

LILY GROUP Newsletter

AUTUMN 2014

Lilies of the Black Sea Mountains

**The Lily Group
tour to Turkey 2015**

Details of the
itinerary inside



Lily Group News • Programme of Events • Garden Reports & Visits

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Autumn 2014

Editorial	2	Overseas trip to Turkey	8-10	Pacific Bulb Society Project	16
Chairman's letter	3-4	Andrew McIndoe's Garden	11	Japan Society of the RHS	17
2014 Bulb Auction	5	Fullers Mill Garden	12-13	Subscriptions	18
Programme of events 2015	6	Evenley Wood Lily Festival	14	Lily Group contact details	18
Seed distribution report	7	Lilies and Related Plants	15	Membership renewal form	19

Editorial

It has been a good year for the Lily Group. Lots of seed was donated by our members and consequently the Seed List, expertly prepared by George Battle, expanded, and Pat Huff was able to send out double the number of packets of seed. The summer has also been good for lilies in the northern hemisphere and we look forward to a bumper harvest of seeds. All details for seed donors can be found on page 7.

In addition we have had some excellent garden visits providing the chance for our members to get together. Spurred on by members' interest our Group is organising a trip to the Black Sea area of Turkey to see lilies growing in the wild. This promises to be an exciting trip. Numbers are limited to 20 so if you are interesting in joining this trip do register as soon as possible with Duncan Coombs – see pages 8-10 for details.

Our Group's publications 1932-2014 are now available on DVD. These publications provide a fascinating insight into the history of the Lily Group and the early editions include monographs of some of the most notable plant hunters and lily growers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries: Père David, Duchartre, George Forrest, Arthur Grove, the founder of the Lily Group Lyttel Cup, Rev Prof Lyttel and articles by Frank Kingdon-Ward to name but a few. Wonderful

reading for the long winter evenings! Full details on how to order your copy are on the enclosed Order Form.

There may be some of you who ordered lily bulbs but like Alan Mitchell found out later that they were not quite as described. Why not have a look at the lovely lily on page 15 which looks like *L. mackliniae* but which Alan thinks is not and send him your ideas. Interestingly, Pontus Wallstén's project with the Pacific Bulb Society deals with the identification of lily bulbs.

As you will have noticed the Newsletter has been given another 'make-over' and we hope to keep to this format in the future. However this will be my last Newsletter. I have had marvellous opportunities since 2008 to report on the Group's activities and have learnt a great deal. I was so pleased to see a photo of copies of the Newsletter at the recent meeting in Japan with a translation! At times all has not been quite perfect. So thank you for your forbearance and special thanks to all those who have been kind enough to send in their comments and queries. Please keep them coming for the next Editor!

Irene Hopton-Scott, Editor

Email: newsletter@rhslylgroup.org

Chairman's letter

When it comes to choosing Lilies for your garden you may well have in mind colour, form, fragrance, or ease of cultivation or you might even think of choosing a lily which goes on for ever!

If so you may have been to see the wonderful collection of *Lilium martagon* at Forde Abbey in the drive, on the Mound, and along the Long Pond for encouragement. (www.fordeabbey.co.uk). Or you may have visited the Savill Garden, or the wild garden at St John's College, Cambridge to see how this wonderful species, whose distribution is the widest of any Lily in the Northern hemisphere, can spread. The species already has an RHS AGM (award of garden merit) and Richard Hyde is preparing a submission to the Trials department of a number of Martagon hybrids on behalf of the Lily Group for submission through the RHS Bulb Committee.

At Chelsea this year on a visit to nine different stands the RHS Bulb Committee were pleased to award a First Class Certificate to H. W. Hyde & Son for *Lilium martagon* 'Theodor Haber' and a Certificate of Cultural Commendation to Tale Valley Nursery for a lovely selection of *Lilium mackliniae* from their Devon Nursery. One additional recommendation had previously been awarded in 2013.

My vicissitudes over attempts to purchase past copies of the Lily Year Book in 2013 to fill gaps in my library were reflected in the masterly account of the History of Nomenclature of plants written by Anna Pavord, *The Naming of Names*. I

sympathised with the attempts at preserving valuable manuscripts during the desecration of libraries from Alexandria in 47BC, Baghdad in 1258AD, Constantinople in 1453 or the exile and banning of Turner's horticultural books in Henry VIII's time.

So it is with pleasure I confirm that the DVD digitised copy produced by the RHS Lily Group of their publications 1932-2014 is now available to members for £30, P&P is free. A wider distribution of all these fascinating records will be made available at a later date.



