



October 2023



The newsletter for October is going out a bit later this time. There are quite a few things to mention, some good and some sad news.

This year's show season is coming to an end, the last one was the OSGB show at Wraysbury last Saturday. I don't know of any later than that so if you are holding your show after that, and want a mention, please send me some pictures and details and I will happily include them next time.

British Orchid Council

It has been a really busy year with shows and orchid events and it has been very heartening to see so many things well supported and to be able to meet and talk to so many people interested in orchids. Surprisingly a lot of these are new to orchid growing and very keen to learn about them and how to grow them.

Contrary to what many people think the interest in orchids does not seem to be waning, but the people growing them and how they grow them is changing as the economic climate affects them. Orchid societies need to encourage these enthusiasts, spend time talking to them at shows and helping them understand how best to grow their, what are often well loved, windowsill orchids.

Orchid growing survey

This online survey, organised by Wayne Haywood of Devon OS, is aimed at gauging the well-being of orchid growing both now and into the future in the UK. The survey takes about 2 minutes to complete.

For the results to be as meaningful as possible, it needs as many people as possible to take part. So far there have been over 300 replies, but as many societies have not yet participated the closing date has now been extended to -

31st December 2023. Please click on the link below.

<https://6oef0hl8r2i.typeform.com/to/XOpyXsLu>

So please have your say and help us to understand the health of orchid growing in the UK. The results will be in the January newsletter



Aristolochia grandiflora

So what was it?

I received more replies for this plant, than anything else, it was amazing so people were able to identify it. Some answers revealed a very odd history for this plant, and also some very derogatory names!

Most people came up with the genus name of *Aristolochia*, although with different specific names. Its label read '*grandiflora*' but this may have been incorrect, as '*gigantea*' was also suggested which may be more accurate.

A tropical, Brazilian climber it is fragrant, but only to Blowflies. Common names suggested were either Dutchman's Pipe or Old Man's Balls. Apparently it had a darker side, as it was used to procure abortions.

You really are a knowledgeable lot out there, many of the replies came from those of you who had actually either seen it in the wild or in botanic gardens around the world.

Thank you all for such interesting answers, it was great to have so many.



Diary of events

It would be a good idea if I could include a Diary of events at the end of the newsletter. So, to do this I need help from all the societies.

Please send me details of your shows or special events for next year, these should include -

Date, venue and society webpage

No personal data, ie telephone number, this breaks data protection.

The diary of events will be compiled in January so the closing date (like the survey) is 31st Dec. How complete and useful this will be for everyone, depends on how many societies help by sending in replies.

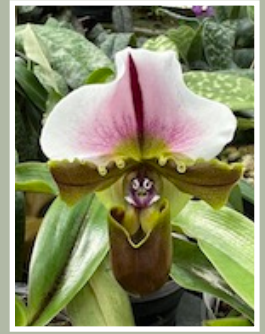
This month's conundrum

Something a bit different, and more of a puzzle
What do the following have in common?
Specifics are required, 'orchids' is not good enough. You could easily just guess that.

Raymond Burr, William Conrad, John Nettles

No idea, you could try Google or Youtube if you are really stumped.

The front cover: close up of the staminode of *Paphiopedilum spicerianum*, taken at Elite Orchids open day earlier in October.



*Paphiopedilum
spicerianum*

Since the last news letter, the following sad news has reached us.

Sadly, Jack Wubben passed away on the 16th October. Betty Barber passed away very recently and Pat Kelleher, who was the husband of Jo Kelleher, passed away a few weeks ago.

Betty Barber and Pat Kelleher were both members of the OSGB, who will be well known or at least well remembered by many of you. Our

Jac Wubben

Jac, with his daughter Rianne were regular exhibitors at the Peterborough Orchid Show. They specialised in selling some of the more unusual species and will be well remembered by many of you. He started his orchid nursery in Holland, in 1958, specialising in selling botanical orchids. His collection of species grew to one of the largest in the world and he was one of the major European orchid nurseries.



