



# Berkhamsted and District Branch

Volume 2, Issue 1

March 2010

## Special points of interest:

- **Zone 6 Show 22 May**  
Chorleywood
- **Zone 6 Open Day 18 July**  
Northampton and MK  
Branch

## Programme May 2010 to August 2010

- 8 May Robin Alabaster  
Travels among Austral-  
asian Alpines
- 22 May **Zone 6 Show**  
**Chorleywood**
- 12 Jun Tony Roberts  
Gasterias in the Flesh
- 10 Jul Tony Mace  
Opuntias
- 18 Jul **Zone Open Day @**  
**Northampton & MK**  
**Branch**
- 14 Aug Branch Mini-Show  
Kings Langley

**Zone 6 Show**  
If you are able to help in any way please let the Secretary know as soon as possible.

## *British Cactus and Succulent Society*

### Editor's Comments

Welcome to the March 2010 Branch newsletter. I hope you and your family had a good Christmas. What a start we had to the new year, freezing temperatures and heavy snow falls. I remember the 1963 freeze and this has felt every bit as bad as it did then. Over recent years we have become accustomed to milder winters so the conditions have been doubly worrying. I hope all your plants have come through the bad weather as we look forward to a better summer in 2010 after such a hard winter.

The Branch ended 2009 with an interesting talk by Stuart Riley in November. At our usual Xmas Get-Together we were entertained with

David Minnion's films of trains. We had to postpone the AGM due to the inclement weather but did manage to complete it before the February meeting when Rodney Sims led us around the Knersvlakte.

The Branch is hosting the Zone 6 Show on 22 May and final planning for the event is well under way (see page 2 for more details).

David

Hon. Secretary



## Zone 6 Show 2010

**Saturday 22 May 2010**  
**Chorleywood War Memorial Hall**  
**Chorleywood**  
**Hertfordshire WD3 5LN**



**We hosted a successful Convention in 2006 and Open Day in 2008.**

**This will be the last Zone event we will be hosting until 2014 so lets make sure we go out on a high note.**

**A good balance of Cacti and Other Succulents will be provided by the trade stands and there will also be the opportunity to purchase that book you've always wanted from Keith Larkin. Keith will take orders and bring them on the day if requested.**

**Please give your support :-**

- **On the day of the Show**
- **With Donations of food, e.g. cakes etc.**
- **By Donating Raffle prizes**

The Branch will be hosting this year's Zone 6 Show and the Committee continues to plan for the event. Please make a note of the date in your diary.

The programme for the day will be as follows: -

- Hall opens at 9AM.
- Exhibits to be staged between 9AM and 10.45AM.
- Judging from 11AM onwards.
- Open to public 11AM to 4.30PM
- Presentations to be made at 4PM.
- Removal of exhibits 4.30PM to 5.30PM.

**Plant Sales by: -**

- **Toobees (Bob Potter)**
- **Plantlife (Stuart Riley)**
- **Book Sales (Keith Larkin)**

The Committee will be extremely grateful for all possible help setting up on the Friday evening and on the day itself. In addition, any raffle prizes and donations towards the catering for the event will be most welcome, e.g. home-made cakes etc. This is an opportunity for the Branch to gain much needed funds and help to secure our long-term financial prosperity.

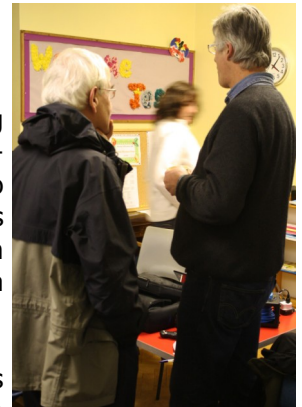
If you are able to help in any way please let the Secretary know as soon as possible as this will greatly help us in our planning.

**Your support would be greatly appreciated and in so doing you will be helping the Branch to deliver a successful, enjoyable and entertaining event.**



## November Meeting

Stuart Riley of Plantlife Nursery gave us an interesting talk about 'Agaves, Aeoniums and Haworthias', with special reference to variegated plants. It was pleasing to see that Stuart brought along a selection of the plants he was talking about and they made a good combination with his 'digi' presentation. I felt we all learned quite a lot from the afternoon.



