

AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

SPECIAL OFFER FOR AGS MEMBERS!
20% OFF ACCESS FRAMES – SEE PAGE 13

**Conference
 speaker
 Jim Jermyn
 at Branklyn
 Garden in
 Perth**



Join our festival of alpines

It's an event that no alpine enthusiast can afford to miss! This year's AGS conference features a line-up of speakers who have a wealth of expertise and experience of gardening with alpines and exploring their natural habitats.

Open to non-members, the conference will be on the weekend of November 11 and 12 at the four-star Crowne Plaza Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon, following the Society's AGM at the same venue.

**Enjoy a wonderful
 social occasion in
 superb surroundings**

Don't miss this chance to tap into a profusion of practical advice and useful information from some of the most accomplished alpine gardeners. Book on our website, call the AGS Centre or use the booking form on the back page of this newsletter.

More details on pages 2, 3 and 4

www.alpinegardensociety.net

A superb line-up of expert speakers

● Jim Jermyn (pictured on the cover) is Horticultural Consultant and Property Manager at the renowned Branklyn Garden in Perth. He is the author of *Alpine Plants of Europe: A Gardener's Guide*.

● Robert Rolfe is Associate Editor of *The Alpine Gardener* and author of *Portraits of Alpine Plants*. Robert is a lifelong grower and shower of alpinists and has a vast knowledge of their cultivation.



● Christopher Bailes (above), who will be appointed AGS President during the AGM before the conference, will give the E. B. Anderson Memorial Lecture. Christopher, the former Curator of RHS Rosemoor and the Chelsea Physic Garden, will talk about woodland and shade loving plants.



● Paul Cumbleton (above) is former head of the alpine section at RHS Wisley. Paul, who has written several articles for *The Alpine Gardener*, has a wealth of experience and knowledge of the cultivation of alpinists and in his lecture will pass on tips to improve your own growing skills.



● Harry Jans (above) from the Netherlands is well known as an alpine plantsman, AGS tour leader and lecturer. He has travelled to many alpine habitats, including countries as diverse as Australia, China, Iran, Peru and Lesotho. Harry has created a fascinating alpine garden at his home.

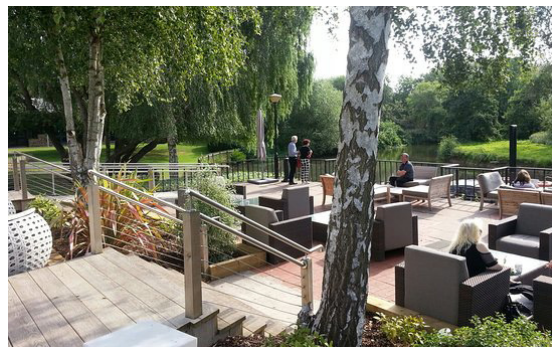


● Johan Nilson (above) works at the Gothenburg Botanical Garden, one of the world's leading alpine botanical gardens. In his talk he will look at some of his favourite plants and their use in various plantings in the Gothenburg garden, which will be sure to whet the appetite for next year's AGS tour there.

A highlight of the weekend will be the conference dinner on the Saturday evening, followed by an auction of superb plants.

Enjoy four-star accommodation and dining in a riverside setting

Book a place for the AGS Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon, a modern four-star hotel in a riverside location in the heart of this attractive and historic market town. Stratford's links with Shakespeare are well known, and the hotel is only 20 miles from Birmingham Airport and 10 minutes off the M40 motorway. There's plentiful on-site free parking for delegates, and the town centre is a two-minute walk away. Stratford-upon-Avon railway station is a mile away, with frequent trains to London and Birmingham.



Conference programme

There will be members' plant sales and nurseries attending – everyone is welcome to bring plants to sell

SATURDAY, November 11

AGM – OPEN TO ALL AGS MEMBERS

- 10am** Registration, coffee and plant sales.
10.30am Annual General Meeting and presentation of Society Awards
12 noon Presentation of Show Awards
12.45pm Lunch
2pm E. B. Anderson Memorial Lecture: Christopher Bailes – Woodlanders and shade loving plants
3pm Close of AGM

CONFERENCE – OPEN ONLY TO DELEGATES

- 3.00-3.30pm** Conference registration
3.30pm Opening remarks and lecture: Johan Nilson – My favourite plants and planting at Gothenburg Botanical Garden
4.30pm Short presentation
4.55pm Tea
5.15pm Lecture: Harry Jans – Bulgaria, Rila and the Pirin Mountains
6.15pm End of session
7.45pm Conference Dinner followed by plant auction (including a range of cypripediums and other choice items)

SUNDAY, November 12

- 09.30am** Registration
10am Lecture: Jim Jermy – Branklyn Garden: a legacy from the Rentons to the 21st century
11am Coffee
11.30pm Lecture: Paul Cumbleton – Improve your growing skills
12.30pm Lunch
1.45pm Short presentation
2.30pm Lecture: Robert Rolfe – The commonplace versus the seldom seen
3.30pm Closing remarks: AGS President Christopher Bailes, followed by tea
4pm Conference closes

BOOK NOW!

Use the booking form on the back page.
Book on the AGS website.
Or call the AGS Centre on 01386 554790.

AGS Snowdrop Day

Saturday, February 3, 2018

Admission is by advance ticket only

At Ford Hall, Lilleshall National Conferencing Centre, Newport, Shropshire TF10 9AT. Ample parking.

Tickets for lectures, plant sales, tea and coffee, two-course lunch:

AGS members £35, non-members £45

Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre.

Tickets are restricted to AGS members until October 31, 2017.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

- 8.30** Registration, plant sales & coffee
10.30 Welcome by the AGS President
10.35 Andy Byfield – title of lecture to be confirmed
11.30 David MacLennan – Holding a National Snowdrop Collection
12.30 Plant sales and lunch
14.00 Wim Boens – title of lecture to be confirmed
14.55 Snowdrop question & answer session with the panel of speakers
16.00 Close of session and coffee
16.30 Event closes

Nurseries attending include: Monksilver, Glen Chantry, Woodchippings, Ivycroft, Matt Bishop and Edulis Nursery

There will also be an AGS stand with a selection of gardening books and merchandise for sale.

