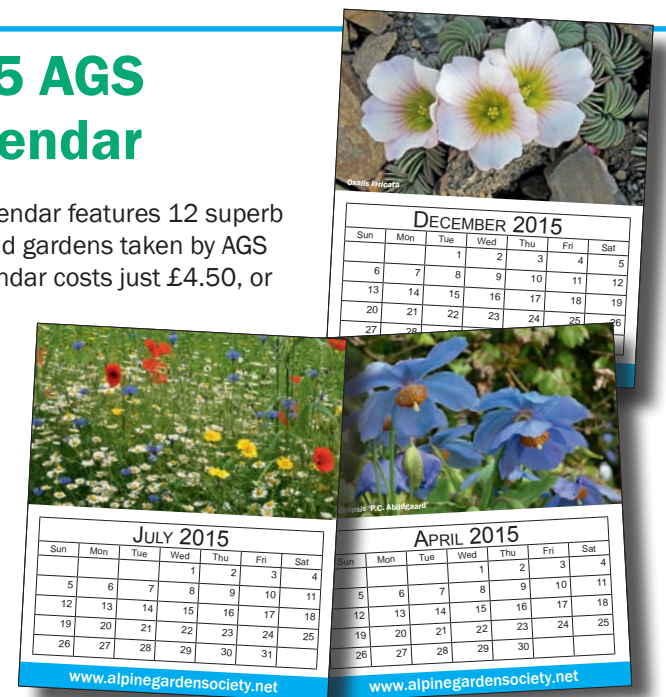
- The future of life membership has been under consideration as a result of views expressed at last year's AGM, where there was a call to abolish life membership. The Board discussed the matter at some length and decided to abolish this category of membership. Existing life members will retain all their current privileges.
- Another discussion topic has been the name of the Society, again as a result of views put forward by the membership at the AGM. There was a strong feeling that the current name no longer reflected the wider interests of members and could inhibit the recruitment of new members. The views of members were sought in an editorial in *The Alpine Gardener* and the topic is still under consideration.
- It was agreed to write to all Local Groups to explain the Society's financial situation and the need to recruit more members. Groups were asked to consider ways in which they may be able to help. Responses have now been received and were put to the Board meeting in August for consideration. A report is currently being compiled and will be circulated to all groups when complete.
- Local Group Conferences: Reservations were expressed with regard to the increasing number of Local Group one-day conferences. It was noted that difficulties are arising due to clashes of dates, duplication of speakers and competition for potential delegates. It was felt that, with this in mind, the number of Local Group conferences in any one year should be limited to help ensure that each one is viable. It may be necessary for groups to agree to rotate the staging of such events.
- Budget setting has taken place for 2014-15 and current expenditure is being monitored. The Board continues to be much exercised with ways of balancing the costs of running all the activities of the Society with the income from subscriptions. Recruitment remains a priority and good publicity is a key factor.
- A nomination had been received for Martin Rogerson to be appointed as the next Director of Shows. This appointment was approved and, subject to ratification at the AGM, would have been effective from November 2014. (Subsequently Martin decided not to take up this role and the Board has recently appointed Mary Randall on a temporary basis as Acting Director of Shows.)
- The organisational responsibility for AGS Tours is currently being picked up within the office at Pershore. It was recognised that this increased level of workload on the two administrative staff is not sustainable in the long term.

The 2015 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.



Southport Group wins Gold Medal

Congratulations to members of the Southport Local Group of the AGS who won a Gold Medal for their display (pictured right) to promote the Society at this year's Southport Flower Show. The display took the World Cup as its theme and attracted much praise from visitors to the show.



NOTICEBOARD



The Fritillaria Group of the Alpine Garden Society

AGM and Autumn Meeting

October 26, 2014, at the Hillside Events Centre, RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey.
All visitors welcome.

PROGRAMME

- 9.00 Coffee. Plants and bulbs will be on sale during the day.
- 10.00 Annual General Meeting.
- 11.00 Speaker: Bob Wallis: Late Bloomers.
- 12.30 Lunch break.
- 14.00 Speaker: Tom Mitchell: The Accidental Plantsman.
- 16.00 End of meeting.

