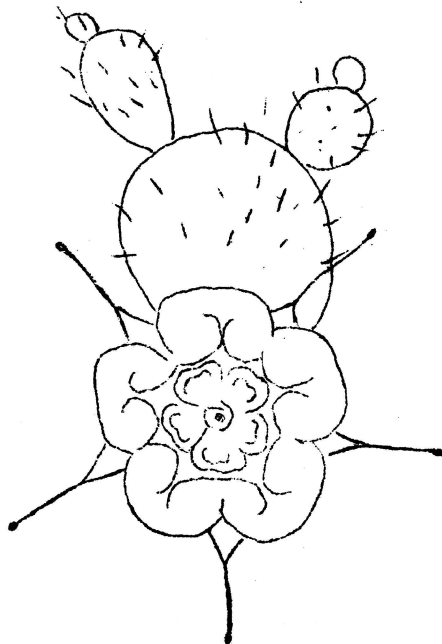


N.C. & S.S.

NEWS

LETTER



SHEFFIELD BRANCH

Chairman:

Mr. H. Kennewell,

Phone: 348301.

The National Cactus & Succulent Society

Sheffield Branch

Secretary:

Mr. J.P. Farrance,

19 Greenfield Road,

Sheffield 8.

Phone: 45583.



N E W S L E T T E R

2nd Quarter - April to June 1963.

Dear Members,

We have pleasure in presenting our programme for the second quarter 1963 for our monthly meetings. All meetings will be held at the Victoria Hall (Chapel Walk Entrance) at 7.30-p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26th: For this meeting we have a change for you. Mr. Ashley Petts of Ossett is to show his slides on Rock Climbing in Great Britain and Switzerland, and will talk to us on his subject of Rock Climbing. Mr. Petts holds the degree of B.Sc. and is a School Master at Ossett. He is also the President of the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club and a member of the Fell and Rock Club of Great Britain. Mr. and Mrs. Petts have climbed the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc.

THURSDAY, MAY 16th Mr. Kennewell will give us a short talk on "Preparing for the Show", which will be followed by a "Brains Trust".

FRIDAY, JUNE 28th Mr. N.W. GILBERT, F.N.C.S.S., Chairman of Birmingham Branch has promised to give us a talk for this evening's meeting. The subject will be of his own choosing.

E I G H T H A N N U A L S H O W

The Eighth Annual Show is to be held on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, MAY 24th and 25th 1963.

Look over your plants now and decide which classes you are going to enter and when you have made up your mind, double the answer!

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There are several alterations to our previous Show Schedule, which give more than ample scope for all. PLEASE make this show the best ever. Give your plants a trim and brush-up and they will respond to treatment. Roll up your sleeves! Give your clay pots a coat of venetian red with a little glue size added, top up the pots with clean gravel and check that the plants are labelled correctly.

Let us show our many visitors what can be grown in Sheffield's smoke and grime.

OUTING TO THREE NURSERIES IN THE MANCHESTER AREA

SATURDAY, JULY 6th

Fares for this outing will be 9/6d per head for a minimum party of 30.

The coach will leave the City Hall at 1.30 p.m. prompt. Our first call will be at Mr. A.A. Fitzjohn's nursery at Burnage, Manchester. We understand that Mr. Fitzjohn has taken over the business recently run by Mr. F. Otway-Smith and that he has a good selection of plants to offer.

Our next call is at Stretford to visit a nursery run by Mr. Wilson, who we understand imports many plants from Holland and Mexico. From Mr. Wilson's nursery we then go to Denton where we have very kindly been invited by Mr. and Mrs. Hayes to have a buffet tea at no cost to our members. Mrs. Hayes has a very good selection of uncommon seedlings which are well grown and our members should be able to add some little gems to their collections at very reasonable prices. We offer our sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hayes for their kind and friendly gesture.

The coach is due back at the City Hall, Sheffield by 9.0-p.m.

There is likely to be a big demand for seats on this outing and booking will be taken by our Treasurer, Mr. C.V. Bramall at our Branch Meetings. A deposit of 2/- per head will be required.