This event is always a sell-out so book now to be sure of your place

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

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Email:

ags@alpinegardensociety.net

Registered charity No. 207478

Annual subscriptions:

Single (UK and Ireland) £35*

Family (two at same address) £38*

Junior (under 18/student) £15

Overseas single £37

Overseas family £39

* £3 deduction for direct debit subscribers

AGS CENTRE OPENING HOURS

Normal opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, but if you plan to visit please call first to check that the Centre will be open. The AGS garden is open every day.

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Send items for the December 2017 issue of AGS News to Jackie Cooper at the address above or email jackie@alpinegardensociety.net. The deadline is October 31, 2017.

NOTICEBOARD

AGS shows and plant sales



Sept 30: Loughborough Autumn Show
October 7: Newcastle Show
October 14: Harlow Carr Show
October 21: Kent Autumn Show

Full details for each show are in the AGS Shows Handbook, on the AGS website and in the shows calendar that was included with the December 2016 issue of The Alpine Gardener.

AGS Autumn Bulb Day
Sunday, September 24
Only a few places left: call the AGS Centre to book on 01386 554790

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 11, 2017

The Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Garden Society will take place on Saturday, November 11, 2017, at 10.30am at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Bridgefoot, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6YR. (The hotel is situated in the centre of Stratford).

AGENDA

1. To receive and confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on November 12, 2016.
2. To receive the report of the Board of Trustees.
3. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's report and accounts.
4. To declare the election of Mr Christopher Bailes as President.
5. To elect a Treasurer and Officers to serve for the ensuing year (see Note 1 below).
6. To elect two Trustees to serve for four years (see Note 2 below).
7. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year.
8. Any Other Items of Business if previously notified.
9. Presentation of the Society's Awards.

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

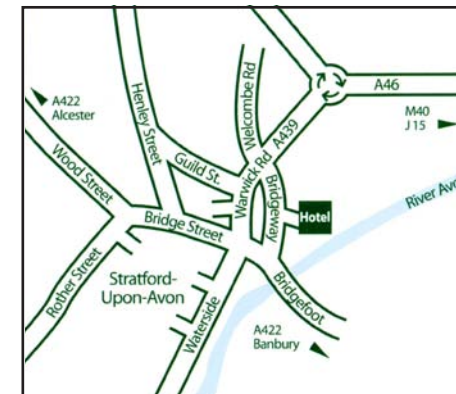
1. Officers retire annually and are eligible for re-election as per rule 7.1.3.1 of the Constitution. The following Officers are eligible for reappointment and are prepared to continue to serve the AGS: Director of Seed Exchange (Mrs Diane Clement), Director of Shows (Mr Martin Rogerson), Treasurer (Professor John Galloway).
2. In accordance with rule 7.1.4, two Trustees retire annually and are not eligible for re-election for one year.

LUNCH TICKETS: ADVANCE BOOKING ESSENTIAL

A two-course hot and cold buffet lunch (main course and dessert) will be available in the hotel's restaurant, including vegetarian options. The cost is £18.95 per person. Lunch bookings MUST be made in advance through the AGS Centre (address on opposite page) by Friday, October 20. Pre-booked lunch vouchers will be available from the AGS book sales stand on the day. Morning and afternoon coffee and tea are provided free of charge.

Plant sales: A members' plant sales table will be available.

Car parking: The hotel has ample car parking.



TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS

Mr David Morris (Cumbria). Proposed by Prof. John Good, seconded by Jim McGregor. David has been a committed conservationist and lover of natural history since a young age, being particularly passionate about the conservation of arctic-alpine flora and the ecosystems that they thrive in. He is senior reserves ecologist for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and through much of his career has focused on the conservation of species and habitats found within upland, montane and alpine environments. He was instrumental in setting up the exciting AGS conservation project at Mardale in the Lake District, keen to blend a partnership of interested organisations to help conserve our native alpine flora. David is also a keen photographer and has been leading natural history tours for Naturetrek for the last 12 years to destinations such as the Alps, Pyrenees and the Tien Shan. He is an enthusiastic and successful grower and shower of alpinists, and treasurer and committee member of the North Lancs Local Group and part of the team behind the successful AGS Kendal Show. He is eager to help the AGS continue its conservation work while supporting its growth from his working knowledge of a range of charities.

Mr Ben Parmee (Hampshire). Proposed by Peter Liverman, seconded by David Charlton. Ben has been a member of the AGS since 2010 and has been a committee member of the Hampshire Local Group since 2012 where he currently holds the roles of treasurer and secretary. He is also treasurer of the AGS Wimborne Show. Last year Ben volunteered to be one of the new AGS Local Group Co-ordinators and has been very pro-active among his allocated groups, producing reports for the AGS Trustee Board. Ben retired in 2016 following a lifelong career in banking, largely in audit and compliance. Throughout his life he has supported many charitable organisations, including Winchester Round Table, The Winchester Group of Arthritis Care and running an RSPB Young Ornithologists Club. Ben's enthusiasm makes him a suitable candidate to become a Trustee of the Society.

ANNUAL AWARDS

The Kath Dryden Award

Wol and Sue Staines are tireless in their promotion of the genus *Galanthus*. They have developed an extensive and meticulous garden at Glen Chantry, a mecca for plant enthusiasts. They have built up an impressive and comprehensive collection of snowdrops, particularly many named cultivars. They have been expert at propagating and building up stocks of many rarer cultivars without neglecting the popular kinds and have selected and promoted some exceptionally good new ones, mostly prefixed 'Glen' (e.g 'Glenorma'). Their large and impressive collection is without question one of the finest in the country. They have promoted their knowledge of snowdrops through lectures, displays, shows and sales.

The Sir William and Lady Lawrence Award

Nurseryman **Rob Potterton** is known for his long-term commitment and expertise in propagating and making available a wide range of alpine plants to growers of all levels of experience and skill. Rob is also well known for his excellent and informative lectures on alpinists and his ability to engender enthusiasm generally for alpine plants.

