

## Autumn Conference booking form

### PRICES

#### 2-day residential delegates:

£199 per person for one night's B&B in a shared room at Stratford Manor Hotel, two hot buffet lunches and three-course Conference Dinner

£238 per person for one night's B&B in a single room at Stratford Manor Hotel, two hot buffet lunches and three-course Conference Dinner

#### Day delegates:

£55 for Saturday including lunch; £65 for Sunday including lunch

The four-star Stratford Manor Hotel is just five minutes from the M40 and set in 21 acres of landscaped grounds. It offers a range of spa and leisure facilities.

Please tick as applicable or book on our website

- We would like to reserve two residential places in a shared room (total cost £398)
- I would like to reserve a residential place in a single room (total cost £238)
- I/we would like to reserve ..... day delegate places for Saturday including lunch (£55 each)
- I/we would like to reserve ..... day delegate places for Sunday including lunch (£65 each)
- I/we would like to reserve ..... day delegate places for Saturday excluding lunch (£40 each)
- I/we would like to reserve ..... day delegate places for Sunday excluding lunch (£50 each)

#### YOUR DETAILS (block capitals please):

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County/country: \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

#### CHEQUE PAYMENT

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

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

Please charge my card £ \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card number                      Security code

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP, UK  
Phone: 01386 554790 Fax: 01386 554801 email: ags@alpinegardensociety.net

# AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society



*Anarthrophyllum desideratum* on steppe, from *Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains*

## Patagonia books offer

Two eagerly awaited books on the remarkable plants of Patagonia and their varied habitats are being published by the Alpine Garden Society.

*Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains* by Martin Sheader will be published this autumn, while *Patagonian Mountain Flower Holidays* by Hilary

Little will be available next spring. The books have been written with co-authors Peter Erskine, Chris Brickell, Austin Little and Anna-Liisa Sheader.

*Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains* is a lavishly illustrated 320-page book featuring more than 900 images

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[www.alpinegardensociety.net](http://www.alpinegardensociety.net)

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ags@alpinegardensociety.net

Registered charity No. 207478

Annual subscriptions for 2014:  
Single (UK and Ireland) £31\*  
Family (two at same address) £35\*  
Junior (under 18/student) £13  
Overseas single US\$54 £33  
Overseas family US\$60 £36  
\* £2 deduction for direct debit subscribers

For details of life membership apply to  
the AGS Centre.

### AGS CENTRE OPENING HOURS

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

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Send items for the December 2013  
issue of AGS News to Jackie Cooper  
at the address above or email  
jackie@alpinegardensociety.net.  
The deadline is October 31, 2013.

## NOTICEBOARD

### AGS shows

September 28: Autumn Show South  
October 5: Loughborough Autumn Show  
October 12: Newcastle Show

Full details of each show are in the  
AGS Shows Handbook, on the AGS  
website and in the shows pull-out that  
was included with the December 2012  
issue of AGS News.

### Take part in the AGS Online Show



The 2013 AGS Online Show is a great  
opportunity for members who can't  
normally get to shows – particularly  
those who live outside the UK and  
Ireland – to show off their plants and  
gardens. There are almost 90 classes  
to enter, ranging from alpine beds in  
a garden setting to orchids and cut  
flowers. Visit the AGS website, where  
you can also view the online shows of  
the past seven years. GOOD LUCK!

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 9, 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the  
Alpine Garden Society will take place on  
Saturday, November 9, 2013, at 10.45am  
at the Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick  
Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0PY.  
(The hotel is situated close to Junction  
15 of the M40 on the A46 to Stratford.  
At the first roundabout take the A439 to  
Stratford Town Centre. The hotel is one  
mile on the left). The programme for the  
AGM can be seen on page 9.

### AGENDA

1. To receive and confirm the minutes of  
the last Annual General Meeting, held  
on November 10, 2012.
2. To receive the report of the Board of Trustees.
3. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's report and accounts.
4. To elect a President, Treasurer and Officers to serve for the ensuing year (see Note 1  
below).
5. To elect two Trustees to serve for four years (see Note 2 below).
6. To elect two Vice-Presidents: Professor J Good, OBE and Professor A J Richards.
7. To approve a proposed revision to the AGS Constitution (see page 4).
8. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year.
9. Any Other Items of Business as notified to the President/Society Director in accordance  
with the rules laid down in the Constitution.
10. Presentation of the Society's awards.

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

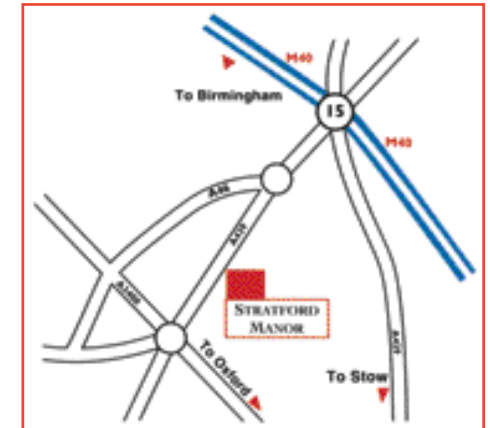
1. Officers retire annually and are eligible for re-election as per rule 7.1.3.1 of the Constitution. The  
following Officers are eligible for reappointment and are prepared to continue to serve the AGS:  
President (Mr David Haselgrove), Director of Tours (Mr Chris Barber), Director of Shows (Mr Ray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

### TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS

#### Mr David Charlton (Derby)

Proposed by Fred Eley and seconded by Chris Bowyer

David has been a member of the AGS since 1986, Derby Local Group Annual Show  
Secretary since 1990 and Local Group Secretary since 2010. He is an occasional exhibitor



## NOTICEBOARD

at AGS shows and has managed over the years to accumulate a Gold Medal and one bar. He is a solicitor and has worked as a part-time Consultant for an East Midlands law firm since retiring from a senior position in the Legal Department of Alliance Boots in Nottingham.

