Welcome to members and friends in Portugal with an interest in Mediterranean Gardening. If you know of any others who may be interested in Mediterranean gardening please pass this along to them and remember all are welcome to attend our events.

Bem-vindo aos membros e amigos em Portugal com interesse no Jardinagem Mediterrâneo. Se souber de alguém que esteja interessado em jardinagem mediterrânica agradecemos que passa a palavra, ou o favor de dar um destes boletins informativos, e não esquecer que todos estão convidados a participar nos eventos por nós organizados.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015/16</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
<th>Info</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 7th November 2015 11.00 – 16.00</td>
<td>Mediterranean Garden Fair, Estoi, Algarve</td>
<td>NEW nurseries, NEW plants, NEW Advice Panel <strong>Helpers Needed !</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd December</td>
<td>Christmas Social &amp; Lunch&lt;br&gt;Native/Drought Tolerant Plants in Table Decoration competition</td>
<td>Tasquinho do Lagar, Querença&lt;br&gt;Great food available at reasonable costs. Bookings to Burford Hurry&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:burfordhpt@gmail.com">burfordhpt@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30th December</td>
<td>Fungi Foray in Monchique&lt;br&gt;Guided walk looking at fungi with Pat O’Reilly, author of Fascinating Fungi</td>
<td>Info &amp; bookings contact Jeanette Fahlbusch Email <a href="mailto:jeanettealicefahlbusch@gmail.com">jeanettealicefahlbusch@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Early March Date to be confirmed</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>With speaker, book sales and information on MGAP activities</td>
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<td>March 2016</td>
<td>Spring Plant Fair&lt;br&gt;Date to be confirmed</td>
<td><strong>Quinta da Figueirinha, Silves</strong>&lt;br&gt;Bigger and Better !</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 to 22 April 2016</td>
<td>Pre Conference tour in Sintra and Lisbon</td>
<td>Based in Sintra, visits to historic and private gardens with guides. Places limited</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EARLY NOTICE</strong> 22 to 25 April 2016 Date now confirmed</td>
<td>International Spring Conference April 2016&lt;br&gt;dedicated to the natural landscapes and native plants around the Mediterranean&lt;br&gt;Residential and Day Delegate packages available</td>
<td>Olivier Filippi visit to Algarve&lt;br&gt;Saturday April 23rd&lt;br&gt;Talk on “Dry gardening: a new inspiration for gardeners in the Mediterranean region”&lt;br&gt;Enquiries to <a href="mailto:rosie@thebtf.net">rosie@thebtf.net</a></td>
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Message from Burford Hurry, President - Mediterranean Gardening Association of Portugal

Autumn is with us again and the fragile flowers of the Amaryllis belladonna, the curly pink petals of the nerines, the red plastic blooms of Haemanthus coccineus, the cocky little snow-white Zephyranthes candida reminding us once again we are having our usual second ‘spring’ which in many ways is as exciting as the earlier one. But it is not only the look of our garden that reminds us of the change in the season, there is perfume too. The tiny blossoms of the curry tree (Murraya koenigii), the fiddle wood (Citharexylum spinosum) and the Hoya bella are perfuming the garden. The leaves of the shrubs have acquired a fresh green and less dusty aspect in the longed for rain which has finally arrived. It was a particularly cruel summer even succulents and aloes that are used to the sun appear to have been scorched.

It’s also time to get excited about the planting season which is now starting. To this end we held a popular practical ‘planty’ day at Quinta da Figueirinha near Silves on the 16th October where participants were able to get hands-on with exchanging plants and seeds and learning about grafting. Then of course there will be the garden fair on the 7th November at the pousada in Estoi. Specialist nurseries with a wide variety of plants from roses to cistus will be strutting their stuff and selling their plants. The Fair will provide an ideal opportunity not only to buy that Mediterranean-friendly unusual plant but also to talk to other experienced gardeners on our new Advice Panel about plants and gardens and gardening problems, both from the perspective of the ornamental gardener as well as the vegetable grower.

And then there is our social get together on the 3rd of December in Querenca at the same restaurant where we had our inaugural MGAP meeting. Those interested are asked to bring a ‘water wise’ decoration for the tables with a prize for the arrangement deemed to be the best. 2016? In April we will be having our International Spring Conference in Lagos with Olivier Filippi and Dr Ken Thompson as our keynote speakers with botanical walks and garden visits. Exciting and inspirational stuff!

