

From the Chair

Welcome to your APRIL 2024 Newsletter,

One could be forgiven for thinking that the current weather conditions are some kind of April fool, sunshine and warmth followed by biting cold, wet, and windy periods. Hopefully Spring will be with us sooner rather than later and we can look forward to watering our collections in earnest.

March was a particularly busy month for me as our next-door neighbours have eventually reduced the height of the 7m high beech hedge which then necessitated the replacement of our old fruit cage during which exercise I discovered that our garden shed also needed replacing. The new shed is now in place and fully functional, complete with electrics and a new fruit cage is due to arrive this week: as it is a simple aluminium-framed one with an integral door this should not be a huge task.

At this time of year many of us start to think about seed sowing and whilst I have considerably reduced the number of seeds I will be sowing I have taken the opportunity to install electrics to my small aluminium grow-house and moved my propagators and seed raising activities out of the greenhouse. I hope that those of you growing from seed (or cuttings) have a successful 2024.

Whilst here in the UK we are enduring miserable weather my eldest son Tom, and his family are enjoying a break in Argentina. Below are some photos of the stunning landscapes in NW Argentina with the awe-inspiring giant “*Cardon*” cactuses and chunky Opuntias. This area is known as the painted hills (distinct from the painted mountains of Peru) which provide spectacular backdrops for these giants of the cactus world. Enjoy!





Our speaker for April is Hazel Taylor who will be presenting,

“Plants and Animals of the Western Cape”

April plant of the month groups are Stenocactus group and Sedum sub- group.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible next Monday 8th April, Tony.