

ASSOCIAÇÃO DE PLANTAS E JARDINS EM CLIMAS MEDITERRÂNICOS
Mediterranean Gardening Association – Portugal
Newsletter No 18 Winter 2020



www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org

Member of www.mediterraneangardeninginternational.org

Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MedGardenersPortugal>

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-vindos, membros e amigos em Portugal com interesse no Jardinagem Mediterrânica. Se souber de alguém que esteja interessado em jardinagem mediterrânica agradecemos que passe 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.

2020	EVENTS	Info
February 13 São Bás Museu do Traje 10:30 – 12:30	What Is a Succulent ? Talk by Alain Rzepecky of Afroplants specialist nursery https://afroplants.net/ (with plants for sale on the day) Alain, and his wife Marie, have travelled extensively in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Peninsula to study and propagate succulents. They now run a specialist nursery in the Algarve and will bring a sampling of what they offer for sale at this event.	Open to All ! Non members contribution €5 Further information from mgapevents@gmail.com
Sunday 2 February 10:00-16:00 Wednesday 19 February 13:00-16:00	Botanic Garden Open Days & Planting Join us at the Barrocal Botanic Garden at Quinta da Figueirinha near Silves. www.gdf.pt guided tours/working days <i>Visitors Welcome !</i>	Open to All ! please contact Rosie on mgapsec@gmail.com
Saturday 7 March 10.00 for 10.30 <i>Please note new date !</i>	<u>Annual General Meeting – Assembleia Geral</u> Business meeting to be followed by illustrated talk from Marilyn Medina Ribeiro, MGAP President / Lunch available and afternoon Botanic Garden guided visit / MGAP book sales, info leaflets etc.	Further information from mgapsec@gmail.com Details to be confirmed
Sunday 22 March 10:00h to 16:00h Entry €1 per person	Spring Mediterranean Garden Fair Escola Poeta Bernardo de Passos, São Brás de Alportel NEW VENUE ! And for the first time, held on a Sunday ! Expanded selection of plant nurseries, talks/workshops, refreshments	Helpers needed, Further information from mgapfairs@gmail.com
April, Western Algarve (Date and location tba)	Woodland Regeneration A day looking at four different types of woodland in the Aljezur/Monchique area where regeneration has taken place using native woody plants as alternatives to planting exotics or replacing eucalyptus.	Further information from mgapevents@gmail.com
Spring 2020	Visit to Colares / Cabo da Roca Eunice and Carlos Barroso invite MGAP members to visit their garden and lunch at their home in Colares, Sintra. Nearby garden and plant nursery visits included	Further information from mgapevents@gmail.com
Spring 2020	Garden Visits We will be continuing our programme of visits to private gardens in the Algarve and hopefully other parts of Portugal	Further information from mgapevents@gmail.com

Message from Marilyn Medina Ribeiro

President – Mediterranean Gardening Association of Portugal



It was a long time coming but, finally, we have had some decent rainfall here on the Algarve! The rapid greening of the landscape is a refreshing change from the summer browns and golds, and the arrival of the almond blossom is always a special moment and a great boost for the spirits.

The shorter, cooler days of autumn and winter are the best time to get plants in the ground and the start of our gardening year was celebrated by the Autumn Mediterranean Garden Fair in Silves at the end of October. For the first time this was held over two days, a big experiment which seems to have been well received – we had much positive feedback from our visitors and the nurseries, who had lots of great plants on offer. We are now planning our Spring Fair which will mark a return to São Bras for MGAP Garden Fairs. On Sunday March 22nd the Spring Fair will take place at the large school where the Feira da Serra is held, so plenty of space and, we hope, plenty of parking this time! As always, we are looking for volunteers to help out, so if you plan to visit the fair and can spare an hour or so please email mgapfairs@gmail.com

I have been kept busy with an opportunity to work with the Escola Júlio Dantas secondary school in Lagos. The idea of working together with schools to install native plant gardens has been discussed for a long time, both among members of our organisation and with various teachers at the schools. This year, we had an opportunity to realise such a project via the government fund "Ciência Viva nas Escolas" ("bringing science alive in schools"). I was invited to present a talk about native plants, what they are and how they can be used in the landscape, followed by a practical session to install the garden. Training in the correct techniques needed to establish a dry garden was given to the teachers and their students, all of whom were very enthusiastic to be involved in this new garden at the school. This can serve as a model for future projects at other schools, so please let me know if you have any contacts who may be interested.

