

British Cactus & Succulent Society

Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

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Editorial

It's the first day of February, so is Spring really only a few weeks away? The cold snap that some were predicting back in December has not turned up yet, although I suppose there's still plenty of time for the weather to surprise us.

I've barely set foot in the conservatory during the last month, but I did manage a crude attempt at pollinating the *Clivia caulescens* which I've mentioned before. I couldn't find a paint brush so I just rubbed my fingers along the stamens and anthers, hoping that I'd transfer some pollen. Well, on several of the flowers, the base is swelling, indicating that a seed has set. Whether they would have done this without my help is open to question!

Announcements

The **2005 Branch Programme** card is available from the front table. Copies of the **Zone 11 Programme** are now also available.

During January, you may have heard news reports that the **Southampton Festival** had been cancelled. However, during the last week, we were pleased to learn that the event will still go ahead, although the balloons may not be present.

We sold a lot of seed last year, and our stocks are low. With the Romsey Flower and Garden Show approaching, Ivor Biddlecombe would appreciate receiving donations of any types of seed.

A number of conventions and cactus marts will be held in the South in the coming months. Some details are provided in the *Snippets* section, you can also find more about these events by searching on the Internet or following links from the BCSS's web pages.

Last Month's Meeting – Members' Evening

Peter Down started off the meeting by mentioning that this was going to be a "hi-tech" evening. This was confirmed at the front table, where there was a gathering of three laptops and most importantly, a computer projector, kindly lent to the Branch for the evening by Colin Bielckus. This projector was capable of connecting to any standard PC or laptop, and projecting the computer's screen onto a larger screen. This type of equipment is typically used by businesses for presentations and tends to be very expensive, however, new models and lower prices are bringing these devices into the reach of individuals. Apart from displaying computer images, these projectors can be used to view DVD movies.

Paul Maddison

Paul Maddison volunteered to go first. He mentioned that the images he was going to show were originally photographs or slides, and he had converted these to digital form using a scanner. The image resolution for the scans had been relatively low, and in theory he could have scanned at a higher resolution for better quality.

The first two images showed plants on grafts – an *Oreocereus* and a red *Gymnocalycium*. The latter are available in a wide range of colours including orange, yellow, red and pink. The unusual thing about the featured plant was that it was in flower, and the buds, (just like the plant body) contained no chlorophyll.

The next two images featured a butterfly which had ventured into his greenhouse, attracted by one

of his succulent plants. It was hard to make out exactly which plant had attracted the insect, but it seemed to have settled between a couple of cacti. The next picture featured a *Notocactus leninghausii* (a plant which he still has) and an orange-flowered *Rebutia*.

A general view showed some of Paul's plants stacked on two levels of shelving. A closer view showed a deep red flower on what appeared to be a *Rebutia* or perhaps a *Mediolobivia*. A double headed *Mammillaria* was covered in lots of red seed pods but the plant was sadly no longer with him. A *Notocactus*, probably *N. ottonis*, had 3 lovely yellow flowers. We then saw a photo of Paul holding a pink-flowered *Epiphyllum*, illustrating the large size of the blooms. This was followed by a photo of another *Epiphyllum*, bearing 7 pink cup-shaped flowers. The next shot contained a red *Epiphyllum* and a white-flowered *Echinopsis* in profile.

The next slide showed a couple of female models at one of the Shows (obviously more interesting than the plants!), followed by a couple of views of Cactus and Succulent exhibits from the Southampton and Balloon festival. The first of these had a flowering yucca as a centrepiece, but Ivor did not recognise it and thought it might have been one of the nursery stands.

The next image was a landscape of cacti and succulents; despite a signpost marked "Egypt", Paul assured us that the plants were actually at a garden show in Liverpool. Another shot also taken in Liverpool featured Paul's wife standing near an *Echinocactus grusonii*. This was followed by a photograph showing Paul seated next to an even larger specimen of the "Golden Barrel". Some say that people look their dogs – with his haircut, did he resemble the cactus?

Paul finished with a couple of aerial shots of naval vessels at Portsmouth. We saw the *Canberra* in a dry dock, after having returned from the Falklands War where it had been put to use as a hospital ship. The final image was of the *Victory*, probably been taken from a light aircraft at a height of 1000-1500 feet.

Ivor Biddlecombe

Ivor started with three images taken at the Balloon and Flower festival. These showed our display, Margaret Corina talking to a visitor, and a view of the plants entered into the show classes.

