

Alpine news

Issue 39 • September 2012

BIG ideas for small plants!

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

AGS Successes

Gold for the Alpine Garden Society at the Southport Show.

A huge thank you to Brian Russ and all members of the South Lancs Group on staging yet another successful exhibit to help promote the Group and the Society. The South Lancs group have enjoyed many successes over the years with their exhibits at this show and are to be congratulated on another wonderful achievement.

Other AGS Groups have also staged award winning displays at various shows – the Derby Group were awarded a Gold Medal by the Derbyshire Agricultural and Horticultural Society (see photo on page 15) and the Shropshire Group were awarded third place in the Societies section at the Shrewsbury Flower Show – credit to Celia and Iain Wright who organized the exhibit.

The Society also staged a promotion stand at the RHS Tatton Park Flower Show this year that helped to attract more new members to the Society. I would particularly like to thank the helpers from three local groups who assisted with the staffing of the stand during the week – John and Clare Dower, Mavis and Ken Meekings, Chris Weavers, Liz Barber, Ian and Georgina Instone, Dave Mountfort, David Charlton, Paul Street and our Editor, John Fitzpatrick, as well as Jim McGregor who helped me with all the heavy lifting and building of the stand. Thank you also to Christopher Grey-Wilson, Rod and Jane Leeds and Ray Drew, who in a spare moment at the Tewkesbury Show, planted up most of the troughs for the display.

Grateful thanks to all AGS volunteers who have helped to make such displays a success and I apologise for not being able to mention everyone by name.

Chris McGregor (Society Director)

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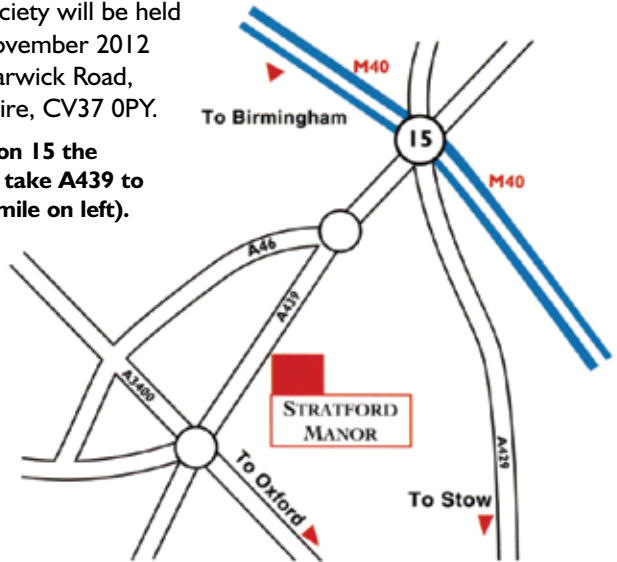
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 10th November 2012

Notice is Hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Garden Society will be held at 11.00 am on Saturday 10th November 2012 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 12 November 2011.
2. To receive the Report of the Board of Trustees.
3. To receive the Hon. Treasurer's Report and Accounts.
4. To declare the election of Mr David K Haselgrove as President.
5. To declare the election of Officers to serve for the ensuing year (see note 1 below).
6. To elect TWO Trustees to serve for FOUR years and TWO to serve for THREE years (see note 2 below).
7. 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.
8. Any other items of business as notified to the President/Society Director, submitted in accordance with the rules laid down in the Constitution.
9. Presentation of Awards: to present Society Literary Awards, Local Group Awards, Website Award, The Kath Dryden Award, Awards of Honour, and the Lyttel Trophy.

Notes on Election of Officers and Members of the Trustee Board

(1) All the Officers retire annually and are eligible for re-election as per rule 7.1.3.1 of the Constitution, where stated; the following are willing to serve in 2012/2013: Treasurer (Professor John Galloway), Director of Shows (Ray Drew), Website Director (Jim McGregor), Director of Seed Distribution (Diane Clement), Director of Tours (Mr Chris Barber). As no further nominations have been received, no election will be held.

(2) In accordance with rule 7.1.4 of the new Constitution, two Trustees retire annually and are not eligible for re-election for one year. To maintain the correct balance in the number of Trustees in the future two extra trustee nominations were sought this year to serve for three years and not four. Nominations received are as follows:

Miss Elizabeth Barber (York)

Proposed by Rosemary Cox, seconded by Chris Weavers (To serve for 3 years)

Liz has been an active member of the West Yorkshire Group for many years. Previously she has been responsible for selling AGS publications to the local group and at both Harrogate Spring Show and Summer Show North. Liz has always fully supported the AGS at Harrogate, taking annual leave in order to assist on all four days of the Show, selling books and helping to recruit members. She is now Secretary of the West Yorkshire Group and keen to put a buzz into the Group and is full of suggestions as to the way forward. She would be an asset to the Main Committee: someone who is willing to work, is totally loyal, putting the future of both local group and the society as a high priority, and who looks forward rather than backwards.

