

# British Cactus & Succulent Society

## Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

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## Editorial

The last month has seen another dry spell of weather and garden plants have started to suffer due to lack of moisture. This is particularly true of unestablished plants – a couple of the new plants I bought earlier this year are looking unwell and a couple of others have disappeared!

Fortunately, my plants in the conservatory do receive a regular watering and they do seem to be doing better, aided by the fact that we have not seen a repeat of the record temperatures which we encountered last year.

## Announcements

The Zone Quiz was held at Portsmouth a couple of weeks ago, and you will be pleased to learn that our team of Peter Down, Ivor Biddlecombe and David Corina emerged victorious! A report on the quiz appears later in this newsletter.

Our branch also took part in the New Forest Show last week. I went along on the second day and at that stage, it looked like plant sales might come close to matching the figures we achieve during the Southampton Festival. There was certainly plenty of interest in our stand and we sold lots of packets of seed, and our green cultivation booklet was also popular. Our plant display was awarded a Gold Medal.

This coming weekend, we will be staging a display and sales table at the Visitor Centre of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens (formerly known as the Hillier Arboretum), in Ampfield. Several volunteers have already offered to help, but if you're in the vicinity, please do drop in.

Later in the month, the BCSS National Show will be held at the Springfields Exhibition Centre in Spalding, Lincolnshire. Several members of the committee are planning to attend the event (travelling either on the day before, or early on the Saturday), so if you are interested in this opportunity to see some of the best plants in the country, please have a word with a committee member.

## Last Month's Meeting

### Plants of Interest

Ivor started proceedings and his first plant was *Echinopsis multiplex*. The interesting thing was that a (brave?) slug had managed to chew away a chunk of the flower stem, leaving just the small sliver of tissue connecting the flower to the plant body. Amazingly, the large flower was still trying to open.

Ivor likes *Gymnocalycium*s because of their long-lived flowers. He had brought along *G. horstii* and two examples of *G. mihanovichii*, the latter having typical purple-brown bodies and bearing several pale pink flowers. We also saw *Pygmaeocereus bylesianus*, which produces a nocturnal flower with a vanilla scent.

*Sempervivum grandiflorum* has leaves which were sticky to the touch and which were also scented. Ivor said the smell was supposed to be of "goats", which prompted the obvious question from the audience of "What was a goat supposed to smell like?!" In an 8" pot was another *Sempervivum* with tiny heads, each less than a centimetre across.

Ivor then provided an update on his lithops seedlings. Having sown seed from a cross of *L. steineckeana* and *L. pseudotruncatella*, only 1 of the 9 seedlings which resembled the parent had survived, whereas the survival rate for seedlings which resembled *L. pseudotruncatella* was much higher. In another tray were 18 seedlings of Lithops “Stones Throw” which is a hybrid between *L. lesliei albinica* and a Dinterops (which in itself is a hybrid of Lithops and Dinteranthus). The seedlings were highly variable, their form and colour taking on a mixture of characteristics from the parent plants.

Next, Derek Prior discussed the group of plants he had brought along. First was a *Gymnocalycium* which he also brought to the mini show. He wanted to know its name - the plant body similar was similar to *G. saglionis* but the white flowers with a red ring in the centre did not match this species.

*Habranthus robustus* (rain lily) was more at home in an alpine house. The delicate pink flowers tend to last around 5 days. Next was a *Streptocarpus* which was originally monocarpic but when he cut back the main leaf, it had formed more leaves and now had 6 leaves. The plant featured over a hundred purple flowers. While spectacular in appearance, it's a difficult plant to grow because of the long wide leaves.

*Ceropegia sandersonii* was growing on a home-made trellis and bore several creamy white trumpet-shaped flowers which were marked with fine green spots. The intricate flowers looked like little parachutes if you looked up from below. Derek mentioned that the plant doesn't like full sunshine.

