



AGS NEWS

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society



IN THIS ISSUE

Digital magazine

Volunteers needed

Help promote the AGS at
Hampton Court Flower Show

Have your garden featured in
a glossy gardening magazine

AGS YouTube Channel

New books in stock

Upcoming AGS tours

AGS Garden opens for NGS once again

We are opening our garden on the grounds of Pershore college for the NGS charity on **1 April 11am-4pm, 29 April 11am-4pm and 31 May 2pm-6pm.**

If members can offer any help to support us on these dates please get in touch with Gail Devries: gaildevries@agsgroups.org

We will need helpers on the gate, to do light refreshments and run the plant stall. Once again, we kindly ask you to bring **spare plants for sale** (proceeds will be split on a 50-50 basis between the growers and the AGS).

ISSUE 81 MARCH 2023

AGS NEWS

Check the most up-to-date news on our website
<https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/news/>

AGS CENTRE & GARDEN

Avon Bank, Pershore,
Worcestershire, WR10 3JP, UK

Phone: +44(0)1386 554790

Email: ags@alpinegardensociety.net

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single (UK & Ire) by direct debit £36

Single (UK and Ireland) £40

Family (two at same address) £43

Family by direct debit £39

Junior (under 18/student) £20

Overseas single £46

Overseas family £50

AGS CENTRE & GARDEN OPENING HOURS

Monday to Thursday

10am to 4pm.

The AGS Centre will close at 4pm on
Thursday 6 April and will open again
on **Wednesday 12 April**.

It will also be closed on the following
Bank Holiday Mondays:
1 May, 8 May, 29 May.

Send items for the next issue
of AGS News to Razvan Chisu:
digital@alpinegardensociety.net

Registered charity No. 207478

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AGS ZOOM LECTURES

Book your ticket for the last free Zoom
lecture this spring: **Botanical tour
through the South Island of New
Zealand, Harry Jans** – Wednesday, **19
April, 7.30pm BST**

MEMBERS GARDENS

Richard Bloom is trying to find good
gardens to photograph in March and
April (gardens with plenty of plant
interest during these months). The photos
would be used to illustrate a magazine
article focusing on the owner's garden
and alpine collection.

Richard is a professional garden
photographer who works for many
British garden magazines such as
Gardens Illustrated, The English Garden,
RHS's The Garden, etc.

If this is something you would be
interested in, please get in touch with
Richard.

Email: info@richardbloom.co.uk

Phone: **07884097702**

AUTUMN BULB DAY

A day for your diary: **Sunday, 1 October
2023**. Plans have been put in motion to
organise an autumn event with lectures
and workshops on bulbs and alpinists.
Details will be made public in due course
on our website and in the June edition of
the Newsletter.

AGS NEWS

Check the most up-to-date news on our website
<https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/news/>

#FLICKREAD

Search...



MARCH 2023
VOLUME 91
NUMBER 1
#371

COVER IMAGE:
PULSATILLA ALPINA
by CELIA SAWYER
Highly Commended,
Photo Competition 2022

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The Alpine Gardener will go digital in 2024, but the AGS will offer a printed publication for sale

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SHOW REPORTS

Memorable plants from last year's autumn events are recalled by our show reporters

DIGITAL JOURNAL

The latest issue of our journal is now available to read online at:

<http://flk.bz/rwQ8>

HELP PROMOTE THE AGS AT THE HAMPTON COURT GARDEN FESTIVAL

The RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival will take place on **4-9 July 2023**.

The AGS has been invited to support a show garden designed by Carol Klein.

The garden will be divided into six main areas: a small vegetable patch, wetland, woodland, hedgerow, meadow, seaside and exposed mountain. The current AGS Apprentice, Joshua Tranter, will help

Carol's team plant the mountain habitat. If you would like to become involved please get in touch with us.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

There is a growing collection of free lectures and videos on alpine on our YouTube channel. Subscribe to our channel and you will be notified when new material has been added for you to watch.