Mr Chris Lilley (Worksop)

Proposed by Geoff Rollinson, seconded by Dave Riley (To serve for 4 years)

Chris retired as a Detective Sergeant after 30 years in the police force. He then worked in local government in South Yorkshire for twelve years and is now fully retired. Chris has previously held office for the AGS – five years as Show Secretary at the Harrogate AGS show and as Secretary and Chairman of the Doncaster Group. He is an enthusiastic and successful exhibitor at national shows, his highlight being the joint award of Farrer/Forest Medal at the 2011 International Conference Show. Chris would enhance the Trustee Board with his diligence and previous experience in committee concerns.

Mr D Mountfort (Egginton, Derby)

Proposed by Jim McGregor, seconded by Robert Rolfe (To serve for 3 years)

Dave has been an AGS Member for 32 years and has previously served as a member of the Trustee Board. During his previous time as a Trustee he made a valuable contribution to the organisation of the last International Conference held at Nottingham in 2011. In addition he is an active member of the Derby and Nottingham Local Groups of the AGS. Dave has also served as a committee member and ex-chairman of the Derby Group as well as Assistant

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Treasurer for the three Loughborough shows. Amongst his activities he has acted as outings organiser for the Derby Group for 18 years. He is a well known exhibitor and holder of a Gold Medal and three merit bars and is an experienced AGS national show judge. In addition he lectures at several AGS Groups and numerous local garden groups on various topics related to alpinism, both in the wild and in cultivation.

Miss H Picton (Colwall, near Malvern)

Proposed by John Fitzpatrick, seconded by Eric Jarrett (To serve for 4 years)

Helen Picton lives in Colwall on the border of Herefordshire and Worcestershire, where she was born into a family of gardeners at The Picton Garden and Old Court Nurseries. The business has been in her family since her grandfather Percy Picton bought it in 1956. The nursery and garden are now owned by Helen's parents, and Helen will take over in due course. Helen, who is in her twenties, has a degree in botany from Reading University. She presently works full-time at the nursery which specialises in autumn-flowering asters and holds the National Collection of the plants. However, she has a keen interest in alpinism and is one of the youngest members of the Alpine Garden Society. She is an active member of the Cotswold and Malvern Local Group, where she has recently taken on the task of group treasurer, and she plans to visit Patagonia next year to explore the flora there. Her enthusiasm and youthful outlook would be a great asset to the AGS Board of Trustees.

As there are no further nominations, no election will be held at the AGM on Saturday 10th November 2012, and the above named will serve for the period indicated.

PROGRAMME FOR THE AGM

10.30 Coffee

11.00 Annual General Meeting

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Presentation of Show Awards

14.00 The E.B. Anderson Memorial Lecture, by
Professor John Good, OBE, entitled
'Alpinism for all seasons in a North Wales garden'.

15.30 Afternoon Tea and Disperse

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

The cost will be £16.00 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, 19 October 2012. Your pre-booked lunch tickets will be available for collection from the AGS Book Sales 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 2012

Lyttel Trophy

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

Robin and Sue White

Robin and Sue White, proprietors of the internationally renowned Blackthorn Nursery in Kilmeston, Hampshire, are tremendously dedicated, highly skilled and very influential growers of an extremely wide range of alpinists and plants suitable for the rock garden. They have jointly been responsible for routinely propagating and distributing, in large numbers plants such as *Daphne petraea* 'Tremalzo' and *Viola delphinantha* that very few others can increase with any degree of certainty. And through their acquaintance and friendship with plant hunters and authorities such as Roy Lancaster, Mikinori Ogisu, Chris Brickell and the late Professor William Stearn they have been pivotal in establishing numerous fine introductions in cultivation, while their shrewd, perceptive observations on the plants entrusted to them are taken as gospel by one and all. A key association has been that with Peter Erskine; *Daphne calcicola* and *petraea* forms in the 80's and more recently *D. Cneorum* dwarf forms, plus many varieties.

