



AGS NEWS

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW AT UPCOMING AGS EVENTS

Four great live events are planned for our members and the wider gardening community. Book now to secure your place. Our study days and conferences are always popular, with a good mix of entertainment, education and information. Why not bring along a gardening friend?

The **AGS Weekend Conference** will take place this year at the Stratford Manor Hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon.

As part of the weekend, the EB Anderson Memorial Lecture (which is free to all members attending the AGM) will be given by Martin Hajman. Martin started gardening professionally

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AGS Changes

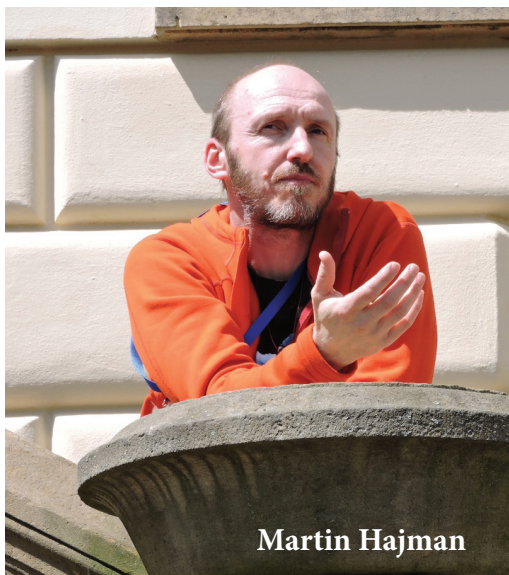
Notice of AGM

AGS Awards

Programme of Events

Seed Exchange Updates

AGS tours



Martin Hajman

ISSUE 83 ~ SEPTEMBER 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

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

Registered charity No. 207478
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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, Julian Sutton, Tom Freeth, David Charlton and Razvan Chisu.

OTHER EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 1st October 2023:
AGS Bulb Day - see page 8

Saturday 3rd February 2024:
AGS Snowdrop Day - see page 9

Sunday 17th March 2024:
AGS Hepatica Day - see page 10



CHANGES TO AGS MEMBERSHIP AND WHY WE NEED TO IMPLEMENT THEM

For many years the AGS has been spending more money than it receives. The practice of expenditure exceeding income is not sustainable.

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

In order to secure the future of the AGS, the only option open to us that generates enough savings is to produce paperless Journals from 2024. In conjunction with other savings, this will restore the financial health of the AGS and ensure the Society still exists for future generations.

PAPER JOURNAL

The Trustees understand that the paper Journal is very important to many of our members and it has been decided to offer a twice-yearly Journal at cost price from 2024. Members wishing to purchase this printed publication must pre-order from the office or from the AGS website.

This will be payable by UK members via Direct Debit at £20 a year. Further details and a Direct Debit form will be posted with the December Journal. Overseas members will be able to pre-order the publication online or by contacting the office.

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, were 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 was 31 July 2023.

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

AGS Conference 2023 Programme

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER

AGM – OPEN TO ALL AGS MEMBERS

- 10.00 am** Registration, coffee and plant sales
- 10.30 am** Annual General Meeting and presentation of Society Awards
- 12.00 noon** Presentation of Show Awards
- 12.45 pm** Lunch
- 2.00 pm** EB Anderson Memorial Lecture: Martin Hajman: *Tromsø Botanic Garden – Rock landscape and plant collections above the polar circle*
- 3.00 pm** Close of AGM

CONFERENCE – OPEN ONLY TO DELEGATES

- 3.00 pm** Conference registration
- 3.30 pm** John Mitchell: *From wild to cultivation at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh*
- 4.30 pm** Tea break
- 5.00 pm** Razvan Chisu: *Bringing the next generation on board*
- 5.20 pm** Tom Freeth: *Mountain flora and gardens of Colorado*
- 6.20 pm** End of session
- 7.45 pm** Conference dinner followed by a light hearted entertainment and quiz from Rob Potterton

SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER

- 9.45 am** Registration
- 10.00 am** Martin Hajman: *Learning from Nature*
- 11.00 am** Coffee
- 11.30 am** Rogier van Vugt: *Orchids along the edge of Europe*
- 12.30 pm** Lunch
- 1.30 pm** David Charlton: *Mats, carpets and cushions in Svalbard and New Zealand*
- 2.30 pm** Short break
- 2.45 pm** Julian Sutton: *How the flowers became*
- 4.00 pm** End of day

Book now: fill in the conference booking form on the back page OR book on the AGS website or phone the AGS Centre on 01386 554790

AGS ANNUAL AWARDS

Sir William and Lady Lawrence award: **Dr Steve Furness** is a knowledgeable plantsman and ecologist who created the Alpine Plant Centre and its impressive rock garden at Calver in the Peak District. An author, academic and lecturer, Steve has had a passion for plants from childhood, in particular *Sempervivum* and *Jovibarba*. Steve has recently published two books on these genera based on his 40 years of growing experience of these popular alpenines.