Videos include recordings of our Zoom lectures, Paul Krause's Tea Time Talks and short videos of alpine at shows and in gardens.

<https://www.youtube.com/@alpinegardensociety5210>

Check the most up-to-date news on our website
<https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/news/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you can give your time, enthusiasm and expertise to the AGS, you can support the charitable aims of the Society and promote the growing and conservation of alpine plants. The AGS is looking for members to fill the following volunteer vacancies:

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR FOR THE AGS OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

The AGS wants to restart its Open Garden Scheme, giving members the chance to see gardens opened to visitors by other AGS members. Visiting other people's gardens is always a delight.

A Coordinator, who can work from home, is needed to supervise the scheme and liaise with members who are keen to share their gardens.

HELP WITH THE AGS SEED EXCHANGE

The popular and well-respected AGS Seed Exchange relies on volunteers, new helpers are always welcome to join the team.

If you are able to help out for a few hours or a few days, please get in touch. Contact the team by email: seed@alpinegardensociety.net

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY YOUR PART IN THE AGS GARDEN AT PERSHORE?

Volunteer gardeners are welcome to join the friendly team on the last Thursday of the month to work on planting and maintaining our alpine garden. It's a great chance to develop your practical skills in alpine gardening and refreshments are provided.

To find out more about these volunteer vacancies please contact the AGS Centre on **01386 554790** or email [*ags@alpinegardensociety.net*](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net)

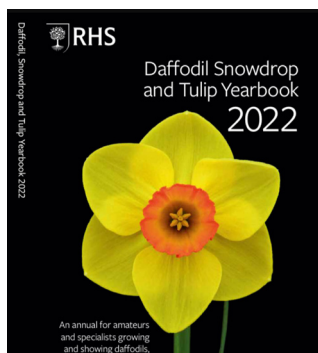
POTENTIAL NEW GROUP IN/ NEAR REDDITCH

The continued operation and support of local AGS groups is very important to enable our members to meet face to face. There are gaps in local group coverage.

The Birmingham group has sadly had to close and we would like to seek interest from members in the Worcestershire/West Midlands area who would like to attend occasional meetings being held in the Redditch area. This would be in addition to the existing AGS group meetings elsewhere. Please e-mail us at [*ags@alpinegardensociety.net*](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net) or phone the office to let us know if you are interested.

NEW BOOK OFFERS

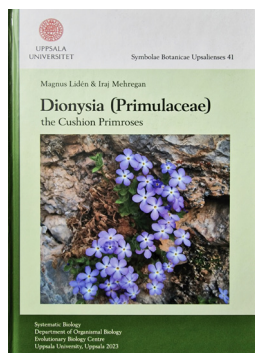
Purchase by phone: 01386 554790
or online: <https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/shop>



RHS Daffodil, Snowdrop and Tulip Yearbook 2022

For those with a keen interest in bulbs in general, and daffodils, snowdrops and tulips in particular, the RHS Yearbook is a must-have publication. Articles on miniature daffodil breeding, practical advice, descriptions of new snowdrop introductions, accounts of tulips in Greece and the UK, plus show reports all fit in over 100 pages in full colour.

Price £14.95 (**members pay: £12.00**)



Dionysia (Primulaceae) - the Cushion Primroses by

Magnus Lidén & Iraj Mehregan is the long-awaited monograph of a genus much beloved by our members. The book discusses the taxonomy, botany, and cultivation of 64 *Dionysia* species (12 new to science), aromatic dwarf shrubs that grow in crevices in semi-arid areas in the Middle East. The bulk of this volume is a taxonomic treatment of the genus, with nomenclature, descriptions, distribution maps, photos and line drawings.