Photos Chris Barker

If any of you want to look up their website, their daughter Rianne wrote the following-

Jean Barker with Jack Wubben in 2008
When she and Chris went over to the nursery for his weekend party to celebrate the first 50 years of his orchid business, and with his wife Toni during the same weekend.



Jack with his wife Toni, 2008

“Saddened, but grateful that he didn’t have to suffer any longer, we let you know that our stubborn, strong, brave, dear father Jack Wubben passed away on Monday, 16th October. He had been seriously ill for quite some time. The company is now closed.”

BOC Judging Symposium. Harlow Carr 8th October

If you are not already a BOC judge, you may be interested to find out what happens at a judging symposium. Trainee judges have to judge the plants on four of five different tables. Each table usually has approx. eight different plants on them. They are required to pick out the top four plants and put them in rank order, without conferring and hand in their answer sheet. Their results are then compared against a team of qualified judges who have judged each table.

Below are pictures of table D, the Cattleya table, from the day. The first image is that of the plant and the second is a closer look at one of the flowers. Each picture also has the number of the plant, in order to avoid confusion.

So, can you put them in order? It is much harder from photographs, as you cannot compare the plants directly and it can be tricky. But do have a go. Remember, you need to find the top four plants, getting the right order is not so important. Answers at the end of the newsletter.



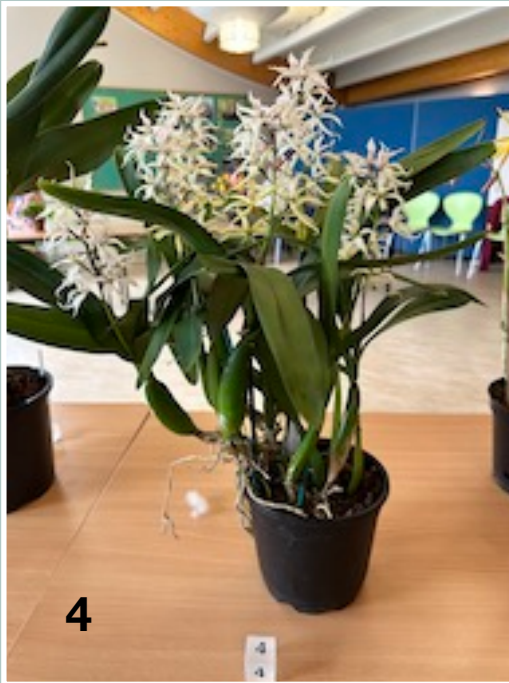
Plant 1
RLC Pastoral
'Innocense'



Plant 2
Cattleya
regina



Plant 3
Cattleya
Pin Yo Boy



Plant 4
Prosthechea
fausta



Plant 5
Cattleya
bicolor





Plant 6
Cattleya
Mary Elizabeth
Bohn



LHS
Plant 7.
No name

RHS
Plant 8
Cattleya Elisabeth
Ann

There you have it, eight plants in total, table D.

The answers, ie the order the qualified judges put them in are given at the end of the newsletter. Remember though, that they would have been able to see some details that don't show in the photographs

Have a go at picking out the top four!!!

And congratulations to the three people who qualified after this symposium. They have now completed 31 tables, and scored over 75% average on all the tables. Very well done guys!!!



Holcoglossum flavescens

X



Holcoglossum Kimballiana

Plants on the day are brought along by people taking part in the Symposium. Usually there are some beautiful and unusual species. Unfortunately, it may not be possible to use all of them in the judging training.

Here are a few of the beautiful Vandas that had been taken along to take part in the practice judging.



Trichoglottis philippinensis



Vanda Pakchong Blue



It was a glorious day, as you can see, on the Saturday when we were there. The picture shows the main three green houses where the *Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium* are grown.