More information at
www.fritillaria.org.uk

AGS Bristol Group

Inspiring Alpines

A one-day conference on Saturday, September 27, 2014, at The Red Maids' School, Westbury Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3AW from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Lectures by David Haselgrove, Professor John Good, Martin Sheader and Kevin Hughes

The cost is £17 including teas and coffees. An optional hot lunch will be available for £10.

For further information and bookings contact Sheila Ashby on 01275 851254 or e-mail: ian_sheila@hotmail.co.uk

AGS West Yorkshire Group Conference

Cool and Beautiful

October 18, 2014, at Askham Bryan Agricultural College, York YO23 3FR. 9am start.

Speakers: Harry Jans, Ger van den Beuken, Christopher Grey-Wilson and Robert Unwin

Nurseries: Pottertons, Aberconwy, Ger van den Beuken

Tickets £25 (including tea and coffee). Hot meal bookable in advance.

Contact Liz Barber: elizabethbarber2@gmail.com

How to order our plant awards supplement

The AGS's supplement to *The Alpine Gardener*, containing reports of the awards granted by the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee, will be published in December.

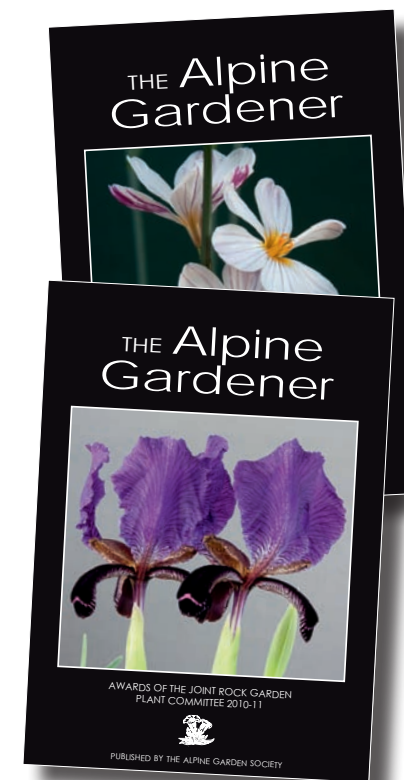
This invaluable record of the cultivation and introduction of alpine and associated plants in the UK and Ireland has until now been made available free of charge to members. The Society, however, is regrettably no longer in a position to be able to subsidise this publication, so a charge is being introduced to help to cover the cost of its production.

UK members can purchase the supplement for £8 post free. Overseas members should add £3 for postage, a total of £11.

If you would like to receive a copy of this year's supplement, please use the AGS Book Shop order form on page 22. UK members should not add postage if they are ordering the supplement only. Overseas members should add £3, plus the appropriate postage for any books ordered.

Alternatively, it is easy to order on our website by following the link for 'Books & Publications' and then 'Book Shop'.

Please order by October 31 to guarantee a copy of the supplement.



PLEASE NOTE

The number of copies of the 2014 supplement to be printed will be determined by the number of orders received. To make sure of your copy, please order before October 31. We may not be able to fulfil orders received after that date.

Your Seed Exchange needs you!

The Seed Exchange relies on donations from members, so please sort and clean your seed now and send it in by October 10, 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 10, please contact me by email with the list of your seed and I will give you alternative posting arrangements. Please do not post to the seed receiver after October 10. Remember that the 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).

Due to increasing postage charges, we have had to increase the cost of main seed orders 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 this year. 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.

Online ordering saves us a lot of time and expense and we strongly recommend that you use the online system. 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 has proved 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 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 2014 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 and fill it out. 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

PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER

Meconopsis monograph

SAVE 25%

The Genus *Meconopsis*: Blue poppies and their relatives, by Christopher Grey-Wilson



Meconopsis are among the most distinctive and beautiful members of the poppy family, Papaveraceae. Distributed across the Sino-Himalaya region from Pakistan to India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tibet and western China, many of the species have a great deal of horticultural as well as botanical appeal.

