

Past, present and future meetings

The next meeting is the [Autumn 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>	1
23 October 2004	David & Pat Victor's, Leighton Buzzard		2
9 April 2005	"The Bulb Nursery", Gatton Park, near Reigate	Group visit to Robert Bowlby's nursery	4
? 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.	6
1 October 2006	Corfe Mullen	Jonathan Hutchinson on the Eastern Cape and <i>Veltheimia</i> , Terry Smale on his cultural procedures, etc.	6
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	9
23 September 2007	Corfe Mullen	Mike Salmon on <i>"Bulbs of North Africa"</i>	10
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	36
26 October 2008	Winchester	Jonathan Hutchinson on <i>Scadoxus</i>	13
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>	14
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>	15
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	16
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>	

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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. Jon Evans 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 & Succulents in the Roggeveld & 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	

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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>Massonia 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 <i>Nerine</i> -oriented events.	



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