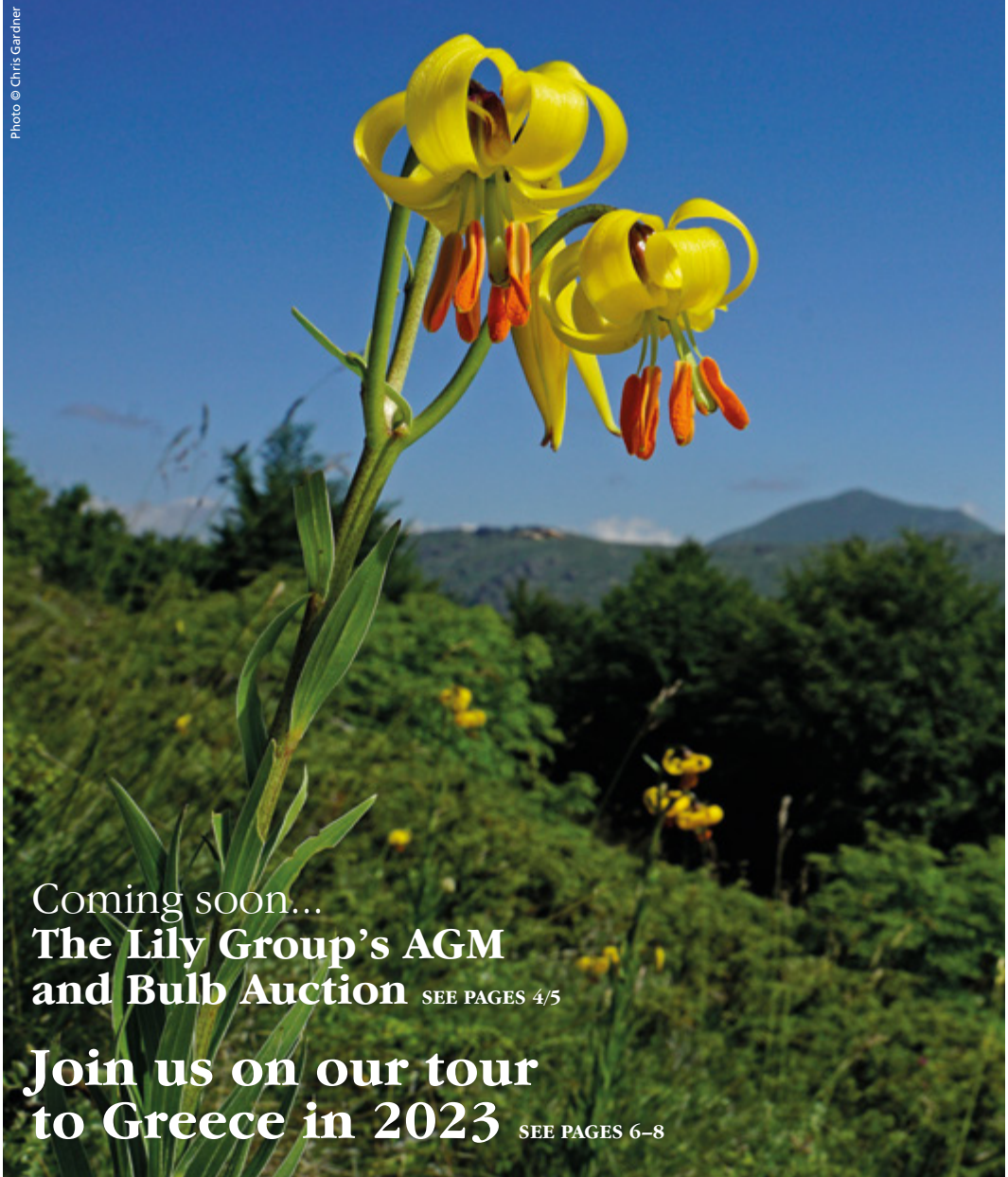




LILY GROUP  
**Newsletter**

AUTUMN 2022

Photo © Chris Gardner



Coming soon...  
**The Lily Group's AGM  
and Bulb Auction** SEE PAGES 4/5

**Join us on our tour  
to Greece in 2023** SEE PAGES 6-8

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# Chairman's letter

Jamie Compton

I hope that by the time readers will see this message there will have been lots of rain to fatten up the lily bulbs ready for the winter months ahead.