Our books in Portuguese on the Wild Flowers and the Orchids of the Algarve have also been distributed to schools in Silves and Lagos. They are now also available from In Loco in São Bras and have been donated to the animal rescue centre in Olhão. Copies have also been donated to Moncarapacho Freguesia and the Camara of São Bras de Alportel.

Work continues on the Barrocal Botanic Garden with Open Days and Planting Days so that more visitors can participate in the development of this special area. We are now able to plan for the next areas to be opened up for visitors. More news on all this at our AGM, which will be at the Quinta and include a visit to the Botanic Garden – on Saturday March 7th.

Enjoy your Mediterranean winter gardening - we are all hoping for more rainy days! If we are at meetings, please come up and say 'Hello' or you can contact me via mgappres@gmail.com

News from the Potting Shed

GARDEN FAIRS UPDATE During 2019 there were some changes made in the timing and location of the very popular Mediterranean Garden Fairs organised by MGAP. Following on from the new opportunities offered by working closely with Silves Junta, and the good relationship already developed with the São Bras Camara Municipal, it has been decided that a new pattern for these events should take place during 2020. The Autumn Fair will be held at the purpose built FISSUL exhibition space in Silves and the Spring Fair will take place at the spacious secondary school in São Bras (Escola Poeta Bernardo de Passos). This fulfils our wish to hold events in both the western and more central areas of the Algarve.



The decision to hold the 2020 Spring event at the school in São Bras allows us to expand the event while still offering a good experience to our visitors plus improved space for the popular Plant Creche. The change to a Sunday also allows us to have more parking available, as there will be no other events taking place locally. As it will take place during the school term, moving the Fair to a Sunday will ensure we do not inconvenience the daily routine of the school, and will

have Saturday for setting up. The school is the site of the much larger Feira da Serra held in the summer over several days. We will use the area around the school buildings and have access to an inside area for talks and workshops as well as stands and refreshments. There is a mixture of mature ornamental and fruit trees on the site as well as some grass areas.

The Garden Fairs are the major fund raising events for MGAP but also give an opportunity for us to share our aims and objectives with visitors. Talks and workshops will be aimed at promoting sustainable and appropriate gardening and landscape management and enjoying plants !

We are now planning the **Spring Fair** in São Bras on Sunday 22 March 2020 - 10h to 16h. Entry 1€. We welcome participation from you all. This year we are planning to have an **MGAP Plant Sales** table. Please save your spare plants, cuttings and seeds and bring along for sale to other keen gardeners. There will be collection points for donated plants nearer the date. We hope this will encourage our keen propagators, and if anyone needs more pots or labels, just let us know.

We will also have **new and secondhand books for sale** at the Spring Fair so please bring along any books you no longer need and they can be sold in aid of MGAP. There is a new supply of paper seed packets available for sale and the useful pot labels – details available on request.



If you are interested in buying some of the 'Filippi' type **tall square plant pots** that encourage a good root system then let me know as Susan Finlay has sent a contact for supplying these pots. We could consider a joint order for delivery to the Algarve. Size: 9 x 9 x 20 cm deep 1.4L capacity

<https://mypalmshop.com/Deep%20square%20palm%20pot%20sleeve%201.4%20litre>

From Antonio Lambe "Last summer we exchanged a few messages about **Rhododendron ponticum var. bæticum**, an invasive plague in the UK but to me a rare native laurisilva relict that has survived millions of years from the Tertiary. No restoration in Portugal would be complete without it, however, we must look at propagating plants. Does any know how to graft the species onto rootstock?" Let me know !

Rosie Peddle – MGAP Secretary mgapsec@gmail.com



We need your skills and talents to help MGAP so please consider joining the group setting future and exciting priorities for the Association. If anyone has **fund raising experience** and would like to offer some advice that would be especially welcome.

