

# Alpine News

## BIG ideas for small plants!

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

## AGM Talk on Dionysia

In this issue of Alpine News you will find information regarding the forthcoming AGM on 7 November at the Stratford Manor Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon (same venue as last year). The Society is very pleased to announce that Michael Kammerlander is travelling from Germany to give the E B Anderson Memorial Lecture on "Dionysia". In his talk Michael will discuss former collections of Dionysia, as well as bringing us up to date on new introductions. I hope that you will come along to support the Society and have an enjoyable day.

## New AGS 2010 Calendar

ORDER YOUR COPY NOW  
See inside for details on pg 7



### Looking ahead

You will receive with your next mailing the second in the series of DVDs containing back issues of 'The Alpine Gardener'. This disc will include volumes 12 to 23.

## Subscription for 2010

Your subscription reminder for 2010 is enclosed with this mailing and appears on the mailing carrier sheet. As previously announced subscription rates will remain at their existing level which we believe offers excellent value at approx only £2 per month

(based on the single UK membership rate). If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining the Society do let us know and we would be delighted to send them information and an application form.

**Christine McGregor**  
Society Director

## IN THIS ISSUE

AGM Details  
page 2

Seed Exchange  
page 11

New Book Offers  
page 13 - 14

Tours  
page 21

Regular Features.....

Local Group News  
Whats on

Bookstore  
Noticeboard



# Noticeboard

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday, 7 November 2009**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Garden Society will be held at 11.00 am on Saturday, 7 November 2009 at the Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 0PY.

**(The Hotel is situated M40, Junction 15 the A46 to Stratford, 1st roundabout take A439 to Town Centre. Stratford Manor 1 mile on left). [See Map]**



## AGENDA

1. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 8 November 2008.
2. To receive the Report of the Board of Trustees.
3. To receive the Hon. Treasurer's Report.
4. To declare the election of Mrs Val Lee as President.
5. To note the appointment by the Board of Trustees of Mrs Julie Slimm as Advertisement Manager.
6. To declare election of Officers to serve for the ensuing year, there being no other nominations for these posts (see note 1 below).
7. To appoint TWO Members of Committee to serve for THREE years (see note 2 below).
8. To declare the appointment of Messrs Kendall Wadley of Worcester, as the Society's Auditors for the ensuing year, there being no other nominations for this appointment.
9. Any other items of business as notified to the President/Society Director in advance of the meeting.
10. Presentation of Awards: to present Society Literary Awards, Local Group Awards, The Kath Dryden Award, The Sir William & Lady Lawrence Award and The Lyttel Trophy.



### Items for the Newsletter and Copy Dates

Please note that any copy for the Newsletter should be sent to Jill Larnar, AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcs, WR10 3JP or email: [jill@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:jill@alpinegardensociety.net)

**Deadline for the December issue is 6 November 2009**

## Notes on Election of Officers and Members of the Trustee Board

(1) All the Officers retire annually but are eligible for re-election, where stated, the following are willing to serve in 2010: Treasurer (Professor Colin J Smith, CBE); Director of Publications (Professor John E Good, OBE); Director of Seed Distribution (Colin Dolding); Director of Shows (Jim McGregor); Director of Tours (Martin Lindop); Slide Librarian (Peter G Sheasby). All Honorary Officers listed have agreed to stand for re-election en bloc at the Annual General Meeting. As no further nominations have been received, no election will be held.

(2) In accordance with Rule 18, five Members of the Committee retire annually and are not eligible for re-election for one year. Two nominations have been received for new members of the Trustee Board and these are:

### **Caroline Seymour (Poole)**

*Proposed by Janice Bennetts, seconded by John Chappell.*

Caroline has been a member of the Dorset Group for 30 years, where she has been Chairman, Vice-Chairman, edited the newsletter, a committee member for 15 years and still does the PR and printed material. In the last nine years, her contribution to the success of the Summer South Show has been considerable, as secretary, and promoting the show with outstanding publicity material, including an excellent promotional display at the local tourist office. In the last two years Caroline has joined the Hampshire Group, and has become a member of their committee. Caroline has a very positive personality, and is an enthusiastic member of the society, who makes constructive suggestions and is willing to carry them forward.

### **Terry Teal (Ryton)**

*Proposed by Alan Furness, seconded by Mala Janes*

Terry has been a member of the AGS and his local group for over 25 years. He is currently Secretary of the North East England AGS Group; he has also been actively involved with both of the national shows run by the NE England Group for over 20 years. Terry is an active exhibitor at both AGS and SRGC national shows. Professionally Terry worked in administration and management within the NHS. Latterly, before retirement, in a consultancy capacity to various NHS and charitable organizations. As a result he has an understanding of the workings of the Charity Commission and the implications of its rules and regulations to organizations such as the Alpine Garden Society. In that, and in many other ways, we feel that Terry will be able to make a considered, positive and valuable contribution to the work of the AGS Committee.

**As there are no further nominations, no election will be held at the AGM on Saturday, 7 November 2009. The above named will serve for the period 2009-2012.**

# Noticeboard

## PROGRAMME FOR THE AGM

10.30 onwards - Coffee

11.00 Annual General Meeting

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Presentation of Show Awards

14.00 The E. B. Anderson Memorial Lecture, by Michael Kammerlander on Dionysia

15.30 Afternoon Tea and Disperse

**Catering** - A two course Hot & Cold Buffet lunch will be available served in the Restaurant. (Sample menu: Chicken A-La-King/Oriental Vegetable Stir Fry, also cold meats, fish and vegetarian options, selection of salads and desserts).

The cost will be **£15.00 per head** (including VAT). Bookings must be accompanied by a cheque payable to the "Alpine Garden Society" and should be sent to the AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore WR10 3JP **by Friday, 16 October 2009**. Your pre-booked lunch tickets will be available for collection from the AGS Booksales stand on the day. Morning coffee and afternoon tea are provided free of charge.

**Plant Sales** – Members plant sales table will be available.

**Car Parking** – The hotel has car parking for approximately 200 cars.

## ANNUAL AWARDS FOR 2009

### Lyttel Trophy

*The Society's premier award to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the world of alpine plants.*

**John Richards** is well-known to most Members of the Society and to a large number of expert horticulturists, taxonomists and keen amateurs besides, having made his mark over the past 40 years or more. He is without doubt one of the outstanding field botanists of his generation but, more than that, he is an all-round naturalist, with a deep interest in ornithology, for example. Along with his wife Sheila, he has taken numerous field trips, both for the AGS and other organisations, and is very highly regarded by all those who have accompanied him.

As a research botanist at Newcastle University he wrote numerous scientific papers, particularly on the Primulaceae, his first love. These culminated, in 1993, in the publication of a multidisciplinary work on the genus *Primula*, which had been eagerly awaited. This monograph, revised in a new edition published in 2002, is an important work that is likely to be the major source of reference on the genus for many years to come and is of key significance to the many members of the AGS who cultivate these fascinating plants.

He is a keen gardener and a tour round his Northumberland garden (which he has vividly described through the means of an invaluable 'blog') reveals many hidden treasures.

Over the years many of these plants, some representing introductions that he has made, from the native, much-applauded *Anthriscus sylvestris* 'Ravenswing' to the newly-coined *Daphne vermillionica*, have found their way onto the show bench. John is also an experienced judge and exhibitor (who has shown to Farrer Medal standard) at AGS and SRGC Shows, and is a familiar and enthusiastic figure at many of the show venues around the country.

He has been on a number of collecting expeditions, in North America, various parts of Europe, the Antipodes and China especially. While many have been highly successful, he is perhaps best known for his involvement (as leader) in the AGS expedition to northern Greece (MESE) in 1999. A number of fine plants were introduced (primarily as seed) and these can often be seen in Members' gardens or on the show bench from time to time.

John Richards is also a noted lecturer with a wide range of topics on which he is prepared to speak, from the flora of New Zealand, or of the Drakensberg, to the alpine plants of Greece (on which he is a noted expert), continental Europe or the British Isles. Accordingly he is much in demand, both in the UK and overseas.

