

British Cactus & Succulent Society

Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

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Editorial

The weather in July seems to be have been a continuation of what we had in June – some sun, a little bit of rain but not really representative of a summer. Indeed I've only had to water the plants in the conservatory once a week. A few cacti have continued to carry on flowering from last month, producing the odd bloom here and there. Some Aloes and Haworthias are also in flower.

Announcements

There will be a **change of speaker** next month - Jonathan Clark is no longer available on the 2nd. Fortunately Tony Mace is able to visit us, so the November talk on Cerei will be brought forward to September, and Jonathan's talk on the Canaries will move to November.

The **Branch Dinner** at the Luzborough went well, with 13 people attending. We were again fortunate to be seated in the conservatory area. The service was fast and the prices were fairly reasonable, working out at around £15 per head. I think everyone who came enjoyed the evening.

The branch has participated in two Shows during the last month. From all accounts, the **Solent Fuschia Society Show** was worth attending, and Margaret

has provided a write-up (see Snippets section). Our participation at the **New Forest Show** was also a success. Although I believe plant sales were not as good as in previous years, we did manage to sell off many of the young plants left over from prickly potting, and the weather was considerably better than last year's mud bath!

The **BCSS National Show** is held every four years and it's now only a week and a half away. It is a chance to see some fairly amazing plants (the best in the country!) and there is usually also a very good selection of plants for sale. A number of branch members are likely to be going up to see the Show in Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire, so if you were thinking of going but don't have any transport, then please check with one of the committee. Also, if you are intending to buy the new **Echeveria book** by John Pilbeam, these will be on sale at the National for £38, saving £5 on postage. If you can't make the Show, then have a word with David Neville, he may be able to bring a copy back for you.

The new version of the **branch badge** is finally available! It's made from hard enamel and is plated in gold, and if you wander up to the front table, you'll see that it looks quite nice. I am sure that after seeing it, you'll feel an immediate need to buy one for everyone you know. The badges are priced at £2.00 for one, or £3.50 for two and will be available from me during the mid-meeting break.

Also on the front table is a list of **books** being sold off by **Craig Olive**, a member from Brighton branch. If there's anything in the list that you are interested in, please let me know and I can enquire on the item's availability and postage costs.

Last Month's Meeting

Plants of Interest

Peter Down started off *Plants of Interest* by mentioning that a couple of years ago, he was wandering around a nursery in Holland and he saw a small grafted plant which looked like a little caterpillar with an areole! It was only 1/8 inch wide

by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long but he decided to buy it. The plant was actually the newly discovered *Astrophytum caput-medusae*. This is a very strange plant with no ribs and numerous twisting stems. The little plant had now grown into a decent plant, with a fine mottled pattern on the stems. It is quite unlike any other *Astrophytum* in appearance, but the flowers and fruit are similar.

Jim Roskilly had brought along a photograph of a bee orchid which had decided to grow amongst a patch of grass in Bitterne. The council's grass cutter had also noticed it and had taken extreme care to cut around the plant!

Ivor Biddlecombe had brought along some hardy plants. The first was *Drosanthemum hispidum*, which he had grown from seed three years ago. The plant had survived outdoors and it now puts on a spectacular show, producing 1000s of flowers. Another mesemb (*Delosperma nubigenum*) had initially been attacked by a slug but it had also survived being left outside. It produces a good show of yellow flowers. Ivor mentioned that these plants were probably best grown near a wall or somewhere where there is some protection from hard frosts.

Echeveria glauca was a plant which he did not think was hardy. He had two plants with around 20 heads, and one was put inside the greenhouse and the other was left outside. The one inside hadn't fared very well – it had dried out and was half dead, whereas the one growing outside had grown over a 100 heads and was in full flower. (It produces red/yellow flowers.) David Neville mentioned that a plant of this which Ivor had given him 3 years ago had also done well.

Crassula sarcocaulon produces hundreds of little flowers. The plant on display was a small cutting from the parent plant which Ivor said was over two feet tall. He mentioned that he took the plant to the New Forest Show last year, and it stank the car out – although the tiny flowers are scented, it's not a pleasant scent!

Another mesemb worth growing is *Bergeranthus scapiger*. The flowers open in the evenings and the plant in his garden has been in flower for 3 months, having produced 20 blooms at its peak. The flowers are an inch across and bright yellow.