Escape from full-time work has given him time to fulfil his love for wildlife and the natural environment. He is a Trustee of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and every summer leads mountain flower walks in the Dolomites for a specialist mountain holiday company. He is co-author of a pocket field guide, published last year, to the flowers of those wonderful mountains.

### **Mr Martin Rogerson (Breadsall, Derby)**

**Proposed by Chris Lilley and seconded by David Mountfort**

Martin is a retired aeronautical engineer with a wide knowledge of both project and people management. He has been a member of the AGS since the mid 1990s and is an active member of the Derby Local Group, having served on the committee for several years, and is currently its vice-chairman. He is an active exhibitor at national shows, a national show judge and has this year become Joint Show Secretary for the two Loughborough national shows. He also leads wildflower walks in the Dolomites for a well-known holiday company in the summer. With his broad background in technical management and problem analysis he should bring to the committee skills complementary to those of the existing Trustees. He is currently also a Trustee of Kaleidoscope Community Music, a local charity promoting inclusive enjoyment of music in the Derby area.

### **PROPOSED REVISION TO THE AGS CONSTITUTION**

When the current version of the Society's constitution was approved in November 2011, it was recognised that further modifications may be necessary in the future. The Trustee Board has considered the periods of office for the President and elected members and feels that they should be the same. It appears anomalous that a Society President may only serve for up to a maximum of three years, while other Trustees are automatically elected for a four-year period. The proposed change would give a President a more realistic period of office in which to oversee any strategic policies and projects and thereby also provide more continuity. The Trustee Board has agreed to recommend that the following change to the Constitution be adopted:

7.1.3.1 The President shall serve for one year and shall be eligible for re-election in subsequent years. He or she shall not hold office for more than four consecutive years save in exceptional circumstances (for example, to cover occasions such as Conferences) when the annual general meeting may re-elect the President to serve for one further year.

### **CATERING**

A two-course hot and cold buffet lunch (main course and desserts) will be available in the hotel's restaurant, including vegetarian options. The cost will be £16 per head including VAT. Bookings must be made in advance and accompanied by a cheque payable to the 'Alpine Garden Society' and sent to AGS Centre (address on page 2) by Friday, October 25.

Pre-booked lunch vouchers will be available from the AGS book sales stand on the day. Morning coffee and afternoon tea are provided free of charge.

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

**Car parking:** The hotel has car parking for around 200 cars.

### **ANNUAL AWARDS FOR 2013**

#### **The Sir William & Lady Lawrence Award**

Kana Webster has made a significant contribution to the development and maintenance of the AGS garden at Pershore. Kana has redesigned various areas in the garden and this has involved her in overseeing restructuring work, dealing with contractors and supervising the re-planting. On a regular basis Kana undertakes the majority of all the garden maintenance work herself as well as additional planting to ensure that the garden is kept to a high standard. Regular visitors to the garden have noticed the impact she has made over the past few years, all due to her tremendous hard work and dedication to make the garden an attractive and interesting display area for alpine plants.

#### **The Kath Dryden Award**

John Massey was nominated for this award in recognition of his particular expertise in the cultivation of the genus *Hepatica*. He could equally have been nominated for his work on *Lewisia*, *Cyclamen* or *Helleborus* but he has been involved in the cultivation of the genus *Hepatica* for over a quarter of a century. He has amassed a collection that is now second to none in the British Isles and far beyond. John has travelled widely in order to gain knowledge of wild populations and also to make contact with other leading *Hepatica* specialists, who have provided him with material hitherto unknown in Western gardens. He has visited China, South Korea, the USA, Kyrgyzstan (as recently as March this year to encounter the little-known *Hepatica falconeri* in huge quantities) and notably Japan. He established links with the Niigata Nurseries Association in Japan and this led to a once-in-a-lifetime joint exhibit at the RHS London Flower Show in February 2000. This has been followed by various other exhibits at RHS shows by Ashwood Nurseries that have prominently featured hepaticas. John has championed the genus at every opportunity. By making available a wide range of species and cultivars he has played a large part in bringing about their present popularity among all manner of gardeners, not just specialist collectors.

#### **Local Group Award and Sussex Weald Silver Jubilee Trophy**

Mike and Pearl Dale have been members of the AGS and their local group for some 35 years, during which time they have both given unstintingly of their time. From 2003 until 2010 they served as joint show secretaries for the Newcastle Autumn Show, prior to which Mike had also been show secretary for the Northumberland Show. They also jointly managed the catering at shows for some five years. Mike has also been show photographer at AGS national shows and on a number of occasions mounted displays of plants at these shows. They have both served for periods of time on their Local Group Committee. Mike was chairman from 1991 to 1994 and Pearl audited the group's accounts for a number of

## NOTICEBOARD

years. Pearl has been a stalwart in the provision of refreshments at group meetings and they have both welcomed visitors to their garden. Neither of them misses an opportunity to encourage people to take an interest in growing alpine plants and to join the AGS and the Local Group. Mike and Pearl have put in a substantial amount of time and effort over many years to support the Society nationally as well as in their Local Group and are fully deserving of this award.

