PROGRAMME

2007

Sat. Sept 29   Autumn Show   Beaufort Community Centre
Fri 26 Oct   * Plant Clinic & Brains Trust
Fri 30 Nov * Steve Manning “Masdevallias & Some Other Pleurothallids”
Sat 15 Dec   * Christmas Dinner
            Noon for 1 pm,  Beaufort Community Centre

2008

Fri 18 Jan   * Mike Powell “Cyprepediums”
Sat 23 Feb   Spring Show   Beaufort Community Centre
Fri 28 Mar   * Plant Clinic & Brains Trust
Fri 25 Apr * David Menzies “A Glasgow Miscellany”
Fri 30 May * AGM   Followed by Plant Auction
Sat 14 June   Coach Outing   Peterborough Orchid Show
Fri 20 June * Henry Oakley “Orchid Hunting in South America”
Sun 20 July * Garden Party Hosted by Nina Gregson; 2.30 p.m.
            3 Ashley Park, Ashley Heath.
Fri 29 Aug * Stephen Taylor “Vandas and their Cultivation”
Sat 27 Sep Autumn Show   Beaufort Community Centre, Southbourne
            * Members may sell plants only at these meetings

Front Cover  Cypripedium reginae x flavum   Photo. Kneville Roberts
I recall saying to someone earlier in the year that this summer could not possibly be as bad as last year - oh yes it could, I hear you say, well I am taking advantage of yet another wet weekend to write these notes so the days are not entirely wasted.

As far as the orchids in the greenhouse are concerned I always try to do the watering as early in the morning as possible and on bright days as this would give the most time for water droplets to evaporate before nightfall and so avoid the possibility of rots developing. Unfortunately when our British weather does not oblige I have to water extra carefully and not slash it about so much. I always have a pocket full of paper tissues ready to soak up the drips that mind find their way into the centre of any growths.

Because of the lower light levels I adjust the shading accordingly by raising it on dull days. I only do this when I am at home and available to lower the blinds immediately the sun comes out, as the greenhouse temperatures can rise alarmingly in a very short time, causing scorching of the leaves and even death. This means I always lower the blinds before I go to work, regardless of the weather. Consequently, the orchids are often in lower light levels than I would prefer. It is worth remembering, we shade the greenhouse to reduce the heat build up and not to reduce the light levels.

As long as we get a reasonable amount of good light for the season the orchids will be fine. In fact they would prefer a relatively cool summer where conditions are constant rather than one which has periods of very high temperatures which would put them under a great deal of stress.

These days it seems there are now many more hardy orchids available to plant out into our gardens but choosing the best types to grow and where to put them is not always easy, so I was pleased to receive an article on hardy orchids for the garden by Neville Roberts, accompanied by his superb photographs. If you have ever considered trying a few hardies, then this will give you a good start.

I must thank all those who contributed to this issue of Top Orchid, without which it would be very thin.

Congratulations to Carole Norman who won a Best in Show for her flower arrangement at the New Forrest Show in July. It’s nice to know we have the very best exhibiting at our spring shows.

As usual, your help to advertise the Autumn Show will be required so please take as many leaflets as possible. Hand them out to friends and get them into shops, offices etc.

2009 will be the 50th anniversary of the Bournemouth Orchid Society and there are some special events planned to celebrate this momentous occasion. Not least of these will be a three day Spring Show (first day will be staging followed by a preview evening and two days opened to the public, Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd February). This will be held at the Carrington House Hotel, Knyveton Road, Bournemouth and will replace our usual show held at the Beaufort Community Centre. To make this a success we will need the help of every member to spread the word. As with all our shows advertising is the key and posters and leaflets will be available to hand out, and the first of these will be distributed at the Autumn Show in September. Later, in the new year, the main thrust of advertising will begin and it is vital we all take as many leaflets and posters as possible and get them up in shops, offices, places of work and any place where they can be seen. But don’t wait till then, tell everyone you can about the Show - now!
A good number of members had gathered on the 20th June to hear our speaker Henry Oakley give a talk on one of his recent expeditions to Peru. His talk was aided by superb photographs projected using the Society's new digital projector, purchased specifically for those speakers using the more up-to-date power point presentations.