Within the Society he has served on its main committee over a number of years. He was President of the AGS from 2003-2006.

## The Kath Dryden Award

*This award recognises meritorious work and expertise in advancing our knowledge and understanding of the cultivation of a genus or group of alpine plants.*

**Geoff Rollinson** has excelled in the cultivation of high alpine Primulaceae for nearly 40 years. On the grounds of sustained success rate, high standards, experimentation, triumphs with particular species, propagating endeavours, and dissemination of his skills (through occasional writings, lectures and generous encouragement through gift and advice), his championing of the genus *Androsace* in particular is unrivalled. It would be easy enough to trawl through the many Farrer Medals gained with androsaces, but this is only part of the story, for his mastery in cultivation of the genus is not encompassed by such awards. Whether American, European or Sino-Himalayan, he has set the standard for growing the genus time after time. He has annually propagated various forms, distributing the young plants among nurserymen and fellow enthusiasts. In addition Geoff has studied the genus in the wild, most frequently in the Alps of France, Switzerland and Italy, though also much further afield in the Rocky Mountains. The genus *Androsace* has long attracted the skilled efforts of noted alpine gardeners, Connie Greenfield, Duncan Lowe and Eric Watson perhaps most notable among past devotees: Geoff Rollinson knew them all, was in friendly rivalry with them, matched their efforts, and if you judge by numbers, diversity or strike rate, comes out on top.

# Noticeboard

## Sir William & Lady Lawrence Award

An international Award given to someone under 35 years of age who has made a contribution to work with alpinists - cultivation, research etc. - **Not Awarded.**

## The Ferrier Charlton Award

This award recognises outstanding work for the Society in an administrative or managerial capacity. - **Not Awarded**

## Award Of Honour

This award recognizes sterling work undertaken on behalf of the Society, not necessarily during the year, but over a period of time - **Not Awarded**

## LOCAL GROUP AWARDS

These awards recognise outstanding service within a Local Group over a number of years, the impact of which is felt more widely than just the local area.

**John Bunn** is a long standing member of the Cleveland Group. He has assisted with the running of the group, served on the Group Committee and taken on a number of roles including organization of speakers. John has also been responsible for the operation of the AGS Local Group Book sales within the Cleveland Group. In recent years he has expanded this activity by supporting AGS Publications Ltd with the transportation and sale of books at AGS national shows.

**Louise** and **Mike Overton** have served the Birmingham and District Group of the AGS in a number of capacities over many years. Louise has served on the Group's committee and has been Group Chair for four years. Mike served as Group Treasurer for over 20 years keeping the group's finances on a sound footing, as well as taking on the role of Treasurer for the AGS Midland Show. Both Mike and Louise contributed immensely to the planning, construction and running of display gardens staged by the Group at BBC Gardeners' World. They have also played a leading part in the team that has run local conferences. Since 2002 they have supported the AGS Seed Exchange by taking on the task of seed receivers which entails giving over a portion of their house to seed packages and sorting boxes for several weeks. Mike and Louise have also been very generous in opening up their garden for group members and hosting committee meetings in their home.

**Bob** and **Di Dark** have been stalwart members of the South Devon Group for many years. They are both welcoming and inclusive to new members introducing them to a wide choice of plants, with expert advice and encouragement. Their contribution to the South West Groups is invaluable. They are members of the Exeter and Somerset groups in the south west and Secretary to the South West Show. By their dedication to not only their member groups, but also further afield to Dorset and beyond keeps all the members of groups in the South West informed of meetings, speakers, and events. Their dedication and commitment is invaluable to the South West Groups.

# Noticeboard



## Eighth International Rock Garden Conference – 2011

The next ten year International Rock Garden Conference will be held at Nottingham University in the East Midlands Conference Centre from Thursday, 13 April to Sunday, 17 April 2011.

Full details of the Conference Programme, including speakers and costs will appear in the next issue of 'Alpine News'. Conference Bookings will open in January and Members will have the option of booking on-line.

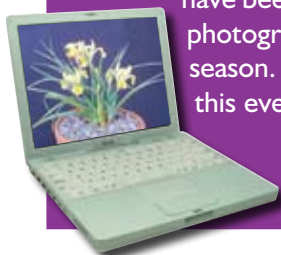
## New AGS 2010 Calendar - Order your copy now

The 13 page calendar comes in a neat CD style case which will look great on your table or desk. £4.99 each or two for £8.00. For more details visit the website or contact AGS centre.



## Online Flower Show

The Online Flower Show for 2009 is currently accepting entries. You can submit pictures of your plants at Shows or in your garden. Plants exhibited must have been cultivated by the exhibitor and photographed during the last growing season. Details of how to participate in this event are posted on our website.



For more information please visit our website:  
[www.alpinegardensociety.net](http://www.alpinegardensociety.net)

## LITERARY AWARDS

### The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award

Dwarf Willows of Eastern Canada [March 2008: 128-40] by Todd Boland.

### The Florence Baker Award - Not Awarded.

### The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award

Gardening Beyond a Hobby [September 2008: 336-344] by Marijn van den Brink.

## AGS AWARDS AND GRANTS 2010

**The Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually and applications for these awards must be received by 31 January 2010 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. Application forms and further details are available from: Jill Larner, c/o AGS Centre or email: [jill@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:jill@alpinegardensociety.net)

### Hendry Fund Grants

In addition, grants for specific alpine-related projects are available financed by the E F Hendry Fund. Details from Meg Smith ([meg.smith@agsgroups.org](mailto:meg.smith@agsgroups.org)), The Hendry Bequest Fund, 23 Richmond Road, Leighton Buzzards, LU7 4RF. The closing date for applications in respect of the Hendry Fund Grant is 31 January 2010.

## MERLIN TRUST - ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

### Travel Scholarships - TOUR AWARDS for 2010

In 1990 The Merlin Trust was founded by the late Valerie Finnis VMH to provide travel grants for young horticulturists. In 2010 the Merlin Trust is offering jointly with the Alpine Garden Society four fully paid travel scholarships on AGS organised plant tours.

Two places will be available on each of two tours, the destination of which are yet to be decided. If you would like to receive this information and an application form, when it becomes available, please send your contact details.

Applicants should be enthusiastic about plants with a particular interest in alpinines. They must be under 35 years of age and have British or Irish citizenship. Students belonging to other nationalities are eligible only if they are currently studying at a UK horticultural training establishment.

For details and more information contact: Fiona Crumley, Merlin Trust/AGS Tours, 55 Deodar Road, London SW15 2NU e-mail [info@merlin-trust.org.uk](mailto:info@merlin-trust.org.uk) Tel 020 8874 7636



**AGS Autumn Show-South, 26 September 2009**- Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham, Gillingham, ME8 0BX. Plant Sales from 10.00am and the Show opens at 12.00 noon. We have 7 Top Nurseries selling a wide range of plants and bulbs. Refreshments available throughout the day. Bring the wife and family, Chatham Historic Dock Yard and Bluewater Shopping only a short distance away. Further details from David Hoare Tel: 01303 862913.

**AGS Loughborough Autumn Show, 3 October 2009** - Burleigh Community College, Thorpe Hill, Loughborough, LE11 4SQ. Tel: 01509 261626

**AGS Newcastle Show, 10 October 2009**- The Memorial Hall, Darras Road, Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE20 9NX. Tel: 01670 787714

Full list of AGS Show Dates is published on AGS website: [www.alpinegardensociety.net](http://www.alpinegardensociety.net)

## Local Group News

### **Congratulations to the Dublin Group on their 25th Anniversary**

The Group celebrated their 25th Anniversary on 20 June with a Midsummer Party in the evening at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. Members of the Dublin and Ulster Groups attended with a number of invited guests. The occasion was marked by the planting of a silver birch tree, *Betula jaquemontii* 'Trinity College, an Irish cultivar presented to the Group by the Ulster Group. Rose Sevastopolu prepared a beautiful cake masquerading as a tufa trough and the evening concluded with a champagne toast.

