



Berkhamsted and District Branch

www.berkhamsted.bcss.org.uk

Volume 3, Issue 1

March 2011

Special points of interest:

- Branch website now operational
- Zone 6 Show 21 May Rugby
- Branch Mini-Show 9 July at Kings Langley
- Zone 6 Open Day 7 August Leicester Branch

Programme

May 2011 to August 2011

- 14 May Chris Davies
Southern Arizona
- 21 May **Zone 6 Show**
Rugby
- 11 Jun Paul Klaassen
Dudleya and Copiapoa
- 9 Jul **Branch Mini Show**
- 7 Aug **Zone 6 Open Day**
Leicester
- 13 Aug Dorothy Minors
Travels in the Transvaal

Thanks to
Branch mem-
bers who sup-
ported the re-
cent Zone 6
Convention

British Cactus and Succulent Society

Editor's Comments

Welcome to the March 2011 Branch newsletter. I hope you and your family had a good Christmas. Once again we were subject to heavy snow falls just before Christmas and an ongoing period of extremely low temperatures. Hopefully your plants have come through the bad weather and we can now look forward to spring and summer.

The Branch ended 2010 with our usual Xmas Get-Together when we were entertained with a plant related quiz and films of model railways. Gill and I missed the AGM as we were celebrating Felicity and Jim Stevens Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Last month Rodney led us 'Off the Beaten Track', a miscellany of sites in South Africa.

As we go forward the Branch has a varied and interesting set of talks taking us through the coming year.

The final piece of news is that after a long lead-in period the Branch website is now up and running and can be found at www.berkhamsted.bcss.org.uk. Please let me have your views on the site and suggestions for additional facilities.

David
Hon. Secretary



Xmas Get-Together



As usual, our Christmas meeting provided something different to our regular meetings, a combination of a quiz and short films about model railways.

The quiz (courtesy of Luton Branch) stretched the knowledge of the three teams as it covered a wider range than just the plants themselves.

The two films about model railways built by Graham Atkins (ex warden of the BBOWT College Lake reserve) were entertaining and for model railway fans, inspirational. The attention to detail and amusing plays on words etc made the two films most enjoyable. A big thank you to Rodney and Julian for making this possible.

Annual General Meeting

Thankfully this year, the AGM was not affected by the inclement weather and went ahead as usual. There was a smaller gathering than in prior years as Gill and I were joining Felicity and Jim Stevens (ex Branch members) to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

The major impact on our finances in 2010 was the income we received from catering for the Zone 6 Show in May. The Branch owes a big debt to Liz Sharpe, Carolyn Clayton and Gill for their sterling efforts in the kitchen. If we take away the impact of the Show, then the Branch would have made a small loss on the year. We were fortunate to be able to reclaim Gift Aid from HMRC to the tune of nearly £50, which helped to offset the paltry level of interest on the COIF account.



In August 2010 the Branch trialled a mini show to see whether this restricted format was viable. From the feedback received, the event was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and Derek Tribble's discussion of the plants was both enlightening and entertaining. We will be repeating the show again in 2011 at our July meeting.

February Meeting



We are fortunate as a Branch, to have an excellent speaker in our ranks, Rodney our Branch Chairman. His talks are always worth hearing as they are many and varied. This year Rodney took us 'Off the Beaten Track', a miscellany of sites in South Africa, quite a few of which we had never seen before. As always, the talk was informative and the excellent scenery made a great back drop to the plants he showed us.

Table Shows 2010

The table shows in 2010 had many well grown and interesting plants on display. It would be nice to have more plants in the table shows in 2011. The overall result of the table shows for 2010 is:

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



Forthcoming Meetings

After the April break, our first meeting will be on 14 May when Chris Davies will be taking us to 'Southern Arizona'. Chris is a well known speaker around the Society and this will be a repeat visit for him to the Branch.



In June Paul Klaassen, will be taking us through the Copiapoas and Dudleyas. Paul has travelled widely in South America and is a well respected speaker. His programme will be split between the two groups of plants. The Dudleya part of the talk will draw on previous work undertaken by the late Sonia Barker-Fricker, together with further material from Paul.

The July meeting sees a welcome return for the Branch Mini-Show to be held at the Kings Langley meeting hall, This year the judge will be Martin Edwards (Harrow Branch), who has kindly agreed to talk about the plants after the judging.



August will bring us Dorothy Minors who will be talking about 'Travels in the Transvaal'. Dorothy is widely travelled in South Africa and until recently, was the Chairman of the Haworthia Society. This will be Dorothy's first visit to the Branch since she lives in Sheffield and doesn't often speak in the south.

We will be sharing both Paul Klaassen and Dorothy Minors with Harrow Branch, where they will be talking on the Friday night preceding our Saturday Branch meeting.

Other Interesting Events

09 April	National AGM
10 Apr	Grand Auction—Oxford
21 May	Zone 6 Show Rugby
25 June	Luton Branch Show
02 July	Harrow Branch Show—Hatch End
07 August	Zone 6 Open Day—Leicester Branch