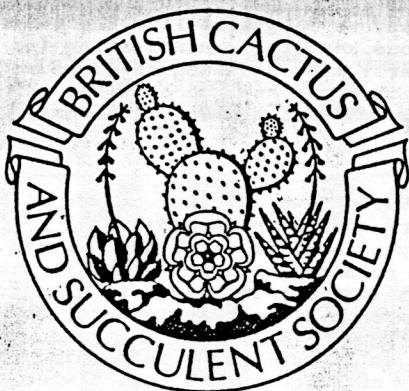


**Manchester
Branch**



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1988

Editor...Peter Schofield

WHAT'S THIS, THEN ? It is a new experiment - the first of what is hoped to be a series of monthly newsletters to keep members informed and, I hope, interested. It will start small; it may well stay small ! The more odds and ends you send in, the bigger it will get. If you ignore it, it may even go away! Articles would be nice, but equally interesting are your visits, propagations, successes & disasters, moans & groans. Please do join in

THANKS, LES ! Our first job must be to thank Les Pearcy for his time and effort in generating the Branch Newsletter over the last few years and to wish him well as he moves to live closer to his fulltime job at Abbey Brook

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

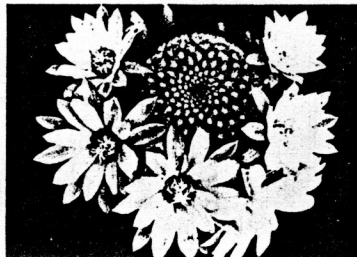
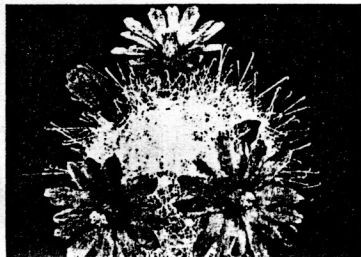
Exactly a year ago we published a crossword compiled by Peter Bint. Would anyone out there like the answers? Did anyone do it? Has anyone kept it? Anticipating the likely replies, we take the liberty of publishing the crossword again - with the missing clue inserted and the question numbers corrected this time, and a *promise* of the solution next month. Here we go.....

