

# Past, present and future meetings

The next meeting is the [Spring 2026 meeting](#).

## Meeting dates

The Southern African Bulb group has held or will hold meetings on the following dates:

| Date              | Location                                      | Topic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Report in Newsletter |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 4 April 2004      | Terry & Jennifer Smale's, Epsom               | Inaugural meeting, including discussion of <i>"Acclimatisation of Southern African bulbs: transferring South African geophytes to the Northern Hemisphere growth cycle"</i>                                                                     | <a href="#">1</a>    |
| 23 October 2004   | David & Pat Victor's, Leighton Buzzard        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <a href="#">2</a>    |
| 9 April 2005      | "The Bulb Nursery", Gatton Park, near Reigate | Group visit to Robert Bowlby's nursery                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <a href="#">4</a>    |
| ? Autumn 2005 ?   | ?                                             | Was there a meeting in Autumn 2005?                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |
| 12 March 2006     | Crawley                                       | Bill Squire on South African bulbs, David Victor on <i>Oxalis</i> , etc.                                                                                                                                                                        | <a href="#">6</a>    |
| 1 October 2006    | Corfe Mullen                                  | Jonathan Hutchinson on the Eastern Cape and <i>Veltheimia</i> , Terry Smale on his cultural procedures, etc.                                                                                                                                    | <a href="#">6</a>    |
| 25 March 2007     | Crawley                                       | David Victor's <i>"Report of the 2006 IBSA Symposium and Field Trip"</i> , Disussion led by Terry Smale on seed production                                                                                                                      | <a href="#">9</a>    |
| 23 September 2007 | Corfe Mullen                                  | Mike Salmon on <i>"Bulbs of North Africa"</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <a href="#">10</a>   |
| 18 May 2008       | Winchester                                    | Rod Saunders on Brunsvigias with questions and answers on various topics; Rachel Saunders on their seed-collecting experiences; Terry Smale on cultural requirements of plants from Mediterranean climates                                      | <a href="#">36</a>   |
| 26 October 2008   | Winchester                                    | Jonathan Hutchinson on <i>Scadoxus</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <a href="#">13</a>   |
| 22 March 2009     | Winchester                                    | Brian Mathew on <i>"South African Bulbs and Curtis's Botanical Magazine"</i> and David Victor on <i>"Bulbs in the Eastern Cape"</i>                                                                                                             | <a href="#">14</a>   |
| 18 October 2009   | Winchester                                    | Paul Cumbleton, Supervisor of the Alpine Department at RHS Wisley, on <i>"A Growing Addiction: Bulbs from The Winter Rainfall Areas"</i> and Bill Squire on <i>"Construction of troughs from various materials and methods of construction"</i> | <a href="#">15</a>   |
| 28 March 2010     | Winchester                                    | John Grimshaw on <i>"Bulbs of the African Mountains"</i> and Jonathan Hutchinson on <i>"A trip to Ethiopia to see Scadoxus nutans in habitat"</i> [or <i>"My Trip to Ethiopia in search of Scadoxus nutans"</i> ]                               |                      |
| 20 June 2010      | Exbury Gardens                                | Cameron McMaster                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <a href="#">16</a>   |
| 17 October 2010   | Winchester                                    | Kit Strange                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                      |
| 27 March 2011     | Winchester                                    | Kurt Vickery on his visits to Central Asia and species tulips                                                                                                                                                                                   |                      |
| 23 October 2011   | Winchester                                    | Bill Squire on <i>"Growing South African Bulbs in Southern England"</i> , David Victor on <i>"Xerophytic and Tuberous Pelargonium"</i>                                                                                                          |                      |