Price £30 (**members pay £25**)



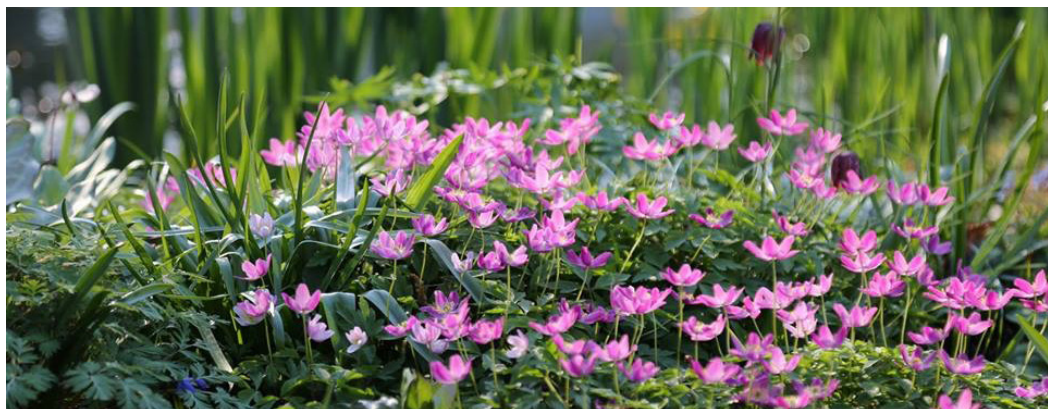
Some Snowdrops by Anne Repnow pays homage to the elegance and beauty of snowdrops. The author demonstrates their worth as wonderful and rewarding garden plants. She does this with almost 280 photographs of 90 different snowdrop cultivars, focusing on their unique character, complemented by short descriptive texts.

Easy-to-use tables give an indication of price, vigour and blooming time, which spans a period of six months.

Price £25 (**members pay £20**)

LOCAL GROUP NEWS & EVENTS

A complete calendar of group events can be consulted on our website:
<https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/alpine-garden-society/calendar>



HAMPSHIRE GROUP OPEN GARDEN & PLANT SALE

AGS Members and friends are invited to join Paddy and Ben at their garden in Chandlers Ford to enjoy alpines at their best.

Paddy and Ben Parmee are opening their garden for spring alpines and the Hampshire group's annual plant sale during the spring. There are expected to be at least three open garden events this year. Their alpine garden featured on Gardeners' World, episode 4, 2022.

The first event showing Paddy's snowdrops was a great success and the next event is being planned for early April 2023. The garden will have changed greatly from snowdrop-time with lots of newly emerged alpines and bulbs. The April event will include refreshments and a plant sale.

Venue: 179 Hursley Road, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, SO53 1JH.

Entry: Free entry - donations for refreshments to support the Hampshire AGS Group.

Date and Time: Easter Monday **10 April** & Thursday **13 April**.

Parking: Please park in Cuckoo Bushes Lane 50 metres to the north or other nearby street parking.

We look forward to seeing many of you in April!

Alternatively, AGS Groups can contact Ben if they would like to arrange a date to visit specifically for their group.

Please contact the Secretary on **07501 083504** or **02380 265672**; Email **Ben.Parmee@alpinegardensociety.org**

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1 APRIL - DORSET AGS SPRING FLOWER SHOW

St. Nicholas Church, Corfe Mullen BH21 3LE. Staging of exhibits will take place between 10.30 - 11.30am, the show will open to the public 1pm-3pm. Demonstration of planting an alpine pan at 1.30pm. Prize giving 2.30pm.

10 APRIL - COTSWOLD & MALVERN SPRING SHOW & PLANT SALE

Hartpur Village Hall, Over Old Road, Hartpur, GL19 3FD. Open 12-4pm.

26 APRIL - NORTH WALES SPRING PLANT SHOW

Treborth Botanic Garden at 6pm.

