

Harrogate Orchid Society

NEWS

For everyone with one orchid or a thousand!

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DECEMBER 2017 EDITION

EDITORS NOTE

Well that's 2017 nearly done with. Its seems to have flown by for me but I did manage to keep on top of things ,or just about and this edition is my last task before putting my feet up for Christmas. The kids are doing everything this time ,including baking the cake. So feet up with a glass of whisky , what possibly could go wrong!

This year has been another good year for our active showing members, with many rosettes being won all round. I know our new chairman Ian Dorman is very keen to try and get more members to visit other society shows

and bring plants for our stand. As long as you can put a name to it and its in good condition and in flower you and your plant will be very welcome on the day. Every plant adds to the look of the stand. I remember the first time I nervously took a plant to a show and was surprised by the encouragement I received. Its not about winning its just good fun ,a day out and a chance to meet new friends and pick up tips.

As you know next year the show is at a different venue and there has been a bit more work involved than normal in putting this first one together. We are all hoping it will be a success after our efforts but as a member you can help by encouraging your friends and family to come along and enjoy the day especially now we have added a craft section along with the usual plant sales to browse. There is also a bigger emphasis on the help for beginners growing in the house.

My apologies for this being a slightly smaller edition but there hasn't been a lot of events to report on since the last one came out in September but not to worry there are certainly lots to come once we get the festivities over and start the new season so Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.



SEPTEMBER 24th MEETING

A TALK GIVEN BY MIKE MYERS

Hardy Orchids in the Garden and in the Wild

This talk opened with a photo of Pleione 'Confirmation', an Autumn flowering Pleione which is a cross between Pl. praecox and Pl. maculata . All three are warmer growing than the Spring flowering Pleiones and they do not appear to want a dry rest in cultivation. (Author's observation, not Mike's)

They will do well in an intermediate to warm orchid house and seem to be happy in sphagnum and a bit of small bark. The pseudo bulbs are very attractive, unlike their Spring cousins!

However, Mike moved quickly on to the 'Spring Cousins' showing some excellent photos of Pl. wharfedale 'Pine Warbler'; Formosana 'Rossini'; Pl. Tongariro; which is a good one if you want a pot full as "it increases like mad"! Then there were some rarer Pleione such as Pleione Nyiarongo ; Pl. Kima and Pl. Askia 'Cinnabar' Some Pleione are quite tricky to grow and there is always discussion about

various mixes of composing material, but Mike suggested 50% Cambark and 50% Perlite. Also, to get good blooms, remove from compost and store in a box in the fridge for a few weeks December/January.

He then went on to Pterostylus curta, which should be watered in Autumn. The best 'throw-away line' about re-potting was "One problem is finding the darn tubers!"

We then saw pictures of Orchis and Ophrys species seeing how Orchids mimic insects with sight and smell to encourage pollination.

Himantoglossum caprinum and Serapias came next followed by calanthes which he recommended being planted in mix of bark,peat,perlite and soil.

Moving on Mike showed us photos of: Cypripedium; Amitostygma; Ponerorchis; Calopogon; Pogonia; Platanthera; Spiranthes; Stenoglotis and then to end a most informative talk,

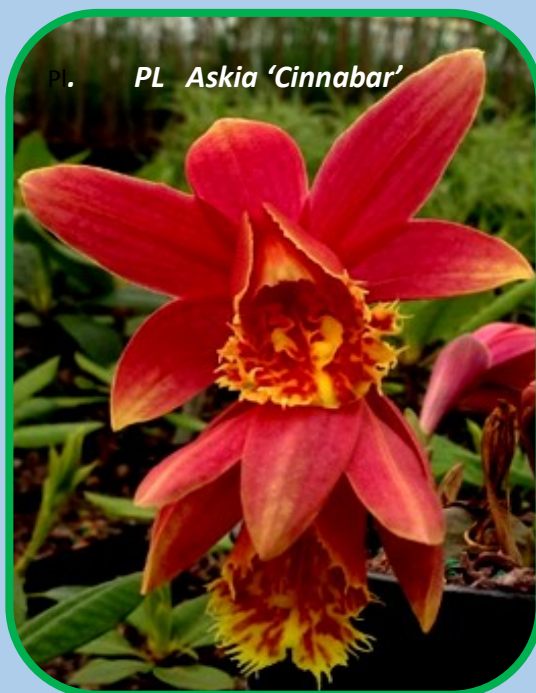
a blaze of colour with Disas. A good talk thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Tony Garthwaite

A break was taken with the now usual array of buns ,scones and biscuits that we have become accustomed to. The cost of which has now risen to a more realistic price of 50p for a drink or a £1 for a drink + confectionary of your choice. Still good value I think!

