



AGS NEWS

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

SPECIAL EDITION

DETAILS OF THE FUTURE CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

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ISSUE 83 JUNE 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 be closed on
28 & 29 August 2023

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

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AGS ZOOM LECTURES

Planning for the next season of Zoom Lectures is well underway. Confirmed speakers so far include: Paul Spriggs, Michael Mauser, Laura Caddy, Jiri Papousek and Jenny Wainwright. Members will continue to be able to enjoy these lectures for no charge.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

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

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

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 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 or phone the office if you are interested.

CHANGES TO AGS MEMBERSHIP AND WHY WE NEED TO IMPLEMENT THEM

WHY IS THE AGS MAKING SUCH BIG CHANGES?

For many years the AGS has been spending more money than it receives. The practice of expenditure exceeding income is not sustainable. The combined negative effects of the pandemic and Brexit on AGS finances have reached a point where the Society will be unsustainable within 5 years if nothing changes.

The Board of Trustees have looked at many options including increasing membership fees, reducing the number of pages of each Journal, reducing the number of Journals each year, or discontinuing the production of Journals.

With hindsight, it would have been wise to have increased membership fees gradually over previous years. As this has not happened, there is now a significant shortfall in income. Following the increase of fees by 10% in 2021, the Society lost a number of members. With fewer members, the Journal becomes more expensive to produce, resulting in further increases for the members that remain.

Reducing the number of pages per issue would have had very little effect as postage makes up 40% of the total cost of producing and delivering the Journal.

Producing fewer issues each year could have generated some savings, but printing less over the whole year would actually have resulted in costing more per issue, as we would have had the same editorial fees. In total, these savings would not have been enough to improve our financial situation.

In order to secure the future of the AGS, the only option open to us that generated enough savings, was to produce paperless Journals. In conjunction with other savings, this would restore the financial health of the AGS and ensure the Society is available for future generations.

PAPER JOURNAL

The Trustees realise that the paper Journal is very important to many of our members and it was decided that there would be an offer of a twice-yearly Journal at cost price if pre-ordered from the office or from the AGS website. If the twice-yearly Journal proves to be popular, we will consider offering this via a standing order/ Direct Debit so that it automatically goes out to members who want to continue receiving paper copies.

WHAT OTHER SAVINGS ARE BEING MADE?

There has been a reduction in office hours by 16 hours a week. This results in a reduction in office staffing, and also an ensuing reduction in the salary of the Director.

The Associate Editor role was removed at the end of 2022 making further payroll savings. All service contracts have been reviewed and considerable savings have been made by either cancelling or renegotiating with suppliers.

DIRECT DEBIT AND STANDING ORDER PAYMENTS

From 2024 there will be an encouragement to all members to move to Direct Debit or Standing Order payment. This will enable a reduction in staffing costs as minimal office work is required to take these types of payments.

WHAT ELSE WILL BE CHANGING

For many years the AGS has not had many links with other societies. There is a plan to forge stronger links with members of the SRGC and we would like to encourage members of both societies at various joint activities. We will also be reaching out to all other like-minded societies to create stronger links and joint activities.

More events including workshops, lectures and specialist events will be planned in various parts of the country, to allow more members to enjoy social activities. Local groups will be encouraged and supported in local alpine-focused conservation work. We would also like to support any groups that are keen to participate in horticultural events in their catchment area.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WILL I STILL RECEIVE MY PAPER JOURNAL IN 2023?

A: Yes, your Journal will be delivered as normal, unless you have chosen to opt for a paperless subscription.

Q: HOW WILL I RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER FROM 2023?

A: The newsletter will be posted on the AGS website as a pdf file. Members are also invited to check the NEWS section of the website regularly, as this has the most up-to-date details on various AGS news and events. If you have subscribed to our e-Newsletter, you will receive the latest news directly in your inbox.

Q: WHAT IF I DO NOT USE A COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE?

A: From 2024, the basic AGS membership package will only include a **digital version** of the Journal, alongside other benefits like **free Zoom lectures, free entry to all AGS Shows, free entry to the AGS Library and Garden.**

We will continue to offer a **printed biannual Journal** to members, this publication however will not be part of the membership package. The printed Journal will need to be purchased separately at a price which will reflect printing and postage costs.

