

Harrogate Orchid Society

News

NEWS

For everyone with one orchid or a thousand!

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JUNE 2018 EDITION

Editors notes

Hello everyone and welcome to the slightly late June news letter. It has been a hectic 3 months of shows, meetings and events and the logistics of putting the newsletter together have been difficult to say the least. What with holidays, caravan trips and coping with the hot weather effects on the greenhouse its been somewhat busy. I hope next years orchid calendar doesn't look like this years . There has been far to much happening all at once. I know a lot of members missed some events because of this and I found myself on 2 occasions putting tables on with just one other fellow member. Thanks to both of them . I am glad to see my show sec partner Bob recovered from a very nasty fall in the snow. It has taken a long time for him to feel pain free and he was very brave in assisting with our show when he should have been resting. Thanks Bob, good to see you mended.

I don't know how you are all coping with the hot weather in the greenhouse . I have had a lot more trouble with the cool house than the hot. This is mainly

because the door has to be open to try to keep the heat down even with aluminium shading it is getting into the low 30s and of course as soon as you do that the humidity disappears. Catch 22. Even with sprays the humidity has struggled to get into the 50s. On 2 occasions ,with hard tap water that I never use I have resorted to hosing the cool house down . This gives a good boost to humidity and lasts a bit longer but we have now been asked stop using hose pipes so live with it ,that's all we can do. Ian Dorman has asked for ideas for discussion at the back to basics meeting on the 22nd of this month . This could be one, on how we all cope with very hot weather and what type of plants copes with it best.

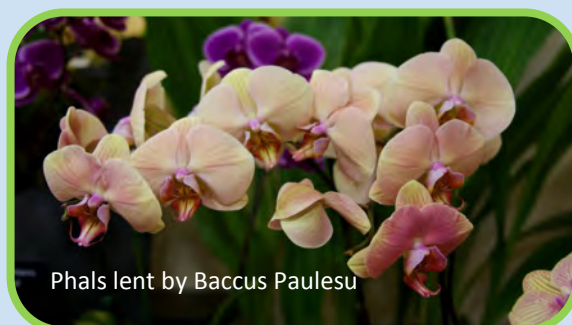
HINCKLEY ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

This show is not really on the HOS calendar because of distance but they very kindly put a table on at our show I felt it a moral obligation to attend their show. It turned out to be one of the most enjoyable events I have been to this year. The Hinkley members take growing seriously and put a great table on at their show and ours but they do it for fun and have a good time. They



attend all the shows irrespective of distance and duration. The plants are judged in a looser style than normal, with each table given rosettes for the judges to award to the plants on that table, then the best hybrid and species overall is awarded. The whole atmosphere is of laughter and banter which I for one as well as my wife Lorna, Tony and Lesley Garthwaite our companions for the day

enjoyed. A nice lunch and a walk round Bosworth field completed the day. We came away with best species award for a dendrobium thysiflorum.



RHS WESTMINSTER SPRING ORCHID SHOW

It is a few years since visiting the Spring Orchid Show at the RHS Halls in Westminster. Lesley and I were in the queue about '30' from the doors on the preview evening. Though the sun was shining, we were in shadow but that was OK because, living North of the Watford Gap, we had not cast off 'Winter Woollies'!

The doors opened and in we tramped.

The first stand was Writhlington School, with *Coelogyne cristata* in hanging baskets (which were nearly as good as those owned by members of the Harrogate O.S.). The pupils were showing their internet site with Orchid information. This can be viewed at: <https://wsbeorchids.org/orchid-species-information/>. It is well worth a visit if you have the time to browse (i.e. you are not retired!)

The pupils manning the stand were enthusiastic about their plants and quite happy to discuss the finer points of culture to enable others to emulate their success.

Looking around the Lindley Hall, the general impression was no where near as colourful as our last visit 10 years ago. There were no grand displays of *Cymbidiums* and the stands were not shoulder-to-shoulder presenting a wall of colour wherever one looked.

However, Lawrence Hobbs and Burnham Orchids each provided a mass of colour (Silver-gilt and Gold respectively) which to some extent made up for the lack of displays of earlier years.

We did buy two plants, (both still alive!) and a tub of that well known Orchid fertiliser from three stands, all from overseas!

Tony Garthwaite

Foreign correspondent



OSGB



Lawrence Hobbs



Burnham Orchids

continued

RHS Chatsworth Flower Show

The RHS Chatsworth Flower Show followed immediately after the Tatton Park outing to The North of England Show the weekend before. This year it was a celebration of the Orchid Collection at Chatsworth.