### Local Group Award

David Hoare has been a member of the AGS for over 20 years. He is a prolific grower of saxifrages and many other alpine plants. He has served on the group of the Mid Kent Group Board of Trustees for a total of 18 years, holding the position of group chairman for six years and organising the local group show for 12 years. He has acted as show secretary for the AGS Kent shows – 11 years for the spring show and seven years for the autumn show. In addition David gives talks to other Local Groups and opens his garden on a regular basis to visitors. He has also assisted on the AGS recruitment stand at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and played an active part in helping to recruit new members to the Society, as well as the Local Group.

### Local Group Award

Alan Wolsoncroft has been an AGS member for over 30 years and during that time has served as chairman of the Woking-West Surrey Group for 12 years and also as a committee member of the East Surrey Group for a number of years. Alan has been the driving force behind the 'World of Alpines', a joint event organised by the two Surrey Groups, promoting alpines to the general public at RHS Wisley every spring since 2008. He regularly organises and assists on other AGS display stands at RHS Wisley to help promote both the main Society and the local group. Alan has been a volunteer for the Gatton Trust, restoring, rebuilding and replanting the lost J Pulham & Sons rock garden at Gatton Park in Surrey. He has an extensive garden, given over mainly to alpines, and regularly hosts Local Group garden parties as well as open-garden events to help promote the growing of alpine plants.

## LITERARY AWARDS – THE ALPINE GARDENER

### The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award

Dr Evelyn Stevens

'Sorting out the big blue poppies' [June 2012: pp 163-179]

### The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award

Vic Aspland

'Lessons I've learned in greenhouses' [December 2012: pp 352-471]

### The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award

Yiannis Christofides

'Treasure island' [September 2012: pp 272-279]

## AGS TRAVEL AWARDS AND GRANTS

### Applications for 2014

The Alpine Garden Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually. Applications for these awards must be received by January 31, 2014, at the latest.

### TRAVEL AWARDS

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

### HENDRY FUND GRANTS

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

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

## MERLIN TRUST & ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

### Travel scholarships for 2014

In 1990 the Merlin Trust was founded by the late Valerie Finnis VMH to provide travel grants for young horticulturists. In 2014 the Merlin Trust is offering jointly with the Alpine Garden Society up to six fully paid travel scholarships on AGS-organised plant tours.

Applicants should be enthusiastic about plants and have a particular interest in alpines. They must be 18

to 35 years of age or in their first five years of a career in horticulture and have British or Irish citizenship. Students of other nationalities are eligible only if they are currently studying at a UK horticultural training establishment.

If you would like to receive information about the tours and an application form, please send your contact details to: Joanne Everson, Rock Garden Team Leader, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Richmond TW9 3AB.

Email: [j.everson@kew.org](mailto:j.everson@kew.org) Phone: 0208 332 5585



# Last chance to book for our autumn Conference

This is the last chance to book for the AGS Conference on November 9 and 10, which will feature an impressive programme of speakers, including three from overseas, giving members access to a wealth of knowledge and experience.

The Conference, entitled From Spain to Turkey: A Celebration of European Alpines, will follow the Society's Annual General Meeting at the four-star Stratford Manor Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

Vojtěch Holubec from the Czech Republic will speak on Eastern European Mountains, Harry Jans from the Netherlands will give a talk on Greece, and Christopher Grey-Wilson will share his extensive knowledge of the Picos de Europa.

In addition, Phillip Cribb from RBG Kew will speak about Hardy European Orchids, while Peter Erskine's subject will be Flowers of the French Alps.

There will also be talks by Tim Lever from Aberconwy Nursery, Joanne Everson and Katie Price from RBG Kew, and primula expert Syd Clark. Practical workshops will be led by Brian Burrow and Tim and Keith Lever.

Before the conference, Oron Peri from Israel has chosen Turkey as his subject



*Gentiana lutea* in the Swiss Alps

for the E.B. Anderson Memorial Lecture, which is part of the AGM and free to all members.

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

## FROM SPAIN TO TURKEY: A CELEBRATION OF EUROPEAN ALPINES

### FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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

**9.30am** Registration & Coffee

**10.45am** Annual General Meeting & Presentation of Society Awards

**12 noon** Presentation of Show Awards

**12.30pm** Lunch

**1.30pm** Late Conference Registration

**1.45pm** E B Anderson Memorial Lecture: Oron Peri, Turkey

**2.45am** Close of AGM

#### **BEGINNING OF CONFERENCE**

**2.50pm** Opening remarks and lecture: Christopher Grey-Wilson, Picos de Europa

**3.50pm** Practical Workshops

**4.20pm** Coffee

**4.45pm** Lecture: Phillip Cribb, Hardy European Orchids

**5.45pm** Mini lectures (Tim Lever & Joanne Everson)

**6.15pm** Finish

**7.30pm** Conference Dinner & Plant Auction

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

**9.30am** Registration

**10am** Lecture: Peter Erskine, Flowers of the French Alps

**11am** Practical Workshops

**11.30am** Coffee

**12 noon** Lecture: Vojtěch Holubec, Eastern European Mountains

**1pm** Lunch

**2pm** Mini lectures (Katie Price & Syd Clark)

**3pm** Lecture: Harry Jans, Greece

**4pm** Closing remarks by David Haselgrove & coffee

**The conference is booking up quickly, so please make sure of your place by using the form on the back page of this issue of AGS News, or book on our website.**

## Silver-gilt Medal for Southport Group



Congratulations to members of the Southport Local Group of the AGS who won a Silver-gilt Medal for their display (pictured left) to promote the Society at this year's Southport Flower Show. The display featured alpiners in pots, a mat of sedums, embroidery and decorated plates, behind the banner: 'Our members are proud of their alpiners.' Thank you to Brian and Judy Russ, Roger Beecham, Mavis and Ken Meakin, Kath Rimmer and Joan Vincent for all their efforts in helping to stage such an eye-catching display.