Award of Honour

The Alpine Gardener has benefitted enormously over several decades from the voluntary input of **Vic Aspland**, who has contributed numerous articles and photographs for the 'Practical Gardening' pages. For many years Vic also co-ordinated the commissioning

of practical articles for the journal. Vic has tackled a wide variety of subjects of special interest to alpine gardeners such as spring and autumn-flowering bulbs and easy Himalayan plants, as well as subjects of more general horticultural interest. Vic's articles were always well researched and, more often than not, based on his own experiences. He tackled his subjects in depth and was never shy of being forthright in his opinions. In March this year Vic retired as Practical Gardening Correspondent. He leaves in our archives an abundance of knowledge and advice which will be consulted by alpine gardeners for decades to come.

Award of Honour

Martin & Anna-Liisa Sheader have a passion for alpine plants and are particularly interested in South American flora, an area of the world they have visited on many occasions with a focus on Patagonia. Martin has led a number of AGS tours to Patagonia and is the author of a comprehensive AGS guide, *Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains*, with Anna-Liisa being one of the five co-authors. They both grow a wide range of alpine plants at their home in Southampton and are regular exhibitors at AGS national shows, having jointly achieved seven Gold Bars. Their unusual plants are great examples to aspiring exhibitors and a joy to AGS members and the visiting public alike. Both Martin and Ann-Liisa have shared their knowledge with others, through lectures and group visits, both in the UK and overseas. In addition to the support they have given the national Society over 25 years they have also contributed in numerous ways to their local group and continue to do so.

Website Award

Tim Ingram has been a regular contributor to the website and during 2016 has written 39 entries in his online Kent Diary. Topics covered range from snowdrop days, making and planting troughs, flower shows and garden visits. Tim's enthusiasm for alpinists is evident from his writing and his readers have been able to benefit from his practical knowledge and experience in growing a range of alpine plants.

Local Group Award and Sussex Weald Silver Jubilee Trophy

Philip and Diane Blyth are long-standing and active members of the Norfolk Local Group. Diane is currently secretary, and they have both assisted with the organisation of group outings to nurseries and botanic gardens etc. At a national level Diane and Philip have been show secretaries for the AGS East Anglia Show and still have an active involvement with the event. Another way in which they have helped the AGS is by attending other horticultural events to help recruit new members. They have also played a key role in the organisation of a number of group conferences, providing hospitality for speakers as well as taking on many other tasks to assist the group. Over the years they have held most of the 'officer' positions within the Norfolk Local Group, thereby making a tremendous contribution.

LITERARY AWARDS – THE ALPINE GARDENER, 2016

The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award

Dr John Noakes: 'A year in my garden' [March, June, September and December 2016]

The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award

Paul Cumbleton: 'Kukumakranka! How to grow *Gethyllis*' [June 2016] and 'From Wisley to Somerset: bringing the crevice garden home' [September 2016]

The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award

Liz Knowles: 'Encounters with irises from Turkey to Tajikistan' [June 2016]

NOTICEBOARD

News from the AGS Trustee Board

Local Group Co-ordinators: Trustees considered the most recent report from the two Local Group Co-ordinators, David Charlton and Ben Parmee. Some of the issues raised included a need for an enhanced list of speakers to help groups find new speakers for their meetings. Some groups have also requested help with social media. David and Ben will write to all groups with details of further activities they are undertaking on the behalf of the groups.

Local Group insurance contribution: It was agreed that this year the AGS Centre will issue each Local Group with an invoice for their contribution. This should assist groups with their record keeping.

AGS Online Plant Encyclopaedia: A number of authors have been identified to assist with expanding information in the Encyclopaedia. An additional budget was agreed to assist with the costs of scanning extra images etc.

Website: Work on a new website is moving ahead. The Trustees received an update on activities so far and recognised that additional work will need to be undertaken to ensure that the content on the new site is generated in a consistent manner and written in a user-friendly fashion.

Society investments: The Board reviewed its current investment policy, noting that the Society holdings had performed well during the year. Investment performance is reviewed regularly and it was noted that the current geopolitical situation could well prove more challenging for investments.

Joint conservation project with the RSPB: The Board received the second quarterly report on the work undertaken so far. The fencing is all in place and the next phase is to focus on propagating native plant species for reintroduction. Seed collection in the area has been undertaken. Two local botanists conducted a survey in May to record the locations of several key species. Tree and scrub plants planted during the winter are all doing well, as are roseroot sections that were transplanted from the crags into the enclosure.



Director of Seed Exchange

The current Director of the AGS Seed Exchange would like to step down from this role over the next couple of years. The Seed Exchange process divides into three sections: Seed Reception, Seed Packeting and Seed Distribution, each with a separate manager. For the last five years, Diane Clement has managed all three roles and we are now seeking volunteers who might be willing to take on one of these roles. If you are interested in any of the jobs, please contact Christine McGregor, Society Director, in the first instance either by e-mail: ags@alpinegardensociety.net or phone 01386 554790.

2018 AGS CALENDARS

The **AGS WALL CALENDAR** features beautiful images taken by some of the Society's best photographers.

The calendar is A3 size when opened up and the date panels include enough space for you to write down appointments and AGS events!

The calendars cost just £5.50 each, or two for £10, with free postage in the UK. Postage is £2.50 for the rest of Europe and £3.50 for the rest of the world.

Stock is limited so order now to avoid disappointment.

ALSO AVAILABLE

Our popular **DESK CALENDAR** comes in a CD case and costs just £4.50, or buy two for £8. Postage rates as above.



To order call the AGS Centre on 01386 554790

AGS SEED EXCHANGE No 66: 2017-18

Your Seed Exchange needs you!

The Seed Exchange relies on donations from members, so please sort and clean your seed and send it in by October 11 to the seed receiver on the donor form corresponding to your surname. If you have lost your donor form, which was distributed with the June journal, you can download one from the AGS website. Go to the Seed page, then select Seed Donation. If you have late-ripening seed that you cannot get to us by October 11, please contact me by email with the list of your seed and I will give you alternative arrangements. Please do not post to the seed receiver after October 11 without contacting me first.