Our Chairman began by telling us Henry has been growing orchids for more than 50 years and has a special interest in Lycaste, Ida and Anguloa for which he holds the National collection.

He has held many important positions in the orchid world such as Chairman of the RHS Orchid Committee for ten years, Hon. Research Associate in Orchid Science at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Hon. Research Associate at the Singapore Botanic Gardens and President of the Orchid Society of Great Britain, to name but a few.

His talk featured many orchids encountered during his trip, which was at times extremely arduous. His orchid hunting took him over some very difficult terrain which at times tested Henry’s stamina to the limit. Even so he didn’t miss an opportunity to take photographs of the orchids he encountered and many of these are illustrated in his book, Lycaste, Ida and Anguloa, The Essential Guide.

If you want to see orchids in their natural habitat you have to be prepared to rough it a bit and Henry certainly did that. He recalled having to sleep in a bed which was infested with huge fleas but dealt with these with an appropriate spray, which was one of many essential medical aids he packs in his bag. Other more dangerous critters are to be avoided such as hairy caterpillars, with a sting that can kill you in two days.

With one eye looking out for killer caterpillars his other eye spied some wonderful orchids, Odontoglossum species, Telipogons, Miltonias, Draculas, Masdevallias and many unidentified little orchids to a huge plant of *Ida fimbriata*.

He took us on a wonderful journey to the orchid rich regions of Peru in the comfort of the lecture hall and we mentally praised him for having endured the bites, stings, knee deep mud, heat, cold, wet, the daily diet of potatoes (boiled or fried), the extreme fatigue, and not forgetting the giant fleas so we could ooh and ah at the wonderful orchids he managed to “capture.”

Many of us also took the opportunity to buy his fabulous book, Lycaste, Ida and Anguloa, The Essential Guide, which he dutifully signed. This is a must for those who have an interest in this group of orchids. It is crammed with the most wonderfully detailed coloured photos, all taken by Henry. This book contains descriptions of nearly 150 species, natural hybrids and varieties accompanied by 1400 photographs.

Not only that, but Henry also took on the responsibility of publishing this important work. I would thoroughly recommend this publication to your orchid book collection.

Allan Burdis
Introduction

A few years ago, I decided to try my hand at growing hardy orchids outdoors. I thought it would be rather nice to have an orchid display in the garden to complement the range of tropical orchids I had growing in my greenhouse.

I should firstly mention that we are very fortunate to have Mike Powell as a member of the Bournemouth Orchid Society. He is an expert in the field of hardy orchids, which is evident from the many hardy orchid plants that he displays on the Plant Table at our meetings. Mike, like myself, is a member of the Hardy Orchid Society (http://www.hardyorchidsociety.org.uk/) and has contributed regularly to the Hardy Orchid Society Journal, winning many awards for his potted display plants. I, on the other hand, am very much an amateur grower and the purpose of this article is to describe my experiences of growing hardy orchids outdoors.

My aim was to develop a small area of my garden as a rather unusual “orchid bed” and see if I could get a number of plants to become established there.

Location, location, location!

For hardy terrestrial orchids, it was particularly important to find an area of my garden that can be kept damp all year round and enjoys sunshine in the spring, summer and autumn seasons. In the winter, all the foliage dies back and therefore a damp (but not waterlogged) environment is all that is required.

An appropriate area, which is east-south-east facing, was found near my greenhouse. As can be seen from the photograph, I allow moss to grow over the area as this helps to maintain humidity.

The area was prepared initially by digging in some quantities of topsoil, mixed with Seramis and Dolomite Lime. Then every year in the spring, more lime is sprinkled over the area. That is pretty well all the care that the plants get, apart from occasional watering with leftover feed from the greenhouse and watering during extended dry spells in the summer.