## The Fritillaria Group of the Alpine Garden Society AGM and Autumn Meeting

September 29, 2013, at the Hillside Events Centre, RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey, from 9am to 4pm.

All visitors welcome. Photographic display in the main hall.

### PROGRAMME

- 9.00 Coffee. Plants and bulbs will be on sale during the day.
- 10.00 Annual General Meeting.
- 11.00 Speaker: Laurence Hill: Fritillaria Bulbs – Unearthing the Truth.
- 12.30 Lunch break.
- 14.00 Speaker: Ron Mudd: The Fritillaria Fields of East Yorkshire – Part 1.
- 14.20 Speaker: John Amand: The Dutch Bulb Fields.
- 16.00 End of meeting.

**More information on our website**  
[www.fritillaria.org.uk](http://www.fritillaria.org.uk)

## A GREAT DAY OUT FOR GALANTHOPHILES AGS Snowdrop Day – BOOK NOW

**Saturday, February 1, 2014**

**Admission is by advance ticket only**

In the grounds of the NFU headquarters at Tiddington, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. Ample parking.

**Tickets for lectures, plant sales and lunch:**

AGS members £30, non-members £40

**Tickets for plant sales only plus coffee:**

AGS members £10, non-members £14. Separate lunch tickets £10

**Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre.**

**AGS members will be given priority booking.**

**Non-members may reserve tickets after October 31, 2013.**

### PROGRAMME

- 8.30 Registration & plant sales
- 10.00 Welcome by David Haselgrove, AGS President
- 10.05 Snowdrops in the Wild: Bob & Rannveig Wallis
- 10.50 Coffee
- 11.15 The Green Theme: Matt Bishop
- 12.00 Plant sales and lunch
- 13.30 Shropshire Connections: Jim Almond
- 14.25 Snowdrops at Avon Bulbs: Alan Street
- 15.15 Coffee and close at 16.00



### Your Seed Exchange needs you!

Seed donations are now coming in well, as this year's sunny summer is proving better for ripening seed than the previous wet one. If you have still not sorted your seed donation, please can you send it by October 10 to the seed receiver on the form corresponding to your surname. If you have lost your form, you can download one from the website – go to the Seed page, then select Seed Donation.

If you have late-ripening seed that you cannot get to us by October 10, please contact me, Diane Clement, by email (address below) with the list of your seed. I will then give you alternative posting arrangements. Please do not post to the seed receiver after October 10.

In order to save on increasing postal costs, this year you should receive your seed list along with your copy of *The Alpine Gardener* by the first week of December. Making up seed orders will therefore start a few days later than in previous years, but we still hope to send out the majority of orders from donors before Christmas. Donors are given priority because, without them, there would be no Seed Exchange.

The ordering system on the AGS website does save us a lot of time and cost in processing orders and we strongly recommend that as many members as possible use the online system to order their seed.

The seed list will go live on the website at the end of November. If you wish to use the online ordering system, you do not need to wait until you have received your printed copy of the list. A notice will be posted on the website when the list is live and we are ready to accept orders. The online system gives access to pictures of the plants, which has proved a very popular feature. If you do not have internet access, please don't worry as your order will be given the same priority since we allow time for post to reach us from all areas of the world before we start making up orders.

The whole Seed Exchange process needs the goodwill and generosity of about 200 volunteers. We always need new helpers and I am grateful to everyone who helps in any way. In October and November we need helpers to file, number and pack seed, both at Warrington and in your own homes.

Then in late November, December and January we need helpers to rack up seed and make up orders at Pershore. If you live nearby and can help for a few hours or a day, please get in touch. Or, if you live further away, could you get together a car-load from your Local Group and come to Pershore for a day to help make up orders? We have had helpers travel from as far afield as the Chilterns, Devon and Derby, so please consider if you could help out this year.

If you feel you would like to help with any of these jobs, please contact me, Diane Clement, Director of Seed Exchange.

Email: [diane.clement@agsgroups.org](mailto:diane.clement@agsgroups.org)

Phone: 01902 426024

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

US members must send an Import Permit with each order. If you already have a permit, please check that it is valid until March 2014 to allow time for postage of your order and administrative work by the USDA. Permits are free and are valid for three years. Details can be found at:

[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

[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 able to register and apply online for a permit. Or you can download PPQ Form 587, print it and fill it out. The completed and signed application must be sent to the address at the end of the instructions. You will then be sent a permit to import small lots of seed and the green and yellow mailing labels, with the address of the Inspection Station printed on them.

