News

Future meetings

Autumn 2026 meeting

The Autumn 2026 meeting will be on Sunday 25th October 2026 at Heath End Village Hall, Heath End Road, Baughurst (near Tadley, between Basingstoke and Reading) RG26 5LU
https://www.heathendvillagehall.co.uk/

In the morning, **Jonny Hartnell** will talk on "**An overview of the *Nerine* genus including cultivation and propagation**".

Jonny has always had a real passion for plants and this really took off following retirement from a fascinating career in the nuclear industry. A relocation back to Somerset (close to where he originally grew up) has given him the space and time to really expand his horticultural interests. He grows a huge range of plants in various greenhouses, polytunnels, indoors and in the garden. The range includes South African bulbs (he has previously been chairman of the Nerine and Amaryllid Society and continues to be heavily involved as treasurer and organising the bi-annual bulb and seed exchange), orchids (including both hardy and tropical, showing at Devon Orchid Society shows), woodland plants including snowdrops, tree ferns, as well as trying to be self sufficient in fruit and vegetables. He gives a range of talks to garden clubs on his interests including his travels to various parts of the world visiting botanic gardens and nature reserves.

In the afternoon, in addition to any other short talks which are offered or discussions which happen, our new Treasurer **Mark Wessels** will give a talk on "**The life and plants of the Hutton's – 19th century Cape Colony plant collectors**".

Mark's interest in South African plants was initiated following a holiday to the Western Cape a number of years ago. Since that time, he has taken a special interest in geophytes from the region and enjoys the challenges of growing *Gladiolus* and *Moraea* species, and has just started collecting *Nerine* species. Although most of the collection of bulbs are winter growing, he is interested in growing summer flowering species for garden planting. Mark also has a small collection of pelargoniums and 'mesembs'. Having moved to North Yorkshire from Norfolk the change in weather/climate has meant new ideas and practices have had to be adopted to ensure success with the South African plants. He has an interest in plant collectors and exploration along with botanical illustration although he is a 'hopeless' painter! [Mark's words, not mine!]

→ Read more...

Newsletters

- The most recent published newsletter is number 52 (November 2024)
- You can read or download all the SABG newsletters from our list of newsletters

News items

- New additions to our Digital library include: Pauline Perry (1990) **Bulbinella -- a neglected garden plant?**, *Veld and Flora*, December 1990 *[7 November 2025]*
- Graham Duncan visited the UK again in October 2025, during which his main purpose was to photograph Nerines in cultivation. Thanks to an invitation by SABG member Peter Kohn, Graham gave a talk entitled "*Kirstenbosch, the most beautiful garden in Africa, and its collection of South African bulbs*", in the Dorothy Fox Education Centre in Sheffield Botanical Gardens on October 14th, attended by about 100 people. The meeting was hosted by the Friends of the Botanical Gardens, Sheffield, of which Peter is currently Acting Chair. *[15 October 2025]*
- **The SABG is 21 this year!** The original announcement about the formation of the Group appeared on 4th April 2004 in "The African Garden" web site run by David Fenwick. Unfortunately the original site may no longer exist, but thanks to the excellent work by the people at the Internet Archive (archive.org) a preserved copy of the web site can be seen at The African Garden. *[20 August 2025]*
- The **list of bulbs and seeds** in the 2025 Bulb & Seed Exchange is available: requests from SABG members to reach Jon Evans by 30th August. *[16 August 2025]*
- A video of Graham Duncan's talk **"*Agapanthus*, *Lachenalia* and a lifetime spent at Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden: 1979 – 2024"** is available to SABG and NAAS members for viewing after the meeting. SABG members can email Richard for the link. *[27 March 2025]*
- The new *Haemanthus* book from Dee Snijman is available online at https://www.sanbi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025_Strelitzia48.pdf *[Jon Evans, 13 March 2025]*
- **Older news items**

Recently changed web pages and documents

- Books on South African bulbs and flora - created (14:02 26/10/2026)
  Books on South African bulbs and flora This list of books published on South African flora, especially bulbs, has been assembled from previous book sales and other sources. There may be errors -- please let me know if you spot any. Book no. No. bids
- Books - [Books] (14:00 26/10/2026)
  See also: Digital library Books In addition to our Digital library, occasionally we have books for sale to members, usually by means of an auction by email. At present we have books from the estate of Audrey Cain, as listed here: Audrey Cain book sale Books previously sold are included in Books on South African bulbs and flora.
- List 1: South African bulbs and flora (13:58 26/10/2026)
  List 1: South African bulbs and flora Bidding has finished. However, a second phase of the auction may be resumed soon. This email book auction is for SABG members only. We might relax this restriction later. Instructions To filter the books (see only selected entries), type something into the Search box (this will look in all columns). To return to the full list, blank the Search box or refresh the page.
- List 2: Alpines, other flora and general gardening - [List 2: Alpines, other flora and general gardening] (13:57 26/10/2026)
  List 2: Alpines, other flora and general gardening Bidding has finished. However, a second phase of the auction may be resumed soon. This email book auction is for SABG members only. We might relax this restriction later. Instructions To filter the books (see only selected entries), type something into the Search box (this will look in all columns). To return to the full list, blank the Search box or refresh the page.
- Submit a bid (13:57 26/10/2026)

Submit a bid Bidding has finished. However, a second phase of the auction may be resumed soon. * Bid for another book from this list * Back to * the main bids page * bid list 1 * bid list 2

- SABG home page (12:24 24/10/2026)
  To change from a dark background to a light background or vice versa, click on “Toggle theme” (above). Our next SABG meeting is on Sunday! See below. (If you wonder why the symbol on the left, well, bulbs are what we do!) Autumn 2026 meeting
- Payments - [Joining the SABG] (12:05 24/10/2026)
  Payments Joining the SABG The information on this page is for SABG members or potential members only. If you are not a member, and you have browsed around our web-site to see what we do, you might look at How to join the SABG. Notes on making payments to the SABG

Bulb and Seed Exchanges

- The 2022 autumn ephemeral seed exchange list is available, thanks to its coordinator, Jon Evans. Details have been emailed to members, and can also be read on our 2022 Bulb & Seed Exchange page. The deadline for requests from members for seeds and bulbs from the Exchange is 18th November 2022.
- The main seed and bulb exchange for 2022 has now finished.

News from other sources

Pacific Bulb Society RSS news feed

> The PBS List is an email discussion of bulbs, sponsored by the Pacific Bulb Society, for people around the world. Although bulbs (defined more broadly to include all geophytes) are the focus, we recognize that people who grow them probably grow other things too and will be talking about them from time to time. Everyone is welcome to take part, simply click on Subscribe [in the link on the right just below]. *PBS List https://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/list.php*

//These are the most recent posts in the PBS List. If you click on one, you will be able to see all the others. //

- Gonatopus? by The Silent Seed via pbs (18:47 22/10/2026)
- Gonatopus? by XYZ2 in Virginia via pbs (16:14 22/10/2026)
- Flowering desert in Chile by mark akimoff via pbs (15:43 22/10/2026)
- Flowering desert in Chile by The Silent Seed via pbs (14:02 22/10/2026)
- Flowering desert in Chile by Laura Grant via pbs (22:46 21/10/2026)

From:
http://sabg.uk/ - **Southern African Bulb Group**

Permanent link:
http://sabg.uk/news:start

Last update: **21:10 11/02/2025**