



Berkhamsted and District Branch

www.berkhamsted.bcsc.org.uk

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November 2012

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Programme

December 2012 to May 2013

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 08 Dec | Christmas Get-together |
| 12 Jan | Annual General Meeting and members' slides |
| 09 Feb | Rodney Sims
Southern Namibia |
| 09 Mar | Paul Klaassen
Patagonia, Discocactus and Uebelmannia |
| 11 May | Alan Phipps
Smoke, Scenery, Spines and Flowers |

Zone 6 Convention

Saturday 20 April 2013

Wilstone Village Hall

Jakub Jilemicky—2 talks

Peter Berresford—1 talk

3 Trade Stands

See Page 5 for more

details

British Cactus and Succulent Society

Editor's Comments

Welcome to the November 2012 Branch newsletter. It has been a strange growing season this year, so much of it cold, wet and dull. Many of our plants woke up late in the greenhouses and garden flowers arrived four to six weeks late. We managed to get reasonable amounts of potatoes, carrots and runner beans but failed dismally with beetroots.

The 2012 National Show took place at the Wood Green Animal Shelter near Godmanchester, see page three for more details.

Branch members have been busy supporting other local branch and national events (Luton Branch Show, Harrow Branch Show, Zone 6 Events and the National Show). This reflects well on the Branch and shows our commitment to local branches and the Society as a whole.

We held our Branch Mini-Show, in August this year, judged by Richard Bleay. We welcomed new speakers Alasdair Glen (Society Chairman) and Rob Stevenson in May and June respectively and in October, Rick Gillman.

We have our Christmas meeting in December followed by the AGM and members' slides in January.

If any member of the Branch is willing to provide an article for inclusion in the newsletter it would be gratefully received.

Attendances have seen an improvement over recent years, varying between eight and 13 this year. Overall, the average attendance so far this year has been 11.25 (9.33 last year).

I hope all your plants are safely and warmly tucked up in the greenhouse or wherever they are kept. Gill and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Christmas Get-Together again this year and at our meetings in 2013. Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish yourself and your family all the best for the festive season and a Happy New Year.

David

Hon. Secretary



Review of Branch Mini-Show 2012



The Branch held its Mini-Show at the August 2012 meeting. It was an interesting and well supported show and we should thank our judge, Richard Bleay, for his hard work. There was also a general discussion about the plants, led by Richard.

The Show offered a relaxed atmosphere and allowed members to enjoy the plants on the tables and the opportunity to have a chat.

Thanks to everyone who put plants in the Show.



The awards at the Show went to: -



Trophy/Award	Exhibitor
Most points in Section A—Cacti	Julian Cooke
Most points in Section B—Other Succulents	David and Gill Wilson
Most points in the Show	David and Gill Wilson
Best Cactus in Show	Uebelmannia pectinifera David Latham
Best Succulent in Show	Euphorbia decaryii David & Gill Wilson



National Show 2012

By David Wilson

Once every four years the great and the good of the British Cactus and Succulent Society get together for the National Show. The show has moved around over the years. Our first recollection was in the early 1980s when it was held at the Vauxhall car plant in Luton. Later it was tried at Oxford and subsequently at the gardens in Spalding. More recently the venue has moved to the Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester, near Huntingdon.



We made an early start, getting up before 5.30 am (a terrible hour) and made the journey north on the A1. After a couple of hours we arrived and were lucky to find a convenient parking space. It took us around 40 minutes to put our plants on the show bench. The site is so much bigger than a Zone or branch show.



The Branch provided three exhibitors (Rodney, Ian and Gill/David) who between them received 10 prize cards, plus a couple of trophies. It was also pleasing to see so many members of the Branch doing the rounds at the show.

Given we are a small branch we do seem to punch above our weight.



This year there were even more trade stands available from which members could get their cactus and succulent fixes.

We thought some of the amounts being charged were on the pricey side so settled for the more reasonable plants and prices Rob Wellens had on his stall.