A remarkable number of first-rate hybrids have been raised at Blackthorn, some of them deliberately brought about (exciting seedlings using *Roscoeia purpurea* forma *rubra* 'Red Ghurkha', one with beetroot-red stems and pale salmon flowers are about to be 'launched'), others (the hitherto unrecorded *Viola delphinantha* x *cazorlensis*) occurring by chance. Selections of *Hepatica* x *schylteri* and *H. x media*; *Phygelius* x *rectus* 'New Sensation' the parents from high in the Drakensberg), *dactylorhizas*, including the excellent *D. 'Robin's White'*, seedling of 'Eskimo Nell'. Their first, and most significant introduction, was in 1987 from Croatia, *Cyclamen purpurascens album*, a vigorous form and then of course there are the many, many daphnes.

Robin White is a leading authority on the genus *Daphne*, grows and propagates them brilliantly, achieves spectacular results with astonishing despatch, has written a first-rate book (*Daphnes – A Practical Guide for Gardeners*, 2006) and either written or contributed to many article on the subject. The list of hybrids he has bred and distributed is a long one, including *D. x susannae* 'Cheriton' and 'Tichborne' (1988, the epithet referencing Sue White) *D. x whiteorum* 'Kilmeston' (a novel 1989 cross between *D. Petraea* 'Grandiflora' and *D. jasmine*), *D x hendersonii* 'Blackthorn Rose' (1993) and 'Marion White' (1997), *D x transatlantica* 'Eternal Fragrance' (1995, but only distributed from 2005: it has been a runaway success in Australasia, opening the eyes of non-specialist gardeners to the rewards of the genus) and *D. suendermannii* 'Blackthorn Gem' (1992).

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The Whites garden together, but have fallen into the practice of taking responsibility for different areas of the garden and nursery. Sue specialises in trough plantings (several groups of these, all exemplary) and the propagation of alpines from around the world. She has several times visited African mountains, and has also been plant-hunting in Nepal, but much of the stock has been contributed by friends. *Oxalis laciniata* 'Seven Bells' and *Fabiana foliosa* 'Cliftonville Limelight' from the southern Andes; *Salvia albimaculata* and *Asperula daphneola* from western Turkey; *Jeffersonia dubia* 'Alba' and *Corydalis kokiana* from opposite ends of China.

Now that the nursery is no longer open to the public, and principally involved with several wholesale projects, the garden has been greatly developed. In spring there are large drifts of *Erythroniums* (another genus in which they specialise, with the highly-regarded *E. hendersonii* 'Pacific Clouds' another Blackthorn raising), and the choicest of woodland plants in abundance, but the planting is very accomplished throughout the year, in sun and in shade. An alpine meadow has been created where once there were stock beds, where everything from Bird's-foot Trefoil and *Rhodohypoxis baurii* to *Lilium monadelphum* can be found. While there is no traditional rock garden, alpines are abundant at Blackthorn, in tunnels, troughs and glasshouses, raised beds and borders, mounds, slopes and scree frames. The Whites have contributed greatly to the world of alpines through unstinting hard work, coupled with great flair.

Award of Honour

This award recognises sterling work undertaken on behalf of the Society, not necessarily during the year, but over a period of time.

Pat Crossley – For over an amazing three decades Patricia Crossley has carried out the demanding role of Honorary Show Secretary of the Ulster Show and is indeed by far the longest serving Show Secretary in the Society. For the first part of her tenure in office Pat held joint office with her late husband Norman, who used his accountancy skills in the days when the Society paid out prize money to exhibitors, and before computers were used to record results. Pat has also served on the group committee in her capacity as Show Secretary. During her period of office the Joint Rock Plant Committee has twice visited Ulster and Pat has been faced with arranging accommodation for an extra dozen judges on these occasions. Pat has made every possible effort to encourage new exhibitors and uses the Show as a 'shop window' to encourage visitors to join the Society. Only two or three of the 2012 exhibitors will be able to recall what it was like to have an Ulster Show without Pat at the helm, clipboard in hand pointing everyone in the right direction.

Val Keegan – Val has been a superb Show Secretary, retiring in 2011 after twenty-five years. She has an enviable ability to assemble a committed team of loyal members thereby ensuring that everything runs smoothly. Her calm and unruffled management of the show was exemplary. She is tireless in encouraging members, old and new to exhibit and supply plants for sale. Val has been one of the most active and popular members of

the AGS Dublin Group since its inception some thirty years ago. She has served on the committee for many of those years in various capacities including Chair and Newsletter editor and is still a valued Committee member. She is an enthusiastic promoter of the joy of growing alpine and has lectured widely on the subject not only to the Dublin and Ulster Groups but to many gardening clubs and horticultural societies, always dispelling the myth that alpine are only for experts and difficult to grow. She opens her garden to groups and individuals and is always generous with plants and advice, especially to new members. She regularly hosts visiting speakers and judges and her contribution to the running and organization of the Dublin group annual residential alpine discussion weekend at Termonfeckin continues to be invaluable. Val Keegan is the sort of person every AGS group would dearly love to have in its ranks. Her enthusiasm and willingness to serve the interests of the AGS in any capacity mark her as a very special member, someone who richly deserves this recognition.