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

[www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/plant\\_imports/plant\\_inspection\\_stations.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/plant_inspection_stations.shtml)

To order seed from the AGS Seed Exchange, you must send with your order a photocopy of your import permit and one green and yellow label for every 50 packets or fewer that you order (50 to 100 packets will require two permits and two green and yellow labels, and so on). You do not need to provide an address label. Please consult the lists of seeds that are not allowed under the permit by referring to the lists on the AGS website. The AGS will not send seed which is banned from entry to the USA, including seed for which treatment is required, so it would be helpful if you refer to the lists in advance. There are also useful lists of banned species on the NARGS site under Seed Exchange.

The AGS Seed Exchange team will place inside the package with your seeds: a list of your seed order according to the requirements on the permit, the copy of your permit and a printed label with your name and address. Our seed 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 online, as you can enter your permit number online then post your permit to us. No seed will be sent without the correct permit and green/yellow address labels. Please include your email address on your seed order in case we need to contact you.

Diane Clement, Director of Seed Exchange

# Two essential new AGS books on the plants of Patagonia

## Continued from page 1

and descriptions of Patagonian plants in the wild. Martin Sheader has travelled extensively in this part of South America and his book is the most comprehensive photographic guide yet published to the area's diverse and fascinating flora.

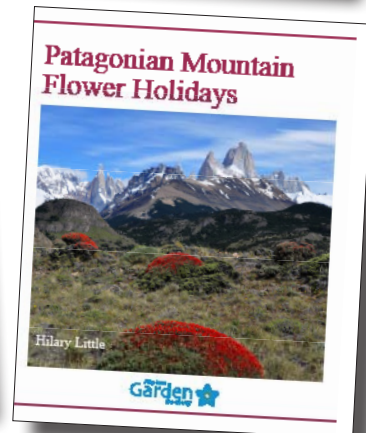
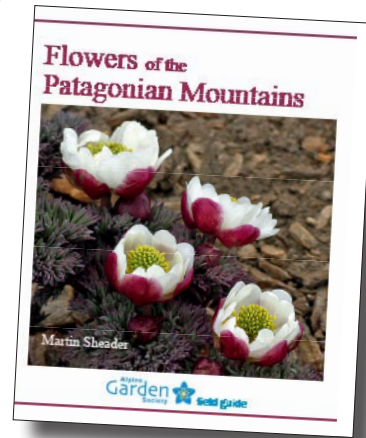
Hilary Little's *Patagonian Mountain Flower Holidays* is a guide to the many different habitats in this region and some of the best places to see the plants. It features a large number of recommended walks illustrated with excellent maps and is packed with advice gleaned during Hilary's many botanical expeditions.

In a foreword to *Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains*, Professor Sir Ghillea Prance FRS, VMH writes: 'This wonderful book has put the Patagonian mountains extremely high on my bucket list of places to visit before I die.'

'To have collected so many high quality photographs of these alpine plants is no easy task and it makes every page exciting and enjoyable to look at.'

'I congratulate the team of authors and photographers on putting together such an attractive and most useful book.'

To order the books, see the opposite page.



## SAVE 30% – SPECIAL PRE-PUBLICATION DISCOUNT OFFER FOR AGS MEMBERS

*Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains* (cover price £40) and *Patagonian Mountain Flower Holidays* (cover price £30) are being offered jointly to members at a 30% discount.

Order both at the special pre-publication offer price of just £49 (cover price £70). Expected delivery of the first title is in November 2013, the second in spring 2014.

By ordering both now you can take advantage of a special dual postage rate to cover both deliveries.

### Order form (or order on the AGS website)

Membership number: \_\_\_\_\_

Order to be sent to (block capitals please): \_\_\_\_\_ Address to which your credit/debit card statement is sent, if different: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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*Crocus olivieri* and *C. sieberi sublimis* and, above, Githeo Harbour on the Mani Peninsula



SOUNION, PELOPONNESE & PARNASSOS

**March 26 to April 9, 2014 (15 days)**  
**Leaders: Margaret & David Thorne**  
**Cost: in the region of £1,500 per person (including flights)**

After a visit to Sounion, we set off for the Mani Peninsula, in the south of the Peloponnese, stopping on the way for *Fritillaria graeca* and a few species of orchid. Our comfortable hotel, on an undisturbed sandy beach, is ideally placed for exploring this beautiful area where endemics include *Tulipa goulimyi*, *Fritillaria davisii* and *Teucrium brevifolium*. We find *Cyclamen peloponnesiacum* on woodland edges, curious *Aristolochia elongata*, perhaps some early *Biarum tenuifolium* or the last blooms of *Romulea columnae*. Among a fascinating range of orchids are *Orchis papilionacea*, *O. pauciflora* and *Ophrys speculum*, *O. argolica* and uncommon *O. aesculapii*.

We visit the impressive rock of Monemvasia and its well-documented

floral treasures including *Campanula andrewsii*, *Procopiana cretica*, and *Stachys spreitzenhoferi* subsp. *virella*. A nearby area of acid soils has *Arbutus unedo*, *Erica arborea*, *Dactylorhiza romana* and *Bellevallia dubia*. We cross a high mountain pass, where scarce endemics *Viola mercurii*, *Linum hellenicum* and *Draba strasseri* grow with *Aethionema saxatile* and *Lithospermum incrassatum*. Further north, we find four species of tulip, *Cyclamen peloponnesiacum* subsp. *vididum*, *Fritillaria messanensis* and *Anemone blanda* in blue and white forms. Here also is a splendid site for the monkey orchid, *Orchis simia*.

Visits to the mountains include the Taygetos, Menalo, Chelmos ranges and Parnassos.

