

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2012



**MARCH PLANT OF THE MONTH
*PAPH. CALLOSUM VAR. SUBLAEVE***

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EDITORIAL

Firstly I must apologise for the lateness of this month's newsletter. There tends not to be such a rush when the next meeting is several weeks away, and this is now after what would normally have been the date of the regular meeting. I hope no one turned up at the normal date/time!

Time moves on in life, and recently there have been adverts in the property section of the Yorkshire Post for a very small development in Rawdon of 2 new houses called sympathetically the Mansell and the Hatcher. They are built on the site of an old Orchid 'Farm'. Both are over £1M each. With hindsight I would still prefer the nursery. There just isn't anywhere in the north that you can simply drop in at for a look around like we used to be able to do.

BUSINESS

After complaints about a cold room in February, the Parish Centre has confirmed there is a problem and the heating system is due to be replaced, probably in April.

Thanks to everyone who supplied plants for Harrogate. Plants for NEEOS should be with Julie or Ted by Friday 30 March. (Now passed, but see report below). We shall be putting on a display at the Sheffield Fayre again this year, but just for one day on the Sunday.

Those planning to visit the Hinckley OS show on 31 March were reminded that the venue has changed to St John's Church Hall, 351 Coventry Rd., Hinckley LE10 0NP.

Plans are afoot for many double yellow lines to appear on surrounding roads so please take care when parking for our meetings.

We still need "old" bits and pieces and/or stuffed animals to help make our 40th Anniversary show display special. This is very important as we need to have a 'special' display on this occasion. If you can supply some 'old stuff', please contact Charles Ford so that he knows where he is up to.

Finally, remember our next meeting is on Saturday 28 April at 14.00.

Since the meeting we have heard that Cedric Maunder has sadly passed away. His funeral will be held at the Lawnswood Crematorium, Otley Road, Leeds, LS16 6AH this coming Monday 23rd April at 11am. Our thoughts are with Silvia and her family at this sad time.

THE TABLE SHOW

Ted Croot kindly gave the commentary this month and started with 2 plants of *Restrepia lankesterii* these dainty plants were

nicely mounted on cork. They are grown in intermediate conditions and are one of the few species that can be propagated by leaf cuttings. Next were two pots of *Pterostylis curta*, these originate in SE Australia. They are the easiest of the species to grow and are very prolific in the production of pseudobulbs. These can be separated and potted up in July. A very pretty *Phalaenopsis* Zuma x Aphrodite had white flowers shaded with lime green. Two *Phal.* Leopard Prince x Mardan Fantasy had both come from the same flask. Both were pink, one had spots and the other, strangely, stripes. *Disa Unilangley* a terrestrial from Dave Parkinson, pale pink in colour was growing in compost that is 2/3 Peat and 1/3 Perlite. This is kept moist but not sodden, no food had been given and it was suggested that it might benefit from some hoof and horn and rainwater. *Oncidopsis* (Cambria) Bartley Schwartz had one spike in flower and another to follow and was ready for potting on. *Dendrobium* Polar Fire was very pretty with white petals flushed with pink leading to a dark throat. *Stelis restrepoides* had three flower spikes. It grows cool/cold. Last year it tolerated temperatures as low as freezing point. Unfortunately slugs find it to their liking. *Pleione Heckla* had two mauve flowers and *P. Danan* had two smaller paler pink flowers. Watering starts in October when the leaves begin to develop. *Barkeria* Mabel Marsh had a spray of pale pink flowers. Usually deciduous, this plant had leaves on. Two unnamed *Phalaenopsis* were next. One had two branched spikes of white flowers with magenta patterns and the other two branched spikes of pale yellow delicately patterned with pink spots.

We then came to the *Paphs.* *P. delenatii* had a pretty pale pink flower with a deep pouch. *P. delenatii* forma album followed, this is a fairly new discovery. The leaves were slightly yellowed, after some discussion it was thought that this could be due to accidental contamination resulting in lime induced

chlorosis. *P. micranthum*, discovered in the 1950s, this had a large pale pink pouch and stripy pink petals. *P. callosum* var. *sublaeve* followed, this plant was the judged best plant. *P. boxalii* and *insigne* preceded a large flowered hybrid *P. Green Moon* with a slightly twisted dorsal petal. The only Phrag was *P. sargentianum*, from S. America; the flower spike at one metre high was twice the height of the leaves.

