





The British Orchid Council

~ promoting orchid growing ~

A slightly different layout this time. I have just had to take the plunge and change my computer. At the moment I can't use Publisher, as I haven't got it set up yet, so hence a rather different appearance, don't know quite what I shall do with it next time.

There is a lot more positive news this time and it makes a change not to be going on about doom and gloom! There are a couple of shows coming up in the next couple of months and in addition, something that will come as a great (but pleasant) surprise for everyone - more of which in a minute.

There is also some very sad news from Thames Valley Orchid Society and we all extend our condolences and best wishes to everyone over there and to Stella's family. She will be missed by a lot of people in the orchid world and as Maron Talbot said in her email, everyone is very distraught.



You know when you have one of those plants that seems to keep growing at its own pace, but never flowers?

Well, this is one of those for me.

I got the original plant from Ellis Eyre, and the flowers then were beautiful (if you like that kind of thing) but ever since then it has never flowered and has never looked like flowering.

But this year, having moved it from one end of the greenhouse to the other and said "dustbin" in its vicinity a few times there have been lots of flowers.

So the inevitable question - can anyone tell me the correct name for it?

As an aside I am really pleased it has finally flowered for me, as it brings back memories of Ellis and his wonderful plants and culture. I also have some keikis coming on from it.

NOTHING IS FINAL BUT WE WANTED TO LET EVERYONE KNOW!

We are delighted to announce that Bournemouth Orchid Society have offered to host the next BOC Congress!!

Provisional date: March 25th and 26th 2023

Venue: HighCliffe Castle

This was the venue of their very successful 60th Anniversary show, so we are happy that we can return to hold what will be a very delayed celebration for the 50th Anniversary of BOC which is actually this year. *More details as and when they are available.*

BREAKING NEWS!!

~ OTHER NEWS ~

FINALLY some upcoming shows -

Boris permitting the following shows are currently planned to be going ahead in July and August.

It really is so very nice to be able to post about planned upcoming shows again. Let's hope that more of them can go ahead in the coming months after the Covid restrictions are finally lifted.

NB If you are planning to attend either of these shows, please check beforehand with the appropriate society website to make sure that nothing has changed. Lockdown has not yet been formally closed and restrictions may still be in place - but lets be optimistic and hope not!

JULY

24th July (build up starts 23rd July)

North of England Orchid Society Annual show

www.orchid.org.uk

Barton Village Hall, Barton, Lancashire, A6 North of Preston

Displays - North of England OS, East Midlands OS
Harrogate OS, Darlington OS

Traders and Orchid Nurseries - Burnham, Phoenix, Laneside,
John Keeling, Orchidalchemy, Orchid accessories

JULY/AUGUST

31st July - 1st August

'Orchids For Everyone' weekend at RHS Harlow Carr hosted by Harrogate Orchid Society

And finally some news from Writhlington:

Six Students from the Writhlington Schools Orchid Project at the Mendip Studio School have won a place in the finals of the Amazon Longitude Explorer Prize. This is awarded for a technology based solution to a problem. The Orchid Project team, having called themselves Rainforest DRAGeN team (Standing for Digital remote access global education network), looks to solve the problems of rainforest loss and educational equality by developing electronics kits for rainforest schools, datalogging of rainforest habitats, and then data sharing with schools across the globe.

Watch their video and vote for their project via the links below -

<https://wsbeorchids.org/2021/please-vote-for-the-students-working-for-rainforest-conservation-and-educational-equality/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYWCptAMuVk>

The links include the students' project video (2 minutes long) and instructions on how to vote for the project - you will need to scroll down the page of projects to Rainforest DRAGeN Project. Winning the people's vote will give the team the cash they need to set the project in motion.

Simon Pugh-Jones

Introducing the Mathers Foundation

A few weeks ago we went to visit the Mathers Foundation in West Sussex - it is very new and probably most people haven't heard of them yet. If you take the Orchid Review there was an article about them in June 2020 by Peter Sanders and an article about Jim Durrant in the most recent edition. Their plants were beautiful, growing in pristine conditions. I hadn't seen beautiful standard Cymbidiums like these for some time. When they are able they are planning to hold monthly Open Days. It will be well worth a visit for anyone! They post regularly on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Check these out and also their website www.orchid.foundation.



