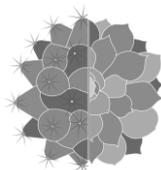


# British Cactus & Succulent Society

## Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

February 2020



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## Editorial

We had a few cold nights in January but fortunately no prolonged spells of sub-zero temperatures. The storm in the middle of the month caused some damage to fences and the like. I have seen snowdrops and crocus plants already in flower so perhaps spring isn't too far away, but the danger of a sudden cold spell still remains.

## Announcements

The **branch programme for 2020** has been prepared and printed copies are available from the front table.

Don't forget to **renew** your BCSS **membership** – this can be done using the form included with the CactusWorld Journals which were sent out to members in December. You can also renew using Paypal or a credit card at the BCSS website, at: <http://society.bcsc.org.uk/index.php/subscriptions.html> (when renewing online you'll need to know your BCSS membership number, this is written on the address label of your Journal – David and I also have a list of membership numbers for current members).

Today's talk is a **change** from what we had listed in our branch programme. Paul Klaassen has been unwell for a few weeks and so we have lined up a replacement in the form of Cliff Thompson – he will talk to us about Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil.

## Last Month's Meeting

### Members' Mini Talks

First was **Tom Radford** who gave some background and details of the photographic competition we were going to run this year. As David had mentioned, in the BCSS journal there had been a report on a photography competition run by the Newcastle branch – it's something they have done for 3 years. Some of the entries were quite good so Tom thought we should try something similar for our branch. Entries are allowed from now until the November meeting and have to be emailed to Tom or provided to him on a memory stick/memory card. It is a photographic competition, so the plant you photograph doesn't matter unless it is really scruffy in which case you will lose marks. There were just 2 classes - one for Cacti and one for Succulents and you can submit 3 entries in each class. The entries would be judged on the normal criteria for photographs, namely *Impact, Background, Composition, Exposure, Lighting* and *Depth of field* and he would talk about these topics today. The images would be marked on photographic merit, not on the plant's age or rarity. Images would be marked out of 10 with marks deducted for imperfections. Tom said he would enlist the help of the Romsey Viewfinders photographic club to judge the entries. Tom said you need to attract the attention of the judges and if you can do that, they will probably overlook small imperfections.

**Impact:** Tom showed one of the winning photographs for "Bird of the week" – it was a nice in-focus photograph of a snow bunting - the bird is looking at you, and the background, the rock the bird was standing on and the bird itself were all colour-coordinated. Another picture from 2017 – "Nature photographer of the year" showed 3 flamingos - if this was on the wall as a poster you'd be attracted to it. With our plants, it's often just a plant in a pot so unless it's something special it's hard to create an impact – but a close up of even of a common plant can be quite interesting – we saw the inside of a flower showing the anthers and stigma. With a picture of a *Leuchtenbergia* – the flowers in the centre had a nice border formed by the

spines/stems. Tom also showed an amusing photograph with opuntias and columnar cacti drawn alongside each other.

**Composition:** You have to get the right balance between the objects in the image. A photograph from Borneo of a moth resting on some leaves showed a match between the stripes on the moth's wings and the leaves. There was a dead leaf next to the moth, and he should really have taken that off. The rest of the background is faded out and the colours are quite attractive. Next was a yellow flowered Conophytum. Viewed from the top, it was quite good - but looking straight down on the plant, the photo looked a bit one dimensional. If you tilt the camera or the plant slightly you can get a 3-d affect which adds some interest. There was a slight problem with that photograph in that part of the pot was missing, just moving the pot up a little would have helped avoid that. Don't cut off the tips of petals or flowers or leaves if you can possibly avoid it, otherwise the picture will lose out to other pictures.

Next was quite a nice plant in flower (Rebutia cv "Sunrise") but the pot was awful and dirty. When you are taking photographs, your eye tends to look at the best parts of the subject - but you also need to think about the not-so-good parts as well - it's only afterwards you might notice them. Quite often, less is more - this was the same plant but with only two of the open flowers featured. And we saw another variation where the colour was taken out of the background and the plant body, allowing the flowers to be highlighted even more. Tom said you were allowed to photoshop your images - he often crops his photographs before submitting them. When taking pictures, try and leave a border around the subject, to give yourself some extra options.