The Plants

The current list of plants is as follows:

1. *Epipactis gigantea*
2. *Cypripedium* Ulla Silkens (*Reginae* x *Flavum*)
3. *Cypripedium* Emil (*parviflorum* x *calceolus*)
4. *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, aka Common Spotted Orchid
5. *Orchis morio*, aka Green-Winged Orchid (although it has recently been re-classified as *Anacamptis morio* for reasons best known to the taxonomists!)
6. *Cypripedium* Hank Small (*parviflorum* x *henryi*)
7. *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* 'anada'
8. *Cypripedium* Fasciolatum
At this point, I must come clean! There have been some notable failures over the years. A rather lovely *Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchid) flowered one year and never reappeared the next. Two very expensive *Cypripedium calceolus* never lived long enough to flower — I had particularly wanted one of these in the garden as it is the famous Lady's Slipper orchid that grows 'wild' in the UK at a secret location in Yorkshire. It would appear that the general rule that hybrids are a bit more tolerant of less-than-ideal growing conditions also holds true with hardy orchids.

The one plant that keeps its small crowns of slender green leaves is the *Orchis morio*, which survives in a dormant state during winter. The flower spike appears from the centre of a crown by early May.

The first shoots of the Dactylorhizas appear by the end of January and most of the Cypripediums are through by mid-March. Last to emerge are the *Epipactis gigantea* and the *Cypripedium Ulla Silkens*, which make an appearance by the end of March.

A couple of months later, one is rewarded with what I consider to be a fantastic display of orchids! From the hyacinth–looking *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* to the unique pouches and varied colours of the Cypripediums, there is bound to be a flower to suit everyone’s taste.

The most vigorous grower is undoubtedly the *Epipactis gigantea*, which quickly clumps up into a specimen plant within a couple of years and has dozens and dozens of rich yellow-brown flowers about an inch or so across. It is very easy to divide the plant by cutting through the network of rhizomes once flowering has finished.

The next most prolific orchid in my small collection is the *Cypripedium Ulla Silkens*. Ten years ago, it flowered for the first time with a single bloom. The following year there were two, then by 2001, I had seven flowers. I divided the plant a couple of years later and put the division in an outdoor tub and it produced ten flowers last year. Alas, the installation of a new fence the year before last almost devastated the plant, but it seems to have survived the ordeal as it flowered again last year. Incidentally, I tend to use the outdoor soil to fill the tubs and don’t re-pot each year. I treat them just like those in the outdoor area, occasional weeding the tubs to remove clover and the like.

I am very fond of my *Orchis morio*. Only about a centimetre across, the spikes contain many delicate flowers and the purple and green veined colours seem to complement each other perfectly.

The *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* is the grandest of my outdoor collection. Last year, I had two majestic spikes of deep purple flowers, both of which were each nearly two feet tall! The flowers themselves are about an inch across. The *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* is altogether a more delicate flower, but is nevertheless absolutely delightful. Incidentally, this lovely pink orchid can be seen growing wild at Badbury Rings and also in the grounds of St. Leonards Hospital (where you will also find *Orchis morio* growing wild).

With its characteristic brown petals and sepals and vibrant yellow pouch, it is easy to see that *Cypripedium calceolus* is one of the parents of *Cypripedium Emil*. *Cypripedium Hank Small* was a recent addition and flowered for the first time last year. I photographed it with a piece of black card behind it to make it stand out.
As for *Cypripedium* Fasciolatum, that was a new purchase last year and I eagerly await its first flower this year – at least it has survived the winter as the new growth is coming through even as I type!

**Pests**

Contrary to what you might expect, hardy orchids also seem to be quite resistant to pests and diseases (unless we have a somewhat refined and discerning pest population here in Ferndown that treats orchids with due respect and gives them a wide berth!) However, as with my vegetable plot, I do occasionally sprinkle the area with slug pellets, but to date I have never had any problems with slugs. The only issue I have had is with blackfly on the *Epipactis gigantea*. Blackfly seem to be very partial to the tender growths of the new flower buds and congregate just behind the flowers. Fortunately, a good spray with Provado sees off the little so-and-so's!

