

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2011



**FEBRUARY PLANT OF THE MONTH
*DENDROCHILUM LONGIBULBUM***

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President

John Williams
Whitecroft, 170 Watt Lane
Sheffield S10 5QW
0114 230 4568

Vice Presidents

Julie Binks
Jeff Wilson
254 Abbey Lane
Sheffield S8 0BW
0114 236 1900

Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary & BOC Representative

Richard Baxter
Hall Farm House
Shelton, Newark,
NG23 5JG
01949 850713
sheffieldorchids@tiscali.co.uk

Vice President

Cedric Maunder
BOC Representative
Silvia Maunder
14 Whitechapel Close
Leeds LS8 2PT
0113 273 1347

Librarian

Janet Kirk
Any other member
Jeff Williams
55 Greenwood Avenue
Sheffield S9 4HB
0114 234 0168
Janet.kirk@virgin.net

Editor

John Garner
159 Lightridge Road
Fixby
Huddersfield HD2 2HS
01484 548764
denise.hosker@virgin.net

Programme Secretary, & Vice President

Ted Croot
11 Marsh House Road,
Sheffield S11 9SP
0114 236 2283
annette.ted@talktalk.net

Administration Secretary

Carolyn McQueen
3, Milton Court,
Swinton,
South Yorkshire,
S64 8RE
01709 587208
carolyn.mcqueen@btinternet.com

Additional Members

Jeff Bagnall
128, Huddersfield Road,
Meltham,
Holmfirth,
HD9 4AG
01484 3180113
jw.bagnall@ntlworld.com

BUSINESS

The Harrogate show is almost upon us and details were finalised. We are exhibiting at the NEEOS show on 27th March, but not the Darlington/OSGB show on 10th April. Arrangements for this show will be made at the March meeting. Chester Zoo is having orchid days on 2nd March and 3rd April. Reduced entry fees for the Peterborough show have been announced – see later in the newsletter. A list of the latest offerings from Lawrence Hobbs is available for perusal. Theo Dengel is downsizing his collection, and a list of available plants is attached to the newsletter.

Some trophies remain uncollected from December. If you won one, please contact John Williams for collection. Congratulations are due to Gill Benn who won the Jim Binks memorial Medal for the best in show at the recent Paph. Society meeting.

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Ann Shelley Lloyd, a former member of the Society. She was a renowned botanical artist, and a couple of her paintings are used as annual Society awards. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

THE TABLE SHOW

This month's talk was given by Silvia, who stated that it was a full and formidable display this month. A large specimen jewel orchid – *Ludisia discolor* was first up. The plant thrives on neglect, and is grown intermediate in quite rough compost. Cattlianthe Sunrise Doll was a smallish plant with red flowers. Rsc. Sanyung Ruby 'Crowned Dragon' had large frilly deep purple flowers with a velvety lip. Often these large frilly flowers would be flattened for displays which take time and effort (see back cover for the example). C. Marguerite Fournier (an old hybrid dating back to 1902) has large pale pink flowers, and is grown warm. An Epidendrum thought to be *psuedoepidendrum* has a very tall cane about a yard tall with a short spike of several small greenish flowers with red centres. It is grown intermediate.

Beallara Eurostar is a well known plant, now quite a specimen with several spikes of starry shaped purple and white blooms, and is grown fairly warm. Cochlioda *vulcanica* was well grown with 4 spikes of small pink flowers. Onc. Jungle Monarch was a large plant with 2 tall branched spikes of many yellow, brown and white flowers that had some slug damage. Odm. *crispum* was a good line bred example with a graceful arched spike of white flowers with yellow and purple centres. Odm. *tripudians* had 2 spikes of green flowers with brown bars.

Den. *kingianum* was a relatively dwarf clone with many short spikes of deep pink flowers. It is grown moist with high light. Den. *nobile* 'Smalldown' was a smallish example with pinkish flowers. Den. Polar Fire is a tall dark purple flowered example that is a consistent performer. Dendrochilum *longibulbum* was a small specimen plant with masses of tiny flowers. It is grown cold and kept moist all year around. This was judged to be the plant of the month.

Angraecum Veitchii is a hybrid (*eburneum* x *sesquipedale*) rather than the species that the name would suggest. It had 3 good sized white flowers, and is grown intermediate. It is fragrant at night, and midday.

Catasetum Grace Dunn is a plant that flowers when dormant (leafless), and has short spikes of pale pink flowers. Masd. *tovarensis* is one of the few whites amongst the species. It generally has 2 flowers per spike, and can often reflower, so the growers shouldn't chop them down too soon. It is a species that should be good to hybridise with, although few have been registered.