### **Hertfordshire Group Stage Display**

The Group put on a very nice display at the Harpenden Common Discovery Day on Saturday 13 June 2009. The event was very successful and created a lot of interest and promotion of the Society and the Group.

### **Local Group Changes and Amendments**

Dublin Group - Hon. Secretary: Ms Mary O'Neill Byrne

Hampshire Group - Hon. Secretary: Mrs Sylvia Marshall

Warwickshire Group - Hon. Secretary: Mrs Jo Walker

Wiltshire Group - Hon. Secretary: Cliff Herbert

Epping Forest Group - Please note that the Group Meeting for December 2010 will be on Wednesday, 15 December. Meetings are usually on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from December to May. Meetings are held at Theydon Bois Village Hall, Theydon Bois, Nr Epping, Essex, CM16 7ER.

# Local Group News

## GROUP CONFERENCES

### BRISTOL GROUP CONFERENCE

#### **29th One Day Conference – Saturday 26 September 2009**

The venue Red Maids' School, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3AW for our Annual One Day Conference. The Speakers will be Rick Lambert, Kevin Hughes, Kit Strange and Chris Chadwell. Plant Stalls include Parham Bungalow Plants; Kevin Hughes (Heale Plant Centre) and the Bristol Group, well supported by many interesting items from delegates. A welcome change in catering enables us to have the services of the School Chef and his team throughout the day. For further information please contact Mike Taylor, 96 Reedley Road, Bristol BS9 3TA. Tel. 0117 9686654.

### WILTSHIRE GROUP

#### **Mary Bing Lecture – Friday 9 October 2009**

The Annual Mary Bing Lecture will be held at Westbury Leigh Community Hall, Westbury Leigh Village, Westbury. BA13 3SQ. Peter Cunnington will be speaking on 'High China Passes'. Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. There will be a Plant Sale at 9.00 pm with a raffle and tombola during the evening. Refreshments being served after the lecture.

Further information contact: Cliff Herbert, 14, Meadway, Trowbridge. Wiltshire. BA14 9TF. Tel. 01225 775729

### BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT GROUP

#### **19th Annual Roy Elliott Memorial Lecture – 21 November 2009**

The 19th Roy Elliott Memorial Lecture will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 21 November 2009 at the Holy Name Church Hall, Great Barr, Birmingham. The Lecturers are: Michael Almond, whose photography lecture is entitled "Sliding into Digital" and Robert Rolfe whose lecture is on "A Vast Range of Possibles - some of Roy Elliott's Favourite Plants". Doors open at 1.00 for the sale of plants.

Note: The AGS/Birmingham and District Group will be staging a One-Day Conference at Great Barr, Birmingham on Saturday, 30 January 2010. Full details will be published in the December "Alpine News" and will be sent to Local Groups. It is hoped to include lectures on Trilliums, Erythroniums, Galanthus and Roscoea. Further information may be obtained from Dr. John Page, 118, Shutt Lane, Earlswood, Solihull, West Midlands, tel. 01564 702 765 email [joka@earlspage.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:joka@earlspage.freeserve.co.uk)

# Seed Exchange 2009/2010

## Exciting News for this Year's Seed Exchange Distribution No 58 2009/2010

This year members will have a choice of either ordering their seed on-line or by the usual postal system. Details are as follows:

**On-Line Ordering** - New system introduced this year will enable you to order and pay for your seed on-line.

**Ordering by Post** - All members will be posted a paper copy of the new list, together with the order form. If you wish to order by post, as in the past, simply complete and return your form as indicated.

To ensure fairness

- All Orders will be picked in strict rotation with **day one email orders** and **day one postal orders** being grouped together so you are in no way disadvantaged if you choose to order by post in the usual way.

### Donors

- As usual, donors will get priority over non-donors and will receive an increased allocation at ordering time.
- To qualify for donor status you will need to send in at least **7 different species** preferably suitable for the rock garden or alpine house before **12 October 2009**.
- Details of how and where to send your donation was included in the June newsletter and is also available on the AGS website.

Please consider donating, even small quantities, as you may be the only person sending that particular species in!

### Volunteer Help Required

**Packing Seed** - Volunteers are needed to help with packing of seed. The seed will be posted to you with full instructions on how to complete the job. You will be able to pack seed in your own home during the last week of October and through November.

**Making up/filling of seed orders** - Volunteers are also needed to help with the making up of seed orders received from members. This takes place at AGS Centre during December and the first two weeks of January. You may like to make up a car load of helpers from your local group and come over to Pershore for a day to help? Drinks (non-alcoholic) are provided, plus excellent cake!

**If you are interested in helping with either packing or filling of seed orders, have any questions regarding the seed exchange or on-line ordering, please contact Colin Dolding on 01684.594204 or email on [colin.dolding@agsgroups.org](mailto:colin.dolding@agsgroups.org)**

# Seed Exchange 2009/2010

## Regulations for US Members wishing to order seed through the Seed Distribution

US members who wish to order seed from the AGS seed distribution must send in an Import Permit with their order. If you did not order seed last year, you will need to apply for a new permit and send this in with their order. The permits are available from the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and this means that we no longer need to send seed out with a phytosanitary certificate.

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

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/plant\\_imports/smalllots\\_seed.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/smalllots_seed.shtml)

**To apply for a permit on-line, go to**

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits/ppq\\_epermits.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits/ppq_epermits.shtml)

and click on PPQ 587 – Application to import plants and plant products – where you will be then able to register and then apply on-line for a permit. Or you can download PPQ Form 587, print and fill it out. The completed and signed application needs to 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 several green and yellow mailing labels, with the address of the Inspection Station already printed on them.

To order seeds from the AGS seed exchange, you will need to send with your seed order a photocopy of your import permit and one green and yellow label for every 50 packets or less that you order (50 - 100 packets will require 2 permits and 2 green and yellow labels, etc). You do not need to provide an address label. Please consult the lists of seeds that are not permitted under the permit by referring to the lists on the website. AGS Seed distribution team will not send banned seed and will substitute another seed from your order, so it would be helpful if you refer to the lists in advance.

The AGS Seed Distribution 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. The Distribution 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 whole thing will be returned to the mail system, and forwarded to you.

Details of these arrangements will also be provided with the seed list, but bear in mind that when you receive the list you will not have time to apply for your permit, you need to do this **now**.





## The Rock Garden Plant Primer

by Christopher Grey-Wilson

Christopher Grey-Wilson has been the editor of our bulletin since 1990; he is also a freelance horticultural writer and photographer. He is the author of several books including *Cyclamen (A Guide for Gardeners, Horticulturists and Botanists)*, and our own titles, *The Genus Dionysia*, and *Cyclamen, a gardener's guide*.

Hardback 235 x 195mm – 232pages (approx.), Illustrated with 302 colour photographs.

RRP £20.00 plus post and packaging.

We are able to offer it to Members at a pre-publication price of UK £15.95 Overseas £17.95 post and packaging free.

It's not necessary to have a traditional rock garden to enjoy rock garden plants. In fact, these colourful, small plants are perfect for the pots, containers, window boxes and raised beds that are the mainstays of modern gardens. World-renowned botanist Christopher Grey-Wilson recommends easy-to-grow plants for

a variety of garden situations including shady positions, mixed borders and patios. Detailed plant descriptions are based on personal experience of seeing the plants in the wild and growing them in the garden, and are well supported by excellent photographs to aid selection and identification.

### ORDER FORM FOR NEW BOOK OFFER

Please supply the following :

..... copy/copies of ..... **The Rock Garden Plant Primer UK @ £15.95**

..... copy/copies of ..... **The Rock Garden Plant Primer Overseas @ £17.95**

Please find enclosed my cheque for £ ..... made payable to AGS Publications Ltd for the above Special Offer. Payment can also be made by credit card. The address to which your credit card statement is despatched must be stated in the right hand panel below.

Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Swiith:

Card Number \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ Security Code \_ \_ \_

Expiry Date \_ \_ / \_ \_ Issue No \_ (Switch Cards only) Membership No: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Please complete both address panels and return this form to:

AGS Publications Ltd, AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP

Delivery Address:

Credit Card address (If different):

Name:.....

