

# British Cactus & Succulent Society

## Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

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## Editorial

Here we are, at the start of a brand new year! My previous comments about unseasonal weather continue to apply and as far as temperatures go, it is hard to believe that we are supposed to be in the middle of winter. Of course January and February could still turn out quite cold, but it's good to see the days lengthening and to think that spring is only a couple of months away.

## Announcements

Copies of the **Branch Programme** for 2012 are available from the front table. The **Zone 11 Programme** is in the process of being put together and should be available shortly.

All members should have received the **December Journal** a few weeks ago – this also included a membership renewal form, the annual seed list and a survey about electronic versions of the Journal. The reply paid envelope to send back the survey was omitted, so if you have not yet returned the survey, you can pass it on to David Neville.

The second issue of the “**Cactus Explorer**” has been produced and can be downloaded from :  
<http://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/journal1.htm>.

## Last Month's Meeting - AGM

Our Chairman Geoff Card kicked off the AGM by going through the committee reports, starting with his own report. He mentioned that he did not have much to say – the club seemed to be doing alright and we had increased our membership a little. He hoped everyone would enjoy the evening.

For the Secretary's report, David said that he too did not have much to say to add to the report included in the December newsletter. Branch programmes for

2012 were now available and he had also mailed a PDF copy to everybody whose email IDs he had. If you are not on his email distribution list, please let him have your email address.

He felt that one item of slight concern was that we will be doing less publicity displays next year – and as explained in the newsletter, this was not by choice. If any members can think of anywhere within the branch catchment area where there is an opportunity for us to put on a display, please notify this to anyone on the committee. There may still be time for us to get into these events. The smaller village or horticultural shows are probably too small and not worth the effort – we do need a good number of people through the gate to make the effort worthwhile. One of the options he was considering is something he last did 15 or more years ago, where we put on small displays over a weekend at local garden centres. One bonus is that everybody visiting a garden centre is likely to be interested in plants. The garden centres usually didn't mind us selling plants. If you have any other ideas, please give it some thought and let us know. He thanked all the members for their support and mentioned that we remain one of the healthier branches across the country.

The next report would normally be given by our Treasurer, but Geoff mentioned that Alice Jankovec was not present because she was expecting her baby shortly. Alice had provided a written report which was included in the December newsletter. David mentioned that we don't have a set of accounts for 2011 as yet because Alice had been unable to get the data to our auditors. He was planning to collect the information from Alice and pass it on to Colin and Lorraine, and if this happened in December, we'd have the accounts early next year.

Ivor was invited to comment on the shows and displays we held in 2011. He mentioned that all of them had made a profit. The New Forest Show is the best and busiest of the events, but we did incur extra costs, since we bought extra tickets. The annoying part was that we were given free extra tickets on the first day, after having already spent over £100 since we had previously been told we would only receive an allocation of 2 tickets per day and would need to

pay for any extras. Ivor thanked everyone for their help and hoped he could count on them in the coming year. 2012 would mean less work with only three events to stage. If anyone does have ideas of where we can put on a new show, do discuss it with Ivor – we have taken part in a variety of different events over the years and most types of display are quite straightforward to set up.

Next were the elections for the 2012 committee. There were one or two changes so each officer's post was discussed in turn. Geoff Card was willing to continue as Chairman. Bill Seymour was not standing as Vice-Chairman, and Dot England had been proposed and accepted into this role. David Neville agreed to remain as Secretary. Alice Jankovec was willing to stand as Treasurer, but since her baby was due on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December she would not be attending the next meeting or two. Ivor Biddlecombe and Bruce Beckerleg agreed to continue as Displays Manager and Plant Sales Manager respectively, and the newsletter and website would continue to be handled by myself. Ciprian Suta was appointed as Librarian, and Jim Roskilly would continue as Publicity Officer. Tony Grech and Ben Turner would continue as general members of the Committee, and Glenn Finn would continue with Catering. Colin and Lorraine Bielckus agreed to audit our accounts - David mentioned that their work was considered very comprehensive and professional, and much admired by the National Treasurer. He presented them with a bottle of wine to thank them for their work and also for the loan of their digital projector for many of our meetings.

David asked if there were any comments on branch activities or anything we should be doing differently. Mike Shaw asked about the young *Mammillaria* & *Echeveria* plants handed out to members last year – David said we would ask members to bring them in on a couple of occasions during the year. A final point which David mentioned was that Glenn had a difficult time with

catering because he sometimes has to work nights and this interferes with setting up the catering at meetings. David requested that people take turns to help set up the kitchen if they saw that Glenn wasn't there.

The final part of the AGM was to hand out trophies for the Table Show winners. For Succulents, Bruce won the prize for Open class and Jim for Intermediate class. For Cacti, Tony Gretch won the award for Open Class and Ted Smith won the award for Intermediate Class.

Vinay Shah

## Next Month's Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> February, and will feature David Neville showing highlights from a trip to Arizona and Utah last year.

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*

A committee meeting would normally be held on the third Monday in January, but with no immediate shows or meetings to discuss, it is likely that this meeting will be cancelled.

## Forthcoming Events

Sat	14 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Isle of Wight	No meeting
Sat	21 <sup>st</sup>	Jan	Portsmouth	Short Talks and Discussions by branch members
Tue	7 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	Southampton	"Highlights of Arizona and Utah" – David Neville
Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	Isle of Wight	Plant auction and Members' slides
Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	Portsmouth	"California and Arizona 2011" – Angie Money
Tue	6 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Southampton	"Elton Roberts' Californian Collection" - Keith & Kathy Flanagan
Sat	10 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Isle of Wight	Branch Quiz & Members' Talks
Sat	17 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Portsmouth	"Xiaoqing's Photos" - Ralph Martin

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