As a celebration, Sheffield Orchid Society invited a range of Societies to join them in putting on a display of orchids belonging to members. The display, which was set up on the Monday, was awarded a Silver Gilt Medal. It attracted a great deal of interest and members of the various Societies involved were acting as stewards to answer queries from the general public. Of course the most frequent question was: "How do I look after my orchid when I get it home?" If only the Societies had been given a plastic £5 note for each question, then financial worries of the Societies would be non-existent!

Two trade stands were present; Marie Karge and her father brought an interesting range of plants with some very floriferous dendrobiums from their German Nursery and Vacherot et Lecoufle from Paris, put on a magnificent display with amazingly large blooms on their Phalaenopsis.

Tony Garthwaite

Foreign correspondent



Renanthera monachica on the Society



Dactylorhiza fuchsiae (not a Harrogate plant!)



Vacherot et Lecoufle 'Paphs' to die for!

MEETING AT HARLOW CARR

APRIL 29th

This was a standard format meeting, with a talk by Louise Redgrave, followed by a table display and a raffle.

Louise's talk was on **Native and European orchids**. Her Background: Trained as botanist and ecologist and now works as an ecologist. She is interested in the native flora both of the UK and Europe and in particular orchids. She was member of BAWEOS and HOS for number of years; She then moved to Lancashire in 2014 but is still a member of the HOS claims (not to be a particularly good grower!). The

photography was largely done by her husband, Karl Crowther. The talk focused on a trip to Los Picos de Europe. This is a small mountain range in northern Spain just west of Santander. The climate high up is cold in winter with deep snow and hot in summer with the snow lingering



Sawfly orchid (Ophrys)



Burnt tip orchid



Elder-flowered orchid
(*Dactylorhiza sambucina*) – yellow



Yellow bee orchid (*Ophrys lutea*)



Elder-flowered orchid

long into the spring. As well as an abundance of plant life it also supports wolves and bears, with eagles high up as myself and my wife Lorna can vouch for. The trip was done in the summer and I think Louise said late June but I am not certain. It was an organised tour done by a specialist agent who keeps the walks close to their chest for obvious reasons. Louise explained each walk in some detail with orchid pictures found on that particular day. It was interesting to hear that in a fortnight she saw, I believe, some 36 different species along with many natural hybrids. This talk had everyone interested because Louise explained it very well and the PowerPoint was excellent.

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PLANTS FROM THE TABLE DISPLAY

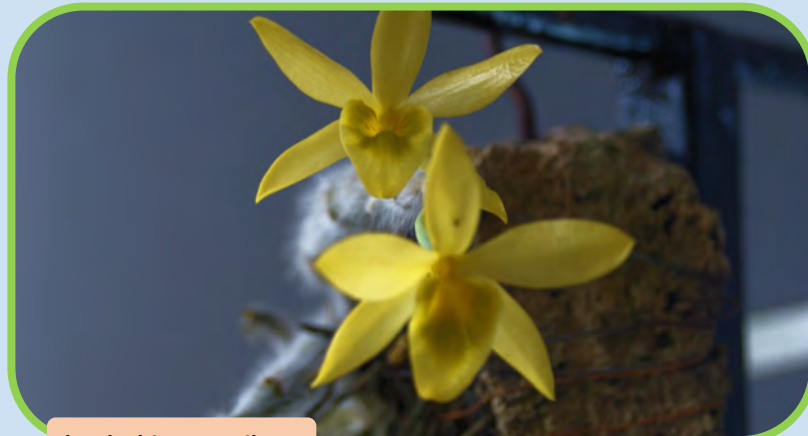
Prosthechea prismatocarpa

Prosthechea prismatocarpa also called as The Prism-Shaped Seedpod *Prosthechea*, *Encyclical prismatocarpa*, *Epidendrum prismatocarpum*, *Panarica prismatocarpa*, *Pseudencyclia prismatocarpa*, is a species of the genus *Prosthechea*. This species was described by Wesley Ervin Higgins in 1997.