**Background:** We saw pictures of a Mammillaria in flower and it was quite intense with nice colouring of the flower, but it's got rubbish (other plants and bubble wrap) in the background. A flower of a Frithia was spoilt by nearby pots and bits of label - he showed us the same plant with a black background and this was much better. If you use a dark background you can often get a more startling image. There was a bit of a shadow in the image. He showed a picture the BCSS society had used in their calendar - his comment was that they have got an awful pot there and the angle of the pot also detracts from the photograph. What he sometimes does is to put some cardboard ground the neck of the plant and add gravel - or just sink the pot into a larger pot and add gravel - you can also use different colours of gravel to improve the appearance.

**Exposure:** Looking at the next picture, you can see that if you have a dark background and bright flowers, the camera will over-expose the image and the flowers will lose detail. If you "stop down" the picture (e.g. 1/3 or 2/3 of a stop) - you will often get a better result. Take 2 or 3 pictures with different stops if you are not sure of the setting to use. Red flowers often don't come out well in digital cameras and stopping down can also improve the result with those.

#### Lighting:

He likes to take pictures outside in natural light. However, light from one side will cause a shadow. You can use a white sheet or a mirror to shine some light back onto the plant to avoid the shadow. With Conophytums - he waters them up to January and then leaves them dry until August, they grow much better - the featured Conophytum plant was in a 8 inch pan. He showed an image improved by holding a screen up to the side of the plant. He doesn't like pots at strange angles so he turned it round - it was still not perfect but it was better. A Leuchtenbergia is a tricky plant to photograph, trying to fit in all the spines and areoles, and there was also a large shadow in the background - but by zooming in to the centre of the plant, almost all of the shadow could be eliminated from the image.

**Depth of field:** A picture showed a ring of Mammillaria flowers - the front was in focus but the top and the back were not - this was due to a low depth of field - the aperture was set too wide. A smaller aperture will increase the depth of field, and we saw a better shot where both the front and the back were in focus now. Another one picture from a magazine showed 2 asclepiad flowers in focus - but the stem was slightly out of focus, and other stems and flowers at the back were not clear - by improving the depth of field, the parts at the back were sharper and the whole picture became more interesting.

Richard asked about landscape versus portrait format. Tom said that the world is just used to a landscape mode when watching things like TV - and that is what our eyes are used to - our eyes are side by side rather than aligned vertically. If the object is tall and thin you may have no option, but generally landscape orientation is best for pictures to be shown on a screen.

Next was **Miranda Stevenson** who gave a talk on Valencia Botanic Gardens titled "Cacti and Cats". She found herself in Valencia for a conference in September. She had heard about the botanic gardens so decided to visit them and was pleased with what she found. The gardens are part of the university -

they were founded originally in 1567 for research of medicinal plants. In 1802 the gardens moved to the current site, which was a walled garden just outside the walls of the old city of Valencia. Some sections were not in good condition, but parts of the garden are being renovated. The gardens are also a cat sanctuary - they take in stray cats and neuter them and the cats are fed and protected in the gardens. There are lots of glass houses but also many plants growing outdoors in a climate you can only envy. She spent most of her time outside, but we did get a glimpse of some of the plants in one of the glasshouses - we saw *Echinopsis tiegeliana* 'pusilla-variegata' and *Aloe immaculata*, and an *Orbea namaquensis* with gorgeous flowers.

For this talk she was focusing on the outdoor plants and we saw huge clumps of Aloes and Aeoniums and also *Aloe lineata*. It was really nice walking around, and trees made it quite shady. There was a large group of *Euphorbia tirucalli* - she has a small pot of it which has to be protected in the winter. There was also a huge clump of *Euphorbia alcornis* which is a Madagascan species. The rule in the garden is that if a bit has fallen off a plant, you are allowed to pick it up. She found a couple of pieces on the ground and brought them back, one of them appears to have rooted. There was a tall plant of *Euphorbia candelabrum* - she has a small one of this in her conservatory - this plant had to be propped up with some heavy duty scaffolding! The garden is a real paradise for people who like Euphorbias and also the more delicate plants in the greenhouses. *Euphorbia polyantha* is from northern Africa. *Euphorbia stenoclada* is another Madagascan plant, with nice angular growths on the branches. Unfortunately, there were no pieces on the ground. David mentioned it does get really big.