Peter Down mentioned that he was down in Cornwall a couple of weeks earlier, and he had seen lots of naturalised plants of *Carpobrotus edulis* which produces masses of pink/magenta flowers in the summer months.

Sedum spathifolium is another plant worth growing. It produces masses of star-shaped yellow flowers. Sempervivums are one of his favourites and he has around a hundred different types. He has recently made a 6 foot by 2 foot concrete table for these. Hybrids are available in a wide range of leaf colours, ranging from green, red, purple, to almost black varieties.

Ivor ended by pointing to a trayful of *Opuntia* pads for the audience to help themselves to – I believe they were pieces of *Opuntia* (*Tephrocactus*) *papyracantha* which can sometimes separate into pieces when moved since the joints between each pad are rather small. David Neville said that giving the plant a drink of water before moving it would reduce the chances of it falling apart.

Unusual Cacti

Peter introduced Stirling Baker, from Essex. Stirling mentioned that most people think about him as a Haworthia man (and he has quite a few of those) but today he was going to talk about cacti.

One of the important points he highlighted at the start was that he has stopped using soil to grow the majority of his plants. Instead he uses Akadama, which is a baked clay used by many bonsai growers. He uses 3 parts of Akadama to 2 parts of hard pumice and 1 of soft pumice. He sieves the mixture and also top dresses with Akadama. He also grows the plants in special pots with a curved profile, which he obtains from Japan. In the bottom of the pot, he places a disc of fibre or mesh to keep the mixture from falling out through the holes.

He mentioned that this material is fantastic for the plant's roots. As you water, air is taken down with the water and this means the plants develop really good root systems. It is expensive and some people use cat litter as an alternative, but that decomposes quickly whereas Akadama lasts 5 years. (The cost varies at different bonsai nurseries but tends to be around £8-£10 per 14 litre bag). If it's good enough for use with thousand pound bonsais, he considered it was OK for his plants. There are no nutrients in the potting mix, so feeding is necessary. From April through to the end of August he uses Chempak "Cactus and Succulent" fertiliser. [Ed - This is sold in 100g tubs for £2, but he might have meant Chempak no. 8 which is a similar formulation and is sold in larger 800g boxes for £4]. He doesn't use any other feeds. One other advantage of using this inert growing medium is that you do not tend to get any bugs. Depending on weather conditions, the

plants need to be watered from once a week to once every fortnight.

Stirling then proceeded to show us the collection of plants which he had brought along. He stated that he liked plants with big spines, and must be a masochist - he claimed he liked to have his hands ripped by the spines and found this stimulating!

He mentioned that he grows some things which are quite difficult to grow, and we started with several examples of *Echinocactus horizonthalonius*, including some cultivars developed in the Far East.

The first was a variegated plant on a graft, and the last time he saw it on the Internet, it was priced at £300. Stirling mentioned that the Japanese, Indians and Thais like variegated plants and will pay a high price for them. They also like to exhibit these in their shows, whereas in this country variegated plants are sometimes looked down upon. *E. horizonthalonius* comes from near the 'Big Bend' area of Texas and they are very slow growing - a 5 to 6 inch plant might be 30 years old. They are also notorious for shrinking back after they get to a certain size.

Next we saw another Japanese variety on a graft, a cultivar with nice spination. These varieties have fancy names which are quite hard to pronounce, so he said he wouldn't even try. Next was a grafted dark green bodied plant with black spines, the latter being a rare characteristic for this species. He mentioned that he walked past it and accidentally knocked off the top part. It was November and not the best time for something like this to happen to a grafted plant! Anyway Tony Roberts (of Dartford) redid the graft for him and it has survived the incident. The next two plants were of the same species and showed some variation in spination. The first had flowered on its own roots, and the second had formed 9 flowers and he had also been able to set some seed on it. Another *E. horizonthalonius* seedling was 5" across and the roots were growing out of the base of the pot. He showed a couple more forms, grown from seed collected from the Big Bend and from Durango.

At this point David Neville asked Stirling how he transferred a plant growing in normal compost to his Akadama mix. Stirling said that he washed as much of the soil off as he could. If this proved impossible, then he would try growing the plant in a mix of silver sand, vermiculite, multipurpose compost and Kyodama (a volcanic based grit) for a year or so and then move it over. There are some nurseries who grow plants in pure peat and he just wouldn't bother

with these plants since if you tried to take the soil off, you'd also lose most of the roots. He admitted that the Akadama mix would not be suitable for caudiciforms or something like Testudinaria - it would cost a fortune.