The next pair of photos featured some spectacular Azaleas which were on display at the Bonsai Show held at the Littledown Sports centre in Bournemouth. We also saw a picture of David Neville manning our stand at this event.

Now for some close-ups. *Mammillaria plumosa* has soft feathery spines, and *Mammillaria lenta* has criss-crossing white spines. *Gymnocalycium saglionis* has brown spines which contrast well against the green body. Ivor mentioned that the flowers have a hard time coming through the mass of spines. *Echeveria* cv. "Doris Taylor" had soft felty leaves and *Mamillopsis senilis* was covered in masses of white spines with hooked yellow centrals. *Ferocactus chrysacanthus* was a nice looking plant with strong and impressive spines. *Thelocactus rinconensis* looked attractive with its chunky tubercles and multicoloured spines. It had got scorched during the year, with the epidermis turning red, but Ivor was relieved to see the plant eventually grow out of it.

Next was a view showing our display at one of the Garden Shows at Broadlands, Romsey. Ivor reminded us that the next show was just round the corner (Easter 2005). Members were welcome to bring along plants for inclusion in the display. He suggested a pot size of 4½ inches or larger - this size would be difficult to pinch from the display without someone noticing. Ivor mentioned that in thirty years of showing, we've only had half a dozen or so incidents of plants going walkies.

We again saw *Mamillopsis senilis*, this time in bloom with bright red flowers. *Parodia penicillata* had a circle of 9 glowing red flowers. It was difficult to take good pictures of this because the petals are translucent. Paul Klaassen added that some colours are not captured well by digital cameras. *Gymnocalycium platense* flowers when quite small, and it had a pristine white flower, with a hint of dark shading at the tips of the petals. Next was *Gymnocalycium quehlianum*, with the flower buds having just opened. The initial brown background colour fades to pale pink eventually.

Next was *Sempervivum arachnoideum*; we saw over a hundred compact heads and Ivor estimated that the whole pan probably contained 500 heads. The plant had coloured up beautifully last year. *Conophytum lydiae* had pale pink flowers which intensified over time. *Ophthalmophyllum triebneri* had white flowers. The crown of *Notocactus schumanniana* displays beautiful symmetry, and the yellow flowers are attractive and long lasting.

Ivor mentioned that care was needed if watering from overhead since the body stains easily and it's subsequently hard to clean off the water stains.

Next were two images of mixed Lithops - plants with white and yellow flowers were flowering at the same time. In 2004, his plants had flowered between September and December, which is later than normal. Others mentioned theirs had done the same. *Conophytum bilobum* is a common plant and easy to grow – the featured plant was displaying over 20 yellow flowers, each an inch across. Next was a close up of the flowers of an Echeveria. The flower stem was pink and the flowers were deep purple and pink. Then we saw 4 large heads of the bright green *Echeveria glauca* – this plant had grown really well outdoors. A close up of the centre of an Agave showed the new leaves forming, along with the white, spiralling marginal fibres. *Opuntia berteri* forms a nice plant - but the joints between pads are delicate, so it tend to fall apart quite easily.

Rebutia pygmae is easy to grow and the featured plant had dozens of attractive orange and pastel flowers. *Strombocactus disciformis* is a choice plant which forms white flowers, almost as large as the plant body. *Blossfeldia liliputana* is one of the smallest cacti. The multi-headed plant was in a 2 inch pot and the flowers were about ¼" across. Next were the flowers of *Crassula portulaca* (the "Jade Plant"). His plant is kept in an unheated porch where the temperature remains above freezing. The advice, to obtain flowers, was to not overwater. Peter Down mentioned that all Chinese takeaways seem to feature one of these plants!

While Margaret and David Corina were away on vacation, Ivor watered their garden and greenhouses for them. While doing this, he took several photos as a record of anything interesting that was happening to the plants. We saw an old plant of *Echinopsis multiplex* which was flowering nicely outside outdoors. The flowers were white with a pink midstripe. This was followed by a *Pleiospilos* with a yellow flower, and a *Conophytum* with dozens of white flowers. *Stapelia hystrix* had a maroon flower with cream-coloured streaks; Ivor mentioned that the appearance of this flower improved with time. We then saw three more white/pink blooms on the *Echinopsis multiplex*. *Pelargonium carnosum* has dainty flowers with petals which are smaller than the sepals. A *Huernia* had cream flowers with maroon spots, a *Glottiphyllum oligocarpum* had 2

yellow flowers, and the final shot in this series was of the 5 lobed flower of *Stapelia variegata*.