We strongly request that you order online if at all possible because it makes the work of the volunteers so much easier and saves us a lot of time and expense. The seed list will go live on the website at the end of November. Please consult the website for full information about the Seed Exchange.

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. I am grateful to everyone who helps, but in an operation of this size we always need new helpers. In late October we need helpers to file and number seeds in the mid-Lancashire area. In November we need helpers to pack seed in their own homes. In late November, December and January we need helpers to rack up seed and make up orders at Pershore. If you live near these areas and can help out for a few hours or a full day, please get in touch. Or 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, Director of Seed Exchange.

Email: diane.clement@agsgroups.org Phone: 01902 426024

Regulations for US members ordering seed through the AGS Seed Exchange

US members who wish to order seed must send in an Import Permit with their order or their seed donation. If you already have a permit, please check your permit is still valid until March 2018 to allow time for postage of your seed order and administrative work by the USDA. Permits are free and valid for three years. Details about the permit can be found at:

www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/smalllots_seed.shtml

To apply for a permit online, click on 'Plants and Plant Products Permits' then select PPQ 587. You will then be sent a permit to import small lots of seed and the green and yellow mailing labels, with the address of the Inspection Station printed on them.

You do not have to use the station nearest your home. At the current time, it is suggested that you do not use Los Angeles, Miami or New York. Alternative ports of entry can be found here: www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/plant_inspection_stations.shtml

More information about US Import Permits can be found on the AGS website.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR AGS MEMBERS: SAVE 20% ON ACCESS COLD FRAMES AND RAISED BASES

Access Garden Products are offering AGS members an exclusive 20% off their range of cold frames and bases until **October 31, 2017**. The popular cold frames are ideal for alpine growers because they offer large amounts of space with **excellent ventilation**. The glass panels on the top and sides slide away for easy access and ventilation. For safety, only **toughened safety glass** is used. It is much stronger than standard horticultural glass – the roof glass will withstand 2ft (60cm) of snow on it. If the glass does break, it shatters into tiny pieces.



The sturdy architectural aluminium framework comes with a **25-year guarantee**. Access have been producing these frames for almost 40 years and original examples are still going strong! For a really special finish, the cold frames are available with an **optional colour coating**. This hard-wearing finish is available in six colours. Please call for samples and prices. The cold frames are 4ft wide and are available in three lengths: 4ft, 6ft and 8ft.

The **sturdy, pressure-treated bases** for the cold frames raise the frames to reduce bending. The bases are constructed from 1 1/4in deck board which is mitred at the ends for a neat appearance. Stainless steel screws ensure a long life. The base can be filled with soil for direct planting, or a very sturdy timber floor can be added to allow alpines to be placed either directly on the boards or on a couple of inches of grit. A useful option is the **louvre vent**. This replaces one of the 2ft x 2ft sheets of glass at the end of the frame, providing additional ventilation. The louvre aids winter ventilation as the slats prevent rain ingress. A vent can be fitted at either or both ends and is available as a manual or fully automatic vent.



To order, or for a free copy of the Access 40-page catalogue, call **0800 298 6284** and quote **'AGS-17 offer'**.

PRICES AND DIMENSIONS

Code	Length	List price	AGS price	3-tier base	Timber floor	Delivery
FF3	4ft/1.21m	£219	£175.20	£125.10	£89.10	£29
SF3	6ft/1.83m	£269	£215.20	£161.10	£143.10	£34
EF3	7ft 9in/2.36m	£299	£239.20	£197.10	£174.60	£39

Width: 4ft (1.21m) Height: 2ft 8in (0.82m) Base height: 15in (36cm)
Bases are approx. 3in/6cm wider and longer than the frame.

Manual louvre vent: ~~£69~~ £62.10 Automatic vent: ~~£99~~ £89.10

Access Garden Products, Crick, Northampton, NN6 7XS
www.garden-products.co.uk sales@garden-products.co.uk

AGS TRAVEL AWARDS AND GRANTS Applications for 2018

The Alpine Garden Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually. Applications for these awards must be received by January 31, 2018, at the latest.

TRAVEL AWARDS

Each year the Society gives a number of Travel Awards to enthusiasts wishing to gain field experience in the serious study of alpine plants in native habitats. Applications should be for clearly defined projects, though awards have been made to those wishing to participate in an AGS tour if it complements a particular area of interest.

HENDRY FUND GRANTS

In addition, grants for specific alpine-related projects are available financed by the E. F. Hendry Fund. Application forms and further details for Travel Awards and Hendry Fund grants are available on the AGS website or by contacting Jackie Cooper, c/o AGS Centre, or email: jackie@alpinegardensociety.net

MERLIN TRUST & ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY: Travel scholarships for 2017

In 2018 the Merlin Trust is offering jointly with the Alpine Garden Society up to six fully paid travel scholarships on AGS-organised plant tours.

If you would like to receive information about the tours and an application form, please send your contact details to: Sarah Carlton, Secretary of The Merlin Trust, RHS Wisley, Wisley Lane, Wisley, Woking GU23 6QB.
Email: info@merlin-trust.org.uk

'A Passion for Plants' Norfolk AGS Conference

October 6, 2018, at the Abbey Conference Centre, Norwich
Razvan Chisu: Transylvanian Gardener, 'Transylvania – Alpines and Castles'
Professor David Rankin, President of the SRGC: 'The Search for a long-lost Primula', 'Meconopsis – In the Wild, Growing and Showing'
£25 includes lunch and refreshments
Plant sales, practical workshops and photographic display

FREE LIMESTONE!

I have about 2 or 3 tons of water-worn limestone which may have been in my garden for 100 years. I want to get rid of it. It would make a fine limestone rock garden. Would need a drop-side van or similar to collect. It's free!
Contact Mark Scrimshaw, Shipley, W. Yorkshire, on 07729 800525.

