

# LILY GROUP Newsletter

SPRING 2015

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## From the Chairman

*Cleaning plant pots is accompanied by an atavistic sense of contact with the earth in readiness for spring sowing. Perhaps even a sense of satisfaction and anticipation of the Lily Group seed list.*

*Once more we are indebted to George Battle for compiling the list and to Pat Huff for the distribution of the seed which is underway as I write.*



Photo:  
Andrew Sterling

In the background but equally appreciated are all the contributors who take such trouble to watch over their developing seed heads, prepare, dry and label their seeds to send to Pat. We have invited new members to remember to send seeds. Everyone helps and as each season brings its rewards and disappointments so the contributions vary. Seed from the southern hemisphere for it can be saved in anticipation of our distribution.

Some North American members have noted the long list of species seed. That perception is a reflection of the difficulty in purchasing species bulbs, the devotion of many UK growers to the subtle charm of the species and the challenge in growing them. It is also a reflection of our enthusiasm for maintaining the plant heritage. Hybrid seed, however satisfying, can never be an exact replica, nor named as the parent – though it might be better! The satisfaction and delight in producing a seed

to flowering size remains a reward for patience. We have continued the selection of non Liliaceae often for plants grown by enthusiasts and not easily obtainable elsewhere.

Many popular seeds sell out before the distribution is complete, so what do we do with the spare? Some is reserved for events later in the year with instructions and an introduction to the Lily Group. Some is sent to Plant Heritage and more distributed to Botanical or Horticultural Institutions. Specifically we sent some to Christchurch Botanic Garden, New Zealand to replenish their species collection after the earthquake. We should like members from Australia and New Zealand to consider sending us spare lily seed as their summer ends, which we can store until the preparation of the 2015/2016 list in December.

The 2014 annual meeting and Lily Bulb Auction was held



Photo:  
Nuala Sterling

Tim Upson (right) presenting the Lyttel Cup to Sarah and Richard Hyde after the Annual Meeting in the Hillside Centre at RHS Garden Wisley on Sunday 16 November 2014.

in November at Wisley during which Tim Upson the new RHS Director of Horticulture presented the Lyttel Cup to Richard, Sarah and Elizabeth Hyde. A good attendance of members was present and despite a smaller collection of bulbs for sale the net profit was £512. A list of the bulbs sold is published on page 5.

With the first rise in our annual subscription for 14 years to £15 in January 2015 if you pay by standing order did you remember to advise your bank of the required change? That is our ideal way to receive subscriptions, but the PayPal online method is very efficient and where there are deficiencies in the subscription we may use this method of reminder and collection.

The increasing use of email communication for the Newsletter and Seed List has enabled a much reduced postage cost and for many parts of the world a speedier delivery! Thank you for updating Rose with your contact details, ensuring your email address is correct and is matched to your name.

Your hard-working committee of volunteers is responsible for our publications, the seed list and distribution, the bulb auction, the website, a programme of visits, the membership and our finances. Colin Pope our treasurer has indicated he would like to hand over the financial reins to a younger member. Since 2007 he has made a first-rate job of this task and would willingly provide handover support to a new committee member. A potential successor would with advantage have some previous experience, be familiar with computers, as well as being comfortable with spreadsheets, particularly Microsoft Excel. Which of you might be interested in this challenge either now or in the future? We welcome Pontus Wallstén who will be editing the next Newsletter

and look forward to seeing how this can be managed from Switzerland thanks to the internet.

The Lily Group has submitted an outline proposal for an RHS Lilium Trial via the Bulb Committee of the RHS, through which we are represented.

We maintain close contact with the North American Lily Society and are making the 1932-2014 LG publications DVD available to their members. Adam Yakabuskie, the NALS Show Chair, has extended a warm welcome to our members to their 2015 Convention on behalf of the Alberta Regional Society, Calgary, Alberta 15 to 19 July 2015 – see [www.NALS2015.com](http://www.NALS2015.com) – preceded by the Calgary stampede from 3 to 12 July!