Prosthechea prismatocarpa is native to Costa Rica and Panama. In Panama, these plants are found in the Chiriquí province at an altitude of 1200-1360 m. It is a large -sized, cool to cold growing epiphyte, which reaching 50 cm in height, with elongate, conic, 15 cm long and up to 5 cm in diameter pseudobulbs partially enveloped basally by a few scarious sheaths and carrying 2 to 3 apical, oblong-elliptic, basally conduplicate and clasping, 12-33 cm long and 6.4 cm wide leaves. The Prism-Shaped Seedpod *Prosthechea* blooms in the spring, summer and fall on an apical, erect, to 37.5 cm long, densely to loosely, 6 to 35 flowered raceme subtended by a papery basal sheath and arising on a newly matured pseudobulb carrying long-lasting waxy, fragrant, 5 cm in diameter flowers. The colour of the flowers varies to some extent, but the petals are usually sulphur-yellow with dark, sepiabrown or crimson spots. The lip can be in any shade between creamy yellow to pink-red.



PROSTHECHEA PRISMATOCARPA



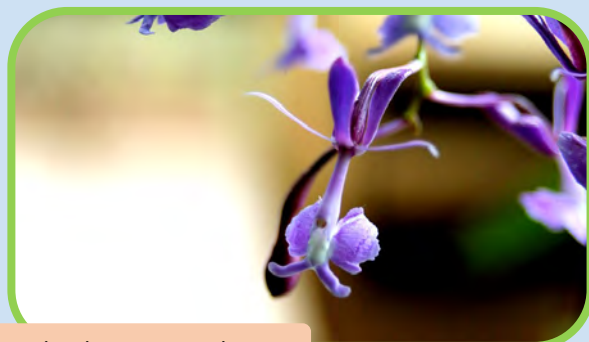
dendrobium senile

Dendrobium senile is native to Laos, Myanmar, Ranong area on the Thai

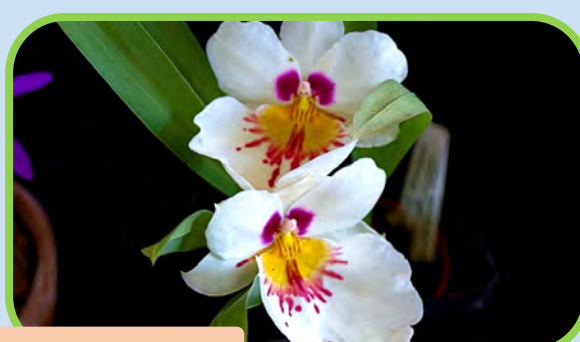
Dendrobium senile

peninsula and northern and eastern Thailand. They grow at heights of 500-1200 m. It is a miniature sized, warm to cool growing epiphytic plant, reaching 9-22 cm in size, with suberect, hairy, succulent-like, 5-15 cm long pseudobulbs

and 2 to 6, ovate-lanceolate, alternate, semi-deciduous, 4-5 cm long leaves. *Dendrobium senile* flowers after a long dry rest, when buds form along the nodes of the pseudobulbs. The flowers are 4-6 cm in diameter and open completely. The sharp tips of the flower parts are bright lemon or butter-yellow.



epidendrum nanegalense



Miltonia ouaisne ?

MEETING AT HARLOW CARR 20th MAY

This was once again our usual format meeting with a talk ,table display and raffle also like the meeting in April it had an excellent speaker and a table full of interesting plants to talk about. Our speaker was



Hellen Miller who is known well in the orchid world . She has a display stand at most show and attends lots of societies to give talks. Her talk for us was on the Wardonian cabinet. Helen started by explaining to the members how in the early days of orchid collecting ,90% of all orchids collected in foreign parts just did not make it back alive . This led to the invention of this not very elaborate box which solved all the problems and started the mass collecting of orchids from the wild .Helen

went on to talk about how this simple invention also helped in cultivation of all kinds of plants especially in places like London where the atmosphere was bad. There was a large collection of antique boxes of all sizes and designs to show us and she went on to talk about the inventor who although he had solved the problem of cultivation in bad air quality died without making any money from it. Helen



