



AGS NEWS

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society



AGS Annual General Meeting & Weekend Conference

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The AGS Annual General Meeting and Weekend Conference took place in Stratford-upon-Avon on the 11 & 12 November.

The AGM was well attended and members elected officers, voted the accounts and last year's minutes. For the first time in many years, the Treasurer's report ended on a positive note due to the considerable reduction of the Society's year-on-year deficit.

The AGS Weekend Conference featured a diverse programme of lectures put together and organised by Diane Clement.

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AGS NEWS

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

AGS CENTRE & GARDEN

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Digital Membership

(UK) Direct Debit £36
(UK & Overseas) Manual £40
Student £20

Printed Journal Membership

(UK) Direct Debit £56
(UK & EU) Manual £60
Other countries POA

Members can bring a guest for free
at National Shows.

AGS CENTRE & GARDEN CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

The AGS Centre will close on
Thursday 21 December
and re-open on Thursday 4 January

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

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Martin Hajman gave two talks on alpine plant collections at Tromsø Botanical Garden; we were all in awe of the rare and beautiful things that thrive in what is the world's northernmost botanical garden.

AGS Trustee Tom Freeth talked about alpinism in Colorado and about rock gardens in Colorado and Utah. Over in the States, there are several landscapers that create real works of art using native species set in naturalistic rockeries.

Rogier van Vugt, the Head of Horticulture at Leiden Botanical Garden in the Netherlands, took us on a tour on the edges of Europe in search of rare orchids. He finished his talk by giving advice on how to grow hardy orchids based on his experience managing one of the largest collections of hardy orchids in Europe.

David Charlton took us on a trip around the mountains of New Zealand and then to Svalbard in search of cushion plants. Julian Sutton brought the Conference to an end with his talk on how flowers evolved. The audience was also entertained by Robert Potterton

with his lighthearted Saturday Dinner Quiz. Many prizes were won, including bags of leafmould and gravel, Wagon Wheel biscuits and a few rare plants.

Many thanks to all those that took part, and to the AGS staff and volunteers who contributed to another successful AGS event.

NOTE: The Treasurer's report and the Society's summarised consolidated statements of financial activity will be published online on the AGS website.

NGS Open Days

We are opening our garden on the grounds of Pershore college for the NGS charity on Saturday 13 April, Saturday 4 May and Wednesday 15 May 2024.

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.

Shows Update

This year marked a return to a full schedule of shows following the pandemic. Visitor numbers recovered and I think all the shows were very successful in promoting interest in beautiful plants among the public.

Planning for 2024 is well advanced and we now have a provisional list of shows and venues, some new and, in one case, exciting.

Before travelling, please check the AGS website in case there are any late changes. As always, venue availability and date clashes mean unavoidable, and frustrating, changes to the calendar. In particular next year there will not be a Kent or Harlow Carr Spring show.

On the plus side we will have a show at RHS Wisley in late June and don't miss the new, improved, Early Spring Show and Plant Fair at the Chelmsford City Racecourse.

The first show of the 2024 season will take place at Pershore on Sat 17 Feb, followed by our South Wales Show on Sat 24 Feb 2024.

AGS NEWS

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

AGS Awards

At the AGM our President, David Morris, presented this year's awards. The Lyttel Trophy was awarded to Neil and Sue Huntley (top left), for their outstanding contribution to the world of alpine plants.

Caroll Kellett (top right) and Annye Harris (bottom right) both won an

Award of Honour, and Alan Oatway (bottom centre) won the Local Group Award.

Martin Sheader (bottom left) won The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award for photographic excellence. For a list of all Award Winners and a photographic gallery please visit our website.



To book your free tickets please visit our website
<https://www.alpinegardensociety.net>

Zoom lectures

- *Working with alpine in the botanical garden of Tübingen – more than cultivation*

Michael Mauser

12 December 2023, 7.30 pm GMT

- *Tufa walls, Jiří Papoušek*

16 January 2024, 7.30 pm GMT

- *Rock gardening in Vancouver*

Laura Caddy

13 February 2024, 7.30 pm GMT

- *Growing Alpines in the Schachen Alpine Garden: a satellite garden of the Munich Botanic Garden in the Bavarian Alps*

Jenny Wainwright-Klein

19 March 2024, 7.30 pm GMT

- *Propagation and cultivation techniques of tricky alpine*

Ger van den Beuken

16 April 2024, 7.30 pm BST

Please note that not all talks will be recorded.

Apart from our ongoing series of online talks, we have decided to offer the following talks for free to AGS members and the general public.