Name:.....

Address:.....

Address:.....

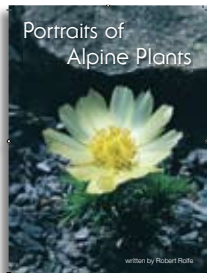
.....

.....

.....

.....

'Please note that no orders will be accepted at the pre-publication price after 16 October 2009.



## Portraits of Alpine Plants

by Robert Rolfe

Robert Rolfe is known to everyone who loves alpine plants as he is one of the most knowledgeable and enthusiastic alpine gardeners of this or any generation. His knowledge of plants both in the wild and in the garden is encyclopaedic and his willingness to share it with others is unqualified. He is a prominent long-serving member of the RHS Joint Rock garden Plant Committee and is Assistant Editor of *The Alpine Gardener*, in which capacity he has edited, and in many cases written the descriptions of plants

which have received RHS awards, as well as many other pieces covering the full gamut of alpine gardening.

Casebound 270mm x 195mm – 160 pages, plus 80 colour illustrations (approx.)

**RRP £25.00** plus post and packaging.

We are able to offer it to Members at a pre-publication price of UK £18.00

Overseas £20.00 (post and packing free)

In this book, which replaces a much-loved and long out-of-print volume with the same title, he describes, in his inimitable style, a selection of his favourite plants, each description being accompanied by one or more of Robert's

wonderful photographs. By the time you have read the book, which is sure to become a classic in its own time, you will want to possess and grow them all too!

### ORDER FORM FOR NEW BOOK OFFER

Please supply the following :

..... copy/copies of ..... **Portraits of Alpine Plants UK @ £18.00**

..... copy/copies of ..... **Portraits of Alpine Plants Overseas @ £20.00**

Please find enclosed my cheque for £ ..... made payable to AGS Publications Ltd for the above Special Offer. Payment can also be made by credit card. The address to which your credit card statement is despatched must be stated in the right hand panel below.

Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Switch:

Card Number \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ Security Code \_ \_ \_

Expiry Date \_ \_ / \_ \_ Issue No \_ (Switch Cards only) Membership No: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Please complete both address panels and return this form to:

AGS Publications Ltd, AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP

Delivery Address:

Credit Card address (If different):

Name:.....

Name:.....

Address:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

At the end of the page add 'Please note that no orders will be accepted at the pre-publication price after 31 October 2009.'

	<b>NEW BOOKS</b>		<b>Members Price</b>
032	Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good		<b>£7.20</b>
723	The Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation by Michael A Dirr & Charles W Heuser. Jr		<b>£31.50</b>
724	Perennial Companion by Tom Fischer		<b>£7.20</b>
725	Tall Perennials by Roger Turner		<b>£22.50</b>
726	Managing the Wet Garden by John Simmons		<b>£22.50</b>
727	Cotoneasters by Jeanette Fryer & Bertil Hylmo		<b>£27.00</b>
728	So you want to Start a Nursery by Tony Avent		<b>£16.20</b>
	<b>SALE BOOKS &amp; SPECIAL OFFERS</b>		
018	Corydalis - A Gardener's Guide by M Liden & H Zetterlund	<b>SALE PRICE</b>	<b>£4.95</b>
549	Hardy Perennials - The Cultivation of by Richard Bird	<b>SALE PRICE</b>	<b>£11.25</b>
005	Handbook of Rock Gardening by John Good	<b>SALE PRICE</b>	<b>£2.50</b>
013	Primulas of Europe & America by G.F.Smith, B.Burrow & D.B.Lowe	<b>SALE PRICE</b>	<b>£4.95</b>
552a	Supplement of Seed Germination by Norman C. Deno	<b>SALE PRICE</b>	<b>£7.20</b>
552	Seed Germination Theory & Practice Second Ed.	<b>POST FREE</b>	<b>£25.00</b>
020	The Woodland Garden - A Guide to Shade loving Plants by Jack Elliott	<b>SALE PRICE</b>	<b>£5.95</b>
266	Tulips (Species & Hybrids for the Gardeners) by Richard Wilford	<b>POST FREE</b>	<b>£18.95</b>
	<b>TITLES PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY:</b>		
024	Alpines in Pots (New Edition) by Kath Dryden	<b>POST FREE</b>	<b>£3.95</b>
031	Mountain Flower Walks – The Greek Mainland by John Richards		<b>£18.50</b>
019	Androsace - The Genus by G.F.Smith & D.B. Lowe		<b>£17.95</b>
025	Consolidated Index 1930 – 2005 (included with this book is a free CD version)		<b>£10.95</b>
026	Crevice Gardening by Zdenek Zvolanek		<b>£5.95</b>
027	Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran by Peter Sheasby		<b>£29.65</b>
028	Alpine Plants Ecology for Gardeners by John E G Good & David Millward		<b>£22.50</b>
08	Dionysia – The Genus by Christopher Grey-Wilson		<b>£7.95</b>
011	Saxifrages by Winton Harding – New and re-written edition with colour		<b>£4.95</b>
021	Silver Saxifrages by Beryl Bland		<b>£11.95</b>
022	The Smaller Daphnes – Summary of Conference Proceedings 'Daphne 2000'		<b>£3.95</b>
268	Cyclamen by Christopher Grey-Wilson	<b>POST FREE</b>	<b>£4.95</b>

<b>BULBOUS PLANTS:</b>		
234	Arisaema - The Genus - by Guy & Liliane Gusman	<b>£45.00</b>
239	Agapanthus - A Revision of the Genus by Wim Snoeijer	<b>£26.99</b>
238	Aroids Plants of the Arum Family by Deni Bown	<b>£22.50</b>
599	Autumn Bulbs by Rod Leeds	<b>£11.99</b>
243	Bulbs in Containers by Rod Leeds	<b>£18.00</b>
027	Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran by Peter Sheasby	<b>£29.65</b>
242	Bulbs Revised Edition by John Bryan RRP Price £65.00 *postage for this book £7.70	<b>£30 00</b>
280	Buried Treasures by Janis Ruksans	<b>£27.00</b>
281	Growing Orchids in Your Garden by Robert G M Friend	<b>£20.25</b>
608	Pocket Guide to Bulbs by John E Bryan	<b>£13.50</b>
274	Orchids of Britain & Ireland (A Field & Site Guide) by Anne & Simon Harrap	<b>£27.00</b>
597	Orchids of the British Isles by Michael Foley & Sidney Clarke	<b>£40.50</b>
363	The Genus Pleione (second Edition) by Phillip Cribb & Ian Butterfield	<b>£29.25</b>
232	Snowdrops - A Monograph of Cultivated Galanthus by Mat Bishop, Aaron Davis, & John Grimshaw (updated version)	<b>£40.50</b>
<b>SPECIFIC GENERA:</b>		
694	Bleeding Hearts, Corydalis & their Relatives by Mark C Tebbitt, Magnus Liden & Henrik Zetterlund	<b>£22.50</b>
651	Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden by Andrew Steens	<b>£20.25</b>
653	Calochortus Mariposa Lilies & their relatives by Mary E Gerritsen & Ron Parsons	<b>£18.00</b>
289	Camellias (The Gardener's Encyclopaedia) by Jennifer Trehane	<b>£31.50</b>
620	Ceanothus by David Fross & Dieter Wilken	<b>£27.00</b>
584	Clematis - An Illustrated Encyclopedia of - by Mary Toomey & Everett Leeds	<b>£40.50</b>
643	Clematis (Pocket Guide to) by Mary Toomey	<b>£13.50</b>
290	Clematis in Small Spaces by Raymond J Evison	<b>£18.00</b>
652	Conifers for Gardens (An illustrated Encyclopedia) by Richard L Bitner	<b>£36.00</b>
365	Cyclamen (A Guide for Gardeners, Horticulturists & Botanists) by Christopher Grey-Wilson	<b>£28.00</b>
714	Gardening with Conifers by Adrian Bloom	<b>£22.50</b>
669	Daylily (A Guide for Gardeners) by John P Peat & Ted L Petit	<b>£20.25</b>
277	Dwarf Campanulas by Graham Nicholls	<b>£22.50</b>
263	Daphnes (A Practical Guide for Gardeners) by Robin White	<b>£22.50</b>
259	Dogwoods (The Genus Cornus) by Paul Cappiello & Don Shadow	<b>£22.50</b>
374	Epimedium - The Genus by William T Stearn	<b>£31.50</b>
670	Ferns (Gardening with) by Martin Rickard	<b>£11.69</b>
339	Growing Fritillaries - The Gardener's Guide - by Kevin Pratt & Michael Jefferson-Brown	<b>£11.69</b>
699	Gardening with Hardy Heathers by David Small & Ella May T Wulff	<b>£27.00</b>
257	Hardy Bamboos (Taming the Dragon) by ) Paul Whittaker	<b>£22.50</b>



