



As I write following an exceptionally hot and dry summer here in south England, MPG's interest in water-wise planting becomes increasingly relevant for many of us. The October tour to private and public gardens and nurseries in France will provide excellent opportunities to gain practical ideas in extending garden interest throughout the year and selecting plants for drier conditions.

As ever, the Management Committee and members are busy planning a vibrant programme of activities. MPG is run by and for members, so please get in touch if you have ideas for day events, Zoom lectures or have visited somewhere that you think members would like to hear about. You can contact the Committee via our website [Contact Page](#).

Best wishes,
Jackie Hunt, Chair of MPG Management Committee

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FROM CARCASSONNE TO MARSEILLE: WATERWISE GARDENS AND PLANTING

Monday 5 October - Tuesday 13 October 2026

A few places are still available. However, don't delay booking if this tour interests you, as it will be hard for us to secure additional hotel rooms as we move closer to October. This will be an ideal opportunity to see how 'dry garden' plants and gardens have managed to survive and thrive during an extremely hot summer. Please email Anne Keenan to find out more: anne@annekeenan.co.uk

Details and booking on the website: [Click here](#)

THE PELOPONNESE IN SPRING

Monday 5 April – Tuesday 13 April 2027

This tour will be led by experienced guide Yiannis Christofides, with a geographically, botanically and historically exciting itinerary. Starting and ending in Athens, the tour spends time around the unspoilt historic town of Gytheio. Also, the Bronze-age site of Mycenae and Mystras, a beautifully preserved medieval Byzantine city. Bookings are now open on the website, or please email Heather Martin with serious expressions of interest so that coach/minibus size can be confirmed: hma@clara.net

Details and booking on the website: [Click here](#)

DATES FOR YOUR 2027 DIARY

A wonderful selection of tours and day events are being planned for 2027. Below is a taster of those being finalised, further details to follow in the Autumn:

ANDALUCIA

End of April 2027

Led by Răzvan Chișu, this tour will start and finish in Malaga, exploring some areas of the Andalucian sierras and a cultural visit to the beautiful heritage city of Granada.

ALBANIA

13 -22 May 2027

This botanical tour, led by Oron Peri, will explore several locations in this fascinating country with its floral "crossroads". It will follow a similar itinerary to the oversubscribed 2025 tour, described in the [Tour Report](#).

Early entry to **CHELSEA**

FLOWER SHOW: Tuesday 18 May 2027

UK SUMMER GARDEN TOUR based in Kendal, Cumbria: **27 June - 1 July 2027**

QUEEN ELIZABETH II GARDEN, Regent's Park, London, with Matthew Pottage: **28 July 2027**

NEW BURSARY REPORTS ON THE WEBSITE

There are many new reports with fabulous photographs to enjoy on the Bursary section of the [website](#).

[Hiking tour of Madeira and Lanzarote](#)

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew propagation student **Sophy James** reports on a study trip exploring the volcanic landscapes to understand the ecology of local flora and visits to nurseries and botanic institutions to learn about cultivation of endemic plants.

[Tenerife](#)

Emily Hazell is Head of Plant Collections at Chelsea Physic Garden. Emily's study tour explored the island's different vegetation types including pine forest, Laurasilva cloud forest and heath, to help inform cultivation techniques in Chelsea.

[Crete botanising](#)

Charlie Hunt developed professional and field botany skills whilst exploring Crete's flora. Charlie's report shares the wonders and memorable experiences of exploring the island, with an extensive plant list.

[RHS Wisley Formal Team trip to gardens of the Italian Lakes](#) and [Formal gardens around Lake Maggiore](#)

Nicholas Petters and **Verity Battyll** report on their study trip to investigate potential plant selection and maintenance, irrigation and water management practices and pest and disease threats for the gardens at Wisley, in light of changing climate.

[Wild flora of the Greek Rhodope](#)

At the crossroads between Europe and Asia and influenced by the Aegean Sea, the Rhodope Mountains have a great diversity of plant and animal species. **Alice Riches** utilised the MPG study trip to northern Greece to inform her care of Mediterranean flora at Cambridge University Botanic Gardens.

MPG FACEBOOK PAGE

MPG's [Facebook page](#) highlights our events, tours, day trips and Zoom meetings during the year as well as sharing content relevant to our love of all things Mediterranean. If you are a Facebook user please take a look and maybe follow us or comment on/like a post you find interesting.

Members are welcome to contribute their photos, information and anecdotes, either from Mediterranean locations where they may live or holiday, or about Mediterranean style planting. Posts can be formal with plant names or more informal, so no botanical knowledge is required - just something interesting to share, with a couple of photos – [example here](#). Lesley Jones manages our Facebook page and will create the post. Authors can be named or not, as they prefer.

Please contact Lesley: WhatsApp +447740 344566 Email lesleynowjones@gmail.com.