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>2016</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
<th>Info</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 5th 2016</td>
<td><strong>Spring Plant Fair</strong></td>
<td><strong>Quinta da Figueirinha, Silves</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Timing to be confirmed</td>
<td>FREE parking</td>
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<td>Bigger and Better !</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 2nd</td>
<td>**Annual General Meeting / Talk From Diaz to</td>
<td>Auditorio and Lunch at the Tasquinho do Lagar, Querença</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Diamonds Plants of the Cape by Timothy</td>
<td>Followed by wildflower walk</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Walker</td>
<td>Bookings to Burford Hurry</td>
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<td></td>
<td>With book sales and information on MGAP</td>
<td><a href="mailto:burfordhpt@gmail.com">burfordhpt@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>22 to 25 April</td>
<td><strong>International Spring Conference April 2016</strong> dedicated to the natural landscapes and native plants around the Mediterranean Residential and Day Delegate packages available</td>
<td>Olivier Filippi visit to Algarve Saturday April 23rd Talk on “Dry gardening: a new inspiration for gardeners in the Mediterranean region” Enquiries to <a href="mailto:rosie@thebtf.net">rosie@thebtf.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>29 April to 2nd</td>
<td><strong>Herbfest in 2016 ‘Herbs; for a sustainable future’</strong> Retreat Centre Monte Mariposa is located near Fonte do Bispo, 2 km east of Sta Catarina da Fonte do Bispo and 10 km northwest of Tavira.</td>
<td>Keep an eye on the website for updates with information on speakers, workshops and more. <a href="http://www.herbfest.co.uk">http://www.herbfest.co.uk</a></td>
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<td>May</td>
<td><strong>Western Algarve Group</strong> For news of events in and around the Lagos area</td>
<td>For more Info contact Jeanette Fahlbusch Email <a href="mailto:jeanettealicefahlbusch@gmail.com">jeanettealicefahlbusch@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>2nd May</td>
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For news of events in and around the Lagos area.
Message from Burford Hurry,
President - Mediterranean Gardening Association of Portugal

May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and successful gardening year. It seems that 2016 has arrived without much fanfare in Portugal. Of course some of us might have a few complaints as we haven’t had as much rainfall as we would like but then our winter so far has been extremely mild. We seemed to have moved from summer through autumn to spring. Despite the apparent lack of water my garden looks very good. The rain fell at the right time and with the mild temperatures plants are still green and growing and in some cases even flowering.

One plant that is doing well now and which comes as no surprise is the *Canarina canariensis* which is spilling down towards the stream filled with delicate orange bell-like flower and luxuriate soft spikey leaves. It is an ideal plant for Mediterranean climates as is perfectly well behaved, dying back in April to its tuberous roots to remain unwatered during the summer and then rioting unannounced and triumphant through the jasmine in October. Towering majestically over the Canarina is the *Aloe thraskii* which is flowering now too, two antlers of orangey green blooms. Both plants signalling that 2016 has started well in the garden.

More good things are to follow, the Association is organising the Spring Fair outside Silves on the 5th March for those gardeners who missed the Autumn Fair and who want to get planting early in the season. That will be followed by our Annual General Meeting on the 2nd April at Querenca with a talk by the well-known speaker Timothy Walker on the flowers of the Cape.

Can I urge you to attend this event as we need your support and input for our Association to flourish. New ideas and suggestions for events are always welcome together with offers to help as we are looking for a new Treasurer.

There will be lunch at the nearby restaurant afterwards and a walk to Fonte Benemola to have a closer look at the spring flowers. Those of us who attended last year’s AGM will remember the beauty of the area and the delicious lunch. Friends and fellow gardeners who are not members of MGAP who would like to hear the talk and join us for lunch would be very welcome. As well as paying for their lunch, non-members would be expected to pay 5 euro extra fee for the talk.

The Spring Conference from the 22nd – the 25th April at the Vila Gale Hotel in Lagos promises to be exciting. Olivier Filippi will be the key note speaker on the topic ‘Dry Gardens in the Mediterranean – an undiscovered diversity’. There will also be a pre-conference tour of Lisboa and Sintra for those international visitors to the conference. As this is our baby we are hoping that many local MGAP members will be attending the conference. Please let Rosie Peddle (rosie@thebtf.net) know as soon as possible.

Unfortunately I will not be at the conference but will be with family in Cape Town. However I will be establishing links there as I have been invited to give a talk to the Cape Horticultural Society on the 19th April.

Once again here’s wishing you a very good 2016. Burford Hurry

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2016 Membership Renewals are due now and can be paid by bank transfer payment. Thank you to all the members who have paid their subscriptions for 2016 promptly. This is a great help to the volunteer members responsible for renewals. Bank transfer details for electronic banking direct payments to APEJECM (ASSOCIAÇÃO DE PLANTAS E JARDINS EM CLIMAS MEDITERRÂNICOS) use APEJECM in your transfer instructions to your bank.

