

British Cactus & Succulent Society

Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

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Branch Secretary

David Neville
6 Parkville Road
Swaythling
Southampton
Hampshire
SO16 2JA
davnev@btopenworld.com
(023) 80551173 or
07974 191354

Newsletter Editor

Vinay Shah
29 Heathlands Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO53 1GU
vvshah@clara.co.uk
(023) 80261989

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Editorial

British summer time ended a couple of weekends ago and anyone scraping the frost off their car this morning won't have any doubts that winter is here. It probably now is time to stop watering the majority of your plants, apart from the winter growers.

I mentioned last month that Haworthias tend to look their best in the autumn and I think that continues to be the case this month. At the start of October I did find a couple of slugs had got into a corner of the conservatory and had started munching their way through some of the Haworthias - with trays of Lithops next in line! I spotted them by chance and hastily evicted them. Hopefully the onset of cold weather means that this is not something I need to worry about for a few months!

Announcements

Next month is our **Annual General Meeting**, which will be followed by an American supper. As is usual, there will be no table show, library or plant sales at the AGM. However, please do bring along some food or nibbles for the American supper. There will also be a lucky dip "bran tub" where members can exchange gifts. Further details of this are given on the back page.

Nomination forms for the 2013 Committee are available on the front table. We would like to see some new faces join the committee and there are a variety of tasks which people can help with, so if you are interested in maintaining the success of the branch, please do have a chat with a committee member

Last Month's Meeting

Plants of Interest

Ted Smith had brought along a cactus which he had been growing for 25 years – it had suddenly gone from being a normal columnar plant to becoming cristate on most of its stems. He didn't know how to handle repotting it and hope that Ben would give him some ideas.

Before the talk started, Dot mentioned that the journal *Cactus World* had featured cactus gardens in Barcelona (Els Jardins de Mossèn Costa i Llobera) which had opened after 5 years of renovation. She had been there the previous week and recommended a visit, especially as it is easy to get to Barcelona from Southampton Airport. Her husband thought it was one of the best collections he'd seen and Dot said that some of the cacti were over 200 years old. Peter Down mentioned that he had been in Valencia in June and there is also a brilliant collection at the University Botanical Gardens there - however he thought the Barcelona collection was probably better.

Conophytum

Geoff Card introduced Terry Smale who said it was rather mean of David Neville to book him to talk to the branch – and then promptly disappear for several weeks! He looked around at the audience and said that the average age was much lower than most other branches.

The title of his digital talk was the "The New Conophytum Show" – the old one consisted of slides and he may have given that talk to Southampton at some time in the past. The talk would be about the genus and his approach to growing them, followed by slides which would take a look at a representative selection of Conophytum species. There are 160 species and subspecies, there wouldn't be time to look at all of these, so he had just picked an interesting selection.

The genus Conophytum is a member of the Mesemb family, which includes Livingstone daisys, Dorotheanthus, Shrubby mesembs such as Lampranthus, and also Lithops. They grow mainly in

southern Africa. Plants like *Lampranthus* produce several set of leaves, but *Conophytums*, like *Lithops* will only produce one leaf pair per year on each stem. Just like a *Lithops*, that leaf pair is highly succulent and in the main, is fused together. Unlike *Lithops*, the lower part of the flower petals are fused into a tube. With mesembs, a lot of the classification is based on seed capsules. Most mesembs have hygroscopic seed capsules which are hard and woody, take almost a year to ripen and stay shut until it rains. The capsule opens when it rains and shuts again when dry. When it rains, the seeds get washed out. The capsules are sectioned into segments called locules. Mesembs have 4 to 20 of these sections, and for *Conophytum*, the range is 4 to 6. Some mesembs have complex seed capsules including membranes to cover the chambers, but *Conophytums* have relatively simple ones, like *Lithops*. They grow mainly in South Africa, from Cape Town to the Orange River, along the western part of South Africa, with some species growing in the southern part of Namibia.

There are different rainfall regimes in South Africa, and you can draw a line along the western edge, with summer rainfall occurring to the right, and winter rainfall to the left. The summer rainfall is dominated by the bigger weather system over the continent of Africa. All *Conophytums*, apart from a few exceptions, come from the winter rainfall area, and even the ones that are exceptions are happy to grow in the winter months. This means these plants prefer to grow in the winter and this affects how you water them – you can't treat them the same as other plants such as *Lithops* which are predominantly summer growing.