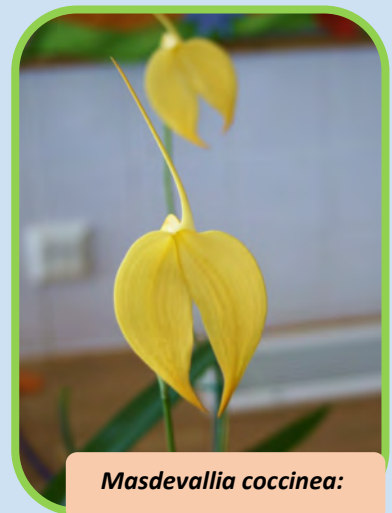
put a lot of detail into this talk ,including how to build a simple cabinet as you can see on the right so I can't relate it all to you but just say we were all enthralled right to the end GREAT TALK The table show brought out a lot of discussion about some great plants. The level of quality Of plants that members bring to meetings are a lot of the time up to show standard. The down side is that not enough of these plants are from members who don't show. The idea is that it should encourage all members to bring plants to the table with confidence but sadly we are still not at that point and I hear this from other societies as well. Perhaps more thought needs to be applied to the issue to reverse the trend.

SOME INTERESTING PLANTS FROM THE TABLE

Masdevallia coccinea: Distribution: (Colombia) The botanical Latin term *Masdevallia* “coccinea” refers to a bright, deep red colour.

This species is found from an elevation ranging from 8,000 to 11,000 feet (2,500 to 3,400 m) in moist areas of the cloud forest in moderate shade. Flowers from different elevations produce an astonishing variety of colours, from deep rich crimson-purple, through magenta-crimson, crimson-scarlet, deep red,

orange, white, or yellow as shown in our image.



Masdevallia coccinea:



Masdevallia ignea 'Lava Flow'

Masdevallia ignea ‘Lava Flow’: Distribution: (Colombia)

It really has the most stunning colours for a masdevallia - for any orchid in fact. Fully mature plants normally have good tall spikes with between eight and ten flowers almost 1½ inches long with bright dazzling red and yellow coloured striations. Hence: ‘Lava Flow’

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Dendrobium fimbriatum

Accultum variety

This plant was collected in Nepal in 1820 by Nathaniel Wallich who sent plants to the Liverpool Botanic Garden where it first flowered in 1822. William Hooker described it in his *Exotic Flora* in 1823. The specific epithet comes from the Latin *fimbriatus* (fimbriate) for the plumose-fimbriate margin to the lip, which is a distinctive characteristic of this species.

Howard Wood (1999) places this species in section *Holochrysa* Lindl., which is related to section *Callista* Lindl. Species of both of these sections have usually yellow flowers that last for 5-10 days. *Den. fimbriatum* is distributed through Nepal, Sikkim, Burma (Myanmar), Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, southern China, and Malaya, where it is mostly found between 500-1,500m altitude but can be located up as high as 2,400 m elevation.



Den. fimbriatum has erect, arching or pendulous cane-like stems that are 60-120 cm or more (180-200 cm) long. They become light yellow-green and furrowed with age and bear many two ranked leaves along the upper half. Its oblong acute, dark green leaves that are 8-15 cm long and 2-3 cm broad are deciduous after 2-3 seasons. Pendulous inflorescences up to 18 cm long are borne from the upper nodes of the matured, leafless stems. Each stem can produce racemes for several seasons. Bearing 6-15 showy flowers that open together on each raceme, the resulting display on a large plant is certainly spectacular.



Its flowers are 4-7.5 cm across and have pale yellow-green to deep orange-yellow sepals and petals and a darker orange-yellow lip. They have a sparkling, crystalline texture. The lip colour varies, with most forms having a dark maroon patch on the centre of the lip. This more common form with the dark eye was described 15 year later by Joseph Hooker as *Den. fimbriatum* var. *oculatum* Hook.f., which I prefer to call fma. *oculatum* Hook.f. The typical fma. *fimbriatum* usually has smaller flowers than fma. *oculatum*. Short-lived, the sourly scented blooms last for about 7-10 days. Any well-drained medium suits it well, using pot or basket culture. Provide it with bright light such as 50-70% shade with plenty of water and high humidity during the growing months. Liquid fertiliser applied during the growing period will be beneficial.

NOES ANNUAL SHOW JUNE 6th

TATTON PARK



The NEOS is always a good show to attend, even if you are not exhibiting, because of Tatton Park. If the date is just right the gardens can be fantastic, with the azalais and rhododendrons out but even if they aren't it is still a great garden to stroll round. If you take your boots some great walks can be had in the huge park. It is now the tradition of HOS to have a get together under the trees and have a picnic. If you like home made cake and buns with a glass of wine, this is the place to be. We had

a birthday this year for two members, that needed another glass or 2 of wine, of course. The hall where the show itself is held can best be described as sombre but if you don't look up it's a good venue, although a bit more light would good.