**Scotland:** The outline programme visit to Perth on 11 and 12 July is that we should visit Branklyn and Madeleine Tinson's garden on the Saturday and Alan Mitchell's on the Sunday. I am exploring the options to stay at the Royal George Hotel on Saturday night with a LG dinner that evening. Members please let me have indications of intent to come, and any proposals for alternative gardens or restaurants so that we may make firmer commitments. I will ensure details are circulated by email or telephone to those interested.

The Bulb Auction will be at the Birmingham Botanical Garden in autumn 2015 early in November.

My thanks to all the committee and the members for their involvement.

*Nuala Sterling*

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# Programme of Events

2015/2016

If you are thinking of joining us could you please notify the Chairman, Nuala Sterling:  
Telephone: 01590 612378 Mobile: 07889 177503 Email: [nualasterling@btinternet.com](mailto:nualasterling@btinternet.com)

## 2015 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

**SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2015, SOMERSET**

### A visit to the West Country

From 11.30am we will meet at Broadleigh Gardens (postcode TA4 1AE), the award-winning bulb nursery. There will be time to visit the garden and nursery.

Directions: It is easier to bypass Taunton and continue to J26 of the M5. Return towards Taunton on A38; look out for Sheppy's Cider on R; take L turn (to Fideoak) just beyond it. In 400 m turn R (to Fideoak & Longaller); continue for 2 miles until you see Garden Open sign in the hedge (part way around the Taunton Electricity switching station). Turn left down the lane. The nursery is on the right; go into the yard; there is parking on the circular drive beyond the back drive.

1pm Lunch at Barr House for which there will be a small charge.

2.30pm Travel to Little Court in West Bagborough (postcode TA4 3EQ) where we will visit the beautiful garden of Jane Kimber. This is a very large garden with formal areas, large-scale tree and shrub beds underplanted with millions of erythroniums, trilliums etc. all on the edge of the Quantocks with spectacular views. There will be a charge of £5 as a donation to the local hospice.

## 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](http://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 Ikinici

A group of members will be led by Christopher Gardner and Nursel Ikinici on this 11 day tour of the foothills of the Black Sea Mountains and on to the north-east Karadeniz Daglan to see the region's lilies and other native flora. A report will be published in the autumn newsletter with a longer article in *Lilies and Related Plants*.

## 2015 SUMMER MEETING

**WEEKEND OF 11/12 JULY 2015, PERTH, SCOTLAND**

### A weekend based in Perth

The plan at present is as follows:

Saturday: visit to Branklyn and Madeleine Tinson's (holder of the National Collection of Mylnefield hybrids) garden with a Lily Group dinner in the evening in Perth.

Sunday: visit to Alan Mitchell's (Editor of *Lilies and Related Plants*) garden.

Please let Nuala Sterling ([nualasterling@btinternet.com](mailto:nualasterling@btinternet.com) or 01590 612378) know that you intend to join the Lily Group in Perth and she will ensure that you have all the details once they are finalised.

## THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING AND BULB AUCTION WILL BE HELD IN BIRMINGHAM

**Early NOVEMBER, Patrick Rooms, Birmingham Botanical Gardens.**

Full details will be published in the Autumn newsletter.

The Annual meeting will be held late morning and will be followed by a shared lunch for which contributions will be invited. The Bulb Auction will start immediately afterwards and there will be tea and coffee.



# Annual Bulb Auction



Photo:  
Nuala Sterling

Members attentively keeping an eye on the next item for sale at the 2014 Lily Group Bulb Auction in the Hillside Centre at Wisley on Sunday 16 November.

The annual bulb auction is one of the highlights of the Lily Group calendar. Every year members donate a selection of bulbs that can be rare, difficult or very easy to grow, originally from wild collections or bred by members; some are bulbs from stock grown from seed distributed by the Group. Every bulb auction is different but each one is interesting and exciting. The 2014 auction was no exception.