"Our aim is to conserve orchid species and hybrids and to encourage greater interest in these plants"

Mathers Foundation website

The Foundation is based in a site near Pulborough in West Sussex, and has the benefit of modern glasshouses with a high degree of automation and control of their carbon-neutral heating system, shading and humidification. The initial breeding population has been largely established from the Eric Young Orchid Foundation in Jersey with further breeding stock acquired in 2020 from Ecuador and Columbia.

They have recently completed their first round of breeding, both of species and hybrids, and they are as interested in conserving original breeding lines from the last century as well as modern plants. The Foundation is a registered charity, chaired by Gill Mathers, while the plants are grown and bred by Jim Durrant.

The Foundation is a registered charity, and does not sell plants, although they are interested in exchanging breeding stock with other growers.



Congratulations to everyone at the Mathers Foundation -

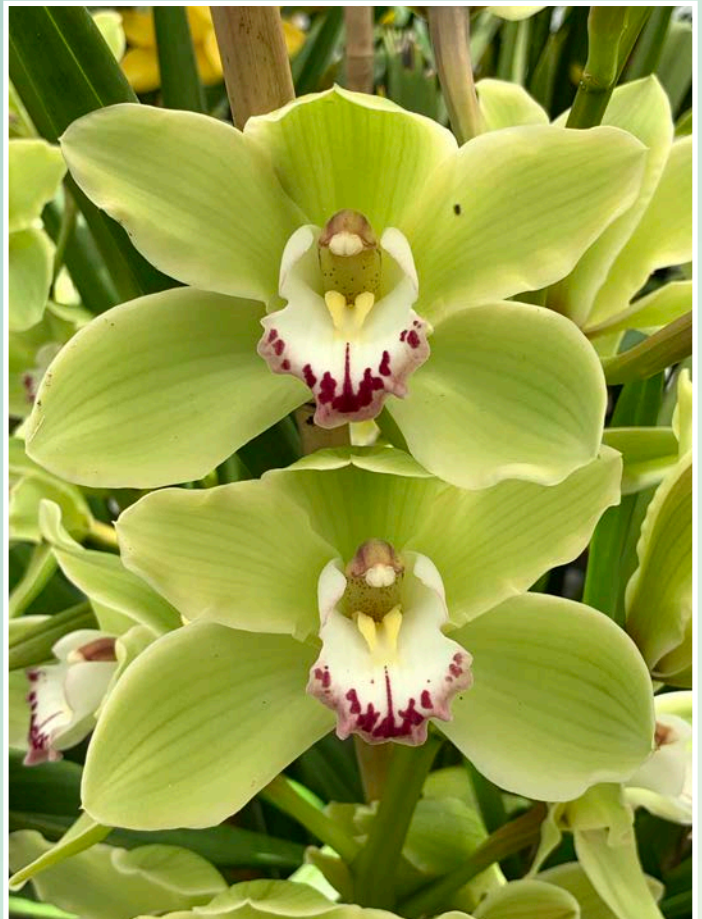
For having been recently awarded the status of National Collection by Plant Heritage for their Oncidium Collection. National Orchid Collections recognised by Plant Heritage have been declining lately and it is great that there is now another new one on the scene.



I'm sure most of you
will recognise this
guy!!



THOSE are what you call *Cymbidiums*!!
But just have a closer look at some of the others - sorry I couldn't get all the varietal names.





Aren't they beautiful? It's been a while since I have seen standard Cymbidiums like these. Stunning, but too large for my greenhouse or conservatory I'm afraid

A bright light went out ..

Stella Steveni, Chairman of Thames Valley Orchid Society, passed away on June 1st 2021 after a brave and extended fight against cancer.

We will all miss Stella's enthusiasm, her optimistic outlook and always full of joy up to the very end. Much loved by everyone who met and knew her.

Stella involved herself with her many interests including growing orchids, she was a talented artist, especially Chinese and Persian painting, art and design.

She loved joining in on adventures and with her positive outlook this took Stella to many places such as the Everglades in search of orchids, sleeping under the stars in the mountains, Morocco to walking along the Great Wall of China for charity. She loved being a part of everything going on around her.

Stella was half way through training to become a BOC judge. She was enjoying learning more about orchids, then 'Covid and the Lockdowns' held up with continuing the training.

Being a little competitive, Stella's ambition had been to gain a Gold Award for TVOS at the Orchid Show at Malvern, for an orchid display that she jointly created. TVOS will continue to strive to achieve that ambition in her memory.

On behalf of the many people in the orchid world who knew Stella, we send our sincere condolences to her family and friends.



Aran Belcourt, TVOS