



Manchester Branch

Newsletter Jan 2000

Editorial

First may I wish you all a Happy New Year. I am most grateful to Peter Bint for handing me the opportunity to produce our branch newsletter for the next twelve months. I am sure you will all wish to join with me and thank Peter for his hard work in resurrecting and producing an enjoyable and informative publication for all of us over to enjoy. Thank you Peter. However, I feel that in order to make our branch even more successful we must all take a share of the work and as such I have volunteered to continue with Peter's good work.

I plan to continue to produce a single sheet, monthly newsletter for each meeting but to hold back some short articles and publish them together every three or four months. So please don't stop the flood of your interesting articles coming in. We all want to know about any interesting cultivation tips you may have picked up over the years, so pass them on through the newsletter so others can learn from your experiences. Book reviews, ideas for days out, puzzles, news from the greenhouse, interesting plants you come across or news of a new internet site are all welcome additions to the newsletter to share with your fellow hobbyists.

Branch Questionnaire 1999

You will remember that the committee circulated a questionnaire to all branch members last year. Many of you have asked for some feedback from this, so here it is:

9 people returned questionnaires.

4 people were keen to develop links with other societies.

All 9 wanted branch visits to continue

5 suggested visits to nurseries.

6 suggested visits to plant collections
2 suggested visits to Botanical Gardens.

1 suggested branch shows.

The majority were prepared to travel up to 70 miles for a visit, preferably on a Saturday or Sunday between May and October.

Car sharing, travel directions with a map and parking arrangements so as not to annoy neighbours were all suggested.

If you can think of a good day out that fits these criteria please tell any member of the committee and we will see what we can arrange!

DIARY 2000

Always check with the branch secretary for changes in advance. Information given is as published on the society web pages.

Mid Cheshire Branch- Hartford
Methodist Church Beach Road
7.45pm
2nd Feb Caring for a mixed collection.
C Hynes
1st Mar Rampaging round the
greenhouse. W Morris
5th Apr Brazil K Grantham

Bradford-ShIPLEY Library 7.15pm
12th Jan Malta B Siddall
9th Feb Bolivia revisited J Carr
8th Mar Mesembreanthemaceae
H Mays
12th Apr Argentina 99 M Lowry

Leeds-St Columbas Church
Headingley Lane 7.30pm
20th Mar Agave P Burton

Stoke-Bradwell Lodge, Bradwell
7.30pm
12th Jan Flora of the Alps.
R Gillibrand
9th Feb A cactophile discovers
succulents. A Glen
8th Mar Kenya part 1. T Jenkins.
12th Apr From seed to flowering.
D Quail

Wigan-All Saints Church Hindley
7.30pm
24th Feb Euphorbias. A Pritchard
23rd Mar Cacti and succulents
explained. B Law
27th Apr Pests and diseases.
P Downs

If anyone has diary dates for Warrington, Chester, Macclesfield or any other local branch please can you pass them on for publication.

DON'T FORGET

North West Cactus Mart
Woolston Sports Centre
25th March 2000

Leeds Plant Sales
Roundhay Tropical Gardens
15th/16th April 2000

Ariocarpus

When your next surfing the web don't forget to check out Geoff Bailey, John Miller and David Rushforth's Ariocarpus pages. Recently updated with habitat photos from their trip to Mexico in November 1999 the site also contains a wealth of other information including field numbers, history of the genus, literature and cultivation tips.

The site can be found at:

www.ariocarpus.fsnet.co.uk/

Doug Rowland's Millennium catalogue is now available direct from Doug at

It contains all the usual seeds of cacti, other succulents, alpines and temperate exotics as well as seed of cycads, caudiciform cucurbits and tree ferns for the first time this year.

Please send all correspondence to the editor to.

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