Thirty members of the Group assembled in the hall of the Hillside Centre at Wisley, which was generously put at our disposal by the Royal Horticultural Society, and after a shared sandwich lunch we all prepared to bid for 64 lots of 45 different taxa of lilies and a few related plants.

Once again Harris Howland and Richard Hyde were auctioneers for the afternoon. One of the joys of the bulb auction is how much there is to learn about the different bulbs for sale. Richard, Harris and attending members frequently have interesting facts about the different bulbs – where they come from, which soils they prefer, how easy and reliable they are, scented or not, colour etc.

This year there were considerably fewer bulbs for sale than last year but among the species were *Lilium pyrenaicum*, *L. sargentiae*, *L. rosthornii*, *L. leichtlinii*, *L. canadense* and *L. michiganense*. There were a good number of hybrids and named cultivars: Tim Whiteley's white 'Tetra trumpet' was tempting for many, he considers it must have *Lilium leucanthum* parentage and thinks it would be worth registering it as a cultivar; Harris had donated some 'Tetra White Henryi' and a hybrid of this with *Lilium candidum* that he tells me are really good garden plants; 'Leslie Woodriff', 'Anastasia' and 'Scheherezade' were others I bid for, unsuccessfully – instead I was happy to bring home some 'Tiger Babies', *L. henryi* and some *Lachenalia aloides*.

The Lily Group bulb auction is an exciting way of acquiring new species and cultivars, some rarely available in commerce, others real bargains and it raises valuable funds for the Group. The 2015 bulb auction will take place in the Patrick Rooms at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens early in November (Provisional date: 7 November). Please look out for details in the autumn Newsletter and think of joining us for a very enjoyable day.

Caroline Boisset

## List of bulbs sold

### From Tim Whiteley

1. Three lots *Lilium pyrenaicum*  
This is a species endemic to the Pyrenees but wild colonies have established themselves in Scotland; in Tim's experience they do best in neutral to acid soil.
2. Two lots *Lilium martagon*  
A species naturalised widely in UK and they grow on the edges of Tim's woodland.
3. Two lots Tetra white trumpet  
Tim is not sure of the provenance of this lily, it probably has *L. leucanthum* in its parentage; it grows to 3ft (1m) in slightly acid soil.

### From Harris Howland

4. Tetra White Henryi
5. Tetra White Henryi x *Lilium candidum*
6. *Lilium rosthornii*  
Much stronger than *L. henryi*, more resistant to botrytis and increases very well – acid soil

### From Richard Woods

7. 'Smoky Mountain' three nice bulbs  
Highly scented, easy to grow
8. 'Smoky Mountain' ten bulblets
9. 'Leslie Woodriff'  
A cultivar bred by Bob Griesbach and named for another great breeder
10. 'Leslie Woodriff'
11. 'Scheherazade'  
A very strong grower in the ground, 7-8ft tall for the back of the border
12. 'Scheherazade' ten bulblets
13. *Lilium leichtlinii*  
The identity of this species is still uncertain but this is the yellow commercial stock
14. *Lilium leichtlinii* ten bulblets
15. 'Miss Feya'
16. *Lilium rosthornii* x *henryi* two bags  
Quite short more variable than *L. henryi*
17. *Lilium leucanthum* var. *centifolium* bulblets
18. *Lilium maculatum*
19. *Lilium maculatum* three packs of bulblets

### From Pontus Wallstén

20. *Lilium canadense* five packets of the orange form
21. *Lilium michiganense* three packets
22. 'Flashpoint'  
Upward-facing deep purple with white edges
23. *Lilium henryi*

### From Madeleine Tinson

24. *Lilium sargentiae* 4 bags
25. *Lilium speciosum* var. *rubrum* 'Uchida'
26. 'Scheherazade'
27. 'Anastasia' downward-facing pink cv
28. 'Tiger Babies' 2 bags salmon cv
29. 'Night Flyer' 2 bags  
Dark red Asiatic v. elegant downward-facing