There will be visits to ancient sites at Sounion, Mystras and Delphi. Flights will be from London to Athens and accommodation in comfortable hotels. Transport will be by small coach.

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

## NORTH WALES ALPINES

May 8-12, 2014  
(four nights)

Leader: To be arranged

Cost: in the region of £700 per person. Single supplement about £40.

This spring sojourn in the dramatic countryside of North Wales will be an opportunity to see Britain's native alpines in the wild and will include visits to renowned gardens and alpine plant nurseries.

A highlight will be a hike up to Cwm Idwal, the famous hanging valley that has populations of *Saxifraga oppositifolia* and *Lloydia serotina*. A less strenuous alternative will be a visit to the rich dune and beach flora of the national nature reserve at Newborough Warren on Anglesey.

Members who attended last year's AGS annual general meeting will remember John Good's excellent talk and images of his beautiful garden in North Wales, and John will give us a personal guided tour. Visits are also planned to the National Trust Garden at Bodnant, to Sir Clough Williams-Ellis's famous Italianate village and gardens at Portmeirion, and to Plas



The hanging valley of Cwm Idwal

Cadnant, a 'hidden' garden which is slowly being restored in the manner of the lost gardens of Heligan.

Regular visitors to AGS shows will be familiar with the excellent plants grown by Aberconwy Nursery, and Tim Lever will give us a guided tour, with the opportunity of course to stock up on plants! We shall also visit the woodland garden at Crug Farm Plants, near Caernafon, where we are also likely to be tempted to buy many of the rarities on offer.

Travel will be by luxury coach throughout with four nights' accommodation on a half-board basis in the comfortable Dunoon Hotel in Llandudno.

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

The AGS tour to Southern Peru in March and April 2014 is now fully booked. If you would like to place your name on a waiting list in the event of cancellations, please contact AGS Centre.



Mont Aiguille at Vercors and, above, *Pulsatilla alpina* subsp. *cottianaea*

## FRENCH ALPS

June 16-26, 2014 (11 nights)

Leader: Christopher Grey-Wilson

Cost: in the region of £1,100 per person (excluding flights and car hire)

This tour is designed to cover the peak spring flowering period in an average year. It is a three-centre holiday to allow as many sites as possible to be visited.

The French Alps, a jewel in the mountainous regions of Europe, encompass deep valleys, high passes, bustling rivers and splendid mountain views. The flora is rich and varied, from lowland pastures and woods to high alpine meadows, screes and rocky peaks. The high passes are often snowbound into late spring and early summer, depending on the season. Expect to see drifts of pulsatillas, gentians and violas and a rich assortment of colourful meadow plants, as well as the discreet gems of the high passes. Once much

visited by AGS members, this region has been rather neglected in recent years for locations further afield and yet it is as rich as any temperate mountain and just as rewarding, containing numerous plants that are widely grown by members. The tour will have three locations spanning the Haute-Alpes and the Vanoise and there will be plenty of time to walk and explore. We will start in Vercors before moving on to Briançon and then Lanslebourg, allowing plenty of time to explore some of the famous passes of the region, such as the Col de Galibier and the Col d'Izoard. Plant highlights include *Gentiana ligustica*, *Pulsatilla alpina* subsp. *cottianaea* and subsp. *millefoliatus*, *Primula marginata*, *Ranunculus keupferi* and *Viola calcarata*, but these only serve to whet the appetite.

Accommodation will be in local hotels/auberge. Travelling will be by sharing self-drive hire cars. Flights are available to Lyon or Grenoble from several UK airports.

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

## YUNNAN, CHINA

June 2014 (16 days in China)

Leader: Phillip Cribb

Cost: in the region of £4,400 per person, including flights

The south-western Chinese province of Yunnan is rich in plant life, but it is only since the 1980s that the favoured territories of the famous plant collectors have become accessible again to western enthusiasts. Visitors to Lijiang, Dali and Zhongdian can at long last marvel at the abundance of flowers, shrubs and trees that dazzled the early adventurers into these botanical paradises.

This tour will visit some of the richest areas of western and north-western Yunnan. The itinerary has been designed to provide plenty of time to see plants in their natural habitats and to explore some of the best preserved ancient cities.

From Kunming, we will drive west to Baoping and Tengchong, ancient cities that many of the early plant hunters visited. North-west from Tengchong the wooded hills near the Burmese border are rich in rare trees and shrubs and the home of many delightful herbaceous plants, notably arisaemas, pleiones and calanthes.

We will head south to the famous walled city of Dali, nestling beneath the flanks of the Cangshan range. The slopes above the city boast a rich variety of trees and shrubs. Highlights include rhododendrons, *Magnolia wilsonii* and *Paeonia lutea*. Cangshan is most famous for being the home of the golden pleione, that most prized of orchids.



*Arisaema candidissimum*

Jade Dragon Snow Mountain forms the backdrop to Lijiang and is one of the wonders of China. The precipitous limestone slopes are home to a wonderful diversity of plants including many species of rhododendrons, gentians, lilies, meconopsis, primulas and anemones. The golden daphne, whose fragrant mounds can be smelt before they are seen, is a speciality of the screes. In the pine and spruce forest on the flanks above the torrential streams can be found carpets of orchids.

Zhongdian's meadows are rich in candelabra primulas, irises and marsh marigolds. The slopes around the rim of its plateau abound in spectacular rhododendrons beneath which can be found rare slipper orchids, lilies, arisaemas, meconopsis and anemones. This tour will be an experience to savour for a lifetime.