Local group award: **Alan Oatway** has been a member of the North Lancashire AGS group for many years, taking an active role on the committee and as a speaker. Alan has played a leading role in the running and organisation of the joint AGS and SRGC Kendal show as show secretary. The success of the Kendal show is a tribute to Alan's hard work and dedication, which is why he deserves a local group award for his contribution to the AGS both locally and nationally.

Ferrier Charlton award: **Dr Lynne Joyce** has made a significant contribution to the Society's success over her many years as a member. Lynne recently retired as one of the Society's three Holding Trustees, having performed this role for several years. Lynne has also been responsible for the book and merchandise stand at various national shows. The proposer can attest to his first-hand experience of the friendship and support that Lynne offers to individual members and how this goes on to benefit the AGS.

Award of honour: **Carol Kellett** has been involved in the AGS Seed Exchange for over 20 years, including as a seed receiver, collating and checking seed, organising the packers' boxes and many other jobs. Carol was the East Lancs Show Secretary for many years and she ran this show with her inimitable efficiency and unflappable temperament. She is actively involved in the shows, where a job will invariably land on her, including organising stewards, checking results, entering results on the computer and general troubleshooting, all undertaken with good will and a good sense of humour. Carol is an unsung hero of the Society and well deserving of the Award of Honour.

Award of honour: **Annie Harris** for her work in the Library at Pershore. Annie is a retired professional librarian with many years experience, including the cataloguing and conservation of three private collections as well as working for professional institutions, charities and public libraries.

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

TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS

Mr Thomas Freeth (Proposer: David Morris; Seconder: Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson). Serving for four years. Tom is currently head of Plant Records and Collection support at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Tom's employment makes him well placed to forge strong links between the AGS and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, particularly as both organisations are involved in the conservation of plants and their habitats. He has presented talks, lecture tours and online lectures and is experienced in building flower show exhibits. He has been involved in the last two AGS events aimed at younger members of the society.

Mr Matthew Jeffery (Proposer: Thomas Freeth, Seconder: Razvan Chisu). Serving for four years. Matthew is a professional horticulturist and plant conservationist. He was the tree seed collecting field officer at the Millennium Seed Bank and a lead horticulturist on the rock garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He has managed rock garden propagation, nursery collections and trained volunteers and student horticulturists. His combination of plant-based and scientific knowledge, practical horticultural and passion for alpine make him an ideal candidate for representing the younger members of the society. He is well connected to a network of horticulturists and scientists and will passionately promote the society and its causes bringing the society to a new generation of members.

Mr Henry Fletcher (Proposer: David Charlton, Seconder: David Morris). Co-opted for one year. Henry is an enthusiastic, experienced and knowledgeable grower of alpine plants, a skill he learned from his grandparents who ran an excellent alpine plant nursery. He is a very competent Chair of the AGS Derby Group and a regular and successful exhibitor at AGS Shows. He will make a valuable contribution to the Trustee Board.

AGS LITERARY AWARDS

Clarence Elliott Memorial Award for best article published in 2022:
Richard Moore, *First time in flower* (June 22)

The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award for best practical alpine gardening article published in 2022: **Paul Spriggs**, *Build a small crevice garden* (March 22)

The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award for photographic excellence:
Martin Sheader, *A quartet of Patagonian Oxalis* (Sept 22)

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

AGS Bulb Day

In collaboration with the Fritillaria Group

Sunday 1 October 2023 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
At Pershore College, Avonbank, Pershore,
Worcestershire, WR10 3JP.

There will be the opportunity to buy plants from specialist nurseries and to visit the AGS garden and headquarters. Tickets for lectures, buffet lunch, plant sales, tea and coffee **AGS members £32, non-members £40.** Admission by advance ticket only.