### From Nuala Sterling

30. *Lilium* Bellingham Hybrid  
From the 2011 lily bulb auction, should be planted shallowly
31. LA hybrid 2 bulbs  
From 2011 lily bulb auction (ex Prabhu), orange
32. *Lilium henryi* from 2013 bulb auction
33. 'Dimension' 3 bulbs  
burgundy-black Asiatic (unscented) From 2013 lily bulb auction
34. *Lilium longiflorum* 'White Heaven'  
Attractive, highly scented, not as big the species; from 2013 Lily bulb auction
35. *Nerine undulata* 2 bags

### From seed distribution via Pat Huff

36. *Lilium sargentiae*  
bulbils sent by Wolfgang Kletzing
37. *Lilium lancifolium*  
bulbils sent by Lachlan Cameron
38. Amber-flowered turk's cap lily bulb  
sent by Lachlan Cameron
39. *Lilium lancifolium*  
double form bulbils sent by Jacques Piquet
40. *Lilium lancifolium*  
bulbils sent by Jacques Piquet
41. *Lilium sulphureum*  
bulbils sent by Gene Miro (originally from Sir Peter Smithers?)
42. *Lilium bulbiferum*  
bulbils sent by Gene Miro
43. *Lilium lancifolium* 'Splendens'  
bulbils sent by Mr Arnold
44. *Nerine bowdenii*  
bulbils sent by Rose Voelcker
45. *Lachenalia aloides*  
2 pots from corms sent to the 2014 seed distribution by Anthony Pugh-Thomas and not sold so grown on by Pat Huff

# *Lilium philadelphicum*

DAVID MALTBY from Brantford, Ontario sent this account of the unexpected delight of heading to the 2014 NALS conference.



Photo:  
David Maltby

*Lilium philadelphicum* growing in the wild varied in colour from yellowish-orange to this bright reddish-orange.

On Wednesday 9 July, 2014, I headed driving out for Minneapolis for the North American Lily Society Show and Conference. For the first time I decided to travel through northern Michigan and across Wisconsin. I had been told it was the scenic route and also I have an aversion to going through Chicago. Setting out early and making good time I crossed over the Mackinaw Bridge which in itself was a wonderful experience. The Mackinaw Bridge dwarfs the Burlington skyway. I continued on Highway 2 at the north-west edge of Lake Michigan. This was through a region of sandy hills and the road often ran very close to the shore of Lake Michigan. Soon after turning on the Highway 2, I started noticing orange flowers in the ditch and roadside. I pulled over to investigate and to my surprise found hundreds of blooms of *Lilium*

*philadelphicum* in the area along both sides of the highway. Some stems had three or four blooms which apparently is quite unusual. The colour variation was reddish-orange to yellowish-orange.

The soil was very lean sandy soil where *Lilium philadelphicum* was growing and always in reasonable proximity to a pond or wet swampy area. It was not on the edge of the wet area. As I travelled along there were several areas where there were extensive colonies. I passed 15 maybe even 20 over about 40 miles. They were always found in proximity to a wet area, a few hundred feet from the water's edge, and looked well and quite healthy. There was no significant grass growing in their areas as if the soil appeared to be too lean for grass to really establish itself. Where there was a higher area or a more



fertile soil with the grass growing well, I did not notice any. One sign indicated that this was a “Protected Area”. What a treat! This is the first time

I have ever seen *L. philadelphicum* growing in its natural habitat and I had lots of opportunity to view them stopping several times along the way.



Photo:  
David Maltby

*Lilium philadelphicum* growing on the northern shore of Lake Michigan, always in proximity to wet areas, in poor soil where the grass could not establish itself and compete with the lilies.

Always driving through different areas you see new things. The journey through northern Wisconsin, along Highway 8 took me primarily through productive farmland with many small towns and

occasionally some areas of bush all the way across the state. All and all it was a nice road trip but finding *L. philadelphicum* was certainly the highlight.