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

## AUTUMN IN THE PONTICS

September 11-22, 2014  
(approximate dates)

Leaders: Bob & Rannveig Wallis

Cost: In the region of £2,350 per person including London flights. Single supplement £300.

This ten-day tour to see the autumn flora of north-east Turkey starts and ends in Trabzon. The north side of the Pontic mountains are clothed in wonderful mixed forest, which is supported by the high rainfall in this area. The ridge is an area of grazed moorland with short grass and lots of alpine and bulbs, whereas the south side is much drier. The flora has characters of both the Caucasus and of the Anatolian plateau.

We will team up once more with our excellent guide, Alper Ertubey of Hike 'n' Sail, to take in all the best areas of these wonderful mountains. The tour is timed to see three very local *Crocus* in flower. It will start with the Zigana Pass which should be studded with *Crocus vallicola* and *Colchicum speciosum* at this time. There are rivulets of yellow *Crocus scharojanii* on the Soğanli Pass where it hybridises with the very abundant *C. vallicola* to produce all intergrades from the yellow, through Cornish cream to white. As we progress eastwards, the huge Ovitdagi Pass provides sheets of all three crocuses (the third is *C. kotschyanus* subsp. *suworowianus*) and their hybrids in the meadows. They grow here with nice

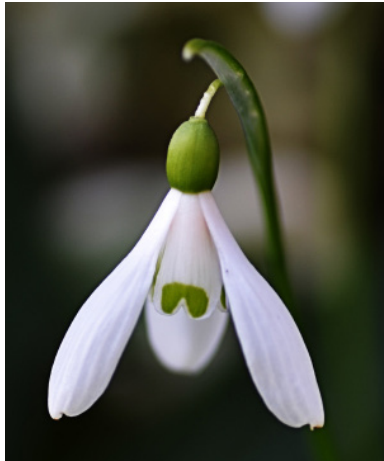


*Crocus kotschyanus*  
subsp. *suworowianus*

stands of *Gentiana gelida*. Our tour will take in the beautiful Kavron Yayla above Ayder where we can walk around the valley below the 4,000m Kaçkar Dag and/or back down to Ayder through carpets of white *Crocus* and take in the fabulous autumn colour of the trees. At the World Biosphere reserve of Çamili we hope to see *Crocus* and *Colchicum* as well as the late woodland flora of *Gentiana asclepiadea* and *Campanula lactiflora*. The mountain above the hill town of Artvin is the home of colonies of *Colchicum umbrosum* and *Gentiana septemfida*. We will cross the high Çam Pass to see the meadow flora and, once again, fabulous colonies of *Crocus kotschyanus* subsp. *suworowianus*.

The tour is limited to 18 participants and we will travel by small coach with minibuses for the rougher roads. Accommodation will be three-star or in the best available pensions.

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



*Galanthus woronowii*, *Iris lazica* and, below, *Paeonia caucasica*

## GEORGIA & NORTH-EAST TURKEY

March 14-23, 2014

Leaders: Ian Green, Seda Soylu & Shamil Shetekauri

Cost: £1,995

The far north-eastern corner of Turkey and the adjacent parts of Georgia have a unique biome, the Euxine province, in essence a kind of temperate rainforest. Our trip concentrates on the very earliest spring bulbs, particularly *Galanthus* species. There are a number of snowdrops that are found only here. On the Georgian side we'll find *Galanthus krasnovii* with pale yellow *Paeonia wittmanniana* and pink *Paeonia caucasica*, all mixed with scillas and *Corydalis*. *Galanthus shaoricus* flowers in rich woodlands around Shaori Lake alongside *Helleborus abchasicus* and



*Erythronium sibiricum*. Clumps of *Galanthus rizehensis* bloom below silver-trunked oriental beech, *Primula megaseifolia* and cyclamens colour roadside banks and on high pastures is *Crocus aerius*. We'll explore mixed woodlands of fir and spruce, hornbeam and wingnut, where we'll find *Iris lazica*, some lovely forms of *Crocus biflorus* and, among rocks, *Galanthus woronowii*. Here we'll no doubt get involved in the debate over *Galanthus alpinus* and *Galanthus koeneniensis*!

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*Iris grossheimii*

## AZERBAIJAN & NAKHCHIVAN

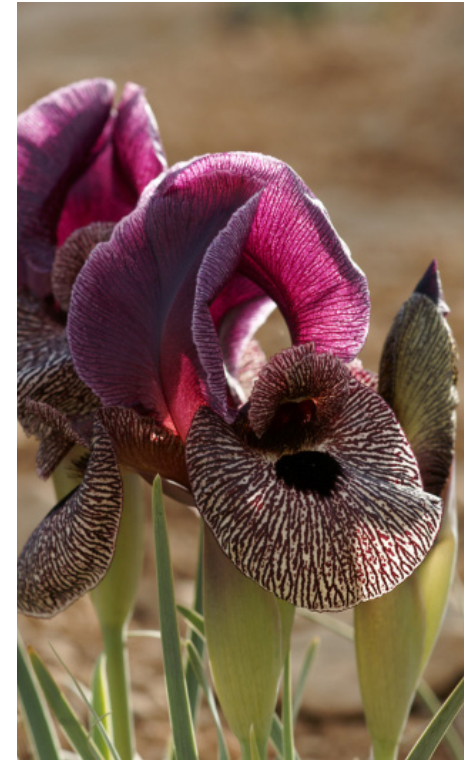
April 30-May 13, 2014

Leaders: Ian Green & Seda Soylu

Cost: £3,295

Descending from the snowy High Caucasus, the impressive and beautiful landscapes of Azerbaijan pass through steppe-covered foothills down into the arid basin through which flows the Kura River. Southwards the land rises again to the mountains of Nakhchivan and the Talysh Mountains, straddling the border with Iran.

