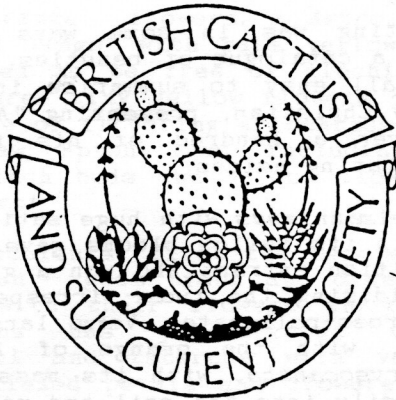


**Manchester  
Branch**



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1988

Editor...Peter Schofield

*Time for apologies and for more thanks. Apologies first to John Hinton, who became transmogrified last month into John Henshaw. The latter is not our Shows Man, and had nothing to do with Salford Show. The former is and had much to do with it. John has earned our further thanks for his efforts toward the Branch Show at Middleton - as also have all the other members who spent time setting up, stewarding and de-staging. Not least, of course, thanks are owed to every member who entered plants in the Show; it really was a delight to see, did us proud, and greatly enhanced the Borough Flower Show. Details of awards are found elsewhere; they are, perhaps, secondary to the knowledge that we have again made a lot of people more aware of and more sympathetic to our hobby. That's what it's all about.*

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The September meeting was in some ways a repeat of the previous month's - a catalogue of beauties, very enjoyable to watch but not at all easy to summarise in print. It was a return visit by Roy Christian, presenting "A Year of Flowers": a selection of over a hundred of his favourites with a sprinkling of fascinating asides.

Slides of *Noto. ubelmannianus* with huge satin-pink flowers and of *N. magnificus* with its yellow blooms gave an opportunity to tell of the competition entrant who won a greenhouse with her suggestion of hybridising the two - irrespective of the fact that they don't cross-pollenate! Very large yellow flowers graced *N. claviceps*, with the orange of *N. heselbergii*. The related *Parodia chrysocantha*, with its mass of bright yellow flowers, draws steadily into the soil and replaces most of its body over a single season.

Lots of Echinocerei inevitably appeared, and Roy made reference to the great variability in spination and flower colour - the latter dependent on the compost selected. We saw *E. pacificus* (red), *papillosus* (cream with dark red throat), *subterranea* (orange), *brandegeei* (magenta, with deeper stripe & throat), *viridiflorus* (green), *baileyi* (peach), *morcallii* (violet - almost spineless, so beware hot sun), *subinermis* (yellow), and *penicillii* unlike any other echinocereus, looking like an apocactus with orange-pink flowers.

Mention of Lobivias brought comment on the unreliability of labels as more and more hybrids are reaching us. *L. winteriana* had large magenta flowers on a minute stem; *L. acanthoplegma* showed the double ring of stamens particularly well; *L. peclardiana* had particularly attractive pink flowers with a deeper stripe. A few Mammillarias were to be expected, but some confusion was caused by *M. trichocantha* with cream flowers and finely barbed spines seen in closeup, and *M. trichacantha* in cristate form with small yellow flowers. *M. magnifica* looked aptly named with a ring of violet flowers set against light brown hooked spines and a white crown, and *M. fraileana* was set off by its long red stigma. Conversely it was the large yellow stamens which drew attention to the magenta flowers of *M. deherdtiana*.

As if noting the species isn't difficult enough, some obscure genera creep in as well. *Cephalocleistocactus* is usually simply known as *cleistocactus* - *C. ritteri* has yellow/green flowers; *Chileorebutia* is apparently now subsumed into *Neoporteria* (but then, so is an amazing number of other "genera"! ) - we saw *N. glabrescens*; *Pygmaeocereus* is a valid name and we saw one of its members with nocturnal white flowers. Geoff Bailey assures me that Echinofossulocactus are now officially *Stenocactus* (probably to save money on labels), and we saw one such with a strong pink stripe on pale pink petals.

A quick round-up of other cacti recalls a columnar cereus with some eight flowers on a two-foot stem, *Oroya citriflora* with yellow-throated orange flowers, *Astro. nudum* (very), *O. microdasys* "Angel Wings" with pale yellow flowers (this is the cultivar alleged to be free of glochids), a Ferocactus producing two or three tiny yellow flowers a year on a twelve inch plant, a couple of flowering Ariocarpus - one yellow, one pink - and a few Epiphyllums including the ridiculous "Pegasus" with 11-inch buds and 3-foot flowers too heavy for the leaves to support!