Tina Wardhaugh from Northampton and Milton Keynes Branch visited us and a potential new member came along for the first time.

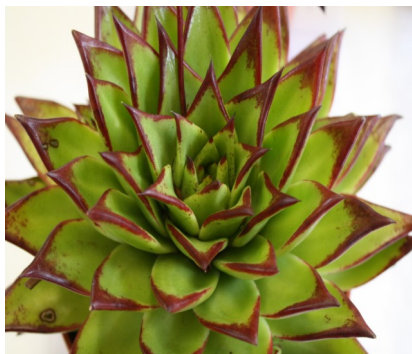
## Xmas Get-Together

Branch members will fondly remember David Minnion's entertaining film shows that included unseen Walt Disney footage. Over the years he has taken us to many interesting locations.

David has had a life-long interest in trains, especially steam trains. Something many of us grew up with and of which we have fond memories. It was pleasing therefore, to spend an afternoon reliving old memories and we should be extremely grateful to David for kindly agreeing to give us the film show.



## Annual General Meeting



Due to the inclement weather the AGM did not take place on Saturday 9th January but was held before the February meeting instead. The Treasurer presented the audited accounts and the Secretary looked back over a reasonably successful 2009 with a slight increase in attendances over the year.

Interest income on the COIF savings account is currently 75% down on a year ago and this was the primary reason for the small operating loss. Hall charges were increased last year but speaker costs were down.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their continuing support of the Branch and the Committee.

## February Meeting

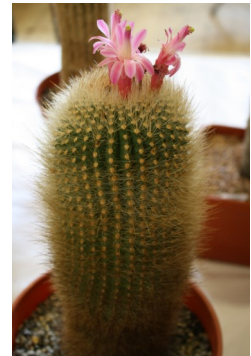
After the Annual General Meeting we were entertained by our Chairman, Rodney Sims who took us on a guided tour around the Knersvlakte using a 'digi' presentation. In the process we saw many interesting mesembs. and other succulents, plus various bulbs and other flora.

We were also happy to see Derek Tribble at our meeting who added additional perspectives on the plants. Derek will be back at the Branch in August to judge our mini-show and to talk about the plants.

## Table Shows 2009

The Table Shows in 2009 had many well grown and interesting plants on display. It would be nice to have more plants in the table shows in 2010. The overall result of the table shows for 2009 is as follows:-

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1st place | David Latham |
| 2nd place | Gill Wilson  |
| 3rd place | Julian Cooke |



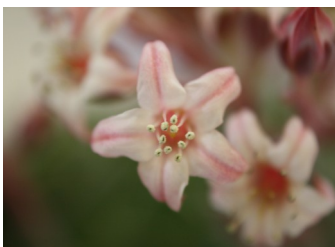
## Forthcoming Meetings

After the April break our first meeting will be on 8 May when Robin Alabaster will be taking us on 'Travels amongst Australasian Alpines'. Not strictly a cactus and succulent talk but as many of us are interested in alpines it should provide something a bit different. Robin is well known in the alpine world and a regular speaker on the BCSS circuit.



In June Tony Roberts, a new Society speaker will be revealing 'Gasterias in the Flesh' to us. Tony is a recent addition to the BCSS speakers list and his talks have been well received.

July sees the return of an old favourite of the Branch, when Tony Mace will be beguiling us on the subject of Opuntias. Tony is a long time member of the BCSS, a well known and respected speaker and runs the Society's publications business and web site.



Our last summer meeting will be on 14 August when we will be trying out a Branch mini-show at the Kings Langley meeting hall, It has been some years since the Branch held a show so this will be something of an experiment. I hope as many people as possible will enter plants into the table show. As an added bonus, the judge will be Derek Tribble who has also agreed to talk about the plants on the table show after the judging has been completed.

## Other Society Events

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 24 April 2010   | Grand Auction—Nether Heyford Village Hall (N&MK)   |
| 22 May 2010     | Zone 6 Show—Chorleywood, Hertfordshire             |
| 18 July 2010    | Zone 6 Open Day—Northampton & Milton Keynes Branch |
| 23—25 July 2010 | National Convention—Leicester                      |