Terry said he starts watering his *Conophytums* in mid-July and they come into growth quickly. He continues watering quite well into the autumn (once a week) and reduces after October, so by December or January it's down to once every 3 weeks. In mid-February, as the greenhouses start to warm, he increases the watering and by March he is back to once a week. At the end of March he stops watering completely and the plants are then kept dry until July. He showed some pictures of the plants in different states – in November, and then after flowering. Flowering tends to start in August and goes through to November, although there are exceptions, with one species flowering at Christmas and half a dozen in the spring or summer.

They are relatively pest free but you have to be careful not to fry them – they can suffer from sunburn because the amount of light in the UK in the winter is considerably less than in South Africa, and this makes the plants a bit green and soft which then means that in March and April, hot sunny days can be damaging. He shades his *Conophytums* from April onwards and through the summer. Ventilate whenever you can, since you don't want excessive temperatures. He often gets

asked as the old leaves dry up, should you remove the sheaths? There's no cultivational reason to do so, so it's aesthetic – he does so for the larger bodied ones, but with the smaller headed ones it would just be too time consuming. Use blunt-ended tweezers for this.

In the winter, his fan heaters are set for 5°C. He and Jen once camped out at a *Conophytum* locality in South Africa in April (their autumn) and there was frost on the car windscreen in the morning. It would get even colder in the winter, so the plants don't need high temperatures when growing. A lot of his plants need repotting, and if a plant is touching the side of the pot or has been in the same soil for three years, then new soil does not come amiss. The best time to repot is in July to September, and he removes as much of the old compost and tops up with the new compost. He uses John Innes Number 2 or 3, mixed with equal amounts of 4mm crushed granite/grit (Arthur Bowers label). Mealy bug is an occasional pest and he uses Imidacloprid obtained as a commercial preparation. This used to be the active ingredient in Provado, although the latest batches use a similar but different compound and should work just as well. He uses it as a drench once a year.

He started growing in about 1985, and in those days, cuttings was all that was used so it was the same clones being passed around. September or October is the best month to take cuttings, either for propagation or to rejuvenate the plant if it is looking tired or has been damaged by sunburn. Separate the leaves – you don't need any thing more than a pair of heads, and just leave a few millimetres of stem at the bottom. There is no need to callous the plants – just stick them in the soil. He sometimes replaces the grit with perlite or Seramis or cat litter. No heat or enclosure is needed – just place the plants on the bench and water them and they should root quickly. You can also grow from seed and it's by raising from seed that you get to see the variation between them. Coming of the autumn rains and the falling temps is what triggers seeds to grow, and you don't want a lot of heat as this can inhibit germination. The seeds naturally germinate in the autumn, but if he plants them early, he gets losses from fungal attack during damp mild days, so he sows around the 1st of January when the relative humidity is lower. He gives them a bit of bottom heat. A day and night variation in temperatures is desirable, and a range of 15-20°C in the day and 8°C at night is ideal for germinating them. Seed is sown on the surface of compost and he uses 2 parts of John Innes seed compost, 1 part of perlite, and 1 part of fine 1mm sand. He uses a propagator with the lid down until he sees the seeds germinate which is usually in 7-10 days and then he allows free airflow. If sowing a smaller quantity he uses windowsills in the house – this provides ideal up and down temperatures including a cool period at night. Adult plants get a summer rest, the seedlings do not. The seedlings should be shaded in the

summer, and he keeps them watered without the dry rest. They may look dormant for a short while, but the new leaves should come through. Around 9-10 months after sowing, prick them out, and they may flower 21 months from sowing. He sells *Conophytums* to get his pocket money - early in the growing season there isn't much root on them but around October and November he sees a lot of new root when he digs out the plants.

Seed sources include the Mesemb study group, Mesa Gardens (in New Mexico, USA) or seed from your own plants. You will need 2 separate clones since most are not self-fertile. You also have to hand pollinate. He pulls hairs from his head and uses the follicle end - cat's whiskers have been used in the past but the RSPCA may object these days. Steve Hammer uses fibres from his shade netting. You need something fine and slightly sticky. His bible is Steve Hammer's book which was published 10 years ago (*Dumpling and His Wife: New Views of the Genus Conophytum*) and Steve splits the genus into 16 sections. Some *Conophytums* are very restricted, growing in an area just the size of the meeting room. Others have wide distributions with big populations. You can also get variation within and between populations. In Steve Hammer's book, a lot of things have been lumped together, so in his slides he uses the old names as cultivar names, to distinguish the nicer forms.

