

ALPINE OPEN DAY RHS GARDEN WISLEY – 1 OCTOBER 2015

Join experts and enthusiasts from the world of alpinists and rock garden plants at a joint RHS, Alpine Garden Society (AGS) and Scottish Rock Garden Club (SRGC) open day at RHS Garden Wisley on Thursday 1 October 2015.

Entrance to the event is free, although normal arrangements for access to the garden apply.

Talks, practical demonstrations, a photographic exhibition, and other activities will be held at the Hillside Events Centre. There will also be plants sales at the Wisley Plant Centre and by other specialist alpine nurseries on site, an open session of the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee, and guided tours of the Wisley Rock Garden and Alpine Departments.

The programme for the day will include:

10.30 Welcome and introduction: Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson, Journalist, Author and Chairman of the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee.

10.30 -16.00 Alpine and Rock Garden Plant photographic exhibition.

10.45 Talks on the three societies:

- RHS: Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson, VMH. Chair of the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee.
- AGS: Mr David Haselgrove, VMH, President of the Alpine Garden Society;
- SRGC: Professor David Rankin, SRGC President elect.

11.00 Talks on alpinists at:

- RHS Garden Wisley – Colin Crosbie, Curator.
- Royal Botanic Garden, Kew – (tbc).
- Cambridge University Botanic Garden - Simon Wallis, Assistant Supervisor Alpines and Woodland.
- Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh - John Mitchell, Supervisor of the Alpine Department.

11.50 Practical demonstrations: trough making and planting; trough planting; growing from seed (further details to follow).

13.00 Break for lunch (not provided) – opportunity to mix with alpine experts, buy plants and view the alpine photographic exhibition.

13.00 – 16.00 Science and Advisory Services. RHS Botanists and Advisory staff will be available to answer a variety of questions. Exhibition of alpine specimens from the RHS Herbarium.

14.00 A choice of:

- Observing the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee discussing alpine plants in open session, or
- Tours of the RHS Wisley Alpine Department and Rock Garden.

15.00 Question and Answers: Mr David Haselgrove (Chair); Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson; Mr Rod Leeds; Prof David Rankin; Dr Martin Sheader; Mr Ray Drew, Mr James Armitage (and others).

16.30: Finish