

**MANCHESTER BRANCH BCSS
NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1997**

Two months have elapsed since the last issue as time was scarce but here we are in print again. Please remember that if you have any ideas, news, questions or other matters you wish to air let me have a copy and I will add it in. This is not my own editorial.

The symposium has been and gone, and very successful it was as those of you who attended will recall. We were visited by Eddy Harris and his wife and treated to Lithops from another point of view and those present were able to enjoy the evening. Lithops have gained in popularity quite significantly in the last decade.

The mesemb house in Alkrington is quite resplendent in all its colourful array. Lithops and Conophytums are decked in their most wonderful finery at the present moment and the Lithops plants look very striking when you gaze at the multiplicity of markings that adorn them. No two plants are alike even amongst those that are very similar to one another. Elsewhere things have more or less faded into autumnal slumber apart from the few winter growing succulents that are battling with the shortening days as they endeavour to grow. Mammillaria hernandezii in the warm house is doing its usual thing and has

well developed buds which a couple of days of sunshine would bring to fruition but the next few days are predicted as wet and windy so bud abortion is expected. Is anything unusual happening in your greenhouse, conservatory or windowsill?

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Ralph Tomlinson visits Manchester again to delight us with his reminiscences of **BOLIVIA**, not Peru as stated in the last newsletter. He is a very knowledgeable gentleman who has been growing plants from our hobby for a considerable time. In the past he has brought us Echeverias, Cacti- form and function and Cacti a less technical talk. We look forward to the sights of Bolivia as well as the accounts of nights under the stars and days of delight and disappointment as things work or fail. Nothing ever goes completely to plan in any safari.

OCTOBER EXECUTIVE

You may, or may not, know that twice a year the Executive Committee of your Society meet to report on progress and events which directly or otherwise affect all of us. I attended the last meeting at the beginning of October. It was the first such meeting that our new Chairman, Tom Jenkins, had led.

The first item to raise eyebrows was the promise that the Journal

would appear on the 7th day of December, and subsequently on the 7th day of the publication month. If this promise is forthcoming it will be a huge improvement as we haven't known when it would appear for many years. Way back in the earlier history of the Society it would arrive through the letter box in the first week of the publishing month with clockwork like regularity. It will be highly acceptable for this practice to resume once again.

The latest Guide to Shows is now available from me price £1.50. It is a publication that everybody should have in their Library.

Society membership stands at close to 3500.

Are you interested in attending the Convention at Reading next April? Places are still available.

The argument over plants of *Aztekium hintonii*, *Geohintonia mexicana* and *Turbinicarpus alonsoi* still rages. Even if you purchase plants of these genera that have been grown from seed they are not accepted as "legally obtained". This is because they were removed from habitat without the proper documentation and permission. This is being pursued by the Conservation Committee at present but the argument will rage long. It will not be permissible, under Society

rules to show these plants at any Branch or National Show nor will seed be supplied by the Society through its seed list. I know, you're heartbroken aren't you?

DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO BRADLEYA?

CHECK YOUR EDITION FOR 1997. If pages 97 to 112 appear twice and pages 81 to 96 are missing please let me know and your copy will be replaced with a correct edition. A mistake at the printers is to blame.

If you are an Internet buff you will be interested to know that 3500 people have visited the page since January 1st.

The best news of the day came from the Marketing Manager. He is a newly appointed official who works in this capacity in the real world and he intends spreading the Good News far and wide to extend the popularity of our hobby.

Would you like the next National Show to be at Manchester? If you would then we need a suitable venue with easy access both from the Motorway point of view and getting plants into the site. If you have any ideas please let the Branch Committee know.

DECEMBER MEETING

Please come. The AGM is important but kept as brief as possible. Much more important is the introduction to you of Harold Gaulton, RIP, a founder member.