



British Orchid Council

....promoting societies and orchid growing...

Entries have started to roll in!

Do go and have a look at the website where you can see the current entries for each class.

Please, send each of your entries when you take the pictures and don't wait till the deadline. This will avoid a last minute rush at the end. If you've forgotten any of the details about entry I have included the FAQ and checklist again at the end of this bulletin.



Closing date for entries Sunday 7th June

This week would have seen us attending the Scottish Orchid Fair, at Kibble Palace in Glasgow. This was a new show for us last year and one we were so looking forward to going to again this year.

It is a wonderful venue, and well worth the travelling time to go and visit in the future. The following pages show a few pictures and memories from last year's show.

Which reminds me - do let me have any updates and news of your society. What you have been doing to stay in touch, what has helped keep your orchid interests alive and anything else that might interest others. *Please keep me posted!!*



Kibble Palace, Glasgow

Feeling a bit bored?

Then have a look at some of the following YouTube orchid videos. There are direct, clickable links to these on the BOC Covid Congress web site

<http://bocovid19congress.org.uk/page4.html>

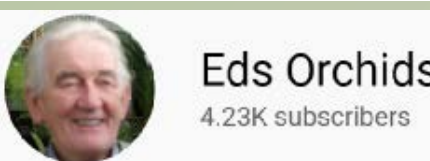
Copy and paste this into your browser it will take you directly to the Covid Congress web page with the links.



Orchid web is a good place to look for orchid videos. You will find about 300 short videos available on YouTube from Jerry & Jason Fischer of Orchids Ltd in the USA.

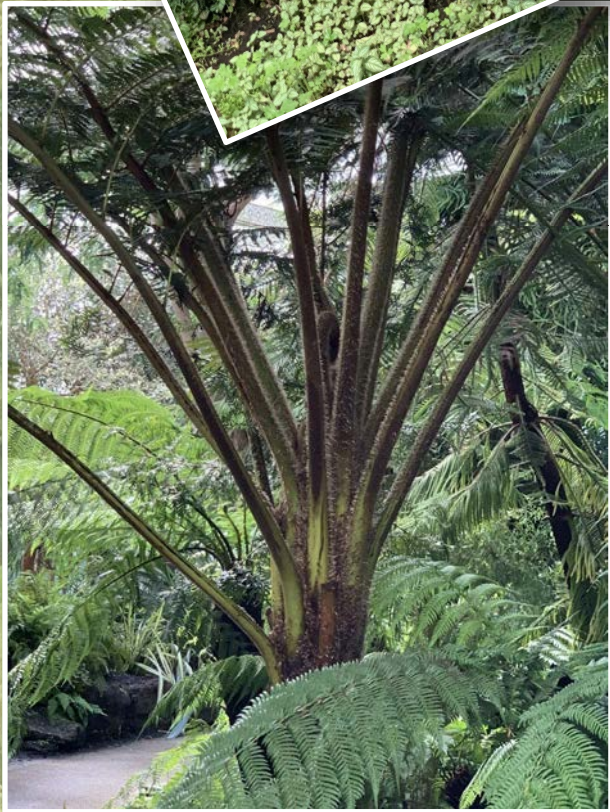


My Green Pets is a video by William Green from the USA.



And finally there is our own Ed, with his YouTube channel - it is really worth checking out

If you come across anything else interesting, let me know, so that I can post the link in the bulletin for others to enjoy!



Kibble Palace is home to the National Collection of tree ferns, and they were magnificent! You could so easily imagine yourself in a primeval forest with dinosaurs lurking round every corner! The collection was hand watered several times each day as the weather was so warm for May.

Some of the beautiful miniature orchids put on display by the orchid societies present.

As far as I can remember, these ones belonged to Jean Barker of Darlington OS.



Lots and lots of visitors, including this incredibly tiny Chihuahua. It's a very good job his owner had him on a tight leash - or he would have been dognapped, and you can guess who by!

Laneside Hardy Orchids

website: lanesidehardyorchids.com

email: jcrhutch@aol.com

postal address: 74 Croston Road,

Garstang,

Preston, PR3 1HR

telephone: 01995 605537

mobile: 07946659661



Many of you will know Jeff Hutchings and Laneside Hardy Orchids from various orchid shows around the country but did you know that it was originally an alpine nursery?