The final plant on the table was a *Hoya carnosa*. Bearing an umbel of waxy pale pink flowers, it had been brought along by Paul Maddison.

Thanks are due to David Corina for providing the following write-up of last month's talk.

### **A Walk on the Wild Side, part 1**

Eddie Harris's trip to South Africa (with John Ede and John Frew) had an inauspicious start - landing at Cape Town in rain (not unusual for that time of year) the party was then mugged just outside the airport! Undaunted, the enforced stay while their documents were replaced enabled them to make the almost obligatory pilgrimage to the

Kirstenboch Botanic Gardens, just outside Cape Town.

Then off on their travels - up the other pilgrim route of the N7 road to the north, the way to the Richtersveldt via the citrus groves around Citrusdal and lots of vitamin C from very cheap oranges! First stop the motel at Clanwilliam (I know it well, but the restaurant isn't what it was!) where there were no problems finding plants, such as the colourful *Lampranthus* by the side of the road. The received wisdom is to look for quartzite patches, although there are few this far south, there was one area nearby they had been advised to visit. Initially all they could find was *Anacampseros retusa*, but eventually found their quarry, *Diplosoma retroversum*. This small plant of only 2 to 4 leaves dies down to a resting rootstock in summer and is difficult to spot until one gets one's 'eye in'. This requirement of course applies to most of the smaller plants of the area.

The next important journey is up and through the Pakhuis Pass, the interesting plants start where the tarmac road ends and the graded road begins, with large plants of *Euphorbia tuberculata* and *E. mauritanica* by the side of the road. Further up the pass, there are rocky outcrops close to the road, with *Bulbine mesembrianthoides*, the ever-present *Crassula muscosa*, *Anacampseros lanigera* (an *A. filamentosa* form?) hiding under a bush, small *Tylecodon paniculata* plants, and *Conophytum obcordellum* f. *mundum* in amongst moss and lichens in the damper areas. Further on, there was *Adromischus hemisphaericus*, a *Crassula*, possibly *clavata*, *Braunsia (Lampranthus) maximiliana*, *Tylecodon wallichii*, an *Othonna* species and lots of *Oxalis* - looking very pretty in their proper place! At the top of the pass (not actually very high) *Aloe comosa* was found, alongside a white flowered *Ruschia*, lots of *Gazania*s (not really a succulent, but very colourful) and the evil looking parasitic *Hyobanche sanguinea*, only its weird orange-red flowers appearing above ground. One area to inspect were small rock pools on sandstone where the team found *Conophytum minusculum* in grit pans and crevices, together with an *Anacampseros* (unidentified) and the bulb *Ornithogalum maculata*; John Ede also found a *Euphorbia tuberosa* lurking under a bush. It is always worth looking under bushes, all sorts of things like a bit of shade, especially stapeliads.

On the road again to the Van Rhynsdorp area and a visit to Buis Weise's nursery. He 'farms' the

land for his plants, and has a large area of semi-natural vegetation open to visitors at Quaggerskop, which Eddie & co. visited. Lots of unidentified (unidentifiable?) mesembs, better plants of *Tylecodon reticulata*, many *Lachenalias*, *Crassula columnaris* with (terminal) orange flowers (bring it into cultivation!), and a few *Argyroderma fissum*. The real area for fun plants was now entered - the 'rough diamond' shaped area centred on Springbok and bounded by Garies (south) Pofadder (east) Steinkopf (north) and Port Nolloth (west) where quartz patches must be visited. Here they found *Oophytum oviforme* and *Argyroderma delaetii* by the side of the road, the latter so thick on the ground that it was impossible not to walk on them! Also-rans were lots of *Dactyloopsis digitata*, *Sarcocaulon crassicaule* (probably), *Conophytum minutum*, *C. subfenestratum*, and *Bulbine* species.