The first monograph of the genus was written in 1934 by George Taylor, later Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Taylor included 41 species in his account and since that time no major revision of the genus has been undertaken. Taking into account modern morphological and genetic studies, along with the discovery of new species in the intervening years, the number of species now stands at 70.

This new and complete revision of *Meconopsis* by Christopher Grey-Wilson takes into account all the work published since Taylor's monograph, coupled with field observations by the

author and other renowned experts. The book is extensively illustrated with 300 colour photographs of these beautiful and striking plants taken in the wild, showing the inherent variability seen in some species. Some plants are also illustrated in 20 beautiful paintings. There are also details of habitats and distribution, illustrated in 20 maps.

This latest in Kew's Botanical Magazine Monograph series is due to be published December. Secure a 25 per cent discount by ordering your copy now.

Cover price **£68**

AGS price **£51**

[Order code 881]

TO ORDER USE THE FORM ON PAGE 22 OR VISIT THE AGS BOOK SHOP AT WWW.ALPINEGARDENSOCIETY.NET

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
GENERAL ALPINE TITLES		
032	Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good	£6.50
772	Alpines from Mountain to Garden by Richard Wilford	£23.20
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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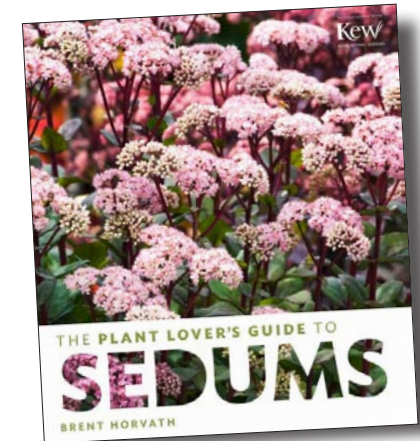
The Plant Lover's Guide to Snowdrops by Naomi Slade

In this book, to be published in October, award-winning horticultural writer Naomi Slade recommends a selection of classic and new cultivars. She focuses on designing with snowdrops in a range of garden settings and alongside companion plants. The book includes an extensive plant list with 100 of the top-performing cultivars as well as inspiring photography of both snowdrops and gardens. It also includes useful information on the best places to see and buy snowdrops.

Cover price **£17.99**

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The Plant Lover's Guide to Sedums by Brent Horvath

The fleshy-leaved sedums are valued for their drought tolerance and highly decorative flowers and foliage. These succulents perform well in a variety of garden situations including herbaceous borders, rock gardens and green roofs. In this book, to be published in October, experienced nurseryman Brent Horvath shares his techniques for growing sedums and using them in garden designs.

Cover price **£17.99**

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NEW ZEALAND

Departs December 29, 2014 (19 days in New Zealand)

Leader: Mark Hanger

Cost: in the region of £4,700 including flights (single room supplement applies). Optional four-day extension to Stewart Island and Dunedin.

This tour offers the chance to visit some of New Zealand's most spectacular habitats with expert naturalist guides. It represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for travellers because the guides will take you to areas where public access is normally restricted.

The tour is on the South Island, where the mountains themselves are magnificent, but you will also enjoy exploring beach forests, coastline and beautiful lakes. There's even the opportunity to take to the ocean to see sperm whales and albatrosses.

The native flora of New Zealand is rich and unique, having evolved in isolation for millions of years. No fewer than 80 per cent of New Zealand's native plants and trees are endemic. Although few have showy flowers, the variety of foliage colour, texture and shape is remarkable.

Areas visited on the tour will include Mount Arthur, the beautiful lakes Rotoiti and Rotorua, Blackbirch, the Clarence Valley with its abundance of gentians, Mount St Patrick, Mount Hutt, Peel Forest Park, Mount Cook National Park and its spectacular Hooker Valley, the Hollyford Valley and the Gertrude Cirque, which has arguably one of the finest accessible communities of alpine



Ranunculus insignis

plants in the Southern Hemisphere. You will be delighted by species of *Ranunculus*, *Celmisia*, *Aciphylla*, *Raoulia*, *Donatia*, *Ourisia*, *Swainsona* and many more.

