



Reg. Charity in England and Wales No. 290786

Macclesfield & East Cheshire Branch Newsletter



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June 2018

Well, here we are, half way through the year with as much to look back on as to look forward. The branch has been doing well with good attendances at meetings, a fine varied programme presented by local speakers and others who have travelled some distance to entertain and inform us. Our branch is in a strong financial position. Another notable event was the Zone Symposium in May.

I almost forgot to mention the plants. Yes, I think it's been a good year for them, too. Admittedly there were some tough spells in the winter putting heating systems to the test but the past two months have seen some excellent growing weather so long as we could find time for regular watering and take steps to avoid plants becoming scorched.

The second half of the year offers a good varied programme of meetings along with the Branch Show, RHS Tatton, Poynton Show and the NW Mesemb Show in prospect.

Nationally, we have the number of members very slightly rising, a big International Convention coming up and a Journal going from strength to strength. On the other hand, the number of branches is declining. Falling attendances is certainly a problem but perhaps a bigger problem is the loss or retirement of long serving officials and nobody is prepared to take over. Looking back over the past 40 years of our branch it seems that we presently have our 6th Secretary, 7th Treasurer and 9th Chairman. Perhaps one of the secrets of our success is our amazing ability to find new officials when required. It is not unusual for us to have a meeting with four former chair persons in the audience. Many branches indeed envy us. - Alasdair

Three local BCSS members died recently and we extend our sympathy to their respective families.

Philip Barker, a very familiar figure at many branches and someone who before his illness kept a great many of us supplied with BEF pots and many other horticultural sundries.

Geoff Bailey was for some time Secretary of Manchester branch and in his later years a member of our branch. Geoff had come to lead a very reclusive life and was rarely, if ever, seen out and about and would not have been known to many of our newer members but will be remembered by those of us who have been in the Society for many years.

We have also lost Brian Darnell, Chairman of Manchester branch for

I have to confess and apologise that although a March Newsletter was prepared it had a very limited circulation. While much of the content need not be repeated I am reproducing the section concerning the AGM since it is of more lasting interest.

AGM

Since the last issue in December we have had our AGM and again a very healthy picture of our branch was presented to the approximately two dozen people present (that's a very healthy number for a start). After four years in office Elizabeth was standing down as Chairman and we thank her very sincerely for the time and effort she put in to the job. Vice Chairman Peter Cupial -Jones is our new Chairman and we wish him well. Tony Leonard is now our Vice Chairman. It was a pleasure to welcome Chris Eardsley, one of our newer members, on to the Committee.

In his written report Secretary Phil Crewe informed us that Membership stood at 60 in December 2017, which is 3 more than at December 2016 - although there were 7 members who didn't renew and 2 who moved out of the area, these were replaced by 11 new members over the course of the year plus 1 who moved in to the area. 10 members subscribe to Bradleya. Branch meeting attendance has fallen by, on average, 1.4 members per month to 23.6 per month, ranging from 19 to 30, although no record was kept of June's meeting which could expect above average attendance. Of our 60 members, 38 have attended at least one meeting over the course of the year and we have had a further 7 visitors. I don't think that the small drop in attendance is significant. Possibly of some significance, however, was a dip in the number of Show entries. Please give serious thought to putting entries in on July 8th especially if you did not enter last year.

With 75 points Tony Leonard had a very clear victory in the Plant of the Month Competition. Elizabeth Maddock took



second place and Bruce Walton third with 59 and 40 points respectively. President Julia Davenport presented Tony with the Plant of the Month shield.

The evening was rounded off with a plant auction, which has become a biennial event. This was again a success raising, I believe, nearly £100 for branch funds thanks to our members entering into the spirit of it by donating some excellent plants and by some spirited bidding. As always some not so good plants achieved surprisingly good prices and some fine plants turned out to be great bargains. That's just part of the fun of it. Thank you very much everybody. Following 5 months of continuing the tlc they were used to we might even see some of the lots on the Showbench.