The area between Springbok and Pofadder brought further delights, with vast areas covered in almost perfect clumps of the blue-green leaved *Cheiridopsis denticulata*, accompanied by sparser *Sarcocaulon herrei*, *Tylecodon reticulata* and *Ihlenfeldtia* in (bright yellow) flower.

Moving on again, Eddie found beautiful clumps of *Hoodia bainii* alongside clumps of *Euphorbia braunsii*, and atop a small hill (always a good place to look) were *Cotyledon orbiculata*, *Pelargonium crithmifolium*, *Tylecodon wallichii* and *T. paniculatus* (quite far north for this species), *Conophytum marginatum*, *Lithops marmorata*, *Trichocaulon cactiforme* and *Avonia papyracea* - a tough little plant! Reflecting the diversity of the area, there were many mixed groups of succulents such as *Conophytum* and *Crassula namaquensis* growing together, *Anacampteros* (*Avonia*) *ruschii* and what was probably a form of *Adromischus marianiae*.

On the opposite side of the road - a slightly different environment, possibly, would be *Ornithogalum* species, *Crassula deltoidea*, *Cheiridopsis purpurea*, and a larger plant in *Ceraria namaquensis*, with a *Sarcostemma* scrambling through it. The literally outstanding plant of the area is *Aloe dichotoma* (the 'Kokerboom') which can reach tree-like proportions. The group had stopped to photograph a 'large' specimen when the local farmer appeared, and, after enquiring what they were doing, invited them onto his land to view some even bigger plants. Truly magnificent against the backdrop of low, sparse 'desert' vegetation.

Travelling into the remaining sector of the area, west and north of Springbok brings yet more variety. Except, perhaps for the ubiquitous *Crassula muscosa* - found almost everywhere, it must be the most successful *Crassula* in the Cape Province! It kept company with *Conophytum ectypum* ssp. *brownii*, *Adromischus nanus*, *Pelargonium pulchellum*, *Sarcocaulon crassicaule*, a *Senecio* species, a nice dark form of *Aloe melanacantha* (facing east - that must mean something), *Conophytum bilobum*, a widespread creeping *Cephalophyllum*, *Haworthia arachnoidea* in shade, a well-camouflaged *Adromischus alstonii* (*Avonia quinaria*), and *Lachenalias* and *Gazantias* filling in the gaps. A low quartz ridge harboured a *Lampranthus*, *Chieridopsis robusta* (possibly), in very good condition, an attractive, striped stem *Euphorbia* (unidentified), a *Ferraria* in flower, *Sphalmanthus* (*Phyllobolus*, a mesemb with annual top growth), *Cotyledon orbiculata*, nice and brown in the sun, but green when growing in the shade, *Lithops marmorata*, *Pelargonium echinatum*, and *Conophytum flavum* clumps in plenty in cracks, mixed with *Crassula elegans*.

The final stopping place of the evening's presentation was at the Anenous Pass, on the road from Steinkopf to Port Nolloth, where Eddie was rather disappointed to find only some *Euphorbia filifera* and a *Chieridopsis*. The party pressed on to Port Nolloth, from which one can view some fine sunsets over the Atlantic. Eddie rounded off his talk with one such sunset. There is still more to come, and Eddie has agreed to return to the branch to present the second part of his trip. We look forward to seeing more of the diverse succulent flora of South Africa!

David Corina

## Table Show – July

There were 16 entries in the July table show.

	<b>Cacti – Lobivia Group</b>	<b>Succulents – Haworthia / Gasteria Groups</b>
Open	(1) I Biddlecombe Echinopsis intricatissima	(1) I Biddlecombe Astroloba aspera
	(2) B Beckerleg Lobivia famatimensis	(2) J Roskilly Gasteria pillansii
	(3) G Finn Lobivia maximiliana	(3) B Beckerleg Haworthia correcta
Intermediate	(1) B Beckerleg Acanthocalyium spiniflora	(1) I Biddlecombe Haworthia minima
	(2) I Biddlecombe Lobivia aurea	(2) B Beckerleg Haworthia maughanii
	(3) G Finn Lobivia sp.	(3) P Clemow Haworthia paradoxa (?)