We started off with section **Biloba**, where the plants have quite big leaves and are distinctively lobed. It is very widespread and there were 40-50 different names in the past. *C. bilobum* v. *linearilucidum* has a transparent area below the fissure. It is early flowering (July) but others of this species flower in September. Some flowers have red stamens. *C. bilobum* ssp. *gracilistylum* grows much further south than the yellow flowered ones, on just one hill and it has pale pink flowers. In *Conophytum meyeri* the lobes are much reduced. This is widespread and variable and we saw the yellow flowered form although there are white and purple flowered varieties too. *C. chauviniae* is from the Knersvlakte and the lobes are round.

The plants in section **herreanthus** were previously assigned a different genus, *Herreanthus*. Using *C. meyeri* as an example, the main difference is that the leaves are not fused for $\frac{3}{4}$ of their length. They also have little tips on the leaves, and *C. blandum* illustrated this, although *C. regale* is an exception. There was a blister below the fissure and you could see glistening papillae. It has purple flowers and grows on just one quartz ridge. *C. marginatum* ssp. *littlewoodii* has slightly serrated leaf tips, with 2 or 3 teeth. It hasn't been seen in habitat for 20-30 years. *C. danielii* is a recent discovery (1999). It has fuzzy papillae and is named after the farmer on whose hill it grows. The hill

has unique geology with a particular iron-based rock which does not occur on any other hills in the vicinity.

Section **Wettsteinia** is quite a big group. The plants are fairly rounded and the size can vary. *C. jucundum* ssp. *ruschii* has big heads but others have tiny heads. Most of these have well inserted stamens. It is quite northerly and widespread, growing up to the Orange River. The bodies can be spotted or unspotted. *C. chrisolum* comes from a locality which is the size of our meeting room. It was discovered in 1995 by Chris Rodgeron growing as solitary plants on a little quartz ridge on a particular hill. In cultivation it does slowly bulk up and his biggest plant has 6 heads from seed sown from the original discovery. *C. bachelorum* comes from a nearby hill and flowers in the spring in May, at a time when it is not getting in any water. There is a coppery sheen to the new bodies which fades over the autumn. It was discovered by Anthony Mitchell in the 1980s. He was given a plant by Anthony (whose own plant died) so for 12 years his was the only example in cultivation. A German rediscovered the species in 2000, and seeds were collected so there are more of these plants around now.

C. schlechteri grows on just one hill called Farquharson se kop. It is quite an attractive plant with white flowers. Right up near the Orange River is *C. ernstii* - this was discovered by Ernst Van Jaarsveld, curator of the Kirstenboch Gardens. Ernst was out there showing a film crew plant habitats and he found it after coming ashore rubber dinghy. Subspecies *cerebellum* is ridged on the top and is named as a play on Peter Bruyns' surname. (= brains). In the 1970s he acquired plants called *C. taylorianum* but these were actually ssp. *ernianum* - *C. taylorianum* grows in the Namibian Sperrgebiet - the diamond area in the Southwest which hardly anyone can get into. An expedition with John Lavranos did get there in the 1980s and they brought it into cultivation. It rarely gets to 3" across whereas ssp. *ernianum* can easily get to 6 inches. *C. hanae* is another recent discovery, found by Czechs Petr Pavelka and Josef Halda. Both decided to publish the plant as *C. hanae* and *C. jarmilae* respectively but the former name takes precedence. Looking at the side, the bodies are narrow, like discs stood on end. The flowers are the pinkest of any that he knows. *C. minutum* is a southern member of the group which goes down to the Knersvlakte. The stamens are buried in the flower tube and the short yellow petals fold over the top of the plant. *C. minutum* v. *lisabeliae* has purple flowers.