On to the other succulents: first the Ceropegias. No sun - no flower; plant in sun - goes brown and dies. They need to be rooted in shade, with their flowers in the sun. And what flowers! *C. radicans* has yellow/green Chinese lanterns; *C. barkleyi* is small and tuberous with very hairy blooms; *C. debecheyi* has reflexed petals and flowered for three years without forming any roots at all; *C. radicans x sandersonii* has an organ-pipe flower; *C. cimexiodora* is alleged to smell of crushed bedbugs (some botanists must have disgusting habits!). Among other ascleps. were *Cynanchum*, with hundreds of tiny cage-like flowers up the stem, *Huernia stapelioides* with a papillate brown/cream flower, a small globular *Duvalia* with the usual star shaped flower and violet hairs on the "lifebelt", various *carallumas*, a *sarcocaulon* with papery white flowers, *Stapelia flavicorolla* with - not surprisingly - a yellow flower, wide and with a black centre

A pleasing range of *Hoya* included *H. lachinosa* (?) with a yellow flower barely an eighth of an inch across, *H. australis* "sold under 20 different names" with flowers like polished cheese - very attractive in bud, with a fine red edging to the petals; *H. cinnamomifolia* with yellow reflexed petals and a large deep red centre; and *H. engelmannii*, a long thin strand with miniscule leaves, in a 3 1/2" pot, having an umbel of four flowers. *H. findlaysonia* was shown growing in total shade; Roy remarked on their tremendous capacity for water - "stand them in it, they never rot". *Hoya* "Bright One" has maroon petals but appearing white edged by reason of a covering of white fur.

*Euphorbia* was represented by *E. canariensis* - a piece which was severed from its parent 44 years ago using a hammer and cold chisel after removing the greenhouse glass. In habitat it reaches a prodigious size; this fragment is now 4ft. tall with a red flower. *Dorstenia* was there with its large central inflorescence, through which seeds are ejected into every neighbouring pot. Mind you, Roy remarked on an agave, clearly accompanied in its pot by a *mimulus* which had "jumped out of the pond". *Haymanthus* is frowned upon as a not-collectable succulent; it seems a mixed up genus around - *H. natalensis* has no petals, stigma & stamens surrounded by sepals, and a large leaf following the flower; *H. multiflorum* has an incredible network of long red stamens.

There was much more besides; we were quite late leaving!

## BRANCH SHOW 1988

It was a pleasure to welcome David Rushforth to judge this year's show at Middleton, and he was welcomed by a fine array of plants. The show attracted useful publicity in the Heywood press both before and after, with mention of our meetings, and may possibly bring in new members. As far as your scribe was able to record them, here follows an account of the winning entries for the benefit of members who couldn't be there.

Class 1 is the odd one for *Melocactus*, *Ariocarpus*, *Lophophora* & *Leuchtenbergia*, and all were represented. Geoff Bailey won with *A. retusus* & *A. lloydii*, the latter labelled as costing £7.75 ten years ago! Peter Bint was second with a well-flowered *M. bahiensis* & *Loph. williamsii*, and Tony Butterworth third with two more *Melos*, *M. matanzanus* being particularly neat with a small cephalium. Class 2 is *Opuntias*: John Hinton led the field with a pan of *O. nigripina*, followed by PB's vicious looking *O. invicta* and GB's *O. basilaris*.

Turning to the Big Mamms. in Class 3, GB gained the Anniversary Cup for best mammillaria with a massive *M. mühlenpiordii* entering into its second dichotomous splitting. John H. took second & third with *M. bombycinas*. It was interesting to see the variety of head size and spination among the *bombycinas* on show, Tony B.'s having deep brown spines on quite long heads. Among large entries for the smaller mamm. classes 4 & 5, GB and PB took all the prizes - with, quite remarkably, every plant of a different species. Memorable were the spectacular rings of fruit on Peter's *M. schiedeana* - something which mine never shows.