NEW OUTSIDE COVER TO THE NEWS LETTER. We have to thank our new Committee member, Mr. G.A. Hoyland for the design to the outside cover of this Newsletter.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday Jan. 24th 1963, the following new Committee members were elected:

Mrs. A.M. Parker, Mr. Dickens, Mr. B. Fearn.

The following members having resigned from the Committee:-

Mrs. E.M. Farrance, Mrs. N. Smith, Mr. Peter Fearn.

The other Officers and other members of the Committee are the same as 1962. We sincerely thank the retiring members for their services.

We regret to announce that our member, Mr. W. Booth, suffered the loss of his dear wife in January 1963 after a long illness. Mrs. Booth was a frequent Branch visitor. We offer our condolences to Mr. Booth, Mrs. and Mr. D. Warren, the daughter and son in law of the late Mrs. Booth.

We have also to record the passing of Mr. Frank Nixon of Chorley, Lancs., in December 1962. Mr. Nixon was a great friend of the Branch and will be remembered by those members who were entertained to tea on their outing to Woodplumpton and Blackburn in 1961. We regret the passing of a very good friend and offer Mrs. Nixon our sympathy in her great loss.

BRANCH LIBRARY

We have the following books in our Branch Library and they are available on loan to Branch members for a period of one month from one Branch meeting night to the following meeting night. The books marked with an asterisk are missing and we fear that some member has omitted to return these after borrowing.

The books are costly and in some cases out of print. Will you please search YOUR bookshelves and see if you are the Culprit ?

A.B.C. OF CACTI & SUCCULENTS
CACTI
CACTI & OTHER SUCCULENTS
CACTI & OTHER SUCCULENTS
CACTI & SUCCULENTS

SHEWELL-COOPER
BORG
SCOTT
LAMB
HUXLEY

.....

CACTUS & OTHER SUCCULENT PLANTS

CACTUS GROWER'S GUIDE

* CACTUS GROWING FOR BEGINNERS

* CACTI FOR EVERYONE

* CACTI AND OTHER SUCCULENTS

CACTI

FLOWERING SUCCULENTS

* FLOWERING YOUR CACTI

* GROW CACTI

GREENHOUSE CHRYSANTHEMUMS

GARDEN CHRYSANTHEMUMS

GROWING BULBS IN THE HOUSE

* INDOOR PLANTS

ILLUSTRATED REFERENCE ON CACTI & SUCCULENTS

NEW CHRYSANTHEMUM TREASURY

* NEALES' PICTORIAL BOOKLET OF CACTI & SUCCULENTS

* POULSEN ON THE ROSE

STUDY OF CACTI

SUCCULENT PLANTS ILLUSTRATED

* SUCCULENTS IN CULTIVATION

THE MODERN GREENHOUSE

* THE COOL GREENHOUSE

* THE UNHEATED GREENHOUSE

* THE CHRYSANTHEMUM GROWERS TREASURY

ROAN

HIGGINS

HIGGINS

GREEN

GREEN

BERTRAND & GUILLAUMIN

ROWLEY

LAMB

MARSDEN

JONES

SNELLING

FIELD

BERTRAND

NEALE

GODDARD

LAMB

POULSEN

HIGGINS

HIGGINS

HIGGINS

DAKERS

SUTTON

ADAMS

MAESRET

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

The owners of the following collections are prepared to receive visits from members:

You are requested to make an appointment prior to your intended visit. If you are writing, please enclose a stamped-addressed envelope.

MR. C.V. BRAMALL, 81 TAPTON BANK, SHEFFIELD 10. Phone: 60913.

MR. J.P. FARRANCE, 19 GREENFIELD RD. SHEFFIELD 8. Phone: 45583.

MR. H. KENNEWELL, 55 STUDDFIELD RD., SHEFFIELD 6. Phone: 348301.

MR. N.F. SMITH, 120 HOLMHIRST RD., SHEFFIELD 8. Phone: 54435.

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MR. F.B. SNOW, 221 GREENHILL AVENUE, SHEFFIELD 8. Phone: 46668.