Nurseries: Buried Treasure, Pottertons

PROGRAMME

10.00 am Registration, plant sales & coffee

10.30 am Christine Skelmersdale: *Tulips – from the species of Central Asia to the modern Dutch bulb fields. The history of this ubiquitous spring bulb*

11.45 am Paul Cumbleton: *Amaryllids in my bulb collection*

1.00 pm Plant sales, buffet lunch & visit to AGS centre and garden, and display of botanical illustrations

2.45 pm Laurence Hill: *Fritillaria with the habit of a lily*

4.00 pm Close of day

AGS Snowdrop Day

Saturday 3 February 2024, 9.30 am – 4.00 pm
at Pershore College, Avonbank, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3JP

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 Jope, Monksilver, Pottertons.

PROGRAMME

9.30 am Registration, plant sales & coffee

11.00 am Melvyn Jope: *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. Edrom nurseries will bring plants for sale.

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/>

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 **10th October 2023**, to the seed receiver on the donor form corresponding to your surname. The donor form was included as a centre page pull-out in the June newsletter, and at the end of the June issue of *The Alpine Gardener*, and you can also download it from the AGS website. If you have late-ripening seed that you cannot get to us by 10th October, please contact Bob Worsley by email: bob.worsley@agsgroups.org for alternative arrangements. Please do not post to the seed receiver after **10 October** without contacting Bob first.

Seed List

The seed list will be available to view or download from the website from late November 2023. We will not be posting seed lists to members this year unless you request this by contacting the AGS Centre at Pershore before **1 November 2023**.

Seed Distribution

Seed Distribution will go live on the website during the last week of November. Please watch the website for the exact date and any further information. We prefer you to order online because it makes the work of the volunteers so much easier and saves us a lot of time and expense. If you cannot use the online system and would like to order by post, your order will still be given the same priority as we allow time for post to reach us before we start making up orders. Please do not order seed by email.

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 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. 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 Donation

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.

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@agsgroups.org

AGS TOURS

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

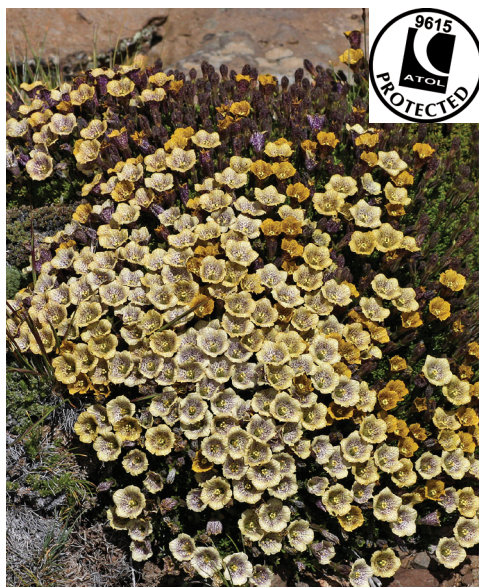
PATAGONIA

28 November - 15 December 2023

Leaders: Martin Sheader & Harry Jans

Cost: £ 8,590 sharing; £9,570 single
Land only: £7,120 sharing, £8,100 single.

Patagonia 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.



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. From the treeline to the snowline, the changing pattern of life is as fascinating as it is diverse. 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!



AGS TOURS

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

KAZAKHSTAN

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!



AGS TOURS

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

BOTANICAL TOUR TO TIBET

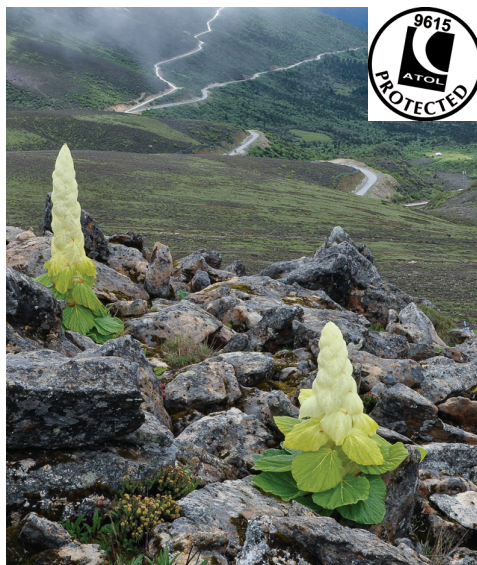
**23 days from end of June to mid July
2024**

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: AUTUMN BULBS OF SW TURKEY

18–25 October 2023

Leaders: Yasemin Konuralp &
Seda Soylu

Cost: London–London £1,950

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



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

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