Among the cactus classes it was obvious that Peter and Geoff would dominate, by virtue of their large collections. It is still a great pleasure to admire and commend their plants, which do not maintain prize-winning standard without a lot of hard work. Other entrants, though, were much in evidence and some reached the "first three". Other John Hinton successes were his 4-headed, grey-spined *Neoporteria* sp. which won class 13 and a double-headed *Stenocactus lamellisus* in class 17. Annette took second place in class 6 with *Rebutia fibrinii* (FR688), a beautiful mound of heads each less than a centimetre across. Tony Butterworth scored again with gently pectinate *Echinocereus perbellus* (Class 8, 2nd), *Lobivia sicuaniensis* (3rd in 10) and *Echinocactus grusonii* v. *brevispina* (2nd in 19). He was particularly successful in the *Notocactus*/*Parodia* groups with 2 firsts, a second and a third. Ian Pasquill had thirds with *R. kupperiana*/*S. candidae* (class 7) and *G. bueneckeri* with a massive pink flower in 11, and seconds with *P. subtilahamata*/*W. corynodes* (16) and *S. multicostatus*/*coptonogonus* (18). Brian Darnell took a second in *Stenocactus* class 17 and offered an excellent *N. leninghausii* rising from a sea of pups which was unplaced in class 15.



Otherwise, though, it was all GB and PB, with Peter's *E. grusonii* awarded "best cactus in show" and its owner having most points in the whole show; Geoff came second and Ian third. Among the "other succulents", however, there was a wider range of winners.

John Gregory entered the lists with *Aloe polyphylla* (2nd in 21), *Euphorbia platyclada* (a seaweed like material, 2nd in 22), *Nolina recurvata* (2nd in 24), firsts in 28 & 32 and a third in class 30. Ian added firsts in 26 (*Raphionacme hirsuta*) and 30 (*Echeveria lauii/purpusorum*), 2nd in 28 (*Kedrostis africana* & *Adenium obesum*) and a third in 32. Tony added 5 assorted thirds and a second (*Echeveria lindsayana*). Annette won class 29 with *Echeveria* "Frank Reinilt", a beauty with red edges and deep red leaf tips, and had a pair of echeverias second in 30 and a 3rd in 25. John Hinton's *Euphorbia obesa* & *carrii* won class 23 and received the award for "best succulent exhibit"; he also had another second & third. Mr. Dyson won class 25 with a superb *Crassula deceptor* in flower. Peter Bint added another 4 firsts to his 9 in cactus classes, and Geoff Bailey increased his tally from 6 to 7.

Then came the collections: Lithops, won by Philip Barker with a set of 18 pots, with Mrs. I. Berry second... Mesembs., with Ian Pasquill first and second... cacti/succulents, with Ian again taking first two... seed grown plants, Geoff B. taking all three. An enjoyable entry in this last section was that of Ray Tullett with 36 different 18-month-old mammillaria seedlings, all showing their personal identities clearly already. It was a shame that we had only one entrant in the Junior classes, but this should in no way detract from the exhibits presented by our faithful young supporter Miss Hodgkinson. Her *M. bocasana fa. rubra* celebrated by opening its pink flowers to perfection. We need to encourage more young people to join, to ensure the continued strength of the Branch.

Five novice classes followed - in the sense of exhibitors who have not won more than two firsts this year. On that basis Philip Barker gained three second prizes with *Haworthia setata*, *M. schumanii/guelzowiana* & *Loph. williamsii*. Firsts went to Mr. Hodgkinson (*E. obesa* & *M. theresae/glassii*), Mr. Berry (a fine 12" square ranging from *Cleisto. straussii* to *Crassula globosa*), and Tony B. (7-headed *Copiapoa montana* and *Op. aureispina* in a half-tray). Mr. Dyson also joined in the awards with *Op. multiareolata* and *Parodia chrysacantha*. Finally the decorative classes: Tony Butterworth won the Muriel Gaulton Trophy with an infinitely detailed arrangement of succulents in a starfish form, and took a bronze medal after winning the other two classes as well. Annette had two seconds and a third, her entry in the 12" bowl class having an exquisite colour range from "Aurora" and "Hummels Sunset" through variegated *Crassula sarmentosa* to a blue-green echeveria.

