

## From the Chair

Welcome to your MARCH 2024 Newsletter,

With the advent of few brighter days many of you will be starting to assess the impact of winter on your collections. Unfortunately, my collection suffered badly from an electrical breakdown whilst I was away, and temperature dropped to below zero during that fortnight. The problem was caused by water ingress to the meter and distribution cabinet mounted on an external wall. This led to a significant amount of work re-wiring the supply to the greenhouse; I took the opportunity to renew and simplify all the internal electrics to the green house and hope that that is the end of my misfortunes. Whilst the new meter cabinet is IP66, I have also ensured that it is now protected by a small canopy to repel any driving rain.



**My new greenhouse supply - hopefully problem free.**

I hope that any losses you may have had are minimal, and you can anticipate starting watering in the next month or so. Let us hope that any climate-change weather conditions are more favourable in the coming year, and we can all look eagerly forward to an interesting and floriferous year.

A big thank you to all those members who turned out for the AGM last month, it is so important that members take an active part in branch activities. The evening was extremely enjoyable thanks to the super Quiz that Bryan teased us all with; it was a great opportunity for members to socialise and judging by the animated discussions taking place members made full use of the opportunity. More interactive events like this are well worth repeating.

A change to our programme was required due to the late withdrawal of the speaker and for our March meeting next Monday on the 11<sup>th</sup>, we have another opportunity to integrate with our fellow members. The meeting is designed around the identification of plants we may have and would like to know more about, and to share problems we may have with cultivation and pest control.

Please give your support to this ID and plant surgery evening; it's a great opportunity to increase and share our collective knowledge of the great world of Cacti and Other Succulents. Bring along your problematic plants (or Photos) and make use of our collective Branch Brainpower whilst having a fun evening.

## **Plant of the month**

Congratulations to Harold Copper for his runaway win of the 2023 plant of the month competition and thank you to all those who contributed throughout the year; let's make 2024 a bumper year.

The classes for this month are **Turbinicarpus group and Gasteria group.**

Classes for the rest of the year are reproduced below and appear on our branch web site.

**April: Stenocactus group and Sedum subgroup**

**May: Opuntia group and Haworthia group**

**June: Rebutia group and Aloe group**

**July: Eriosyce group and Echeveria subgroup**

**August: Thelocactus group and Euphorbia group**

**September: Mammillaria group and Crassula subgroup**

**October: Echinopsis group and Mesembs (excluding Lithops subgroup)**

**November: Matucana group and Sempervivum subgroup**

**December: Rhipsalis group and Agave group**

**January: Gymnocalycium group and Anacampseros group**

**February: Astrophytum group and Lithops subgroup**

**March: Turbinicarpus group and Gasteria group.**

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible next Monday,

Tony.