A future plan to create an archive on its own website remains theoretical until sponsorship can be found. Few members have a full set of this archive and maybe not even horticultural libraries still hold them. Details of how to order are on the enclosed Order Form.

Our summer visit to Fullers Mill Garden developed over 30 years by long term member Bernard Tickner at which we also celebrated his 90th birthday was a highlight of the LG activities this year and a report of our visit by Pat Huff appears on pages 12-13.

The RHS Japan invited us to nominate a speaker for their International Horticultural Forum in Tokyo focusing on the relationship between Japanese Lilies and Europe. Alisdair Aird fulfilled this to great appreciation and warm thanks were extended to our Group.

The remaining part of our 2014 programme is the Bulb Auction at RHS Wisley on Sunday 16 November. So please remember to reserve some of your bulbs to bring or send to us for the Auction. Please contact Caroline with your intentions. During the AGM the Lyttel Cup will be presented to Richard Hyde.

We hope you are already observing the seed pods of your lilies and will keep their contents dry and sorted ready for sending to Pat Huff for the seed distribution with copies of your list to George Battle for preparation of the list which will be available electronically.

In keeping with RHS guidance to plant committees to ensure a gradual turnover and rejuvenation of committee structure we invite members to consider joining us. We would welcome enquiries from members who might have skills and time to contribute to the committee and take a more active involvement in promoting Lilies, seeds, bulbs and knowledge.



Our Newsletter editor, Irene Hopton-Scott, is standing down after five years of raising the interest and standard of the Newsletter and making it available for electronic transmission. What a challenge to follow her. Colin Pope would welcome someone with financial expertise to shadow him in preparation to take on the treasurer's post. If you are interested in either position please approach me or the Vice Chairman, Alisdair Aird, or the Secretary Caroline Boisset for further information – contact details on page 18.

When you update your subscription or change contact details please make sure your email address is correct and is matched to your name.

My thanks to all the Committee and the members for their support.

Nuala Sterling, Chairman

Email: chairman@rhslilygroup.org

Programme of Events

2014/2015

It would be helpful if you are thinking of joining us if you could notify the Secretary, Caroline Boisset on 07709 580953 or email: secretary@rhslilygroup.org

2014 ANNUAL BULB AUCTION AND LILY GROUP ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2014, HILLSIDE EVENTS CENTRE, RHS WISLEY GU23 6QB.

11am Annual Meeting and presentation of the Lyttel Cup (Lily Group Members only).

12.30pm Hillside Centre open to the general public for videos, various displays and viewing of bulbs to be auctioned.

1.30pm Bulb Auction with experts on hand to answer questions and give advice on bulbs.

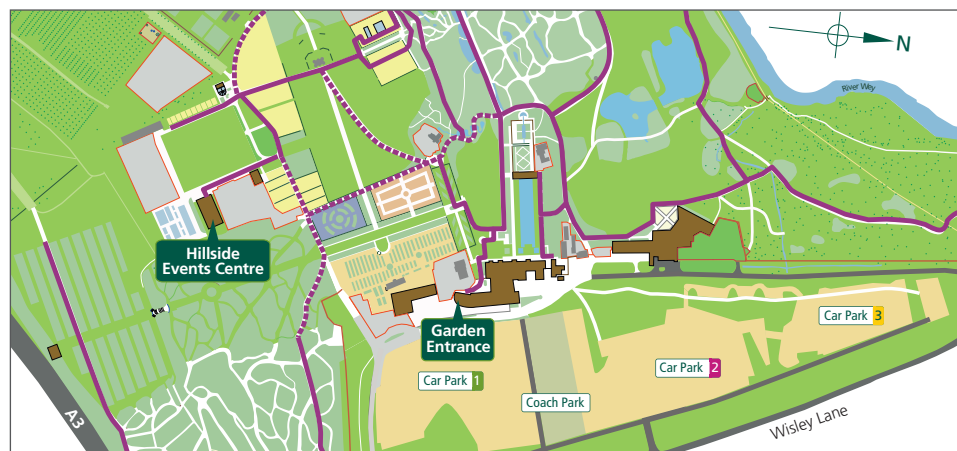
Entry to RHS Wisley Garden Please note that Lily Group members who are not RHS members will be granted free admission providing they have informed Caroline (as above) that they are attending.

There are cafés and restaurants within the gardens but refreshments will be available in the Hillside Centre (see map below) for members throughout the day.