We understand that there are some members who do not wish to or cannot use a computer. We will always try to assist these members; anyone can contact the office and we will always do what we can to help.

Q: WHY IS THE AGS GOING TO STOP PRINTING JOURNALS?

A: Over recent years, paper and postage have become extremely expensive and prices are set to increase further. This, together with the impact on the environment from the production and transport of our Journal, made the Board look at how we could protect the AGS for the future.

Q: WILL THE SOCIETY BE “DUMBING DOWN” THE JOURNAL?

A: The Journal will not be “dumbing down”. In fact, we would like to see more articles from members’ gardens, helpful advice on propagation, endangered alpine environments and travelogues. We are committed to producing a modern Journal, which will continue to be esteemed by members and non-members alike due to image and article quality.

AGS NEWS

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

Q: WHO WILL BE WRITING ARTICLES AND PERFORM OTHER EDITORIAL DUTIES NOW THAT THE AGS HAVE REMOVED THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR ROLE?

A: It was decided that the role of Associate Editor should move to a 'paid for article' contract, rather than a fixed fee rolling contract. The Editor would like to see more members of the Society write articles for the Journal. We have in place an Editorial Committee that includes John Good, Diane Clement, Christopher Grey-Wilson and Thomas Freeth, who will be assisting the Editor to ensure that articles and plant names are accurate.

Q: WILL THE COST OF MEMBERSHIP INCREASE?

A: We do not plan any large increases in membership fees. To reduce administrative costs, from 2024 we intend to offer just one membership package, regardless of where members reside. This will mean overseas members will see a decrease in their membership fees.

Q: HOW WILL THE CHANGES AFFECT LIFE MEMBERS?

A: Life members will enjoy the same access as other members to the AGS digital content. However, like everyone else, from 2024 Life Members will have to purchase printed copies of the Journal if they wish to receive them.

Q: WHY IS MANUAL PAYMENT (CARD) MEMBERSHIP MORE EXPENSIVE THAN AUTO PAYMENT MEMBERSHIP (DIRECT DEBIT)?

A: There is a considerable amount of administrative work involved when processing manual payments. Auto payments require very little staff involvement in processing and therefore are the preferred method of payment. This helps fulfil our commitment to reducing staff costs.

Q: OTHER SOCIETIES ARE RUN BY VOLUNTEERS OR HAVE VERY FEW STAFF. WHY ARE THE AGS'S STAFFING COSTS HIGH?

A: The AGS is different in many ways to most other small societies. We operate two limited companies, run a web shop selling books and merchandise, organise tours and operate from an office. We are going through a process of simplifying AGS operations, for example payroll savings have been made each year for the past three years and we plan to continue this trend and make the AGS far less dependent on paid staff.

Q: ARE THESE CHANGES EXPECTED TO SAVE THE AGS?

A: These changes alone will not save the AGS but they will go a long way to giving us time to protect the AGS for the future. What happens next is really down to the membership and how everyone embraces the changes we have had to make.

AGS NEWS

For full details of the rules and how to enter, please see
<https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/photographic-competition/>

AGS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2023

ENTER THE AGS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN CASH PRIZES AND POINTS TOWARDS AGS ARTISTIC MEDALS.

Last year's competition received lots of entries, so the entry deadline for this year will be **31 December 2023**. You can enter three images in each class, but only digital images can be accepted. Images may have been taken this year, but **they do not have to be**, providing they have not been published and have not been entered previously in this competition.

As a photographic competition, entries will be judged purely on photographic merit. For example, an excellent image of a common plant will rank more highly than a flawed image of a rare plant (even if the rare plant is a superb specimen). Judging is performed by a panel of both current and non-AGS members with appropriate artistic and/or photographic expertise.