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.

John Blanchard - John's expertise in all matters pertaining to the genus *Narcissus* is acknowledged worldwide. First fostered by his father Douglas – a noted breeder of standard and miniature daffodils – John's interest soon focussed on the latter. He has bred many fine seedlings of novel parentage ('Pequenita' is outstanding). He has exhibited them to great acclaim at early spring RHS and AGS shows. He has studied them extensively in the wild, particularly in the Iberian peninsula and northern Africa. He has lectured on the genus all his adult life. A lengthy involvement with what is nowadays the RHS 'Daffodil, Snowdrop and Tulip Yearbook' has resulted in many ground-breaking articles on the rediscovery of *Narcissus cyclamineus*, for example. He has also written for 'The Alpine Gardener' and in 1990 the AGS published 'Narcissus – a guide to wild daffodils', the standard work on the subject. He has inspired others to turn their attentions to breeding miniature daffodils and has been extremely generous with his knowledge to anyone wishing to see the genus in the wild, or build up a collection in their garden.

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.

Brenda Newton – has been a member of the AGS and the local group since 1987. She is currently a member of the Group Committee and has served two previous terms on the Committee. During this time she has not only given freely of her time to the Group but also to the wider alpine fraternity with her unstinting contribution to the success of two national shows. Apart from being the unofficial assistant show secretary, she has voluntarily organized and managed all aspects of catering for both of the national shows which the Group organizes – for eighteen years at the Hexham spring show and ten years at the Newcastle autumn show – ensuring that show judges, members of Joint Rock Plant Committee and helpers at the shows

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are able to enjoy a fine meal. The substantial time and effort quietly and efficiently devoted by Brenda to the work of the Group and AGS, as well as her outstanding service make her a truly worthy recipient of this award.

Local Group Award & Sussex Weald Silver Jubilee Trophy

Betty Thomas – Betty has been in the Birmingham and District group longer than anyone can remember, but it must be about fifty years. She was on the committee several times between 1967 and 1990 including vice-chair and chair in the mid 70's. As for wider impact, Betty was for many years responsible for Judges' lunches at the Midland show and her home-made meals and desserts were legendary. For many years she has been a seed packer and for the last ten years she has been a very regular and reliable helper every week during the winter making up seed orders at Pershore. Now in her 80s, Betty is still active in the group, she rarely misses a meeting or event and still makes an active contribution to the running of the group. For many years she made an impressive Christmas cake for the December group social, she has painted several delightful pictures and offered them for auction to raise money for the group. She helps with the Midland Show, carrying trestle tables around and dressing tables the day before. Betty shows a keen interest at meetings, always happy to do a vote of thanks, and always with a good word to say about everyone.

Website Award

To recognise the best contribution to the Society's website during 2011.

Jon Evans – Jon makes regular contributions to the AGS website, notably in the Shows section, where he regularly posts superb photographs of the show plants. His personal style and comments make the postings very interesting to read, and aspects of how he took the picture are of particular interest, especially coming from such an expert photographer. Jon also posts pictures of other places he has visited, such as Wisley, and his own plants, including welcome personal comments on cultivation. He also keeps an eye on the general forum area and notifies other members if there are questions they could answer. A modest and generous man who is very deserving of this award.

Literary Awards

The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award

Martin and Anna-Liisa Sheader - The full monte [June 2011: pp 250-267]

The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award

Eric Jarrett - Get comfortable with cushions [June 2011: pp 232-243]



Items for the Newsletter and Copy Dates

Please note that any copy for the Newsletter should be sent to AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcs, WR10 3JP or email: ags@alpinegardensociety.net

Deadline for the December issue is Friday 2nd November 2012.

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AGS AWARDS AND GRANTS 2013

The Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually and applications for these awards must be received by 31 January 2013 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: Alpine Garden Society, AGS Centre or email: ags@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), The Hendry Bequest Fund, 23 Richmond Road, Leighton Buzzards, LU7 4RF. The closing date for applications in respect of the Hendry Fund Grants is 31 January 2013.

