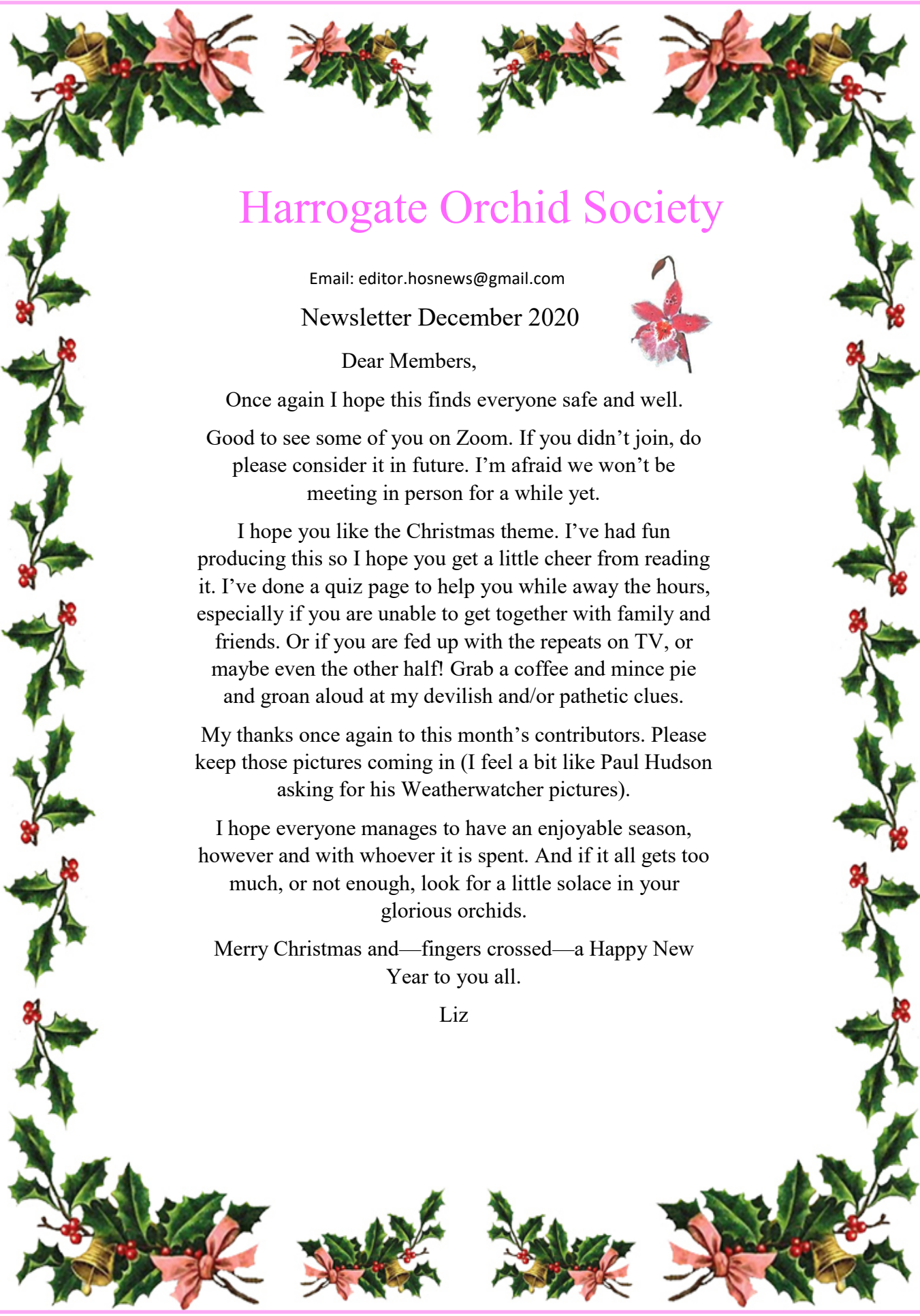




Harrogate Orchid Society

Email: editor.hosnews@gmail.com

Newsletter December 2020



Dear Members,

Once again I hope this finds everyone safe and well.

Good to see some of you on Zoom. If you didn't join, do please consider it in future. I'm afraid we won't be meeting in person for a while yet.