This competition uses the same wide definition of 'Alpine plant' used at AGS Shows. The term covers all plants suitable for cultivation in a rock garden of moderate size or in an unheated frame or alpine house, including small hardy herbaceous perennials, hardy and half-hardy bulbs, hardy ferns, hardy succulents and small shrubs. It excludes any plants

Winner of Class Nine in 2022, Janet Hails, Worcester, UK
Meadow, Crete, photographed April 2014



AGS NEWS

For full details of the rules and how to enter, please see
<https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/photographic-competition/>

which will not survive an average British winter under such conditions but includes many plants which do not necessarily grow in mountainous regions.

THERE ARE NINE CLASSES:

CLASS ONE An alpine plant in its natural habitat with both plant(s) and landscape featured.

CLASS TWO A portrait of an alpine plant in its natural habitat, featuring the entire plant as the main subject.

CLASS THREE A close-up or detail of an alpine plant in its natural habitat or in cultivation. This doesn't have to be a flower; you could focus on foliage or a seed head.

CLASS FOUR An alpine plant in cultivation in a garden setting. It can be in your garden or a garden you have visited.

CLASS FIVE An alpine plant in cultivation in a pot. This subject allows potentially a great deal more photographic control than plants in the wild: you can control where you take the photo (indoors or outdoors), when you take the photo (when the plant is in perfect condition), and time of day, which gives control over lighting and weather. You can use artificial light sources and backgrounds if you wish.

CLASS SIX Alpine fauna in the wild. Insects have been popular subjects in the past, as have birds and mammals.

CLASS SEVEN An alpine landscape not necessarily showing specific plants but concentrating on the scenic beauty and/or geology of the setting. You could be inspired by unusual natural beauty, from the small and intimate to the grand panorama.

CLASS EIGHT An imaginative or unusual image featuring alpine plants. Digital manipulation is allowed in this class. In fact anything goes!

CLASS NINE The Wonder of Wildflowers. This class is intended to celebrate the visual spectacle that alpine plants can create. We want to see spectacular panoramas of flowers, whether a carpet of a single species or a tapestry of different plants, colours and shapes.

For full details of the rules and how to enter, please see the AGS website (choose the 'About Us' menu and then 'Photographic Competition'), or contact the Competition Secretary at photographiccompetition@agsgroups.org.

THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

Members' Seed Distribution 2023/24

Instructions for seed donors

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

Make sure the seed is clean and free from chaff, grit, etc. Do not use very large or very small packets as they are difficult to manage and increase the work load of the seed handling team. Seal the packets well and ensure they are leak-proof. Mark each packet clearly with the full name of the seed, your name and the packet number as listed on your donor form. If you do not know the full name of a plant, **please** include information about height, colour, etc. Donations of small bulbils, corms etc are very acceptable.

New regulations state that all seed donations from outside the UK should be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate. Overseas donors may wish to group together to share any cost involved. Donations sent without Certificates are at the donor's risk. We are trying to find a better solution to this ongoing problem. Please refer to the AGS seed section of the website for up to date information and any recent changes: <https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/seed-exchange/>

To qualify for Donor status, you must send in a minimum donation of 7 different varieties of seed, preferably suitable for a rock garden. Family members requiring two orders with Donor status must send in a minimum of 14 different varieties. Please send in your seed to arrive **before 10th October 2023**, together with your Seed Donor's form, to the address below which corresponds to your surname.

Late donations: If you think your seed may arrive after the closing date of 10th October, you **must** contact Bob Worsley by email at the address shown below for alternative posting arrangements. Please **do not** post to the seed receiver listed below after 10th October. We will not be posting out seed lists this year, except by request. **Please contact seed.distribution@agsgroups.org or AGS Headquarters before 1st November 2023 if you would like a seed list posted to you.**

Seed donors whose surnames begin with:	A - F	please send your seed to:	Elizabeth Maddock, 7 Kingsley Avenue, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 4EN
	G - M		Diane Clement: 194 Compton Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 9JX
	N - Z		Carol Kellett, 18 Eaves Green Road, Chorley, PR7 3PQ

All correspondence relating to Seed Donation should be addressed to:
Bob & Brenda Worsley, Langfield, Wilmslow Road, Woodford, Cheshire,
SK7 1RH e-mail: bob.worsley@agsgroups.org

SEED DONOR'S FORM - GARDEN COLLECTED ONLY ON THIS SIDE

Please complete this form as requested and enclose with your seed donation. Use this side for Garden collected seed only. Use the reverse of this form for Wild collected seed. Please fill in your personal details on this side of the form. If you do not know the full name of a plant, please include information about height, colour, etc

Name

Address
.....