A lot of people go there for just a walk - it is cheap to get in. There were families and kids and many people were there just to see the cats rather than the plants. We saw a picture of a cat feeding station and the protected area for the cats. There were some large cacti growing outside, and we saw *Ferocactus robustus*. There were lots of different species in the planting and it was nice just to spot the plants and figure out what they were. She's a yucca fan and saw some big ones here - she couldn't get over their size. We saw *Yucca rigida* and *Yucca rostrata*. There was also the Australian grass tree *Xanthorrhoea glauca*. We saw the trunk of *Yucca elephantipes* - and also the leaves - it wasn't possible to get the whole tree in. David said it can get to 30-40 feet, hence the name. Because of the climate, various plants can flower and set seed, but she didn't find any ripe pods at this time.

We saw some of the cats. In one of the glass houses she came across a Spanish wall lizard and managed to get a good picture of it. Just to finish off we saw *Portulacaria afra* and *Puya boliviensis*. Overall, this was a beautiful botanic garden and well worth a visit if you are in the area.

Just before the mid-meeting tea break, we had an auction of some stem cuttings of *Cleistocactus strausii* from **Peter Bircher**, He had planted his plant out and it was growing too quickly and too fast for him so he had cut off some stems and had brought them in, hoping to raise some money for the branch. You just needed to let the cut stems callous over for a few weeks before potting them up and start watering perhaps around the end of March.

Just before we started the second half of the meeting, David asked members to enter the table show if at all possible. Despite high attendances at meetings, only a small number of people enter plants into the table show, and if things don't improve we may have to end it next year.

Next was **Jane Williams** - she had been on a holiday to Singapore and Indonesia in September. On the island of Bali, we saw some incredible plants of frangipani (*Plumeria*) and also large pots of *Adenium* in flower - these were all over their hotel. We saw a picture of the large ship they spent some time on - it carried 170 people and 97 staff. We also saw a young Komodo Dragon, around 3 feet long and a much larger one which was about 10 feet long and thankfully fast asleep. We also saw the bright red "dragon" fruit which grows on an epiphytic cactus (*Hylocereus*) - these plants are probably pollinated by bats.

Next it was the *Gardens by the Bay*, in Singapore. These consist of interconnected greenhouses and the *Flower Dome* is the world's largest columnless glasshouse. It was a fantastic place with all types of plants being grown in different climatic conditions. They went into the Flower Dome which has cacti and succulents as far as you could see - it replicates a cool-dry Mediterranean climate and it was air conditioned. One of the themes in the succulent garden was "Aloes in Wonderland" - and we could see the Cheshire cat in between the Aloes, and other characters from Alice in Wonderland were also there. There were several more sculptures and interesting objects scattered around the gardens. There were not that many people there, perhaps due to it being a weekday. There were a lot of flowering Euphorbias. Was that a bottle tree? It might be baby baobab (seriously pruned). There were a lot of Ponytail palms. And there were various little

carvings around the place. There were tall stems of *Alluaudia* – this plant is from Madagascar.

She saw several Yucca-type plants. There were *Euphorbia milii* plants with incredible flowers and these surrounded some of the unusual ornamental sculptures. A piece of driftwood was sculpted into a rabbit. There were large cacti alongside a spiny tree from Argentina/Brazil – this was *Chorisia speciosa* (now *Ceiba speciosa*) - the kapok tree. A Borzicactus with sprawling stems was in flower. The large flowered *Euphorbia milii* are hybrids and many are cultivated in Asia. We saw *Pachypodium lameri* with flowers. The driftwood sculpture of a large dragon (wyvern) was created by James Doran. There was a large *Dracaena*. We also saw the South African Quiver tree - *Aloe dichotoma*, with small terrestrial bromeliads planted in the front. The “tree grape” was *Cyphostemma juttae*. We saw more plantings of succulents including *Crassula* and *Echeveria* and there was a colourful orchid display in the background.

They went into the rainforest bio (the Supertree Grove and Cloud Forest). People were posing for pictures in front of a waterfall which is over 100 feet tall. She saw the most amazing *Cattleya* orchids with yellow flowers and red lips which didn't look real. There were a couple of epiphytic cacti with buds and flowers growing with the bromeliads. And then she saw a huge display of insect eating plants – but these were made from pieces of Lego! There were dozens of different types, including *Rafflesia*, pitcher plants and even venus fly traps. It was quite hot and humid here. She found a double flowered *Adenium* – there were quite a few of them. Outside there were cacti growing under a canopy, perhaps it's too wet for them without some cover. We saw a living wall of plants in the hotel bar and ended with some frangipani flowers in various shades of pink.