The lake found on the nursery

Elite Orchids Open Day 23-24th September



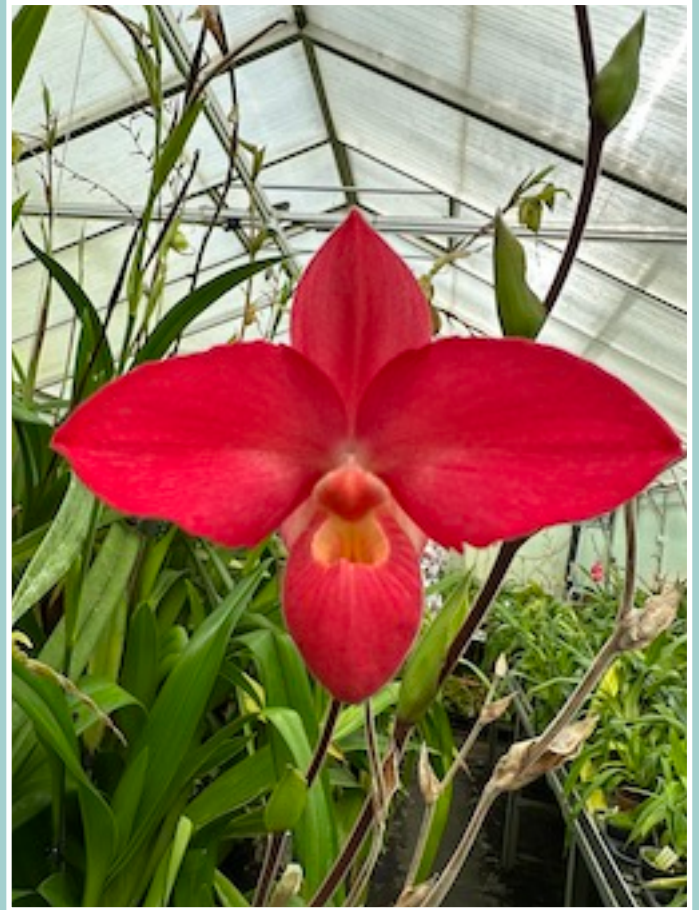
Elite orchids are owned and operated by Mark Turner. Although not at a huge number of shows, he runs an efficient mail order service from the web site



This very unusual and rare Paph. was flowering really well - *Paph. rungsuriyanum*



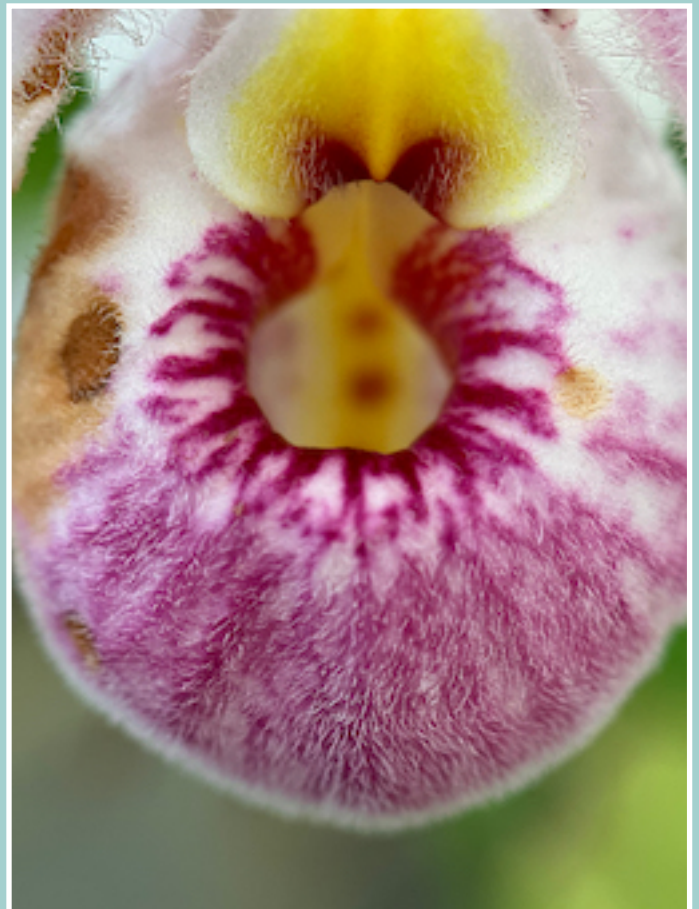
Phrag. Hybrid



Label missing - but a beautiful coloured *Phrag.*



Paph. Vipanii
phillippinense x niveum

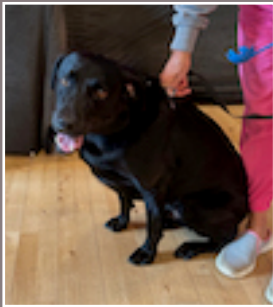


This was taken as the hairy details on the pouch and the staminode were so interesting

East Midlands Orchid Society Show 24th September

As usual this show was well attended this year. It was well supported by five societies, the trade and with all the plants exhibited being of a high standard. The show was well worth visiting, so do put it in your calendar for next year.