Members of MGAP will have noticed that we have a new **Membership Secretary**. Miranda Wallace has recently taken on this role and started contacting everyone with updates. We are very happy to welcome Miranda, with Adrian ably assisting her, and look forward to working with her in the future. Contact Miranda direct with any queries mgapmembers@gmail.com She is currently working on updating subscriptions for 2020 – please renew promptly to make her job easier !

We are still looking for technical help with updating **the web site**, help with running the **Garden Fairs** and with developing our popular **Book Sales table**. If there is something specific you would like to get involved with, please let us know. Contact mgaptreasurer@gmail.com for further info.

REPORTS and photos from recent events via this link

http://www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org/recent_events.html

Work has started on the planning of the programme for Open Gardens in Spring 2020. If you wish to welcome a group of MGAP members and share your own garden, please contact mgapevents@gmail.com

**Mediterranean Spring
Garden Fair
São Bras de Alportel
Sunday March 22
10am to 4pm**



Entry Donation €1 per person – children free

NEW VENUE for the Spring Fair !!

We have been invited to hold the spring fair in the spacious grounds of the **E.B. 2,3 Poeta Bernardo de Passos School in São Bras** near the town centre. There will be more space for exhibitors together with inside space for talks and catering. Free extensive on road car parking nearby should be easier to access on a Sunday. Our partner for this event will be the Camara Municipal of São Bras and we are very grateful to the Vice President, Sra Marlene Guerreiro, for her enthusiastic support. This continues our policy to hold our plant fairs in accessible locations on both sides of the Algarve.

A great range will be available including native plant nurseries and seed sales as well as ornamental and container plants. We also plan to have rare and unusual plants from arid zones, fruit trees and ornamental plants. High quality botanical art and notelets also available.

An opportunity to buy the most appropriate plants for your garden and benefit from the following **FREE** attractions at this event

- Advice and guidance from the knowledgeable nursery owners
- MGAP Members Plant Clinic and Gardening Advice
- MGAP Advice leaflets, Factsheets and events info
- Programme of free talks and practical workshops in English and Portuguese
- Plant Creche for your purchases at the event
- Free on-street parking nearby
- Designated disabled parking near entrance gates
- Free entry to accompanied children under 16 years

As always, we are interested to hear of any good **new plant nurseries** that may wish to be invited, please pass any recommendations to mgapfairs@gmail.com

After completing your purchases, or if you need some time to consider the choices available, you can take in one of the free talks and take advantage of the plant crèche where you can leave your purchases in safe hands while you continue to enjoy the many attractions of the day. Once again, we will ask visitors to bring cardboard boxes and long-life bags to avoid the use of plastic.

Catering and light refreshments will also be available including the very popular Indian meals. There will also be a range of organic produce and products for sale and the MGAP stall offering new and **second hand specialist gardening books**, wildflower seeds, advice and information. Also, if you have **back copies of The Mediterranean Garden** MGS Journal to donate, we would be pleased to have those for the library at Quinta da Figueirinha.

MGAP will also have an **MGAP Plant Sales** table organised by our members with plants from their gardens and good advice about how to use them.

As ever, **VOLUNTEERS are needed** to make the event a success, we cannot run our major fund raisers for the year without you ! So please **let us know** if you can help - sitting down jobs also available. Email mgapfairs@gmail.com



CAPE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
(in association with Mediterranean Gardening International)
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – 28 to 31 AUGUST 2020
A VISIT TO THE FAIREST CAPE

MGi

Organised by the CAPE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY <https://capehorticulturalsociety.co.za/>

Places still available – but you need to act soon !

A VISIT TO THE FAIREST CAPE International Conference 2020

Several members of MGAP have already booked their places for this special event so there will be fellow members from Portugal attending. From organiser, Glenda Thorpe in Cape Town, “We still regard our part of the world as The Fairest Cape and the speakers we have lined up for you will tell you why. Talks will cover the South African contribution to the international plant world, how people explored our land in search of plants and what we are doing to preserve our national heritage.”