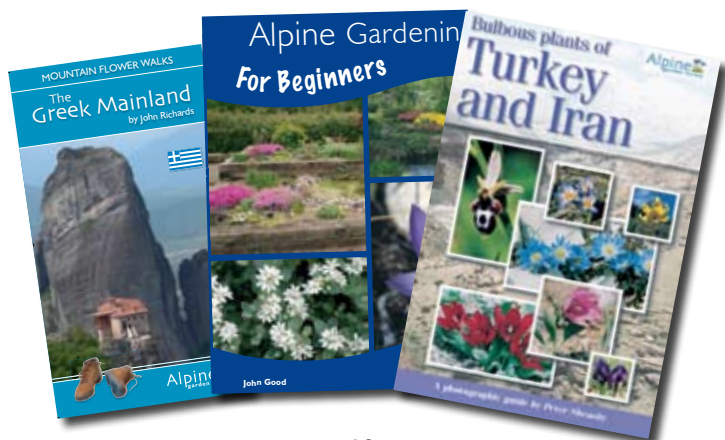
601	Hardy Geraniums - Gardening with - by Birgitte Husted Bendtsen	<b>£17.99</b>
699	Hardy Heathers (Gardening with) by Martin Rickard	<b>£27.00</b>
630	Hebes by Lowrie Metcalf	<b>£27.00</b>
271	Hellebores (A Comprehensive Guide) by C Colston Burrell & Judith Knott Tyler	<b>£22.50</b>
596	Hellebores - The Gardener's Guide - by Graham Rice & Elizabeth Strangman	<b>£11.69</b>
248	Heucheras & Heucherellas (Coral Bells & Foamy Bells) by Dan Heims & Grahame Ware	<b>£18.00</b>
634	Hollies for Gardeners by Christopher Bailes	<b>£22.50</b>
288	Hostas (Timber Press Pocket Guide to) by Diana Grenfell & Michael Shadrack	<b>£13.50</b>
664	Hydrangea (Encyclopaedia of) by C J & D M van Gelderen	<b>£31.50</b>
604	Iris (A Gardener's Encyclopedia) by Claire Austin	<b>£31.50</b>
705	The Iris Family by Peter Goldblatt & John C Manning	<b>£36.00</b>
660	Japanese Maples (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Peter Gregory & J C Vertrem	<b>£13.50</b>
582	Kalmia Mountain Laurel & Related Species (Third Edition) by Richard A Jaynes	<b>£22.50</b>
380	Lavandula - The Genus - by Tim Upson & Susyn Andrews	<b>£33.75</b>
379	Maples for Gardens A Colour Encyclopaedia by C J van Gelderen D M van Gelderen	<b>£31.50</b>
668	Magnolias (A Gardener's Guide) by Jim Gardiner	<b>£22.50</b>
698	Ophrys - The bee orchids of Europe by Henrik Aerenlund Pedersen & Niels Faurholdt	<b>£29.70</b>
265	Growing Hardy Orchids by John Tullock	<b>£18.00</b>
283	Peony Rockii & Gansu Mudan by Will McLewin	<b>£33.75</b>
378	Rhododendrons & Azaleas - Success with - revised edition by H Edward Reiley	<b>£16.20</b>
700	Saxifrages (A Definitive Guide to the 2000 species) by Malcolm McGregor	<b>£31.50</b>
282	The Genus Roscoea by Jill Cowley	<b>£29.70</b>
267	The Genus Sorbus (Mountain Ash & other Rowans) by Hugh McAllister	<b>£28.80</b>
342	Trilliums by Frederick W Case & Roberta B Case	<b>£20.25</b>
286	Viburnums by Michael A Dirr	<b>£22.50</b>
<b>FLORAS &amp; GUIDES TO CONTINENTS &amp; COUNTRIES</b>		
278	Alpine & Sub-Alpine Flora of Mount Jaya (A Guide to the) by RJ Johns, P J Edwards, TMA Uttridge, HCF Hopkins	<b>£77.00</b>
702	Flowers of the Transcaucasus & Adjacent Areas by Eleonora Gabrielian & Ori Fragman-Sapir	<b>£65.00</b>
244	Alpine Plants of Europe by Jim Jermyn	<b>£22.50</b>
457	Alpine Plants of North America by Graham Nicholls	<b>£31.50</b>
659	Britain's Rare Flowers by Peter Marren (New paperback edition)	<b>£15.30</b>
683	Crossbill Guide to Hungary (Hortobagy & Tisza river Floodplain) by Dirk Hilbers	<b>£17.10</b>
684	Crossbill Guide to France (The Camargue, La Crau & Alpilles)	<b>£18.00</b>
685	Crossbill Guide to Spain (Andalusian Sierras from Malaga to Gibraltar)	<b>£18.00</b>
686	Crossbill Guide to Spain - Coto Donana	<b>£15.25</b>

687	Crossbill Guide to Spain (Extremadura)	<b>£18.00</b>
688	Crossbill Guide to Poland (Bialowieza Primeval Forest)	<b>£15.25</b>
689	Crossbill Guide to Poland (Biebrza Marshes)	<b>£13.50</b>
425	Easy Ways to the Plants of the Bernese Oberland by Philip & Jean Tallboys	<b>£6.30</b>
680	Endemic Plants of the Altai Mountain Country by A L Pyak & S C Shaw	<b>£27.00</b>
656	Japan (Garden Plants of) by Ran Levy-Yamamori & Gerard Taaffe	<b>£40.50</b>
031	Mountain Flower Walks – The Greek Mainland by John Richards	<b>£18.50</b>
701	Orchids of Russia & Adjacent Countries by M G Vakhrameeva, I V Tatarenko, T I Varlygina, G K Torosyan & M H Zagulski	<b>£150.00</b>
587	Plants from the Edge of the World by Mark Flanagan & Tony Kirkham	<b>£22.50</b>
681	Plants of the Falkland Island by Ali Liddle	<b>£9.00</b>
270	Plants of Western Oregon, Washington & British Columbia by Eugene N Kozloff	<b>£45.00</b>
696	Plantsman's Paradise – Travels in China by Roy Lancaster	<b>£36.00</b>
697	Seeds of Adventure – In Search of plants by Peter Cox & Peter Hutchinson	<b>£31.50</b>
478	The Caucasus and its Flowers by Vojtech Holubec & Pavel Krivka	<b>£48.00</b>
453	The Himalayan Garden-Growing Plants from the Roof of the World by J Jermyn	<b>£22.50</b>
460	Walks with Crete's Spring Flowers by Jeff Collman	<b>£22.50</b>
657	Wild Flowers of Britain & Ireland by M Blamey, R Fitter & A Fitter	<b>£15.30</b>
413	Wild flowers of Spain by Clive Innes Vol 1	<b>£3.38</b>
413a	Wild flowers of Spain by Clive Innes Vol 2	<b>£3.38</b>
413b	Wild flowers of Spain by Clive Innes Vol 3	<b>£3.38</b>
262	Wild Orchids of North America by Philip E Keenan (paperback)	<b>£18.00</b>
	<b>GENERAL TITLES</b>	
711	50 Practically Perfect Plants by Tracy DiSabato-Aust	<b>£13.50</b>
655	Botanic Gardens (A Living History)	<b>£35.95</b>
264	Botany for Gardeners(Revised Edition) by Brian Capon	<b>£13.50</b>
609	Creative Propagation (Sec Ed.) by Peter Thompson	<b>£16.20</b>
582	Design in the Plant Collector's Garden by Roger Turner	<b>£20.50</b>
631	Digital Photography (A-Z Creative) by Lee Frost	<b>£13.50</b>
279	Digital Photography - An Introduction by Tom Ang	<b>£8.99</b>
647	Gardening at the Shore by Frances Tenenbaum	<b>£18.00</b>
672	Gardening with Ornamental Grasses by Roger Grounds	<b>£11.69</b>
276	Green Roof Plants by Edmond C & Lucie L Snodgrass	<b>£18.00</b>
254	Elegant Silvers by Jo Ann Gardner & Karen Bussolini	<b>£22.50</b>
291	Essential Garden Design Workbook by Rosemary Alexander	<b>£18.00</b>
252	Gardening on Pavement, Tables, & Hard Surfaces by George Schenk	<b>£13.50</b>
671	Gardening with Foliage Form & Texture by Ethne Clarke	<b>£11.69</b>
672	Gardening with Ornamental Grasses by Roger Grounds	<b>£11.69</b>
667	Garden your way to Health & Fitness by Bunny Guinness & Jacqueline Knox	<b>£13.50</b>
629	Ground Cover (Pocket Guide to) by David S Mackenzie	<b>£13.50</b>