| Date                        | Location          | Topic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Report in Newsletter |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 11 March 2012               | Winchester        | Bob Charman on " <i>Fritillaria</i> ", Bill Squire on his 2011 visit to Namaqualand                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                      |
| 21 October 2012             | Winchester        | Jack Gingell on " <i>South Africa: the Eastern Cape in February 2010</i> "                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                      |
| 7 April 2013                | Winchester        | Jon Evans on " <i>Taking Better Pictures of Flowers</i> "                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                      |
| 6 October 2013              | Winchester        | Bill Squire & David Victor on " <i>A Trip to South Africa 2013</i> " and others including Kath Baker on " <i>Some flowers of the Southernmost Tip of Africa (September 2013)</i> " (Cape of Good Hope, Cape Agulhas etc.)                                                                    |                      |
| 23 March 2014               | Winchester        | Paul Cumbleton on compost mixes and pot drainage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |
| 12 October 2014             | Winchester        | John David, Chief Scientist of the Royal Horticultural Society, on why DNA is so important these days in the classification and naming of organisms, and how it challenges us to re-think reliable characters for differentiation of species and genera and look for new features            |                      |
| 29 March 2015               | Winchester        | Bill Squire, on his recent visit to South Africa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |
| 4 October 2015              | Winchester        | Julian Sutton, Desirable Plants nursery in Totnes, on " <i>Pollination in South African Geophytes</i> "                                                                                                                                                                                      |                      |
| 17 April 2016               | Winchester        | Jonathan Hutchinson, Team Leader at RHS Rosemoor, on " <i>Plant explorations of Ethiopia's Afromontane Forests</i> "                                                                                                                                                                         |                      |
| 23 October 2016             | Winchester        | Nick Wray, curator of Bristol University Botanic Garden, on " <i>Distribution of bulbous plants in the Western Cape</i> "                                                                                                                                                                    | 34                   |
| 2 April 2017                | Winchester        | Bob Charman on his trip to Patagonia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                      |
| 8 October 2017              | Winchester        | Jeremy Spon on " <i>The Iridaceae of South Africa</i> "                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                      |
| 8 April 2018                | Winchester        | George Elder on " <i>Winter-growing bulbs in cultivation and in the wild</i> "                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 37, 38               |
| 7 October 2018              | Winchester        | Paul Cumbleton on " <i>Growing and propagating South African winter-growing bulbs</i> "                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 40                   |
| 7 April 2019                | Winchester        | Kit Strange from Kew on " <i>A demonstration of how bulbs are grown at Kew</i> "                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |
| 6 October 2019              | Winchester        | Christine Skelmersdale on " <i>The summer flowering bulbs of the Drakensberg Mountains, S Africa</i> " and Jon Evans on " <i>South African bulbs from the AGS shows (part one)</i> "                                                                                                         |                      |
| 29 March 2020 (cancelled)   | Farnham           | Chris Birchall, Tale Valley Nursery, on " <i>Rhodohypoxis - Growing, Showing and Natural Environs</i> "                                                                                                                                                                                      |                      |
| 11 October 2020 (cancelled) | Winchester        | James Hitchmough would have given two talks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                      |
| 28 March 2021 (online)      | Online using Zoom | Virtual meeting at 1:30 for 2pm using the Zoom online video-conferencing software. <b>Jon Evans</b> showed the second part of his talk on " <i>Plants seen at AGS shows</i> " at 2pm. (Jon gave us the first part of his talk at our last physical meeting on 6 October 2019 in Winchester.) |                      |
| 17 April 2022               | Winchester        | Jon Evans on " <i>Autumn at Kew</i> " and Richard White on " <i>IBSA Symposium, Worcester and Middelpos: Bulbs &amp; Succulents in the Roggeveld &amp; Knersvlakte</i> "                                                                                                                     |                      |
| 23 October 2022             | Winchester        | Jonathan Hutchinson on " <i>Zimbabwe</i> "; Paul Cumbleton: part 1 of his series on " <i>Sorting out the Massonias</i> ",                                                                                                                                                                    |                      |
| 2 April 2023                | Winchester        | Paul Lewis on his work breeding hardy <i>Gladiolus</i> hybrids, Paul Cumbleton: part 2 of his series on " <i>Sorting out the Massonias</i> ", and Rodney Sims will show a 40-minute video " <i>Wildflower Extravaganza</i> ", with scenes of South African flowers with named species        |                      |

| Date            | Location   | Topic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Report in Newsletter |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 22 October 2023 | Winchester | Val Bourne on " <i>Plant Passions at Spring Cottage</i> " – a general talk about her garden including the use of South African plants such as Crocosmias etc.; Jon Evans on South African bulbs grown at Keith Wiley's Wildside Garden in Devon, Paul Cumbleton's part 3 of his series of short talks on " <i>Sorting out the Massonias</i> ",                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                      |
| 24 March 2024   | Winchester | Timothy Walker on " <i>From Diaz to Diamonds - Plant Hunting in South Africa</i> ". "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 southernmost 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." After lunch Paul Cumbleton gave part 4 of his series of short talks on " <i>Sorting out the Massonias</i> ",                                                                           |                      |
| 20 October 2024 | Winchester | Alex Summers, until recently the curator of the National Botanic Garden of Wales, now working in a National Trust garden, gave a talk on " <i>The Richtersveld - Collecting in the 21st Century</i> ". The NBGW has a large section devoted to plants from regions with a Mediterranean climate, including a collection of South African bulbs. After lunch Paul Cumbleton gave part 5 of his series of short talks on " <i>Sorting out the Massonias</i> ", focussing on <i>M. gypsicola</i> , <i>M. roggeveldensis</i> , <i>M. bakeriana</i> and <i>M. mimetica</i> . |                      |
| 23 March 2025   | Baughurst  | Graham Duncan on " <i>Agapanthus, Lachenalia and a lifetime spent at Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden: 1979 - 2024</i> "                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                      |
| 19 October 2025 | Winchester | Bob Charman on " <i>The Western Cape</i> " (September 2024), plus a few images from the Drakensberg (January 2025); John Sirkett on Nerines at recent Nerine-oriented events.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                      |



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Last update: **10:38 06/11/2025**