The raffle was drawn and we all settled down to another great table talk with lots of good plants to discuss. What amazes me is the totally different culture and conditions that members give to the same species or hybrid. Sometimes you can see the difference straight away but many times there is no difference except that one plant may be more mature than the other. I know there are many other reasons as I am sure some of you will mutter as you read this but it makes you think .

The pictures of the table plants on the next page are not as numerous as usual because next year my intention is to try and focus on certain plants but include more detail about them from the owner, instead of just lots of pictures.



PLANTS FROM THE TABLE



Michael D Myers



DENDROCHILUM UNDULATUM



ANGRACUM ASPICULATUM



PHRAGMIPEDIUM KOVACHII LONGIFOLIUM



PHRAGMIPEDIUM VINCTATUM de RAQUIER



MAXILLARIA STRIATA



BRASIDOSTELE GILDED TOWER MYSTIC MAZE

MEMBERS PLANT FOCUS

BRASSIA LILIA CATTLEYA DEAN MARTIN.

I don't know much about the background of this plant but the story is about my culture of it. This plant



has been in my greenhouse for about 5 years and in that time it has been going from bad to worse until 2 years ago. Up to then I had repotted it in different media several times, moved it to more light, less



light and the same with the temperature. moisture but not my cattleya. This by a thread, with 1 leaf and 2 bulbs, you decided to act on a tip I picked up at a baskets in a moss /bark mixture. I did them moist fed them on arcane rain mix months there was new growth on all of the wire baskets really well. This year for the first time including DEAN MARTIN so I thought I would take a picture and share it with you.



I knew that cattleya liked heat, light and particular plant was the worst, hanging on get the picture. It was at this point that I meeting and that was to grow cattleya in this with all my cattleya plants. I kept all the time in the warm house. Within them and after a year they were filling out they have all flowered. A lot of them

SUNDAY 22nd OCTOBER MEETING

A TALK BY DAVID JOHNSON

Fascinating Phalaenopsis species

David recounted his experiences over a number of years with the cultivation of specie Phalaenopsis. The geographic distribution from India in the foothills of the Himalayas through the Malaysian Peninsular, Indonesia, Philippines and further East into the Islands of The Pacific Ocean was described together with maps showing where the mountain chains existed and how they affected the climate. The ambient temperatures could range from around 5°C to 40°C and rainfall could be as much as 3 metres (11 feet) per annum. David pointed out that this last point was very important to remember. "If you do not want your plants to die, don't let them dry out!" Over the years, he has lost a number of specimens through drought due to his not being able to water regularly due to illness, so he developed a way of overcoming this problem by standing the pots in saucers which were in turn stood in large plastic trays. The trays were then filled with water to just below the rim of the saucers. This provided the plants with high humidity around the leaves which avoided the plant drying out and reduced the frequency of watering. Though this was a financial outlay, this avoided the expense of a Fogging system. Though the various species have minimum temperature requirements which may range down to 5°C, David uses a minimum temperature of 17/18°C for his collection. He also sprays plants such as Phal. aphrodite with exposed roots regularly, daily if possible. The primary habitat is Taiwan and The Philippines where it grows in forests (lots of shade) and 80-85% Relative Humidity year round. Regular spraying is important if the plants are mounted on cork or rafts. Which leads us to his next point: "To pot or not to pot?"

continued

David has made good use of the Internet in order to find what are the conditions where a particular specie is found in its natural habitat. He noticed that many of the species were clinging to tree branches, but the base of the stem was always raised off the bark. This would avoid the growing point getting too wet and rotting. Also, some grow with their leaves pointing downwards and some grow sideways. So, he has used this knowledge to mount specimens on rafts and bark in positions which mimic the conditions 'in the wild'. It is always important to ensure water will drain from the leaves.