Section **Minuscula** contains some tiny headed plants. *C. swanepoelianum* ssp. *proliferans* is one of the smallest. There are two groupings - the southern group is close to Cape Town and grows on Table Mountain sandstone in grit pans, with lichens nearby. The flower is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch across, the heads are just $\frac{1}{8}$ th inch. *C. minusculum* ssp.

leipoldtii is slightly larger. *C. luckhoffii* is more distinctly lobed, but the heads are still small at ¼ inch. Some of them grow in granite intrusions in between the sandstone and are hard to spot if not in flower. We saw his *C. albiflorum* with 100s of heads winning a first prize in the 2004 National Show. It now has a dead spot in the centre so he didn't enter it this year, and it needs to be re-propagated. *C. bicarinatum* is another one which grows in sandstone, the edges have 2 keels. It is only known from Skitterykhloof (which translates into diarrhoea valley). *C. turrigerum* is another granite specialist. It occurs on quite a few hills and the bodies vary considerably in size. The larger headed ones are fairly easy, but the smaller headed forms are harder to keep. With *C. bruynsii* it is hard to work out what its relationships are. It grows in the quartz in the Knersvlakte was found just a dozen years ago, and only a couple of kilometres from the main tarmac road. The bodies are plain but elongated and the flowers have short petals. After opening, the flowers stay open (most species tend to close the flower at some point of the day). It can flower at almost any time of the year - from October through to May.

In the northern group, *C. tantillum* can have white, purple or yellow flowers. *C. tantillum* ssp. *inexpectatum* has yellow flowers. *C. ectypum* ssp. *cruciatum* has square bodies with a rough surface. It is slow-growing compared to other *ectypums*. *C. irmae* was discovered by Irma Burger. (The Burger family used to own the land where *C. burgeri* was found). It is a tiny plant which here was growing in a 2" pot. *C. cubicum* was found by Petr Pavelka 12 years ago. The bodies are shaped like cubes and it has one the biggest and longest tubed flowers he knows of. *C. mirabile* is another plant found by Anthony Mitchell and not rediscovered until 2000. It has hairy bodies, which none of the other day-flowering Conophytums have.

Continuing after the mid-meeting break, plants in section **Verrucosa** have transparent warty protrusions on the body and they grow amongst quartz rocks in Bushmanland. *C. fulleri* is purple flowered. Chris Rodgeron received plants of this from John Lavranos and one clone had brownish white flowers. Terry established the name *C. fulleri* 'Chris's White' for this cultivar. *C. vanheerdei* has elongated bodies where you can see the transparent warts better. It grows on a farm called Kagnas, 30 km. east of Sprinkbok and is named after a local schoolteacher Piet van Heerde who collected it. *C. hermarium* is flat on top. *C. smorenskaduense* flowers in the UK at Christmas time. If you section it, it's the new body that is flowering. The name means "morning shadow".

In Section **Cylindrata**, 25 years ago, *C. khamibergensis* was the only member, but now *C. roodiae* and *C. reconditum* are included. *C. roodiae* is very widespread

and variable – it can be smooth or rough on top, and the bodies can be green or brown through to red. *C. roodiae* ssp. *sanguineum* has blood red bodies and Terry said "it is bloody hard to grow" as well. The normal *C. roodiae* is green and easier to grow. It is found in granite hill sites in Namaqualand where it grows amongst other Conophytums. *C. rugosum* is another difficult one to grow. It is one of the few self fertile Conophytums so it has rather small flowers since it doesn't depend on attracting insects. The seeds are easy to produce but it is very difficult to raise. If you want to keep it growing, keep separating the heads and repot them every 2-3 years. In the wild, they root as they go along. *C. reconditum* was in a 2 to 2.5" pot and it has tiny heads. It is another of Anthony Mitchell's finds. "Recondite" means hidden – although quite common in Southern Namaqualand, its small size meant it was hard to find. It is the only Conophytum species which Anthony himself described. *C. khamiesbergense* was previously in Berresfordia. It hails from the Khamisberg mountains where it can have snow on it in the winter. It has very warty leaves and is another spring (March) flowerer. There were two different plants in the pot – sometimes he grows multiple clones in the same pot.

In section **Pellucida**, *C. pellucidum* has windows on top of the plant bodies. It typically grows in grit pans or in fissures of granite rocks called "gneiss". It is multicolonial and very variables with 4 ecotypes, and one could easily give different species names to these – it is one very variable species. *C. pellucidum* v. *terricolor* has an impressed cross mark. Variety *pardicolour* is leopard spotted. The white flowers have yellow throats but there are plants near Garies with white and purple flowers in the same population. In the south east are plants with small copper coloured heads – this is ssp. *cupreatum*. At one spot (Platbakkies) you find ssp. *saurei* which has rounded bodies and pale apricot flowers. When open, the flower tubes are filled with short petals so it must have a specialised pollinator. If you overwater this, it splits. *C. lithopsoides* is difficult to separate from *C. pellucidum*. *C. lithopsoides* ssp. *boreale* has reddish bodies and is known from just one clone collected many years ago - the habitat given is unlikely and it's never been found again so it is propagated vegetatively. *C. arthurolfago* is from the south east of the pellucidum distribution. The small bodies have a quite a distinct texture and the plant is named after Arthur Tischer (Belgian) and Rolf Rawe (a South African who still sells seed).