- *Two seasons in Tibet*, John Mitchell
5 December 2023, 7.00 pm GMT
(this talk will be recorded and published on the AGS YouTube Channel)

- *Wild orchids of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Dino Zelenika

19 December 2023, 7.00 pm GMT

(this talk will be recorded and published on the AGS YouTube Channel).

Plant Exploration Saturday

27 January 2024,

3.00 - 6.00 pm GMT

Emily Hazell (Director of Horticulture and Curation at Birmingham Botanical Garden), Lucie Willan (Head Gardener at the MGS garden Sparoza, Athens) and Selina Tan & Zoe Roberts (Kew students) will share their plant exploration experiences during an online event. Emily will talk about her trips to South Africa, Lucie will focus on her time in Greece, and Selina and Zoe will tell us more about their trip to Bhutan, which was partly funded by the AGS.

To book, please visit our website.

AGS Snowdrop Day

Saturday 3 February 2024, 9.30 am – 4.00 pm
at Lilleshall National Sports & Conferencing Centre
Near Newport, Shropshire, TF10 9AT

Tickets for lectures, plant sales, hot drinks, buffet lunch, and visit to the AGS garden: **AGS members £35, non-members £42**. Admission by advance ticket only.

Nurseries attending: Andy Byfield, Chris Wiley (Sustainable Plant Store), Edulis Nursery, Ivycroft, Melvyn Joep, Monksilver, Pottertons.

PROGRAMME

9.30 am Registration, plant sales & coffee

11.00 am Melvyn Joep: *Galanthus and companion plants in Greece*

12.00 noon Janet Benjafield: *To Blewbury and beyond*

1.00 pm Lunch, plant sales, AGS garden visit

3.00 pm Anne Repnow: *Snowdrops and snowflops*

4.00 pm Refreshments and close of day

This event is always popular, so book now to be sure of your place.

EXCITING NEW EVENT FOR YOUR DIARY

AGS Hepatica Day 2024

Sunday 17 March 2024, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

at Gaskell Hall, Silverdale, Carnforth LA5 0RA

and at Glenn Shapiro's National Plant Collection of Hepatica,
Hazelwood Farm, Hollins Lane, Silverdale, Carnforth, Lancs, LA5 0UB

Tickets for lectures, plant sales, drinks, buffet lunch, and visit to the National Plant Collection: **AGS members £20, non-members £25**. Admission by advance ticket only. Plant sales from Edrom nurseries and Glenn Shapiro.

PROGRAMME

9.30 am Registration, plant sales & coffee

10.00 am Diane Clement: *Hepaticas - A growing obsession*

11.00 am Bob Worsley: *How I grow hepaticas*

11.30 am John Massey will discuss his newly created hybrids involving *Hepatica falconeri*. These plants are new in cultivation and this promises to be a very special occasion

12.30 pm Buffet lunch

1.30 pm Visit to Glenn Shapiro's National Plant Collection of Hepatica (10 species and 600 cultivars). Glenn will have plants for sale.

3.30 pm Refreshments and close of day

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/>

Seed Exchange

The AGS Seed Exchange went live on 13 November 2023

Seed orders are currently being accepted.

Key Dates for this year's Seed Exchange

December – January (with a 2 week Christmas break): seed orders will be picked

Late December – January: seed orders will be posted. Although we hope to be able to start posting out orders before Christmas, the majority of orders will be posted out in January.

8 January: Last date for Main Orders

15 January: Last date for Surplus Orders

Please watch the website for up-to-date information regarding any changes to these dates.

Please can you help in any way?

The Seed Exchange relies on the goodwill and generosity of about 200 volunteers who help in various ways and in various places. We are grateful to everyone who helps, and in an operation of this size we always need new helpers.

In December and January we need helpers to make up orders at Pershore. If you live nearby and can help out for a few hours or a full day, please get in touch. If you live further away, could you organise a car-load of people from your Local Group to come to Pershore for a day to help make up orders?

If you think you are able to help this year, please contact:
Diane Clement, Email: diane.clement@agsgroups.org

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/>

Seed Exchange for overseas members 2023

Seed Ordering

We are very sorry that due to high costs of obtaining phytosanitary certificates in England, we are unable to send seed to Japan, Australia and the EU. For all other overseas members there is no change from previous years and you will be able to order seed this year in the same way as you have done in the past. We can send seed to Northern Ireland and Norway.

USA

Members from the USA who wish to order seed must send in an import permit by post, or email it to Diane Clement using the email address below. You must send your import permit and one green/yellow label for every 50 packets or fewer that you order.