Next, **Ben Turner** showed us some pictures of plants from the BCSS National Show in 2016. The event is held every 4 years and the next one will be held later this year at a new venue in Milton Keynes - the previous one was in Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire.

We started with the South African *Aloe karasbergensis*. He mentioned he had bought one from Al Lauis a couple of years ago. Next was *Aloe pearsonii* – this was quite a large one, owned by Rodney Simms. *Aloe descoingsii* v. *augustina* is from Madagascar. Next was perhaps *Aloe congolensis* with nice marking on the leaves. *Aloe erinaceae* is one of the northern ones. *Aloe woolliana* is a grass aloe. *Aloe distans* is one of the parents of *Aloe nobilis*. *Aloe jucunda* is another

tropical species. *Aloe brevifolia*. nice and compact. *Aloe somaliensis* has nice markings on the leaves. It is more tender than the other aloes. *Aloe ankaboensis* looks like *A. bakeri*. *Aloe cremnophila* was a leggy plant - it comes from Somalia. He got a piece of this from Colin Walker in 2014. It is not a particularly attractive plant, the name means cliff dweller – and it was discovered by Peter Bally, who is well known in the Aloe world. We saw *Aloe haworthioides*, *A. pearsonii* and *A. compressa* - the latter is a book aloe - the leaves grow opposite each other. *Gasteria rawlinsonii* is another cliff dweller and is one of the most primitive of the Gasterias. *Mangave* “Bloodspot” is a cross between *Agave* and *Manfreda* – it's a nice small compact plant with spotting on the leaves. *Agave stricta* (possible v. *nana*) has narrow leaves with sharp tips. An *agave* with nice leaves with black leaf tips was a hybrid between *A. applanata* and *A. macrocantha*. In the background we also saw *Agave utahensis eborispina*. *Agave victoria reginae* exists in many forms and we saw a compact leaved specimen. A large bowl of *Agave toumeyana bella* contained many heads. *Agave* “Kissho Kan” is one of the popular Japanese cultivars. *Agave titanota* was a small plant. We saw *Calibanus hookeri* in flower - this is an *Agave* relative. *Agave mitis* v. *albidior* x *A. filifera* was another hybrid.

Now for some Cacti – we saw a very old *Ariocarpus* from Martin Edwards. Next were some cristates and monstrose plants. We saw *Pelecypora aselliformis* cristate, *Ariocarpus retusus* cristate. *Lophophora williamsii* monstrose and *Mammillaria geminispina brevispina* cristate. We saw nice plants of *Copiapoa columna-alba*. *Arrojadoa penicillata* produces intermediate ring cephalia which it can flower from each year. *Espositoa melanostele* had a woolly covering on the stem. *Cereus celsianus* had multiple stems. *Echinopsis (Lobivia) famatamensis* was a Tony Morris plant and probably 50 years old. We saw *Copiapoa dealbata* and *Eriosyce aurata* with golden spines. *Uebelmannia pectinifera* had a dark body. A *Melocactus* had a double headed cephalium. We also saw *Echinocactus polycephalus*, *Echinocactus horizonthalus*, *Ferocactus herrerae* and *Ferocactus gracilis*. We also saw *Mammillaria microthele*. *Cumulopuntia boliviana*, *Sulcorebutia arenacea*, *Obregonia denegrii* and *Aztekium ritteri*.

We saw some more succulents - *Pelargonium cotyledonis* and a nice *Echeveria agavoides* cv. *Ebony*. Next we saw some mixed collections – one featured *Gasteria* x *Aloe* crosses, these were rescued from a skip at Kew – it was someone's research project which was being thrown out. We also saw Stirling Baker's *Haworthias* – recognisable from the pots and the pristine condition. *Dorstenia gigas* was

a Gillian Evison plant which had been awarded a diploma. We ended with a few caudiciform plants.

Last to present was **David Neville** – a couple of days after the December meeting, he went to Fuerteventura for a 2 week holiday. Unlike Gran Canaria and Tenerife, where there are lots of native plants to look for, there are not too many places to visit in Fuerteventura which is more like a desert – he was surprised by how barren it was.