So with all that in mind it’s time to roll up our sleeves and get gardening again,

Burford Hurry

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MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN FAIR – Saturday, November 7th 2015 11.00 to 16.00

Estoi Pousada Palace Hotel, garden fair in the lower historic gardens & free car parking on the market place in Estoi with a repeat of the free shuttle bus service & plant crèche. Look out for the signs on the day!

Entry Cost for 2015 will be €2 per person, children under 16 free entry.

This will be the seventh year for our annual gardening feast of delights, and thanks to everyone who has supported this event over those years. Without the valuable time and patience of our marvellous band of volunteer helpers we could not stage this event. This is our main fund raising effort for the year and gives us the opportunity to support our learning initiatives, student visits and the events held throughout the rest of the year, such as the Spring Conference.

For 2015 we have a wonderful new nursery attending from France, La Roseraie du Désert owned and run by John & Becky Hook. They will bring their special range of roses specially recommended for Mediterranean gardens. You can see more about them here www.frenchtearose.com They will accept pre-orders for delivery at the Garden Fair and the full list and description of roses offered and recommended for Portugal is available on request.

As a departure from our usual timetable, we will have an informal advice panel of experts available all day in the talks room. They will be happy to try and answer your questions, on several topics and in several languages!, throughout the day. Bring photos, plant specimens and problems and we can provide some moral support, if not a definitive answer, straight away!
We are actively seeking some **garden gazeboes** to use on the day for those nurseries travelling a long distance, if you have a standard 3m sq frame and cover which we can borrow please contact rosie@thebtf.net

**IF you plan to attend the Garden Fair and can offer an hour or two of your time to help on the day, and there are sitting down jobs available, then please tell Rosie at rosie@thebtf.net and THANK YOU !**

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**BULBS for sale at the Garden Fair in limited quantities**

* Amaryllis belladonna, both clear and dark pink forms
* Scilla peruviana
* Sternbergia lutea
* Ipheion uniflorum mixture
* Iris unguicularis
* Narcissus paperwhite
* Tulbaghia violacea, both clear and dark lilac forms

**PLANT LABELS & SEED PACKETS** will also be available to buy at the garden fair.

- **Pot labels** white matt plastic 25 X 115 mm 24 labels on 3 sheets - cost €1.50
- **Loop labels** white matt plastic 19 X 210mm 14 labels per sheet – cost €1.00 per sheet
- **Seed Packets** 73mm x 41mm 10 packets for €1.25 / 98mm x 64mm 10 packets for €1.50

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**Christmas Social & Lunch at Tasquinho do Lagar, Querença - December 2nd**

*Everyone is invited* to join us for the Christmas Social meeting and lunch. There will be an informal competition for the best ‘Waterwise’ table decoration using seasonal native and/or drought tolerant plant materials. **Querença** is a typical small village situated in the Loulé department, in the Algarve region, a place of natural and architectural beauty. The village, located on a low hillside, is characterized by its charming typical white houses with a coloured bar around windows and doors, and with the traditional Algarve chimneys, showing the influence of many years of Moorish occupancy of the territory.

At the top of the hill is the lovely 16th century Mother Church with its interesting Manueline portal and a modest decoration, right in front of the pillory sited on a rock. This rural village is well known for the quality of its agricultural products.

The **Tasquinho do Lagar** restaurant was the venue for our 2015 AGM and provided an excellent lunch at a reasonable price with typical Algarvian dishes and sumptuous desserts. **Directions and more information on** http://infolugares.pt/Loule/Tasquina-Do-Lagar

**GPS** 37.197461,-7.98697

All bookings and enquiries to Burford Hurry Email burfordhpt@gmail.com

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**Fungi Foray, a guided walk – 30 December 2015**

Walk off the Christmas festivities with a guided tour of some of the Monchique hot spots for spectacular fungi. **Pat O’Reilly** is the author of **Fascinating Fungi**, the easy-to-follow introduction to a complex and largely unexplored kingdom of life and the history, mystery, facts and fiction born out of the fascinating foibles of mushrooms, toadstools and other fungi. Almost all of the species pictured and described in the book occur in the Algarve, and several are specifically associated with habitats unique to or mainly occurring in the Algarve region of southern Portugal. [http://www.algarvewildlife.com/books-fungi.php](http://www.algarvewildlife.com/books-fungi.php) and also for sale at the garden fair. Please register your interest in this event with Jeanette Fahlbusch email jeanettealicefahlbusch@gmail.com so that we can estimate numbers. There will be a small charge for this event and we hope to have the Fungi book for sale on the day.
Pre-conference tour based in Sintra, 19th to 22nd April two full days of garden visits with guides, includes travel from Sintra to Algarve for main conference weekend. Historic gardens and private gardens, places limited, details from rosie@thebtf.net