£600 in cash prizes to be won in the AGS Photographic Competition

Enter the AGS Photographic Competition for the chance to win cash prizes and points towards AGS Artistic Medals.

There are prizes in each class of £40 for first place, £20 for second and £10 for third. The overall winner will receive a bonus prize of £40.






In addition, the winner of each class will be awarded five points towards AGS Medals. Two first places (ten points) will qualify for a Bronze Medal, five first places (25 points) for a Silver Medal and ten first places (50 points) for a Gold Medal.

The deadline for entries is December 1, 2017. Only digital images can be entered (we regret we can no longer accept transparencies or prints). The eight classes are as follows:






- 1 An alpine plant in its natural habitat with both plant(s) and landscape featured.
- 2 A portrait of an alpine plant in its natural habitat, featuring the entire plant as the main subject.
- 3 A close-up or detail of an alpine plant in its natural habitat, perhaps concentrating on a flower, foliage or seed head.
- 4 An alpine plant in cultivation in a garden setting. It can be in your garden or a garden you have visited.
- 5 An alpine garden or part of a garden showing features used to grow alpine plants such as troughs, raised beds, crevice gardens, pots, screes, alpine houses and so on.



- 6 Alpine fauna in the wild, either in the landscape or in association with plants. Insects have been popular subjects in the past, as have birds and mammals.
- 7 An alpine landscape not necessarily showing specific plants but concentrating on the scenic beauty and/or geology of the setting.
- 8 A quirky, amusing or unusual image featuring alpine plants. Digital manipulation is allowed in this class. In fact anything goes!
All entries must be previously unpublished photographs. The complete rules and details of how to enter can be seen on the AGS website by clicking on the 'Images' button and then 'Photographic Competition'.
All members, whether in the UK or elsewhere, are encouraged to enter at least one image in this year's competition.

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
	 Denotes AGS publications	
	GENERAL ALPINE TITLES	
032	 Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good	£6.50
772	Alpines from Mountain to Garden by Richard Wilford	£23.00
028	Alpine Plants: Ecology for Gardeners by John Good & David Millward	£12.00
292	Alpines: An Essential Guide by Michael Mitchell	£15.00
857	 Growing Alpines in Containers by John Good	£5.00
033	 Portraits of Alpine Plants by Robert Rolfe **LOW PRICE**	£8.00
026	 The Crevice Garden and its Plants by Zdenek Zvolanek	£6.50
921	Rock Gardening by Joseph Tychonievich **NEW**	£20.00
	SPECIFIC GENERA	
890	The Plant Lover's Guide to Asters by Paul and Helen Picton	£14.50
374	Epimedium: The Genus by William T Stearn	£36.50
891	The Plant Lover's Guide to Epimediums by Sally Gregson	£14.50
271	Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide by C. Colston Burrell and J. Knott Tyler	£20.00
916	Kniphofia: The Complete Guide by Christopher Whitehouse	£32.00
881	Meconopsis (monograph) by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£54.50
933	Meconopsis for Gardeners Ed. Christopher Grey-Wilson	£42.00
	Special overseas postage rates: EU £14; rest of the world £21 (airmail £36)	
283	Peony Rockii and Gansu Mudan by W McLewin and D Chen **LOW PRICE**	£20.00
282	The Genus Roscoea by Jill Cowley	£33.50
913	The Plant Lover's Guide to Clematis by Linda Beutler	£14.50
887	The Plant Lover's Guide to Dahlias by Andy Vernon	£14.50
914	The Plant Lover's Guide to Hardy Geraniums by Robin Parer	£14.50
915	The Plant Lover's Guide to Primulas by J Mitchell and L Lawson	£14.50
911	The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias by John Whittlesey	£14.50
700	Saxifrages: A Definitive Guide by Malcolm McGregor	£28.00
021	 Silver Saxifrages by Beryl Bland **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
	BULBOUS PLANTS	
843	A Gardener's Guide to Bulbs by Christine Skelmersdale	£20.00
866	A Gardener's Guide to Snowdrops by Freda Cox	£28.00
599	Autumn Bulbs by Rod Leeds	£8.00

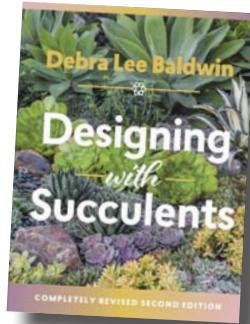
Order code	Title and author	Members' price
904	 Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean by Oron Peri	£30.00
027	 Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran by Peter Sheasby	£20.00
034	 Bulbs of Greece (A Field Guide to the) by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£12.00
653	Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies & their Relatives **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
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WESTERN CAPE

August 30 to September 13, 2018

Leader: Callan Cohen

Cost: to be confirmed

South Africa owes much of its unique botany to the tiny Cape Floral Kingdom, situated in the mountains of the southernmost tip of the continent.

Although tiny compared with the world's other floral kingdoms, it encompasses a staggering diversity of plant species that are found only here (for example, there are over 670 species of *Erica*!). In addition, the adjacent Succulent Karoo is the world's richest area for succulents, and the clay soils that form the common border of these two regions hold the greatest concentration of bulbous species in the world. We'll explore all these areas in spring, the peak time for flowering.

We'll begin our exploration on the 70km long mountainous spine of the Cape Peninsula. Here the Table Mountain National Park protects the unique 'fynbos' vegetation and patches of rare Afromontane forest.

Nestled below Table Mountain is the world-famous Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, where we will have time to explore the wide collection of plants from across the country.

The sandy shores of the West Coast, just



north of Cape Town, hold a completely different flora, and we'll explore both the flashy displays of daisies on the coastal sands and the endemic-rich granites of the West Coast National Park. The nearby shales in the Darling area have a profusion of bulbs, such as romuleas, babianas and the stunning geissorhizas.

We'll also explore the southern edge of Namaqualand, where the Cape Mountains give way to the valleys and plains of the arid Karoo and the landscape is dominated by small succulent bushes, prone to bursting into pink flower at this time of year.

We will stay at charming local guesthouses, bed & breakfasts and lodges.