23 to 27 August - Pre-conference tour of Namaqualand at height of spring bulbs flowering season.

28 to 31 August 2020 - Core programme International Conference held at the historic Athenaeum in Cape Town at the foot of Table Mountain. Speakers and visits to notable private and public gardens. Special guided tour of Kirstenbosch included and possible day tour to Stellenbosch.

Full information and up to date schedule available on request from CapeHortSoc info@capehorticulturalsociety.co.za

BARROCAL BOTANIC GARDEN UPDATE

We are very pleased to let you all know that **Dra Manuela David** has agreed to be our formal **Taxonomic Advisor** for the Botanic Garden project. Surveys of plants growing in the Barrocal Botanic Garden are carried out at regular intervals. We have been very fortunate to have the support of Manuela, Professor and Curator of the Herbarium ALGU, The University of the Algarve, who has kindly helped us with this ongoing survey work. You can see the illustrated plant list here <http://www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org/BG%20Plants.html>

Bulb planting day was held on November 10 for planting of native bulbs for naturalising in the garden. Some of the bulbs have flowered already and the *Scilla peruviana* should give good displays later this year.

Events / workshops / Family Open Days, FOR YOUR DIARY - some dates for the Planting and Open days at the Botanic Garden. These are:

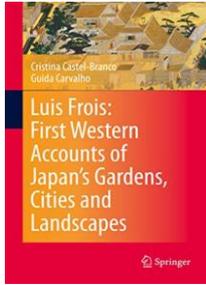
- Sunday 2 Feb - 10.00 - 16.00 Guided Walk at 14:00h
- Wed 19 Feb - 13.00 - 16.00 Guided Walk at 14:00h
- Saturday 7 March (14.00 - 17.00 after the AGM meeting).

Regular Open Days with guided visits. Volunteers for regular open days ? are you able to offer help with supporting regular open days – seasonal or monthly ? contact mgapsec@gmail.com

NEWS - BBC One announces brand new series on plants, **The Green Planet** “This is a wonderful opportunity to explore a neglected yet truly remarkable part of the natural world. Once again, the innovative approach of the BBC Natural History Unit and groundbreaking technology will reveal new and surprising wonders to the BBC One audience” Sir David Attenborough



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2019/the-green-planet>



NEW BOOK from Cristina Castel Branco and Guida Carvalho

Luis Frois: First Western Accounts of Japan's Gardens, Cities and Landscapes

Authors: Castel-Branco, Cristina, Carvalho, Guida

Published in English by Springer

<https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789811500176>

Gathers the first descriptions by Luis Frois, a 16th-century Portuguese Jesuit and chronicler, (who recorded his impressions of Japanese gardens), of twenty-two 16th century Japanese gardens (unpublished until 1984) and compares his descriptions with their present state.

Shares the Portuguese Renaissance accounts of Japanese gardens, cities and landscapes. Highlights the mutual interest and peaceful Japanese encounter with the West, as recorded in the Namban Screens and in Frois's descriptions.

A meticulously researched specialist publication on this little-known area of garden history.

Available as an Ebook and hardback from Amazon.co.uk

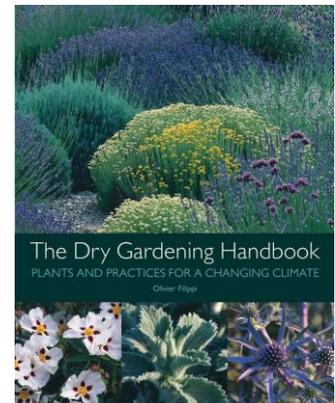
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Luis-Frois-Western-Accounts-Landscapes-ebook/dp/B07YKJNJT3>

The Dry Gardening Handbook ***Plants and Practices for a changing climate*** **by Olivier Filippi**

NEW Hardback Edition of his first classic guide to gardening in dry climates is back in print

Now available on the Algarve !