Thanks to all exhibitors, apologies to any who have been omitted or falsely reported - I can't always read my own writing!

IF ALL ELSE FAILS,....

We promised you a knit-yourself-a cactus feature; you didn't believe us, did you? Here it is, courtesy of "Have you any wool" by Jan Messent, published by Search Press for W.I. Books Ltd, at £4.95 - a fascinating treasure house of fun knitting ideas,

FOR MAMMILLARIA FREAKS,....

The Mammillaria Society are planning a Symposium in Wigan next year. The provisional date is June 4th, 1989 - pencil it in and keep in touch with Philip Barker for details.

GRAND NATIONAL ?

The B.C.S.S. plan a one-day National Show in August 1989, to take place in Oxford. In 1990 it is hoped to repeat the Show and Convention, but discussions concerning the venue are still unresolved. Manchester is a strong contender, but a decision will have to be made soon, or the chance of booking any suitable accomodation will have eveporated completely.

NEW POTS FOR OLD ?

It is reported that a limited range of B.E.F. pots may be back in production - 2" and 2½" only, and no pans yet. Keep hoping, or better still ask any plastics manufacturers you know what they can do about it. Similarly, can we find anyone who will make and market decent labels - T-form, of sensible size? And, continuing a moan made at the Middleton show, can members advise of suitable label markers which are u/v stable; if so we will print the details for everyone's benefit.

DECEMBER RAFFLE

The December meeting is the A.G.M. - don't all leave the country! Philip Barker will be providing the "entertainment", reminding us of the National Show of '87. For this one meeting the raffle is a non-plant raffle, and contributions will be very welcome. Maybe a knitted cactus?! Come and finish the year in style.

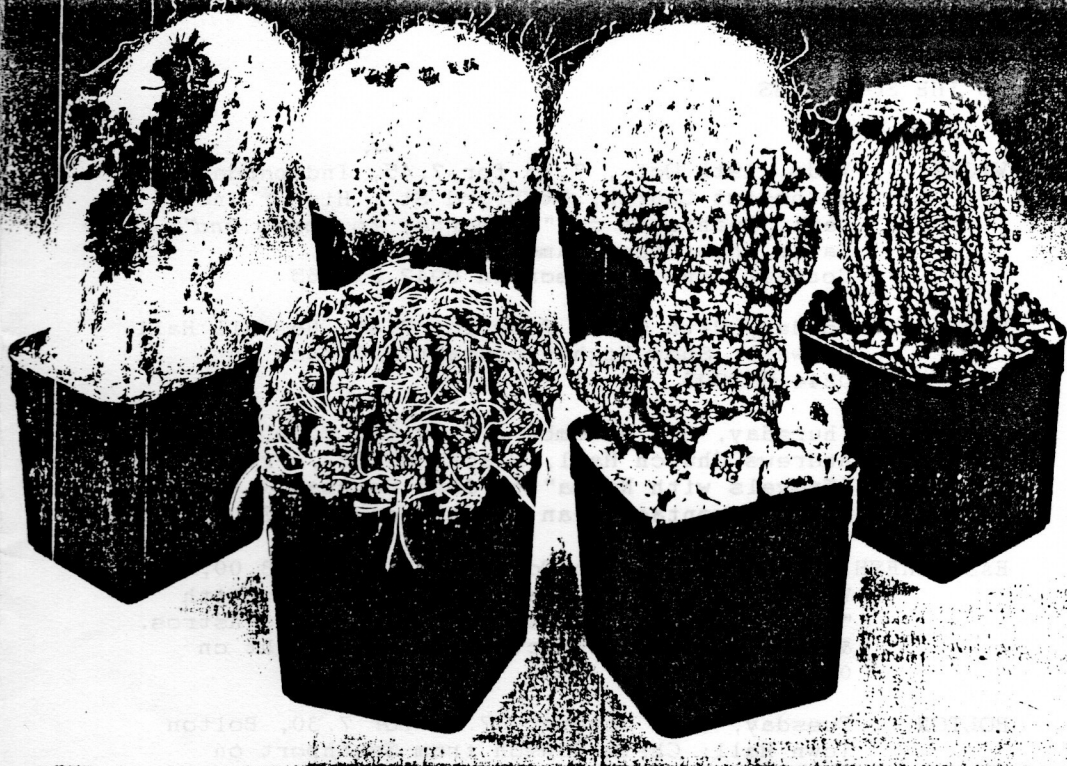


Fig. 80. Cacti collection.