Living in Wiltshire it has been the hottest and driest summer in my memory. My usually gigantic *Lilium* 'Anastasia' was half the size of last year but still flowered well, as did the *L. longiflorum* hybrids and the always reliable *L. henryi*. Many others including some of the species such as the beautiful *L. speciosum* var. *gloriosoides* from the mountains of northern Taiwan, grew well to start with and then lost their leaves to flower almost bare-stemmed in August following the heat.

Meetings of the Committee have once again have been held by Zoom. Post lockdown a visit was made in June to the garden of Mel



Photograph © Melvyn Herbert

Herbert our Editor of *Lilies and Related Plants* by Vice-Chair George Battle and two North American botanists Prof. Tom Givnish and Dr Mark Skinner and myself. Tom and Mark are working on a complete DNA-based study of all lily species across the world and it will be exciting to see the fruits of their labours in due course. Mel and his wife Lyn have a very interesting collection of lily species as well as many other plants, which we saw on an unusually wet day.

We plan more visits to interesting gardens and much further afield in particular to northern Greece next year. We look forward to the AGM and annual bulb auction and I hope as many members as possible will feel free to join in.



Photograph © Melvyn Herbert

Sunday 26 June 2022

# Summer visit to RBG Edinburgh

Madeleine Tinson



Photographs © Madeleine Tinson

**On behalf of the Lily Group, a huge thanks to our guide for the day, Scott Cook, Senior Horticulturalist (Alpine Section). In June he led us through the gardens to the alpine houses, stopping on the way to point out several of the garden's attractions.**

Reaching the show houses, Scott told us about the plants and explained how their varying growing conditions were catered for. In a courtyard beyond, alpine-filled troughs held our attention, not noticing the door in the wall till Scott unlocked it letting the ten of us pass into this once tennis court for our guided tour of the countless glasshouses tended by Scott and his two assistants.

Scott had kindly printed us all a list of the lilies we might find with our map, and as we



A healthy specimen of *Lilium martagon* doing very well in the woodland garden near Redwood Grove.

wandered off in small groups, it reminded me of a treasure hunt. Thanks to Liz Mills, Marjorie Allan and Iain Doig, we found most of those flowering. Swaths of martagons being the main attraction with a few others including *lankongense*, then *auratum*, *canadense*, *duchartrei*, *henryi*, *pardalinum* and *superbum*, were some of the ones which needed a week or mores sun.

A wonderful and informative day and an opportunity to meet up with fellow members in beautiful surroundings.



# Lily Group AGM

Saturday 8 October at 14.00 BST



George Battle

Last year our online Annual General Meeting utilising the Zoom platform, provided a great opportunity for meeting our members across the globe. This year we hope to offer an even better occasion for this lily growing community to meet and to discuss present opportunities and future plans.

The feedback from everyone who attended in 2021 has helped to shape what we will offer this time... and into the future. We will be sharing these plans with you in October.

Such was the popularity of Martin Toon's video last year that we have persuaded Peter Shotter to give us a virtual tour of his garden in Kent. Peter has a wonderful garden and incorporates species lilies into his planting in ways that are often surprising and original. We will be showing a video of his garden in

## How to join the Online AGM

Details on how to join us on Zoom for the AGM were sent via email on Saturday 3 September\*

under way to conserve several of the rarer western American hybrid lilies. This is being done in line with the 'Dispersed Collections' framework set out by Plant Heritage UK. Vicki Cooke of Plant Heritage will give a brief outline of the 'Dispersed Collections' scheme, followed by a Q&A session both on the scheme and on conservation possibilities.

Our Chairman Jamie Compton and our Finance Officer, Irene Hopton-Scott, will be reporting on the year past and offer you their view of current and future prospects.

Nuala Sterling, to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude, has decided to stand down at the AGM. At the same time, Gary Davison has agreed to join our committee: we hope Gary will be able to guide us on a range of digital activities. You will also be able to vote on whether to renew the term of those members of committee whose period in office is expiring. And, we're always looking for new people to step forward and help us to run things for all of us in the Lily Group.

