Scottish Orchid Society

Newsletter

JUNE 2024

Edinburgh and Glasgow meetings

Both will restart in September 2024

Zoom session

Thursday 25th July at 7.30 pm

Orchid Field Trip to Mugdock Country Park

Saturday 6th July 2024

Our next participations

North of England Orchid Society's Annual Show

6th July 2024

Ayr & District Flower Show

16/17th August 2024

Our Facebook page

SCAN ME

From The Editor

This month's newsletter contains reports on our Society's bold adventure to Gardeners' World Live 2024 in Birmingham and Glasgow Botanic Garden's participation in the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show, as well as several other items.

From The Chair

Since 2018 we have been displaying at the International Orchid Show when it was being held as part of the Royal Three Counties Show in Malvern but after protracted negotiations with the Three Counties Management, the decision was taken to move it to Birmingham and be part of Gardeners' World Live. I have to say this caused a lot of trepidation on our part as the Show would now be over four days, meaning we would be away from home for nearly a week. Following conversations with my wife Trish as well as Peter Timoney, we decided that we would be prepared to give it a go and despite all our reservations we did enjoy ourselves especially as other members of the Society came down and lent a hand as well. One of the highlights is always talking to members of the public and introducing them to the wonderful world of orchids and a full report on the show written by Ann Sutherland follows.

The paperwork that we were required to complete beforehand proved to be a nightmare but under the expert guidance of the new Show Secretary, Clive Lloyd from the Devon Orchid Society, once mastered it proved to be easier than first anticipated. On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank Clive and his team for making this a memorable event and we await to hear whether this will now be a permanent fixture in the calendar.

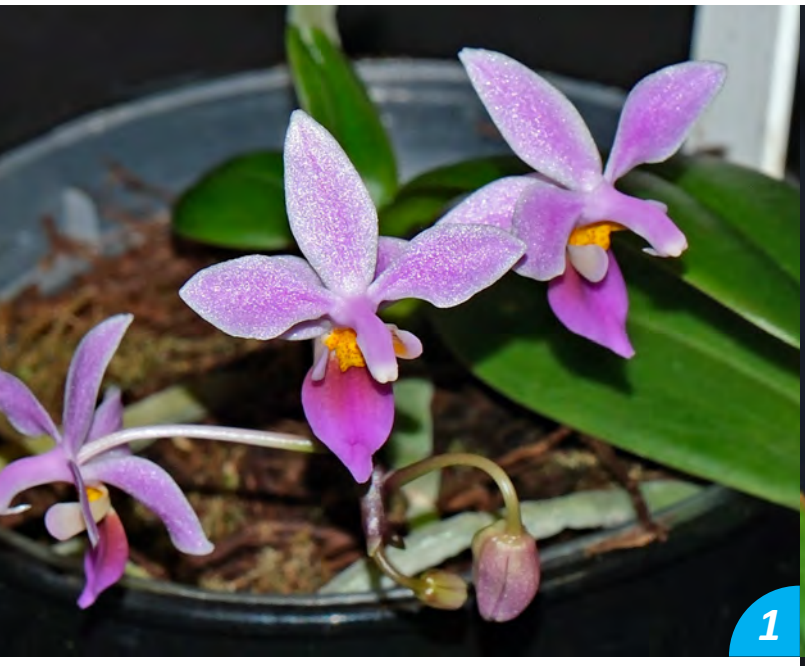
My thanks also go to everyone who gave up their time to man our display and engage with the public as well as everyone who provided orchids for our display. Several members took advantage of the reduced priced admission tickets, at £12 each a bargain compared all the other offers available; should the show go ahead next year, then you really should contemplate putting it in your diary – you won't be disappointed.

Finally, I would like welcome two new members to the Society, firstly Elizabeth Asprey from Desborough in Northamptonshire, but originally from Aberdeen, who succumbed to Peter Timoney's persuasive charm at the NEC and to Lesley Gordon from Tayport in Fife who has been gifted membership by her partner.