MR. S. THOMLINSON, 318 STANNINGTON RD. SHEFFIELD 6. Phone: 343393.

MR. W.C. WILSON, 52 DENBANK CRESCENT, SHEFFIELD 10.

We hope to add other collections to this list.

NEW MEMBERS

We have pleasure in welcoming the following new members to our Branch and trust that their association with us will be pleasant and instructive.

- Mr. G.A. Garnett, Sheffield 11;
- Mr. G.N. Thomas, Doncaster;
- Master P. Glossop, Sheffield 9.

MR. & MRS. S. THOMLINSON'S "AT HOME"

Mr. & Mrs. S. Thomlinson, of 318 Stannington Road, Sheffield 6, are holding their "At Home" day on SATURDAY, MAY 4th 1963, when visitors will be received from 2.30 p.m. to 5.0 p.m.

All members are invited to visit the wonderful collection of plants and for those who have not seen Mr. Thomlinson's collection this will be a real treat. Mrs. Thomlinson will be providing refreshments. For members travelling by bus, catch the No. 7 Bus from Campo Lane Terminus and alight at Stanwood Avenue. There is a 15-minutes service on Saturday afternoon.

We are extremely grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Thomlinson and we trust that as many members as possible will attend and show their appreciation of Mr. and Mrs. Thomlinson's friendly gesture. The only note we can add is that if you don't want to be disappointed in your own collection of plants, then don't go to Mr. and Mrs. Thomlinson's on that day!

IT WAS A COLD, GREY, MISERABLE MID-FEBRUARY DAY and I was feeling much the same way myself as I dug through the snow to the greenhouse, to see how my plants were faring. On stepping inside, it seemed as though I had entered into another world, a world of beauty, a world of colour. There was nothing grey or miserable-looking here but colour everywhere I looked.

Just see those Echeverias! *E. gibbiflora*, a large species whose stem is over a foot high, carrying a large rosette of spatulate leaves, glaucous pink in colour; and *E. gibbiflora*, var. *metallica* proudly showing off its dark reddish purple leaves. *E. derenbergii* is showing signs of age and has become cylindrical, but has not failed to form offsets. This plant is grown in full sun and the colour of the leaves is beautiful, pale glaucous blue with red edges, in contrast to the orange flowers. *E. pulvinata* in its green plush trimmed with red, this species bears several orange flowers on each short flower stem and as it is now in bud should be very rewarding in a few weeks' time. *E. hoveyi*, has a loose rosette of grey-green leaves striped with pink, this plant is very slow growing in my opinion, but nevertheless one I cannot do without. The house would indeed be very dull without such lovely plants.

The *Titanopsis calcarea*, little gems of beauty are also showing flower. I often wonder if the *Mammillarias* ever go to rest. There are still several in flower and if it's not flowers or spines then it's seed pods. *M. Wildii* and *M. prolifera* are covered with red berries - such a pretty sight. Even the *Hamatocactus setispinus* is doing its best and is showing two red berries.

The winter-flowering *Crassula* are also worth growing and many are showing signs of flowering. To mention a few, *Crassula rupestris*, *C. marginalis*, *C. barbata*, *C. corymbulosa*. *Zygocactus truncatus* is just a pan of loveliness with many beautiful flowers all over it.

As I close the door of my greenhouse with all its beauty and colour and re-enter a shivering world, one is strangely warmed with the feeling that Spring is on its way and once more we can enjoy the pleasures and thrills of our hobby....

A. CACTOPHILE.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS by H. KENNEWELL, F.N.C.S.S.

We are again indebted to Mr. H. Kennewell for the provision of an actual photograph of ESPOSTOA MELANOSTELE.

ESPOSTOA MELANOSTELE For those who like "white" plants, this is an ideal subject. I find it does well with a compost with plenty of coarse grit incorporated; when it gets about 7" high it has a tendency to go dirty at the bottom, but it is an easy matter to cut the plant off by the clean white part. (The plant illustrated has had this treatment) and reroot the plant again.