Time for some seasonal images, and Ivor had included a couple of pictures of Christmas Cacti (*Schlumbergera*) which he had accumulated over the years. The first plant had pink flowers and the second had red/magenta blooms. Ivor likes to experiment with some of this plants and we saw a *Glottiphyllum* growing outside, which had survived in his rockery for 3 years. A *Chamaelobivia* with yellow flowers was used as the source for offsets to be given away at the Prickly Potting at Romsey. *Rebutia krainziana* has neat spination and can be found with flowers in shades ranging from white to red – this one had orange flowers. *Echinocereus weinbergii* was in a 3½ inch pot and had striking pink flowers, 2 inches across. *Coryphantha elephantides* is rewarding, with every head producing yellow flowers. *Mammillaria carmenae rubriflora* produces attractive pink flowers.

A plant labelled *Gymnocalycium schatzlianum* had produced pure white flowers, but the plant's size didn't match the descriptions for that name. The flowers of *Gymnocalycium quehlianum* have a red centre at the heart of the flower. The plant puts on quite a show since the flowers last a week and open in succession. *Echinocereus rigidissimus* has spectacular magenta flowers which can be 4 to 5 inches across, but they only last a day and a half. *Astrophytum myriostigma* makes a nice plant and has yellow flowers.

After a view of the Southampton Branch stand at the 2004 Southampton Festival, the next image was in memory of Jim Roskilly's *Mammillaria perezdelarosae*. This plant, which members may remember from the branch Mini-show is no more, although Jim rescued some offsets and is starting them off again. We had seen *Ferocactus chrysacanthus* earlier in the presentation and it was now time to see it flowering in a 5 inch pot. *Notocactus leninghausii* had formed silky golden yellow flowers with a lovely reflection in the petals. Ivor mentioned that the epidermis is scarred as the flowers burst through, but it's still worth growing this plant for the spectacular flowers.

Rebutia spagazziniana produces masses of red flowers. *Selenicereus grandiflora* is popularly known as "Queen of the Night" since the flowers are huge and open at night. The scent they emit is strong and can be overpowering if several flowers are open at once, although the flowers only last

one night. The plant needs a lot of room and free run – his had grown stems 12-13ft long. *Astrophytum senilis* had a lovely yellow flower with a red centre, and *Astrophytum myriostigma* flowers were 1.5" across and pale yellow. A new view of the flowers of *Gymnocalycium quehlianum* was less dark than the image we had seen before. A picture of *Echinocereus pulchellus* was slightly off focus - but the vivid magenta flowers deserved inclusion.

Mammillaria lenta had attractive white flowers with a pink midstripe, and *Echinopsis subdenudata* had a white flower. This species has no spines so it is a "safe" plant, often sold by garden centres. A side view showed the 6 inch flower tube towering over the plant body in a 3½ inch pot. Like most *Echinopsis*, the flowers only last a day or so. *Lobivia densipina* had formed nice multi-petalled white flowers. *Mammillaria theresae* was flowering well in 3.5" pot and it has lilac flowers which dwarfed the plant body. Then we saw *Oxalis carnosa*, and a picture of the same species from Gordon Rowley's book showing the roots growing over a piece of stone.

Lithops salicola has white flowers but can go a bit soft with overwatering, so care is required. *Lithops karasmontana* also has white flowers. Next was a view of a 24" pan from the National Show - the pan contained over 100 different types of *Lithops*. Also from the National Show, there was a fantastic themed collection of *Haworthias*, a cristate *Ariocarpus retusus* and a class of three choice cacti.

Lithops bromfieldii v. *insularis* cv. *sulphurea* is one of the green-bodied types. *Dinteranthus vanzylii* has yellow flowers and is closely related to *Lithops* but has a larger body. *Lithops karasmontana* ssp. *bella* was covered in a dozen white flowers, which completely obscured the plant bodies. Next we saw a couple of pictures of Peter Down's collection, which were taken during an Open Day. These featured several plants, including *Echinocactus grusonii* and *Uebelmannia pectinifera*. A hover fly was taking a rest on the silky yellow flower of an *Astrophytum ornatum*, and a photo of *Echinocereus rigidissimus* taken on the lawn featured the deep magenta flowers; Ivor thought his camera coped better with the shiny petals in natural light.