RESULTS FOR HOS



CLASS	PLANT NAME	GROWERS NAME
ONCIDIUM SPECIES	ONCIDIUM SPHACELATUM	IVOR PAWSON
PAPHIOPEDILLUM SPECIES	PAPHIOPEDILLUM TIGRINUM	IAN DORMAN
ANY OTHER SPECIES	BULBOPHYLLUM MACROBULBUM	MALCOLM WHITE



Bulbophyllum macrobulbum



Paphiopedilum tigrinum purbeck

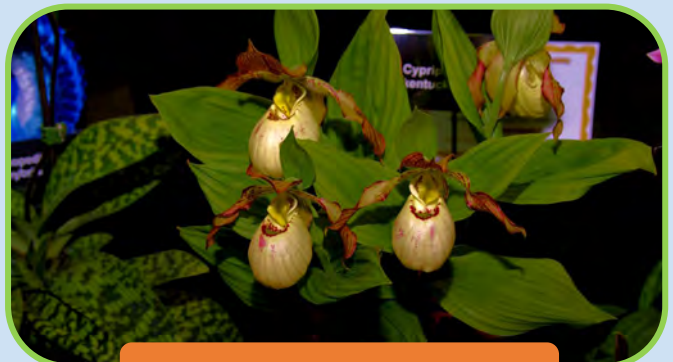


Oncidium sphacelatum

CONTINUED



DENDROBIUM JENKINSII



CYPRIPEDIUM KENTUCKIENSE

CHILDRENS DAY AT HARLOW CARR

26th/27th MAY

This day was arranged by the RHS at Harlow Carr and wasn't scheduled into our calendar but it was agreed that we would try and get volunteers to take it on because it all helps to offset the free meeting rooms that we get throughout the year. Ideas and volunteers were a bit slow coming forward at first but nearer the time things got going and a plan came together. On the day we had to use the trade entrance near the pub and walk in. The gardens were laid out with marquis and even a blow up stage which was for some children's TV entertainers which during the 2 days went down really well with packed audiences. The weather over the 2 days was really sunny and warm which was perfect for everyone to relax and enjoy themselves. HOS had a couple of tables in the big tent along with lots of other society's all doing entertaining things. We had pictures of about 12 different orchids like bee, clown moth, monkey, that sort of thing spread around the gardens on sticks. The kids picked up a sheet went off to find them all and got a prize bag if they got it right. Surprisingly every single one over the 2 days got it right and the last bag went out at 3.30pm on Sunday. How good is that. When they came to our table they could do a word quiz or colour in some orchid pictures. It was a very pleasant 2 days with lots of members present and all said how much they had enjoyed it.

continued



Mothers permission was given

NEXT MEETING

Hi Everyone

Hope everyone is enjoying our glorious summer and that the orchids are coping with this long period of hot weather.

As you all should know we have a meeting at **Harlow Carr on July 22** and whilst we don't have a speaker the main agenda item is the ever popular 'Back to Basics'.

In order to make this item successful we need your contribution and any ideas you may have to include will be more than welcome. We are looking for things that may only take a few minutes but could help fellow members to improve their culture.

The current list of items we plan to cover are;

The bleach test for eliminating pests

Any special things we are doing to help our plants cope better with the hot weather

Simple ways to improve our photographic skills including efficient storage and retrieval of our photos

What are our biggest successes (and failures) with our orchid culture

It is also planned to do an extended table show which is intended to allow a longer period of time to discuss individual plants and specific cultural requirements including particular habitats for species so please bring as many plants as you can in order to make this a useful learning experience.

Please also bring any problem plants which you have for discussion by the group but take care to keep these separate from the other plants on display.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at this meeting.