Alasdair

RHS Chatsworth

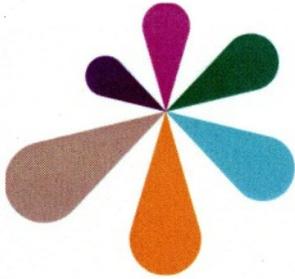
Curiosity got the better of me and I went for a look at the second RHS Show in the grounds of Chatsworth House. I left home shortly after 10.00am and, going via Buxton, encountered only light traffic on the way and no trouble getting in. The site I think is more extensive than Tatton, and involves more walking to the Show from the outer reaches of the car parks and to get round the Show. I thought it looked more attractive than Tatton. Entry was £38.50.

There were many familiar exhibitors but some notable absentees, but on the other hand there were some with which I was not familiar. Cacti and succulents were covered by William's Cacti (Craig and his Dad) who gained a silver gilt award, Ottershaw Cacti from Surrey (Daniel Jackson) who gained a gold to go with his gold from Chelsea and Simply Succulents from Lincolnshire, I think, who I hadn't come across before and I believe are fairly new. I thought that there were less Show Gardens than Tatton but were closer to each other on the far side of the site. No bedding plant competition but a long border feature. I prefer the former. I felt that there were more stalls to buy from but maybe it was just a slightly different layout.

Despite the large number of cars parked I had a smooth exit 30 minutes before closing time and good run home. Would I go back? Yes!

Alasdair

106th



Wilmslow Show

**A reminder that our Branch Show is on Sunday 8th
July from 11am to 5pm.**

Closing date for entries is Tuesday 3rd July.

[As there is no lighting in the marquee this year exhibits on the
Saturday (7th July) can only be taken to the showground up to 8pm.]

Please everyone consider entering to support your show now and
in the future.

Again this year the venue is:- The Carnival Field, Altrincham Road
(A538), Wilmslow SK9 5NG.

There is no on-site parking, other than disabled, on the day of the
show but there will be a Park & Ride in operation from Broadway
Meadow to the Carnival Field which will run from 10.45 to 17.00.

As normal, the Wilmslow Horticultural committee is looking for help
from our branch members in both setting up on Friday 6th July
starting at 2pm and dismantling after the show finishes on the
Sunday.

Also volunteers required during the opening hours of the show to
keep a check on the display plants to ensure no damage occurs
and also giving advice to the general public if required.

I have a supply of show schedules should anyone require one.
Alternatively go to the website:- <http://www.wilmslowshow.co.uk>

Judith Roseblade, Show Secretary

Forthcoming attractions

July

The day after judging our show Mike Stansbie puts on his speaker's hat to share his "Experiences with Mammillarias". Mike is not only one of the most popular speakers on the very popular genus he is also one of our finest growers. We might even hear of some of the experiences involved in the moving of his collection from Midland Coventry some 200 miles north to Northumbria.

Other attractions in July are Wilmslow Show, incorporating our Show on the 8th and the RHS Show at Tatton Park from 18th until 22nd.

August

This month we again welcome Paul Klaassen coming up from Salisbury. The title "What I did last winter" of the talk is the same as usual but rest assured that the content will be different. Paul always finds something interesting to do every winter. He will be giving the same talk at Stoke on Trent branch the following evening.

Poynton Show is on Saturday 25th August

September

A local speaker for September in Peter Birt from neighbouring Manchester branch. We see Peter visiting our branch quite often but it's a few years since he has given us a talk. But this month we will be treated to "Magical moments with Mesembs" This will no doubt whet our appetites for the North West Mesemb Show on 13th October.

Plant of the month

Classes for over 9cm (3½") pots and under 3½"

July	Mammillaria Gp	Stapelia Gp
August	Copiapoa Gp	Gasteria Gp
September	Echinocereus Gp	Lithops Sub Gp

Please don't forget

Every month there are also classes for a Cactus or a Succulent in flower - Pot Unlimited