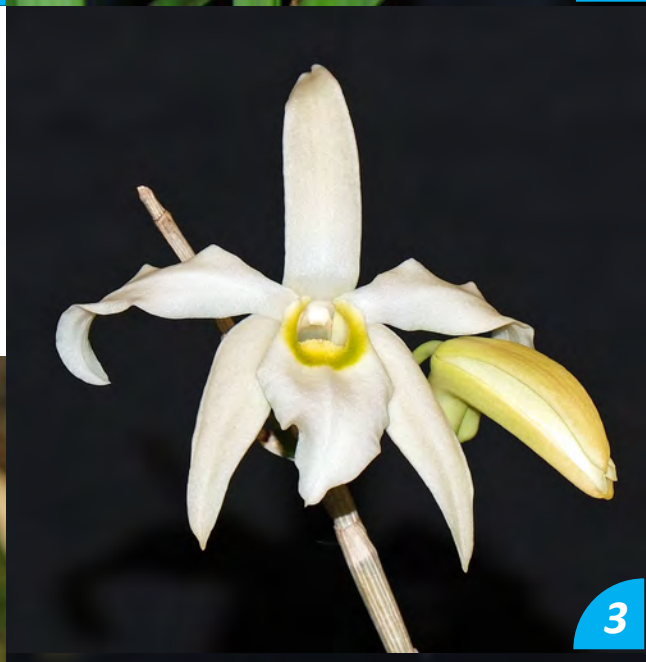
Until next time, happy orchid growing.