In the slippers, Paph. *druryi* was out of season with a single yellow flower with a central stripe that is always passed onto its progeny. *javanicum* was a good shaped flowers, and *jackii* was doing well with 2 flowers. Mem. Larry Heuer is a modern hybrid that is a nice shape (triangular) and size. Orchilla 'Chilton' is an old red classic that is still hard to beat. Icy Icy wind is a modern hybrid with 2 good sized flowers (and 2 buds) of speckled white flowers. Bit O' Sunshine 'Mont Millais' is a decent yellow. Phrag. Sedenii had 4 spikes of pink flowers,

and was growing very well. Phrag. Raymond Faroult (an old hybrid from 1893 - ed.) had lovely drooping pink flowers. Phrag. Eric Young had 2 decent flowers of pink and yellow, and *besseae* was a strong orange colour and well grown. It is good to see some Cymbidiums on the display as they appear to be becoming fewer due to their size and unsuitability for many household environments. Cym. Enzan Summer 'Sunlight' was a strong plant with 3 spikes of plain deep yellow (as the name suggests) flowers. Cym. Angela 'Autumn Gold' has a pendant spike with flowers generally yellow with a mottled lip. Phal. Pebble Beach was well named, being pale green with fine red mottling. Brother Pico Sweetheart was a miniature deep pink, and Innocence a medium sized white. Ever-spring King 'White Tiger' was a harlequin type of mainly white flowers with maroon blotches. Mini Mark is a medium sized plant with tiny white speckled flowers. *Lycaste consobrina* was just starting flowering, and had a few yellow flowers. Hopefully this will become a mass of colour over the next week or 2. *Ophrys tenthredinifera* was an early flowering hardy orchid with a couple of bee like flowers. *Pterostylis curta* usually makes an appearance in winter, and this Australian hooded terrestrial is quite easy to grow. The final plant was *Cychnoches* 'Wine Delight', a lovely deep red colour. A marathon effort, and thank you Silvia.

FEBRUARY PLANT OF THE MONTH

DENDROCHILUM LONGIBULBUM

I bought the plant as a seedling from Dick Warren in 2004. I have never had much success with tiny plants out of flasks so I usually wait until I find some more mature plantlets. There are about 150 species of *Dendrochilum*, spread across Borneo, Sumatra and the Philippines. American botanist Oakes Ames described Ddc. *longibulbum* in 1912 but literature about the species seems very sparse. This species has been found growing in the Philippines at elevations between 1900 – 6000 ft on the slopes of volcanoes amongst thick moss on ledges and in rock crevices, receiving constant moisture from rain and mist. Hawkes does not mention this species, but he indicates that the genus requires intermediate to hot conditions. I find that my plant grows best amongst my *Odontoglossums* with a minimum temperature of 8 - 10°C being watered all year, so I guess the higher elevation is closer to its natural home. The species resents root disturbance, so as my plant grows it is “dropped on” to a larger pot of my standard bark/moss/perlite mix. **Richard Baxter**

PAPHIOPEDILUMS

TED CROOT

The first Paphs were imported (to the UK) in 1758 to Loddiges in Hackney. These were known as *Cypripedium sinicum* (coming from China) – now known as *Paph. purpuratum*, followed by others from the Malay peninsula. It was officially described by Wallich in Calcutta in 1820, and was followed by *venustum* (1820) and *insigne* (1821) – both from India.

The genus known as *Paphiopedilum* was first proposed by Pfitzer in 1886 as being separate from *Cypripedium* – these being seen as a temperate genus, although this wasn't put into general usage for over 70 years. The 2 names are almost identical in meaning, just that one is latin, and the other greek. *Cypri* is latin for Venus, and *Paphio* is greek for Aphrodite, and *pedium* is shoes (or sandals).

The genus is distributed throughout SE Asia from the eastern Himalayas to PNG and the Solomon Islands. A lot of the island species are endemic through isolation such as *bouganvillianum* and *wentworthianum*. Due to the wide distribution more species are still being discovered, and will continue to do so as new areas are opened up (such as Burma). There is 1 species that is very geographically separated, which is *druryi* in the south of India. Up to 1998 69 species were recognised – depending on which botanist you follow. This total is from Cribb who tends to be more of a lumpner – preferring fewer species with varieties and colour forms. Within this line of thinking 'species' such as *concolor* are just a variety of *bellatulum*, and *wentworthianum* & *appletonianum* are varieties of *bullenianum*.

As China opened up in the 1980's species such as *armeniicum* (a tall bright yellow), *malipoense* (tall scented, chocolate coloured staminode), *emersonii* (wide petalled white), *jackii* (variety of malipoense), and the natural hybrid *x fanaticum* were introduced.