JUST TWO PLACES LEFT! Tasmania and South-East Victoria led by Mark Hanger – December 30, 2017 to January 15, 2018

The AGS tour to Peru and Ecuador in March 2018 is fully booked

For further information on these tours please contact the AGS Centre. Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net

CENTRAL PATAGONIA

November 27 to December 18, 2017
(flight days included)

Leader: Harry Jans

Cost: £7,200 including flights

Day 1 – Arrive Buenos Aires. Transfer to Jorge Newbery Airport for flight to Bariloche.

Day 2 – Drive south to Esquel. Should arrive early afternoon in time for a short trip to Trevelin to visit the Welsh tea shop and museum. Botanising where possible en route.

Day 3 – Drive short distance to La Hoya. Botanise at ski resort.

Day 4 – Drive to Esquel. Botanise on steppe towards Piedra Parada. Lots of plants here.

Day 5 – Los Alerces National Park. Guided tour boat trip from Puerto Limonoa or Puerto Chucaco and walk through temperate rainforest.

Day 6 – Drive to El Bolson. Early start would allow visit to Cerro Pilitriquitron on the same day.

Day 7 – Drive to Bariloche. Afternoon relaxing in Bariloche.

Day 8 – Drive to Mirador de Nirihuau. We will walk up to Mirador de Nirihuau or even higher if time permits.

Day 9 – Drive to Bariloche steppe. Drive towards Pilcaniyeu, stopping to look at plants along the way.

Day 10 – Drive to Cerro Catedral and take cable car/chairlift. Botanise on mountain all day.

Day 11 – Boat excursion to Puerto Blest and walk to Cascada Los Cantaras and forest to see forest plants.



Volcán Lanín

Day 12 – Cerro Bayo ski resort with chairlift. This is a late mountain so you may find plants here that were flowered out elsewhere. Good walks at various levels.

Day 13 – Drive to San Martin de los Andes via the Paso Cordoba, botanising en route.

Day 14 – Drive to Cerro Chapelco and spend day on mountain.

Day 15 – Visit Cerro Colorado.

Day 16 – Drive to Junin de los Andes and L'Escorial on Lagunas Epulafquen.

Day 17 – Cerro Colu Huincal.

Day 18 – Volcán Lanín.

Day 19 – Drive to Bariloche and catch flight to Buenos Aires.

Day 20 – Fly BA to UK.

For further information on these tours please contact the AGS Centre. Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net

GOTHENBURG

May 29-31, 2018

Leader: Ray Drew

Cost: to be confirmed

Gothenburg Botanical Garden is one of the largest and arguably one of the best alpine botanical gardens in Europe, if not the world. Since the appointment of its first director Carl Skottsberg, the garden has been synonymous with rare and unusual plant collections.

The garden has the world's largest collection of bulbs and tuberous plants along with an incomparable collection of *Dionysia* species brought back as living material or seed from numerous collecting trips. There are over 500 species and cultivated varieties of *Rhododendron*, many of which should be at their best. There are as many as 16,000 plant species outdoors as well as 4,000 species in the greenhouses: obviously not all would be in flower at the time of our visit. Among them are Sweden's finest collection of 1,500 orchids.

Expect to see trilliums and cypripediums in the woodland beds along with a breathtaking display of shortias and other choice woodland plants, rare trees and shrubs, all grown to perfection. Under glass we would have a private tour of the collections given by the people who have collected a number of the accessions. Although perhaps past its best at this time of year, the Per Wendelbo Memorial Garden, devoted to geophytes from around the world, will still have much of interest to see and photograph.

Arriving in Gothenburg mid-morning



on the first of a three-day stay, we book in to a four-star hotel then head off to the gardens for early afternoon, staying on for an informal 'potting shed' party where we can chat with some of the garden's experts. Back to the Hotel for a meal, drinks and informal discussion meeting before bed. The next day we will enjoy formal tours of the glasshouses, frames and garden, with behind-the-scenes access. An optional visit to the Natural History Museum (within easy walking distance of the gardens) could be arranged in the afternoon. The next day will include informal tours of the orchid houses, cacti, succulent and tropical collection and garden/arboretum. It should be noted that a reasonable degree of fitness is required as access to the rock garden and beyond involves negotiating a very steep slope.

Further details on application.

For further information on this tour please contact the AGS Centre.
Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net



Iris acutiloba subsp. *longitepala* and *Iris meda*

IRAN

Around April 17 to May 2, 2018

Leaders: Bob & Rannveig Wallis

Cost: In the region of £3,250

With its snowy winters and dry summers, the climate of Iran has seen the evolution of a huge diversity of bulbs and tuberous-rooted plants. The north-west of the country is an area of high plateau punctuated by enormous peaks, mainly of volcanic origin, and fertile slopes covered in *Allium*, *Iris*, *Tulipa*, *Corydalis*, *Fritillaria*, *Colchicum* and *Crocus* which flower in, or soon after, the snow melts.

We will take in arid steppes where, for example, *Iris meda* and *Fritillaria gibbosa* can be found; moister woodlands where many orchids abound; and rocky hillsides which are the home of, among others, *Fritillaria imperialis*, *Tulipa biflora* and *Anemone biflora*.

Particular highlights will include:

- 'Eight-Frit Mountain', which is really a high pass over the Avroman mountains,

where not only are there eight species of *Fritillaria* but also the recently described *Iris zagrica*, alliums and red tulips (possibly *Tulipa systola*).

- Kuh-e-Sabalan, a volcano (4,811m) which is readily accessible and boasts a kaleidoscope of *Iris reticulata* (*I. hyrcana*) and *Tulipa humilis* colour forms.

- A pass over the Talysh mountains, travelling from the dry high plateau side to the misty Caspian forests on the east side to see the newly described *Paeonia wendelboi*, *P. cf. tomentosa*, *Anemone caucasica*, *Corydalis angustifolia*, *Fritillaria kotschyana*, *Iris imbricata* and a host of other choice taxa. There is even a snowdrop (*Galanthus transcaucasicus*).