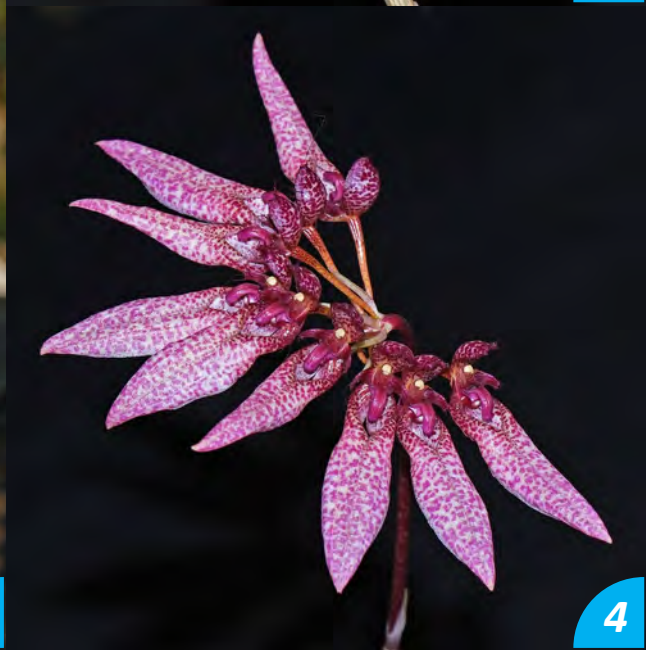
See later for Peter's achievement

Edinburgh Table Show

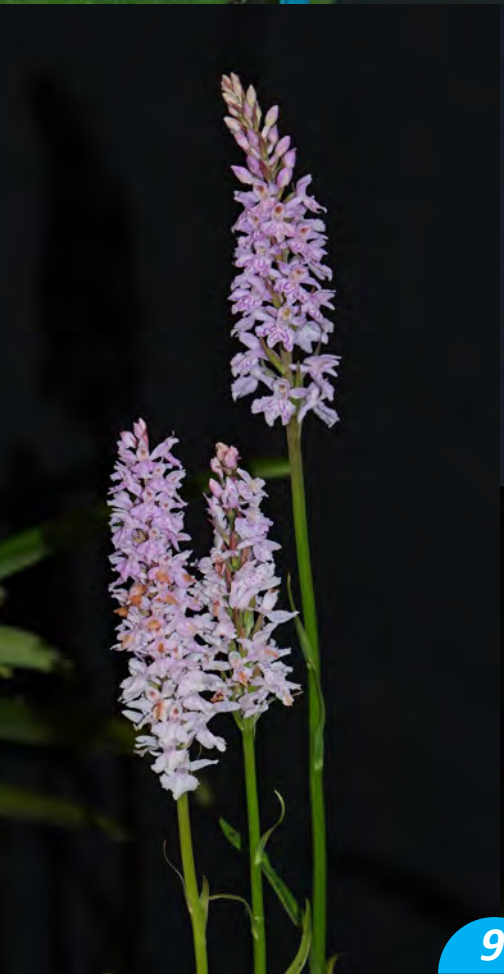


1. ***Phalaenopsis equestris***: Alan Mackenzie – **2nd equal**
2. ***Guarechea* Black Comet**: Alan Mackenzie
3. ***Dendrobium wilsoniae***: Milan Lysak – found in southern China
4. ***Bulbophyllum umbellatum***: Alan Mackenzie – **2nd equal**
5. ***Coelogyne nitida***: Milan Lysak – **1st place**. Found in the Himalayan regions of India and south-east Asia





6. ***Oncidium spectatissimum***: Milan Lysak
7. ***Cattleya purpurata* 'Orlata'**: Milan Lysak
8. ***Dactylorhiza incarnata***: David Menzies
9. ***Dactylorhiza fuchsii***: David Menzies
10. ***Phalaenopsis* NoID**: Stratos Koukouvinis



Members' Photos

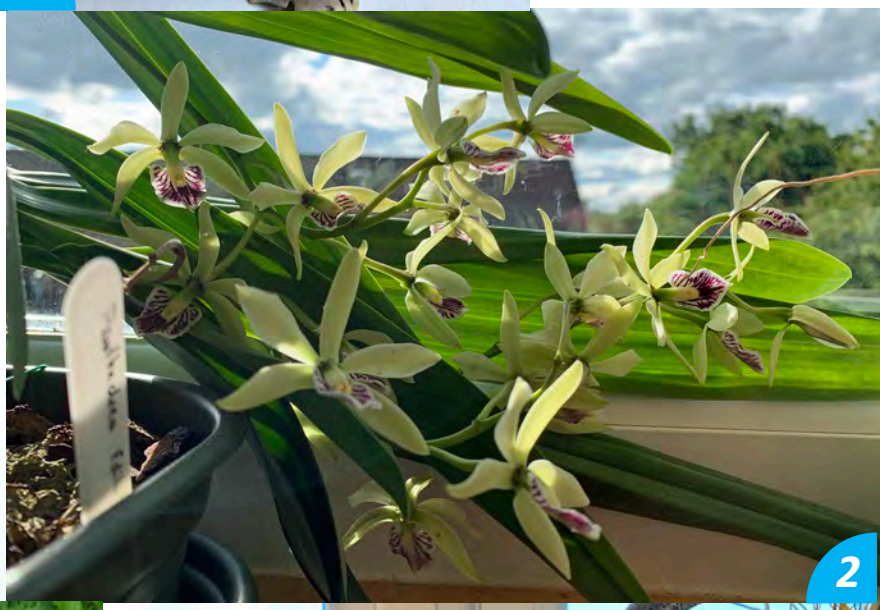
1

1. ***Cymbidium goeringii*** (The Noble Orchid): Mei Ling Lim – native to E. Asia – planted proud of the soil surface to aid oxygenation of base of pseudobulb

2. ***Prosthechea* Edith Arakawa**: Sarah Hassaine

3. ***Catasetum incurvum* x *Ctsm*. Ten Dragons 'Night Wasp'**: Sarah Hassaine

4. ***Dactylorhiza foliosa***: Rob Jones – they do not compare with Peter's plant. Growing in our back garden – I kept wondering why the bird bath was often dry



