

**Sheffield & District
Orchid Society
Newsletter
May/June 2014**



**Chatsworth Champion
Bulb. *eberhardtii***

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Business

There being no formal meeting this month then there is no official business as such. The results from Chatsworth and a report on the show follow below - as well as a report from the Garden Up event.

The website for the next EOC in London is now up and running and available for registrations etc. The address is 'www.eoclondon2015.org.uk'. A note from Ted has been issued to gauge support for a trip.

Reminder - don't forget to submit your entries for the Photographic competition soon. The closing date is coming

shortly. Entries to Ian Wilson please either electronically or by hand.

The July meeting

The July meeting is primarily to assess how well (or otherwise) the seedlings from the May 2013 meeting have grown. Please bring your plant along for evaluation - even if it looks as if it hasn't grown - the Sarchochilus in particular is a slow grower.

As well as this assessment, if you collected some of the Calanthe 'bulbs' that were in the raffle (March I think) then please bring these along as well. These are quite fast growing, and will be interesting to see how they are doing as they are probably in different pot sizes and growing media.

There is no competition involved, it is more for interest, and advice if required. Please, please, please, bring your plants along as it won't really work if you don't!

Jeff Wilson, an appreciation

I first met Jeff at a BPS meeting at Marwell (Zoo) just about 20 years ago, when he was part of a large delegation from Sheffield. The friendly impression created was sufficient to force me to become a member of SDOS. Once a member Jeff was always supportive, and a very knowledgeable grower of fine orchids. His whole life it seems revolved around green fingers, although of course that isn't quite true. He was a devoted family man both to his own children and grandchildren, as well as latterly to Julie's family. His calmness and support were of the highest calibre. Many say that they never heard Jeff swear or raise his voice in anger, and he was always a kind man. Jeff's orchid involvement evolved at the Harrogate Society, where he had involvement with the Leeds BOC, and this expertise was also put to use with planning for the Sheffield

Crucible BOC. More latterly Jeff took over the reins of Chairmanship of the Sheffield Society. He would turn his hand to anything that the Society needed, building props for Society displays whether that be in wood, steel, or the lighting side of things.

A truly remarkable person who will be sadly missed by all.
John Garner

Bev Evans, a tribute

Bev was born and raised on a hill farm in Derbyshire, his education was intermittent depending on the needs of the farm and due to the distance from school. He was expected to follow in his family's tradition and continue on the farm but was determined to work with machines. He began work as an apprentice mechanic working with heavy plant and this became his occupation in life. As he got older he bought old machines from his firm, rebuilt and reconditioned them and they were then used as stock for hire, in this way he built up his own stock of heavy plant.

He bought a bicycle which he used in local races but soon moved to motorbikes, he enjoyed racing and built his own bikes racing at any venue he could get to, he preferred racing on the continent as the prize money was higher.

When he was 19 he had an accident on a building site and his ankles were crushed, he was told he would never walk again but when he was offered an experimental set of stainless steel ankles he accepted and two years later he threw the wheelchair away. During the time he was unable to work he became interested in machine design.

When he was working again he found the position on the racing bike was too uncomfortable so he designed and built his own racing bike and sidecar outfit and rejoined the racing fraternity

Bev and his wife Ivy had 3 sons who they encouraged to follow their own interests in sporting or other activities - one of them drove a jet car which Bev helped design and build, He learned to play a guitar with another of them and joined friends in a band for local gigs until he broke his hand, then he learned to play with his left hand for his own pleasure.

When Bev stopped racing he became interested in narrow boats. A group of like minded men bought a section of land by the river, dredged a bay and created the Strawberry Island Boat Club in Doncaster. During this time he had several boats - one of which he bought while it was sunk. He raised it then decided it was too small for a family - he cut it in half and added a central section to make it long enough - the boat club members are still talking about his activities 35 years later - they made him a life member when he sold his boat

Bev's interest in kit cars developed from him being asked to solve a design problem. He bought a partnership with the firm, found their particular model was too small for a larger framed man and designed and built a larger model. This was extended when his grandchildren showed an interest in his kit car - he designed a child sized model.

Bev has, throughout his life, tried to help and support the people in his life. His interests were varied. and he enjoyed taking an active part in clubs and societies He acted as disc jockey for social dances, took his cars to show at charity events, supported money raising events for a wide variety of good causes and was always there for people in need

When he was first diagnosed with cancer we knew that it was terminal, but he was determined to do as much as he could -- we managed 2 visits to Kenya, 6 country festivals and still attended the societies he loved so much. He delighted in the fact that he beat 2 prognoses and managed to stay positive for so much of the time. We miss him. **Anne Ellis**

Chatsworth 2014

The Society's annual show took place at the Edensor hall on the Chatsworth estate on Sunday 11th May. The bulk of the setting up took place on the previous day, with the remainder early on Sunday morning. The hall looked resplendent by the time that judging took place, and the crush outside meant that the doors were opened slightly prior to the judging completion. The standard was of a high quality, as has become the norm. Selecting the best in show was a bit more straightforward this year with Bulb. *eberhardtii* a clear winner.