695	High & Dry by Robert Nold	<b>£22.50</b>
704	Micro Photography for Gardeners and Nature Lovers by Alan L Detrick	<b>£16.20</b>
269	Moss Gardening (including Lichens, Liverworts, & other miniatures) by George Schenk	<b>£22.50</b>
662	On the Wild side by Keith Wiley	<b>£18.00</b>
588	Ornamental Grasses - Timber Press Pocket Guide to - by Rick Darke	<b>£13.50</b>
665	Pots in the Garden by Ray Rogers	<b>£18.00</b>
682	Arable Plants (A Field Guide) by Phil Wilson & Miles King	<b>£13.50</b>
249	Perennial Ground Cover Plants by David S MacKenzie	<b>£20.25</b>
703	Plant Form (An Illustrated Guide to Flower Plant Morphology) by Adrian D Bell	<b>£31.50</b>
646	Seedheads in the garden by Noel Kingsbury	<b>£18.00</b>
589	Shade Perennials - Timber Press Pocket Guide to - by W George Schmid	<b>£13.50</b>
712	Trees for All Seasons by Sean Hogan	<b>£22.50</b>
247	The Jade Garden by Peter Wharton, Brent Hine & Douglas Justice	<b>£22.50</b>
648	The Classic Cattleyas by Arthur A Chadwick & Arthur E Chadwick	<b>£31.50</b>
649	The Well-Tended Perennial Garden by Tracy Disabato-Aust	<b>£22.50</b>
580	The Plant Hunter's Garden The New Explorers and Their Discoveries by Bobby J Ward	<b>£27.00</b>
654	Water Garden Plants (Encyclopedia of) by Greg & Sue Speichert	<b>£31.50</b>
713	Water Garden Plants (Pocket Guide) by Greg & Sue Speichert	<b>£13.50</b>
661	Winter-Flowering Shrubs by Michael W Buffin	<b>£22.50</b>

**If you wish to save on postage we are happy to bring your book order to any of our national Shows for you to collect.**

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR SELECTION OF AGS TITLES**



## ORDER FORM

(If paying by Credit Card please complete **both** address panels below. Thank you.)

Order to be sent to: (BLOCK CAPITALS please)

The address to which your credit card statement is sent (If different):

Name:.....

Name:.....

Address:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Membership Number:.....

Ref. No.	Qty	Title	Product Price	Total Price

### Postal Rates

UK - orders up to

£12	<b>£2.25</b>
£12 - £40	<b>£4.25</b>
£41 - £100	<b>£6.00</b>
over £100	<b>£8.00</b>

**Revised Bulb book postage = £7.70**

Overseas - orders up to £12

£12 - £40	<b>£7.95</b>
£41 - £100	<b>£11.00</b>
over £100	<b>£14.00</b>

**Revised Bulb book postage = £14.47**

### Credit Card Payment Details

Name on Card: ..... Security Code: .....

Card Number \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_

Expiry Date \_ \_ \_ \_ Issue No.(Switch Cards only) \_ \_

**Cheque Payments** Cheques should be made payable to **AGS Publications Limited**  
**AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP UK**

## AGS TOUR TO NEW ZEALAND:

**31.12.09 – 21.01.10 (OR 25.01.10 TO INCLUDE EXTENSION)**

**Leader: Mark Hanger.**

**Price: in the region of £3800, inclusive of international flights. Single supplement £500. Stewart Island extension: £450 per person, with a single supplement of £100**



**W**e are delighted to offer this tour of New Zealand. We will depart from Europe on 31st December, arriving in Auckland on 2nd January 2010. Mark Hanger will lead the tour, having led previous successful AGS tours in New Zealand and Australia. He is an extremely experienced naturalist, with a superb knowledge of the flora of his native country.

Previous AGS tours to New Zealand have concentrated on South Island, but this tour will spend the first few days on North Island, exploring its many volcanic landscapes and the plants they support.

We then cross by ferry to South Island and spend remainder of the tour studying the superb upland, sub-alpine, scree and rock outcrop flora of areas including Mount Arthur, Blackbirch, Clarence Valley and Mount Hutt. We hope to find a variety of scree harebells, lobelias, forget-me-nots, penwipers and vegetable sheep.

A day on the coast at Kaikoura will allow for an optional three-hour marine trip, with the opportunity to view sperm whales, which inhabit deep water just off the coast or alternatively you may opt for the Oceanwings Albatross excursion.

One of the highlights of the tour will be the opportunity to explore the renowned Mount Cook National Park, where plants will include giant Mt Cook buttercups, golden Spaniards and sub-alpine shrubs abound amidst unforgettable landscapes. The Remarkables Range gives sweeping views of the Wakatipu Basin and holds high altitude vegetation at its superb best. Cushion and upland bog flora abounds, including such treats as Buchanan's buttercup, white matt daisies, cushion forget-me-nots and local endemic Spaniards. We will also visit the upper Hollyford Valley, which contains superb boulderfields and herbfields, the Gertrude Cirque and other treasures of the Darran Mountains.

Our final mountain destination will be the Hunter Mountains. Superb alpine vistas and local endemics characterise this area. We should see the bizarre local wild spaniard, hybrid giant buttercups, Buchanan's buttercup in profusion, plus several species of *Celmisia*. The tour ends in Invercargill, from which we will depart to Auckland to connect with our international flights home.







We are offering a short tour extension to Stewart Island and the south of South Island. There will be an opportunity to discover the grand diversity of life on this, the least modified of the three main islands of New Zealand, where the coastal flora is characterised by an array of shrubby daisies, and the forests abound with mosses and ferns. Returning to South Island, we will visit a forgotten corner of New Zealand, which lies to the east of Invercargill. It includes some of the finest coastal scenery and lowland forests in the country. We sample the botanical delights of this region before continuing to Dunedin, where we stay for two nights. We will visit Dunedin Botanic Gardens and a Yellow Eyed Penguin colony on the Otago Peninsula. Later we will take an evening harbour cruise around Taiaroa Head, the only mainland breeding site of Northern Royal Albatross. This promises to be a magical wildlife experience, drawing to a close our rich and diverse discovery of New Zealand's native treasures.

If you are interested in joining this tour, please contact Tracy Watterson at the AGS Centre on 01386 554790 or by email at [tracy@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:tracy@alpinegardensociety.net) to request a prospectus and booking form.

