

The Southern African Bulb Group

Newsletter No. 23, September 2012



From the Editor

David Victor

Well, at last we seem to be getting some summer weather, after what must have been one of the wettest summers for many years. By the end of August, here in Somerset we had had as much rain as in each of the whole of the two previous years. And that after one of the driest and warmest early-spring periods. What is happening to our weather?

This is an interim newsletter to keep you up to date with a number of things. The next major newsletter will be circulated towards the end of the year. Most importantly, it is to remind you that our next meeting is only weeks away, so that you can make sure that it's in your diary.

Also, this offers the opportunity to tell you that we have now set the date for the spring 2013 meeting. This will be held, as normal, at Badger Farm and will take place on 31st March. Whilst I am still awaiting his confirmation, I am hoping that our main speaker on that day will be Jon Evans, who most of you will know for his wonderful pictures from AGS shows.

Autumn Meeting 2012

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 21st October at our normal venue, the Badger Farm Community Centre near Winchester. As in previous meetings, the doors will open at 10.00, with our speaker taking the stage at 11.00. The meeting will close at 16.00.

Our speaker will be one of our Members, Jack Gingell, who will be talking on a recent trip he made to the Eastern Cape.

Also, Bill Squire, our Chairman, has recently returned from a trip to the Western Cape and will talk in the afternoon about his visit. (*Having spoken to Bill yesterday, I can tell you that he has started to deal with the bulb exchange, following his trip Ed.*)

As in all meetings, there will be a display table for any plants that you care to bring along to show Members. We hope to organise one of our informal discussions periods during the afternoon, so that Members can show their plants and answer any questions other might have. If any of you have slides or jpeg's of plants that you would like to show, please bring them along.

There will also be a sales table where you can offer material for sale on a 80:20 Member to Group basis. Please include double labels on pots, showing the price so that we can settle up easily at the end of the day.

There will be a lunch break from 12.30 until 14.00. For those of you that have not come before, it's worth adding that many Members bring their own food so that they can have the opportunity to chat to others. Alternatively, the Sainsbury's supermarket is based on the same site.

As usual, the charge for the meeting will be £3.00 each, payable at the door.

Directions to the meeting hall

Meetings are held at the Badger Hall Community Centre, near Winchester and, for those of you using satnav's or Google Earth, the post code is SO22 4QB.

By road, leave the M3 at junction 11 and proceed towards Winchester. At the first roundabout follow the sign to Winchester. At the second roundabout take the second exit up the hill towards Badger Farm. At the third roundabout take the third exit to the superstore (not the second exit marked Badger Farm). Follow the road right round the edge of the car park until you see the doctor's surgery. Next to it is the Community Centre.

There is plenty of room in the car park and it is free: However, please note that this privilege depends on Members filling in the form at the entrance giving the car's registration details.

Postal charges

Alina Hughes

As you know, we try to persuade Members to receive our newsletters by email as that minimises our efforts and costs. However, we appreciate that not all Members are in a position to accept an email solution.

In view of the recent dramatic escalation in postage prices we would be grateful if all Members who receive their newsletters by post would consider reimbursing the SABG

for postage. This could be in the form of stamps, stamped addressed envelopes or donations.

For further details (or to send contributions) please contact:

Alina Hughes (Secretary) at:

9 Paynsford Road, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 2PS

A lucky find

David Victor

A couple of years ago, I was lucky enough to go on one of Cameron McMasters' trips to the Eastern Cape. One hot day, I noticed a couple of dried out leaves and a seed pod, which I rescued. Having grown the seed on, I this year flowered the resulting bulb.



Having done a little research, it appears that this is a species recently described by Manning, *Albuca crispera*: the specific epithet being clearly based on the very striking foliage.