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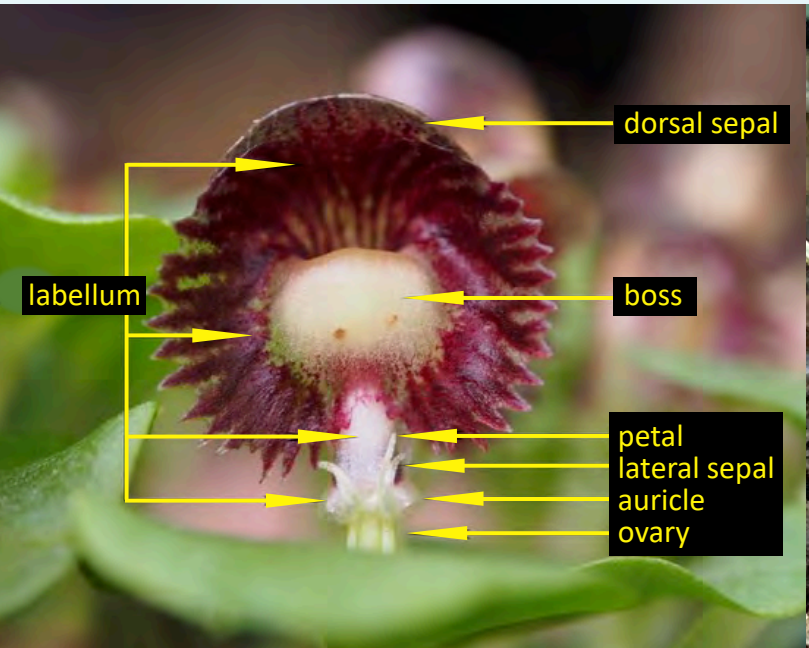
5. ***Oncidium*** **NoID**: Rob Jones

Letter from Australia

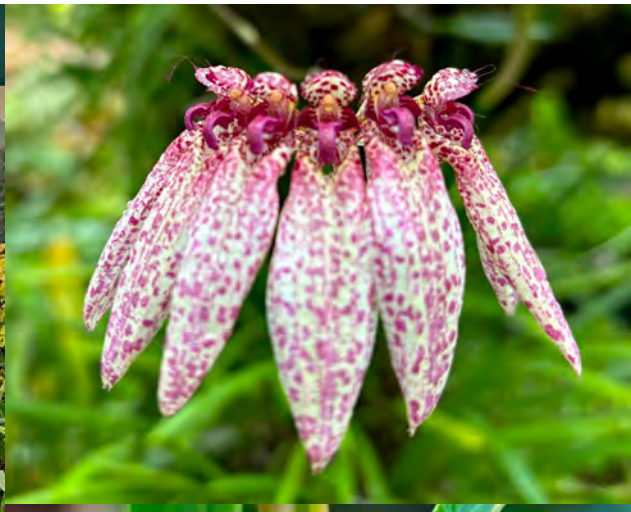
Owen Sengstock writes:

Having recently bought a Golden Retriever puppy (a Scottish breed originally of course), free time has been slightly limited. So a couple of weeks ago, with good weather and 3 hours till sunset, I set off for a local forest area called Mt Coot-tha only a 20 min drive from my house. From the start of the JJC Slaughter Falls track, I bush-bashed up one of the creeks taking in a few side branches on the way. Deep in the creek, with good tree cover and a shadow from the mountain in the west, my viewing time was limited to an hour – time enough! Along the way, I saw: *Sarcochilus ceciliae*, *Dendrobium teretifolium* and *linguiforme*, *Oberonia titania* (flowers finishing) and *Cymbidium madidum*.

Corybas barbarae was the find of the day, a good-sized colony of probably several hundred plants covering several square meters; about 20% were in flower (lower–right). They were co-habiting with *Pterostylis nutans*. Editor: on the lower-left is an annotated photo of ***Corysanthes diemenica*** – with kind permission of Jane Higgs and the Native Orchid Society of South Australia (2022). There are four segregate genera within *Corybas*: *Corybas*, *Corysanthes* and *Anzybas* on the Australian mainland and *Nematoceras* on Macquarie Island. Both flowers are dominated by the dorsal sepal and labellum.