For anyone bringing bulbs (hopefully lots of you) it would be helpful if you could contact Caroline Boisset (as above) for further information. Caroline will ensure assistance will be on hand to get larger quantities of bulbs to the Hillside Centre – so do get in touch with her.

The Bulb auction is a marvellous opportunity to buy good quality bulbs—species and hybrids—and other bulbous plants—grown by experts at very reasonable prices. There is no advance list because the bulbs arrive on the day but there is ample time to browse and inspect the bulbs before making your bids.

Map reproduced with kind permission of RHS Wisley



Programme of Events

2015

2015 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2015, SOMERSET

A visit to the West Country

We will meet at Broadleigh Gardens, the Skelmersdales' award-winning bulb nursery. There will be time to visit the garden that is packed with interest at that time of year. After a shared lunch we will go on to West Bagborough which is about nine miles further along the Quantocks to the private garden at Little Court. This is a very large garden with formal areas, large scale tree and shrub beds underplanted with millions of erythroniums, trilliums etc. Ponds and extensive woodland (huge collection of snowdrops). All on the edge of the Quantocks with spectacular views. There will be a small charge for the owners' favourite charity.

2015 LILY AND ROSE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 20 JUNE 2015, EVENLEY WOOD GARDEN, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Full details will be available on the garden's website www.evenleywoodgarden.co.uk

2015 LILY GROUP TOUR TO TURKEY

SATURDAY 20 JUNE TO TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2015

An 11 day guided tour, by Christopher Gardner and Nursel İkinci

The lush green foothills of the Karadeniz or Black Sea Mountains rise quickly from the coast and represent a surprisingly different landscape to the one many of us imagine for Turkey. But, the north-east is distinct in many ways from the traditional wooden architecture and the proud people, to the vast hazelnut groves, tea plantations and of course the native flora. This tour traverses the north-east Karadeniz Dağları exploring a series of long, green valleys and mountain passes and features all of the region's lilies, while at the same time encountering many other noteworthy and beautiful flowers too.

Full details on pages 8 to 10. To register your interest, please return the form accompanying this Newsletter as soon as possible.

2015 SUMMER MEETING

WEEKEND OF 11/12 JULY OR 18/19 JULY (DATE TBA), PERTH, SCOTLAND

A weekend based in Perth

We will be visiting the gardens of Alan Mitchell (Editor of *Lilies and Related Plants*) and Madeleine Tinson who holds the National Collection of Mylnefield hybrids. We will be based in Perth so there will be an opportunity to go and see the garden at Branklyn.

Full details will be published in the Spring newsletter.

THE 2015 BULB AUCTION WILL BE HELD IN BIRMINGHAM, (DATE TBA)

Seed Distribution Report

George Battle

The 2014 List was around a third larger than that for 2013. Donations of species and hybrid lily seed matched historical levels at 369 lots. Donations of species seed were around an all-time high at 171 lots.

- 280+ lists were distributed – a doubling of the 2013 figure. This was largely due to the PDF version being emailed to all members who were not donors.
- The inclusion of one section covering “All Other Bulbous Species & Hybrids” was accepted without comment.
- Lists were all emailed and posted to paid-up members on the dates published in the Newsletter and on the website (21 January and 6 February). I received hardly any queries from members about what would happen on which date – publication of the relevant dates seems to have been noted by nearly everyone.
- **2015 Indicative Timetable** (shown below) is also available to view on the Lily Group website: rhslilygroup.org
- Demand for paper copies has shrunk dramatically. 12 were posted to donors and seven to non-donors. This compares with around 60 copies posted in 2013.

Seed List Mailing

2015 TIMETABLE

This timetable is intended to give an idea of when Lily Group members might expect to receive the 2015 Seed List. Please help Pat Huff and myself by sending seed well before the **1 December 2014** deadline. Donors will receive the Seed List significantly earlier than non-donors.

All donors will receive the PDF version of the List unless they request a paper copy. Non-donors will not need to request a copy of the Seed List unless they would like a paper copy.

If any UK non-donor would like a paper copy, he or she will need to send a First Class stamp to me at the address given below.

Please treat these guidelines as targets.