HAMPSHIRE AGS GROUP AT GARDENERS' WORLD LIVE PLANT FAIR - BEAULIEU - 28-30 APRIL 2023

The Beaulieu Gardeners' World Live Plant Fair is a relatively new event in the Gardeners' World calendar based at the home of the National Motor Museum in the heart of the New Forest, Hampshire. This expanding and popular event has brought GW to the south coast and the Hampshire AGS Group were delighted to accept an invitation to have a display and stand at the event. The Hampshire

Group will be supported by members of the Pershore team and will give us the opportunity to promote our local group and the main Society. The event runs from **Friday 28 April to Sunday 30 April 2023** and we look forward to welcoming AGS members from across the country.

13 MAY - EAST CHESHIRE AGS PLANT FAIR

We would like to welcome you to our 3rd annual Plant Fair, in Goostrey, Cheshire. Entry is free and there will be plants, handmade ceramics and refreshments available to buy. There will be ample parking space.

20 AUGUST - MID ANGLIA PLANT AND BULB SALE

at Pentlow Mill, Cavendish, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 7SP. The event starts at 2pm.

Guest nurseries: Monksilver, Pottertons and Desirable Plants. Also attending: Riverside Bulbs, the members Bulb and Plant stall and a stall selling quality cards for all occasions.

Friends and family welcome.

There will be plenty of parking and free refreshments served from 2.30pm.

Send details of future group events to Razvan Chisu (digital@alpinegardensociety.net) for inclusion in the Newsletter

LOCAL GROUPS

An interactive map and details of all AGS Groups can be consulted on our website: <https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/ags-groups/>

Join your local group this year for lectures, outings, garden visits, plant sales, help, advice and above all friendship

BEDFORDSHIRE Wilstead Village Hall
Cotten End Road Wilstead MK45 3BX
(First Monday of the month, except January) *mail@bedfordshirealpines.com*

BRISTOL Portland Lounge, Methodist Hall,
46 Westbury Hill, Bristol BS9 3AA (Third
Wednesday of the month; March-May &
September-December)
andrewhockey121@hotmail.com

CHESHIRE EAST Wilmslow Preparatory
School Grove Avenue Wilmslow SK9 5EG
(Third Monday of the month, September-
May) *eastcheshire@alpinegardensociety.org*

CHESHIRE WEST & WIRRAL Ness Botanic
Gardens, Neston Road, Ness, Wirral, CH64
4AY (2nd Friday of the month, September
- May) *lyn.morris@alpinegardensociety.org*

CHESTERFIELD & DISTRICT United
Reformed Church Cotton Mill Hill
Holymoorside Chesterfield S42 7EZ
(Usually 2nd Sunday from 3pm (hall opens
2.30pm) Jan - May & Sept- Dec)
steve@sueandsteve.myzen.co.uk

CHILTERN Great Kingshill Village
Hall, Missenden Road, Great Kingshill,
Buckinghamshire, HP15 6DW (Second

Friday of the month, September - May)
chiltern@alpinegardensociety.org

CLEVELAND Methodist Church
Hall Connaught Road Nunthorpe
Middlesbrough TS7 0BP (2nd Tuesday,
Sept - April) *barrie.roberts@agsgroups.org*

COTSWOLD & MALVERN Redmarley
Village Hall Redmarley Gloucestershire
GL19 3HS (Redmarley Village Hall
Redmarley Gloucestershire GL19 3HS
(First Wednesday of the month - except
July & August)
cotswoldandmalvern@agsgroups.org

DERBY Breadsall Memorial Hall Brookside
Road Breadsall Derby DE21 5LF (First
Wednesday of the month, September -
May) *david.charlton41@btinternet.com*

DEVON - EXETER Longdown Village Hall
Chapel Hill Longdown Exeter EX6 7SN
(Third Thursday of the month, excluding
July and August) 01837 83288

DEVON - SOUTH Rattery Village Hall
Rattery South Brent Devon TQ10 9LD
(First Thursday of the month at 2pm)
07940 372954

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EPPING FOREST Theydon Bois Village Hall
Coppice Row Theydon Bois Essex CM16
7ER (2nd Tuesday of the month at 8.00pm,
September - June)
hugh.meteyard@btinternet.com