An outing to Chelsea for Glasgow Botanic's orchids



Christine Nicholson writes:

Glasgow Botanic Gardens was pleased to take part in an Orchid Conservation Display at the Chelsea Flower Show 2024. The display was a collaboration between botanic gardens including Kew, Glasgow and Chicago, orchid acade-mics and conservationists such as Larry Zettler and Phil Seaton and UK nurseries, Elite Orchids and GrowTropicals.

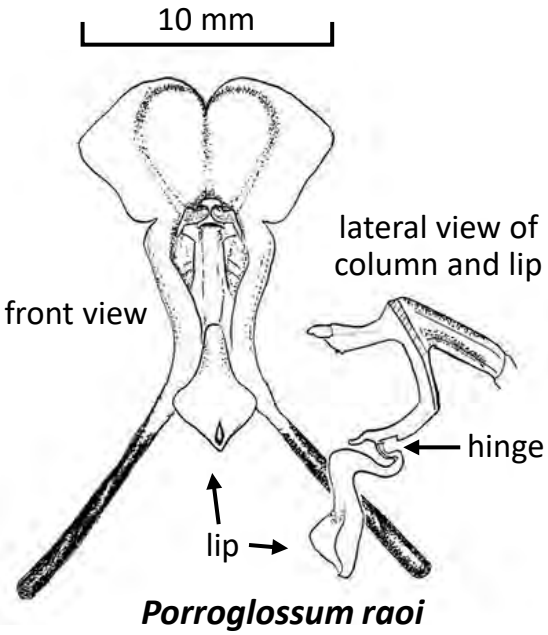
The aim was to highlight the need for conservation of orchid species and habitats and showcase the orchid flora of different countries. In addition to US and UK native orchids, the focus this year was on **India** (upper-left photo, Reece Tolworthy, GrowTropicals, an online nursery based in Leeds).

The Botanics was able to provide a number of Indian species, which were collected and transported by GrowTropicals (lower-left). The display was primarily educational, so it was not necessary for all the orchids to be in flower. However the more in flower the better and some of our orchids did manage to bloom for Chelsea; the photos show ***Bulbophyllum picturatum***, ***Coelogyne prolifera*** and ***Dendrobium infundibulum***, which is native to northern Indochina and neighbouring parts of China and India.

On the left is ***Paphiopedilum druryi*** grown by Mark Turner of Elite Orchids.

While below is ***Porroglossum muscosum,*** which was grown by me at the Glasgow Botanics. It is native to Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela and is pollinated by tiny flies. When a fly lands on the hinged lip it flips up trapping it against the column. As the fly wriggles around trying to escape, the pollinia stick to it. When the lip swings down, the fly escapes and goes to another flower, where it is trapped again, transferring the pollinia and pollinating the orchid.

Editor: For comparison, the line drawing below shows the flower structure of *Porroglossum raoi* from Ecuador – by kind permission of Luis Baquero (*Lankesteriana*, March 2017).



Dactylorhizas endangered

The subject of a noxious disease of Dactylorhizas came up at the last Zoom Meeting in relation to our upcoming visit to Dave Trudgill's orchid meadow in Perthshire. The fungal disease is called **Dactylorhiza 'Black Death'** and has the following characteristics:

- a diffuse, 'watersoaked' margin to the brown lesion if the pathogen is active and spreading through the leaf tissues.
- an abrupt junction between brown and green leaf tissue.
- possible light brown spore production of the pathogen on the surface of disease lesions, although this is relatively uncommon.

There is an excellent article by John Scrace in the *Journal of the Hardy Orchid Society* Vol. 19 No.2 (105) Spring 2022, which contains clues to the possible microorganism involved and advice on hygiene procedures to be adopted.

Our Week in Orchid Heaven

The Scottish Orchid Society's participation in Gardeners' World Live 2024 by Ann Sutherland

As most of you will have picked up, we're back from the BBC Gardeners' World Live and Good Food Show at Birmingham where we exhibited at the UK International Orchid Show. I thought I'd do a wee write up to share with those who couldn't join us. Sorry if I missed anything or anyone!