**Conclusions**

On the whole, I have found the process of growing hardy orchids outdoors in the garden to be relatively easy and it has been a natural and rewarding extension of my hobby of growing tropical orchid plants in the greenhouse.

I have not had any real problems with pests; the usual precautions and treatments seem to do the trick.

Once established, the plants are very easy to divide and, as a result, I have had good results growing hardy orchids (particularly *Cypripedium* Ulla Silkens) in outdoor tubs.

Regarding plans for the future, I intend to continue to expand my collection of Cypripediums, which are a real favourite of mine. I may even splash out on another *Cypripedium calceolus*, but I will keep that species in a pot and let it grow on before risking a division for the outdoor area. At £35-£45 a plant, I have no intention of losing a third one!
1. Orchis morio

2. Orchis morio

3. Dactylorhiza fuchsii

4. Dactylorhiza praetermissa ‘Anada’

5. Epipactis gigantea

6. Epipactis gigantea

7. Cypripedium Emil

8. Cypripedium Hank Small

9. Cypripedium Hank Small in growth end of March

10. Cyp. reginae x flavum in March
BOURNEMOUTH ORCHID SOCIETY
50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
30th MAY 2008 BNSS.

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.
Apologies were received from: Keith Andrew, John James, Geoff Hands.

2. MINUTES OF THE 49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
The minutes of the 49th A.G.M. had been published in the Summer 2007 Newsletter and also circulated to all members with the notification of the A.G.M. so were taken as read.

At the invitation of the Chairman Derek Copley, Glen Jamieson proposed and Leo Palmer seconded that they were a true and accurate record of what went on and everybody voted, all in favour (there were no abstentions).

3. MATTERS ARISING
There were no matters arising from the previous AGM minutes.

Is it really true that I have done 5 years as Chair, and 38 years in the Society? I must have been very young when I joined, and came increasingly under the mysterious influence of what is now the most popular flowering pot plant in the UK. I have never ever regretted getting involved in the Bournemouth Orchid Society, whose meetings, shows, plants and people have brought so much joy. Thankfully the men no longer feel obliged to wear suits, nor call other members Mr and Mrs, or even Doctor. Our women of course continue to look smart and beautiful.

Last year when I gave my annual report, I felt that the Society had never experienced better times in its entire history, having carried off the coveted top trophy from the very last Newbury. But there was something even to top that-the winning of the first trophy at Peterborough, reminiscent of winning the first one at Newbury when it was founded many years ago. The Peterborough trophy was presented to us by no less than the Bishop of Ely, with appropriate noisy cheering from the Bournemouth members. Peterborough will be upon us very soon, and our show committee has been working hard on vision and ideas, hoping once more to triumph.

I cannot pay tribute to every person who puts in a special effort for the Society. Yet I do want to express appreciation on behalf of all of you for the many years of hard and meticulous work put in by Christine Carter, as Treasurer, who now steps down from that office and from the committee, and for her willingness to serve as our auditor. And I want to mention Leo Palmer, our librarian, who, month by month, brings a selection of interesting books for us to read, which we take out for a very modest fee. Thankfully, Leo loves books and has a huge personal collection of his own. And a special word of thanks to those who do the catering for us.

As the era of the Beaufort Community Centre Christmas lunches has now come to an end, our rejuvenated lunch celebration will this year be at the splendid Marsham Court Hotel, in the heart of Bournemouth, for little more cost than we have been used to paying.
Next year is the 50th anniversary of our founding in 1959, by Keith Andrew and Brian Ritter-shausen. We celebrated our 40th, by instituting a one-off Christmas lunch, and this has become a tradition. Our anniversary meal, at the Dudsbury Golf Club on December 12th 2009, promises to be an occasion never to be forgotten. And we await with eager anticipation the announcements from the Show Committee regarding a special large scale Congress, to replace our normal Spring Show. Add to that the Anniversary edition of Top Orchid, the 50th will long be remembered.