His recommendations can be summed up as follows:

Water all year round but less in winter.

Heavy watering in summer, misting in winter.

Use transparent pots

Good drainage

Medium sized bark with Dyna rock in base

Pot in Saucer in tray , as described above.

We were then shown a range of specie photos which gave an idea of the immense range of size, colour and type of flower available and stimulated some interesting discussion with the audience.

Tony Garthwaite

SOME OF THE PLANTS ON DISPLAY



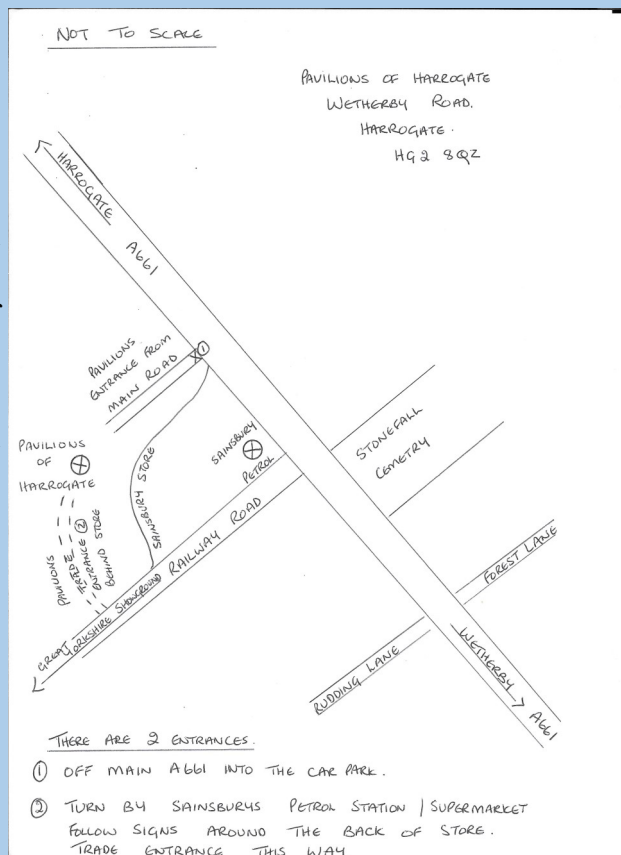
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HOS ANNUAL SHOW 25th FEBRUARY 2018

I have already mentioned on several occasions and I am sure you must all be aware by now that the show venue has been moved to the Pavilions of Harrogate exhibition centre on the show ground. In order to make life as easy as possible ,I have drawn a crude map that shows the basic information on how to get there. Although the overall plan is now more or less finished ,I am now asking for all members who are coming to the show to let me know if they are willing to be a volunteer and help on the day. There is the entrance desk, tombola stand, membership desk, sundries stand and repotting table all to man throughout the day, so please let me or any committee member know if you are going to volunteer. Your help will be most welcome. The other thing is putting flyers into places where people will see and pick them up alongside a poster. If you think you can help with ideas on this please let me know so we can start straight after new year. I will get the flyers to you one way or another. A4 posters I can e/mail to you so you can print 2or3 off.

Every little helps



NOVEMBER 25th MEETING

There was no talk as such at this meeting! Instead John Gay organised a little judging exercise for all the members to get involved in. After a short talk on the principles and procedures that orchid judges have to work to and the way the training is over 3 years . Twice a year there is a training symposium to attend and that there about 100 trained judges in the U/K. He explained that the course is open to everyone and increases knowledge and understanding which in turn makes a better grower. Using a power point diagram ,he went through the marking system to explain the way the points are allocated . 50% of the marks are not about the flower and 50% are just about the flower .

Cultivation

Plant size & condition 25 points —————> presentation 5 points

Floriferousness 20 points

Merit

Flower shape 10 points —————> flower colour 10 points

Flower size 10 points —————> flower substance/ texture 5 points

Spike habit 5 points —————> floriferousness of spike 10 points

Everybody was given a small slip with numbers on it in order to try there hand at judging the plants that were on the table with corresponding numbers against them. The plants were all phrags & paphs that Ian Dorman had brought along. It worked really well with everybody having a go. There was no marking after, it was all light hearted and good fun. I had to grin and bear the fact that my wife Lorna beat me ,so what do I know!