By end of second week in January

Post to Australia, NZ, Japan, Canada, USA

By end of third week in January

Post to European and UK donors

By approximately 20 January 2015

Email PDF List to all donors

By first week of February

Post to UK non-donors

By 6 February (estimated)

Email PDF List to all non-donors

Please email me to confirm receipt of the Seed List. If you have not received your Seed List a week or more after these guideline dates, please email me as soon as possible: gbattle7@btinternet.com

Contact address George Battle, Oaklands, Gorst Hill, Rock, Kidderminster DY14 9YR

**Please do donate any spare seed to the Lily Group this year
– everything we offer depends on you!**

Lilies of the Black Sea Mountains



In search of Euxine jewels, Lily Group tour to Turkey, 20-30 June 2015

Presented by Christopher Gardner and Nursel İkinçi

The lush green foothills of the Karadeniz or Black Sea Mountains rise quickly from the coast and represent a surprisingly different landscape to the one many of us imagine for Turkey. But, the north-east is distinct in many ways—from the traditional wooden architecture and the proud people—to the vast hazelnut groves, tea plantations and of course the native flora. The latter is nurtured by rainfall year round so the slopes are clad in extensive forests of beech and spruce with tall diverse alpine meadows packed with flowers in summer. This tour traverses the north-east Karadeniz Dağları exploring a series of long, green valleys and mountain passes and features all of the region's lilies, while at the same time encountering many other noteworthy and beautiful flowers too.

Saturday, 20 June **UK to Amasya**

We arrive very early on Sunday and overnight in Amasya—an attractive city with many old wooden houses.

Sunday, 21 June **Amasya**

Amasya is famed for its traditional architecture and the wonderful houses that line the Yeşilirmak River flowing through the city. We will be free to explore the town and enjoy a relaxing day after our late arrival yesterday. Overnight in Amasya.

Monday, 22 June **Akkuş Valley**

The impressive white-flowered *Lilium akkusianum* is restricted to the Akkuş Valley and the areas around Erbaa. It occurs among woodland and adjoining meadows along with stands of *Phlomis russeliana*. As it is the earliest of the lilies in the north-east and is confined to a narrow altitudinal band, a very early spring might mean that we just miss it, but a splendid compensation will be this particular area's remarkable Mediterranean enclave flora, including the strawberry tree

Arbutus andrachne and stands of Cedar of Lebanon *Cedrus libani*, a conifer that usually thrives among the Taurus Mountains in the south of the country. Overnight in Ordu.

Tuesday, 23 June **Aksu Valley**

South of Giresun the road climbs along the Aksu Valley to the Egribel Pass. Among masses of blue *Salvia forskoebli* is the gorgeous fragrant yellow *Lilium monadelphum* var. *armenum*. Higher up are large populations of somber *Lilium ciliatum* emerging from lush herb-rich meadows, and there are other choice flowers such as the lovely *Lathyrus aureus*. The views along the road are some of the finest we see. Overnight in Ordu.

Wednesday, 24 June **Sumela Monastery**

From Ordu we drive to Trabzon the largest city in the north-east where we'll take lunch before visiting the fabulous Sumela Monastery perched precariously on high cliffs south of the city. Overnight in Trabzon.

Thursday, 25 June **Zigana Pass**

The day will be spent on the florally diverse

Zigana Pass, with time spent exploring both sides. On both slopes are excellent mixed populations of *Lilium ciliatum* and *L. monadelphum* var. *armenum* with superb specimens of both species. They thrive among slopes thronging with *Aconitum orientale*, *Geranium psilostemon*, *Lathyrus rotundifolius* and *Centaurea dealbata*, while on the somewhat drier southern slopes are stands of elegant *Digitalis lamarckii*. Overnight in Trabzon.

Friday, 26 June

Uzungöl

Ringling the popular lakeside town of Uzungöl are diverse slopes peppered with *Lilium ponticum* in a variety of forms along with abundant meadow flowers such as *Campanula lactiflora*, *Alchemilla* species, *Geranium psilostemon*, *G. dactylorbiza*, *G. urvilleana* and *Pedicularis condensata*. In

the afternoon we'll continue on to our hotel in the next valley near Ikizdere.

Saturday, 27 June

Ovit Pass

Lilium ponticum is again the focus today with hopefully some deep purple forms. Smaller tracks lead to herb-rich slopes with lily populations as well as many other campanulas, geraniums, frog orchids and *Dactylorbiza urvilleana* as we proceed up towards the Ovit Pass. Depending on the remaining snow patches there will be the chance to explore the higher alpine turf where we may find *Corydalis oppositifolia* together with *Primula auriculata* and possibly *P. longipes*. Overnight Ikizdere.