Section **Ophthalmophyllum** used to be in its own genus – the little bracts visible at the side of the flower tubes aren't visible in any other Conophytums. The names are a bit confused. *C. friedrichiae* tends to be brown on top and the flowers can be white or purple. *C. pubescens* is green and has clear windows on the leaf tips. *C. devium* ssp. *stiriferum* is very distinctive - the name means

“icicle bearer” and you can see the small icicles on the leaves – it is one of the few Ophthalmophyllums which is easy to identify. *C. limpidum* clusters up much more than the other Ophthalmophyllums lack tannins in the sheaths – most other Conophytums have them, perhaps as protection to make themselves unpalatable to insects.

Plants from section **Subfenestrata** have windowing on the leaf tops and the plants are found in the Knersvlakte. *C. subfenestratum* grows buried in the quartz pebbles. In another region north-west of the Knersvlakte, at Riethuis, you also have quartz fields and this is where the chubby *C. concavum* is found.

Section **Cheshire-feles** is named after the Cheshire cat in “Alice in Wonderland” because the plants seem to melt away to nothing in the spring. *C. subterraneum* is the most recent discovery in this group, and it can only be seen when the plant is in flower. It was described 2002. *C. achabense* goes back to 1990 and grows on a hill called Achab se berg and it’s very small, only 1/8th inch across. Of his 4 seedlings from 1990, three were single headed and the biggest one has now got three heads - so this tends to remain solitary. *C. ratum* is another Bushmanland plant - some colonies of the plant have members which can be 2 inches across but the illustrated plant from Gamsberg only gets to one inch across. It mainly stays solitary. The same goes for *C. burgeri* - he does have one plant with 4 heads after 15 years. The land where this grows was bought by the Black Mountain mine and it grows in the valleys whereas the mine wants the hills, so in a way the mine is safeguarding the plants. The colour can be more purple than in the photo. The seeds are minute, much smaller than any other Conophytum.

Now to swap from day to night flowering plants. *C. maughanii* grows in many different forms. *C. acutum* comes from the northern Knersvlakte and has an elongated flower. Most of the night flowering ones have smaller flowers which are nearly always scented to help pollinators locate them. *C. phoeniceum* is known from one small area on the Richtersveld, and it is covered in little papillae.

Plants from section **Cataphracta** all have very white looking bodies - the colour comes from calcium oxalate crystals just beneath the epidermis. *C. calculus* looks like kidney stones – it grows in amongst the quartz pebbles in the Knersvlakte and has yellow nocturnal flowers. *C. pagae* grows right through Namaqualand and it is a very variable species which can have large or small bodies. It can have pronounced red fissures or red sides and the flowers can be large or small. At the northern part of the range, it starts developing spots on the body and this is called *C. stevens-jonesianum*.

Section **Saxetana** has some of the smallest flowers in the genus - usually 5mm or less. Most have creamy flowers, but the featured clone of *C. saxetanum* from a Namibian hill had purple flowers and a wedge shaped body. *C. hians* is quite velvety to the touch. *C. quaesitum* ssp. *densipunctum* is the largest member of the section - and if not in flower it almost resembles *C. bilobum*.

In section **Costata** the plants have ribs at the top of the plant body, and it contains just one species - *C. angelicae* which is quite widespread and variable. Subspecies *tetragonum* has a square outline. The flowers can vary from cream to dark maroon.

Section **Barbata** means bearded - and the three members of this group all have hairs on their body. *C. stephanii* ssp. *helmutii* has very dark flowers for a nocturnal flowering plant. *C. pubicalyx* has tiny heads just 2-3mm across but it does clump up quickly. For some reason snails seem to love this and they’ve eaten much of his propagation stock. *C. depressum* is almost ungrowable but *C. depressum* ssp. *perdurans* does survive in cultivation. It forms little clumps of a couple of dozen heads and has quite short hairs which lie across the body. It was hard to find in cultivation, but recent seed collections from Chris Rodgerson have germinated well and now there are seedlings of this available.

