



April 2023



**British Orchid Council**  
~ promoting orchid growing ~

For Societies, April is really the busiest and most hectic month of the year, orchid shows seem to be every week. It is getting very hard to keep up with you all! I can't put in pictures from everyone, so apologies if you get missed out. If you do have any pictures of your show that you would like to see in the newsletter, please send them in and I will do my best to include them for you.

If you all liked the cover picture last time of *Bonatea speciosa*, which I attributed to Mike Powell From Bournemouth, my apologies, as the plant really belonged to Nick Fry. It was a great plant in lovely condition - and it is well worth looking out for at shows, there does seem to be a few of them about. They just don't belong to Mike Powell! Sorry Nick for not giving you the well deserved credit!!

## Events coming up

### Burnham Nurseries

There is a flyer at the end about Burnham Nurseries Orchid Festival Weekend, 20th and 21st of May 2023. These events are always well worth going to, so if you can, do drive down and come along!

### Malvern Show

As Chris Barker has already sent out detailed information to everyone regarding cheap tickets, display requirements etc. I am not going to repeat everything here. So please, so have a look through your emails and check the information that has been sent out by Chris, you don't want to miss anything nor miss out on the reduced price tickets! The arrangements for these are slightly different this year, so please check carefully.

It will be upon us before you realise it - Societies, please do your best to put on, even a tiny, display as we really do want to get as many people there as possible.

*I am putting the following information out, perhaps early, as this is a new event to be hosted by the Orchid Study Group who meet at Aberglasney Gardens in Carmarthenshire. It is well worth having a think about attending, but as space and places are limited, you will need to book early. There is more detailed information available on their website as mentioned below*

### The Orchid Study Group

is pleased to announce its forthcoming **Educational Orchid Weekend** in response to demand for in-depth botanical teaching in various fields of orchidology.

To be held at Aberglasney Gardens, Llangathen, Carmarthenshire SA32 8QH 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023

The event will comprise:

#### FORMAL COURSES ON ASPECTS OF ORCHIDOLOGY

Modules will include **Orchid Form and Function**, **Conservation and Ecology** and **Scientific Orchid Illustration**. For delegates only, those who may be interested in attending one of these formal courses, or would like further information, should visit [www.orchidstudygroup.org.uk](http://www.orchidstudygroup.org.uk) Places are limited, so should you wish to attend, please book early.

#### ORCHID SALES AND CULTIVATION TIPS

Should your interest in orchids, however, relate more to their cultivation than to their biology, we have put on something for you too. Alongside these courses, and available to the general public, **Spicesotic Plants**, one of the UK's leading orchid suppliers, will be offering orchid plants for sale, giving short talks on orchid cultivation and demonstrating various cultivation techniques. Access to their stand and attendance at their talks and demonstrations will be free to the general public following entry to the Gardens, and no booking is necessary.

#### Normal Garden times apply.

Whichever you decide to do, attend the formal courses or browse and admire orchids at your leisure, we at the Orchid Study Group will be delighted to meet you.



## Bill Haldane

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden and unexpected death of Bill Haldane, the President of the East Anglian Orchid Society.

### Sad news

Bill went to Bangor University where he met Jo. He afterwards worked for Gestetner, who made copy machines, first in their Enfield head office, then in their registered office in Bermuda and finally in Scotland where they made the special paper for their machines. He was a keen sailor and gardener, growing his own vegetables and raising orchids.

He was president of the East Anglian Orchid Society and a founder member of Melford in Bloom. He and Jo moved to Melford in 2012 and was quickly involved with Holy Trinity where he held various posts from sideman to churchwarden.

He will be greatly missed by Jo and all of us.

His funeral was at Holy Trinity Long Melford at 2:00pm on Friday 31st March.

*Unfortunately I received this news from Angela Exworth just after the last news letter went out and so couldn't include it. I met Bill several times when I visited the East Anglian OS and know he will be sadly missed by everyone as he was such an important part of the society. Our condolences to both his family and East Anglian Orchid Society. Helen*

# Congratulations!

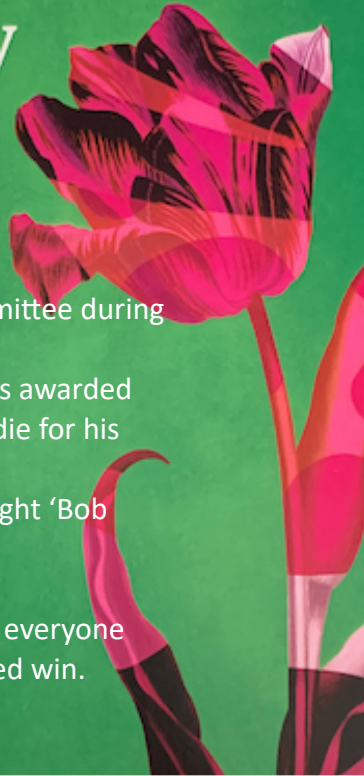
## RHS Awards Ceremony

### RHS Orchid Trophy

First awarded in 2013 to the exhibitor of the most finely grown orchid plant shown to the Orchid Committee during the year.