Sunday, 28 June

Çoruh Valley

The various lily species of the region are rather spread out along the Black Sea Mountains (or Karadeniz Dağları) and today we drive



across to Şavşat via the scenic and much drier Çoruh Valley with *Campanula betuliflora* flowering on the rocks, and steppe flora such as *Dianthus orientalis*, *Xeranthemum annuum* and *Glaucium corniculatum*. Our reward for the long morning journey will be the superb population of *Lilium kesselringianum* bursting from lush green meadows. Overnight in the bungalows at Laset with fine scenery all around.

Monday, 29 June Çam Pass and beyond
Turkey's only population of the magnificent *Lilium monadelphum* var. *szovitsianum*

grows among stunning flower-packed meadows with abundant *Geranium pratense*, *Linum hypericifolium*, localised *Echium russicum* and carpets of *Polygala anatolica*. If time remains we will also visit late snow patch areas on the way back for *Scilla rosenii*, *Primula auriculata* and possibly *Fritillaria latifolia*.

Overnight Laset.

Tuesday, 30 June

Back to UK.

Drive to Kars for return flights via Istanbul.

ACCOMMODATION & TRANSPORT

Generally, the lily species are quite spread out, and occur mainly at over 1,000 m in a series of long valleys. Therefore there will be a reasonable amount of travelling most days. Longer journeys are necessary to reach some target areas in order to negotiate the immense dam construction projects affecting parts of the eastern Pontic Alps. Hotels are generally comfortable three star, but at İkizdere and Laset rooms are more basic.

The mountain roads are tricky in places, and the vehicles best suited to this are older-style, reasonably comfortably short-wheelbase minibuses based on Ford Transit chassis. As for terrain, some of the best populations are on steep herb-clad slopes which may be wet from rain or dew. There should be accessible plants of most species for those that cannot climb such slopes, and there are many other roadside flowers too.

TOUR COST

2,400 Euros per person, based on two sharing. Single supplement is 280 Euros.

Included: 10 nights accommodation, all food, all transport and entry fees.

Excluded: Flights, travel insurance, alcoholic and soft drinks and personal expenses

FLIGHTS

The following internal flights are needed:

1. TK 2854

Istanbul Ataturk Airport to Amasya Merzifon Airport: 20 June, 23:20 – 00:50.

2. TK 7091/2155

Kars to Ankara - Istanbul: 30 June, 11:00 -15:05.

It is advantageous to purchase a Turkish Airlines international flight with these internals and have luggage checked all the way through. Currently a London-Amasya Kars-London ticket costs around 400 Euros.

If you wish the travel agency to handle your flight booking with Turkish Airlines, there will be a small administration charge of 35 Euros. For this a separate credit card permission will be needed.

NUMBERS

Limited to 20 participants.

All bookings will be made through the tour leader Chris Gardner (ViRA NATURA Tours, www.viranatura.com).

Please register your intention of joining or interest to Duncan Coombs using the enclosed form.

Garden visit

Hampshire, Spring 2014

The RHS Lily group visits Andrew McIndoe's garden at Sandyhill Farm

On a sunny spring April afternoon and after an excellent lunch at Longstock Park interrupted by a sudden downpour, we repaired in wellington boots to Sandyhill Farm, Sherfield English, the garden of Andrew McIndoe, managing director of Hillier Nurseries and Garden Centres and his wife Rosamund.

The sun returned as we explored the sloping site developed and maintained by them over the past 13 years.

Tulips in pots were a welcoming feature on the patio, then we set off up the hill to follow Andy admiring the balance of birch trees with informal borders of shrubs and bulbs before we donned raincoats once more. Stone love birds nestled amongst *Euphorbia palustris*. In the Japanese Garden, Andy, Caroline, Nataliya, Christine and her Mother, basked in the temporary sunshine before climbing the hill to the magnificent Folly passing *Rhododendron* 'Horizon Monarch' and *Metasequoia* 'Gold Rush'.

Winding back between the borders the dainty *Fothergilla major* made a contrast of both leaves and flowers between the bolder rhododendrons. We returned to the patio for a welcome tea and cake passing by a choice



basket of *Hosta* with *Myositis* and another of varied *Heuchera*, chatting with Andy and Rosamund about the challenges of the site before departing.

Nuala Sterling



Garden visit

Suffolk, Summer 2014

Pat Huff recounts a memorable summer's day at Fullers Mill Garden



Above, View across the pond and right, *Lilium* 'Lake Tulare' at Fullers Mill Garden, West Stow, Bury St Edmunds.

July 2014 was the stuff that memories are made of – week after week of warm sunshine swelled the corn in the fields and the flowers in the gardens. After a couple of difficult years, we're hoping for a bumper harvest for the Seed Distribution.