*Ivor Biddlecombe*

## Zone 11 Quiz

The Zone 11 Quiz was hosted by Portsmouth of 17th July. The question master was Paul Klaassen, and he had received help from Angie and her son Adrian in setting the questions.

Each of the branches had assembled a team of 3 members. Isle of Wight's team consisted of Robin Goodredge, Peter Collard and Ron Mitchell; Portsmouth's consisted of Les Palmer, Brian Plunkett and Cliff Thompson and Southampton's team consisted of David Corina, Peter Down and Ivor Biddlecombe.

Paul explained that the questions would consist of a mixture of questions on Cacti and Succulents and general knowledge. We had to stop by 10pm to ensure that the Isle of Wight team could be taken back to their ferry by 10:30 (although Cliff Thompson suggested that with his driving, they could leave it as late as 10:25!) The questions would be put to the designated team, and if not answered would be passed to the other teams. When questions were passed, the audience would also be considered a team, but unfortunately this rule was not adhered to, so in practice the audience only got a chance a answer a couple of questions during the evening.

Round 1 consisted of some easy questions to settle the nerves. Isle of Wight were asked where the National Show was to be held (the Springfield Hall in Spalding), Portsmouth were asked the name of the BCSS Shows Committee Secretary (Kathy Flanagan) and Southampton were asked the date of the show (21st August). This was amusing as just a few minutes earlier, I had seen Peter Down asking other members about the date of the show and then writing it into his diary! All three teams got full marks.

Round 2 consisted of multiple-choice questions on the Monkey Puzzle Tree (*Araucaria araucana*). We learnt that the plant is dioecious (i.e. it has male and female plants) but the cones can form on either sex, that it likes fertile moisture-retentive soil and that the genus *Araucaria* occurs in Southern Brazil, Australia and New Guinea.

Round 3 consisted of multiple choice questions about the latest edition of the BCSS Journal. The Mexican cactus that Bill Weightman had written about was *Ortegocactus macdouglii*, the plant featured on the cover was *Melocactus ernestii* and the genus *Orostachys* is in the *Crassulaceae*.

Round 4 required the teams to correctly identify herbs which preferred a moist shady spot. Paul initially read out botanical names but the teams did rather better when he read out the common names. All the teams did well, with correct answers of chervil, lovage, and angelica.

Round 5 related to the TV Series "Big Brother". This topic brought groans from the teams and certain sections of the audience. Given the names Jason, Jonathon and Victor, Southampton were unable to identify who was not a contestant in this year's series. This gave the audience a chance to get their first points of the night. Isle of Wight incorrectly guessed the duration of the series as 51 days and only Portsmouth answered correctly by identifying the previous night's evictee as Ahmed.

In Round 6 we were asked how many species did Linnaeus include when he first set up the genus "Cactus"? From a choice of 15, 25, 53, the correct answer was declared as 25. Then "what discovery in 1688 played an important part in increasing the popularity of cacti in Europe?" From a choice of "the introduction of cacti and succulents from America", "a virus which wiped out indoor citrus plants" and the "invention of a process to produce large sheets of clear glass", it proved to be the

third of these. Finally we learnt that a desert is classified as having an annual rainfall of less than 25cm.

Round 7 was on brassicas. Given three rather obscure names, the Portsmouth had a hard time picking which of the three was not a variety of cauliflower. However, we did learn that *Brassica komatsuna* is commonly known as spinach mustard and pakchoi is *Brassica rapa chinensis*.

The scores at this stage were Isle Of Wight 11, Portsmouth 10 and Southampton 9. After a break for some refreshments and a raffle, we continued with a multiple choice general knowledge round. The Dutch word “drempeel” was identified as a road hump/sleeping policeman, “Yorkshire fog” was a lawn weed and caracide was a pesticide.