I hope you like the Christmas theme. I've had fun producing this so I hope you get a little cheer from reading it. I've done a quiz page to help you while away the hours, especially if you are unable to get together with family and friends. Or if you are fed up with the repeats on TV, or maybe even the other half! Grab a coffee and mince pie and groan aloud at my devilish and/or pathetic clues.

My thanks once again to this month's contributors. Please keep those pictures coming in (I feel a bit like Paul Hudson asking for his Weatherwatcher pictures).

I hope everyone manages to have an enjoyable season, however and with whoever it is spent. And if it all gets too much, or not enough, look for a little solace in your glorious orchids.

Merry Christmas and—fingers crossed—a Happy New Year to you all.

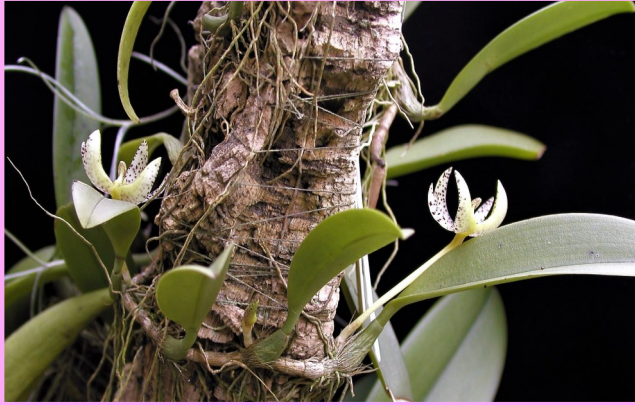
Liz

A Fitting Tribute

from

Bernard McDonald

I made this cross in memory of a niece, who passed away at birth, after a request from my brother to name an orchid after her. I thought that the following two orchids would be suitable.



Bulbophyllum baileyi (left) is endemic to north-eastern Queensland Australia as well as New Guinea in rainforest at altitudes of 5 to 1000 meters as a miniature sized, hot to warm growing unifoliate epiphyte or occasional lithophyte with a coarsely bracted rhizome giving rise to widely spaced, curved, yellowish, ovoid pseudobulbs carrying a single, apical, erect, thick, pale green to yellowish green leaf that blooms mainly in the spring through summer on a 10 cm long stem, carrying a single non-resupinate flower. This species is very robust.

Bulbophyllum cootesii (right) is endemic to the Philippines and grows as an epiphyte at elevations up to 500 metres on the island of Mindanao which is the second-largest island in the Philippines, after Luzon. *Bulbophyllum cootesii* is an epiphytic growing orchid species, named in honour to the Australian orchid enthusiast Jim Cootes. Inflorescence at right angles to the pseudobulbs, 9cm long. The beautiful, brown-orange, opening flowers (usually two) reach a size of about 5 cm in diameter. Flowering period: summer to autumn. Occasionally three flowers emerge.



The easy part is cross pollinating onto the parent orchid, this is a cross I made seven years ago; between pod parent *Bulbophyllum baileyi* and pollen parent *Bulbophyllum cootesii*.

The most popular method involves germinating seeds in vitro, using agar, a jellylike substance that contains necessary nutrients and growth hormones. Asymbiotic germination, also known as flasking, is easier, quicker, and more reliable for growing orchids from seed at home.

Our Society is very lucky to have John Gay as our chairman, who has the knowledge, the experience and equipment for sowing/plating orchid seed. John very kindly agreed to plate up my seeds. I was pleased when he later presented me with a couple of flasks with lots of healthy seedlings.



I was able to demonstrate my deflasking technique at a later date at one of our HOS monthly meetings, when some of the members were encouraged to take some seedlings home.

B. Memoria Karen McDonald.

This robust hybrid takes on the vegetative habit of *B.baileyi* and the larger multiple flowers of *B.cootesii*, and was registered with the RHS in 2016.

Christmas quiz – Orchid genera

Answer the clues then take the first letter of each and rearrange to form the name.