**For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre.  
Tel: 01386 554790 or email: [ags@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net)**

## SPRING BULBS OF PARNASSOS AND THE PELOPONNESE

**March/April 2010 (15 days)****Leaders: Margaret & David Thorne****Cost: circa £1,200**

Springtime in Greece brings a kaleidoscope of glorious flowers. Fields full of poppies, anemones, mayweeds, spurges, crown daisies, corn marigolds and many more species, create a colourful roadside spectacle.

Our botanical exploration will start in the south of the Peloponnese, on the Mani Peninsula, a scenically beautiful area where *Tulipa goulimyii*, *Fritillaria davisii* and *Teucrium brevifolium* are local endemics.

Here we will also find *Cyclamen peloponnesiacum* on woodland edges, both *Cerintho major* and *C. retorta* and a fascinating range of orchids. Among the most showy of these are *Orchis papilionacea*, *O. pauciflora* and *Ophrys speculum*, but good displays are likely of *O. tenthredinifera*, *O. spruneri*, *O. bombyliflora* and the local endemic, *O. argolica*. Some spikes of *Himantoglossum robertianum*, the Giant Orchid, will still be at their best and there will be plenty of opportunity to identify several species of *Serapias*.

On the Malea peninsula, we will visit the impressive rock of Monemvasia and its well documented floral treasures including *Campanula andrewsii*, *Onosma frutescens* and *Procopiana cretica*. A nearby area of acid soils is characterised by *Arbutus unedo*, *Erica arborea* and *Lavandula stoechas*, with *Dactylorhiza romana* and *Romulea bulbocodium*. A roadside terrace has vivid red *Papaver apulum* with black and white throat markings and clumps of *Ophrys lutea* and *O. iricolor*. Further north, we will find red *Tulipa undulatifolia*, orange *T. orphanidea*, good populations of *Fritillaria graeca* ssp *guicciardii* with distinctive bicoloured flowers, *Cyclamen peloponnesiacum* ssp *vividum* and *Anemone blanda* in blue and white forms.



During the latter part of the Tour, we visit Mounts Chelmos and Parnassos, and the surrounding areas for *Crocus sieberi* ssp *sublimis*, *C. olivieri*, *Iris attica*, *Daphne jasminea*, *Leontice leontopetalum*, *Ophrys cornuta* and other local specialities.

There will be visits to Ancient Sites including Mystras, Delphi and perhaps Epidavros, Mycenae and Sounion. Flights will be from London to Athens and accommodation in comfortable hotels. Transport is by small coach enabling us all to travel together and in comfort, while having access to narrow roads in areas of interest.



**For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre.**

**Tel: 01386 554790 or email: [ags@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net)**



## PONTIC MOUNTAINS AND THE NE BORDERLANDS:

**2nd half of May 2010**

**Leaders: Bob &  
Rannveig Wallis.**

**Cost: expected to be in the  
region of £1700**

We are pleased to offer a tour through the high passes of NE Turkey at snow melt time. Bob & Rannveig have been in the region on numerous other occasions and therefore have a pretty good knowledge of good botanical sites. They aim to explore some of the lesser known passes from both sides of the Pontic mountains with a number of excursions on to some of the high mountains adjoining the Georgian border. The trip will also go along parts of the spectacular gorge created by the massive Coruh river. The dates are timed to coincide with the flowering of bulbs, woodlanders and early alpins. At this time, the slopes are ablaze with colour in the melting snow and many real rarities are in amazing abundance.



The tour will comprise a few leisurely walks with plenty of time will allow for botanising and wayside photography. Also included will be a special walk in the forests on the north side of Kahkar Dag to find *Epigea gaultherioides* and a day on the Çam Gehidi to view the vast fields of *Scilla rosenii* with many other specialities of the area.

The Pontic mountains run through the north of Turkey, parallel with, and very close to, the Black Sea coast. Proximity to these cold mountains to the warm body of water gives rise to a moist temperate climate on the northern slopes which cools with altitude until, precisely at the summit, the climate changes and becomes continental like much of central Turkey. The winters on this side are very cold with good snow fall and the summers largely dry. This zoning of the climate in a short distance gives rise to a huge and diverse flora which ranges from large *Rhododendrons* with snowdrops to high alpins and, of course, a generous sprinkling of bulbs many of which are endemic to the region.

Some of the plants that we hope to see are:

*Caltha polypetala*, *Corydalis conorrhiza* and *alpestris*, *Crocus aereus* and *biflorus* subsp *tauri*, *Cyclamen parviflorum*, *Daphne glomerata*, *Epigea gaultherioides*, *Fritillaria armena*, *caucasica* and *latifolia*, *Gentiana pyrenaica*, *Jurinella moschos*, *Paris incompleta*, *Primula auriculata*, *elatior* subsp *mairei*, *longipes* and *vulgaris* subsp *sibthorpii*, *Rhododendron luteum* and *ponticum*, *Scilla roseni* and *siberica*, *Tulipa armena* and *Viola altaica*.

**For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre.**

**Tel: 01386 554790 or email: [ags@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net)**

## PICOS DE EUROPA:

**28th May-6th June 2010**

**Leader: Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson.**

**Cost: in the region of £400 per person**

**Try a new venture with the AGS, a self-catering tour with an experienced leader.**

One of the great scenic delights of Northern Spain is the Picos de Europa, shared between the provinces of Cantabria and Asturias. The Picos are very different to the mountains of central and southern Spain due to their close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean. The scenery is splendid, the high mountains rugged limestone in the main, the slopes and valleys densely wooded. Here wild bear, lynx and boar still roam and the mountains are renowned for their birds and butterflies. The flora is rich and includes a good number of endemic species such as *Aquilegia discolor*, *Asperula hirta* and *Genista legionensis*. Many western Pyrenean plants are also found in the Picos but the region is particularly rich in ericaceous plants (*Erica* and *Daboecia* in particular). In spring (April to early June) the high meadows are full of colour, particularly different species of *Narcissus* and various orchids.



The Picos has a great deal to offer the walker and photographer. The group will be centred on the mountain hamlet of Tudes staying in beautifully converted farm buildings in what is a rural idyll, with splendid views of the Picos. The apartments (fully equipped English owned and run) are self-catering. The charming medieval market town of Potes is close by and has excellent restaurants shops and supermarkets and can be reached from Tudes in 15 minutes by car, or by a n excellent walk down through meadows and woodland in an hour or so.

Day excursions (by car) from Tudes will include the Puerto de San Gloria, the cable car ascent at Fuente Dé, the Picos de Macondiu in the heart of the Picos and Somaniezo in the Sierra de Peña Sagra east of the main Picos range. There will also be plenty of time for local walks and visits to ancient mountain towns.

Couples or singles can share apartments which range from two to four person. This is a self-catering holiday and transport will be by car hire (not coach) as the latter greatly restricts the places that can be visited. If any participants wish to stay longer this can also be arranged.

Christopher Grey-Wilson, Editor of the AGS, is an experienced tour leader and has visited the Picos on several occasions.

The Picos is very accessible from the UK with regular flights from Stanstead and elsewhere to either Bilbao or Santander.

**For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre.**

**Tel: 01386 554790 or email: [ags@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net)**

## EVEREST'S ALPINES, TIBET

**SUMMER 2010 (28 DAYS)****Leaders: Margaret & David Thorne****Cost: circa £3,500**

This Tour extends the scope of AGS's botanical investigations in Tibet, as our visit will be slightly later than in 2005 and includes some new areas of exploration. Its highlight will once again be the Everest Kangshung Face Trek, a circular route at the foot of Makalu and Everest.

Our time spent camping will be fully supported by a trekking crew and yaks carrying our luggage. We cross the Shao La into the Karma Valley, a richly forested area described by George Mallory as 'one of the most beautiful valleys in the world' and return to the Kharta Valley over the Tour's highest pass, the Langma La (5347 masl).