As space is limited it would be impossible to do all the displays justice so I am only including a few of the plants here. However I have put in a couple of 'special' pages, one about some of the newer Phalaenopsis varieties on display and one about a few of the Cattleya hybrids.



Visitors to shows are of all kinds and always varied, with usually different types and sizes of dogs that bring their owners.

Like this lovely and well-behaved lab.



Phrag. besseae x pearcii



Holcoglossum kimbballiana



Dendrobium Swiss Mountain Palace



Cattleya Alma Kee 'Tipmalee'



Sorry, the label of this beauty was hidden at the back!



B.L.C. Ports of Paradise 'Green Ching Hua'



BC Pastoral Innocence

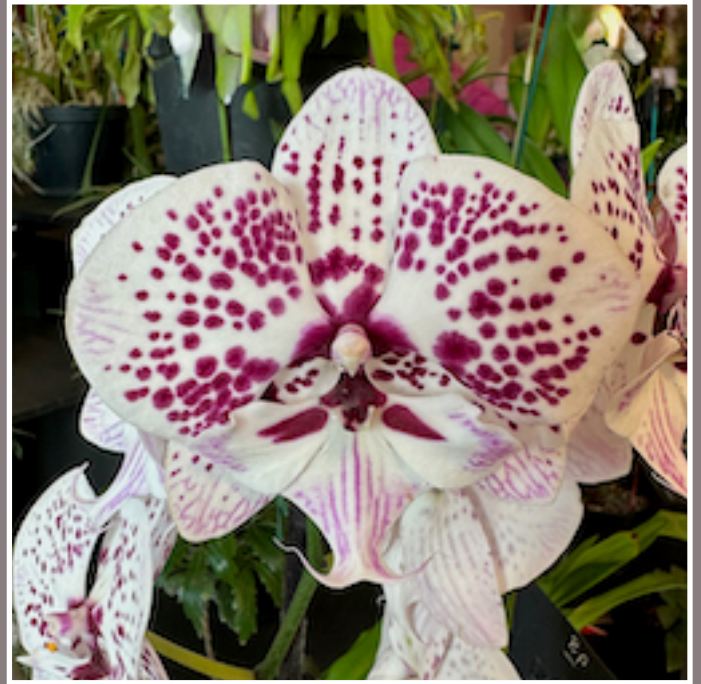
'Big Lip' Phalaenopsis

When these were first introduced as far back as 1990, many people did not like them and said that the hybridising of Phalaenopsis had gone too far. The Big Lip is a flattened, petal-like, adaption of the lip when compared to the conventional flower. Since then there have been more improved varieties produced, with even some peloric ones! Many of them are really very pretty as the examples below show.

These were all exhibited by Baccus Palescu of Harrowgate OS.



Arctic Threshold x White Thunder



EverSpring King x Chin Chang Strips



Yu Pin Fireworks



Taida Happy Eagle 'New Rose'



A very happy John Gay from Harrowgate OS, with his price winning *Miltopiopsis roezlii* f. *Xanthine*



Trichoglottis philippinensis



You really do never know what will turn up at an orchid show! On Peter White's stand



Small, very pretty, Laeliinae hybrid



I warned you all it would happen!

These things are impossible to kill, will survive any temperature so they don't need expensive heating and are set to take over the world!

Just look out for when Artificial intelligence teaches them to self replicate!

I am still blaming the North East of England -

See you all next time!

Answers to the judging table:
The qualified judges put the plants in the following order:

Table D Cattleya

1st - plant 6, 2nd - plant 5,
3rd - plant 1, 4th - plant 3