A couple of other plants in this group which he likes are *Echinocactus polycephalus* which has bright red spines on the new growth but painfully slow, and var. *xeranthemoides* which has straighter spines. Stirling said that plants of this in habitat don't tend to look as nice as the ones in cultivation.

Next was *Lophophora diffusa* (crystate). Sometimes it grows very red and judges tend to mark it down but he thought this was a natural trait of the plant. A clump of *Lophophora fricii* had just started to offset. The new growths emerge through the epidermis, reminding him of the movie 'Alien'! This plant had a bluish epidermis. The next plant was the same species but had a greenish body. Both plants were being grown in the same conditions in his greenhouse, and he stated that there were green clones and blue clones. So the next time you see someone else's plants and think they're not growing them right, bear in mind that there are different clones which have different growth habits.

He mentioned that a Mr. Makiyoto in Japan grows nothing except Lophophoras in a greenhouse the size of our meeting hall. Bob Wilson from Southend also has a benchful of them, in all colours and sizes and shapes. There was a time when these plants were thought difficult to grow, but for some reason this doesn't seem to be the case these days. The plants do need a fair amount of water and the only other issue they suffer from is red spider, which can be quite a pest.

We then moved on to Copiapoa. He pulled out a beautiful white bodied plant with dark spines. A seller in Thailand claims to have a partner in Chile who propagates the plants in a nursery, but there was no doubt that it was a habitat plant. Although there are literally millions of these plants in Chile, it was wrong to go and collect plants from habitat. He also showed another Copiapoa which was 30 years old, and mentioned there were blue and green bodied variants, but plants raised from seed in cultivation just do not attain the colouring of the habitat plants. Part of this may be due to the harsh climate in Chile - although plants get moisture from the sea mists, there are regions which may only see rain once in a decade.

Next was the monotypic *Rimacactus laui* which is now considered an Eriosyce. He had obtained it

from a nursery in Holland, and others who had purchased it at the same time had found it difficult to keep the plants going. It was on a graft and had formed fantastic flowers this year. In habitat it tends to grow in rock crevices, and David Neville said it was a very difficult plant to grow.

Navajoa peeblesiana (now considered a *Pediocactus*) forms fantastic spines and he didn't know how the flowers managed to emerge from amongst them. If grown on a graft, it can become multi-headed and this looks unnatural. He mentioned that there are lots of different type of grafting stock around, and although he's not an expert, he had heard that some stocks can enhance the spination of the scion.

Next he pulled out a *Gymnocalyium* with wonderful spines. It was coming into flower, and the new spines were a dark red colour. He mentioned he would like to more examples of this type, but can't get hold of it. David Neville asked whether he grew his South American cacti in the same mix as the North American plants, and Stirling said yes, and his *Gymnos* loved it. The softer pumice is acidic and this may help. *G. ferrarii* had grown to quite a large size. His example of *G. spagazzinii* was a slow growing clone from Graham Charles but it was doing really well, and he doubted that it would have grown as well in normal compost.

Islayas are slower growing than their relatives, the *Neoporteria*s. The flowers are fantastic and you also get the bonus of pink seed pods on top. *Islaya grandis* forms red flowers. His plant was grafted although it looked much the same as one growing on its own roots. The plant was 20 years old and a *Neoporteria multicolor* of the same age would be much bigger. The other *Islaya* he showed was *Islaya copiapoides* v. *chalaensis* which forms yellow flowers.

The final plant shown before the break was *Pyrrhocactus megliolii*. David Neville said this was very rare and he had never seen an example on the show bench. The plant was offsetting at the areoles and Stirling said it forms pink flowers.

After the break we saw *Pediocactus simpsonii*. It had flowered its head off, and more flowers were due. He also likes *Sclerocactus* but just can't get near them due to the spines! Some of them also need to be grafted to do well. A plant which just refuses to stand up is *Austrocactus patagonicus*. In habitat it probably likes to hang over cliffs. It was about to form its third flower, these are red and fairly large.

We then moved to some *Ariocarpus*. He likes *Ariocarpus scabrostrus* – the plant was on its own roots and offsetting well, although David Neville thought it might have been on a graft at some stage. *Ariocarpus retusus* was also on its own roots – the plants grow a little flatter than if they are on grafts. This plant was in a small pot 5 years ago, so one can move them along, given the right care and feeding. With some of the varieties, there is wool on the ends of the areoles, and the flowers are darker pink and look like a water lily.