NOTES OF A NOVICE

IN the Cacti field I am a complete novice and a very late starter, having reached the age of 68 before receiving my first specimens. These were a Christmas present from my daughter and comprised two cacti and two succulents in a small bowl. These seemed to flourish and as my interest was now awakened my collection gradually increased, by means of further presents and by purchases whenever I saw specimens in shops which took my fancy. I soon found out how to increase the number of plants by striking cuttings, offsets and even odd leaves of succulents, these have enabled me to make frequent supplies to assist my Old Folks Club bring and buy sales.

An advertisement in the "Star" of a Cacti Exhibition led me to the show at the Victoria Hall a few years ago where I made a few more purchases and later decided to become a member of the Cactus Society. Now my collection began to grow more rapidly by plant purchase at the Society meetings and on the various Society trips which I have enjoyed.

My collection during the last six years has increased from the one solitary bowl in the centre of a good sized table in the room bay window until the table is now entirely covered, and a crisis arises whenever visitors arrive and the table is required for its legitimate use - the plants then have to be dispersed throughout the house.

To keep the plants clean and fresh-looking I take them out on the lawn in suitable weather and, using Mr. Kennewell's tip, I spray them with water containing Stergene and then with clear water. I have not had much trouble with Mealy Bugs but on rare occasions I

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have found an odd one and quickly disposed of it. I cannot understand how they originate, they suddenly seem to appear out of thin air. When this happens, I spray and water the plant with a solution containing "Tritox" which is supposed to act through the roots of the plant and kill pests. I don't know if it is the correct thing for treating Cacti but seems to work in my case. Everything in nature is supposed to serve some useful purpose, I should like to know what this can be in the case of the Mealy Bug ?

I have frequently read and heard accounts of how easy it is to raise cacti from seed, so decided last April to "have a go". I had a rectangular goldfish tank approx. 15" x 8" x 10" deep and decided to use this as a propagator. I placed a box containing a small electric light bulb in the bottom of the tank with a sheet of glass over it. I obtained a plastic sandwich box, made a number of holes in the bottom with a red-hot needle, covered them with corks and filled up with "Eclipse" no-soil compost. I sprinkled about 70 mixed Cacti seeds on this and put the lid on the box. The lamp kept up a temperature of about 70/75° and the seeds made a flying start, approx. 50 germinated in about a week. Further progress however became very slow and gradually the seedlings disappeared until now, nearly ten months later, there are only five left, the largest being about $\frac{1}{2}$ " high and $\frac{1}{8}$ " diameter with a few small spines. Very little to show for the trouble taken. Incidentally, I had the tank on the oak sideboard for the first week or two and discovered on moving the tank that the heat from the lamp had struck downwards and split the polished top of the sideboard! I think I shall leave seed raising to the more experienced and stick to propagating cuttings and offsets.

Not having a greenhouse has some compensations as I can attend to my plants indoors at any time and also can sit in the room and watch them; each plant has its own individuality and as I look at each one I can recall some happy occasion, the making of a new friend, some happy coach trip with the Society members, some friendly gift or good purchase.

Collecting Cacti is an interesting hobby and once you get bitten by the bug (not the mealy bug) there is no escape, you are in its power forever.

G. F. Dickens

CROSSWORD By N.F. SMITH

1	K	2	L	E	I	3	N	I	A		4
5	A	E	O	N	I	V	M				
6	L	A	N	A	T	A					
	A					7					
8	N				E	S					
	C										
	H										
9	O										
10	E										

DIAGONALS: 1 and 4: The names of two distinguished members of the Society.

- ACROSS:
1. A Succulent of a candle type (7)
 5. A Succulent related to the sempervivums (7)
 6. Meaning woolly (6)
 7. To be got rid of (4)
 8. Cacti from Texas (10)
 9. Meaning adorned (7)
 10. Cacti from Peru with silky hair (8)

- DOWN:
1. A succulent, usually with felted leaves (7)
 2. Open Country (3)
 3. A parasite's egg (3)
 4. Meaning "spear like" (8).

The horizontal or vertical lines indicate the end of a word.