ESSEX New Village Hall Church Road
Rawreth Nr. Wickford SS11 8SH (Last
Thursday of the month, excluding
December) 01787 310546

HAMPSHIRE Chilworth Hall Chilworth
Southampton SO16 7LD December -
February via Zoom (Fourth Thursday of
the month, September - May)
Ben.Parmee@alpinegardensociety.org

IRELAND - CORK Enable Ireland
Lavanagh House Ballintemple Cork
(Fourth Thursday of the month from 8pm)
hesterforde@gmail.com

IRELAND - ULSTER Main Hall St. Bride's
Hall Derryvolgie Belfast (Saturdays from
2.30pm, September - March)
secretary@alpinegarden-ulster.org.uk

IRELAND - DUBLIN Various venues
info@alpinegardensociety.ie

KENT - EAST Lower Hardres and
Nackington Village Hall Street End
Canterbury CT4 5NP (Usually the second
Wednesday of some winter months)
coptonash@yahoo.co.uk

KENT - MID Ditton Community Hall Kiln
Barn Road Ditton ME20 6AH
lynnoptom@hotmail.com

KENT - TUNBRIDGE WELLS Main Hall
King Charles the Martyr Church 3
Warwick Park, Tunbridge Wells TN2 5TA
(1st Monday of the month, Sept - May,
excl. January) *kandacox57@gmail.com*

LANCASHIRE - EAST Ramsbottom Civic
Hall Market Place Ramsbottom Nr. Bury
BL0 9AJ (Once a month, usually Monday,
September - June) *bookcliffo@aol.com*

LANCASHIRE - NORTH The Methodist
Church Scotforth Road Greaves Lancaster
LA1 4TE (Third Thursday of the month,
September - April) 01524 36627

LANCASHIRE - SOUTH Emmanuel Church
Hall Cambridge Rd Southport PR9 9PR
(2nd Saturday, from 2pm, Sept - May)
rosie.turner@alpinegardensociety.org

LEICESTERSHIRE Braunstone Civic Centre
Kingsway Braunstone Leicester LE3 2PP
(Fourth Monday of the month, September
- May) *tonyweston@sky.com*

LONDON - WEST Perivale Community
Centre Horsenden Lane South Perivale
Middlesex UB6 7NP (4th Thurs, 8pm, Sept
- Nov & Jan - June)
westlondonags@yahoo.co.uk

LOCAL GROUPS

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MID ANGLIA - Long Melford Memorial Village Hall Long Melford Nr Sudbury Suffolk CO10 9JQ (2nd Saturday of the month, times vary)

jenny.clarke@alpinegardensociety.org

NORFOLK - Hethersett Village Hall Back Lane Hethersett Norwich NR9 3JJ (Fourth Saturday of the month from 2-5pm)

dianenblyth@gmail.com

NORTH EAST ENGLAND C.I.U. Club
Merton Way Ponteland Newcastle upon Tyne NE20 9PX (2nd Mon of the month, Sept - May) *neegroup@agsgroups.org*

NOTTINGHAM Wollaton Park Community Association, Community Centre, Harrow Road, Wollaton Park, Nottingham, NG8 1FG (Second Wednesday of the month, September - May) 0115 9312571

OXFORD & DISTRICT Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1AB (2nd Wednesday of the month, Sept - April) *celia.sawyer@btinternet.com*

SHROPSHIRE Bayston Hill Memorial Hall Lyth Hill Road Bayston Hill Shrewsbury SY3 0EW (1st Tuesday of the month, Sept - May, excl. Jan) *les.jones@agsgroups.org*

SOMERSET The Frank Bond Community Centre, 84 Mountway Road, Bishops Hull, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 5DS (Fourth

Wednesday of the month, September - May) *skrah@btinternet.com*

SURREY - EAST Christ Church Hall Christ Church Road Stamford Green Epsom KT19 8NE (Third Tuesday of the month) *charman678@btinternet.com*