It has been with sadness that we have observed the declining health of our President, Keith Andrew, and we have missed his ever-so-regular attendances at our shows and meetings. Thankfully his wife Janis is now in much better health. We all wish him a greater measure of good health in the future. Distressing too is the death of Owen Ivamy, less than 2 weeks ago, and whose funeral took place 2 days ago.

Where do we go from here? We may or may not continue to win awards, accolades and prizes. Though I hope we do. Our successes have stimulated other societies into striving for more excellence, and so the competition may get stronger. But even if we never won anything again, would we have failed as a society? My answer is no, and it reminds me of what the King of Bhutan once said in 1983 ‘I value the happiness of my people more than our gross national product’ Yes our beloved plants and their quality are important, but at the heart of our society is people, and we simply like being together, and admire whatever plants are on view at the time.

I especially want to thank the hard working and dedicated committee who have served you during the last year. I belong to a great many committees, and I can honestly say that this one is the most fun, and is generally very productive and disciplined except when brief periods of silliness take over. Mike Powell’s wonderful home baked cakes continue to encourage us to finish as early as we can, so we can enjoy yet another untried delight. I want to thank all of you for your presence month by month, and the multitude of ways you seek to benefit the Society, and for all your encouragement to me as your chair for the past 5 years.

Dr Derek Copley

5. HON TREASURERS REPORT.
Christine Carter then presented what, in fact, was her last and entirely satisfactory and pleasing set of annual accounts which will also be published in the Summer Newsletter but are attached to the original set of AGM minutes. The main points were that, at the year end, the accounts currently showed a balance of £1168.00, which is about £1000.00 less than last year. Membership was very slightly down at 130. We have had some hefty expenses this current year notably hand mike and power point system for improved presentations by lecturers. Mike Powell then proposed acceptance of these accounts seconded by Glen Jamieson and they were accepted with one abstention. Christine offered a special thanks to John James for auditing the A/Cs this year. As Christine was retiring from the post of Treasurer Chairman Derek voiced the thanks of all the Society for the excellent way that Christine had handled our Accounts over the years and presented her with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Society with much appreciation. Lots of applause, Christine didn’t cry!
6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS and COMMITTEE 2008/2009

Committee nominations: Secretary Ken Griffiths. Proposed by Christine Carter seconded by Pam Miles voted in unanimously as nobody else seemed to have a burning ambition to arrest the job from Ken! Committee Colin Carter, Mike Powell, Glen Jamieson, Roger Russell and Pam Miles. Proposed by Dave Walters Seconded by Graham Smith. As there were no further nominations the proposed new committee was elected en bloc.

Election of new Treasurer. John James who wasn’t present, which is always a bad move at an AGM, was then proposed by Colin Carter seconded by Leo Palmer as our new Treasurer the nomination was accepted with unanimous acclaim. Somebody had best tell John!

Vice Chairman, Ken Griffiths, then very briefly took the chair and Dr Derek Copley proposed by Pam Miles and seconded by Monica Lucas was then re-elected as Chairman with as usual great acclamation, lots of clapping and unopposed.

The revised rules of the Society then demanded that we elect our President for the year and it was to everybody’s delight that Keith Andrew was re-elected our President along with Graham Smith and Allan Burdis as Life Vice Presidents. proposed by Mike Powell, seconded by Colin Carter and, not surprisingly, everybody voted in unanimous favour.

Christine Carter was then elected unanimously as Hon Auditor having been proposed by Eddie Kirkwood Lowe and seconded by George Lucas.

Ken Griffiths adopting his normal humble pose was then re-elected as Vice Chairman for the year, proposed by Glen Jamieson and seconded by Roger Russell.

7. AWARD OF POINTS COMPETITION CUPS.

Derek thanked all the judges and in particular organiser, Glen Jamieson, for all the hard work that they had put in over the year in making our monthly points competition so enjoyable.


Christine got the little cup, a big cheque for £20.00 and a huge clap.