Country

Membership number

E-mail address (only for use by the Seed Exchange)

AGS use only	Packet Number	Name of Plant in ALPHABETICAL ORDER please Garden Collected Seed only on this side
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	.....

SEED DONOR'S FORM - GARDEN COLLECTED ONLY ON THIS SIDE

AGS
use
only

Packet
Number

Name of Plant in ALPHABETICAL ORDER please
Garden Collected Seed only on this side

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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35

SEED DONOR'S FORM - WILD COLLECTED ONLY ON THIS SIDE

Use this page for Wild collected seed only. Please fill in your personal details on the other side of this form. We request that all donors of wild collected seed comply with the conservation laws of the countries they visit. For more information about the legalities of wild seed collection, please refer to the AGS website <https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/seed-exchange/wild-collected-seed/>

AGS use only	Packet Number	Name of Plant in alphabetical order Wild Collected Seed only on this side	Collection Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	W1
<input type="checkbox"/>	W2
<input type="checkbox"/>	W3
<input type="checkbox"/>	W4
<input type="checkbox"/>	W5
<input type="checkbox"/>	W6
<input type="checkbox"/>	W7
<input type="checkbox"/>	W8
<input type="checkbox"/>	W9
<input type="checkbox"/>	W10
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<input type="checkbox"/>	W12
<input type="checkbox"/>	W13
<input type="checkbox"/>	W14
<input type="checkbox"/>	W15
<input type="checkbox"/>	W16
<input type="checkbox"/>	W17
<input type="checkbox"/>	W18

Book your place on our website or by phone: 01386 554790
<https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/shop>

BOOKING IS NOW OPEN FOR THREE EXCITING LIVE EVENTS

This year the **AGM and Weekend Conference** will take place on the weekend of **11-12 November 2023** and will be at Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Road, Stratford CV37 0PY.

As part of the weekend, this year's E.B Anderson Memorial Lecture will be given by Martin Hajman. Martin started gardening professionally in Průhonice Park in the Czech Republic where he was head gardener and curator of a large historical rock garden (a UNESCO site). He is now gardener at Tromsø Arctic-Alpine Botanic Garden, which is the world's most northerly Botanic Garden.

Conference speakers will include Rogier van Vugt of Leiden Botanic Gardens who will speak about European Orchids in the wild and in cultivation, Julian Sutton, Tom Freeth, and others to be confirmed in the September issue of AGS news.

AGS Bulb Day (in conjunction with the Fritillaria Group)

Sunday, **1 October 2023** 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

At Pershore College, Avonbank, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3JP.

The programme will include lectures by Laurence Hill, Paul Cumbleton and Razvan Chisu. There will be the opportunity to buy plants from specialist nurseries and to visit the AGS garden and headquarters.

Tickets for lectures, plant sales, tea and coffee, buffet lunch:

AGS members £32, non-members £40

AGS Snowdrop Day will be held on Saturday, **3 February 2024** from 9.30 am - 4.00 pm at Pershore College, Avonbank, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3JP (2 minute walk from the AGS headquarters). Tickets for lectures, plant sales, tea, coffee and buffet lunch:

AGS members £35, non-members £42

The programme will include lectures, and plant sales from specialist nurseries. There will also be the opportunity to visit the AGS garden and headquarters where will be a selection of books and merchandise for sale.

Admission to these events is by advance ticket only.

Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre or online.

Full details to follow in the September Newsletter and on the AGS website.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2023

The Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Garden Society will take place on Saturday 11 November 2023 at Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Road, Stratford CV37 0PY.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following Officers are eligible for reappointment and are prepared to continue to serve the AGS (see Note 1 below): Director of Seed (Vacant), Director of Shows (Mr Martin Rogerson), Treasurer (Prof John Galloway) and President (Mr David Morris).