SURREY - WEST Mayford Village Hall Saunders Lane Mayford Woking Surrey GU22 0NN (First Thurs of the month, Sept - May) *manda.morton@btinternet.com*

WALES - NORTH Treborth Botanic Garden Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RQ (2nd Thursday of the month, Sept - March) *nwalesags@gmail.com*

WALES - SOUTH St Mary's Church Hall Ewenny Road Bridgend CF31 3HS (2nd Friday, Sept - March) *rannveig.bob.wallis@agsgroups.org*

WARWICKSHIRE Bishopton Community Centre Drayton Avenue Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9PB (3rd Monday, Sept- May) *warwickshire@alpinegardensociety.org*

YORKSHIRE - WEST St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Far Headingley, Leeds, LS16 5JT (2nd Saturday, from 1.45pm for a 2.30pm start, Sept - May) *anneswright@hotmail.co.uk*

Book by phone: 01386 554790
or online: <https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/tours>

EASTERN TURKEY

10–24 May 2023

Leader: Chris Gardner

Cost: £3670, £3200 land only, £500 single supplement



Tchiatchewia isatidea - credit Chris Gardner

Anatolia in eastern Turkey offers the chance to experience a flower-filled journey that features many fritillary and iris species. This tour explores a wide range of alpine habitats – from turf to steppe and meadows to woodlands – and also includes a number of cultural sites en route.

After arriving at Malatya, we travel to Dogansehir for *Fritillaria aurea*, *Aubrieta canescens*, *Corydalis wendelboi* and possibly *Asphodeline tenuior*. Exploration of the Kubbe Pass and the road to Tunceli should reveal *Tulipa julia*, *Iris peshmenii*, *Tchiatchewia isatidea*, and hopefully *Paeonia mascula* will be in bloom.

Moving on, the mountain ridges of the Munzur Dagı offer the iconic, late-flowering *Fritillaria imperialis*. Orchids will be a highlight as we travel to Erzincan; the stark black steppe near Kop Dagı is home to mounds of *Hesperis brevicaulis*. More fritillaries should be in evidence at the mountain area of Palandoken, then we head east across steppe to Sarikamis, followed by a day at the broad and grassy Cam Pass to view *Corydalis nariniana* and *C. angustifolia*, as well as ice-blue *Scilla*. We head to Tatvan via the bulb-rich Karabel Pass (more frits and tulips). The final day trip to Sason should offer *Iris gatesii* and other alpine delights.

Book by phone: 01386 554790
or online: <https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/tours>

WESTERN ALPS

6-13 June 2023

Leader: Razvan Chisu

Cost: TBA ~ in the region of £2000



Lautaret Alpine Botanical Garden - credit Razvan Chisu

Few will remember now, but the first trip abroad organised by the AGS explored the Lautaret pass in the French Alps. In early summer, the alpine meadows are awash with colour; *Campanula thyrsoides*, *Gentiana punctata*, *Narcissus poeticus*, *Anemone narcissiflora* and many other gems adorn the slopes where Lautaret Alpine Botanical Garden is located. The tour will include day trips on some

of the local mountain peaks in search for classic alpinines such as *Eritrichium nanum*, *Ranunculus glacialis*, *Petrocallis pyrenaica* and a range of gentian species. Space prevents us from mentioning a long list of alpinines, but we are hoping to see *Viola cenisia* and *Viola calcarata*, *Primula latifolia*, *Soldanella alpina*, *Paradisea liliastrum* and several species of hardy orchids.

Book by phone: 01386 554790
or online: <https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/tours>

PATAGONIA

28 November -

15 December 2023

Leaders: Martin Sheader
and Harry Jans

Cost:

Land only: in the region of
£6800 sharing, £7600 single.



Petunia patagonica - credit Martin Sheader

Patagonia encompasses the southernmost provinces of Chile and Argentina and is an area of spectacular landscapes supporting a diverse and interesting flora. On this tour we are focussing on the southern provinces of Santa Cruz (Argentina) and Magallanes (Chile), where we explore a range of habitats from dry steppe to woodland and mountains.