Uebelmannias tend to need a lot of warmth, and the plant he showed was *U. buiningii* which is very rare. The plant was 10 years old, and had a nice purple look to it but was still in a fairly small pot. *U. pectinifera* and *U. flavispina* are quicker growing by comparison.

He also liked to grow *Discocactus*. When they mature, they produce a cephalium on top of the body, and the flowers emerge from that. With something like a *Melocactus*, once the cephalium forms, the main plant stops growing and only the cephalium continues to grow. This can cause a problem – the plant won't need repotting but they become touchier. With *Discocactus*, the plant body continues to grow even after the cephalium forms, so there's no need to change the plant's cultivation. *Discocactus crystallophilus* was one of the plants he showed. These must have heat – but otherwise he found them no more difficult than *Melocactus*.

The final group of plants he wanted to cover was *Astrophytum*. First was an *Astrophytum myriostigma* which he had obtained from Southfields. The plant looked superb, but he mentioned that it can be really annoying when they spoil their symmetry by throwing out an extra rib. For top dressing, he had used black pumice. This sets off the plants well, and it looks good against the whitish bodies. He mentioned that he was not a fan of limestone chippings in the compost – it won't change the compost's pH unless it's wet. He did try it for *Ariocarpus* but they didn't like it. What he does do for chalk loving plants is to occasionally water them separately, using a handful of gypsum mixed into their water. This may not be necessary down here in the South since we tend to have a lot of chalk in our water.

Next was a 4-headed *A. myriostigma* "Onzuka". Perhaps it had been damaged when it was a seedling? This was followed by *A. asterias* "Super Kabuto". Some people reckon this is a hybrid, but it has been found in habitat. They have of course been selectively bred to improve their characteristics. He

and David started a discussion on cultivars and David suggested that any form which is not distinctive enough to be a variety can be considered a cultivar.

We saw more varieties of *A. asterias*. One of the plants was nicknamed “Starshape” and another one form tended to grow reddish flowers. There was also another one with a lovely formation of ribs. The plants are fussy and sometimes they can die at the drop of a hat, so if you lose an *Astrophytum asterias* you are not necessarily a bad grower! In the wild, one used to find *A. asterias* up to 10 inches across.

Next was another *A. myriostigma* “Onzuka”. Stirling mentioned that one has to take care with the watering – if you overwater them, they can easily split and the plant is then scarred for life. Some of them also get marked at the base as they age. The bodies of some of the varieties are covered with white floccs which can come off if you rub the surface. “Snowflake” was a hybrid of *A. myriostigma* and *A. asterias*. There are also three-ribbed ones, and you can even get two-ribbed or one ribbed plants. Next was a variegated *Astrophytum*. It had some brown marks on the body and Stirling admitted he didn’t know how that had happened. David Neville mentioned that variegated sections of a plant are more susceptible to scorch.

Cultivar “Azko” is a hybrid of *A. coahuilense* and *A. asterias*. It has red flowers. There was also a nice form of *A. ornatum*. Stirling mentioned that in the Far East, some of these plants were revered almost like prize carp. Another plant was a monstrose form, and a nudum type had flocking across the ribs. He would have bought another 30 of these, if more had been available.

Stirling ended the talk by reviewing the plants he had shown and he said that no two are identical. Even plants grown by Robert Wellens using tissue culture techniques are not the same or identical. Another example he quoted was for *Haworthia* – Bob Kent in the USA had grown a nice cultivar called Bev’s Wonder by crossing *H. badia* with *H. magnifica major*, and if the cultivar was crossed with itself, you would get some wonderful plants and others which were only fit for the dustbin.

David Neville asked Stirling whether he had considered using slow release feed? Stirling said no, and he didn’t like the idea of not knowing how much feed the plants were absorbing – he’d rather regulate this himself. He also mentioned he used rain water not tap water. And if Akadema is too expensive or hard to get, then alternatives to

investigate include Seramis, Ultrasorb or even cat litter.

Vinay Shah

Table Show Results

There were 13 entries in the table show at the July meeting.