Bank  BPI  S. A., 0177, Av. 25 Abril, Loulé, Portugal
For a payment from a Portuguese account  NIB.  0010 0000 51081 770001 35
For an international payment  IBAN code PT50 0010 16 5108 18 013 5
BIC code BBPIPTPL

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**Spring Garden Fair Saturday March 5th** at Quinta da Figueirinha, Silves

Our Second Spring Fair following on the success of 2015, specialist Plant Nurseries, guided tours of the Quinta and themed gardens, new and second hand book sales and Garden Advice. Early access for members and their guests, refreshments on site. More info burfordhpt@gmail.com

**Helpers Needed !**

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**Saturday April 2nd 2016**

**Annual General Meeting / Assembleia Geral**

**and talk by Dr Timothy Walker**

**FROM DIAZ TO DIAMONDS**

The western Cape region of South Africa is one of the most botanically diverse areas of the World. This talk takes a route from the southern most tip of Africa to the border with Namibia looking at the plants and the ethnobotany of one of the most fascinating countries in the World.

**Timothy Walker** Director of the Oxford Botanic Garden from 1973-1983. Curator of the Cambridge University Herbarium from 1947 to 1973 and was University Lecturer in Botany. 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. Founder member of the Cambridge and Isle of Ely Naturalist’s Trust. Received the Victoria Medal from the RHS in 1984 recognition of his contributions to botany and botanic gardens, and eleven years later was awarded the Linnaean Medal for Botany for his work on British plants. Currently a stipendiary lecturer in Plant Sciences at Somerville College Oxford. Fellow of the Linnaean 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 Linnean Society on 18 June 2015 and now available online. [https://vimeo.com/141396973](https://vimeo.com/141396973)

The business meeting will be updated on the past year activities and there will be opportunities to hear about plans for the future and contribute in an informal discussion. Reports will be circulated before and only members are eligible to vote at the meeting.

**ALL are welcome to attend the meeting and lunch – €5 entry fee for non members attending the talk.**

**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 also 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/Tasquinha-Do-Lagar](http://infolugares.pt/Loule/Tasquinha-Do-Lagar)

GPS 37.197461,-7.98697

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

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International Spring Conference in the Western Algarve, Portugal

Dry Gardens in the Mediterranean

“an undiscovered diversity”

22/23/24 April 2016  Vila Gale Hotel, Lagos.

Keynote Speakers - Olivier Filippi and Dr Ken Thompson

Olivier Filippi will talk on “Dry gardening: a new inspiration for gardeners in the Mediterranean region”.

Dr Ken Thompson will talk on “Soil – the Final Frontier” and 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

Day delegate and residential packages are available. There will be a full programme of informative talks, guided wildflower walks, private garden visits and relevant plants and books for sale. Accommodation will be at the Vila Gale hotel, Lagos 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.

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

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 & alternatives to the lawn.

Available here shortly – orders to rosie@thebtf.net

A limited number of special signed editions of the book will also be available [at the MGAP price of 35 euros] at the International Spring Conference in Lagos, Portugal 22-25 April 2016.

This book is has been translated from the original French and has now been published. 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 reserve your copy.

NEWS OF EVENTS ORGANISED BY OTHER MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN GROUPS

Sunday 28 February to Sunday 6 March – SICILY – Nursery owner Maria Sansoni will be leading a visit to Sicily, to be based in Syracuse and Taormina. Eckart Raible, who is a freelance gardener, guide and enthusiast for all things Mediterranean, will also accompany the group. The week will include visits to private and public gardens, archaeological sites and Mount Etna. Accommodation will be at the Grande Albergo Alfeo in Syracuse and the Villa Schuler set in beautiful grounds in Taormina. Most participants will be from Germany and Switzerland so much conversation will be in German but the garden tours will usually be in English and Maria and Eckart both speak excellent English and will be with the group all the time. Cost including hotels, transfers, entrance fees, guides, breakfasts and lunches: €1280, single supplement €295. Evening meals are not included. For an information sheet contact Maria as soon as possible direct (who can also answer detailed questions) at info@floramediterranea.de

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Wednesday 9 March – LONDON EC1 – 6.30pm – Helena Attlee, author of the best-selling book The Land Where Lemons Grow, a Radio 4 Book of the Week and winner of the Guild of Food Writers Food Book of the Year 2015, will tell the story of citrus fruit in Italy and explain some of the unexpected influences it has had on cultural, political and economic life there. Tickets cost £10 for members of the Gardens Trust or £12 for non-members. The event will be at the Gallery, Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ and more information is at http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org/post/events/london-winter-lecture-2016-5-of-5/
It would be wise to book early for this event as the capacity of the room is limited.