International Spring Conference in the Western Algarve, Portugal
Dry Gardens in the Mediterranean
“an undiscovered diversity”

EARLY NOTICE 22/23/24 April 2016 The conference will be based in Lagos.
Keynote Speakers - Olivier Filippi and Dr Ken Thompson

A long weekend from Friday 22 to Monday 25 April with Olivier Filippi as the keynote speaker on “Dry gardening: a new inspiration for gardeners in the Mediterranean region”. Dr Ken Thompson has published widely on almost all aspects of plant ecology. Ken has also written a number of books for gardeners, including ‘An Ear to the Ground’. He writes regularly on gardening for the Daily Telegraph. His new book ‘The Sceptical Gardener’ The Thinking Person’s Guide to Good Gardening will be published in November 2015 http://www.iconbooks.com/blog/title/the-sceptical-gardener

There will be further informative talks, guided wildflower walks, private garden visits and relevant plants and books on sale. Accommodation will be conveniently located for access to the rich Mediterranean flora of the Algarve region of southern Portugal, including the Cape St. Vincent Peninsula National Park, an area of immense botanical importance with numerous endemic and rare species. The area is also famous for birdwatching and the Sagres Peninsula and Cabo da São Vicente can be particularly rewarding.

Your participation in the preliminary organising for this special weekend would be very welcome, if you know of good value affordable accommodation, gardens, plant nurseries or good places to view wildflowers at that time of year then please let us know. info@mediterraneangardeningportugal.org

We hope to attract visitors from other countries and some young professional people, if you can host a visitor to the conference during the weekend, please contact rosie@thebtf.net

DROUGHT RESISTANCE SCALE FILIPPI-MILLS some notes from a meeting of the Catalan Mediterranean Garden Society branch from Joan Parera on proposals for a combined scale.

-The Physiological Drought Resistance Scale (PDRS) created by Olivier Filippi ranges from 1 to 6, from less to more drought resistant. This will be familiar to anyone having Olivier’s books, catalogues or who has bought plants from his nursery. http://www.jardin-sec.com

-The Dry-Heat Resistance Coefficient (DHRC) created by Pat Mills rates the plants aesthetic performance from A to C, from more to less resistant, and the letter X for summer deciduous plants. This coefficient is evaluated in the context of physiological plant resistance to drought. For example, Pistacia lentiscus has DHRC rating of A, to maintain that rating it must not exceed a level 5 on the PDRS scale. Elaeagnus x ebbingei has B rating in an area that does not exceed level 2.

The proposed scale combines the number and the letter from these two scales.
For example: Pistacia lentiscus 5A; Urginaea maritima 5X; Elaeagnus x ebbingei 2B

Using the scale:
-It is a relative scale, it should be used for comparison with other species already known in the conditions where the garden has to be designed.
It is valid for already well established plants and for plantings done in a place appropriate for the physiological requirements of the species (for example it wouldn’t be valid for a shade plant planted in full sun, or an acid-loving plant planted in calcareous soil).

Purpose and advantages of scale:
The proposed combination of the two scales is intended to help the gardener or landscape designer to create a garden:
- It is more complete as it takes into account the aesthetics and physiology of the plant, this gives the ability to create a garden where the structure is kept in summer.
- It is applicable to the entire range of plants, including those that lose their leaves during the summer.

Pat would like to hear from you with your comments on this, do you use the Filippi Scale when choosing plants? and would this combined scale be useful?
Contact Pat Mills email mills.val@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

Plant Conservation – now is the time to change our minds – an entertaining and thought provoking illustrated talk given by Timothy Walker at the Society on 18 June 2015 and now available online.

https://vimeo.com/141396973

Opinion No.1 - 44% of all plant species will be extinct when the current cohort of undergraduates is 70 year old

Opinion No.2 – There is no technical reason why any plant species should become extinct
There is obviously no consensus of opinions as to the current fate of the plant kingdom. However, to plagiarize Norman Borlaug, “…impact in the fields and woodlands, not learned publications, is the measure by which we will judge…our work.” For too long the conservation of species has been focussed, to the point of obsession, on conservation of plants in their habitats. If the measurements of species extinctions are believed this is not working. It can be argued that now is the time to separate the conservation of plant species and the conservation of ecosystem services.