The RHS Orchid Trophy was awarded this year to Malcolm Moodie for his magnificent plant of *Paphiopedilum* Fumi's Delight 'Bob Moodie'

Many congratulations from everyone Malcolm, a very well earned win.



*Paphiopedilum* Fumi's Delight 'Bob Moodie'



Malcolm Moodie being presented his award by Keith Weed CBE, President of the Royal Horticultural Society



Malcolm



Paphiopedilum Fumi's Delight - it gained a Cultural Certificate from the Orchid Committee, the flowers were beautiful



Dinema polybulbon - another, recent stunning plant from Malcolm. The plant is huge, which isn't apparent from the photo.



And another stunner, Paph. Saint Within 'Olive Moodie'

# Kew Orchid Festival 2023 featuring Cameroon

## Dr. Stuart Meeson



From 4th February to 5th March the Kew Orchid Festival was open to the public to enjoy displays inspired by the beauty of Cameroon.

I was pleased to be able to visit the festival a few days after opening. This year in particular the displays were imaginative and impressive highlighting the biodiversity, conservation work, and culture of the country. Cameroon's diverse landscapes means it can support over 400 species of orchids.



Animal sculptures decorated with orchids, bromeliads, and foliage plants dominated the zones in the Princess of Wales Conservatory.

None more so than the magnificent lion, looking the part as the apex predator with its voluminous mane decorated beautifully.



Above-  
Life-size giraffes were recreated grazing, their main bodies decorated with *Phalaenopsis*. Their expressions were enchanting, and their indigo tongues visible clearly.

Left -  
*Phalaenopsis* are often used heavily for the displays at the festival. However, the recreation of the twin Ekom Nkam waterfalls was very effective, and the reflections in the pool quite striking.



Amongst the exotic *Vanda* hybrids on display was a stately *Phaius wallichii*, a terrestrial with a large upright inflorescence of showy flowers. It has a wide distribution in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and beyond.





Cym. Princess Charlotte



Cym. Loch Maree 'Brighten'

There were also many well grown and flowered *Cymbidium* orchids on display.

This included a number of named McBean's hybrids, which is always a good sign of quality plants and elegant blooms.



Cym. Loch Rosail

*Bulbophyllum falcatum*



In season flowering orchids from the permanent collection are always to be found in the conservatory, including some from Western and Central Africa. Housed safely behind glass two caught my attention. The first was *Bulbophyllum falcatum*. I tried to capture the flattened nature of the flower spikes, with the diminutive flowers arranged either side reminiscent of chairs in a college dining hall!

The second plant behind glass included here was *Polystachya galeata*. The non-resupinate behaviour of this flower helps to give it the bonnet appearance, but being behind glass any expected fragrance was undetectable.



*Polystachya galeata*



*Masdevallia* Hybrid Orange



*Pleurothallis truncata*

Two more stunning orange orchids were a *Masdevallia* hybrid used in the cloud forest section of the display, along with *Pleurothallis truncata* dripping with chains of globular flowers on the top of each leaf. Endemic to Ecuador this *Pleurothallis* is surely a must for cool temperature growers.



*Dendrobium speciosum* var. *curvicaule*

Finally, I have included an image of the specimen *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *curvicaule* a native of eastern Australia. On display in the arid zone, this is a truly spectacular plant.

Hinckley and District Show  
Saturday April 1st 2023  
Stoke Golding Club Stoke Golding

A great show in which Hinckley OS was supported by five visiting societies. All of whom staged beautiful displays. The plants exhibited were all of a high quality and there were quite a few more unusual species which many people might not have seen before (see later)



Hinckley and District Orchid Society



East Midlands Orchid Society



Peter White - looking quizzical  
One of the traders present at the show



North of England Orchid Society



Harrogate Orchid Society



Central Orchid Society



Sheffield Orchid Society

This time of year the most common and popular orchids on display seem to be Dendrobiums, and this show did not disappoint. One of the most unusual ones on show was *Dendrobium schrautii*, certainly a species that I had never seen before. I just hope that is the correct spelling, although I did check it with Google! (See photo on the Dendrobium page)

Sheffield OS had some of the *Sarcochilus* hybrids on display and very nice they were too. However, they were all over shadowed by the unusual and rare (at least in the UK) *Sarcochilus olivaceous*. Most of us had never even heard of it, let alone seen it before. Very difficult to photograph properly, but you can tell that it is, in fact, a *Sarcochilus* from the inset photograph.