To acclimatise before the trek, we will botanise in the hills around Lhasa and eastwards to the Mi La (5050 masl) near Rutok - for *Corydalis milarepa* and many other exquisite plants. We will also visit the magnificent Potala Palace, the Dalai Lama's childhood home, and the Jokhang, Tibetan Buddhism's most sacred monastery. Our journey along the Friendship Highway between Lhasa and Kharta will include several stops to botanise at passes over 5000 masl and the return drive to Kathmandu will present opportunities to experience a wide range of other new landscapes and habitats.

We expect to see many of the 800 species found in 2005 including *Meconopsis tibetica* and 2 others new to science, and perhaps some later flowering

additions. There will be a good selection of scree plants: Saussurea, Soroseris, Cremanthodium, Eriophyton and Corydalis as well as cushion of Androsace, Arenaria, Chionocharis, Saxifraga and Waldheimia. Other well represented Genera are Gentiana, Leontopodium, Meconopsis, Rhodiola, Rhododendron, Pedicularis, Potentilla and Primula.

The Tour will be limited to 20 members including leaders and should only be contemplated by the adventurous and fit, as it involves some long walking days and camping at nearly 5000 masl.

The cost of the Tour includes all flights, land transportation by coach and 4 wheel drive vehicles, sightseeing fees, the trek, accommodation, and food apart from lunches and dinners in Kathmandu. Although we know of no reason why access to Tibet should be a problem in 2010, a substitute Everest Trek in Nepal will be offered should the unexpected occur.



For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre.  
Tel: 01386 554790 or email: [ags@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net)



# Narcissi of Iberia & Morocco

## 25th February – 10th March 2010

Cost £2195 (Ground Only Cost £1995)

Leaders: Ian Bennallick, Paul Green and Stefano Doglio

A tour designed to see the majority of Iberian and Northern Moroccan Narcissi that bloom in early spring. We start in mid Portugal where drifts of *Narcissus asturiensis* and *Crocus carpetanus* colour the mountains. There's golden *Narcissus gaditanus* as well as *Narcissus calcicola*, *Narcissus obesus* and fine stands of elegant *Narcissus triandrus*. Moving south into Andalusia we'll encounter *Narcissus assoanus* and endemic *Narcissus cuatrecasii*. *Narcissus minor* is plentiful in Spanish Fir forests and in the Sierra de Alcaparain is ghostly *Narcissus cantabricus*. *Narcissus bulbocodium*, *Narcissus cordubensis* and *Narcissus jonquilla* adorn meadows dotted with cork oaks. We'll cross the Straits of Gibraltar to the Parc Nacional de Talassemthane in the Rif Mountains of Northern Morocco. Based in picturesque Chefchaouen we'll explore these verdant mountains, home to huge-flowered *Paeonia coriacea* and drifts of confusing *Romuleas*. The albidus subspecies of *Narcissus romeiuxii* is common and we'll look for golden *Narcissus rupicola* and rare *Narcissus albimarginatus*. Throughout the tour we'll see plenty of other fine flowers including *Dipcadis*, *Raffenaldias*, *Iris planifolia*, Two-leaved *Gennaria* and many other orchids, *Fritillaria lusitanica*, fabulous *Linarias* and the bizarre flowers of *Arisarum simmorhinum*.



If you are interested in joining any of the joint tours and would like further information and a detailed itinerary please contact Greentours – T: **01298 83563** or E: [enquiries@greentours.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@greentours.co.uk)



# Tulips of Tien Shan

10th – 23rd April 2010

Cost £2470 (Ground Only Cost £1970)

Korgalzhyn Steppe Extension

23rd – 27th April Cost £1095

Leaders: Kurt Vickery and Vladimir Kolbintsev

A truly remarkable display of colourful tulips carpet Southern Kazakhstan in Spring. Chief among them are the magnificent goblets of Greig's Tulip which come in an unforgettable pageant of reds, oranges and yellows. *Tulipa kaufmanniana* adorns the lower slopes of the Mountains of Heaven, while swathes of multi-coloured *Tulipas ostrowskiana* and *kolpakowskiana* shine in the crystal clear air of these Central Asian Mountains. Rarities such as *Tulipa borszczowii*, *Tulipa buhseana*, *Tulipa binutans* and lovely *Tulipa zenaidae* are among sixteen species of Tulip on this tour. Fritillary-like *Korolkovia severzovii* and *Rhinopetalum stenanthemum*, with their strangely-coloured bells, mix with bright yellow Anemones and a wide variety of colourful *Corydalis* species. By patches of snow are the white stars of *Crocus alatavicus* and along with half a dozen species of Iris is the many-hued *Iridodictyum kolpakovskianum*. Bird migration will be in full swing. Flocks of up to a thousand Demoiselle Cranes will be a fantastic sight. Sometimes we encounter Isabelline Brown Bears and more certainly we'll see Siberian Ibex and the globally endangered Arkhar. An extension takes us to the famed Korgalzhyn steppes where *Tulipa schrenkii*'s predominantly yellow blooms are mixed with rose-red, pink and white forms that stretch to the horizon in an unforgettable pastiche.



If you are interested in joining any of the joint tours and would like further information and a detailed itinerary please contact Greentours – T: 01298 83563 or E: [enquiries@greentours.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@greentours.co.uk)

# Autumn in Yunnan

## 16th – 30th September 2010

Cost £3195 (Ground Only Cost £2565)

Leaders: Chris Gardner and Başak Gardner

Yunnan has many stunning autumn flowers, in particular its unparalleled Gentians. Amid the fast-colouring autumnal hues of the Zhongdian Plateau are marvellous displays of *Gentiana sino-ornata* and stripe-tubed *veitchiorum* smothering acres of marshes and dry slopes respectively. By the alpine Tianchi Lake grows *Gentiana arethusae* and on the high turf of the Baima Shan are great spreads of pale blue *Gentiana hexaphylla* and perhaps the dazzling deep blue *Gentiana emergens*. However, not all is blue as we will seek out the remarkable climbing gentian-relative *Crawfurdia campanulacea* with pink and white striped bells in the seldom visited Zibenshan and further towards the Burmese border is another species *Crawfurdia angustata* which grows alongside elegant *Aconitum nagarum*. Indeed Monkshoods are a prominent genus at this season with species such as stout *Aconitum forrestii*, the dwarf alpine *pulchellum*, climbing *delavayi* and near black *brevicalcaratum*. The autumn picture is completed with *Cyananthus*, *Delphinium* and members of the bizarre genus *Saussurea* such as *leucoma*, *medusa* and *heiracioides* on the high wild screes of the Baima Shan.



If you are interested in joining any of the joint tours and would like further information and a detailed itinerary please contact Greentours – T: **01298 83563** or E: [enquiries@greentours.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@greentours.co.uk)

# Bulbs of Jordan

## 8th – 17th January 2011

Cost **£1980 (Ground Only Cost £1580)**

Leaders: Chris Gardner and Başak Gardner

Forming the eastern margin of the deep rift that descends to over a thousand feet below sea level on the shores of the Dead Sea are the mountains of Western Jordan, an area with a rich and distinctive flora set amid stunning landscapes. Surrounding the hilltop villages are terraces which in the cool of the desert winter host abundant bulbous species, most notably Crocuses. We'll see elegant *Crocus aleppicus*, lots of *Crocus hyemalis* and *Crocus cancellatus*, newly described *Crocus naqabensis* and the lovely *Crocus moabiticus*. Colchicums are varied too and include *Colchicum ritchii*, *Colchicum heirosolymitana* and *Colchicum brachyphyllum*. We'll visit a number of Jordan's archaeological sites, most of them excellent areas for flowers, and in particular magnificent Petra, one of the world's most superlative historical sites. The beautiful sandstone mountains surrounding Petra are peppered with Biarums and the simply stunning purple-etched white blooms of the rare juno *Iris edomensis*. Delicate *Bellevalia desertorum* blooms with *Androcymbium palaestinum* and we'll look for *Iris postii* and near Salt, the rare and beautiful *Iris vartanii*.



Alpine  
garden society

Reg Charity No. 207478

**AGS Centre Avon Bank Pershore Worcestershire WR10 3JP UK**  
tel: 01386 554790 fax: 01386 554801 email: [ags@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net)