A break was then taken and the raffle was drawn with what seemed a lot of winners but sadly not me. The table talk was slightly different in that everybody got to talk about their own plant, which led to a fair amount of humour and good banter. All in all another good meeting to round up the 2017 season.

Some pictures of the plants on the table



CONTINUED

SORRY ABOUT THE LACK OF NAMES . A LOT OF LABELS COULD NOT BE READ



SOPHRONITIS
COCCINEA JAPAN



MAXILLARIA HEUBSHII



RESTREPIA

DIARY FOR 2018

Harrogate HOS. meeting dates 2018

All Meetings At Harlow Carr

January 27th	Annual Dinner Peashill Hotel no meeting
February 25th	Annual Show Pavilions of Harrogate no meeting
March 25th	Harlow Carr 10am to 1pm AGM and plant auction, Sunley Room
April 29th	Harlow Carr speaker Louise Redgrave "The Native Orchids of two contrasting Regions of Spain" 10am to 1pm Wolfson Room
May 20th	Harlow Carr speaker Helen Milner subject tba. 10am to 1pm Wolfson Room
May 26th & 27th	Possibly children's weekend Harlow Carr 11am to 4pm (Provisional)
June 24th	Harlow Carr Full Day Workshop) 10am to 4pm (RHS flower Show) Sunley room
July	Annual Field Trip date and venue tba.
July 22nd	Harlow Carr speaker John Gay subject Phragmipedium kovachii & Its Influence in Hybridizing 10am to 1pm. Wolfson Room
August 4th & 5th	Orchids for Everyone Weekend Harlow Carr times to be confirmed. (No RHS Orchid Committee)
September 30th	Harlow Carr Back to Basics 10am to 1pm. Jubilee Room
October 21st	Harlow Carr speakers Hilary Hobbs & Jean Barker, subject tba 10am to 1pm. Wolfson Room
November 18th	Speaker tba. Harlow Carr 10am to 1pm. Wolfson Room

**THAT'S ALL FOR THIS YEAR
FOLKS**



HARROGATE ORCHID SOCIETY

MEMBERS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

PEASEHILL HOTEL, RAWDON, LEEDS LS19 6HJ
SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2018

Cost per head: £15.95 for 2 courses, £18.95 for 3 courses, including tea or coffee

STARTERS

- 1 Roast red pepper and tomato soup
- 2 Fanned galia and canteloupe melon with a mango sorbet
- 3 Homemade Peasehill House black pudding, served with poached duck or hen egg and hollandaise sauce
(please indicate which egg you would prefer)

Number Required

MAIN COURSE *(all served with seasonable vegetables)*

- 1 6oz individual beef wellington with a red wine sauce
- 2 Grilled seabass with garlic prawns
- 3 Roast rump of lamb with mint mash and rosemary and redcurrant gravy
- 4 Poached supreme of salmon with a hollandaise sauce
- 5 Wild mushroom risotto

Number Required

DESSERT

- 1 Chocolate and honeycomb cheesecake
- 2 Vanilla crème brûlée
- 3 Rhubarb and blackberry crumble served with custard or ice cream
(please indicate either custard or ice cream)
- 4 Cheeseboard with celery and dates
- 5 Trio of homemade ice cream (raspberry, chocolate and vanilla)

Number Required

NAME:

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EMAIL:

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Please arrive at the hotel around 11:45 for a 12 noon plant discussion
Plants for the table display and our usual 'lively' discussions are most welcome.
Please bring along any 2017 rosettes, awards of merit etc for display.

Lunch will be served at approximately 1pm.
During lunch there will be a quiz and the raffle will be drawn.
Donation of raffle prizes for the lunch would be much appreciated.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ABOVE FORM AND RETURN

along with appropriate cheque made payable to 'Harrogate Orchid Society', to:
Sylvia Lawson, 19 Victoria Avenue, Yeadon, LS19 7AS to arrive no later than Friday 19 January 2018.

If you have any queries regarding the event, or have specific dietary requirements
please contact me on 0113 219 0544 or email on graham.lawson90@ntlworld.com