The show was officially opened by his grace the Duke who was accompanied this year by the Duchess. They spent quite a while looking at plants & displays, as well as talking to members, and even taking a few snaps for their own albums.

The weather for the weekend was quite decent, with the rain holding off, and this seemed to bring the public out onto the estate. Visitor numbers to out show were quite good, which resulted in the trade doing some decent business as well as the catering department which just about sold out by closing time.

our thanks are due to Jim who organised the event, Charles for staging the display, all who supplied plants and assisted both prior to and post show clear up, all who manned the door, acted as stewards and manned the car parks, and especially the ladies of the catering team (including non-members) who mucked in and worked their socks off all day.

SDOS 2014 Annual Show Results –

Phalaenopsis species:	Phal <i>lueddemanniana</i>	A Deakin	EMOS
HC	Phal <i>parishii</i>	T Croot	SDOS
HC	Phal <i>amabilis</i>	C Ford	SDOS
Phalaenopsis hybrids:	Phal Cute Chick	M Green	EMOS
HC	Phal Zuma Saragosa	B Coulson	NEEOS

HC	Phal Acker's Sweeter 'Dragon Tree Maple'	B Coulson	NEEOS
Cymbidium:	<i>Cym devonianum</i>	R Baxter	SDOS
HC	<i>Cym tigrinum</i>	M Stephen	EMOS
HC	<i>Cym Dorothy Stockstill 'Forbidden Fruit'</i>	S Pask	EMOS
Any Other species:	<i>Bulb. eberhardtii</i>	B Marsh	Harr.OS
HC	<i>Bulb. falcata</i>	M Armstrong	EMOS
HC	<i>Malaxis latifolia 'Frisky'</i>	M Bee	HinckleyOS
Any Other hybrid:	<i>Coel. Mem. W Micholitz</i>	H Hobbs	Harr.OS
HC	<i>Stanhopea Quirky Queen</i>	D Hartley	EMOS
HC	<i>Coel. Mem. W Micholitz</i>	M White	Harr.OS
Lycaste and Allied:	<i>Lycaste groganii</i>	M Green	EMOS
Oncidiinae species:	<i>Milt. phymatochila</i> (Onc. <i>phymatochilum</i>)	A Deakin	EMOS
HC	<i>Lockhartia oerstedii</i>	H Hobbs	Harr.OS
Oncidiinae hybrids:	<i>Onc. Bonne Nuit</i>	A Deakin	NEEOS
HC	<i>Brassada Orange Delight</i>	R Baxter	SDOS
HC	<i>Onc. Splinter</i>	B Woodward	SDOS
Vandaceous species:	<i>V. sanderiana</i>	D Johnston	Harr.OS
HC	<i>Asco. miniatum</i>	D Johnston	Harr.OS
Vandaceous hybrids:	<i>V. Orathai</i>	D Johnston	Harr.OS
HC	<i>V. Siam Pink</i>	D Johnston	Harr.OS
HC	<i>V. Highland Gem</i>	D Johnston	Harr.OS
Laeliinae species:	<i>Soph. coccinea</i>	M Bee	HinckleyOS
HC	<i>C. skinnerii</i> f. <i>alba</i>	A Deakin	EMOS
Laeliinae hybrids:	<i>C. Irene Holguin</i>	A Deakin	EMOS
HC	<i>Ctt skinneri x Little Hazel</i>	N Jenkins	SDOS
Masdevallia species	<i>Masd lucernula</i>	E Eyre	EMOS
Masdevallia Hybrids	<i>Masd Pichinchia 'Tan Jewel'</i>	E Eyre	EMOS
HC	<i>Masd Patricia Hill</i>	E Eyre	EMOS
HC	<i>Masd Ina Walker</i>	E Eyre	EMOS
Pleurothallidinae:	<i>Anathallis regalis</i> 'Staveley'	H Hobbs	Harr.OS
HC	<i>Stelis superbiens</i>	H Hobbs	Harr.OS

Terrestrials:	Cyp Gerd Kohls Cyp Hank Small Cyp Sunny	S Clements S Clements S Clements	EMOS EMOS EMOS
Miniatures:	Maxillaria <i>jurgensii</i>	R Evenden	EMOS
Paphiopedilum species:	Paph <i>hangianum</i> Paph <i>stonei</i> Paph <i>thaianum</i>	I Dorman I Dorman G Dobbs	Harr.OS Harr.OS EMOS
Paphiopedilum hybrids:	Paph Ferox x primulinum Paph Giallo x Lemon Hart Paph Lippewunder	T Croot J Garner I Dorman	SDOS SDOS Harr.OS
Phragmipedium species:	Phrag <i>warszewiczianum</i>	A Deakin	EMOS
Phragmipedium hybrids:	Phrag Sedenii	M White	Harr.OS
Dendrobiinae species:	Den <i>densiflorum</i> var. <i>absoluteum</i> Den <i>vexillarius</i> Den <i>palperbrae</i>	M Armstrong E Eyre M Armstrong	EMOS EMOS EMOS
Dendrobiinae hybrids:	Den Pam Tajima Den New Star	H Hobbs C Ford	Harr.OS SDOS
Best Amateur Plant -	Bulb. <i>eberhardtii</i>	B Marsh	Harr.OS

April Plant of the Month

Dendrobium New Star

This one is a plant that I have been growing on now for 10 years, dropping on as each pot has become full. I keep it in reasonably good light all year, with moderate shading in the summer, and with a little during the winter.