NOMINATIONS FOR TRUSTEE BOARD MEMBERS

Nominations, with supporting statements/citations, are invited from members for the following posts: Two Trustees to serve for three years and two Trustees to serve for four years (see Note 2 below).

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. To receive and confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 12 November 2022
2. To receive the report of the Board of Trustees
3. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's report and accounts
4. To elect a President, Treasurer and Officers to serve for the ensuing year.
5. To elect trustees to serve for for the relevant period (see above)
6. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year
7. **Any other items of business as notified to the Society Director in writing, no later than 31 July 2023.**

Notes on the election of Officers and members of the Trustee Board:

(1) Officers retire annually and are eligible for re-election as per rule 7.1.3.1 of the Constitution. All Honorary Officers listed have agreed to stand for re-election.

(2) In accordance with rule 7.1.4, two Trustees retire annually and are not eligible for re-election for one year. The deadline for Trustee nominations is 31 July 2023 and these should be sent to the AGS Director Tony Bryan at the AGS Centre Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3JP, UK.

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

AGS ANNUAL AWARDS

NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING AGS AWARDS

- **Lyttel Trophy** for meritorious work with alpines
- **The Sir William & Lady Lawrence Award** for a person who works in professional horticulture and who has made a significant contribution in their work with alpines (cultivation, research etc).
- **The Award of Honour** for sterling work on behalf of the AGS, not necessarily during the previous year, but over a period of time.
- **The Ferrier Charlton Award** for outstanding work for the Society in an administrative capacity.
- **The Kath Dryden Award** to recognise meritorious work on basic cultivation and/or new plant introduction within a single genus or group of alpine plants.
- **Local Group Awards** to recognise outstanding service within a Local Group over a number of years, the impact of which is felt more widely than just the local area. Nominations must come from the Local Group concerned and must be approved by the committee of that Local Group.

AGS LITERARY AWARDS

The Alpine Gardener sets extremely high standards in horticultural journalism and photography and every year the Society seeks to honour the very best contributions. We do this by appealing to the judgement of the most informed critics – you, the readership. Members are invited to nominate contributors to *The Alpine Gardener*, Volume 90 (2022), for the following awards.

- **The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award** for the best article published in *The Alpine Gardener* in 2022 (Volume 90).
- **The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award** for the best practical alpine gardening article published in *The Alpine Gardener* in 2022 (Volume 90).
- **The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award** to recognise photographic excellence in *The Alpine Gardener* in 2022 (Volume 90) for the best ‘feature’ article that must contain a minimum of ten photographs.

All nominations must be submitted on the appropriate form (available from the AGS Centre) and sent to Tony Bryan, Director, AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, WR10 3JP by 31 July 2023.

AGS TOURS

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
£6,800 sharing, £7,600 single.

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.

ALPINE AOTEAROA – NEW ZEALAND TOUR

4-18 January 2024

Leader: Mark Hanger

Cost: Land only: £3,486 sharing, £4,315 single.



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.

AGS TOURS

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 Bales*)

Alpine gardens of Western Sweden

& Northern Denmark - May 2024
(*Razvan Chisu*)

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*)

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

Turkey - May 2025

Uzbekistan - May 2025

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



GREENTOURS

Call Greentours on 01298 83563, email enquiries@greentours.co.uk
or visit www.greentours.co.uk

SUMMER IN GEORGIA

30 June–11 July 2023

Leaders: Kurt Vickery, Tolkha Shetekauri and Ana Kvividze

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*.



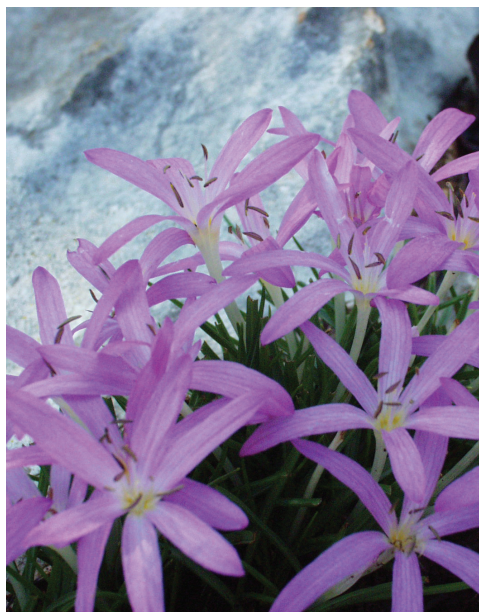
AUTUMN BULBS OF SW TURKEY

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.