MGAP has copies for sale and you can reserve your own copy for collection at our events or to collect on the Algarve. This book is for sale at 40 euro per copy and can also be sent to you by registered post plus postage costs. To reserve a copy or for more info mgaptreasurer@gmail.com or you can check out the new online bookshop <http://www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org/BooksGB.html>



NEWS from the world of plants

There is a **monthly gardening article** prepared by MGAP for The Resident newspaper. You can see them here <https://www.portugalresident.com/gardening/>

If you have found **any web sites** particularly helpful with your **drought resistant** Mediterranean gardening and plant choices, then please send them in so that we can share them with others.

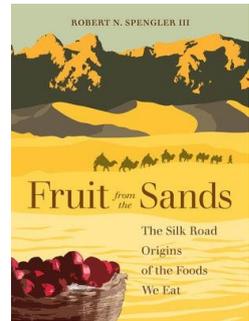
<http://www.marriedtoplants.com/> is the blog of Len Geiger in Vista, California. He shares his passion for Mediterranean climate plants but he is also keen on palms, cycads and succulents. My favourite post so far is <http://www.marriedtoplants.com/hodgepodge/wrong-really-love-potting-bench/>

Stomatal Density Responses of Egyptian *Olea europaea* L. Leaves to CO₂ Change Since 1327 BC For those of you who think Botanical research is dull a great article on the response to modern era high levels of CO₂ from olive trees in Egypt through history, and it is not good news ! <https://academic.oup.com/aob/article/71/5/431/235459>

Taking Cuttings without asking ? is it ever OK ? Gardeners and collectors have shared cuttings for generations, but as certain plants have become status symbols, questions of ethical grey areas have arisen <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/jan/15/plants-is-it-ok-to-steal-cuttings>

BOOK REVIEW by Nigel Chaffey – ***Fruit from the sands: The Silk Road origins of the food we eat*** Author: Robert N Spengler III, 2019. University of California Press. “*Fruits from the sands* is NOT a book you sit down and read in one sitting But, it IS a book that you are likely to turn to again and again for that extra bit of insight into the story behind the food on your plate, which is the true test of great plants-and-people ‘story-telling’.

<https://www.botany.one/2019/12/when-broomcorn-millet-swept-along-the-silk-road/>



[Ancient Tree With Record of Earth's Magnetic Field Reversal in Its Rings Discovered](#)

An ancient tree that contains a record of a reversal of Earth's magnetic field has been discovered in New Zealand. The tree—an *Agathis australis*, better known as its Māori name kauri—was found in Ngawha, on New Zealand's North Island, during excavation work for the expansion of a geothermal power plant, stuff.nz reports. Newsweek

[Helen Mirren voices new plant health animation](#)

Dame Helen Mirren has helped renew efforts to keep plant disease *Xylella fastidiosa* out of the UK in 2020 – the UN's International Year of Plant Health – narrating a new animation that warns of the devastation it causes, including the death of millions of olive trees in Europe.

John Innes Centre

OTHER EVENTS

There will be a series of events during 2020 in and around the western Algarve organised by **Florestal Aljezur** and Udo Schwarzer. Check out full details here

<https://www.florestaaljezur.org/eventos>

Almond Blossom Festival will take place in Castro Marim (Alta Mora) on **01 & 02 February** starting at 9h00 with a series of walks, workshops, food, music and entertainment.

<https://cm-castromarim.pt/site/evento/festival-das-amendoeiras-em-flor>

<https://www.thelivingabroadguide.pt/event/algarve-almond-blossom-festival/>

PODCASTS from the Linnean Society of London are available to everyone and cover all manner of Natural History related topics. The latest talk looks at **Plant Horrors** - the origins of our fear of plants. Beginning with our most basic fear – the fear of being hurt by some of the most dangerous or just plain irritating plants. The talk then moves into the imagination as we explore the horrors that wait for us if carnivorous plants were to grow to the size of men. We will then hear from a scientist about the evolutionary origins of these feared plants and how they are becoming extinct. Triffids anyone ?? <https://soundcloud.com/user-679811756/plant-horror>