## *Lilies and Related Plants*

### From the Editor:

Although it is just March and I look forward, in hope, (hope is always necessary when thinking about the weather and living in Scotland) to a lovely spring and a lily season to match the summer of 2013, (especially as members of the Lily Group will be visiting my garden in July!), I already feel the chill winds of failing to collect the essential number of 20 articles for the next issue of *Lilies and Related Plants*.

However, this unpleasant feeling could be moderated by members of the Lily Group putting fingers to keyboards and producing, what I am sure, would be interesting articles on "our" favourite plants, so please contact me at: [massmitch@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:massmitch@tiscali.co.uk), or by phone at: 01592 759255.

*Alan Mitchell*

# Requests

## *LILIUM RUBELLUM* var. *ALBUM*

Lane Spence, a member from the New Zealand, is trying to track down *Lilium rubellum* var. *album*. If anyone can help him please get in touch with him directly by email: [tehau@ruralinzone.net](mailto:tehau@ruralinzone.net)

## Red lily beetle

Dear Secretary,

My name is Richard Bucknall and I am a researcher with WyeBugs. We are a small company who specialise in the rearing and supply of predatory and parasitoid insects to botanical gardens and producers of glasshouse crops.

As part of our work this year we have again been asked to carry out some research on the scarlet lily beetle *Lilioceris lili* feeding upon lily plants. At present no cultures of this pest species are available in the UK and we therefore need as a matter of some urgency to build up a stock of several hundred beetles for work to be carried out this summer.

I wondered if it would be possible to kindly circulate a request to your membership for the collection of any adults that they may come across. The adult beetles will most likely be appearing in gardens towards the end of this month and will start to produce eggs at the end of April.

We would ask that any member finding adult beetles collect them into a jam jar with a small amount of lightly moistened kitchen paper (without any leaves) and a paper lid fixed with a rubber band and then contact us by the following methods. Please keep the jar in a cool shaded place e.g. shed.

Telephone 01233 813130

Or email [richardbucknall@wyebugs.co.uk](mailto:richardbucknall@wyebugs.co.uk)

We could then arrange either to pick up a mass collection of the beetles or to send a pre-paid package for postage.

Yours faithfully, *Richard Bucknall*



## RHS Lily Group Publications DVD 1932-2014

Few of us will have the good fortune to possess a complete set of *Lilies and Related Plants* 1932-2014. The Lily Group grasped the opportunity to purchase and digitise a set to fulfil two aims – the preservation and increased availability of a fascinating record in this digital age.

An order form is printed on p.11

**Nuala Sterling**



RHS Lily Group





## Dear Lily Group Members,

As you know the annual subscription was increased to £15 from 1 January 2015, the first rise in 14 years.

The majority of members have modified their standing order instructions by phone or letter to their banks but some who have not are still in arrears of £5.

Members who have not paid their subscriptions for the coming 1, 2 or 3 years option renewal for 2015 please complete the form and return it to me or consider a standing order to your bank. It would be a pity if this were your last opportunity to receive the Newsletter.

If your mailing label is shown as

2014/\*\*-\*\*/\*\* or is preceded with SO 2014/\*\* for standing order it confirms you are in arrears. Those who receive their Newsletter electronically will get a personal reminder from the Chairman.

The preferred method of payment for UK bank account holders is Standing Order (form available on request from me). Alternatively, cheques should be made payable to the Lily Group and posted to me.

Please keep me up to date on your contact details.

Best wishes.