Alan, Trish and Peter drove down with a full van, after rounding up plants from members and stopping at Tony's for more. Graeme and Ann arrived first on Tuesday to find that vans were allowed to park just outside our marquee for drop off. Joy of joys! In addition to plants, there were the cloths, moss, various props, a couple of chairs, sprayer and boxes of very useful things. By 4.30 pm our stand was beginning to fill up. Some of the neighbours had finished and left!

Our job was to help with the lifting and shifting, then the preparation of plants to look their best and meet the regulations. We mossed the pots, matched them up with Trish's outer black pots while Alan and Peter checked labels. Trish climbed up on the stand and placed everything on the Black Watch tartan covers, which had been suitably fire-proofed. Most of the plants were on the stand by tea time. Only there was no tea!

Alison and Andrew joined us and helped with repositioning and adjustments. We wanted all the plants to be seen at their best and the stand to look 'balanced'. We didn't want the small ones too close to sticky fingers, but they must be seen. We had some trouble with Katy's huge Coelogyne. To display those wonderful long inflore-scences would ideally need a very tall stand above everything else. Then, how to present the large Dactylorhiza? Should it balance the other large specimen on the top…. You can see where they all ended up in the photos. The award for the first to buckle and buy plants, I think, goes to Andrew and Alison on the Tuesday.

Press day and the main judging took place on Wednesday. Alan, Peter, Trish, Andrew and Alison were all kilted up in time for the occasion – they looked impressive (see later). Sadly (so I hear), the BBC man has a dislike of men in skirts, so they gave us a wide berth. Maybe it was the fear of the sgian-dubh! (a small knife worn in the sock by Scotsmen); or accents stranger than Geordie. Who knows? **Our Society came away with a Silver Merit for the display as a whole, together with 3 Rosettes and 4 Highly Commended awards. A brilliant outcome!**

Callym and Milan joined us too. They were very helpful on the public days, chatting to everyone, sharing fun facts, growing tips etc., and keeping an eye on our area. We had the right number on the 'display team' with others popping in (as you do from 350 miles away); we all had time to explore the rest of the show.

Being the Good Food Show, we had expected great food for lunch. However, we were disappointed, as we. struggled to find good lunch options. Plenty of cakes, sauces, alcohol samples and coffee but not much choice for a nutritious lunch for us hungry workers there all day! We did, however, manage something different each day. We also identified an excellent coffee stand and as much free ice cream as we could eat.

On Friday, BBC2 *interviewed* an orchid expert. To our delight, it turned out to be Zsuzsa from Spicesotics. She spoke about her love of orchids ('helped' by BBC scripting) and we saw a scene in her glasshouse wonderland. We knew some members from other societies and traders who had visited the Kibble Palace. Peter White was there without plants but plenty of food, moss and bark etc. Did you know he has written another book?

Some of the societies presented their displays as themes. Bournemouth chose '*Nature Strikes Back*'. They collected items from the dump and used them as props to display orchids. Some societies filled space with ferns or bark and even a tea chest. For example, Central's large stand had 'trees' and a rainforest backdrop, for which they received a Silver Award. But were their orchids a wee bit lost in the jungle? Others, like Devon and ourselves, chose an uncluttered theme – our stand had only orchids. The Orchid Society of Great Britain seem to specialise in Anguloas. Their display received the RHS Platinum Award / glass trophy.

As for the traders, Isle of Portland Orchids presented a lovely sea-themed stand with ceramic sea urchin pots and rope. 'Seaweed' from felted wool and a lighthouse helped to unite their story. Gourd and Horse specialised in small, scented orchids native to Japan grown in moss parcels in ceramic pots. The shape and form and even the colour of the root tips is important rather than mainly flowers. Elite Orchids took a stand the same size as ours, but had only about a dozen plants, well spaced in basins. Clearly, the judges loved this (Gold). Orchid Alchemy collected 8 rosettes plus other awards. The overall was a Silver Merit, the same as ours. What can I say? For those who love admiring orchids but can't be bothered with caring for them, Chris Jones provided amazing paintings and prints in acrylic and oil, if I remember correctly.