David went to *Oasis Park* which is a combined Zoo and Gardens. We started with pictures of some friendly animals (flamingos, camels, giraffes, elephants, zebras) and one or two not so friendly ones - Crocodiles. They seemed to have an excess of these, probably because the large crocodiles hamper access to any new eggs that have been laid.

The Botanic garden contained mainly cacti and succulents and it was amazing. There was hardly anyone there and he was there for a couple of hours. It wasn't scorching hot in December, the temperature was around 18-20°C. *Echinocactus polyacanthus* is similar in some ways to the more common *E. grusonii* but it is much slower growing. It also flowers from the crown. There were some lovely big plantings of Cerei – the tall columnar plants made nice architectural exhibits. A variegated agave was probably *Agave angustifolia*, it was starting to offset around the base. Plants of *Pachycereus pringlei* were also offsetting quite close to the base - these plants grow quite quickly compared to its habitat companion *Carnegiea gigantea*, and indeed there are hardly any Carnegieas grown in botanic gardens since they are just so slow. *Dracaena draco* is one of the native plants - but this was just a small one really, at a few feet tall. *Euphorbia abyssinica* was a large plant. We saw the spineless form of *Echinocactus grusonii* – and these were flowering, which is quite an achievement since these have not been in cultivation long. However, plants here grow much quicker than back in our greenhouses in the UK.

Some of the paths in the garden were wide and others were windier and more hazardous. There were lots of *E. grusonii* flowering their heads off. These plants are also grown commercially by the horticultural trade on the other Canary Islands. Some were offsetting around the base. A *Stenocereus* had undergone some drastic pruning. A relatively young *Nolina* (*Beaucarnea recurvata*) was flowering at quite a small size. A vicious cactus which had been scorched was *Stetsonia coryne* - it is often sold as seedlings in garden centre - it looks nice when young, but it's really not an attractive plant when it gets larger. Larger growing Aloes

make spectacular specimen plants and the smaller ones in the foreground were flowering profusely. *Adenia spinosa* is from Namibia and the caudex in the centre was football sized. Being December it was dormant. Another *Adenia* nearby wasn't dormant and a third *Adenia* still had some leaves on it.

There were some magnificent specimens - *Ferocactus stainesii* / *pilosus* had intense red spines on the new growth. Behind it was a big Argentinian *Trichocereus*. A nice bottle tree was a *Moringa*. Another *Trichocereus* was growing well and you could see that it would grow into a whopper. A closeup of the top of a *E. grusonii* showed one golden yellow flower - the flowers are small for the size of the plants and the flowers have a lot of petals.

*Cyphostemma juttiae* from Namibia remains a low growing and spreading plant - this one was leafless. We saw a larger growing *Cyphostemma juttiae* which had been flowering and the leaves were dying back. We saw some bigger *Nolinas* (*Beaucarnea recurvata*) - these can grow several feet across in due course. Another *Cyphostemma* still had its leaves and also featured red fruits. Next we saw a *Dracaena* - it had been hacked back, and was growing on the edge of a wall and you could see the thick succulent roots. *Hamatocactus hamatocanthus* has hooked spines. The big stands of plants are the most impressive and we saw *Pachycereus pringlei*, and a lovely *Espostoa lanata* – the latter is always a nice looking plant, and very handsome. When they mature, they produce a side cephalium which grows with the stem - the cephalium is usually on the shady side to protect the flowers from drying out. *Vatricania guentheri* is now considered an *Espostoa* - it also forms a side cephalium on the stem, and the new growth in the cephalium is a striking red colour. You could see all the indents where the flowers have been produced. There were some large plants of *Echinopsis atacamensis* which comes from Chile - it is a strong growing cerioid plant. There were stems of *Stenocactus* pictured against the blue sky.

*Aloe broomii* was suffering from some tip die-back but the centre was growing healthily - the plant is quite attractive and its leaves were edged with dark teeth. *Cephalocereus senilis* had reached flowering size and was developing a cephalium at the tip of the stem. It is much slower growing than the *Espostoas* and you don't see mature plants in the UK.