**Rose Voelcker, Membership Secretary**

email: [rvlanjique@wanadoo.fr](mailto:rvlanjique@wanadoo.fr)

## Lily Group contact details

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E.: [webmaster@rhslilygroup.org](mailto:webmaster@rhslilygroup.org)

### Other Committee Members

Alisdair Aird, Vice Chairman  
Chris Brickell  
Duncan Coombs  
Irene Hopton-Scott  
Harris Howland  
Richard Hyde  
Stephanie Martin  
Nigel Rowland  
Tim Whiteley

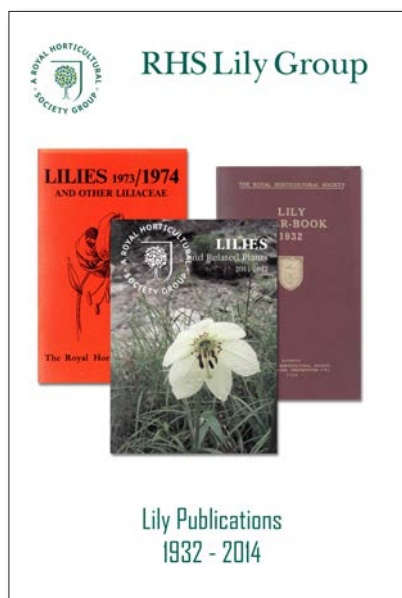
Lily Group Newsletter, acting editors, Caroline Boisset and Nuala Sterling

## Summary of RHS Lily Group Accounts 2010/11/12/13/14

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Capital Deposits</b>					
Liability for subscriptions paid in advance	22,145 (3,660)	18,842 (2,960)	16,669 (2,680)	13,009 (2,550)	15,528 (2,760)
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) on year</b>	2,982	(2,603)	2,612	(3,529)	2,047
<b>Principal Areas of Income</b>					
Subscriptions	3,380	3,330	3,390	3,230	3,160
Interest on Capital Deposits	32	32	81	82	83
Seed Distribution - net profit	1,293	1,107	1,584	547	1,602
Bulb Auction - net profit	634	948	437	664	512
<b>Principal Areas of Expenditure</b>					
Publication/Distribution of <i>Lilies &amp; Related Plants</i>	204	5,237	171	5,619	202
Communications - Newsletters/Website	1,439	1,097	1,243	1,060	2,100
General Administration	706	1,218	1,472	1,386	1,090
<b>Membership</b>					
Life/Correspondents	18	18	18	18	19
Subscribing UK	220	215	213	203	190
Subscribing Overseas	121	131	125	116	116
Total	359	364	356	337	325

**Colin Pope**  
 treasurer@rhslilygroup.org  
 08-Apr-15

# Lily Group Publications DVD 1932-2014



This remarkable archive, in searchable PDF format, encompassing the *Year Books*, *Lilies and other Liliaceae*, the *Bulletin* and since 1984 the biennial *Lilies and Related Plants*, is available to Lily Group Members at a special price of £30 inclusive of postage and packing.

The DVD is compatible with computers using Windows, Macintosh or Linux operating systems. It can be viewed directly from a DVD drive or from the purchaser's own hard drive using Adobe Reader. It is copyrighted to the RHS Lily Group.

If you would like to receive a copy please return this form, duly completed, by post or email to the Lily Group Chairman:

**Dr Nuala Sterling,**

**Vermont House, Withers Lane, EAST BOLDRE, SO42 7WX, UK**

**Telephone: +44 (0)1590 612378 Email: [chairman@rhslilygroup.org](mailto:chairman@rhslilygroup.org)**

**NAME**

**ADDRESS**

Post code:

**EMAIL ADDRESS**

**TELEPHONE**

**PAYMENT CAN BE MADE AS FOLLOWS:**

Please tick as appropriate

1. **CHEQUE** made payable to **The Lily Group** drawn on a UK Bank, or ☐
2. **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 ☐
3. **ONLINE**, You will be invoiced by email but it will not be necessary that you hold an individual online (PayPal) account to use this option. ☐

## ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY



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

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Including first and last names

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until 31.12.16

GBP £45 ☐

until 31.12.17

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4. **ONLINE**, in which case please signify by checking this option. You will be invoiced by email for the amount you chose to pay (GBP 15, 30 or 45) but it will not be necessary that you hold an individual online (PayPal) account to use this option. ☐

Signature Please sign and date the form:

Date

In the event of a change of postal address please give your previous address and also please notify us of any change of email address.