MERLIN TRUST - ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY Travel Scholarships - TOUR AWARDS for 2013

In 1990 The Merlin Trust was founded by the late Valerie Finnis VMH to provide travel grants for young horticulturists. In 2013 the Merlin Trust is offering jointly with the Alpine Garden Society up to six fully paid travel scholarships on AGS organised plant tours.

Two places will be available on tours – the destinations 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 alpine. 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 belonging to other nationalities are eligible only if they are currently studying at a UK horticultural training establishment.

For details and more information contact: Joanne Everson, Rock Garden Team Leader, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Richmond TW9 3AB, Email: j.everson@kew.org Tel: 0208 3325585.

OBITUARIES

Rex Mark – died 5th July 2012 – was a long time member of the Society who was well known to many members, both in the UK and in New Zealand, where he resided with his wife Judy. He and Judy were regular visitors to AGS Centre when they were over in the UK. We send our sincere condolences to Judy and the family.

What's On

Local Group News

Changes to Local Group Secretaries

Somerset – Richard Horswood (from Sue Horswood)

Chesterfield & District – Dave Newsome (from Mike Harris)

Hampshire – Paddy Hinton (from Sylvia Marshall)

Oxford & District – Celia Sawyer (from John Grimshaw)

FRITILLARIA GROUP OF THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

Autumn Meeting and AGM – Sunday 30th September 2012

To be held at Hillside Events Centre, RHS Garden, Wisley, Surrey.

PROGRAMME

9.30 - Doors Open and Coffee

10.00 - AGM

11.00 - Coffee Break

11.30 - Speaker: Brian Mathew "Fritillaria Hunters and Authors"

13.00 - Lunch

14.00 - Short Presentations by:

Ilia Leitch from Kew "Probing the DNA to provide
evolutionary insights"

Bob Wallis "New mysteries and new discoveries"

Bob Charman "Fritillaries in the Lake Van area"

15.30 - Raffle and close of meeting

All times are approximate. Plants and Bulbs will be on sale during the day.

For more information please see our website: www.fritillaria.org.uk

DIARY DATE: SPRING SHOW AND DISPLAY

Sunday 17 March 2013 with talks by Ian Young and Helen Seal.

BRISTOL GROUP ONE DAY CONFERENCE

Saturday, 6 October 2012

The Bristol Group One Day Conference will be held at Red Maids School, Westbury-on-Trym, BS9 3AW. Speakers: Chris Lovell, Peter Cunnington, Robert Rolfe and John Page. Refreshments and Plant and Seed Sales. For further details contact Mike Taylor, 96 Reedley Road, Bristol, BS9 3TA. Tel: 0117 9686654 or e-mail: annofreedley@google.com.

JOINT ROCK GARDEN PLANT COMMITTEE

Gentian Day

Harlow Carr, Friday 12 October 2012

AGENDA

- 9.30** Introduction (Chairman for the day David Haselgrove)
- 9.35** The Gentian Family (Gentianaceae), an overview (Christopher Grey-Wilson, Chairman Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee)
- 10.15** From Yunnan and Sichuan to Tibet; Gentians in Western China (Harry Jans)
- 11.15** Coffee
- 11.45** Autumn Gentians, variety and cultivation (Jim Jermyn)
- 12.45** Lunch
- 14.00** Gentian Cultivation, a practical workshop (Tim Lever, Aberconwy Nursery)

Plus Tours around Harlow Carr Gardens led by RHS staff members

Plus Plant sales, particularly gentians (Aberconwy Nursery, Edrom Nursey etc)

NOTE: The Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee will meet the following day (Saturday, 13 October) to coincide with the Alpine Garden Society Newcastle Show, held at The Memorial Hall, Darras Road, Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE20 9NX. For further information visit the AGS website: www.alpinegardensociety.net

FORTHCOMING AGS SHOWS - 2012

AGS Autumn Show – South, 29 September 2012 – Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham, Gillingham, ME8 0BX. – 01303 862913

AGS Loughborough Autumn Show, 6 October 2012 – Burleigh Community College, Thorpe Hill, Loughborough, LE11 4SQ. – 01509 261626

AGS Newcastle Show, 13 October 2012 – The Memorial Hall, Darras Road, Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE20 9NX. – 01661 871974

Full list of AGS Show Dates is published on AGS website: www.alpinegardensociety.net

SPECIAL OFFER of ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY BULLETINS

10 Bulletins (pre 2007 issues) for £16.00 (post free) One Special Offer per member.

Please send your written request to: AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, WR10 3JP.
Cheques to be made payable to “**Alpine Garden Society**” or a card number with expiry date MM/YY and 3 digit security code. If Switch Card please add the issue number or start date.