- Another new *Iris* has been described near to Zanjan, so we aim to go to the misty hillsides where *I. acutiloba* subsp. *longitepala* grows among pink *Aethionema*. This pass is also the home of colourful *Tulipa humilis* forms and *Fritillaria olivieri*.

- And we may take in the wonderful rock carvings of Taq-e Bostan.

The tour will start and finish in Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport.

For further information on this tour please contact the AGS Centre.
Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net

SIKKIM

Around June 19-July 9, 2018

Leader: Harry Jans

Cost: in the region of £3,500

Day 1 – International flight to Dehli and domestic flight to Bagdogra.

Day 2 – Transfer to Darjeeling, crowned by the majestic Himalayas and fondly called the ‘Queen of the Hills’.

Day 3 – Heritage Walk covering the Bhotay Busty Monastery and the Tibetan Self Help Centre. Drive to the Takvar Tea Factory for tea tasting.

Day 4 – Transfer to Gangtok passing through attractive temperate forests which are the habitat for orchid species and arisaemas.

Day 5 – Sightseeing in Gangtok covering the Plant Conservatory, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, local market and experience the Cable Car ride.

Day 6 – Botanising at Tsomgo Lake and Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary, rich in both flora and fauna. Rare, endangered ground orchids and rhododendrons are among the important plants present.

Day 7 – Travel to Lachung through remote areas with narrow valleys, botanising en route. Lachung provides the base for exploring Yumthang, the Valley of Flowers, a paradise for nature lovers and botanists.

Day 8 – Drive to Dambung valley to explore the rich forest where we will find *Iris*, *Pleione*, *Arisaema*, *Cardiocrinum*, *Asarum*, *Paris*, *Roscoea*, *Trillidium*, *Rhododendron* and many more.

Day 9 – Botanise in Yumthang valley, famous for *Rhododendron* species.



Day 10 – Further botanising in Yumthang valley.

Day 11 – Explore the Yume Samdong area and zero point (Zadong).

Day 12 – Transfer to Thangu.

Day 13 – Botanise in Yathang valley to see *Cypripedium* species.

Day 14 – A full day in the Thangu area.

Day 15 – Botanise east of Thangu towards Jachu Valley. We will encounter plants such as *Arenaria*, *Saxifraga*, *Gentiana*, *Thermopsis barbata*, *Meconopsis horridula*, *Cyananthus*, *Omphalogramma* and more.

Day 16 – Transfer back to Gangtok.

Day 17 – Transfer to Kalimpong, botanising along the way.

Day 18 – Fly to Dehli then drive to Agra.

Day 19 – Visit Taj Mahal and Agra Fort.

Day 20 – Flight home.

For further information please contact the AGS Centre.
Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net



Kniphofia caulescens and, below, *Protea caffra*



DRAKENSBERG

January 15-28, 2018

Leaders: Paul Cardy & Callan Cohen

**Cost: London to London, £4,655;
Johannesburg to Johannesburg,
£3,795**

The Drakensberg Mountains are one of the largest areas of alpine habitat in Africa, and the South African summer is the perfect time to catch the peak flowering. Over 2,200 plant species have been documented here, with a staggering 400 endemics.

We'll drive up to lofty heights where South Africa and Lesotho meet below Sentinel Peak. Sweeping panoramic views provide a backdrop to floral wonders such as *Crocoshmia pearsei*, *Eucomis bicolor*, *Dianthus basuticus*

and *Agapanthus* and *Moraea* species. At Oxbow, in Lesotho, extensive boggy meadows host specialities like *Disa fragrans* while spectacular clumps of *Xerophyta viscosa* are found at the base of cliffs. The spectacular Sani Pass is the gem of the southern Drakensberg. Basalt cliffs support tufts of brilliant red *Gladiolus flanaganii*, while bogs on the plateau have a carpet of pink *Rhodohypoxis baurii*. A host of endemic helichrysums, *Jamesbrittenia lesutica* and spectacular orange-red *Gladiolus saundersii* adorn the Black Mountains.

Three endemic species of ‘old man’ *Huttonaea* orchids hang from damp rock faces in mist-belt forests. Indeed we'll see a range of orchids: *Corycium*, *Habenaria*, *Satyrrium*, *Schizochilus*, *Disperis*, *Brownleea* and both green devil orchid and death orchid.

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Iris mariae in a meadow and, right, *Iris haynei*



BULBS OF GALILEE & THE NEGEV

March 10-19, 2018

Leaders: Oron Peri & Kurt Vickery

Cost: London to London, £2,465; Tel Aviv to Tel Aviv, £2,215

Israel offers the perfect conditions for bulbous plants to proliferate and they have, with more than 200 species. On magical Mount Hermon are clumps of elegant green and purple *Fritillaria hermonis*, richly-hued forms of *Hyacinthus orientalis* and some gorgeous irises, including white-topped *Iris hermona* and the beautiful *Iris lortetii*.

Israel has no less than eight species of *Oncocyclus* irises, these with perhaps the most spectacular blooms in this genus. On Mount Gilboa we'll find the impressive dark purple-pink flowers of *Iris haynei* and near Nazareth the

wonderful *Iris bismarckiana*, the white, purple-lined standards lighting up the slopes.

Everywhere we go the names resonate through the ages: Nazareth, Judea and Upper Galilee, and indeed the Jordan Valley, where we'll visit the Dead Sea en route to the desert environments of the Negev. Along roadsides are the tall yellow-flowered spikes of *Fritillaria libanotica* and we'll also find *Gladiolus atroviolaceus* and strange *Dipcadi erythraeum*. Here are three more stunning *Oncocyclus* irises: the bright, clear purple *Iris mariae* and two almost black species, the well-named *Iris atrofusca* and the recently described *Iris hieruchamensis*, together putting on an unforgettable show.