Temperatures in that part of my Conservatory regularly reach 28-30C and go down to 12C on winter nights. This seems to be a temperature tolerant hybrid, based to a large extent on *D. nobile* but containing contributions from six other species (notably *D. regium*) via some complex breeding. It does not

take well to high light, preferring some shade. During growth, which will begin during flowering, feed and water it copiously, but when terminal leaves are spotted on the canes, allow drying off until you can see that the new buds forming along the pseudobulbs are really flowers or all you will get are kiekis!

The growing medium is a mix of medium bark and coco husk with a little charcoal thrown in for seasoning. The centre of the plant has been in the same growing medium now for 10 years but the bark seems to stand up well with little sign of deterioration and the plant does not seem to mind. **Charles Ford**

GARDEN UP SHEFFIELD BOTANICAL GARDENS 7th & 8th JUNE

This was the first staging of what is meant to become an annual event. It was intended to be “ a designer-led version of the Chelsea Flower Show” aiming to inject innovations into gardens. Garden Up aimed to reflect the world of plants, gardens, wildlife, Green Technologies etc. The first show was a model for what is in store for future events. There were over 60 exhibitors and trade stands.

It was decided that the Society ought to be represented at this inaugural event with the aim of publicising and increasing awareness of our existence. There was the secondary, but important, aim of trying to recruit new members or, at least, sow a few seeds which may eventually germinate. After all, mighty oaks always start with a small acorn.

With the above in mind, we staged a display with two aims – show a good selection of flowering plants combined with publicity material – aimed at being eye catching and thought provoking. We can safely say that both aims were achieved.

Something like forty quality, flowering plants spread over ten genera were shown and certainly succeeded in causing visitors to stop and look. Whilst all the plants were admired, the one which attracted most attention (and offers to buy) was a fine *Brassia verrucosa* with four large multi-flowered spikes. This plant together with an over-all view of the display are shown below. There was also a section illustrating the various stages of orchid growth from flask, through seedlings, young plant to flowering. One feature which attracted much interest and attention was the availability of three dozen potted up *Pleurothallis* keikis inviting people to "take one and have a go". The supply had to be rationed over the two days of the event and induced the Oliver Twist Syndrome – "please may we have some more" ? In support of the floral display was a range of innovative notices mounted on the back-cloth plus the Society publicity leaflet – about 150 of these were dispensed. We also introduced an Expression of Interest form inviting visitors to indicate their interest in attending a monthly meeting as a guest and/or receiving a complimentary copy of a Newsletter. A reasonable number were completed (never enough are there ?) so we must wait to see if anything comes of this. All who completed a form were contacted within two days of the show with a Newsletter and copy of our programme for the remainder of the year.

How can we judge the success of our efforts ? Much well and gratefully received advice was dispensed and a good PR job done for the Society. As to membership recruitment, time will tell. We had a good team of helpers for setting up and taking down the exhibit and several willing stewards so that the stand was continuously staffed.

As to the event as a whole – it is not for us to judge. The opening day was not helped by horrendous weather. There was only a trickle of visitors through the marquee compared with the

flood of rainwater at ground level. Sunday was a much better day for weather and there were large numbers of visitors. My own view is that there is the basis for a really good event and lessons will be learned from this, the first staging of it. **Brian**

Dates for your diary...

Monthly meetings at Ranmoor – 10am

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|-----------------------------|---|
| July 13th | Assessing the results of the seedling competition
Bring your selected seedlings... |
| Aug 10th | Francis Quesada-Pallares - Phalaenopsis |
| Sept 14th | Ian Dorman, Paphiopedilums |

shows/exhibits/conferences etc

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|--------------------------------|--|
| July 12-13th | Harrogate OS - Orchids for Everyone. A weekend event at RHS Harlow Carr. Includes exhibits, some trade and the RHS Committee are sitting (Saturday only). All welcome.
harrogateorchidsociety.co.uk |
| Sept 7th | BOGA & Darlington show, Josephine Butler College, Durham City |
| Sept 10-14th | 21st WOC, Johannesburg, South Africa
(SDOS definitely not exhibiting!)
www.woc21.org |

Society website - www.sheffieldorchids.org



Above: - SDOS display at Garden up
Below: - Brassia Orange Delight