The tour price includes the services of a tour naturalist, all tour travel departing Nelson and terminating in Invercargill, accommodation in comfortable hotels and motels with private facilities at all locations, three meals daily, with the exception of evening meal in Hanmer Springs and lunch and evening meal in Wanaka on the second night, inter-island ferry, permit fees where applicable, an information portfolio including species lists for each area visited, and goods and services tax.

There are several optional extras on this tour, such as a sightseeing flight over the mountains and a three-hour marine trip in the hope of seeing sperm whales. There is also the option of a four-day extension on Stewart Island, a wildlife paradise off the southern tip of the South Island.

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

PATAGONIA

Departs late November 2015

Leader: Martin Sheader

Cost: in the region of £4,600 including return flights from London (single supplement around £500).

This tour will be led by Martin Sheader, who has visited Patagonia many times and is the author of the AGS book, *Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains*.

The tour will take in southern Patagonia, the Torres del Paine in Chile and northern Santa Cruz province. Full details will be published in the December issue of AGS News, but you may reserve a place now by calling the AGS centre. As with our last tour to Patagonia, demand is likely to be high so we would advise reserving places as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



Olsynium biflorum

Applications are invited for a

Director of Tours

The Alpine Garden Society is seeking a Director of Tours to assume responsibility for the organisation of the Society's programme of international botanical tours. The Director of Tours is involved in selecting, planning, booking and marketing the AGS's tours, with the assistance of staff at the AGS Centre. The Director also becomes a member of the AGS Trustee Board. The role would suit an experienced traveller and is non-stipendiary.

If you are interested in the role and would like more information, please contact Christine McGregor, Society Director
(Tel: 01386 554790 or e-mail ags@alpinegardensociety.net).

The deadline for expressions of interest is October 31, 2014.

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

UZBEKISTAN AND TAJIKISTAN

April 18-May 4, 2015
(approximate dates)

Leaders: Harry Jans & John Mitchell

Costs (all approximate): £3,800 per person including flights from London. £3,300 per person starting in Tashkent and ending in Dushanbe (no flights included). Single supplement £350.

This 17-day tour to see spring flowers starts in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and ends in Dushanbe (Tajikistan). We will begin by visiting the spectacular mosques and squares in Samarkand, which is perhaps the most famous city of modern Uzbekistan. The city centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After botanising on a pass near Samarkand, we will head towards Dushanbe which will be our base for several daily excursions. During these botanical excursions we will see plants such as *Fritillaria eduardii*, *F. bucharica*, *Iris bucharica*, *I. rosenbachiana*, *I. hoogiana* and *Dionysia involucrata*, to name but a few.

After Dushanbe we will drive towards Kulob and Kala Khumb. Here we will botanise in several valleys. In these areas we will find *Tulipa linifolia*, *T. praestans*, *Iris korolkowii*, *I. darwasica*, *Colchium luteum*, *C. kesselringii*, *Crocus korolkowii*, *Eremurus* and many others.

The tour will be by coach for the first four days. In Tajikistan we will use jeeps all the way because road conditions vary from tarmac to dirt tracks.



Tulipa linifolia and, below, *Dionysia involucrata*



Accommodation will be in three-star hotels or the best available pensions.

The tour is limited to 20 participants plus two leaders and bookings will be processed in order of receipt. If you intend to book your own flights, please do not do so until we have confirmed there are sufficient participants for the tour to go ahead.

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



A view above
Fuente Dé and
Saxifraga felineri



PICOS DE EUROPA

May 23-June 1, 2015

Leader: Christopher Grey-Wilson

Cost: In the region of £700 (excluding flights and car hire)

This is a two-centre tour in the heart of the Picos National Park. Our first centre is the delightful mountain village of Tudes, close to the medieval town of Potes, the regional capital of the southern Picos.

The accommodation is in excellent self-catering apartments with a good range of facilities. Self-catering, however, is not a requirement because there are plenty of restaurants and cafes in Potes, ten minutes drive away.