The beautiful weather also provided the perfect backdrop for a very special celebration. Bernard Tickner, who has been a member of the Lily Group for at least 50 years, invited members to join him for a ninetieth birthday party at Fullers Mill Garden in Suffolk. A number of us accepted the invitation – I came back from Italy to be there – and it was quite an occasion.

We were treated to a scrumptious buffet lunch in the charming purpose-built pavilion at the entrance to the garden, and had a chance to catch up with Lily Group friends. Chairman Nuala Sterling presented Bernard with the new Lily Group publications

DVD, containing a unique treasure-trove of information garnered over decades.

After lunch Bernard and Head Gardener, Annie Dellbridge, took us for a tour around his magical garden. Set deep in Forestry Commission land outside Bury St Edmunds, Fullers Mill Gardens takes its name from the process of fulling wool, a stage in the production of cloth often carried out at water mills. Although the mill is gone, the River Lark still races through the garden and feeds the quieter Mill Pond. Although Suffolk is one of the driest parts of England, this garden is alive with water and enables Bernard to grow a large number of unusual marginal plants. From visits earlier in the year I remember particularly *Lathraea clandestina*, the purple toothwort, growing in profusion on the roots of waterside willows.

As a plantsman Bernard has an encyclopaedic knowledge of what can be grown in

Photos, Duncan Coombs, Nuala Sterling and Graham Sterling



From left to right, Colin Pope, Ang Pope, Sara Taylor-Balls, Meg McKnight, Anne Durbin, Cynthia Young, Mary Randall, Caroline Boisset, Bernard Tickner, Bettye Reynolds, Terry Young, Alisdair Aird, Nuala Sterling, Iain Ferguson.

England (including some things you would have thought impossible) but we are the Lily Group and we came to see lilies. We weren't disappointed. Basically alkaline, the garden, Bernard told me, encompasses "moist loam to pure sand", so the range of lilies that he grows is very extensive. I must also add that Bernard, despite his 90 years, set a cracking pace on the tour, which lasted for over two hours. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, I'll leave you with a gallery of beauties.

Fullers Mill Garden is the creation of Bernard Tickner and his late wife Bess. It evolved over many decades as Bernard acquired more and more land for his plants. It is open from April to September on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 2-5pm, and is worth a visit in any month. Find out more at www.fullersmillgarden.org.uk.

Pat Huff

Right, *Lilium* Golden Splendor Group and *Helenium*.



Evenley Wood Garden Lily Festival

For over 30 years Tim Whiteley has been collecting and planting unusual trees and shrubs in his woodland garden and of course lilies. This woodland garden is a marvellous testament to his skills as a plantsman.

It was cloudy and there had been torrential rain and thunder the day before. However during the course of the morning it brightened up and the car park was soon filling up. It is always a great pleasure to visit the peace and tranquility of Evenley away from the noise and bustle of local traffic.

This year's Lily Festival was being held in July rather late in the season for some lilies and the martagons were over. However there was still plenty to see. *L.* 'African Queen' ×



Date for next year's diary:

Lily & Rose Festival, 20 June 2015

L. 'Blackberry Ice' framed the refreshment lodge. I found Pontus Wallstén and Tim's assistant head gardener, Marketa Hermova, there discussing the Pacific Bulb Society Project on the identification of lily bulbs.

Then Tim whisked me off in his newly acquired golf buggy for a tour of the lilies. We stopped off at intervals to admire *Lilium* 'Conca d'Or', *L.* 'Sweet Surrender', *L.* 'Madam Butterfly', *L.* 'Silk Road', *L. davidii*, and many tetra trumpet lilies and Tim's own *L.* 'Garden Society'. We finally reached the stands of *L. superbum* which had rather a quiet year.

En route we admired a super large-leaved magnolia, *Magnolia* 'Simple Pleasures' × 'Big Dude' – that Tim had grown – and several other flowering shrubs including *Aesculus parviflora*, *Berberis prattii laxipendula*. After an exhilarating ride (Tim's driving would have done credit at nearby Silverstone) through the woodland paths it was time to enjoy a cup of coffee and a sandwich.

I have just heard that Tim will be holding his annual Lily Festival on 20 June 2015 and will be adding roses to make a really spectacular display. Something to look forward to next year.

Irene Hopton-Scott



What is this lily?

