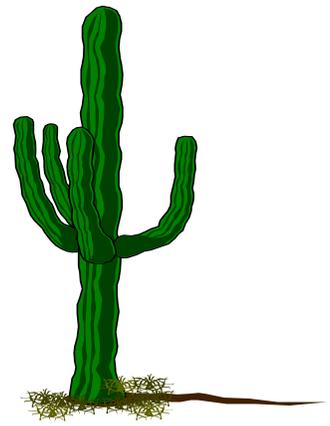


NEWSLETTER

of the Oxford Branch of the
British Cactus and Succulent Society

June 1997 Volume 2, Number 1



Editorial

This issue marks the second year of publication of the newsletter. I would like to be able to say that it is successful, but the truth is that I do not know! We really need to know if you like the newsletter and whether you would like it to continue; please let me have your comments, or it may not!

One of the sections of newsletters and journals that I enjoy most is the 'Letters from Readers' item, and I would be very pleased to get more letters from any of you out there, on any subject relevant to C&S. Give me a bell and I'll tell you the address to send to. E-mail them in, if you can.

Please would you also let us have suggestions for speakers and/or topics for the 1998 programme.

Another way to interact: here is a competition for you to try. Think of a good title for your newsletter (rather than just 'Newsletter', as it now). My suggestion is 'Fat Plants' - if you don't want it to be that, then come up with something else!

If all that doesn't lead to some feedback, then I'll send out a questionnaire next time. Now there's a threat!

Hoping to hear from you,

David Greenaway
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Oxford Branch Show
Langdale Hall, Witney.
Sunday 24 August 1997

The big event of the year! Your help is needed on the day and will be gratefully received.

Please would members make an effort to bring along plants to show. And have you any spare plants that you could bring along

to sell? Proceeds go mainly to yourself, with something for the club too.

If you are limited on time, then please try to drop in anyway. Come along to see the show, buy some plants, eat and drink something, have a go at the raffle and chat to other members and visitors for a while.

Enjoy!

Monthly Meetings - the rest of 1997

by Cathy Darbon

24 July

Graham Hole

Many of you will have seen Graham give his lecture on Gymnocalyciums at the AGM last year; this time he will give forth on his new love - Tephrocactus. I will admit that when I saw his plants, after attending the National Show last year, and having judged that marvellous thematic display, even I was *hooked*.

24 August

Annual Show

Please, please, please come and see us at the annual show at Langdale Hall, Witney. If you are new to the branch, but are unable to get to meetings, this is your chance to make yourself known. We don't bite - honest! If on the other hand you fancy trying your chances, a schedule is included with this newsletter, and again we'd be more than pleased to see you.

28 August

Bill Weightman

The only amendment this year to the published programme. Unfortunately, Tom double booked himself, but he has promised to be available for next year.

Many of you will have recognised the name of Bill Weightman as the photographer for many books published by John Pilbeam, and I am therefore sure that we can look forward to an outstanding photographic trip to Mexico. Bill has accompanied John on his trips to CANTE, and we should therefore see many of the new discoveries. I'm lucky - we had a midnight showing at the judges course.

25 September

Graham Charles

Probably one of the best speakers this country has to offer! He *entertains* us at the judges course (trouble is, we're then tested on what he's told us). Most of you will remember the lecture on Copiapoas that he gave us last year: well, this time he will tell us about Rewarding Miniatures.

23 October

John Betteley

An ex-Birmingham member, who recently qualified as a judge. He is secretary of Lincoln branch, and has shown many times at our annual show, so its a face you know! He will be talking to us on his forty years in the hobby.

27 November

Mal Weobley

Not generally known on the speakers circuit, Mal has recently qualified as a judge. One of his main interests is Stapeliads, so we can look forward to a well-informed talk.

Sale of library books

Earlier this year our treasurer, Steve Williams, gallantly undertook the task of cataloguing our entire library of books and journals. One result of this has been to identify a number of surplus items, and the committee propose to offer these for sale at the January 1998 branch meeting. The list will be advertised at the monthly meetings this Autumn. If you find that you have an objection to any of these being sold, please raise it at the branch AGM in November.