After arriving in Buenos Aires we fly south to the town of El Calafate. Expect to see *Oxalis enneaphylla*, *O. laciniata*, *Benthamiella*, *Xerodraba*, *Calceolaria* and orchids in bloom.

We then travel south, crossing the border

into Chile and head for our next venue, the renowned Torres del Paine National Park. We return to El Calafate travelling through the Patagonian steppe, where we should see *Anarthrophyllum desideratum*, *Petunia patagonica*, *Junellia* and *Oxalis* in bloom. Travelling further north we botanise around El Chalten with its spectacular mountain scenery and then visit Lago Cardiel on the steppe to the east.

We return to El Calafate and spend our final day travelling by boat through the iceberg-laden waters of Lago Argentino to visit Estancia Cristina and the Upsala Glacier.

Book by phone: 01386 554790
or online: <https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/tours>

ALPINE AOTEAROA – NEW ZEALAND TOUR

4-18 January 2024

Leader: Mark Hanger

Cost: TBA; Land only: £3486 sharing, £4315 single.



Haastia pulvinaris - credit David Haselgrove

Journey through the alpine wonderlands of the South Island and discover botanical treasures as spectacular as the scenery. Learn more about the flora you find under the guidance of Mark Hanger an expert naturalist who is as passionate about plants as you are!

Visit stunning floral landscapes, including glaciated valleys, scree slopes, and sub-alpine lakes and tarns. Walk through boulder and herb fields and search for special alpine flora. From the treeline to the snowline, the changing pattern of life is as fascinating as it is diverse.

The trip takes in the fascinating flora of the Hollyford Valley, the Old Man Range, Mackenzie Country, Aoraki Mount Cook, Mount Hutt, and Arthur's Pass. It continues around the top of the South Island to Clarence Valley, Hanmer Springs, Mount St Patrick, Nelson Lakes National Park, Mount Arthur, Blackbirch, and Kaikōura.

Travel is by comfortable small coach equipped with an excellent nature reference library. Accommodation is in pleasant hotels and lodges with private facilities.

Book by phone: 01386 554790
or online: <https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/tours>

FUTURE AGS TOURS

Please register your interest!

2024

Kazakhstan - April 2024 (*Harry Jans*)

Gargano Italy - April 2024 (*Christopher Bailes*)

Gotherborg Botanic Garden - May 2024 (*Razvan Chisu*)

USA - The Rockies - June/July 2024 (*Tom Freeth*)

Transylvania - July 2024 (*Razvan Chisu*)

South Africa - West Coast - September 2024 (*Callan Cohen*)

Northern Patagonia - December 2024

2025

Chile & Peru - March/April 2025 (*Harry Jans*)

Peloponnese - April 2025 (*Razvan Chisu*)

Turkey - May 2025

Uzbekistan - May 2025 (*Kurt Vickery*)

The Picos - June 2025 (*Razvan Chisu*)

Tibet - June/July 2025 (*John Mitchell*)

Delphi & Peloponnese - October 2025 (*Razvan Chisu*)

Gentiana punctata - credit Razvan Chisu



TULIPS IN THE TIEN SHAN

8–21 April 2023

Leaders: Kurt Vickery &
Vladimir Kolbintsev

Cost: London–London £4,785
Almaty–Almaty £3,995

A truly remarkable display of colourful tulip carpets the mountains and valleys of Southern Kazakhstan in spring.