There are occasions when I have ordered lily bulbs and they have grown into a surprise, i.e. not the species I selected or expected. This has happened twice in relation to bulbs of *Lilium monadelphum*, which grew and then flowered as *L. ciliatum* and *L. ponticum*.

The photograph, above, is another example, which looks quite like *L. mackliniae* and acts like it, being self-fertile, but the source of the bulb was China and *L. mackliniae*'s distribution is (according to all of the lily reference books) restricted to NE India. Should any sharp-eyed Lily Group member know what this lily is I would appreciate it if you e-mailed me to clarify this matter. Of course, I am sure I am not alone in having been the recipient of the wrong or mysterious lily bulbs, so I would like to invite Lily Group members who have shared the same, or similar, experiences to write about their "surprise" lily bulbs for publication in the forthcoming issue of *Lilies and Related Plants*.

My contact details are: Telephone: 01592 759255 Email: massmitch@tiscali.co.uk

Thank you in anticipation of some interesting responses.

Alan Mitchell

Editor, *Lilies and Related Plants*

Pacific Bulb Society Project

For many years I had considered producing a database of some kind, consisting of pictures of *Lilium* species bulbs together with corresponding images of the plants in bloom.



Mainly for identification purposes but also for general interest. Indeed, once in a while, you might purchase a rare *Lilium* species bulb, only to discover a few months later that it was mislabelled! Bulbs of species are also often sold as flowering size when in fact they are two to three years away from full flowering size. I also therefore thought it important whenever possible, to have photographs of flowering sized bulbs, with something that would give an idea of scale, such as a golf ball or similar.

To my knowledge, such a database had never been produced before. After a bit of discussion with plant-interested people regarding this idea, I realised that producing a new website from scratch would be very difficult. But at this point, David Pilling, the webmaster of the Pacific Bulb Society website (PBS Wiki) suggested that it could be a good idea to create something on the PBS Wiki. As

the project grew, he created a new page on the PBS Wiki entirely devoted to *Lilium* bulbs, with clickable links to pictures of the corresponding species in bloom.

Since 1999, when I began growing lilies, I have grown over 70 different species, often in the past photographing bulbs for my own archives, and interest. I had therefore built up quite a collection of close to 50 different species *Lilium* bulbs, with some that I had not been able to photograph before they died. These images formed the basis of the project. During the past year, I have acquired a few new species, and also dug up some old and as yet un-photographed bulbs in my collection, adding to the project further. Some plant friends and PBS members also contributed a few images that were missing. At the time of writing, in August 2014, we have images of 70 different species, with a few more to be added this

autumn. Knowing that there are close to 90 known *Lilium* species, we are approaching our goal to depict all *Lilium* species bulbs known today (excluding some obscure, extremely rare newly discovered Chinese species which are not yet, I believe, even in cultivation). We are now trying to find images of bulbs of extremely rare species, or species which are very difficult to grow, and therefore not common in cultivation, such as *Lilium*

bolanderi, *L. rhodopaeum*, *L. iridollae* and *L. henricii*, to name but a few. But in time, I am confident that we will eventually get them as well! Nothing is impossible nowadays with the ability to reach contacts from all around the world with help of the internet – proven by the fact that I was able to obtain bulb images of the very rare *Lilium nobilissimum* and *L. alexandrae* from a grower in Hong Kong!

Pontus Wallstén

Japan Society of the RHS

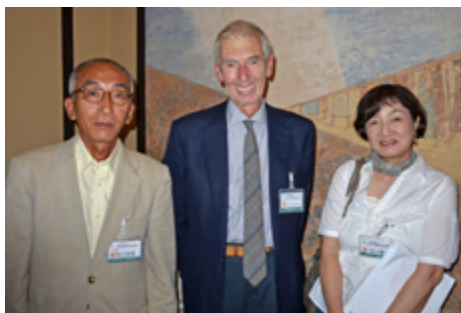
On 29 August Alisdair Aird, as an invitee of RHS Japan, gave a talk on *Lilies of Japan, a British perspective* at their Tokyo conference.

RHS Japan is an independent society affiliated to the RHS in much the same way as the Lily Group itself.

Alisdair was very well looked after by the society's officers, particularly Mr Takashi Higurashi, being treated to a magnificent raw fish dinner and congenial company the night before his talk. The talk took place in the lecture hall of the Myonichikan Jiyu Gakuen, a splendid Frank Lloyd Wright building in his "Prairie School" style, now maintained as a public monument by the state.

Despite Alisdair's fears about bringing coals to Newcastle the talk went well. It was perfectly translated by Mr Masaya Tatebayashi, a horticulturist who has spent seven years in the UK, partly at Cambridge and partly at Kew.