There are unusual forms of *Iris paradoxa* and of *Iris acutiloba* here, forms now given specific status as *Iris medwedewii* and *Iris helenae* respectively. There is dark-lined *Iris grossheimii* and even darker *Iris lycotis*. Two irises offer a different colour palate from the Turkish or Levantine species – *Iris schelkownikowii* and lovely *Iris camillae* in yellows, blues and

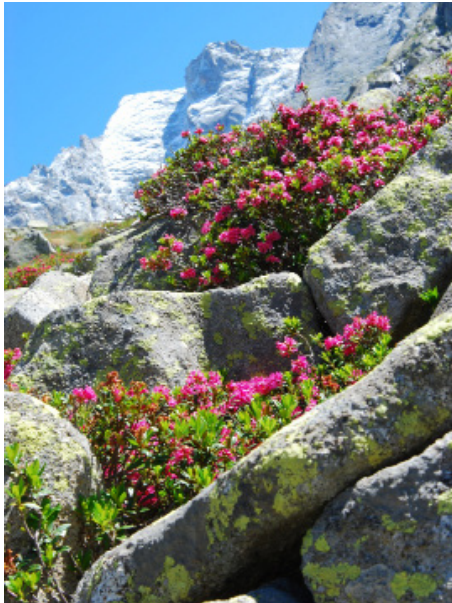


*Iris lycotis*

whites. These form hybrid swarms of bewildering variety in dry steppe around Lake Kazan-Gel, both mixing with the true *Iris iberica*.

*Galanthus caucasicus* flowers still on the high passes, while lower down are the diminutive *Iris atropatana* and *Tulipa schmidtii*. Add to this a plethora of bellevalias, fritillarias, muscaris, ornithogalums, gageas, a good scattering of orchids and a colourful steppe flora, and you have a very rich mix of wild flowers indeed.

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*Rhodothamnus chamaecistus*



*Physoplexis comosa*

## THE DOLOMITES

June 25-July 4, 2014

Leaders: Paul Cardy & Stefano Doglio

Cost: £1,795

Reckoned by many to be unsurpassed in Europe for their wealth of wild flowers, the Dolomites offer some of the finest mountain scenery anywhere in the world. The great pinnacles and buttresses that rise high above idyllic hay meadows and forests are truly spectacular.

At sunset, the many-hued cliffs of crystalline magnesium limestone – the dolomite rock from which the region takes its name – are a photographer's

dream, and during the day a botanist's heaven!

The flowers really are amazingly beautiful and diverse. Black vanilla orchid, globe orchid, bearded bellflower and dwarf alpenrose, *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus*, adorn fragrant meadows, while no less than a dozen species of *Gentian* decorate splendid alpine turf.

Cliffs are festooned with the pink *Potentilla nitida*, a variety of pretty saxifrages, androsaces and bellflowers, while wooded glades hold rampions, wolfsbane and orchids such as the lovely lady's slipper. In particular we will search out the enigmatic devil's claw, *Physoplexis comosa*, and the beautiful *Eritrichium nanum*, King of the Alps!

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## NORTH-WEST INDIA

June 26-July 9 (13), 2014

Leaders: Chris Gardner & Başak Gardner

Cost: £3,795 (£695 for the extension)

The Indian State of Himachal Pradesh, which rubs shoulders with the fabled flower-rich valleys of Kashmir and mysterious arid lands of Ladakh, contains a diverse selection of flora within a leech-free slice of the high Himalaya. It is replete with its own spectacular peaks topping 6,000m, including the 6,220m Indrasan, which rears up close to the bustling hill station of Manali.

Here there are slopes that host the elegant emerald spathes of *Arisaema jacquemontii*, the lovely *Roscoea alpina*, and higher passes thronging with alpenines now the snows have finally receded.

This tour will follow a circuit north via the Rohtang Pass, where we'll find the ravishing purple *Primula macrophylla* var. *moorcroftiana*, *Iris kemaonensis*, and tall *Fritillaria roylei*, while above Marhi are ledges festooned with sweet-scented *Primula reidii*, dwarf *Primula reptans*, choice and delicate *Paraquilegia anemonoides*, shimmering blue *Meconopsis aculeata* and the amazing woolly 'balls' of *Saussurea gossypiphora*, surely one of the finest high alpenines.

Close to Ladakh the 5,100m Bara-lacha La has stands of *Aquilegia fragrans* and rocky stream-sides with *Geranium regelii* and the lovely, woolly-leaved *Waldheimia tomentosa*. Nearby superb high passes have *Lilium oxypetalum*, gorgeous blue-flowered *Geranium wallichianum*,



*Meconopsis aculeata* and, below, *Saussurea gossypiphora* and *Androsace delavayi*



*Cortusa brotheri* and tall, golden-yellow *Pedicularis bicornuta*.

A tour extension will take a short trek onto the Nalgan Pass in search of the beautiful *Corydalis meifolia* var. *violacea*, *Saussurea simpsoniana*, *Primula stuartii* and many other choice high alpenines.

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