Tudes is surrounded by glorious flower meadows with numerous orchids and some of the specialities of the

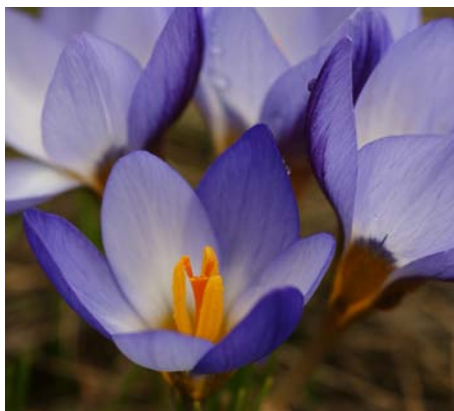
Picos region. From Tudes there will be excursions to the high mountains above Fuente Dé and the *Narcissus* meadows of the Puerto de san Glorio. There will be ample time for walking and photography, as well as evening plant sessions highlighting the 'finds of the day'.

The second centre will be Covadonga, in the north-west of the Picos, where mountain lakes and entrancing mountain scenery are a focal point for the flower lover. The accommodation will be in a local hotel, with excursions to Valdeon (via the Puerto de Pandetrave) and the Puerto de Tarna.

The tour will start at Stansted Airport (except for those wishing to drive to the Picos overland). Participants will share self-drive cars, hired from Santander Airport.

This is an easy and relaxing tour, but participants should be prepared for mountain walks and variable mountain weather.

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



Crocus biflorus subsp. *pulchricolor* and, right, a colony of *Cyclamen coum*



NORTH-WEST TURKEY

March 28-April 4, 2015

Leaders: Chris Gardner & Eylül Dizdaroğlu

Cost: From London, £1,985
Izmir to Istanbul, £1,685

Behind Izmir (Smyrna of the ancients), drifts of *Anemone coronaria* populate the lower slopes of Boz Dağ, and along higher roads are delicate *Corydalis wendelboi* and golden *Crocus chrysanthus*.

In the mountains of Bithynia we'll stop to enjoy golden *Crocus flavus*, yellow and plum *Iris attica* and, among moss-covered boulders, a carpet of *Galanthus gracilis*. On Uludağ are thousands of *Crocus herbertii* and *Crocus biflorus* subsp. *pulchricolor*, the latter varying from lavender to deep purple or even

white. Under the trees at beautiful Abant are carpets of *Cyclamen coum* and *Galanthus plicatus* subsp. *byzantinus*. Meadows are studded with rare *Crocus abantensis*, whose pale blue blooms compete for memory-card space with deep yellow *Crocus olivieri* and the dew-laden lilac flowers of *Corydalis caucasica*.

The Marly hills are home to the lovely *Muscari adillii*, only recently discovered, and named for your guide's father-in-law! Flowering in red clay soil is *Fritillaria fleischeriana* and in nearby pine woods *Hyacinthella micrantha*.

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

Iris medwedewii and, below, *Iris sari*



ARARAT: AZERBAIJAN & EASTERN TURKEY

April 27-May 9, 2015

Leaders: Kurt Vickery, Oron Peri & Eylül Dizdaroğlu

Cost: From London, £3,515
Baku to Diyarbakir, £3,085

This is the heartland of the *Oncocyclis* Irises, from furry-falled *Iris paradoxa* to mighty *Iris gatesii*. Ararat is the axis on which the tour revolves. To its east is tiny Nakhchivan, a beautiful Azerbaijani enclave that is home to the magnificent dark flowers of *Iris lycotis*.

Multi-hued *Corydalis seisumsiana* and *Fritillaria crassifolia* bloom in the mountain meadows of Batabat and

there are literally millions of impressive *Iris imbricata*. Ararat's slopes have magnificent shows of *Iris elegantissima* while Van's steppes host blue-purple *Iris barnumiae* and variable *Iris sari*.

A million powder-blue puschkinias bloom all the way up the Karabet Pass, mixing with deep cerise *Merendera kurdica*, bright mauve-pink *Tulipa humilis*, yellow, green, maroon or butterscotch fritillarias and scarlet diphelypaeas.