	Cacti – Echinopsis Group	Succulents – Aloe Group
Open	(1) T Grech <i>Echinopsis kermesina</i>	(1) J Roskilly <i>Aloe erinaceae</i>
	(2) -	(2) B Beckerleg <i>Aloe inermis</i>
	(3) -	(3) J Roskilly <i>Aloe peglerae</i>
Intermediate	(1) B Beckerleg <i>Acanthocalycium spinaflorum</i>	(1) J Roskilly <i>Bulbine frutescens</i>
	(2) -	(2) J Burnay <i>Aloe peglerae</i>
	(3) -	(3) J Burnay <i>Aloe africana</i>

Ivor Biddlecombe

Branch Committee Meeting

A branch committee meeting was held at 79 Shirley Avenue on 21st July.

The branch finances remain in reasonable shape.

It look unlikely that we would recover funds from the Easter show at Broadlands, but attempts would be made to contact Roy Trickett to see what he was planning for next year. Taking part in the events he has staged over the years has been the main reason that our branch finances have strengthened over the past decade, so if he is no longer in business, we will need to find other shows to take part in.

Recent talks at Branch meetings were discussed. Dr Gillian Evison’s talk had gone down well, and the plants that Stirling Baker had brought along were some of the finest we have ever seen at a meeting.

Some of our stock of BEF pots have been sold following the mentions in recent newsletters. Terry Smale wants to buy any spare 2 inch pots left over, and it was agreed that branch members would be given one last chance to buy this size before the remaining supplies were sold to Terry.

The branch library will be getting the new Echeveria book.

David Neville has started to compile the 2009 Programme, and there was some discussion of possible speakers for next year. Recommendations from Branch members would be welcome.

A final proof of the design for the branch badge had been received from the manufacturer and considered acceptable, so payment had been sent to them. Supplies of the badges were expected in 2-3 weeks.

Vinay Shah

Snippets

Any suggestions for the 2009 branch programme?

We are already over halfway through our programme of speakers for 2008, and it will soon be time to start thinking about which speakers to book for next year's programme!

As Margaret Corina already has enough work on her plate as Branch Secretary and Treasurer (!), I have the dubious honour of compiling the annual programme of talks and booking the speakers, in an effort to alleviate slightly the workload that Margaret undertakes on our behalf.

Whilst compiling this year's programme I tried to make a point of booking some speakers who are new to the branch, to choose some talks with topics that have not been covered at branch meetings for some time, and to try to ensure that at least some of the talks would be accompanied by live plants instead of the always interesting but sometimes soporific projector show. The last 3 months meetings at the branch have been very successful and popular with members: Stuart Riley's grafting talk is always interesting and informative; Gillian Evison's Euphorbia talk was one of the best I have heard on this large and popular genus, and we received a lot of excellent feedback from the members as a result of her talk; and I am sure everyone enjoyed Stirling Baker's jovial and

entertaining narrative on unusual cacti last month, when he brought along with him some of the finest plants you are ever likely to see!

I would be delighted to hear from any of our members (and visitors to the monthly meetings) with ideas and suggestions of topics that you would like to see on next year's programme. If you let me know what you are interested in, I will do my best to find talks that cover the subject. Alternatively, if there are any speakers that you would particularly like to hear, let me know and I will try to arrange something.

With our meetings held on a weekday evening, there are of course limitations to the distance that many speakers are willing or able to travel, for most have to work and earn a living. Some members may not be aware that virtually all speakers on the cactus and succulent 'circuit' do not charge a fee for their talks, and all they ask is for their travelling expenses to be reimbursed. A few are prepared to travel a long distance, but of course they often need a bed for the night, so we are fortunate that a couple of our members are willing to provide meals and accommodation to visiting speakers.

I look forward to receiving your suggestions for next year's programme! You can tell me at the meetings, telephone me on 023 8055 1173, or email me at davnev@btopenworld.com

David Neville

[Jim Roskilly noticed the following article in the Telegraph in June.]

The Palm from a seed dating back to Herod

A date palm has been grown from a 2000-year old seed – the oldest ever germinated.

It was taken from the cliffside fortress of Masada, built by King Herod on the shores of the Dead Sea in Israel, where Jewish zealots killed themselves to avoid capture by Roman invaders in 73AD.

The seed, discovered 40 years ago during an archaeological dig, was planted in 2005. The plant has been named Methusaleh. It surpasses the previous record of 1300 years for a lotus seed.