Timothy Walker was director of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden & Harcourt Arboretum for 26 years until July 2014. During that time he was involved not only in species recovery programmes for both native and exotic plant species but also in the restoration of native habitats. He is now a lecturer in plant science at Somerville College Oxford and teaches botany to the 330 biology undergraduates at Oxford.

For more podcasts of lectures see http://www.linnean.org/Meetings-and-Events/podcasts

Monthly Treasures Tours at The Linnean Society in Burlington Arcade, London are available. The next one will be at 13:30 Wednesday 4th November 2015. If you are not visiting as a group, you can join one of the general Treasures Tours. The suggested donation for our Treasures Tours is £5 per person, and booking is essential. All donations will help us to preserve the unique collections. Tours will cover the history of the Society with particular emphasis on Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace, as well as the Collections and legacy of Carl Linnaeus. Tours last approximately 1 hour, though times may vary. All tours are subject to staff availability.

Please note that these tours provide an opportunity for individuals and small groups to see our collections. However, we can also arrange separate tours for large groups (10+ people), to find out more about tours for large groups please contact the Society direct.

The Linnean Society of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BF
+44 (0)20 7434 4479 events@linnean.org
http://www.linnean.org/Meetings-and-Events/Events

NEWS in an article on the fire resistance of Cupressus species – check your planting list!

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Professional Gardeners Guild group visit – March/April 2016

If you are interested in helping with this annual visit then please let Rosie know. We hope to extend this for students and trainees in Portugal but again, we need your help establishing contacts with the relevant organisations.

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NEWS

of an English edition of Alternatives au Gazon, the second book by Olivier Filippi

Planting Design for Dry Gardens - Beautiful, resilient groundcovers for terraces, paved areas, gravel and other alternatives to the lawn.

There will be a very special pre-publication offer to MGAP members and friends. This book is currently being translated from the original French and is scheduled for publishing early in 2016. We have been in contact with the publisher to order copies in time for our International Spring Conference when Olivier Filippi will be present and able to sign them for you. Please let us know if you are interested in purchasing a copy of this special book so that we can estimate numbers for our order. Costs will be confirmed nearer to publication.

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MGAP MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2015

It is important to keep in touch with our members, and as a new Association it is vital to have your views and ideas for future direction of events, funds and projects. Attached to this newsletter email is our 2015 membership survey and it would be extremely useful if you could take some time to complete any or all of the sections. The key volunteers involved in the hard work of running the day to day activities are looking forward to hearing from you all.

If you would like this sent in another format or through the post please let rob@thebtf.net know.

All returned surveys should also be sent to this email address. Thank You!

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SPECIAL OFFERS FOR MEMBERS OF MGAP – all trips are offered at the same special discounted price as for AAJBA members.

These trips help to pay for much needed repair and maintenance work at the gardens.

Previous work supported by the Amigos includes complete relaying of the main paths to make them suitable for wheelchairs and prams.

Full programme and bookings - web: www.aajba.com - Informações e Reservas

Associação dos Amigos do Jardim Botânico da Ajuda

AAJBA, Botânico da Ajuda, Calçada da Ajuda, 1300-011 Lisboa

tel. 213 620 527 telm. 915 297 903 e-mail: info@aajba.com

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Regional Contacts:

Lisbon area – Ben Weijers, Tel: 219 291 841 Email: quintadocorvo@yahoo.com
Beira area – Marion ter Horst, Tel: 235 721 193 Email: s.m.terhorst@gmail.com
Algarve area - Rosie Peddle, Tel. 289 791 869 Email: rosie@thebtf.net
Minho area – Chloe Parrott Tel. 966 971 275 Email: chloe@meo.pt

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We have a friendly and informal group for everyone who has a special interest in the plants and gardens of Mediterranean climates. The aims of MGAP (Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal) include education and encouraging the exchange of information and of experiences.

Web site www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org contains articles as well as news, notices, practical information and comment. Please pass on this newsletter to anyone interested.

If you no longer wish to receive these newsletters then please do let us know by sending a return email with REMOVE in the subject line to info@mediterraneangardeningportugal.org

Further information about the Mediterranean Garden Society can be found on the main web site www.mediterraneangardensociety.org. All MGS members in Portugal are welcome to take part in our events and are included in all mailings.