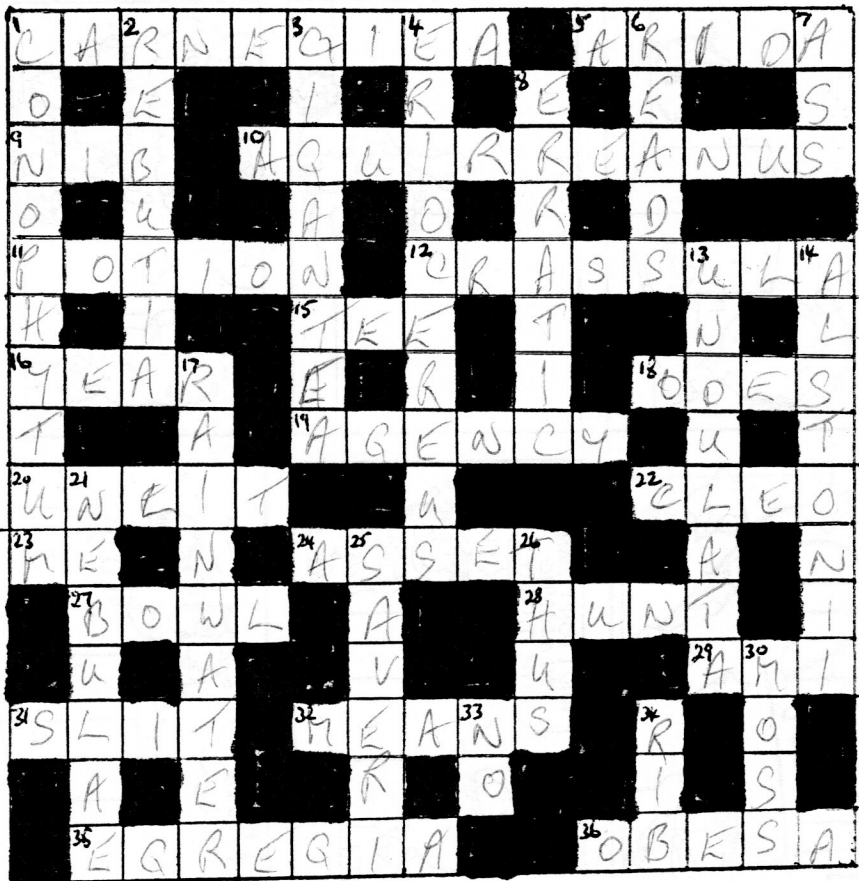
ACROSS

- 1 & 3 Down..Well-known columnar cactus with its own Park (9,8)
- 5...A very dry Mammillaria ! (5)
- 9... It's very pointed to upset the bin and write (3)
- 10..Let Esau ruin rag, but get upset for this Gymnocactus (11)
- 11..A complete section lost a letter and found a poison (6)
- 12..Large genus of African succulents; sounds a bit thick at first (8)
- 15..Can be a shirt but sounds refreshing for golf (3)
- 16..Want very much for twelve months when losing a point (4)
- 18..Verses found in code sets can be romantic (4)
- 19..Begin with the silver when selling your estate (6)
- 20..Such a heater does not benefit the frosty greenhouse (5)
- 22..Did she discover succulent plants carrying on in Egypt (4)
- 23..Who likes growing cacti ? (2)
- 24..Valuable if you agree to dispose of the novel opening (5)
- 27..Container for many plants, or gut-less point ! (4)
- 28..Mammillaria expert found at Kew if you search properly (4)
- 29..A French friend who could aim more carefully (3)
- 31..A fissure as found in many Mesembs. (4)
- 32..To rearrange names is the way to find funds (5)
- 35..Desirable Mammillaria which stands out from the rest (7)
- 36..Euphorbia much sought after, even if needs starving (5)

DOWN

- 1...Large, highly succulent family of Mesembs. (10)
- 2...Very floriferous S.American cacti, might repel first (7)
- 3...see 1 across
- 4...Stragglng cactus more used for grafting than growing (10)
- 6...Dares to change what to do with labels (5)
- 7...Has the donkey chewed this until only the base remains (3)
- 8...Many desert plants adapt to this sort of rainfall
- 13..Kalanchoe that constantly waves its leaves round ! (8)
- 14..Very desirable Anacampseros, only found after careful search in Little Namaqualand (8)
- 17..They say that this is the best moisture for our plants (9)
- 21..Clouds of dust in the night sky (7)
- 25..Tasty-sounding Thelocactus from N.E.Mexico (6)
- 26..So it is said (4)
- 30..Prevent this top dressing your plants (4)
- 33..Add this to cactus from South America for fine flowers (2)
- 34..Tease a ridge from many cacti and succulents (3)

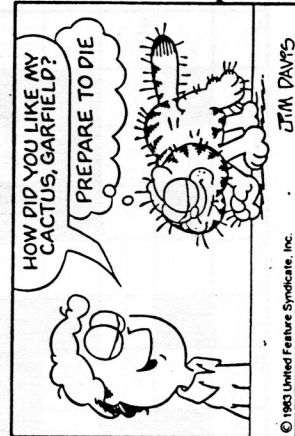
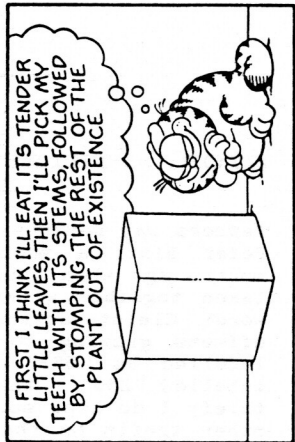
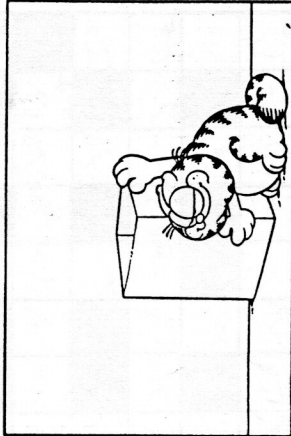
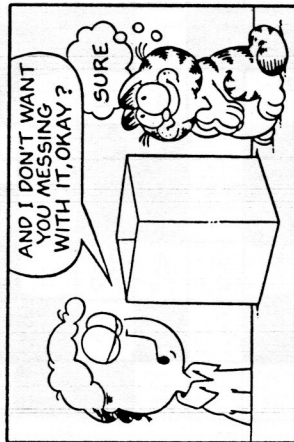
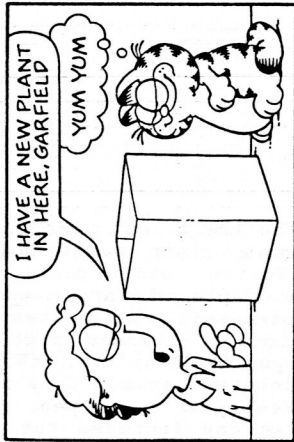
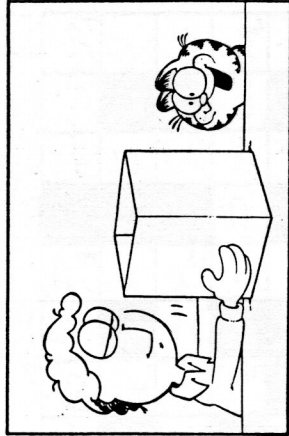




STOP... THIEF !

Members may remember the theft last year of choice cactus from Peter Bint; a much more minor event occurred a couple of months ago when your Editor had a small tray of Mammillaria taken together with a couple of larger specimens. The latter were: Cleistocactus straussii, main stem beheaded and four offsets growing to about 18 inches high, in a square pot, labelled as "57B"... Opuntia Tunicata, about 12 inches high, labelled "250" - the debris suggests this may have savaged the thief; I do hope so. Keep your eyes open, and please advise of other thefts so that we can increase the number of available eyes.