Show Hall

Do you know of a hall that might make a good venue for a future branch Annual Show? Basic requirements would be: at least some adjacent car parking space, kitchen facilities, and suitable tabling. Please contact a member of the committee if you have a suggestion, and we will visit to see if it is 'big enough', 'not too expensive', etc.

Display Days

For the second year running we are visiting some nurseries with the aim of publicising the BCSS in general and the Oxford Branch in particular. Volunteers are bringing plants for the display, handing out publicity material and generally talking to the public about the hobby. Would you like to help? A good day was held last month at Millets Farm, and the next two venues are Notcutts Nursery on 19 - 20 July, and Burford Garden Centre on 3 Aug.

Open Days

All members are cordially invited to visit the collections of John Warwick (on 13 July) and Cathy and Bill Darbon (on 28 September). Each open day will extend from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. By the time you receive this issue of the newsletter, there

will have already been a successful (surely?) day at John Watmough's.

Nursery Visits

If you intend to visit a C&S nursery at any time and have space in your car, please would you consider inviting other members to accompany you? A note on the notice board at one of the monthly Branch meetings could be welcome.

More events for your diary

13 July, John Warwick - open day

19-20 July, Mattocks Rose Weekend - display

3 Aug., Burford Garden Centre - display

16 August, Birmingham 50th Anniv., Carters Lane Baptist Church, Halesowen

27 September., Bristol Mesemb. Show

28 September., Darbon family - open day

2 -5 April 1998, National Convention, Reading

25 April 1998, National AGM - Leicester

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The Branch meets at 7.30 p.m. on the 4th Thursday of each month (except December) at the John Bunyon Baptist Chapel, Cromwell Road, Cowley, Oxford.

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Diary of Branches within Zone 8, June - December, 1997

26 June	John Henshaw	N W Mexico	Oxford
29 June	D Castle & R Moreton	Open Days	Birmingham
9 July	Rowland Money	Flowers and Plants	High Wycombe
9 July	Keith Grantham	Mexico Part 2	Swindon
15 July	John Betteley	Around the Shows	Birmingham
24 July	Graham Hole	Tephrocactus	Oxford
to be announced	50th anniversary event		Birmingham
13 August	Members Night	Problems and Plants Unknown	Swindon
13 August	Suzanne Mace	Stemless Mesembs.	High Wycombe
19 August	Ray Stevenson	Hardy Succulents	Birmingham
24 August	Annual Branch Show	Langdale Hall, Witney	Oxford
28 August	Tom Jenkins	My 40 Years in the hobby	Oxford
31 August	G Bailey & W Geddes	Open Days	Birmingham
10 September	Eddie Hole	Gymnos. (with plants)	High Wycombe
10 September	to be arranged		Swindon
16 September	Alan Butler	Euphorbias	Birmingham
25 September	Graham Charles	Rewarding Miniatures	Oxford
5 October		Autumn Show with Euphorbia Society, Botanic Gardens	Birmingham
8 October	Eddie Cheetam	Echinocereus (plant symposium)	High Wycombe
8 October	Vic Knight	Mesembs.	Swindon
21 October		Annual Quiz with Coventry Branch	Birmingham
23 October	John Betteley	My 40 years in the hobby	Oxford
12 November	Stan Griffin	Slide Show & AGM	Swindon
18 November	John Henshaw	Mexico Part 2	Birmingham
28 November	Mal Weobley	Stapeliads & AGM	Oxford
9 December	AGM & Christmas Social		Birmingham
10 December	Christmas Party		High Wycombe
14 January 1997	Eric Robinson	Quiz or something	High Wycombe

BRANCH MEETINGS

Birmingham	3rd Tuesday at Masons Court, Hillborough Road, Olton, Birmingham
High Wycombe	2nd Wednesday at The Friends Meeting Hall, Stuart Road, High Wycombe
Swindon	2nd Wednesday at Moredon Community Centre, Moredon, Swindon
Oxford	4th Thursday at John Bunyan Hall, Cromwell Road, Cowley, Oxford