There were several other unusual species, which I will save for another newsletter, as I am running out of space and the file size of this one is getting too large.



*Dendrobium schrautii*



*Dendrobium moniliforme*

Dendrobiums

Check out *D. Schrautii* - opposite and also *D. hancockii* - bottom left

The *D. kingianum* was huge and just shows what a lovely specimen it is capable of growing into, given good care and attention



*Dendrobium hancockii*



*Dendrobium atrovioleaceum*



*Dendrobium thrysiflorum*



*Dendrobium kingianum*

Here are just a couple of the other more unusual species I spotted. You may have heard of, or seen, *Phaius tankervilleae*, but have you seen the *alba* form before? A lovely plant, and the flowers were in pristine condition. What about this beautifully grown and flowered *Maxillaria sanguinea*? Maxillarias are often seen at shows but this species was especially well flowered, with the flowers holding themselves so that they were easily visible among the foliage.



*Phaius tankervilleae* forma *alba* 'Snow Queen'



*Maxillaria sanguinea*



*Sarcochilus Melba*



*Sarcochilus Strange 'Sunrise'*



*Sarcochilus Sweetheart*



*Sarcochilus olivaceus*





# Orchid Festival Weekend



@ Burnham Nurseries

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st May 2023

10:00am - 4:00pm

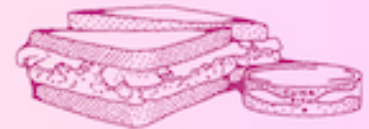


JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED ORCHID FESTIVAL WEEKEND



There will be lots to see and do, including:

- Orchid terrarium making & talks  
(see website for details)
- Plenty of orchids for sale
  - Orchid displays
  - Re-potting/advice  
from the Devon Orchid Society
- Orchid arts & crafts exhibition



We will be joined by :

Devon Orchid Society  
Cornwall Orchid Society  
Southwest Orchid Society  
Bournemouth Orchid Society  
Devon Wildlife Trust

Nursery, Shop  
& Cafe Vanilla  
will be open all day

Free entry  
& parking



Website : [www.orchids.uk.com](http://www.orchids.uk.com)  
Email: [admin@orchids.uk.com](mailto:admin@orchids.uk.com)  
Contact no. : 01626 352233  
Socials : @burnhamorchids /  
@cafevanillaburnham

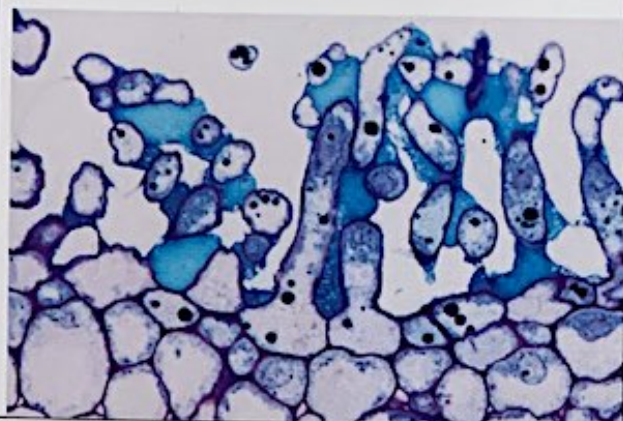


Burnham Nurseries Ltd  
Forches Cross  
Newton Abbot  
Devon  
England  
TQ12 6PZ



The **ORCHID STUDY GROUP** presents its  
**ORCHID EDUCATIONAL WEEKEND**

comprising a range of specialist orchid courses taught in parallel by qualified tutors and held at Aberglasney Gardens, Llangathen, Carmarthenshire SA32 8QH on 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023



**ORCHID FORM AND FUNCTION**

**Day 1:** Orchid Vegetative Morphology, Anatomy, Specialized Tissues and Aspects of Physiology.

**Day 2:** Orchid Floral Morphology, Pollination and Pollinators, Pollination Strategies and Mechanisms.

**Tutors:** Dr Kevin L. Davies MSc, PhD, FRSB, C. Biol.  
and Dr Helen Millner PhD

**ORCHID CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY**

**Day 1:** In situ Orchid Conservation and Ecology around the world.

**Day 2:** Ex situ Orchid Conservation and Ecology around the world.

**Tutor:** Phil Seaton BSc, MPhil, DipEd, MRSB, CF



**SCIENTIFIC ORCHID ILLUSTRATION**

**Day 1:** Instruction, Observation, Measuring, Accurate Drawing and Preparatory Work. Tone. Watercolour Techniques used in Botanical Illustration.

**Day 2:** Adding Substance and Fine Detail to a Painting. Completion of an Orchid Painting.

**Tutor:** Polly O'Leary SBA Fellow