All the seats in the lecture hall were filled (there had even been a waiting list), with people coming from many parts of Japan. Alisdair was thrilled to find that the



audience included Mr Katsuro Arakawa and his wife; Mr Arakawa having been such a pillar of strength for the Lily Group's seed distribution over so many years. Mr Arakawa had prepared for the audience a list of the Japanese names of all the lilies shown in Alisdair's talk, numbered to tally with the 79 numbered slides.

A most convivial party to which all the audience had been invited followed the talk.

Subscriptions 2015

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

As you may have read in the 2014 Spring Newsletter (Chairman's letter), the RHS Lily Group's annual subscription rate will be increased to **£15 from 1 January 2015**.

Subscriptions due for renewal on 1 January 2015 can be determined as follows:

1. If you receive this newsletter by post, the mailing label will display your subscription status. If the first four digits are 2014, e.g. 2014/01-10/88, your subscription will run out on **31 December 2014**. Renewal will therefore be due at the new rate of £15.
2. If you receive this newsletter by email, your **current membership status** will indicate whether renewal is necessary.

Lily Group membership subscriptions are increasing to **£15 from 1 January 2015**

If you have a Standing Order arrangement in place, please ask your bank to increase the annual payment from £10 to £15.

Please keep me up to date about your contact details especially your email addresses. Best wishes,

Rose Voelcker, Membership Secretary

Email: rvlanjique@wanadoo.fr

Note: A summary of the Lily Group accounts will be presented at the AGM and reported in the next Newsletter.

Lily Group contact details

Nuala Sterling, Chairman

E: chairman@rhslilygroup.org
T: +44 (0)1590 612 378
Vermont House, East Boldre,
Hampshire, SO42 7WX UK

Caroline Boisset, Secretary

E: secretary@rhslilygroup.org
T: +44 (0)1225 864 808
St Olaves, 19 Woolley Street,
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire,
BA15 1AD UK

Pat Huff, Seed List Distribution Manager

E: seedlist@rhslilygroup.org
T: +44 (0)1480 891 740 (Eve.)
T: +44 (0)207 402 1401 (Day)
Castle House, Leighton
Bromswold, Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire, PE28 5AX UK

Rose Voelcker, Membership Secretary

E: rvlanjique@wanadoo.fr
T: +33 5 62 66 43 76
Lanjique, 32380 St Leonard,
Gers, France

Irene Hopton-Scott, Newsletter Editor

E: newsletter@rhslilygroup.org
T: +44 (0)1869 277 826
The Coach House, Candleford
Mews, Rectory Lane, Fringford,
OX27 8DX UK

Colin Pope, Treasurer

E: treasurer@rhslilygroup.org
T: +44 (0)1707 320 917

Alan Pryke, Webmaster

E: webmaster@rhslilygroup.org

Alan Mitchell, Editor Lilies & Related Plants

E: massmitch@tiscali.co.uk
T: +44 (0)1592 759 255

George Battle, Seed List Compiler

E: gbattle7@btinternet.com
The Oaklands, Gorst Hill, Rock,
Kidderminster, Worcestershire,
DY14 9YR UK

Other Committee Members

Alisdair Aird, Vice Chairman
Chris Brickell
Duncan Coombs
Jeff Coe
Harris Howland
Richard Hyde
Stephanie Martin
Nigel Rowland
Tim Whiteley

Royal Horticultural Society Lily Group
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2015

Please send your completed form to the Lily Group Membership Secretary:

Mrs Rose Voelcker, Lanjique, 32380 ST LEONARD, Gers, France

Telephone: +33 5 62 66 43 76

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NAME

Including first and last names

ADDRESS

Post code:

EMAIL ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

SUBSCRIPTION

Please tick as appropriate

GBP £15 ☐

until 31.12.15

GBP £30 ☐

until 31.12.16

GBP £45 ☐

until 31.12.17

PAYMENT CAN BE MADE AS FOLLOWS:

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- CHEQUE** made payable to **The Lily Group** drawn on a UK Bank, or ☐
- STANDING ORDER** on a UK sterling bank account in which case please signify by checking this option and you will be sent a Standing Order mandate form for completion, or ☐
- BRITISH, US, CANADIAN OR EURO CURRENCY NOTES** using the published rate of exchange but allowing 5% extra for bank conversion charges. Canadian Postal Money Orders are accepted but not cheques drawn directly on banks outside the UK, or ☐
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