Round 9 was a test of botanical terms, “explant” meant a small piece of a plant used in micropropagation, an example of dehiscence was an anther splitting to release pollen, and “indeterminate” meant an inflorescence/spike not terminated by a single flower.

Round 10 was about sport. Portsmouth tripped up on the location of the 2006 Winter Olympics. The answer was Turin and not Austria or Aspen. The other two teams fared better with questions on which countries hosted the 2004 Tour de France (Belgium and France) and the team which knocked Holland out of Euro 2004 (Portugal).

Round 11 was on Geography, with the teams having to identify the largest country from a choice of three. Largest in Africa, from Ethiopia, Sudan and Angola was Sudan. Largest in South America from Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil was Brazil. And the largest in Europe, from Germany, Sweden, and France was Germany.

Round 12 was a true/false round, so the questions could not be passed if answered incorrectly. In the event, all three teams answered correctly. *Pseudolithos migiurtinus* does not come from Madagascar (it originates from Somalia), *Crassula arborescens* does not come from Zimbabwe (it comes from the Cape Province) and *Sempervivum calcareum* does come from alpine regions in France and Italy.

Round 13 consisted of multiple choice questions on alpine plants and their family groupings. Again all the teams answered correctly. Round 14 was a multiple choice round on mountains – the county in England with the highest mountains and lakes

is Cumbria, K2 is in the Karakoram mountain range (between Pakistan and China) and the country which has 2/3rds of its land as mountains and deserts is China.

Round 15 required knowledge of plant classifications. *Eryngium* (sea holly) is a member of the Umbelliferae (bonus points for the audience) *Pulsatilla vulgaris* is a member of the Ranunculaceae and *Ornithogalum* is from the Liliaceae. Round 16 was a general knowledge round; the racecourse founded by Queen Anne in 1711 was Ascot, Beatrix became Queen of the Netherlands in 1980, and Charles II's nickname was the “Merry Monarch.”

The opening comment for round 17 - “Portsmouth, vegetables” - caused much mirth. Of course Paul had intended this comment to indicate the round consisted of questions on vegetables, and not be a slur on the home team! Plants with the Latin name Brassica belong to the cabbage family, deadly nightshade and tomato are in the same group, and potato is an ingredient of the Scottish dish “stovies”.

Round 18 was on Authors. Who wrote an authoritative book on Haworthia? From Ingo Breuer, Desmond Cole, or John Pilbeam, Southampton pointed out that both the first and third names had written books on Haworthia and they got full marks for this. We also learnt that Hermann Jacobsen wrote a book on Succulents and Britton and Rose were famous for their book on Cacti.

Round 19 requires some ability to convert between metric and imperial measurements. Would a plant in a 7cm pot be eligible for a 3.5" class (yes) would a plant in a 9cm pot be eligible for a 3.5" class (yes) and was a 12cm pot allowed in a 4.25" class (no). David Neville mentioned that the BCSS National Shows has changed to metric some years ago, but branches still tend to use imperial measurements.

Round 20 consisted of more questions on Geography. Paul asked “Taking a walk in nature and see a type of plant, which country might I be in?” For Echinocereus, Southern USA was correct, and Mexico would also have been OK. For Discocactus, Brazil was accepted as correct, but Bolivia, Central America, Mexico, Paraguay and Venezuela would also have been acceptable. Finally for Gymnocalycium, Argentina was correct, but Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay would also have been accepted. “You

don't half go for some long walks!" quipped someone.

Round 21 was a multiple choice general knowledge round. We learnt that there were 24 letters in the Greek alphabet, the middle day of non-leap year is 2<sup>nd</sup> July, and 7 letters were used in the Roman numeral system (MCDLXVI).