Spring Gardens of The Riviera
Tuesday 12 April – Friday 15 April 2016 Angela Durnford, Branch Head MGS Italy has organised a tour of Riviera Gardens for the Italian branch and has had a good response. Nevertheless she does have several places left. Starting in Alassio, Liguria, and continuing just over the border into France, a tour of eight beautiful Riviera gardens. Fee: €350 excluding accommodation. I have an outline programme and booking form which I'll send if you email me on rosie@thebtf.net or contact Angela Durnford direct This tour will be a spring visit, is at an attractive price and there may be new members that have not had the opportunity to visit these gardens guided by head gardeners and horticulturalists. Angela invites MGAP contacts to join this MGS Italy April visit to the Riviera which promises sunshine and delicious gardens with abundant spring plants in full bloom. Send your enquiries to angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org to reserve your place(s) as soon as possible.

Early June (date to be confirmed) – GARDENS OF LE MARCHE – Ascoli Piceno. Contact Angela Durnford at angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org

HerbFest 2016 will be held in Portugal 29th April - 2nd May 2016 at Monte Mariposa, Tavira
Participate for a sojourn in the beautiful Algarve in the springtime. Enjoy this unique opportunity to see the stunning wild herbs and flowers of the Portuguese mountains, celebrate your connections to the wider herbal community and deepen your knowledge and healing skills at the same time. Confirmed speakers include Daisy Mae http://daisymaeherbalist.weebly.com/keratonia.html and also Fernanda Botelho http://malvasilvestre.blogspot.pt
Herbfest is a herbal gathering combining informative lectures, practical workshops and plant walks, discussions and debates, as well as plenty of time to relax and enjoy the company of like-minded people. There will be a choice of activities through the day, yoga each morning and musical entertainment in the evenings. http://www.herbfestuk.co.uk

PLANT LABELS & SEED PACKETS available to buy from rosie@thebtf.net
Pot labels white matt plastic accepts pencil 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

MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN FAIR – Saturday, November 7th 2015
Report and photos available on MGAP web site at http://www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org/recent_events.html

Fungi Foray, a guided walk took place on 30 December 2015
A keen group took the opportunity to 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. This book is available from the MGAP book stall at 30 euro.
There is a PDF list available on request prepared by Pat of the fungi species recorded during the walk in the woods at Meia Viana, near Monchique.

Pat says “The list is of the 60 or so species identified during or subsequently to the Fungi Walk. (I am sure there were others that I failed to record, however.) In addition we found two more shield mushroom (*Pluteus* genus) that I am still trying to identify to species level; another cavalier mushroom (*Melanoleuca* species) that I didn’t take a sample of so it will have to remain simply a *Melanoleuca* sp!; and a huge creamish mushroom that might have been a *Dermaloma* species, but I can’t be at all sure about that one; plus several other brittle gill mushrooms (*Russula* species) that would need detailed microscopic study to identify to species level.

I think the results of our foray are very impressive indeed, so well done all those super-sharp eyes! Surprisingly absent, however, but often to be seen in the Monchique woodlands, were Red Cage Fungus *Clathrus ruber*, Dog Stinkhorn *Mutinus caninus*, Giant Club Orange *Clavariadelphus pistillaris*, Orange Peel Fungus *Aleuria aurantia*, Eyelash Fungus *Scutellinia scutellata*, Deathcap *Amanita phalloides*, and Caesar’s mushroom *Amanita caesarea*.

The woods around Monchique really are fungal diversity hotspots, so if you do get a chance to visit again between October and April I am sure that you will see many more fascinating fungi there.

Thanks again to everyone who joined us on the Fungi Walk.”

Pat and Sue Email: enquiries@first-nature.com

www.first-nature.com  www.algarvewildlife.com

Many thanks to Jeanette Fahlbusch for suggesting and organising this event.

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Associação dos Amigos do Jardim Botânico da Ajuda

**SPECIAL OFFERS FOR MEMBERS OF MGAP** – all workshops and 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.*

Full programme of new gardening workshops for 2016 and bookings –

web: [www.aajba.com](http://www.aajba.com) - Informações e Reservas

Tel. 213 620 527 Telm. 915 297 903 e-mail: info@aajba.com

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Pelion, Greece – NEWS of Botanical Painting Holiday Course in May and September 2016 and a new course MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN DESIGN AND PLANTING between the 3rd and the 10th June. Course Tutor Dr. Katerina Gkoltsiou who has studied in Athens and Edinburgh. Katerina works as a freelance landscape architect based in Athens with expertise including the design of private and public gardens, landscape assessment and restoration projects.

The full programmes are available on request. More info from Sue Wakesue@lagouraxi.com
Lagou Raxi Country Hotel, LAFKOS 37006, Argalasti South Pelion, Greece

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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

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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](http://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 rosie@thebtf.net