## CACTI COLLECTION

The shapes of cacti are so easily and convincingly reproduced in knitting and crochet that, at first glance, the ones seen here may be taken for real. They are, in fact, little more than rectangles drawn up at the tops, or crochet domes, as on page 43. Their success also lies in the choice of yarns and stitches, many cacti having similar textures to furry brushed yarns and the regular pattern of knitted fabric.

These sit in the smallest size plant pots. Part way down from the top edge of each pot, a tiny ledge holds a piece of shaped card which has been stuck in place with glue. After padding, each cactus is stuck down firmly on to the card 'shelf', and where a gap exists around the edges, yarn looking like grit or soil has been added.

*Notes on the 'Cacti collection'.* From right to left, back row:

1. D.K. yarn, 3½mm needles, 32 sts, double rib for 2½-3 in. (7 cm), k2tog. all along last row; sew into a tube and gather top and bottom edges. Crochet flower for top; beads sewn down each ridge.
2. 'Old Man' cactus; D.K. furry yarn, 4.50mm hook, crochet rounds on about 20 sts as for domes on page 43. Brush with a wire brush to raise the pile.
3. Furry pale-green mohair with a slight slub, 4mm

needles, 40 sts. Reverse s.s. for about 3 in. (7 cm). 2tog. across the last 2 rows. Gather the last sts, on to thread and draw up. Sew up and embroider pin French knots on top.

4. Two furry yarns knitted together, one plain, one random-dyed. About 30 sts on 4 mm needles, alternating s.s. and rev. s.s. Make a square piece and fold across so that the ridges are vertical. The red flower is just a bundle of red yarns, sewn on.

5. Front row left: crochet bobbles worked in rounds using D.K. yarn, size 4mm hook on about 18 sts, decreasing towards the top. The soft prickles of sewing cotton were attached after the padding stage.

6. Rectangle of single moss st., no shaping required. Slight padding in the largest piece, smaller piece simply folded over. Yellow flowers are crochet cup with a little glitter yarn inside.

## ROUND THE SOCIETIES

- WIGAN.....Weds. 19th Oct., 7.15 for 7.45, Independent Methodist Church, Stopford St., Higher Ince: David Rushforth on "A journey to *Lands End*"; Table show: North American Cacti Contact John Harrison on 0942 218465
- HESWALL...Monday, 24th Oct., 7.30 for 7.45, Heswall Hall, Heswall: Show Night; contact P. Robson on 0244 537393
- PRESTON...Thursday, 3rd November, 7.00 for 7.30, St. Andrews Church Hall, Blackpool Rd., Preston: "Travels with Norma" by John Henshaw ( the real one! ); contact Jean Kendall on 077 478 2957
- EAST CHESHIRE...Monday, 10th October, 7.30 for 8.00, Wilmslow Public Library: Mr. I. Robinson with "2001, a Cactus Odyssey"; Table show - *Astros.* & *Pachypodium*; contact Barbara McKnight on 061-431 8148
- BOLTON....Tuesday, 11th October, 7.00 for 7.30, Bolton Town Hall: Chris Dawson from Southport on "Epiphytic Plants"; Table Show - *Neoporteria* group & *caudiciforms*....8th November (before the next Manchester meeting ): Geoff Hedgecock with "More *Stapeliads*"; Table Show - *cristates* & *monstrose*; contact Philip Barker on 0942 56440
- WARRINGTON...Wednesday, 12th October, 7.30 for 8.00, Meeting Lane Leisure Centre, Penketh: Mike Walton from Middlewich on "*Pelargoniums*"..... 9th November: John Arrowsmith from Chester on "Cactus Literature"; contact Barbara Beesley on 051-424 9432.

## NEXT MONTH.....

*NOT AS ADVERTISED: Sonia Barker-Fricker is unable to join us on that date.*

DAVID RUSHFORTH - MEXICO '88

Table Show is over for the season, but please feel free to bring in any interesting plants for us all to look at

Saturday 12th November 7.00 for 7.30  
Sutherland High School Heywood  
Community Centre