The tour starts with *Iris acutiloba*, close by Baku's Caspian shore. We'll explore the Talysh Mountains, where alongside *Fritillaria kotschyana* are *Iris grossheimii*, the elegant pale flowers of *Iris lineolata* and gorgeous *Iris medwedewii*. If we are lucky we'll see the last flowers of *Paeonia mlokosewitschii*.

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

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

May 2-15, 2015

Leaders: Paul Cardy & Vanessa Handley

Cost: From London, £3,995
San Francisco to San Francisco, £3,375

Coastal redwood groves, sagebrush-covered hillsides, the snowy Cascades Range and the unspoilt Klamath coast – the western seaboard of the United States is home to a range of habitats that boast a rich flora.

There are castillejas, penstemons, phloxes and meadows of blue camassias, not to mention a multitude of irises and kaleidoscopic *Calochortus*, including *C. elegans* (the elegant cat's ear), *C. amabilis* (the golden fairy lantern), the etched blooms of *C. superbis*, rich pink *C. splendens*, furry *C. tolmei*, *C. monophyllus* and *C. luteus*.

Lilium maritimum holds out beautiful red blooms, though arguably *L. pardalinum* is even more spectacular.

We'll see *Erythronium californicum*, *E. oregonum*, *E. purpurascens* and great swathes of the creamy white *E. citrinum*.

Fritillaries will include *Fritillaria affinis*, *F. atropurpurea*, *F. glauca* and the striking scarlet *F. recurva*.

Colonies of carnivorous *Darlingtonia californica* carpet bogs alongside the Californian lady's slipper orchid. *Cypripedium californicum*. We'll see the hummingbird-pollinated firecracker flower, *Dichelostemma ida-maia*, and the perfect little orchid *Calypso bulbosa*.



Fritillaria recurva and, below, *Calochortus luteus*



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Saxifraga flagellaris subsp. *flagellaris* and, right, *Lilium monadelphum* var. *szovitsianum*

GEORGIA

June 28-July 11, 2015

Leaders: Shamil Shetekauri, Kurt Vickery & Oron Peri

Cost: From London, £2,595
Tbilisi to Tbilisi, £2,195.

Summer in the wild untamed Greater Caucasus is the perfect time to assimilate fully Georgia's breathtaking floral diversity. *Lilium kesselringianum* blooms with many beautiful delphiniums, foxgloves and monkshoods in meadows on the volcanic Javakheti Plateau.

Dianthus raddeanus glows pink from rocky outcrops, where red *Sedum sempervivoides* blooms with clusters of *Campanula aucheri*. Yellow globe orchids and endemic *Gladiolus dzavakheticus* mix with pink and yellow centaureas. The range of campanulas is impressive and includes several delicate rock-dwelling species such as



Campanula petrophila. Pink and deep purple primulas (as well as creamy-white *Primula bayernii*) bloom alongside azure *Corydalis alpina*, yellow *Corydalis emmanuelii* and gentians. Steel-blue swertias and shining red louseworts line sinuous streams. In scenic Racha the subalpine meadows are alive with many species of geraniums, inulas and salvias as well as *Lilium monadelphum* var. *szovitsianum*, dracocephalums, *Polemonium caucasicum* and the strange primula relative *Sredinskya grandis*. Higher up you will find *Paeonia wittmanniana* alongside the rare *Daphne pseudosericea*.

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Please tick as applicable or book on our website

☐ We would like to reserve two residential places in a shared room (total cost £360)

☐ I would like to reserve a residential place in a single room (total cost £220)

☐ I/we would like to reserve day delegate places for Saturday including lunch (£45 each)

☐ I/we would like to reserve day delegate places for Sunday including lunch (£55 each)

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

YOUR DETAILS (block capitals please):

Name(s):

Address:

County/country

Post/Zip code:

CHEQUE PAYMENT

I/we enclose a remittance of £ made payable to the Alpine Garden Society.

CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD (Visa/MasterCard/American Express/Switch)

Please charge my card £

Name on card

Card number Security code

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

Signature Date

All information is protected by the Data Protection Act. Your information will not be disclosed to a third party. However, the AGS may wish to pass your details to our local groups. If you do not wish to receive information from our local groups then please tick this box. ☐