GARFIELD

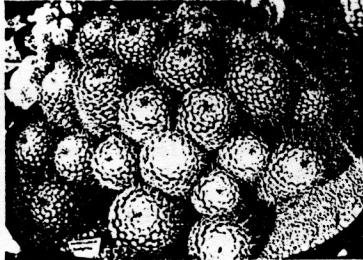


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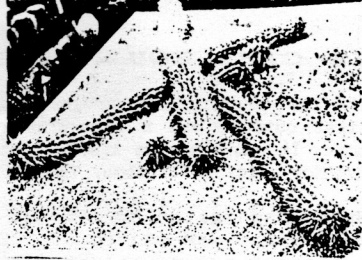
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JIM DAVIS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE INC.



Mammillaria Bombycina



Machaerocereus Eruca

OUR NEW MEETING PLACE:

In case anyone is interested, Sutherland High School was built in 1965 as a Secondary Modern, becoming an 11-18 Comprehensive shortly afterward. After reaching a maximum of just over 1000 pupils, it has now dropped to around 750; your Editor is Head of Science here, with his wife as part-time Laboratory Technician.

The Community Centre was purpose built several years ago to serve the Darnhill estate; as part of Council policy, the whole school will become available for community use in about twelve months' time. At the same time the Centre management committee have been given much greater autonomy over bookings, and the arrival of the Cactus Society is the first outcome of that change. We are making a small piece of history, folks! It also works out much cheaper than St. Augustines and we hope it is more comfortable.

OUT & ABOUT

Having just got the AA booklet of Gardens & Garden Centres, and feeling like a drive on New Year's Day, we decided to take a look at Goredale "one of the largest garden centres in the NW, open every day", at Burton-on-Wirral. It was closed. So was AquaWorld next door. Next door but one, on the A540, was Burton Garden Centre. This is a conventional, unassuming centre with the usual range of sales items. It seemed to have an unusually wide range of cactus with non-commercial labels - none of the dreaded yellow pre-prints. On enquiry we found that they had been invited to dispose of a collection of several hundred by an enthusiast who had decided to switch to alpines.

The bulk were in average condition - some evidence of slug visitation, some slight scarring, nothing special. Prices were in the range 50p to £ 2.50 (4" pots). Labels seemed accurate apart from a *M.rhodantha* labelled as *M.bocasana*. We picked up a 4" *M.monancistracantha* cluster, together with two small five year olds: *M.shurleana* (var. of *blossfeldiana*) and "*M.atavagensis*" (information on this welcome!).

Several "specimen plants" were not for sale: two 4-foot *Weberbauerocereus*, *W.johnstonii* rich green with 30 or more rows of short brown spines and *W.cuzcobsis* grey green with a dozen rows of long grey spines. Also a 15" *M.bombycina* cluster, a 20" *E.grusonii* and three unlabelled large-padded *Opuntiae*.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The last meeting was our last at St. Augustines - with the heat full on, a light outside and a last-minute plea from the Church to reconsider our move. It was also the A.G.M., not generally an occasion for wild excitement but for quiet reflection. The following may be worth recording:

Funds had fallen by £85 but remained healthy at £827.59
Membership was static at 102, with a turnover of 16, but average attendance at meetings had fallen back to 37. The lack of active junior members was noted.

Only eight members had exhibited in the table show this year
The Committee was re-elected apart from the loss to foreign parts of Les Pearcy and Alan Akers.

The National Show had been widely praised but had received disappointing support from the public; there would be a one-day National in 1989 with a possible re-run at UMIST in 1990.

Much more help would be needed with the Tombola at Salford Show (August 20-21); it had been unacceptably undermanned this year

Following the Business Meeting, Harold Gaulton entertained us with a travelogue of slides from his recent American trip - not the succulent aspects which are saved for later enjoyment, but shots of general interest. Many thanks, Harold.

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ROUND THE SOCIETIES

EAST CHESHIRE... Monday, 11th January, 7.30 for 8.00, Wilmslow
Public Library: AGM with slides
Contact Mrs. B. McKnight on 061 431 8148

BOLTON... Tuesday, 12th January, 7.00 for 7.30, Bolton Town
Hall: Annual General Meeting with slides to follow.
Contact Philip Barker on 0942 56440

WARRINGTON... Wednesday, 13th January, 7.30 for 8.00, Penketh
Leisure Centre: Members' Evening - slides, question
& answer session. Contact Mrs. Barbara Beesley on
051 424 9432

WIGAN... Wednesday, 20th January, 7.15 for 7.45, Independent
Methodist Church, Stopford St., Higher Ince:
Beginners' evening - Philip Barker & John Harrison
Contact John Harrison on 0942 218465.

PRESTON... Thursday, 4th February, 7.00 for 7.30, St. Andrews
Church Hall, Blackpool Rd., Preston: Jim Harrison,
"My favourite Mammillarias"
Contact Mrs. Jean Kendall on 077 478 2957

NEXT MONTH.

Return of JOHN HENSHAW, from Eccleston. An amateur nurserymen & propagator of cacti, John will be talking about his visit to NEVADA & CALIFORNIA... Saturday February 13th at 7.00 for 7.30... No table show at this meeting - start in March.