



Berkhamsted and District Branch

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Volume 3, Issue 2

July 2011

Special points of interest:

- Lawrie Norton's 90th Birthday
- Zone 6 Show Report
- Zone 6 Open Day 7 August Leicester Branch

Programme Aug 2011 to Feb 2012

- 7 Aug Zone 6 Open Day
Leicester**
- 13 Aug Dorothy Minors
Travels in the Transvaal**
- 10 Sep Trevor Wray
12 Hectic Days in the
South West**
- 8 Oct Mark Preston
Christmas and Easter
Cacti**
- 12 Nov Tom Radford
Asclepiadaceae**
- 10 Dec Christmas Get-Together**
- 14 Jan AGM and Members'
slides**
- 11 Feb Alice Vanden Bon
Travels in South Africa**

British Cactus and Succulent Society

Editor's Comments

Welcome to the July 2011 Branch newsletter. I hope your plants are growing well. Everyone this year seems to be reporting various levels of plant losses over the winter.

Spring has proven to be one of the hottest and driest on record. We all but ran out of rainwater in our butts, only being topped by the recent rain. April was unbelievably hot, whereas May seemed changeable and June appeared to be quite wet and cold, frosts in June are not what we expect.

Average attendance at meetings fell to 8.25 over the period January to May but picked up again in June when 13 people heard Paul Klaas-

sen's talks on *Dudleya* and *Copa-poa*.

We are looking forward to the Branch Mini-Show in July and to Dorothy Minors first visit in August. Thereafter the Branch has a varied and interesting set of talks, including two speakers new to the Branch, taking us through to Christmas and the New Year.

David
Hon. Secretary



Lawrie Norton

The Branch congratulated Lawrie Norton on attaining his 90th Birthday in June. Lawrie joined the Branch soon after the inception of the National Cactus and Succulent Society (NCSS) in 1947. He has also been a serving member on the Branch Committee.



Lawrie received a card, signed by the members of the Branch and was presented with a celebratory cake.



Zone 6 Show 2011 Report



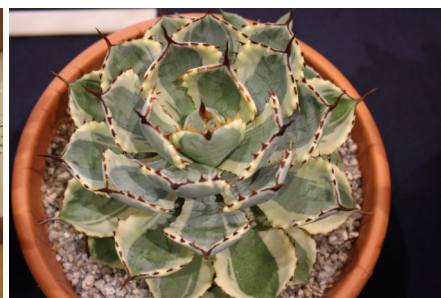
Three members of the Branch made their way to Dunchurch, near Coventry and entered plants into the Zone 6 Show. The venue at Dunchurch provided ample parking spaces, a good sized show hall, excellent catering facilities and had the added advantage of a local



club cricket match being played.



Berkhamsted Branch exhibitors upheld our reputation, winning a number of classes and being placed in several more. The Zone 6 Cup, for 6 succulents, was won by David and Gill, who also received the Collis Trophy for most points in the succulent section.



Recent Meetings

After the April break we welcomed Chris Davies back to the branch where he talked about Southern Arizona. Chris is well travelled in the region and provided an interesting and thought provoking talk.

In June Paul Klaassen, took us through the Dudleyas with excellent photography, including some photos taken by the late Sonia Barker-Fricker. Paul's Copiapoa talk was very much based on what the audience wanted to see, whether by geographic region and/or specific species of Copiapoa. Paul has travelled widely in South America and this was reflected in his excellent talk.

Forthcoming Meetings

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 Dorothy with Harrow Branch, where she will be talking on the Friday night preceding our Saturday Branch meeting.

September brings a welcome return by Trevor Wray who will be talking about 12 hectic days in the South West (USA). Trevor is a frequent visitor to North America and an entertaining and amusing speaker.

Mark Preston will be coming to the Branch in October and is a new speaker with an interesting and unusual topic of Christmas and Easter Cacti.

The third new speaker to the Branch this year will be Tom Radford, from the Southampton area. Tom will be bringing us up to date on the Asclepiadaceae.

Other Interesting Events

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| 10 July | Auction of Doug Donaldson's plants |
| 07 August | Zone 6 Open Day—Leicester Branch |
| 13/14 August | Northampton and MK Branch Show—Billing Garden Village |