***Dactylorhiza foliosa* 'Lynn F Timoney'**: Peter Timoney – **Hardy/Terrestrial 1st**

Lycaste aromatica: Christine Nicholson – **Any Other Species 1st**

Porroglossum muscosum: Christine Nicholson – **Highly Commended**

Scaphosepalum verrucosum: Christine Nicholson – **Pleurothallidinae 1st**

Clowesetum* Pierre Couret x *Catasetum planiceps: Milan Lysak – **Highly Commended**

Coelogyne pulverula: Katy Garven – **Highly Commended**

The most admired plant was the Dactylorhiza clonal species. It seems that nearly everyone wanted one. It was removed from the display for further judging, leaving a conspicuous space. To everyone's delight, **Peter was also awarded a RHS Cultural Commendation Certificate**. Many people, both general public and orchid people, commented on the lack of award for the Coelogyne. Somehow, it had been overlooked! With a bit of negotiating, the relevant judge apologised and Katy received a well deserved Highly Commended award.

***Vanda* Green Light 'Ching Hua'**: Alan Mackenzie – **Highly Commended**

More photos tell more of the story. Some amazing displays emerged throughout the marquee. Some of my favourites were the onions, pitchers, cacti and bonsai. Shropshire Sarracenias put on a magnificent show with their pitcher plants; they started as a hobby gone viral, as did. many of the traders. When will you be opening your shop, Alan? Milan is first in the queue for the scented ones! The Bonsai Platinum Award went to a couple who displayed their hobby of over 40 years. They included a couple of ferns and accents for positive feng shui and a sweet miniature azalea.

We had a chat with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), who were very clear that we must have CITES and Phytosanitary certificates for all plants crossing our borders. They stated that we cannot take plants in a personal collection either in or out of the UK without the certificates; the same rules apply as to the trade. I'm sure this will start a debate.

You may wonder what we did all week after setting up the display. Well, Alan and Peter were part of the judging teams so clearly discussions round that engaged them for some time. Things just fell into place as Trish, Alan and Peter (TAP) have done this so many times at other venues. Alan was busy with chairman-networking duties. He made sure all your lovely plants were watered appropriately. Thanks to Peter, we would like to welcome a new member to the society! Obviously, lots of orchid purchases were made and some other plants and things also caught our eyes. All of us engaged with the public and had time to explore other areas.

When the event was over, we dismantled the stand and packed everything up, carefully orchestrated by TAP. We elected to trolley the plants etc back the van rather than wait for hours to get a parking slot at the door. It was a reasonable trail up hill to the van. Thanks to TAP for getting up early to get a relatively close parking space. In fact, they were up early every day to check on the plants etc. The van was stuffed for the return home. At least things can't shoogle around and break that way!

I echo Alan's comments on the front page – **it was a great team effort – well done everyone!**

A miscellany of pictures provided by Christine, Ann, Alan and Trish

From top-left clockwise:

A Silver Merit Award for our display

Our very own Tartan Army – nae ask them to sing!

Pitcher plants in abundance from Shropshire Sarracenias

***Mammillaria hahniana* – very limited range in Mexico**

Close collections of carnations – each a 'wow'

***Lilium* 'Anouska' – a Double Oriental Lily**

High-tech dining in the round

Flower Power on CB Radio – no generation gap here

The understated elegance of Gourd & Horse's display

Editor seeks a compliment-arity of the oblique with the display by Lawrence Hobbs Orchids

Well, that's one way of size-reducing your bark

The good food chefs have slipped down the road for pie and chips

Who awaits their return, neatly legs akimbo? (anag)

Progressing to the serious art of growing orchids for display

From top-left clockwise (in most cases)