Rebutia narvaecensis was covered in pink flowers and there was a nice top view of the grey rosette of a *Dudleya pulverulenta*. Next we saw some

plants from one of the Portsmouth shows. *Haworthia truncata* was in a bowl a foot across., there was a *Ferocactus* in bud, a large specimen of *Mammillaria theresae* from Maggie Maddock, the best one he's ever seen, (in a 8-10" pan) and *Ariocarpus fissuratus* in flower. The featured *Euphorbia cylindrifolia* had died but he had rooted a few cuttings. A close up of the crown of a *Denmoza* showed a thin flower emerging between spines. Ivor's plant of *Ferocactus wislizenii* is now 20-24" tall and 20" across. The plant had flowered, and the yellow buds opened to reveal flowers which were yellow with a red centre.

Echinocereus brandegeei has to get to 10" or more before it will flower. Although an untidy plant, it has showy magenta flowers with red centres. Ivor finished off his talk with picture of a spider on the wall of his shed, taken while practising close-up photography.

Paul Klaassen

After the break, Paul Klaassen took us through an auto slideshow of a section of his trip to Chile last October. He mentioned that he had between 5000 to 8000 images on his laptop. Despite this overwhelming number of pictures, he said it was very easy to handle this on a computer compared to a normal projector. Paul mentioned that on this trip he was trying out his Nikon D70 camera. This digital camera is one of the few capable of using SLR lenses and it had a 6 Megapixel (3000 x 2000) resolution.

We started off with a GPS reading which showed an altitude of just under 3000 metres; Paul mentioned they were at San Pedros de Atacama. They found numbers of *Opuntia (Cumulopuntia) ignescens* in the area. Bakeberg had split these into a dozen or so species depending on spine colour, but they all the same thing. He also saw *Oreocereus varicolor (Arequipa leucotricha)*. They found a couple of plants in flower and collected one fruit. Some of the team were suffering from the altitude - one of the local remedies suggested for this was to chew cocoa leaves. In response to a question from the audience, Paul said he hadn't seen any wildlife on this trip, but had seen llamas before.

Trichocereus atacamensis is called *T. pasacana* on the other side of border. The plants are a source of wood and all the local plants seem to be used up. Peter mentioned that on one of his trips he had seen a church where the pews were

made from this wood. We also some pictures of two Belgians who were cycling through the desert at this altitude!

A few pictures showed the road from San Pedro to El Tatio, a famous tourist attraction with geysers and volcanos, about 35 miles away. Visiting at the break of sunlight gives the best views of the eerie landscape and the steam. At Cuesta del Diablo, they came across more examples of *Opuntia ignescens*. These plants are referred to as “sleeping sheep” because of their appearance on the hillsides when viewed from a distance. They also saw a type of alpine grass growing on the slopes – the grass was exactly the same colour as the *Opuntia*’s spination. The *Opuntia* fruits were watery at other places and harder/drier at others. Since they were only at each locality for only ½ hour or so, there was no chance to explore whether this was due to the time the fruit had been on the plant or some other factor. Another *Opuntia* which they found here was *Maihueiopsis conoidea* – this had much smaller pads.

Paul mentioned that he had taken his laptop with him, so he could download the pictures from his camera and view them each evening. This was another advantage over conventional photography and if there were any which had not come out properly, it would be possible to go back the next day.

As they went higher, the *Opuntias* were fewer and the grass became more abundant. They also found a plant which looked like an *Anacampteros*. Paul was aware that *Anacampteros kurtzii* had been found across the border in 1990 by Roberto Kiesling - and he wondered whether this was the same plant. After some research and exchange of photos, the identity of the mystery alpine came from a Chilean botanist who had been sent the images by Roberto Kiesling in Argentina and was confirmed by Nigel Taylor at Kew. The plant is *Pycnophyllum macropetalum*, in the plant family Caryophyllaceae which includes such familiar garden plants as dianthus and the carnation. It is therefore an excellent example of parallel evolution. They also came across *Soehrensia uebelmanniana* (now called *Echinopsis formosa*), although not in great numbers. The plant had yellow flowers with red tips

Paul mentioned that because of the development of new roads, the only reliable location of sites is by GPS readings. One of the final images showed a signpost marked El Tatio and Puritama (Hot

Springs). There’s a charge of £5 to see the latter but Paul said this was best avoided since there were more impressive views around the area.

Mark Jakins

Mark started his talk by asking how many of the audience owned a digital camera. A majority raised their hands, and only three or four people admitted that they didn’t own one.

Mark stated that Ivor had hit upon a crucial point earlier in the evening when he had commented that sometimes you can’t get close enough to objects. He said the only alternative is to get an SLR, such as the offerings from Nikon or Canon. Paul mentioned that the Nikon he was given on trial could focus down to 2cm. Mark also mentioned that when using a digital camera, it was essential to have a set or two of spare batteries. Paul said his Nikon used lithium-ion batteries and could take 400-500 photos on a single charge.