The scores at this point were Isle of Wight 35 points, Portsmouth 31.5 points and Southampton 35.5 points. Southampton supporters in the audience suggested that this was a good time to end the contest, but there were still a few minutes left!

Round 22 required knowledge of horticultural terms. Adventitious means "venturing to an unusual place", glaucous means "greyish" and testa mean seed coat. Round 23 was a test on the fahrenheit and centigrade temperature scales. Paul was willing to accept answers within a couple of degrees of the correct figure and all teams scored maximum points. Round 24 was on capitals of countries in South America. The capital of Peru was Lima, the capital of Uruguay was Montevideo and the capital of Paraguay was eventually identified by Portsmouth as Asuncion, for a bonus point.

The scores had moved on to 38.5 for Isle of Wight, 40 for Portsmouth and 39.5 for Southampton. It looked like it was going to be very a close finish!

Round 25 required the teams to spot the "odd one out". Given three genera of cacti, which was the odd one out, and why? From *Espostopsis*, *Obregonia* and *Frailea*, the first two are monotypic. From *Eulychnia*, *Facheiroa* and *Ferocactus*, the first two are cereoids. And from *Mammillaria*, *Milocactus* and *Discocactus*, the first does not grow a cephalium.

Onto the final round, Walking in the Andes, were you in India, Argentina or Austria? If in the Alps, were you in Switzerland, France or South Africa? And if in the Himalayas, were you in Bulgaria, Nepal or Paraguay. The correct answers were Argentina, Switzerland and France, and Nepal.

With this, Paul checked and announced the final scores. Isle of Wight had scored 40.5, Portsmouth had scored 42 and Southampton had scored 44.5.

All that was left was for Portsmouth's Chairman Lesley Akhurst to present the winners with the

Mealy Bug trophy. David Corina accepted the trophy on Southampton's behalf and hoped that the large mealy bug was incapable of breeding!

Peter Down thanked Portsmouth for hosting the event and for providing everyone with an excellent selection of refreshments during the break.

Vinay Shah

## Branch Committee Meeting

A committee meeting was held at the Corinas' on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Recent events were discussed, as were arrangements for the forthcoming New Forest Show. Our finances are doing well, after the success of the Easter Show at Broadlands, and also the Southampton Festival.

A new book by John Pilbeam on *Sulcorebutias* has been purchased for the Library.

At a previous committee meeting, David Neville had suggested that the branch should consider obtaining shirts printed or embroidered with a logo or the branch name, for use at public events. Margaret had obtained prices for these and they would cost in the region of £17-£20 each. There was a debate about whether regular helpers at our public events should be entitled to a shirt free of charge, or whether the shirts should be subsidised by the branch and be made available to all branch members.

Our website continues to attract interest. Newsletters can be downloaded from the site, and over the next month or two, the site will be expanded to include a photo gallery and useful information such as copies of our cultivation leaflet and booklet.

The Zone has accepted in principle the idea of Southampton hosting a Zone Show next year during one of the two days of the Broadlands Garden Show.

The programme of speakers for 2005 is being assembled. If you have ideas about any talks or speakers who you would like to hear next year, please have a word with Margaret Corina!

Vinay Shah

## Snippets

### **Provado of the Second Part**

Yes, I have to confess that we had not started to use the 'new' Provado when I wrote the last article. To update, it is now a milky suspension, to be diluted in water. Although it needs to be kept stirred (not shaken!) we have found it a lot easier to use.

So far, for us, it has controlled whitefly very well, and mealy bug fairly well - although Provado controls vine weevil grubs in the compost for up to 4 months (manufacturer's claim) its effectiveness for other pests is much shorter. Presumably, as with many other pesticides, the bug's eggs are not killed.