1. Marsh, Hoskins, Marley
2. North American horse show
3. Steer, pilot
4. Information
5. Put forward (for a committee)
6. Muslim leader
7. Christmas cake topping
8. Duckling's father
9. Go in
10. Lancashire town with an Athletic team



This time use the 2nd letter of the answer.

1. Tea brand
2. Horse's home
3. Served with jam and cream
4. Post
5. Not fat
6. Productive
7. Draw towards
8. Birthday, Christmas, Easter

Use the last letter for this one.

1. Yield, forfeit
2. Citadel, fortress
3. Dream, believe
4. Accurate, spot on
5. Have you been in a social one this year?
6. Twixt chest and waist
7. Christina, Dante
8. Teeny with yellow dots
9. Tableware
10. Domed roof



Uh-oh, need the 4th letter of these answers.

1. Sunny extension
2. Paleness
3. Dress
4. Pal, buddy
5. Hobnob, mingle
6. Early morning meal
7. School break

TABLE DISPLAY

This page all from Hilary Hobbs



Fritz Schomburg (besseae x kovachii)



Paphiopedilum Fanaticum
(malipoense x micranthum)



Ett.Hsiang Yu Gold Coast
(Cattlianthe Oliver x Epidendrum Stanfordianum)



Pleurothallis palliolata



Restrepia cuprea



Paphiopedilum Indra (Paph. callosum x Paph. villosum).



Dendrobium glomeratum.

Restrepia antennifera



A couple of Phaius

By

Tony Garthwaite

Below is a bloom of *Phaius tankervilleae*. The plant will grow to about one metre tall with the flower spike protruding.



This species is found in tropical and subtropical regions in Asia, the Pacific islands, Australia and Africa. It grows in open grassy fields, in moist, open deciduous forests, and in swampy areas of shady evergreen forests. Because of its wide spread habitat, it grows in a variety of temperature ranges. The full range of temperatures recorded for this species are as high as 40 Celsius and as low as 0 Celsius but it is perfectly happy in the conditions found in most Orchid Glasshouses.

It prefers diffused or dappled light and an average temperature during the summer of around 30 degrees Celsius. It has no problem with the high temperature of 40 Celsius experienced in my Warm House.

However, ample water is required when actively growing and the medium should be wet but not soggy. The growing media should be a fertile terrestrial mix. I have seen 'dried cow dung' recommended as one ingredient but have not experimented with this as we are surrounded by arable land so I use a mix of garden compost (well decayed) and medium bark or coconut chips. They are best planted in a large container in order to balance the top growth where the leaves which are 2-4 per pseudobulb and are capable of growth resulting in leaves 50-100 centimetres long.

The flower spike arises from the base of the pseudobulb to a height of over 100 centimetres and will produce between 10 and 20 blooms, several of which are open at the same time.

During the winter months a cool dry rest is required to induce flowering.

It is possible to control the flowering time by maintaining cooler conditions in the winter months.

Young plants may be produced by stem propagation. 25cm lengths of spent flowering stem are placed on damp Perlite in a seed tray and covered with more damp Perlite. If a clear Perspex cover is available for the seed tray that is ideal. If not available, then inserting into a clear plastic bag will suffice. A good tip is to water with a weak solution of fungicide to prevent

mould growth. The tray should be kept in the warm house with dappled light falling on the tray.



This second photo is a hybrid between *Phaius tankervilleae* and *Gastrochilus tuberculosa* named *Gastrophaius* (GSPH) Dan Rosenberg. Produced in 1999, it is, from experience, not as tall as *Phaius tankervilleae* though arguably, more attractive!

And finally:

Cattleya trianae
the Christmas Orchid

This beautiful orchid is not only beautiful, but is endangered in the wild because of habitat destruction. It is also the national flower of Colombia, where it grows in the mountain cloud forests at up to 2000 metres. The flowers vary in colour from white to deep purple and can be up to 20 cm across. Like most orchids Cattleyas are epiphytes; they grow on tree branches for support and get their nutrients from decomposing leaf litter from the canopy above.

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Cattleya trianae, also known as Flor de Mayo or "Christmas orchid", is a plant of the family Orchidaceae. It grows as an epiphytic orchid, with succulent leaves, endemic to Colombia where it was nominated as the national flower in November 1936.

Wikipedia