The magnificent goblets of Greig's tulip are joined by swathes of multicoloured *Tulipa ostrowskiana* and *T. kolpakowskiana*, waterlily flowers of



T. kaufmanniana, stunning *Tulipa albertii* and among 20 species of tulip rarities such as *Tulipa buhseana*, *T. lemmersii*, *T. tetraphylla* and bicoloured *T. zenaidae*.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

15–28 May 2023

Leaders: Paul Cardy &
Owen Mountford

Cost: London–London £6,925
San Francisco–San Francisco £6,275

From the cathedral-like atmosphere of coastal redwood groves to sagebrush-covered hillsides, and from the snowy Cascades Range to the unspoilt Klamath Coast, the Western Seaboard of America is home to a tremendously rich flora. Paintbrushes, penstemons,



phloxes and meadows of blue camassias provide an arena for a multitude of irises and calochortuses, signature plants of this tour.

LYCIAN TAURUS

3–11 June 2023

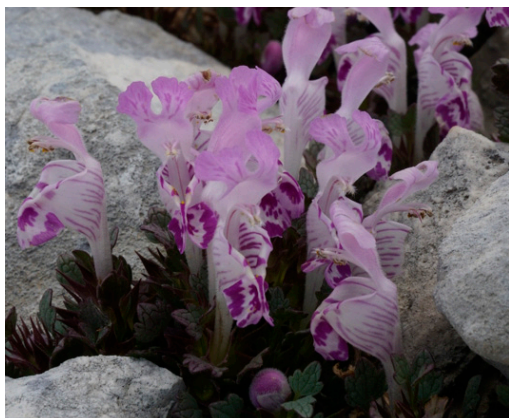
Leaders: Chris Gardner & Ian Green

Cost: London–London £2,250

Antalya–Antalya £2,000

Single supplement £225

The diversity of the flora found in the highest ridges of the Lycian Taurus beggar belief. One mountain alone has as many species of plant as the whole of the UK! The wonderful bright blue hedgehogs of *Asyneuma junceum* dot dry ridgetops among *Pedicularis cadmea*, *Muscari bourgaei* and mats of *Androsace villosa*.



By snow patches we'll find the stars of *Merendera attica*, *Eranthis hyemalis*, *Scilla bifolia* and colchicums and gageas.

SUMMER IN GEORGIA

30 June–11 July 2023

Leaders: Kurt Vickery, Tolkha Shetekauri and Ana Kvlividze

Cost: London–London £2,995

Tbilisi–Tbilisi £2,645

The Greater Caucasus forms a truly impressive divide between Asia and Europe. Georgia has a breathtaking floral diversity. Elegant, tall *Lilium kesselringianum* produces a tremendous show alongside delphiniums, foxgloves and monkshoods in meadows still cut by hand. *Dianthus raddeanus* glows pink from rocky outcrops and red *Sedum sempervivoides*



blooms with clusters of deeply coloured *Campanula alpigena*.

AUTUMN BULBS OF SW TURKEY

18–25 October 2023

Leaders: Yasemin Konuralp and
Seda Soylu

Cost: London–London £1,950
Antalya–Dalaman £1,750

A magical display of flowers garlands the autumn landscape in the unspoilt Taurus Mountains of Southwestern Turkey. There are the purple centred ivory flowers of rare *Crocus mathewii*, gorgeous *Crocus wattiorum*, *C. speciosus*, rare *Colchicum sanguicolle*, weird *Biarum pyrami*,



chequered *Colchicum variegatum*, and the golden goblets of *Sternbergia clusiana* among many others.

TULIPS IN THE TIEN SHAN

8–21 April 2024 (dates TBC)

Leaders: Vladimir Kolbintsev and
Kurt Vickery

Cost: London to London £4785
Almaty - Almaty £3995 Single Supplement £415*

A truly remarkable display of colourful tulips carpet the mountains and valleys of Southern Kazakhstan in spring. Chief among them are the magnificent goblets of Greig's Tulip which come in an unforgettable pageant of reds, oranges and yellows. Beautiful water-lily flowers of *Tulipa kaufmanniana* adorn the lower



slopes of the Mountains of Heaven like so many jewels, while swathes of multi-coloured *Tulipa ostrowskiana* and *Tulipa kolpakowskiana* shine in the crystal clear air of these Central Asian Mountains.