\*If you did not receive our email, please contact George Battle: geordiebattle@gmail.com

## Join us on Saturday 8 October

- An update on the Lily Group's activities and a chance to meet one of our newest committee members, Gary Davison
- Virtual Garden Tour and Q&A, with grateful thanks to Peter Shotter
- 'Dispersed Collections' presented by Vicki Cooke from Plant Heritage UK, with Q&A to follow

spring and then in summer with species in flower. An 'autumn' episode is in the 'pipeline'. There will be opportunities for questions about Peter's collection and his growing methods.

Plant conservation is a topic which concerns us all. We have a modest initiative

Below, *Lilium rubellum* growing well at Peter Shotter's garden on the North Downs (ca. 180m) in south east England.

# Online Bulb Auction 2022

BIDDING OPENS 9 am 24 October | BIDDING CLOSES 6 pm 29 October

## Let's make it a success!

A call to all our UK members to please contribute more bulbs.

Our UK Bulb Auction is a great chance to pick up some rarities. This year it will be run by Scott Cook and Andrew Holmes. We hope this is the start of a successful new chapter, but we do face a significant challenge. In 2021, only two other people outside the committee donated bulbs.

## Contributing and preparing bulbs

As well as lilies, other bulbs and corms are very welcome. Please clean all bulbs thoroughly and label them clearly.

## Send your bulbs to:

Andrew Holmes, Strathtummel,  
17 Lower Oakfield, Pitlochry,  
PH16 5DS Scotland

To arrive between 3 October and  
17 October 2022

## How to bid

A full list of lots for sale will be posted on our website: rhslilygroup.org on the morning of Monday 24th October. Under the 'Members' tab select 'Bulb Auction 2022' to see the list.

Making a bid is easy. Send an email and include the book(s) or bulb lot, its lot number and the amount of your bid to: Scott Cook: gardener272000@yahoo.co.uk

Include **Auction Bid** in the subject line of your email, and clearly state your 'primary' and 'secondary' bids. See also, 'Limits on bidding' below.



Photograph © Melvyn Herbert

## Limits on bidding

Each member may bid on a maximum of five lots. These are your 'primary' bids. You can submit up to five 'secondary' bids. Secondary bids will be activated if there are no primary bids on any given lot. Please refrain from 'proxy' bidding on behalf of other members.

## Updating your bids

The auction web page will be regularly updated with the highest bid for each lot. We can't provide Ebay-style 'live' bidding but will try to update frequently. If on the website you see that your initial bid has been topped, you can submit a new bid.

## Payment and shipping

Successful bidders will be invoiced asap. Bulbs will be sent Royal Mail 2nd Class Signed For (&5.50 up to 2kg) after receipt of payment.



# Join us on tour to Northern Greece

23–30 JUNE 2023

Chris Gardner of Vira Natura Tours has put together a one-week holiday in Greece especially for members of the Lily Group. There will be excellent opportunities to see many of the best colonies of species lilies and a wide variety of other early-summer flowers. The holiday begins and ends in Thessaloniki, allowing each of you to book your own flights from the airport of your choice.

## TOUR ITINERARY

**23 June** Arrival at Thessaloniki midday/early afternoon and transfer to Drama in the foothills of the Rhodope Mountains.  
**24 June** Meet with park staff and go in search of *Lilium rhodopeum* in a national park characterised by lush beech forests with grassy clearings. Overnight Drama.  
**25 June** Mount Falakron to look for *Lilium martagon cattaniae* in pine forests; we hope to see *Gladiolus palustris* and *Anthericum lilago*. Mounds of *Globularia cordifolia*, lilac-pink *Acinos alpinus*, *Teucrium montanum* and

## TOUR PREVIEW

Join Chris Gardner for an inspirational talk via Zoom.

**Monday 1st November 2022  
7.00pm to 8.30pm (BST)**

Hear all about the Lily Group Tour to Greece from someone who has extensive knowledge of the botanical treasures of this region.

Chris will give full details on what exciting plants we might see and the places we will visit, all from the comfort of your home! An email reminder will be sent to members in October, with instructions on how you can view the talk.

low-growing *Campanula orphanidea* colour the rocky alpine turf. Overnight Drama.

**26 June** Transfer to Agios Germanos via the historical site of Pela, travelling over thickly

*continued on page 8*

Opposite, Photographing *Lilium carnolicum* on Mt Smolikias in northern Greece with (inset) a close-up view of the same lily.