The National Cactus & Succulent Society
Sheffield Branch

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RECEIPTS - PAYMENTS ACCOUNT: YEAR ENDING 31.12.62

RECEIPTS

Balance fwd. as at 31.12.61:	47. 13. 5.	
Sale of Plants	2. 7. 6.	
Rally:	39. 10. 0.	
Donation by Mr. Drake	5. 0. 0.	
(3) Coach Trips and Raffle on coach:	47. 13. 6.	
Sale of Plastic Pots:	4. 17. 6.	
Per Capita Grant:	12. 0. 0.	
Adverts from Subscribers to Newsletter:	4. 0. 0.	
Bring & Buy Sale & Refreshments (Sep)	29. 5. 2.	
Raffle of Flowers Mr. Rigby	19. 0. 0.	
Badges (3)	12. 0. 0.	
1962 Show	53. 10. 0.	
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	242. 13. 1.	
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PAYMENTS

Hire of Rooms, Victoria Hall:	16. 3. 6.
Newsletters, Treas. & Sec. Postage & Expenses, Bank	
Charges:	20. 0. 9.
5-Badges:	1. 0. 0.
Mr. Blackwell	
Subscription:	1. 0. 0.
Speakers' Expenses at Meetings	8. 3. 0.
Coach Trips & Tips to drivers (3 trips)	51. 0. 0.
Rally Expenses	37. 17. 0.
Delegates expenses to Birmingham (Mr. K.)	1. 16. 0.
Purchase of Plastic Pots	6. 3. 0.
Tips to Caretaker at Victoria Hall	
Bring & Buy, Social Evening:	1. 0. 0.
Donation to Hillsboro' Boys Club via Mr. Dalby	1. 1. 0.
1962 Show Expenses	53. 10. 6.
1963 Show Cards	1. 11. 6.
Insurance of Cups	11. 0. 0.
Bal. fwd. to 1963:	41. 15. 10.
	<hr/>
	242. 13. 1.
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Stock in hand:
 3 Badges @ 4/-,
 Plastic Pots £1. 5. 6d.
 Goodwill Fund: 7/1d.

We have examined the above receipts
 and payments account which is in
 agreement with the books and
 vouchers produced.

(sgd) A.H. GLOSSOP, A. DRURY. Jan. 1963.

NOTES ON HAWORTHIAS

HAWORTHIAS are named after the 18th Century Botanist, Adrian Hardy Haworth who lived during the period 1767-1833. The genus was later added to by Baron, Dr. J.K.A. Poellnitz (usually called Poelln) and in the following years by H. Herre, W. Triebner, Dr. Bollus, G.A. Smith and others.

There are some 390-400 varieties of Haworthias and these are being constantly added to. Mr. A.I.A. Uitevall of Holland is now making further research into the varieties and is sorting out the existing 20 sections into sub-sections and is classifying by the inflorescences.

The plants belong to the family Lilicea and are found in South and South West Africa. The forms of Haworthias are very diverse and although many of the genus are of the rosette type others differ greatly. Many of the genus have white pearl-like tubercles as shown in the very popular *H. attenuata*, *H. fasciata*, *H. Margaretifera*, *H. papilosa* and others. The pearly tubercles are more pronounced in *H. papilosa* than in the others mentioned.

As Haworthias are subject to root rot the soil should be very porous. A rich cactus compost with a little leaf mould is quite suitable. As Haworthias dislike the hot sun they should be kept partly shaded and are particularly good for growing indoors. They must, however, be given sufficient light or Etiolation will take place, giving them a 'drawn' appearance.

The best way to propagate these plants is by the small offsets which grow around the base of the plants. These offsets will root readily in most composts and specimen plants can be obtained in 2 - 3 years' time. The flowers are very uninteresting but the lack of flowering beauty is more than made up by the beautiful leaves of the plants. Finally, do not overwater this plant and give at least 8-weeks' resting period during the late spring or summer months.

J.P. Farrance

We trust that you have found the content of the Newsletter both interesting and informative.

Yours sincerely,
J.P. FARRANCE, H. KENNEWELL.