Roger Highfield, The Telegraph, 13-Jun-08

Solent Fuschia Society Show

(at Titchfield Community Centre)

The branch was offered a space for a display and sales area at the show, which was held at the local community centre. The show was open to the public from 12.30 pm on Saturday (after judging) and from 10.00 am on Sunday. We were told that they usually have between 300 and 400 visitors. I didn't manage to get down to Titchfield on Saturday but was there for the whole of Sunday.

We were in a small hall by the side of the stage and away from the main fuchsia display. There were also displays from local branches of bonsai, orchid and pelargonium societies, and a lady selling cards and paintings.

Ivor, as usual, provided the tables and the covers and all the usual badges and so on that we use to dress the display and both he and David provided the sale and display plants.

When you consider that the weekend was the hottest in the year there were a large number of visitors. Let's face it, I wouldn't have gone out unless I had arranged something. I think this meant that some people didn't make the effort. On Sunday there was a constant trickle of people into the small hall, occasionally a 'mini-rush'! We had lots of opportunity to chat to people and managed to sell quite a lot of plants as well. All good publicity for the society and the branch, not to speak of putting some money into branch funds! (There speaks the treasurer!)

I hope we will be invited back next year. The venue is very nice; the show plants were both magnificent and fascinating. The catering was wonderful and the plant sales from the fuchsia society were fantastic. They were selling 3½ inch pots full of plant for about £1. I would recommend a visit, even if we are not there next year to say hello to you.

Margaret Corina

For Sale

I have discovered that two fans that David and I bought cannot be fitted to our conservatory. I would therefore like the space and some money for them.

They are electrically operated extractor fans for cooling. They were purchased from 2Wests and cost about £65 each.

The fans are similar to the ones in the current 2Wests catalogue but are mains rather than solar powered. They are on their website and currently cost £67.95p.

If anybody is interested in purchasing these please come and talk to me about them.

(The reason they can't be used in my conservatory is that the wall is too thick to fit the fan into.) No reasonable offer refused.

Margaret Corina

BEF Pots / Sundries

We still have stocks BEF Pots, but will selling off the 2" size to Terry Smale in the near future – if you want any of these, please let Margaret Corina know right away.

2" inch square BEF pot (black)	8p
2¾" square BEF pot (black)	15p
3½" square BEF pot (black)	25p
4" square BEF pot (black)	45p
8½" BEF pan (terracotta)	150p
Label marking pens	120p

Vinay Shah

Next Month's Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 2nd of September. As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, there is a change of speaker, and the talk will now be given by Tony Mace who talk about Cerei and columnar cacti.

The September Table Show will consist of the **Gymnocalycium Group** (cacti) and the **Emesemb Group (excluding Lithops)** (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 Gymnocalycium Group includes *Gymnocalycium*, *Brachycalycium* and *Neowerdermannia*.

The Mesemb family is large and includes over 120 genera, the names of which are listed in the Handbook of Shows. Lithops are specifically excluded, but plants belonging to the *Argyroderma*, *Cheiridopsis*, *Conophytum*, *Faucaria* and *Nananthus* subgroups are allowed. Some of the more common eligible species include: *Argyroderma*, *Gibbaeum*, *Pleiospilos*, *Cheiridopsis*, *Conophytum*, *Ophthalmophyllum*, *Faucaria*, *Glottiphyllum*, *Lampranthus*, *Trichodiadema*, *Aloinopsis*, *Fenestraria*, *Frithia*, and *Titanopsis*.

Forthcoming Events

Fri 15 th Aug	Isle of Wight	"What I Did Last Winter" – Paul Klaassen
Sat 16 th Aug	Portsmouth	No Meeting
Sat 16 th Aug	Godmanchester	BCSS National Show
Tue 2 nd Sep	Southampton	"Cerenaceae - An introduction to Columnar Cacti" - Tony Mace
Fri 19 th Sep	Isle of Wight	"My A-Z of Our Hobby – Part 2" – Bill Morris
Sat 20 th Sep	Portsmouth	"Madagascar" – Leo van der Hoeven
Sat 20 th Sep	Reading	"Colonise & Populate" – John Watmough
Mon 22 nd Sep	Southampton	Branch Committee Meeting @ 79 Shirley Avenue
Sat 4 th Oct	Portsmouth	Autumn Show @ Christ Church Hall, Widley, Waterlooville
Tue 7 th Oct	Southampton	"Beyond The Chirachuahas (Arizona)" – Doug Donaldson

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