Experienced Class: 1st Mike Powell 2nd Colin Carter 3rd Derek Copley.

Mike yet again gratefully received a cheque this time for £20.00 and the appreciation of all present by getting a big clap.

8. A. O. B.

Drena Forrester then made the comment that she had found that clear glass bowls had proved for her to be very good for Phalaenopsis growing and, if enough were ordered, Haskins Garden Centre would be prepared to supply at discounted prices.

Colin Carter then commented that they seemed to be prone to a lot of algae growth (the pots not Haskins!)

As there was no other appropriate business the A.G.M. finished at 19.57 hrs.

Ken Griffiths Hon Sec.
I t is sometime in November, 2007 and the Show Committee is meeting in solemn conclave. The purpose- to choose a theme for the Peterborough International Orchid Show 2008, with the aim of retaining the Best Society Display trophy won the previous summer. A space of 12' x 8' with power has been booked and confirmed. After much discussion a theme is chosen - ‘A Forest Glade’. Details are roughed out. We will need two dead ‘trees’, mossy logs, a pool with moving water, tree ferns moss, leaves, stones and bark. The meeting finishes, a generous quantity of coffee and cake are consumed and the meeting breaks happily up.

It is a Sunday in April 2008. The Show Committee is meeting again, in a member’s garden. The purpose - to select the dead trees. Suitable branches are selected from a gnarled old apple tree are neatly removed. Judicious pruning cuts them to shape. We have our trees. Lots of coffee and biscuits are consumed and the meeting breaks happily up.

It is early in June 12. The van is being loaded. The previous afternoon it was collected and loaded with the hard landscaping. The trees (one now sporting a concrete base) bark, moss, leaves, staging, drapes and everything needed to make the bones of the display have already been loaded and tied carefully into place. Now the most important items are being loaded - the members’ many excellent plants. This takes about an hour and a half. At last everything is packed, tied, wedged and slotted into place and we are leaving -fifteen minutes early.

Four hours later we have arrived at the East Midlands Showground and are parking outside the orchid tent. The orchid tent is quiet. Another member arrives shortly after. Pinching extra tables, we quickly unload the van - orchids, then the equipment. First we level the tables and erect the backdrop. The pond is set up the pump installed and the trees placed. Water is added, stones disguise the pump and shape the pond. The pump is tested and works fine. The tree ferns and other background plants are placed. A thick layer of bark is added. After four hours of hard, steady work we have completed the bones of our display. We leave the showground and repair to a local hostelry for refreshment.

The next day, Friday 13th, we start work on the meat of the display- placing the plants. The orchid tent is now a hive of activity. Everywhere people are setting up displays. We work steadily. Pots are buried in bark and covered in moss. Moss is glued to the tree and orchids are hung in the branches. On the rest of the display large orchids are placed first small ones later. Great thought is given to colour, shape and lines of sight. Every orchid has to be seen to best affect, but everything must be in harmony. When it is complete the whole display will be greater than the sum of its parts. Every plant will stand out, but each will support and complement its neighbours. No plant will stand alone. At one pm we hit a snag. The show secretary has forgotten to pack the sign! Consternation ensues. A sign must be written... and the sign writer is not here! Eventually he arrives a hour and a half late - there has been the traditional motorway hold-up and he is immediately dispatched to buy sign writing materials. On return he sets to work. Other committee members arrive and join in the fun. Everywhere people are labeling, mossing, staking and pimping plants. People are getting tired. It is now 5pm. It has taken nine hours, but the display is now complete. A cake is produced and eagerly consumed.