What's On

2013 SUMMER STUDY WEEKEND

NEW ZEALAND ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand, 01 - 03 February 2013

'IN FROM THE WILD' from the Great Outdoors to Our Gardens

Our Study Weekend may be a year later than originally planned but we extend a warm welcome to our Delegates and Guest Speakers

Harry Jans

Top-class grower, photographer and world traveller from the Netherlands - *"Plant hunting on the Roof of the World", "Alpines on the Equator", "Growing High Alpines at Sea Level"*

Bob and Rannveig Wallis

Well-travelled expert bulb growers and medal-winning show exhibitors from Wales - *"Georgia in Early Spring", "Autumn in the Mediterranean", "Petra to Persepolis"*

Shannel Courtney

(Technical Support Officer for Threatened Plants, Dept. of Conservation, Nelson office) - *'Nelson and Marlborough Mountain lands – a treasure trove of Alpine Plants'*

Doug Logan

One of our own Local Members sharing his passion for - *'Snakes and Dragons in the Garden'*

- Ian Young (in absentia!) - a new DVD entitled 'Unprotected – Bulbs in the Garden'
- Workshop Programme to include Plant Photography Harry's Way (Harry Jans), Maintenance of a Bulb Collection (Rannveig Wallis) and Back-to-Basics Seeds and Propagation (Joe Cartman)
- Specialist Plant Sales– not to be missed!
- Garden visit to Broadfields New Zealand Landscape Garden (optional to the Workshops)
- Field Trip to the Craigieburn Skifield on the Monday (subject to confirmation and weather!)

Further information available very soon on our website www.nzags.co
or e-mail annandjoe@xtra.co.nz or doreenmear@hotmail.com

Seed Exchange No. 61 2012-2013

Due to the level of request for seed lists, it has now been agreed that all members will receive a seed list this year. On-line ordering has been available for three years, is now very popular with members, as well as with our volunteers who make up the orders. The online system does save time for us and the staff at Pershore.

The seed list will go live on the website around the last week of November. If you wish to use the online ordering system, you do not need to wait until you receive your posted copy. Watch the website and a notice will be posted when the list is live and ready to accept orders. The internet system gives access to pictures of the plants, which has proved a very popular feature. If you do not have internet access, please don't worry as your order will be given the same priority as we allow time for post to reach all areas of the world before we start making up orders and make them up in order of receiving them. But do remember that it is the seed donors who get priority, as without them, there would be no Seed Exchange. So I hope you are all in the process of collecting and cleaning seed ready to donate. Can I please remind you to follow all the instructions, get your seed in on time, and clean your seed of chaff – all this helps our already hard-working volunteers.

The whole Seed Exchange process needs the goodwill and generosity of about 200 volunteers who offer their help in various ways and in various places. We always need new helpers and I am grateful for all help that can be given in any capacity. In October and November we need helpers to file, number and pack seed at Warrington and in your own homes, and in late November, December and January we need helpers to rack up seed, make up orders and other administrative help at Pershore. Could you get together a car load from your group and come over to Pershore for a day to help make up orders?

If you think you are able to help with any of these jobs, please contact me, Diane Clement, Director of the AGS Seed Exchange.

Email: diane.clement@agsgroups.org or phone: 01902 426024

SALE OF SEED ENVELOPES

The AGS is selling seed envelopes as part of the Seed Distribution System.

The envelopes are of the glassine type (as used in the AGS distribution) and are available in two sizes at the following prices.

50 packets 73 x 41mm (2.8 x 1.6in) for £2.00 (self-seal)

50 packets 98 x 64mm (3.8 x 2.5in) for £2.50 (gummed)

They can be purchased from the AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore Worcs, WR10 3JP

Postage is FREE to UK members.

Overseas members should contact AGS Centre regarding postage costs, which will depend on the quantity ordered.

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 have previously ordered seed, please check your permit is still valid until March 2013 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:
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

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 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, and secondly, there are frequent postal 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:**

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

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. There are also useful lists of banned species on the NARGS site under Seed Exchange.

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. Our Seed 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 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. As long as you have your permit, you can order seed on line, as we have made provisions for you to enter your permit number then post your permit to us.





Congratulations

'Congratulations to the Derby Local Group who were awarded a Gold Medal by the Derbyshire Agricultural and Horticultural Society for this very attractive display. Well done to all the volunteers who helped to put the exhibit together.'

Online Flower Show 2012 Now open for entries

**FIRST
PLACE
IN THIS
CLASS**



The 2012 show is now open for entries. Please support the show and start posting your entries now.

If you have never participated before now is the time to give it a go!