The final group of Cattleya alliance included Final Touch ‘Lemon Chiffon’ a small hybrid with two lemon flowers shaded with pink and a pink lower petal. Korat Beauty a larger plant with two deep maroon flowers. Pamela Finney ‘Pink Beauty’ was plant of the month. It had three very large flowers on one spike and looked stunning. The flowers were mauve and magenta. The final plant was a pretty unnamed cattleya type with a spike of four magenta flowers.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

PAPH. CALLOSUM VAR. SUBLAEVE

My plant of *Pahiopedilum callosum* var. *sublaeve* came from David Binks’ collection; it was originally supplied by Röllke Orchids of Germany as a young plant. Hope you are looking down and having a smile David; your plant has just won “Plant of the Month”.

The discovery of *P. callosum* is attributed to M. Alexandre Regnier of Paris who brought it into cultivation in France in 1885. The typical *P. callosum* is found across an area from Laos, Cambodia, South Vietnam, Thailand and North Western Malaya; at elevations of 400 to 1250 m, while the plant of Var. *sublaeve* is found further South in southern Malaya at an elevation of 700 to 950 m.

My plant shares space in my small greenhouse at an intermediate temperature, in a medium bark mix, however it is

recommended that some coarse peat is added, together with 20g of dolomite lime to each 5 Litres of compost. **Derek Jackson**

NEEOS ANNUAL SHOW

This was held on the 1st April at the usual venue of the village hall at Bowburn. It is one of those early starts to get there on time, but one that I don't mind doing as often at the start of spring the early morning weather can be very nice. This day proved true to type and in the early part I had a deal of sun in my eyes (a bit of a luxury as April has turned out), and a sunny return trip as well.

Sadly our display was a little sparse despite having 40 plants! The reason being that none were in pots larger than 6" with foliage failing to fill the gaps. (By contrast Harrogate had around 20 plants, but all were well over 6" in size and created a good display.) I also forgot the plaque which didn't help, although being slightly anonymous shouldn't damage our reputation in the long run. Plants were supplied by Ted, Jeff & Julie, Jim Grieves and I, and I'm grateful to Jim and Margaret for their help in the dismantling process that allowed me to get away in good time.

Our only first prize went to Ted with Cym. Strathblane 'Cooksbridge Pinkie' that was at its peak. I won 2 'Award of Merit's for Paph. Charlton Kings and Onc. Jungle Monarch.
JG

BOC 25 – WRITHLINGTON SCHOOL

The 25th BOC is being held at the Writhlington School at Radstock, (SE of Bristol) on 26-28th October – which coincides with their half term. Most of the arrangements are now in place, and this promises to be an excellent event partially being

run by some very enthusiastic children. They will be holding events additional to a normal BOC with tours of their greenhouses and also workshops on micropropagation and other topics. Registration is now available at £25 each/£35 couple (I don't actually know how much it is after this date). Information is available at www.wsbeorchids.org.uk/boc with the School's website at www.wsbeorchid.org.uk. If you aren't on the internet, but want to register, I'll try and remember to print off a few copies for the next couple of meetings.

As this is a school rather than the usual Hotel, there is no on site accommodation, but there are a couple of hotels within a 5 mile radius (including a Premier inn).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

MONTHLY MEETINGS AT RANMOOR – 10AM

Apr 28th Chris Purver, EYOF - Orchid Hybridisation.
Note change of date - Saturday at 14.00

May 13th Bernard McDonald – Bulbophyllum revisited

OTHER SHOWS

May 5-7th Raby Castle Show, Staindrop, Darlington.

May 20th SDOS annual show at Chatsworth. Full details in the April newsletter **NB.Plants required**

June 24th NEOS show at Tatton Park

July 6-8th Peterborough International Orchid Show.

Society website - www.sheffieldorchids.org



Above: - Cym. Strathblane 'Cooksbridge Pinkie'
Below: - One side of the SDOS display at Bowburn