In Mark’s view, the standard non-SLR digital cameras are best for taking pictures at parties. He went to a website to try and choose a model and was asked whether he wanted a “Cool and Flashy” or “Boring and Square” model and “How much do you want to pay?” He didn’t find these type of questions to be very helpful!

Mark also held up a magazine which he said was useless. The close focus column was marked in metres, which rather gave the game away. In reality, many digital cameras can manage to focus down to somewhere between 2cm to 15cm, but it’s worth checking the exact specification. Most of the models with zoom capability are designed to pick out objects at a distance - macro lenses cost money and are therefore not built in.

Because of the difficult of focussing, Mark said he tends to take several pictures of an object and hopes for 2-3 good ones. However, the ease with which you can take lots of shots does mean there is a now a new nightmare, of having too many images! Although there are many software packages on the market claiming to help index your images, in practice most are not very helpful.

One thing which he found useful was to create “links” from one master photo to different directories. This allowed him to have one picture appear in several different categories. However, he did discover that there are limits to the length of filenames and to the number of directory levels

allowed by Windows and CD file systems. Modern DVD players can play back CDs or DVDs containing images, so it is now possible to put the images on a disc and sit back in bed, watching cacti go by on the TV!

In his view, 2 megapixel resolution exceeds that of a computer screen and is adequate for home use. Paul mentioned that one advantage of the higher resolutions was that you can zoom into a particular area of a photo and can still get good detail.

Mark spent a few moments illustrating the technique of dithering, which is the technique whereby a computer program attempts to predict/extrapolate the colours of cells by examining neighbouring cells. This tends to occur when one tries to view an image at different resolutions.

Mark then started a discussion on picture formats and stated that the same image, stored in different formats took up different amounts of space on the computer disk. Formats such as *bmp* or *tiff* use large amounts of disk space but they store all the information from the original image. Formats such as *gif* or *jpeg* examine the image for similar patterns and store an approximation to the actual image – they take up much less space on the disk, but some detail from the original picture has been lost. In most cases this will not be noticeable to the casual observer, but if one edits the same picture several times, then the loss of quality or detail may eventually become apparent. Therefore, if one intends to perform several edits on a picture, it is advisable to store it in *bmp* or *tiff* formats and only convert to *jpeg* at the end, after the final edit.

Mark concluded by saying that the best thing offered by digital photography for him was that it had simplified matters. Instead of taking a few photos and waiting for the results after processing, he could now check the results immediately and could organise the images on his computer in any way he wanted.

I think everyone present enjoyed the evening and the variety of the presentations. The quality of the projector was excellent, and if anyone had doubts about digital images not matching up to conventional slides, I think they may have been surprised. It seems that many of our members now own digital cameras, so hopefully the evening will have inspired them to go out and take a few more pictures. Apologies are due to

Richard White and Derek Prior because we did not have time to view the digital images they had brought along, but I think it's likely that we will hold more "digital" evenings in the future, so hopefully we will get to see their pictures at some point.

Vinay Shah

Table Show – January

These are the winning entries in the January table show.

	Cacti – Neoporeria & Copiapoa Group	Succulents – Adromischus Subgroup
Open	(1) B Beckerleg Copiapoa uhligiana	(1) B Beckerleg C. mesembryanthemopsis
	(2) J Roskilly Neoporeria sp.	(2) J Roskilly Crassula sp.
	(3) P Clemow N. wagenknechtii	(3) -
Intermediate	(1) B Beckerleg Copiapoa cinerea	(1) J Roskilly Tylecodon minima
	(2) P Clemow Neoporeria nidus	(2) B Beckerleg C. susannae
	(3) -	(3) P Clemow C. cv. 'Jade Necklace'

Ivor Biddlecombe

Branch Committee Meeting

A committee meeting was held on January 17th.

The branch meeting held earlier in the month (on January 4th) was discussed. The idea of using a digital projector had worked out very well, and the meeting was considered to have been a success. It was felt that this type of meeting should be held every year. The branch has considered buying a digital projector, but it's probably worth waiting a year or two to let prices settle down.

The Commemorative CD produced in December has been well received – copies were given to all branch members, and also forwarded to branches whose members had attended the Convention last March. We had produced 100 discs and only 6 remained.

The Spring Flower and Garden Show will take place at Broadlands over the Easter weekend. Unlike previous years, the show will run for three days (Saturday through to Monday). We will again host “Prickly Potting” sessions, and have been asked to cater for up to 500 children.

