



Manchester Branch

Newsletter August 2001

Branch Symposium Saturday 29th September AstraZeneca- Alderley Park

Tonight will be one of the last opportunities to buy tickets for the branch symposium so if you have not already purchased your ticket don't forget to buy one tonight or see Geoff Bailey (368 8264) soon before there are none left. Those who have been before will vouch for the quality of the food, the speakers, the plant sales and the setting. The conference centre has excellent audio-visual facilities and acoustics. It is also situated less than fifty yards from the hidden ornamental gardens, pond and fountains. A guaranteed value-for-money day out.

Auction of Alan Craig's Plants.

A big thank you to the two Manchester branch members, Peter Bint and Phillip Barker who assisted chief auctioneer and sales organiser Brendan Burke in the dispersal of Alan's collection in the baking heat between showers. Bidding and selling was fast and furious with no pause for breath so it was no great surprise to discover that a nameless branch member at the sale managed to secure one lot whilst using his bidding card as a fly swat! I understand that at the end of day two all lots and table sales had been sold. Brendan - you will be pleased to know that I have stopped reporting your

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phone line to BT. For the last two months it has been constantly engaged all evening long every time I have tried to phone. Thanks also to Elaine for the constant supply of liquid refreshments.

New Books.

There are currently two new books to keep an eye open for. Graham Charles and others have a German/English bilingual book about the cacti of Brazil. This coffee table tome goes further than simple descriptions of the plants and includes short biographies of many of the great plant explorers of Brazil. Lavishly illustrated with photographs of cacti in habitat and the related nature of Brazil this book gives the reader a real feeling of being there in the field with the plants. The only minor disappointment was the lack of depth in the text about the plants. A worth addition to the bookshelf for such a large country with a relative paucity of literature on its cactus flora.

Secondly, copies of Edward Anderson's Cactus Family are now starting to circulate in the northwest. Dubbed 'The English Backeberg' this book is not only updated and easier for most of us to read but also contains a wealth of colour photographs. This does however come at a price. This book is not for the weak and frail and requires a reasonable level of strength and physical fitness to simply lift it up and open the pages!

or e-mail