For more information please visit our website:
www.alpinegardensociety.net



TWO OLD STONE TROUGHS FOR SALE

50 inches long X 22 wide X 16 deep -- sandstone

30 inches long X 16wide X 13deep (6"internal) -gritstone

Based in south Lincolnshire, (10 mins from the A1) Buyer to collect, but we can arrange safe loading onto a suitable trailer. Pictures can be emailed. £1400 for both (Cash sale only)

Tel: 01780 410078 or email: jackie@pm-images.co.uk

AUTUMN IN CRETE

Late October/Early November 2012

LEADERS: DAVID AND MARGARET THORNE

Cost = £1,750 per person (inc flights)/£1,530 (land only)

After the first October rain has freshened the dusty foliage of summer, the temperature drops and a flush of growth brings new interest to the landscape – the autumn flowering bulbs. This Tour starts in the west of Crete where Cyclamen put on a fine display as does the spectacular *Colchicum macrophyllum*; *Narcissus tazetta* flowers on a few rocky knolls, *N. serotinus* is more frequent and we visit our favourite site for the elusive *Biarum davisii*. We paddle to Elafonisi Island for the last of the *Pancratium maritimum* flowers and some very special coastal plants. During our subsequent travels across the island to its north easterly tip, we expect to find 4 species of *Crocus* (*C. laevigatus*, *C. oreocreticus*, *C. boryi* and *C. tournefortii*) and possibly *C. cartwrightianus*, though we may be too early for this, as it tends to flower much later here than on the mainland. *Colchicum pusillum* and less common *C. cupanii* occur at low altitudes whereas we visit Omalos to see *C. cretense* in the stunning setting of the Lefka Ori (White Mountains) with the option of seeing many other mountain plants in the vicinity of the Kallergi Refuge. We will find *Sternbergias* throughout the island – populations recorded as *S. sicula*, *S. lutea* and *S. greuteriana*; come and enjoy them for their beauty or to study them for their much debated taxonomy.



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

SOUTH AFRICA – THE EASTERN CAPE

4-19 February 2013

LEADER: CAMERON MCMASTER

Cost = TBC but in the region of £2,100 per person

**REPEAT OF
THIS VERY
POPULAR
TOUR**

This will be a repeat of the Tour that ran in January of this year. South Africa is justifiably famous for the spring flowers of the Cape and Namaqualand. But it has many other botanically interesting areas waiting to be explored and this tour gives the opportunity to see the flora of the summer rainfall regions in the East of the country. Cameron and Rhoda McMaster have led a number of botanical tours



to the Eastern Cape. Cameron also wrote the article on this region that appeared in the September 2006 South African Special Edition of the Alpine Gardener. This tour will coincide with the peak flowering time in mid-January. The exact dates have yet to be fixed, but the tour is likely to commence in Port Elizabeth on or about 10th January.

The maximum size of the group will be 10 people. This will allow the party to visit many special destinations well off the usual tourist routes, staying mostly on farms and in small villages so as to be right in the countryside. Each day hikes or 4X4 excursions to areas that would not normally be accessible to ordinary tourists form part of the itinerary. Visits to San Rock Shelters and rock art sites as well as game viewing in private reserves form important additions to the botanical experience. There are a number of major vegetation types in the East Cape from Valley Thicket and Karroo/Namib vegetation to Alpine grassland and Sub-Tropical coastal flora.

The tours comprise a round trip of 14 days, starting and ending in Port Elizabeth. During this time all the vegetation types are sampled and clients are shown all the specialities in the Eastern Cape, including many rare endemics. Succulents, Geophytes including the Clivias and Cycads are some of the more interesting flora to be seen. Guided hikes through Alpine flora, Afromontane forest and Subtropical coastal bush are highlights. The East Cape not only has spectacular flowers but a wide variety of habitats and magnificent scenery.

For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre.

Tel: 01386 554790 or email: ags@alpinegardensociety.net

PICOS DE EUROPA

24 May 2013 - 2 June 2013

LEADERS: CHRISTOPHER (KIT) GREY-WILSON

Cost: in the region of £500(excluding flights & car hire etc)

After the highly successful self-catering tour led by Christopher (Kit) Grey-Wilson to the Picos de Europa (Northern Spain) in 2010 we have decided to repeat the tour in 2013.