Regards Ian

MALVERN INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW

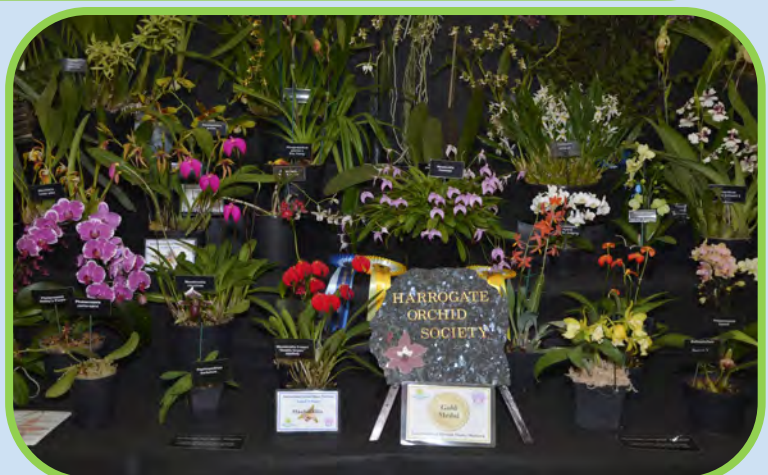
15th/ 17th JUNE

This is now the 7th time I have covered this show report and its difficult to find new aspects of the show that I haven't mentioned before but that doesn't change the fact that it is a superb orchid show covering a huge area with great opportunities to buy that elusive species you have been wanting for a long time but couldn't find. It is also an opportunity for orchid societies to build table exhibitions that are going to be judged by the RHS .This is not easy to plan when no one is sure what plants will arrive on the day. This gives me an opportunity to mention something that is long over due and that is a “Thank you” on behalf of HOS members to Bob and Pat Marsh who tirelessly bring and build the staging and design the display at all the shows and meetings .They do it without fuss ,so much so that it perhaps goes unnoticed. Not this time though because Pat set ours out as usual and won us a gold medal.

Well done and thank you Pat and Bob for all your efforts .



PAT AND BOB AT WORK

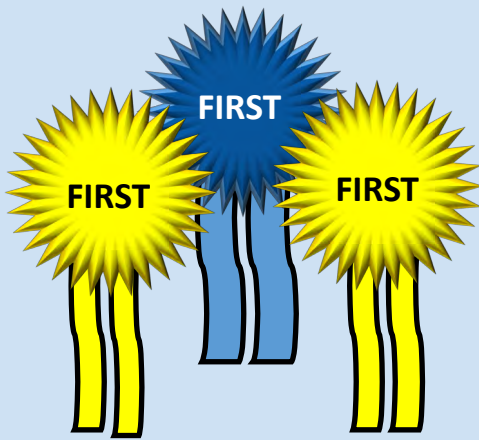


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Unfortunately not everybody can be allowed to work on the set, so until they have passed an aptitude test and proved themselves, they are not allowed to. I am afraid they don't all pass and have to go and work in catering. The sad part is they just don't care and go and eat all the stock.

Just to finish off this article it was a lovely 4 day break and you don't have to be at the show all the time because there are loads of places to visit for a day and of course the show can take 2 days if you want to see it all. They seemed to have changed the layout this year and the show seemed bigger but I could be wrong.

JUDGING RESULTS FOR MALVERN SHOW 2018



AMATURE MASDEVALLIA
BEST AMATURE HYBRID
ELLIS EYRE TROPHY



BEST LAELIINAE
RHS CULTURAL
AWARD



MASDEVALLIA CASSIOPE



MALVERN CONTINUED



More pictures of the show table taken by Trish White

THE ORCHID HUNT JUNE 2018

The day dawned clear, promising another hot, beautiful day. Equipped with food and plenty of drink the intrepid Three set off. The route takes them north along roads long ago travelled. Once away from the villages traffic is light, just the odd local and a few cyclists. Breath-taking vistas slow the journey so the Three can relish the ride. An hour later the track is reached. Was it really this long? And what's happened to the specimens our hunters are seeking? There are just three or four solitary spikes instead of the mass of colour seen before.



PURPLE SPOTTED ORCHID



GRIMWITH RESERVOIR

Undaunted, they park up and refresh with coffee. The seasoned lead hunter heads for another known location and there, in glorious profusion, their first quarry: Common Spotted

Orchids. The chronicler of the trip is

other two continue the hunt. they are either too early season, or just too is found – the nestled in the grasses. But just the to head a little gem is spied: a solitary

a find!! With still head a little higher up,

soon clicking away while the

Despairing a little that or too late in the late, the target Twayblade, calcareous three. Turning further on the Bee Orchid, what

plenty of time they searching old haunts



TWAYBLADE ORCHID



BEE ORCHID



again. Finally, in a slightly different location from before, a good number of Twayblades are discovered, with some good specimens. Mission accomplished, the Three saunter back to the car for lunch, to sit in the quiet glorious Yorkshire Dales overlooking the sapphire blue Grimwith Reservoir, birds singing, sun shining, all right with the world....sheer bliss!

LIZ GROVES