Mediterranean Plants and Gardens

medpag.org
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The end of the year is approaching all too fast but provides an ideal time to look forward to our busy **EVENTS PROGRAMME.** UK garden visits include London, Birmingham and Somerset, whilst tours are planned to Cumbria and Lancashire, the Peloponnese, Andalucia and Albania.

We are also looking ahead to 2028 and would be delighted to hear from any members who could assist with planning a summer tour to Northumberland, such as researching garden visits. Please **get in touch** if you can help.

In the meantime, our winter quiz returns and we hear tales of intrepid plants hunters, explore an experimental garden and discover a specialist plant collection in our Zoom lectures.

Best wishes,
Jackie Hunt, Chair of MPG Management Committee

ZOOM LECTURES AND QUIZ

Free to members. Please book via the Events page of the website HERE.
If you can't make the live event, recordings will be available on the website HERE.

AMBRA EDWARDS - PLANT HUNTERS **Friday 20 November 2026, 17.30 for 18.00**

Multi-award winning garden writer Ambra Edwards launches our lecture programme with a botanical world tour! From the snowy passes of Tibet to the Amazon jungle, from Ancient Egypt to the ramparts of 19th century Shanghai right up to 21st Century seed banks, Ambra will share colourful and exciting histories of plants traversing the globe. Ambra's lecture is richly illustrated with paintings from the archives of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. A wonderful opportunity to discover the adventurous origins of favourite garden plants.

WINTER QUIZ **Thursday 17 December 2026, 17.30 for 18.00 GMT**

Our popular pre-Christmas quiz returns. Join us via Zoom for clues to identify Mediterranean climate flora and gardens.

WINTER MEETING & LECTURE **Saturday 23 January 2027, 9.30 for 10.00**

Catch up with activities undertaken by our committees, including finance, tours, membership and bursaries, followed by our midwinter lecture (details to follow).

RICHARD GRAVETT - REIMAGINING DELOS: THE GREEK GARDEN AT SISSINGHURST CASTLE GARDEN **Monday 1 February 2027, 17.30 for 18.00**

Richard is National Trust Senior Gardener at this world famous historic garden in Kent, UK. This reimagined and experimental garden was originally inspired by the flora, landscapes and archaeology of the Greek island of Delos. The final phase of construction and planting was completed recently. Richard will explain the garden's history and how a sense of the Greek Cyclades is conjured through plant choices and techniques. A great opportunity to discover garden plants that could thrive in hotter, drier summers.

LUCI SKINNER – PELARGONIUMS: ORIGINS, PROPAGATION AND CARE

Tuesday 23 March 2027, 17.30 for 18.00

Luci holds the National Collection of Scented Leaf and Species Pelargoniums. In her informative and practical lecture Luci will share her expertise in these beautiful plants, starting with their journey from South Africa to Europe in the 17th Century. Luci will also explain the different groups in the genus and share tips for their propagation and care.

2027 TOURS

PELOPONNESE IN SPRING

Monday 5 April – Tuesday 13 April 2027

Among the gorges, olive groves and coastal paths, the spring flowers of mainland Greece are stunning. This is 8-night tour offers a geographically, botanically and historically exciting itinerary, including Bronze-age Mycenae and the medieval Byzantine city of Mystras. The tour is led by experienced guide Yiannis Christofides, who knows and loves the area.

Details and booking available on the website HERE

SPRING IN ANDALUCIA

Monday 19 April – Tuesday 27 April 2027

This 8 night tour is mainly botanical and will cover parts of three mountain regions in eastern Andalucia, flying in and out of Malaga. It will be based for four nights in a rural hotel and four nights in Granada and will include a visit to the Alhambra and the Generalife gardens. The tour will be led by experienced guide Razvan Chisu. The tour can expect a mixture of bulbs, orchids, mediterranean and alpine plants of the region.

BOOKINGS OPEN on the website on receipt of this newsletter

THE MOUNTAIN FLORA OF ALBANIA

Thursday 13 May – Saturday 22 May 2027

This 9 night botanical tour will be led by Oron Peri, a highly experienced guide and known to many, who has been several times to the places on our tour and can take us to very specific places. Because of its unique geography Albania is very rich in species, both Mediterranean and alpine. The tour covers several areas of the country, still developing after decades of communist rule and delightfully rural. It includes a day in the historic cultural city of Berat.

BOOKINGS OPEN on the website on receipt of this newsletter

UK SUMMER GARDENS TOUR: CUMBRIA AND NORTH LANCASHIRE

Sunday 27 June – Thursday 1 July 2027

This three-and-a-half-day tour will visit beautiful gardens from a four-star hotel close to Kendal. Visits will be led by owners and head gardeners with highlights including a visit to Gresgarth Hall Gardens – the private garden of Arabella Lennox Boyd which is only occasionally open – and a guided visit to one of the best areas of limestone pavement in Britain, rich with unusual plants.

Details and booking available on the website HERE

UK DAY EVENTS

Details and booking forms will be available on the UPCOMING EVENTS PAGE OF THE WEBSITE.

EARLY ENTRY TO CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

Tuesday 18 May 2027

WINTERBORNE HOUSE AND GARDENS AND BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

Wednesday 26 May 2027

A one-day visit to two magnificent gardens in Birmingham. Winterbourne House and Garden followed the style of the Arts and Crafts Movement. The garden design was inspired by the work of Gertrude Jekyll, and is now Grade 2 listed. Birmingham Botanical Gardens are one of the UK's most significant historic Botanic Gardens created in 1829. The visits will be timed to allow members travelling from London by train to join the first garden tour at 11.15am.

HILLSIDE, DAN PEARSON'S PRIVATE GARDEN

Friday 25 June 2027

We are lucky to have secured a visit to the private garden of renowned landscape designer Dan Pearson and his partner Huw Morgan, north of Bath. Dan will introduce the history of the property, his approach to land management and the creation of the gardens. He will then lead a tour of the gardens, including a new sand garden with Mediterranean climate plants. Visit concludes with refreshments.

QUEEN ELIZABETH GARDEN, REGENTS PARK, LONDON

Wednesday 28 July 2027

A very special visit to this new garden created to commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II, with a tour by Matthew Pottage, Head of Horticulture and Landscape Strategy, The Royal Parks. The prairie style garden was transformed from a disused plant nursery, with the aim to create beauty and biodiversity amongst crushed concrete and re-purposed 'waste' brick and steel. Meet at noon at The Regent's Bar & Kitchen in the heart of Queen Mary's Gardens, Regent's Park for a buffet lunch.