Autumn Conference Booking Form
AT STRATFORD MANOR HOTEL, WARWICK ROAD, STRATFORD, CV37 0PY,
11-12 NOVEMBER 2023

The four-star Stratford Manor Hotel is in the peaceful Warwickshire countryside close to the historic town of Stratford upon Avon. The hotel has a pool, spa, and health club.

Two-day residential delegates:

- £210 per person for one night with breakfast in a shared room at Stratford Manor Hotel, two hot buffet lunches and three-course Conference Dinner
- £250 per person for one night with breakfast in a single room at Stratford Manor Hotel, two hot buffet lunches and three-course Conference Dinner

Day delegates: £50 for Saturday including lunch, £80 for Sunday including lunch

Optional extras for non-residents (must be pre-booked): Saturday lunch (for those attending the AGM & E.B. Anderson lecture only) and/or Saturday conference dinner

Please tick as applicable, or book on our website, or ring the Pershore office

- ☐ We would like to reserve two full residential places in a shared room (total £420)
- ☐ I would like to reserve a full residential place in a single room (total £250)
- ☐ I/we would like to reserve day delegate places for Saturday including lunch (£50)
- ☐ I/we would like to reserve day delegate places for Sunday including lunch (£80)
- ☐ I/we would like to reserve places for Saturday lunch (£20)
- ☐ I/we would like to reserve places for Saturday evening conference dinner (£35)

A non-refundable deposit of £50 per person for residential delegates is payable at the time of booking

YOUR DETAILS (block capitals please):

Name:

Address:

County/country:

Post code:

CHEQUE PAYMENT

I/we enclose a remittance of £ made payable to the Alpine Garden Society

CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD PAYMENT

Please charge my card £

Name on card

Card number Security code

Start Date Expiry Date Issue No (if given)

Signature

All information is protected by the Data Protection Act. Your information will not be disclosed to a third party.

Post this form to: AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3JP
Phone: 01386 554790 email: ags@alpinegardensociety.net

PLEASE CUT HERE

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

EPHING 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

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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

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

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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

LOCAL GROUP NEWS & EVENTS

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

20 AUGUST - MID ANGLIA PLANT AND BULB SALE

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

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

AGS PROMOTED AT BBC GARDENERS WORLD SPRING FAIR IN BEAULIEU, HAMPSHIRE



In 2021 BBC Gardeners World opened their Spring Fair at the home of the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, in the heart of the New Forest. The Hampshire Group of the AGS was approached this year to see if we were interested in having a display at the Fair, which ran from 28 - 30 April. This was a great opportunity to promote the AGS and our Local Group. With the support of members and the team at Pershore we set about preparing for the event.

A display demonstrating what can be achieved with alpine plants in a small area was created using troughs purchased from Rotherview Nursery, Hastings and plants supplied by Aberconwy Nursery. Martin Sheader, Paddy Parmee and others supplied photographs which were used to showcase the allure of alpine plants in the wild and in cultivation.

New members to the Society and the Local

Group were signed up and others opted to receive the new AGS Newsletter. We were also able to signpost visitors from further afield to other local groups using the new QR code. During the fair, we sold AGS books and tea towels, and spent many hours talking to members of the public about the wonders of alpine plants and the benefits of belonging to our Society. The whole event was considered a great success by all and we have been invited back again next year.

This type of event is thoroughly enjoyable and is definitely recommended to other local groups. Whilst maybe not as grand as the BBC Spring Fair, there are many other opportunities around the country for promoting local groups and the AGS. If interested in doing something similar, contact Tony Bryan at Pershore.

Ben Parmee, Secretary Hampshire Group

AGS NEWS

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