The possibility of getting some Branch lapel badges made was discussed. It was felt that we did not require any significant changes from the previous design. A quality brass/enamel badge could be obtained for under £2 if sufficient quantities were ordered.

Reports in the local news indicated that the Southampton Festival had been cancelled. [In fact, a few days after the branch meeting, we learnt that the Festival has been re-instated and there will be a horticultural marquee after all.]

The open days that have been held by members in recent years were felt to be a good idea worth continuing. If anyone wants to organise an open day during the summer, please let one of the committee know.

Vinay Shah

Snippets

Plants Sprout Messages

Ever wanted to say "I love you" and never found the words? Well now you can buy a plant that says it for you.

Two Japanese manufacturers, toy makers Tomy and Takara, have both produced bean plants which sprout to reveal a special message.

Takara said its plant was “a new type of message card to convey your feelings to your loved ones”, according to the French news agency AFP.

The gift comes with a choice of six different messages such as “Good Luck” and “I Love You” inscribed through the plant with a laser beam.

Tomy's offering features beans set in a white egg which “hatch” soon after they are put in water. The plants have a message in French on one side, and a message in Japanese on the other.

“You can have the fun of fortune telling, as you don't know what message will come out until the bean sprouts,” Tomy told AFP.

Both plants will be on sale in February.

BBC Website

Up and coming Conventions & Marts

13 March 2005

Basingstoke/Reading Convention and Mini Mart, Viables Craft Centre, Harrow Way, Basingstoke. Graham Charles (Highlights of Brazil), Jon Miller (Mexico, tbc), Terry Smale (Winter growing succulents from the Cape). £10

20 March 2005

Edenbridge Cactus Mart
Crockham Hill Village Hall, nr Edenbridge, Kent. (10:00-3:30). Sale of cacti, succulents, minerals, fossils, books, refreshments. ~ around 10 nurseries. Free entry.

17 April 2005

Zone 9 Convention - Hardwicke
Talks by Suzanne & Tony Mace (More Mad Dogs and Englishmen), David Rushforth (Growing the Impossible) and Sheila Collenette (Travels in Jabal Qahar). Admission £10.

25 June 2005

Zone 9 Cactus Mart
The Neeld Hall, Chippenham, Wiltshire. (10:00am to 4:00pm). Free entry

Next Month's Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on 1st March, and will feature a talk from David Lambie, on "Cacti, North to South". I presume that this will discuss the cacti of North and South America.

The March table Show will consist of the **Rebutia** group (cacti) and the **Echeveria** subgroup (succulents). Please note that members are allowed to submit more than one entry in any of the classes, and that points will be earned for each placed entry.

The Rebutia group includes *Rebutia*, *Aylosteria*, *Cintia*, *Cylindrorebutia*, *Digitorebutia*, *Mediolobivia*, *Neorebutia*, *Setirebutia*, *Sulcorebutia* and *Weingartia*.

The Echeveria subgroup includes *Echeveria*, *Cremnophila*, *Dudleya*, *Graptopetalum*, *Hasseanthus*, *Oliveranthus*, *Pachyphytum*, *Stylophyllum*, *Tacitus*, *Thompsonella* and *Urbinia*.

Forthcoming Events

Fri 18 th	Feb	Isle of Wight	Branch Quiz and Members' Talk
Sat 19 th	Feb	Portsmouth	"Stones of the Desert" – Jonathan Clark
Tue 1 st	Mar	Southampton	"Cacti, North to South" – David Lambie
Sun 13 th	Mar	Basingstoke	Convention & Mini-Mart @ Viables Craft Centre, Basingstoke
Mon 14 th	Mar	Southampton	Branch Committee Meeting
Fri 18 th	Mar	Isle of Wight	"Seed Raising" – Ian Woolnaugh
Sat 19 th	Mar	Portsmouth	"Cacti in Flower" – Ian Woolnaugh
Sun 20 th	Mar	Edenbridge	Cactus Mart @ Crockham Hill Village Hall, nr. Edenbridge
Sat 26 th	Mar	Romsey	Spring Flower & Garden Show, Broadlands, Romsey
Mon 28 th	Mar		
Tue 5 th	Apr	Southampton	"Interesting Haworthias" – Stirling Baker
Fri 15 th	Apr	Isle of Wight	"Mesembryanthemums" – Eddy Harris
Sat 16 th	Apr	Portsmouth	Bring & Buy Sale

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