Jeff gradually expanded the range of orchids until the alpine side disappeared and the orchids took over (I am sure a lot of us can relate to that!!)

These days, Laneside is a specialist nursery for hardy and native orchids and there are well over 100 species and hybrids available during the year.

At the moment, like other orchid traders, they are only doing mail order and their contact details are shown above.

These orchids are seasonal in their growth and it is not always possible to send them out by mail order throughout the year. At the moment they are only able to send out a limited range of plants because of the top growth but Jeff will be offering some of the show *Calanthe* in his web shop shortly.

Also listed in the web shop are summer native species and orders are being taken for delivery at the end of August since summer and early autumn are the best time to plant them.

e.g. *platanthera bifolia* (Butterfly orchid)

anacamptis pyramidalis (Pyramidal orchid)

ophrys apifera (Bee orchid)

If you are interested in any of these please be aware that some of the rarer species will be in short supply, so get in touch with Jeff quickly.

Jeff posts regularly on his Laneside Hardy Orchid Facebook page; including photographs of orchids as they flower and providing information on growing them.

Here you will also find progress of two garden projects he is currently involved with. One is converting an existing lawn into a orchid rich wildflower meadow and the other introducing orchids into a large natural garden.



The Calanthe Genus

Calanthe are a genus of some 200 species from Asia, Africa and the Pacific. Most grow in tropical or sub-tropical forests but there are a few (about seven species) from the Far East that are hardy.

These species and natural hybrids grow on the slopes of wet mountain deciduous woodland areas on several islands of Japan.

Classified as semi-evergreen, they tend to lose most of their leaves in late winter. They require cool shady conditions with a moist humus rich soil and should be planted just under the surface. A top dressing of leaf mulch aids growth.

In late spring, they send up pairs of leathery, pleated leaves. These leaves will reach 20 to 30 cm in length.

Flower stems arise at about the same time and may reach 30 to 45 cm with a spike of 10 to 25 flowers.

Basic Cultivation of Calanthe

They should be planted in 5- or 7-inch pots in a compost with a high organic content that holds water but does not compact around the roots. Calanthe do best when pot bound. This makes them produce flowers spikes rather than a lot of leaves. Always water well after potting.

They require regular feeding and watering for maximum growth. It is important to continue heavy feeding and watering throughout the summer and autumn to encourage maximum production of flower buds

Seasonal work

Leaving the old leaves on the plant for longer in the winter delays the start of the flower spike development.

So, if you want to delay flowering, then do not cut off the old leaves for a few weeks. This tip is very useful for people wanting to exhibit this genus. Timing can also be controlled to a certain extent by not commencing full watering in the spring.

Jeff Hutchings





FAQ

1. Who can enter?

If you are in the UK - a) anyone who is a member of an orchid society

AND b) anyone else who grows orchids!

Not in the UK?—you may still enter provided you are either a member, honorary member, affiliated member etc. of a UK orchid society.

(e.g. OSGB and Central OS both have overseas members)

2. How many pictures can I enter?

As many as you like!! But please use common sense and don't send dozens!!

3. Closing date for entries?

Sunday 7th June This means the final results will come out just after the dates for the Malvern show that couldn't be held this year.

4. What do I put in my email with my entry?

very simply:

You only need to put your name and the name of your OS if you have one

Your images should be attached as .jpg files labelled with the correct name of the orchid

eg *Restrepia antennifera* plant.jpg *Restrepia antennifera* flower.jpg

5. My orchid is an unidentified species

Then label it as sp. (for species!) after its genus.

For example a *Pleurothallis*, (which never seem to have their specific name) would be labelled as - *Pleurothallis* sp,

Other genera might be *Catasetum* sp., *Dracula* sp.

Checklist

1. Clean up and present your plants as carefully as you would for any ordinary show
2. Photograph them against a plain background
3. Photograph both the whole plant and a single flower
4. Save the images with the correct file names as jpg images (see above)

Most importantly....

5. ENTER THE CONGRESS!!

email your images to:

chairman@british-orchid-council.info