Section **Conophytum** contains the type species, *C. truncatum* and as a result, the section has the same name as the genus. *C. uviforme* grows at Strandfontein with populations so dense you couldn’t walk without stepping on them. They grow right on the cliff top and you can look around and see porpoises splashing round in the sea. The type species *C. truncatum* grows in the Little Karoo and it was the first Conophytum to be found and described. Variety “*Peersii*” is a very spotted form. *C. obcordellum* grows on the Table Mountain sandstones, north of Cape Town. It is very widespread and variable. The bodies are patterned with spots and if you go into the hills to the west then you get forms like “*Picturatum*” with deep pink bodies. To the east to Lockenberg there are pale forms with dark markings called “*Urspringianum*” and in the south west there are small headed ones which multiply quickly (“*Conspicuum*”). *C. obcordellum* v. *ceresianum* ‘*Spectabile*’ in flower has pink-white flowers which contrast the dark bodies and the scent is marvellous – the flowers smell of oil of wintergreen and he brings them into the house in the evenings. *C. comptoniae* is one of the smallest and tricky to grow but it can be one of the prettiest. *C. minimum* is found around the little Karoo and areas north. Some are green and boring but the ‘*Wittebergense*’ form has dark line markings on the bodies. People have been doing unnatural selection, to the point where there are some crosses which are almost fully black on top.

The final section was **Batrachia** which is a reference to toads since the plants have rough warty tops. *C. armanum* is named after Anthony Mitchell and it was growing in 2 inch pot with small heads, 2mm across. It is difficult to propagate and raise from seed, but once you get past one head it's becomes easier to grow.

At the end of the talk, Terry responded to questions about seeds. There was no need to freeze them and he believed they would be viable for 10 years or more. With some mesembs even fresh seed won't germinate that well. If his plants have seed pods, he leaves them on the plant for a year or so, and then harvests the seeds in December and sows in January.

Vinay Shah

For more information on growing Conophytums, visit : http://www.smale-conophytum.co.uk/grow_conos.htm

Table Show Results

There were 6 entries in the October table show.

	Cacti – 3 plants	Succulents – 3 plants
Open	(1) B Beckerleg Ariocarpus retusus Mammillaria lenta Sulco. canigueralii	(1) B Beckerleg Euphorbia mosaica Crassula suzannae Haworthia sordida
	(2) -	(2) -
	(3) -	(3) -
Intermediate	(1) B Beckerleg Rebutia heliosa Copiapoa cinerea Astrophytum sp.	(1) J Roskilly Cotyledon sp Crass. Morgan's Beauty Haworthia sp.
	(2) J Roskilly Astrophytum SuperKabuto Mammillaria candida Ferocactus sp.	(2) J Roskilly Aloe cv Lizard Lips Crassula falcata Gasteria batesiana
	(3) -	(3) -

Ivor Biddlecombe

Next Month's Meeting

Our final meeting of the year will be held on December 4th. This will be our **Annual General Meeting** followed by the **Christmas Social**. After receiving some reports from this year's Committee and appointing the Committee for next year, we'll get on with the real business of enjoying some food and drink and chatting with fellow members.

Drinks will be provided by the branch, but please do bring along some items of food for the buffet table.

There will also be a "bran tub" lucky-dip. Simply bring along a wrapped present (suggested value is £2 or thereabouts) and place it in the tub at the start of the meeting. Later in the evening you'll get a chance to take a present out of the tub.

In order to give the Committee members a chance to participate in the festivities, there will be no plant sales, sundries sales, table show or library at the December meeting. (Although Dot will be willing to accept back any library books which you wish to return).

Finally, for Committee members, a reminder that a committee meeting is due to be held on 19th November. **Please bring along your annual reports** so that these can be included in the December newsletter. Any format (handwritten, typewritten, or as a file on a floppy disk or USB stick) is acceptable. Alternatively, reports can be emailed to my email address, as shown on the front of the newsletter.

Forthcoming Events

Sat	10 th	Nov	Isle of Wight	"Cultivation; Back to Nature" – Anthony Mitchell
Sat	17 th	Nov	Portsmouth	"Hybrids etc." – Stuart Riley
Mon	19 th	Nov	Southampton	Branch Committee Meeting
Sat	1 st	Dec	Portsmouth	Annual General Meeting & Christmas Social
Tue	4 th	Dec	Southampton	AGM, followed by Christmas Social/American Supper
Sat	8 th	Dec	Isle of Wight	Annual General Meeting & American Supper

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