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, 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**

Morocco's High Atlas

17th – 24th March 2013

Cost: £1855

Leaders: Ian Green & Kurt Vickery

Marrakech is our gateway to the majestic scenery of the High Atlas Mountains. Rare ivory-white *Narcissus waiteri* is sure to be a floral highlight along with *Romulea bifrons*, *Colchicum triphyllum* and golden *Narcissus tingitanus* in short alpine turf. *Narcissus romieuxii*, *Dipcadi serotinum* and *Gynandris monophylla* bloom on slopes behind orchards, whilst on Sahara-facing slopes we'll find Chapman's Green Hairstreak and delicate *Narcissus perocidentalis*. The delicate *Narcissi* may be the top of our wishlists but who can fail to enjoy the amazing little daisy *Anacyclus depressus* subspecies *gelidus* whose innocuous looking flowers making one gasp when turned over so pure and bright is the scarlet on the underside. There's pink *Rhodathemum atlanticum*, pretty *Bellis caerulea*, an orange-red form of *Anagallis monellii*, the chunky wine-red heads of *Anthyllis vulneraria reuteri*, and lovely *Ophrys dyris*.



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

Corsica

14th – 21st April 2013

Cost: £1595

Leaders: Paul Cardy & Tristan Lafranchis

Brick pink cliffs sweep down to the sea draped with lime-green *Euphorbia dendroides* and pretty *Erodium corsicum*. Limestone intrusions at Bonifacio host endemic *Morisia monanthos* and orchids such as *Orchis pauciflora*, *Ophrys morissi*, *Ophrys eleonorae* and *Ophrys aprilia*. Large-flowered *Serapias cordigera* is joined by *Serapias neglecta*, *lingua*, *vomeracea* and local *nurrica*, as well as plenty of gorgeous *Orchis longicornu*. *Narcissus tazetta* decorates rocky crevices almost to the high tide line on the Pointe de la Parata. Moving inland we'll find *Brimeura fastigata* and *Pancratium illyricum*, whilst Chestnut woods are full of *Corydalis solida*. *Cyclamen repandum* blooms at all altitudes and higher up we'll see pretty lilac *Crocus corsicus*. *Helleborus argutifolius* flowers amid fresh green birch woods where we can find red-marked yellow *Dactylorhiza insularis* and intense purple *Romulea quequeni*



Taiwan

20th April – 7th May 2013

Cost: £3995

Leaders: Owen Mountford & Richard Foster

The breathtaking Taroko Gorge cuts like a knife through Formosa's untouched mountains. Here are elegant *Arisaema formosanum* and huge *Amorphophallus* flowers emerge with blue *Iris formosana* and exotic Gesnerids. We'll see yellow *Disporum shimodes*, the toad lily *Tricyrtis formosana*, and stands of *Lilium formosanum* and *Lilium longiflorum* while woodlands harbour *Cypripedium debile*, *Cypripedium macranthos*, and stunning pink *Cypripedium formosanum*. 13,000 foot Mount Hehuan, with a road almost to the top, will be covered in the pink *Rhododendron taiwanalpinum* and *Rhododendron pseudochrysanthum*. The Taiwanese rate *Rhododendron formosanum* their most beautiful species, but we think it might be scarlet *Rhododendron noriakianum* or perhaps *Rhododendron kanehirai* which sets the peaks Wulai ablaze with blooms from fuschia to red-violet. In Mingchin's deep emerald mossy forests are *Trillium tschonoskii*, *Gaultherias*, *Begonias*, and strange *Boschniakia himalaica* amongst an amazing variety of ferns.



www.greentours.co.uk for further info on these holidays, to receive your detailed tour itinerary, or to book a place.

Ararat: Nakhchivan & Turkey

14th – 26th May 2013

Cost: £2565

Leaders: Ian Green & Başak Gardner

Ararat forms the centre of the heartland of the *Oncocyclus* irises. To the east we'll explore tiny Nakhchivan, a beautiful Azerbaijani enclave that has recently opened its 1 km wide border with Turkey. Arid slopes in the Aras River drainage host rare *Iris grossheimii* and the dark flowers of *Iris lycotis* as well as unusual forms of *Iris paradoxa*. Mountain meadows have the rarely seen yellow juno *Iris atropatana* whilst the valleys below have hundreds of thousands of impressive *Iris imbricata*. In the Kars Highlands we'll find *Fritillaria alburyana* and around Van golden *Fritillaria minima* and newly described *Tulipa koyuncii*. On the very slopes of Ararat we'll see some magnificent shows of *Iris elegantissima* whilst Van's steppes host blue-purple *Iris barnumae* and populations of *Iris sari*, including one that has hybridised with *Iris paradoxa* to produce a wonderful variety of different colours and forms. We'll finish with the mighty ghostly flowers of rare *Iris gatesii*.



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