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Crocus biflorus subsp. *creweii* and, right, *Crocus calanthus*



CROCUSES OF THE TAURUS MOUNTAINS

March 10-22, 2018

Leaders: Yasemin Konuralp & Osman Erol

Cost: London to London, £2,375; Antalya to Dalaman, £2,150

As staggering 28 species of *Crocus* are on the agenda for this tour. Your Turkish leaders have helped make many new discoveries in western Turkey; indeed Yasemin has one named after her, *Crocus yaseminiae*.

We'll seek *Crocus roseoviolaceus*, *Crocus beydaglensis*, ice-blue *Crocus baytopiorum* and *Crocus fleischeri* with its brilliant reddish style. On the high pastures of Gembos Yayla egg-yolk yellow *Crocus gembosii* and purple-striped blue *Crocus mavii* hybridise

freely producing a kaleidoscopic array of colours. The gorgeous, large and very rare *Crocus calanthus* inhabits cedar of Lebanon forests and, in more open locales, we'll see *Crocus xanthosus* and lilac *Crocus katrancisensis*.

Close to Antalya we'll find *Crocus* aff. *tauri* and another *Crocus* discovered so recently it doesn't yet have a name. Here also are *Crocus antalyensis* subsp. *antalyensis* and *Crocus ziyeretensis*. There will be plenty of other spring bulbs on show with stands of *Galanthus elwesii* blooming under oriental planes and the blue stars of *Scilla bifolia* everywhere.

Two special bulbs we'll encounter on Baba Dağ are *Fritillaria forbesii* and *Scilla forbesii*. Alongside paths are *Orchis sezikiana*, yellow *Fritillaria carica*, blue *Chionodoxa forbesii*, pink *Anthemis rosea*, *Corydalis paschei*, *Cyclamen alpinum*, rare *Iris pamphylica* and attractive *Iris stenophylla*.

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Glaucidium palmatum in Hakuba-jiri's famous snowy valley



JAPAN & VLADIVOSTOK

May 26-June 9, 2018

Leaders: Ian Green, Shigeto Tsukie & Seda Soylu

Cost: see Greentours website

Though the south of Japan's memorably scenic archipelago experiences a sub-tropical climate, the northernmost parts of the island chain have more in common with Siberia. A visit in June thus allows us to find many early spring bulbs where the snows are still receding and the more exotic flora of lower latitudes and elevations.

Hakuba-jiri's famous snowy valley on the slopes of Mount Shirouma (almost

3,000m) hold *Glaucidium palmatum*, *Anemone flaccida*, *Primula jesoana*, *Paris japonica* and the delicate, palest pink *Pogonia japonica*. A cable car allows an easy ascent of Mount Nyugasa in the centre of the Honshu Highlands. Here are *Convallaria keiskei*, *Primula japonica*, *Rhododendron kaempferi*, *Polygonatum humile* and *Rhododendron japonicum*. At Oyomi Bog deepest blue *Iris laevigata* is found with *Iris sanguinea*.

Lilies will be a major feature of this tour, as on Niigata we'll see *Lilium rubellum* growing amongst *Rhododendron japonicum*, while Oonokame hosts both *Hemerocallis middendorffii* var. *exaltata* and *Lilium maculatum*. *Primula nipponica* and *Geum pentapetalum* are two of Mount Zaou's many beautiful flowers.

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Gymnocalycium capillense and, right, *Trichocereus terscheckii*



ARGENTINA CACTI

October 1-17, 2018

Leaders: Willy Smith & Ian Green

Cost: London to London. £5,595;
Buenos Aires to Buenos Aires, £4,845

A vast array of cacti species are found in the mind-boggling landscapes of north-western Argentina, ranging from 300-year-old *Trichocereus pasacana* growing 3m tall, to the improbably tiny *Blossfeldia liliputana*.

The extraordinary growth forms of these cacti are many and varied and so are the often magnificent blooms. Tall, white-hairy *Cleistocactus hyalacanthus* has beautiful tubular pink flowers while the impressive orange-yellow blooms of *Lobivia aurea* dwarf the plant itself. We'll see saguaro-like *Trichocereus terscheckii* and exquisite *Parodia mesembrina*, the globular ball of spines overtopped by brilliant yellow blooms. *Soehrensia formosa* is a study

of brilliance, its scarlet blooms obvious from afar, and we'll see the extraordinary *Rebutia senilis*, a beauty whose squat little body is garlanded with magnificent blooms of red, yellow or orange.

Hieroglyph-engraved menhirs sit among dry Chaco forest where the arching columns of *Echinopsis grandiflora* serve as a vase for their red flowers and *Rebutia jujuyana* is encircled with jubilant orange blooms. We'll find plenty of evidence of the Inca's Empire of the Sun and other cultural wonders include picturesque Purmamarca, nestling at the foot of the Mountain of Seven Colours, its church adorned with cactus woodwork!

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

Autumn Conference booking form

AT THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, NOVEMBER 11-12, 2017

Two-day residential delegates:

£199 per person for one night with breakfast in a shared room at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon, two hot buffet lunches and three-course Conference Dinner

£230 per person for one night with breakfast in a single room at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon, two hot buffet lunches and three-course Conference Dinner

Day delegates:

£53 for Saturday including lunch; £68 for Sunday including lunch

The four-star Crowne Plaza Hotel is situated on the riverside in the centre of Stratford-upon-Avon. The hotel is set in landscaped gardens and has parking for 350 cars. Stratford train station is one mile from the hotel.

Please tick as applicable or book on our website

We would like to reserve two residential places in a shared room (total £398)

I would like to reserve a residential place in a single room (total £230)

I/we would like to reserve day delegate places for Saturday including lunch (£53 each)

I/we would like to reserve day delegate places for Sunday including lunch (£68 each)

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

YOUR DETAILS (block capitals please):

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

County/country: _____

Post/Zip code: _____

CHEQUE PAYMENT

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

CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD (Visa/MasterCard/American Express/Switch)

Please charge my card £ _____

Name on card: _____

Card number Security code

Start date _____ Expiry date _____ Issue No. (some debit cards) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

All information is protected by the Data Protection Act. Your information will not be disclosed to a third party. However, the AGS may wish to pass your details to our local groups. If you do not wish to receive information from our local groups then please tick this box.