There were some nice *Adeniums* here, growing on a slope. One of the plants was labelled *Adenium*

*somalense* and there were some seed horns on the plant. A Ferocactus had bright red spines on the new growth. *Alluaudia ascendens* is from Madagascar. There was a beautiful stand of *Opuntia galapageia* which comes from the Galapagos - it has a distinctive appearance with spines on the trunk to prevent the tortoises on the Galapagos from eating them. It needs more warmth than other Opuntias in cultivation. We saw *Aloe marlothii* and *Aloe dichotoma* - the bark was starting to peel on the latter. We also saw *Aloe karasbergensis* which is from the *A. striata* group and it was in flower. He also came across *Monadenium magnificum* - he never seen it growing outdoors before. *Euphorbia handiensis* was a native and it only grows on this island, but at a location quite a distance away. There were some more adeniums here with seed horns - they have seeds which blow in the wind, like dandelions.

We saw an *Aloe dichotoma* beginning to develop a nice trunk, and also a clump of *Agave potatorum*. You can see the older plant has longer leaves than the pups which all have broad and short leaves. Some Agaves were producing flower stems. We saw *Agave palmeri* and *Agave franzosinii* - the rosettes of the latter can grow to 10-12 feet across. We saw *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, and a variegated *Agave angustifolia*. *Agave americana* was growing next to a Furcrea which is a more tender plant from central America. There was a very beautiful and pale form of *Agave angustifolia* which may not be able to survive. We also saw plants of *Pachypodium lameri*. After cleaning seeds David ended with a picture of a nice cocktail, to be enjoyed while admiring the view across the bay, where the southern tip of Lanzarote was visible in the distance.

Vinay Shah

**Table Show Results**

There were 11 entries in the January table show, and 2 entries for "Plants in Flower".

	<b>Cacti – Echinocactus</b>	<b>Succulents – Aloe</b>
Open	(1) B Beckerleg Leuchtenbergia principis	(1) B Beckerleg Aloe haworthiodes
	(2) P Klaassen Ferocactus stainesii	(2) B Turner Aloe haworthiodes x Aloe descoingsii
	(3) M Stevenson Ferocactus wislizeni	(3) -
Intermediate	(1) B Beckerleg Echinocactus horizontalonius	(1) B Turner Aloe congolensis
	(2) M Stevenson Leuchtenbergia principis	(2) B Beckerleg Aloe plicatilis
	(3) M Stevenson Ferocactus hamatacanthus	(3) -

<b>Cacti/Succulent in Flower</b>
(1) B Beckerleg Crassula cv "Celia"
(2) M Stevenson Crassula hemispherica
(3) -

Robin Caddy

## Next Month's Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and will feature a talk by Hazel Taylor about a trip to North west Argentina. This should feature quite a few cacti. Hazel is an interesting speaker who gives good talks and she has spoken to the branch before, but it was quite a long time ago.

The March Table Show will consist of the **Opuntia** group (cacti) and the **Agave** group (succulents), along with "plant in flower". Please note that members can submit more than one entry in any of the classes, and that points will be earned for each placed entry.

The table show classes use the classifications from the *Guide to Shows 10<sup>th</sup> Edition* (contact me if you don't have a copy of this).

The Opuntia group includes *Austrocylindropuntia*, *Cylindropuntia*, *Grusonia*, *Maihuenia*, *Maihueniopsis*, *Nopalea*, *Opuntia*, *Pereskia*, *Pterocactus*, *Puna*, *Tacinga*, *Tephrocactus* and *Tunilla*.

The Agave Group includes *Agave*, *Beaucarnea*, *Calibanus*, *Dasyilirion*, *Dracaena*, *Furcraea*, *Hesperaloe*, *Hesperoyucca*, *Manfreda*, *Nolina*, and *Yucca*.

## Forthcoming Events

Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Isle of Wight	Highlights of Arizona & Utah – David Neville
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Portsmouth	New Season Cultivation/Propagation Workshop
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Southampton	A Trip to North-West Argentina - Hazel Taylor
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Isle of Wight	Northern Peru Nov 2017 - Cliff Thompson
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Portsmouth	My world of Mammallarias - Tony Roberts
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Southampton	Branch committee meeting – Chilworth Village Hall
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Southampton	A Tour of Continental Nurseries & Collections - Stuart Riley
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Isle of Wight	Open Meeting
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Portsmouth	Plant Auction

Branch website: <http://www.southampton.bcss.org.uk>  
 Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/southamptonbcss>