## Summary of RHS Lily Group Accounts 2019, 2020 and 2021

Bank Balances	31 Dec 2019	31 Dec 2020	31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£
Barclays Current Account	901	4,593	635
Barclays Deposit Account	83	83	1,083
NS&I Investment Account	11,413	11,587	11,587
PayPal Business Account	270	-	15
Undeposited funds	-	-	107
<b>Total Monetary Assets</b>	<b>12,667</b>	<b>16,263</b>	<b>13,427</b>
Liability for subscriptions paid in advance	(-2,029)	(-1,449)	(-1,109)
<b>Principal Areas of Income</b>			
Subscriptions	2385	2930	3185
Subscriptions paid in advance	2029	1449	1109
Seed Distribution	764	960	1190
Bulb Auction – net proceeds	430	1232	1122
Miscellaneous Sales	-	-	220
<b>Total Net Income</b>	<b>5,719</b>	<b>6,654</b>	<b>6,826</b>
<b>Principal Areas of Expenditure</b>			
Publication of <i>Lilies &amp; Related Plants</i>	5,961	-	6,392
Newsletters	2,495	1,327	1,155
Website	-	145	574
QuickBooks subscription and training	-	553	739
Zoom subscription	-	-	115
General Administration	1311	844	758
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>9,767</b>	<b>2,869</b>	<b>9,733</b>

## RHS Lily Group

Jamie Compton, Chairman

George Battle, Vice Chairman, Seed List  
Compiler and Website Editor

Dr Nuala Sterling CBE, Vice Chairman  
and member of the Bulb Committee

Tony Dixon, Secretary & Pollen coordinator

Irene Hopton-Scott, Membership Secretary  
and Treasurer

## Honorary Officers and Committee 2022

Melvyn Herbert, Editor *Lilies & Related Plants*

Chris Clennett, Newsletter Editor

Duncan Coombs, Programme coordinator

Pat Huff, Seed List Distribution Manager

### EMERITUS

Chris Brickell CBE VMH,  
Harris Howland (Past Chairman), Rose Voelcker

### CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Keith Baldie, Walter Erhardt, Axel Hintze,  
Jürgen Koch, Alan Mitchell

### OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alisdair Aird, Caroline Boisset, Madeleine Tinson



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[www.facebook.com/groups/2617608858556096](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2617608858556096)



Latest News and Updates

[www.rhslilygroup.org](http://www.rhslilygroup.org)

forested foothills where roadside banks have pretty masses of *Linaria dalmatica*, *Digitalis lanata*, *Lathyrus grandiflorus* and dainty pinks.

**27 June** Mount Vournos – excellent *Lilium af albanicum* population. There is pleasant walking across the undulating green hills to see more lilies and lots of other flowers too.

**28 June** Drive to Papigo (3½ to 4 hours) and spend the afternoon visiting a *Lilium candidum* site and a *L. martagon* site near the superb Vikos Gorge in the afternoon. Other nice cultural sites too. Overnight Papigo

**29 June** To Mount Flega to see a relict population of *Lilium af albanicum*. From the summit there are commanding views of the spectacular surrounds of the Pindos Mountains. Impressive lizard orchids grow nearby too and plentiful marsh orchids in the verges. Overnight Papigo.

**30 June** Transfer to Thessaloniki for flights.



*Lilium martagon* subsp. *cattaniae* Photograph © Chris Gardner

## TOUR DETAILS & BOOKING

### ACCOMMODATION

Smaller boutique hotels. For anyone arriving earlier than 23 June, Chris Gardner can recommend a hotel near the airport.

### TRANSPORT

9-seater minibuses (larger vehicles are not suitable for the narrow roads).

### COSTS

1925 euros per person (twin share)

350 euros (single supplement)

### DEPOSITS

Non-refundable 15% deposit with booking

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Accommodation, transport within Greece, guides and entry fees, meals and water.

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

International flights, travel insurance, additional drinks/snacks other than those provided at meal times.

**BOOKING FORM AVAILABLE HERE:**  
[rhslilygroup.org/about-us-activities/](https://rhslilygroup.org/about-us-activities/)

## HOLIDAY EXTENSIONS

Stay a bit longer and visit the impressive monasteries of Meteora and travel on to Parnassós where there is a strong population of *Lilium chalconicum* and some great alpine plants. Options to add extra days to your trip are available to everyone.

**For more details contact Chris Gardner via email: [info@viranatura.com](mailto:info@viranatura.com)**



*Lilium candidum* Photograph © Chris Gardner