PROPERTY FOR SALE BY PRIVATE OWNER in Sintra Lovely garden with house. South oriented, the house has a special character with an amazing garden; orange and lemon trees, and other fruit trees. Calm neighbourhood. The garden is about 4000sqm, with old trees etc. Photos and more info www.rjpg.eu Contact Raymond (MGAP Member) to view and to discuss price. Raymond GOEBBELS, 56, Avenue Guillaume, L-1650 LUXEMBOURG

Tel: +352 26 37 53 15 Fax: +352 26 37 53 16
GSM: +352 621 28 25 11 TM: +351 914 43 69 49
Mail: raymond.goebbels@rjpg.eu goebbels@pt.lu



Western Algarve – Garden Group for the Lagos area

A programme of informal friendly monthly meetings is organised for those interested in Algarve Gardening. Anyone wishing to become actively involved can contact the coordinator, Heather

Thomson, by email at wagardeninggroup@gmail.com for more information. Meetings last about 2 hours and are normally held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 10.00am.

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**NEWS from the AAJBA** (Associação dos Amigos do Jardim Botânico da Ajuda) of Lisbon  
<http://www.aajba.com/Cursos/Cursos20192020.aspx> A full programme of **gardening courses** is held in Lisbon at the Botanic Garden. There is also a varied programme of group travel events.  
web: [www.aajba.com](http://www.aajba.com) e-mail: [info@aajba.com](mailto:info@aajba.com) | [Facebook](#)

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Beira Grass Roots Gardeners – Friendly, free to join, group of enthusiastic gardeners in the Beira area of Central Portugal. We have regular meet-ups, visits to gardens and nurseries, and run many plant and garden events. For more info contact beiragrassroots@gmail.com

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**Mediterranean Gardening International** is a an international group of 8 societies for people with an interest in Mediterranean plants and gardens. Each society is independent but come together to share our knowledge and experience of gardening and plants in the Mediterranean climate zones of the world. (MGAP Members will be welcomed at events, subject to availability of places.) Please contact the local organiser shown. An exciting and varied programme of international events is available and a warm welcome from keen fellow gardeners is assured !  
<http://www.mediterraneangardeninginternational.org>

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MGi Seed List - Chantal Guiraud manages this seed list for MGi and the MGS. See the link below for the full list of over 600 plants and how to obtain and to donate seed. The list is divided into sections including trees, shrubs and succulents and was updated in January 2020.

<http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/infSEE2.htm>

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**Mediterranean Gardening Forum** for your plant and gardening queries, monitored by a panel of experienced and knowledgeable Mediterranean gardeners. Members of MGAP can access this forum via the link at top right of the front page of our web site and contact [mgapmembers@gmail.com](mailto:mgapmembers@gmail.com) for login or further info [www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org](http://www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org)

### **Data Protection Notice**

MGAP / APEJECM holds contact details (where supplied - name, address, telephone number and email address) for the purpose of membership administration and providing membership information such as emailing our publications and facilitating member networking. This information is not shared with any other organisation. We also send out regular information on events, etc. to those who request to join our general mailing list. The Mail Chimp message has an unsubscribe link at the end which removes you from our list.

You can contact [mgapmembers@gmail.com](mailto:mgapmembers@gmail.com) at any time to request a listing of the information that we hold about you on file, and/or to be removed selectively from our different mailing lists.

### **Regional Contacts:**

**Lisbon area** – Ben Weijers Paquete, Tel: 219 291 841

Email: [quintadorcorvo@yahoo.com](mailto:quintadorcorvo@yahoo.com)

**Beira area** – Marion ter Horst, Tel: 917 850 235

Email: [s.m.terhorst@gmail.com](mailto:s.m.terhorst@gmail.com)

**Algarve area** – Rosie Peddle Tel: 289 791 869

Email: [mgapsec@gmail.com](mailto:mgapsec@gmail.com)

### **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. MGAP is affiliated to The Mediterranean Garden Society and a member of Mediterranean Gardening International.

**Membership Secretary** email [mgapmembers@gmail.com](mailto:mgapmembers@gmail.com)

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 [mgapsec@gmail.com](mailto:mgapsec@gmail.com)