Platystele misera – Hinckley

Dendrobium unicum: Wessex – **Dendrobiinae & Allied Genera – 2nd**

Schoenorchis fragrans: Jean Barker – Darlington

Promenea xanthina

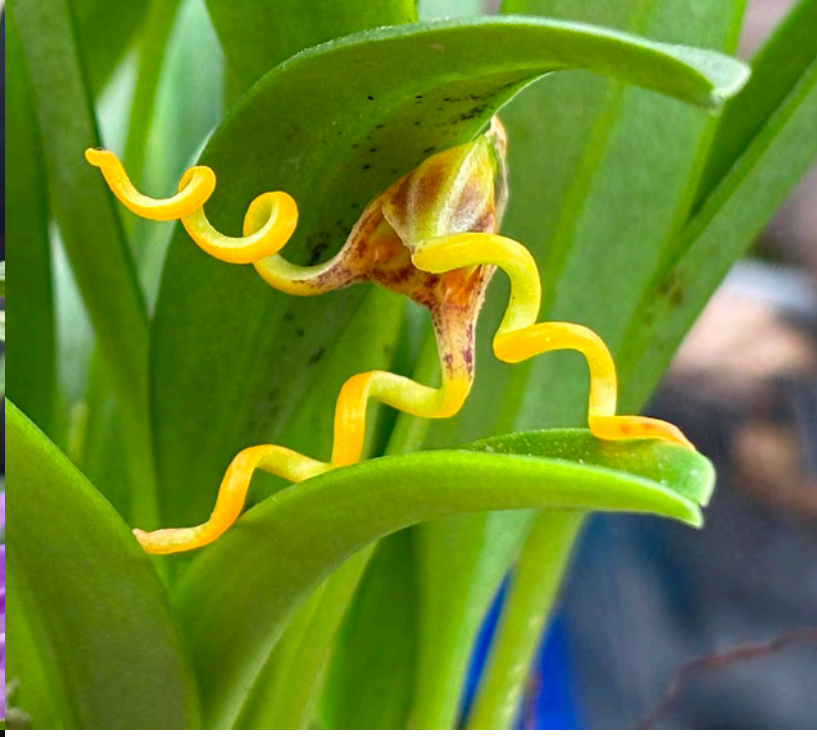
Cymbidium madidum

Disa lugens* var. *lugens: Andrew Bannister – Orchid Alchemy. A South African species with a highly filamentous lip; located in the south-west of Cape Province on coastal sandbanks. Andrew writes: a *nigrescens* variety exists, which is dark purple-red and has the same shaped lip

***Phragmipedium humboldtii*:** Bournemouth

Paphiopedilum acmodontum: Native to the Philippines. Large flowers and the only Paphiopedilum that has a point that comes up in the front centre of the pouch

Chiloschista viridiflora: Jean Barker – Darlington



Dendrobium tobaense: Wessex
Masdevallia caudiovolvula: Spicesotics
Seidenfadenia mitrata: Devon
Chysis limminghei: Ian Spellacy - Scottish
Angraecum rutenbergianum

***Stanhopea* Emily Bush**: Jean Barker – Darlington – **Any Other Hybrid 2nd**

***Lycaste* Jason**

***Cymbidium* Kuranda 'Arthur Dawson'**: North of England

***Oncidium* Titanium Treasure**: in the Spicesotic's sale

***Cattleya purpurata* Semi Alba**

***Coelogyne ochracea* Alba** and ***ochracea* Orange**

***Bletilla* Penway Coral:** Orchid Alchemy – **Any Other Hybrid 1st**

***Cattleya lobata* 'Jeni'** (two plants) Devon

***Dendrobium* Lutin Verte de L'Amazone**: Cheshire & North Wales

***Phalaenopsis* Yaphon Star Diamond**: Makiko Ozawa – Scottish

***Anguloa* Elisabeth Eyles 'St. Thomas'**

***Anguloa* Turner's Chalice 'St. Thomas'**: **Best Society Any Other Hybrid**

***Anguloa* Irene 'St. Thomas'**

Three ever-faithfuls from Henry Oakley on the Orchid Society of Great Britain stand

***Coelogyne* Green Dragon**

Is the TAP off?