Please include your email address on your order in case we need to get in touch with you. If you already have a permit, please check it is still valid until at least March 2024 to allow time for postage of your seed order and administrative work by the USDA. Permits are free and will be valid for 3 years. Details about the permit can be found at:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/permits/sa_plants/ppq-epermits
then select PPQ 587 Application for permit to import plants or plant products.

You do not have to use the inspection station which is nearest to your home and at the current time we suggest that you do not use Los Angeles, Miami or New York as these are the busiest ports and can lead to delay in receiving your seed. Alternative designated ports of entry can be found on the site.

New Zealand

Please check the lists of permitted seed before you order. New Zealand MPI database: <https://www1.maf.govt.nz/cgi-bin/bioindex/bioindex.pl>

For enquiries about any aspect of the seed exchange, please contact Diane Clement:
diane.clement@agsgroups.org

For details please refer to the AGS website
<https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/photographic-competition/>



Photographic Competition Enter by 31 December 2023

Enter the competition for the chance to win cash prizes and points towards AGS Artistic Medals. This competition is for digital photographs that have not been published before, and is open to all active members.

Each member can enter up to **three photos in each class**. If you are uncertain which class your pictures belong in, the Competition Secretary (photographiccompetition@agsgroups.org) is happy to help. For competition rules and examples of past winning entries, please visit our website.

This year, the competition has 9 different classes:

1. Alpine Plant in Natural Habitat
2. Portrait of Alpine Plant in Natural Habitat
3. Alpine Plant Close-up
4. Alpine Plant in a Garden
5. Alpine Plant in a Pot
6. Alpine Fauna in the Wild
7. Alpine Landscape
8. Quirky Image Featuring Alpine Plants
9. The Wonder of Wildflowers

AGS TOURS

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

KAZAKHSTAN ~ SPRING FLOWERS IN THE TIEN SHAN

19 April - 29 April 2024

Leaders: Harry Jans & Connor Smith

Cost: £4,140 sharing, £4,542 single

Land only: £2,700 sharing, £3,102 single

This is an easy tour, with moderate daily trips. You will have the chance to experience a varied landscape and of course to discover various species of tulips, irises, fritillarias, rheum, primulas, prunus, adonis and many more.



CROATIA & HERZEGOVINA

27 April - 07 May 2024

Leader: Dino Zelenika

Cost: £2,370. Land only: £2,120

From the ancient, world heritage site city of Dubrovnik on the azure Adriatic coastline, to the mystical, forest shrouded Croatian island of Mljet and the beautiful city of Mostar in Herzegovina with its Old Bridge, this is a journey of an under-explored region that combines vast numbers of orchids with the best of the local culture and gastronomy. Welcome to the Balkans!



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BOTANICAL TOUR TO TIBET

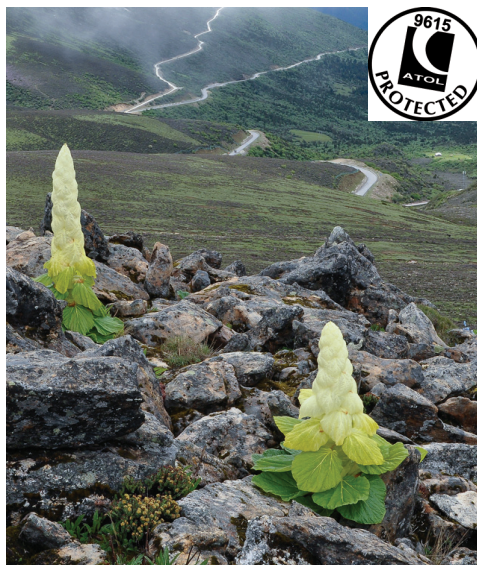
**23 days from end of June to mid July
2024**

Leader: John Mitchell

Cost: £7,500; single £8,200

Land only: £5,400, single £6,100

This is a unique chance to experience one of the most diverse areas in China. We will use buses and jeeps to travel round and will spend as much time botanising on route as possible. During the tour we will cover many different habitats from 2000 m up to 5000 m, and we will see a huge range of plants and some outstanding scenery.



GREENTOURS

Our partners at Greentours organise exclusive tours for AGS members.
For further details and to book, please visit their website (see below).

Galanthus of the Black Sea

7 March - 15 March 2024

The Gargano

8 April - 15 April 2024

South Korea

2 May - 16 May 2024

The Italian Alps

20 June - 7 July 2024

The Dolomites

20 June - 29 June 2024

Lapland

9 July - 16 July 2024

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