One silly problem which arises is nicely summarised by this little notice which circulated in the labs when I was a student (wording modified from an industrial setting):

*"It has come to the department's attention that students dying at the bench are failing to fall down. Since it is impossible to distinguish between rigor mortis and the natural activity of most of our students, you are reminded that you must fall to the floor upon dying."*

Thus mealy bugs have the inconvenient habit of not falling off when dead! A not too forceful jet of water from a hosepipe does the job of removing them rather well, and I have found that many of the soft-leaved succulents do not object as long as the flow is gentle. Quite a few members advocate the same 'blasting' treatment for removing live mealy bugs, so long as one avoids washing them back down into the soil, for them to re-emerge overnight.

Some plants, by virtue of heavy spination or lots of nooks and crannies are not so easy to get clean by water alone. To assist in such cases, the best method I have found is to use a little mild detergent (2-3 drops/100ml) and a suitably sized soft paintbrush to gently 'foam up' the 'infected area' like a carpet cleaner. Then rinse well with clean water. The best and mildest foaming agent I have tested so far is a 'pure' handwash liquid with no other additions such as perfume (e.g. Sainsbury's, but many stores sell own brand hypo-allergenic liquid soap). So far, the plants thus treated are still thriving! Now I am looking at how frequently I need to apply the doses of

Provado and hosepipe to achieve reasonable control. Watch this space!

*David Corina*

The following clip was passed on to me by a member of the committee...

### **A new use for Opuntia?**

#### **Hangover is spiked by cactus extract**

FORGET about the hair of the dog. The skin of a prickly pear cactus has been shown to reduce the suffering caused by a hangover.

Volunteers who took an extract of the desert cactus *Opuntia ficus indica* before a binge had fewer hangover symptoms than those who took a placebo, according to a study published yesterday by American researchers.

The cactus could help cut the impact of hangovers, which affect the economy through low productivity and absenteeism, according to the study in *The Archives of Internal Medicine*.

The suffering may be related to inflammation caused by congeners, impurities in alcoholic drinks, and byproducts of alcohol as the body attempts to break it down in the liver.

The team points out that levels of C-reactive protein, produced by the liver, become elevated after injury and is thought to be involved in inflammation and hangovers.

When an extract from the skin of the prickly pear fruit was shown to reduce inflammation, it prompted Dr Jeff Wiese and colleagues at Tulane University, New Orleans, to see if it could help treat hangovers.

They found the severity of hangovers to be moderately reduced. The researchers randomly assigned 55 young adult volunteers (aged 21 to 35 years) to receive either the extract or placebo five hours before drinking.

*From news.telegraph.co.uk (29-June-2004)*

## Next Month's Meeting

Next month's meeting will take place on September 7<sup>th</sup> and will feature a talk by our own David Neville on his trip to Brazil, from a couple of years ago.

The September Table Show will feature **3 Cacti** and **3 Succulents**.

## Forthcoming Events

Fri	6 <sup>th</sup>	Aug	Isle of Wight	Buffer Supper and Open Evening @ Robin Goodredge
Fri-	6 <sup>th</sup>	Aug	Southsea	Portsmouth Branch Display & Sales @ Southsea Show
Sun	8 <sup>th</sup>	Aug		
Sat-	7 <sup>th</sup>	Aug	Ampfield	Southampton & <u>District Branch</u> - Display & Sales
Sun	8 <sup>th</sup>	Aug		@ Hillier Visitor Centre, Ampfield
Sat	21 <sup>st</sup>	Aug	Spalding	<b>BCSS National Show</b> , Springfields Exhibition Centre, Spalding, Lincolnshire.
Tue	7 <sup>th</sup>	Sep	Southampton	"Brazil" – David Neville
Fri	17 <sup>th</sup>	Sep	Isle of Wight	"A Trip Around my Greenhouse" – Malcolm Pym
Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	Sep	Portsmouth	"Deserts of the South West USA" – Malcolm Pym
Mon	20 <sup>th</sup>	Sep	Southampton	Committee Meeting @ 79 Shirley Avenue
Tue	5 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	Southampton	"Mesembs in the Flesh" – Suzanne Mace

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