The biggest problem most members reported was the lack of ventilation in the sales area and show hall. This made things quite uncomfortable for many people.

Wood Green is first and foremost a charity that cares for and rehomes, unwanted cats and dogs. The well laid out grounds and kennels were well worth a visit but the plight of the animals tugged at our heart strings.

At half past five we said our good-byes and left Wood Green for our return home down the A1. We arrived back home, tired after a long day and left putting our plants back until Sunday morning.

We are looking forward to the next National Show, in four years time.



Conserving Collections of Cacti and Other Succulents—Planning Ahead

In the March 2011 Society Journal two articles were published highlighting the need to make sure members' collections of cacti and succulents are not lost. While most of us have no wish to dwell on what might happen in the future, there may come a time when you are no longer able to look after your plants, for whatever reason. It is a matter of planning ahead, talking to relatives and maybe ensuring the appropriate legal papers are in place.

ensure that plants (in particular), books and other memorabilia continue to exist for their scientific value and to ensure they continue to bring pleasure to other enthusiasts.



- Have you asked someone to look after your plants if you have an illness?
- Are your relatives aware of how to contact the local BCSS Branch?



This article is intended to draw members' attention to the specific issues detailed below. The Branch Committee will assist members in any way it can and all members are invited to discuss their particular situation, in strictest confidence, if they so wish.

- Have you made any plans for the time when you can no longer look after your collection?
- Are there any rare plants, prize winning plants, scientifically interesting plants or valuable plants in your collection?
- Have you made your relatives and friends aware of what you have?



The BCSS Conservation Committee is keen that all branches discuss the issues with members. Together we should attempt to

February 2013 Meeting

In February our one and only Rodney Sims will be taking us on a tour of Southern Namibia. Rodney has made several trips to South Africa and over the years, has given the Branch many interesting talks about South African flora and fauna.

March 2013 Meeting

The Branch will be welcoming back Paul Klaassen who will be giving a miscellany of talks, including the region of Patagonia and specific genera of *Discocactus* and *Uebelmannia*. Paul has travelled widely in South America and South Africa

May 2013 Meeting

Alan Phipps is making a return to the Branch with a talk entitled Smoke, Scenery, Spines and Flowers.

Christmas Get-Together

The final meeting of the year will be the annual Christmas Get-Together where we celebrate the forthcoming festive season and enjoy a more relaxed and different type of meeting.

As usual there will be Xmas cake and other nibbles available on the day. In addition, there will be a new quiz to tantalise you and test your general knowledge.

Don't forget to bring along a glass (to toast the festive season) and your donated prize for the Grand Raffle.



Wishing you a
Merry Christmas and
a
Happy New Year

Zone 6 Convention 2013

The Branch will be hosting the [2013 Zone 6 Convention](#) on Saturday 20 April 2013 at the [Wilstone Village Hall](#), Wilstone, nr Tring, Hertfordshire.

Speakers: -

- [Jakub Jilemicky](#)— Succulents of the Eastern Cape
- [Peter Berresford](#)—Texas/New Mexico: From the Plains to the Mountains
- [Jakub Jilemicky](#)— The Western Cape: Haworthias and other succulents

Trade Stands: -

- [Toobees](#)
- David Neville
- [Keith Larkin](#)'s Book Sales



Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Berkhamsted and District Branch of the British Cactus and Succulent Society will be held on Saturday 12th January 2013 at Lower Hall, Christ Church, The Nap, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire WD4 8ET at 3 pm.



A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the Last A. G. M. (14 January 2012).
3. Matters Arising.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Secretary's Report.
6. Chairman's Remarks.
7. Programme 2013/2014.
8. Election of Officers.
9. Election of Committee.
10. Election of Auditors.
11. Any Other Business.



Nominations for Elections

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Chairman		
Vice-Chairman		
Treasurer		
Secretary		
Show Secretary		
Sales Manager		
Visitors' Host		