All the leaves grow from the base of the plant, and new plants are attached via a very short rhizome (although some grow from stolons). They have no pseudobulbs to store energy, so need to grow all year around (no rest). The leaves are either plain green or tessellated, although this is no guide to their growing conditions. The stomata are always underneath the leaves. The roots are covered in vellum as with most orchids, but these are hairy and brown.

The genus is characterised by having a generally short stem with a single flower (although 2 are usually formed, only 1 tends to grow on) – apart from the multiflorals of course, which can have up to 15 (*kolopakingii*). Sequential flowering species will produce a new flower each month, and last up to 2 years in bloom with up to 33 flowers. Each flower has 3 petals and sepals. Two of the

sepals are fused to create a synsepal, and the bottom petal is formed as a pouch. The pouch is there to help fertilisation by trapping an insect which then has to climb up the hairs at the back and past the pollinia to escape, and the pollinia is attached to their backs. When the insect reaches the next flower, it has to escape by the same route, and the pollinia are transferred to the stigmatic surface before fresh pollinia are attached. The petals can be various shaped from almost round (*bellatulum*) to long and thin (*sanderianum* – 36“ long).

Most of the species are terrestrials, but some such as *lowii* & *villosum* grow as epiphytes, whilst *niveum* grows as a lithophyte on limestone, and *delenatii* grows on granite. There is no standard PH as you would expect from such a range of media. In cultivation, however they will grow in almost anything. They are best cultivated in small pots in a reasonably coarse mixture, but not compressed. Addition of dolomitic lime will help most species and hybrids applied as a dressing. Generally they tend to respond to repotting, and seedlings should be done each 6 months, with mature plants every 2 years. Some species such as *bellatulum* resent division and repotting and will either sulk or die on you. Not all plants will root on new growths (e.g. *Maudiae* types) which can be a source of annoyance as after repotting they will wobble around.

The method and frequency of watering varies depending on compost types, however, they should be kept moist, and never less than ‘slightly dry’. As terrestrials they are a bit less fussy than other orchids, and depending on your location tap water will be sufficient (but check first of course). Feeding is variable, and Ted uses a mixture of growth and bloom formulations as appropriate during the year. Avoid feeds such as Tomorite which supply their nitrogen as urea. Different temperatures apply for species with such a diverse geographical location. Intermediate (15-26C, 55-80F) suits most, with others such as *exul* needing 25-30C, whilst *fairrieianum* will go down to 5C. Seasonal variations in light and temperature are essential to initiate flowering. Shading is essential for most species and around 85% humidity is useful (not suited to household environments). All sorts of orchid pests will attack Paphs – slugs, snails, aphids, mealy bugs, scale, and red spider mites. Standard treatments will control them. A bigger problem however, can be rot with *Erwinia* being a cause for concern – this can kill a plant in a few days, and is contagious. Careful control by sterile trimming will contain it. Prolonged wet compost will encourage the problem so it is necessary to water carefully.

Ted completed the lecture by covering a few primary hybrids and how some traits are more predominant than others. A hearty round of applause followed. Many thanks Ted.

EAST OF ENGLAND SHOW – 17th – 19th JUNE 2011

TICKET PRICES

<u>DAY</u>	<u>ON THE GATE</u>	<u>ADVANCE</u>	<u>ORCHID DISCOUNT</u>
<u>FRIDAY</u>			
Child	FREE		
Adult	£6.00	£5.00	
<u>SATURDAY and SUNDAY</u>			
Child	£7.00	£6.00	£5.40
Adult	£15.00	£13.00	£11.70
Senior	£12.00	£10.20	£9.20
Family (2 Adults & 2 children)	£31.00	£28.00	£25.20

The ticket HOTLINE number for advance booking is 0845 600 5445 and advance booking can now be done online on www.showground.org.uk

From the above it can be seen that an additional 10% discount can be obtained by “orchid people” booking **IN ADVANCE** either by phone or online.

The code – PIOS1 - must be entered if booking online or quoted when making telephone bookings. The additional discount is only available on advance bookings and **NOT** on the gate.

There is no minimum number of purchasers necessary to obtain this discount.

There is a booking fee of £1.50 per transaction. Tickets now available.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

MONTHLY MEETINGS AT RANMOOR – 10AM

March 13th

Andy Phillips – Phragmipediums.

April 10th

David Menzies – subject tbc.

OTHER SHOWS

March 19-20th

RHS London orchid Show.

March 27th

NEEOS annual show at Belmont Community Centre.

*** **SDOS Exhibiting** ***

April 10th

Darlington/OSGB show at the Josephine Butler College Durham.

Society website - www.sheffieldorchids.org



Above: - RLC Sanyung Ruby 'Crowned Dragon

Below: - Example of petal flattening in Taiwan. Picture courtesy of B. Woodward

