

# British Cactus & Succulent Society

## Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

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### Editorial

Happy New Year and welcome to 2011! I hope everyone had a good time over Christmas and the New Year. The weather did play up in the week prior to Christmas but hopefully two big snowfalls down here in the South is all that we will have to endure this winter.

### Announcements

Although the post was affected by the bad weather, you should all have received the December Journal. Please don't forget to **renew your membership** – this can be done using the form supplied with the Journal, or online via the BCSS website.

I am sad to report that Doug Donaldson, who spoke at one of our branch meetings a couple of years ago, passed away just before Christmas. He had had a hip operation a few weeks earlier and it appears that complications developed soon afterwards.

Copies of the **2011 Branch Programme** are available from the front table. Also, please note that the price of **refreshments and cakes** at our meetings increases to 30p as from today.

### Last Month's Meeting

#### *Annual General Meeting*

Our chairman Geoff Card started proceedings. The Church happened to be holding some sort of event that evening, so parking was an issue, but everyone managed to find somewhere to park. Geoff thanked members for supporting the branch – we have had good meeting attendances throughout the year. He also thanked June Purseglove for handling the raffle, and Tony Grech for getting signatures for the attendance book. Some bad news - of a sort - was that we had retained the Mealy bug trophy at the

recent Zone 11 Quiz hosted by the Isle of Wight. He mentioned that the 2011 Programme was available from the front, and the meetings were also listed in the December newsletter.

Next it was the turn of our Treasurer – Mark Jakins – to deliver his report. Copies of the accounts were handed out. Mark mentioned that our expenditure and income matched over the year, leaving a small surplus of £25 for the year. He also explained that our branch was lucky in that the monthly meetings were free – but he encouraged people to support the meetings and spend some money buying plants or refreshments at the meetings, since the money we receive from external events has reduced in recent years. The branch also benefited from donations of plants and pots which were sold to raise funds for the branch. Mark ended by saying that he had considered very carefully and had decided to stand down as Treasurer because he felt out of his depth – but he would carry on till March, to allow for a replacement to be appointed.

The final report was from our Secretary, David Neville, who stated that he didn't have much to say since his written report was in the newsletter. His main job in recent months had been to put the 2011 programme together. He had not received much feedback from people on suggested speakers, so had tried to get some new visitors to come speak to the branch, and also get some focus on cultivation and propagation, so there will be some evenings to cover these topics next year. In March, Suzanne Mace will be doing a slide talk, but she'll be happy to talk about plants which people bring along. Similarly, there is a talk by John Pilbeam in August where you can bring plants along. David asked for people to let him know if there were specific topics you want covered.

This year, we will be the hosts for the Zone 11 Quiz – and we will try and make it a multimedia quiz to make it more interesting. Mark Jakins will be working on this. David said he did not attend this year's Quiz but it was mainly general knowledge, and there were very few questions on cacti and succulents - we will try and make sure there is a better mixture of questions next year

David ended by saying how proud we should be of the Southampton and District branch. The number of people at our AGM exceeded the number of people who usually attend normal meetings at branches around the country. We seem to be able to encourage people to come along and create a friendly atmosphere, and he is frequently asked by national officials how we run such a successful branch. He wasn't sure why this was, but we get out to the public at events. Although it's sad that we do not have an annual Branch Show any more, we have gained a lot more with the displays. He thanked everybody for their support and hoped that he would see everyone along with some new faces next year.

Geoff proceeded to thank Colin and Lorraine Bielckus for preparing our accounts this year. David said he had not received any nominees for any of the committee posts this year, and the whole of the committee was willing to stand again, with the exception of Mark. Alice Jankovec was willing to take on the role of Treasurer, and she was nominated and seconded. This freed up a committee spot so there was a vacancy for a general committee member - Mark was asked if he wanted to continue on the committee, but he did not wish to do so, at the moment. Tony Grech agreed to give it a try and he was proposed and seconded. The rest of the committee was re-elected en masse. Ted Smith thanked everyone on the committee for all that they did for the branch.

The final action for the AGM was to award trophies for the monthly table show. Jean Burnay won the Ladies Cup. The remaining four trophies for the Open and Intermediate Cacti and Succulents classes were all won by Bruce Beckerleg. David suggested everyone should make a resolution to enter plants in the table show and stop this from happening in the coming year.

Geoff ended the AGM by asking if there were any suggestions from the membership on anything they wanted done differently or if they thought we should do something new. If you have any ideas, please get in touch with Geoff or David, He wished that everyone would have a good growing year and hoped to see everyone at all the shows and events.

One final surprise for the evening was still left, before we could tuck into the food and drink. Tony Grech handed out trophies to people who had been working hard for the branch. He gave trophies to David Neville, me, Dot England, June Purseglove, Jim Roskilly, Peter Down and Glenn Finn, and mentioned that he had run out of cups but also wanted to recognise Bruce and Ivor.

Vinay Shah

## Next Month's Meeting

The February meeting will see one of our members (Ben Turner) talking about the Tresco Gardens, which are located in the Isles of Scilly. The weather there allows quite a wide range of plants to be grown.

The February Table Show will consist of the **Neoporteria** and **Copiopoa** Groups (cacti) and the **Adromischus** Subgroup (succulents). Please note that you are allowed multiple entries in any of the classes.

The Neoporteria group includes *Neoporteria*, *Austrocactus*, *Chileorebutia*, *Eriosyce*, *Horridocactus*, *Islaya*, *Neochilenia*, *Pyrrhocactus*, *Rodentiophila* and *Thelocephala*. The Copiopoa Group includes *Copiopoa* and *Pilocopiopoa*.

The Adromischus subgroup includes *Adromischus*, *Brophyllum*, *Cotyledon*, *Crassula*, *Kalanchoe*, *Kitchingia*, *Rochea*, *Tillaea*, *Tylecodon*, and *Vauanthes*.

## Forthcoming Events

Sat	8 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Isle of Wight	no meeting
Sat	15 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Portsmouth	Short talks and discussions by branch members
Mon	17 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Southampton	Branch Committee Meeting
Tue	1 <sup>st</sup>	Feb	Southampton	"Tresco Abbey Gardens" - Ben Turner
Sat	12 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	Isle of Wight	Plant Auction and Members' Slides
Sat	19 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	Portsmouth	"The National Show 2008" - Cliff Thompson
Tue	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mar	Southampton	"Succulent Miscellany" - plants & slides - Suzanne Mace
Sat	12 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Isle of Wight	Branch Quiz and Member's Talks
Sat	19 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Portsmouth	"A Trip to Mesa Gardens" - Ralph Martin

Branch website: <http://www.southampton.bcsc.org.uk>