Everyone is turfed out of the orchid tent so that judging can take place. Everyone staggers back to their digs to recover. Later there is a fairly noisy meal as we all relax. How will we have done? What will the judges think of our display?
Next day is Saturday 14th. We all pile into the tent. We have won a Gold Medal, two firsts and a second and two cultural awards. We have done good, but have we done great? We must contain our impatience and wait until 11 o'clock. We wait. We go to the admin area. The results are read out. We have won a trophy for best species, a superb Eulophia guineensis. Much noise. The award for best Society display is announced. The winner is... East Midlands Orchid Society. Much disappointed muttering in the ranks, but we congratulate the winners nonetheless. We are not (really) bad losers. We are disappointed, but we have a gold medal, one of only three awarded, We also have a trophy. The Eulophia is put up for an award, and the hapless member, who has come up by coach with other members to view the display, is seized and frogmarched to the RHS tent and made to give his details. We all disperse to enjoy the show and indulge in some orchid retail therapy. At day’s end we retire to a local hostelry for solid and liquid refreshment.

The next day is Sunday 15th. We return to the orchid tent. Our display has been much admired. There are queries from other societies about our labels. Which computer program do we use? We explain they are handwritten. They are mightily impressed. The Show Secretary spends the morning going round the tent distributing leaflets about our 50th Anniversary Show to traders and societies. A lot of interest is shown. After three hours of constant movement the show Secretary is feeling dizzy and has to sit down. Other members are haggling like mad with all and sundry.

The afternoon draws on. People collect their purchases together. Some people have bought a lot of plants. At 5.00pm the Show closes. Swiftly but carefully the display, which has taken a day and a half to erect, is taken apart and loaded into the van. In a hour and a half there is nothing left in the tent. We thank one another, and set off for home. The journey back is uneventful. By 10.30 pm everyone is home. Another show is over.

FOOTNOTE:

This report aims to show the hard work and time it takes to put on a display. Although we did not do as well as we had hoped we did well. The Society did itself justice. A Gold medal is the least we should aim for. Congratulations to Roger Russell for his award winning Eulophia which received a CCC/RHS. Our tally of rosettes and cultural awards reflect the quality of our members’ plants. I should like to thank the following people who expended so much time and care on the display, and without whom our success would not have been possible: Allan Burdis, Colin and Christine Carter, Graham Smith (who excelled himself in producing a brilliant society sign at short notice), Ken Griffiths, Pam Miles and Derek Copley. Thanks finally to all those members who donated plants, without which there would have been no display.

Mike Powell
Show Secretary

Photo by Roger Russell
Having been introduced to the wonders of Odontoglossums by our President Keith Andrew I decided to look around for some Odont. species. I looked at a few books with some nice photographs and ordered some plants.

One photograph which really struck me as a spectacular flower was of *Otoglossum brevifolium* (used to be Odontoglossum). The petals and sepals were of a gorgeous chestnut reddish brown with a golden yellow lip but what made it really stand out was a very thin picotee edge of golden yellow to the petals and sepals. I could not understand why nobody seemed to be growing this plant and looking at the catalogue it was very reasonably priced.

This is the “look before you leap” part because as soon as the plant arrived I noticed it was very different to the other Odonts. In that there was about a four inch (10 cm) length of rhizome between each pseudo bulb apart from the fact that the leaves were totally different. Was this the right plant? Upon further investigation, yes it was the correct plant and yes that was how it grew. So how to get it into a pot? Well it is really impossible (probably why nobody grew it!).

Actually in between ordering the plant and receiving it I had been lucky enough to be part of a group of orchid enthusiasts which went on a trip to Ecuador. I had enquired about the cultivation of *Oto. brevifolium* and our guide had pointed out some plants to me (not in flower). It grows in montane rain forest areas from about 1000m to 3000m so it grows cool to intermediate on hillsides of thick clay at forest edges which are covered with small trees and shrubs and leaf litter. Therefore the roots cannot penetrate the clay and run over the surface beneath the leaf litter, the leaves are short and broad as they grow in almost complete shade but have moisture all year round (ideal for my watering regime!).

Roger Russell

*Otoglossum brevifolium*
I had the plant in my hand and the only thing I could think of was to put it in a seed tray so that it could ‘roam’ to some extent. I suppose it could climb a moss pole but it would have to be perpetually wet and very strong as it is not a delicate thing. I decided to line the tray with coconut husk chippings (as they do hold moisture and are not supposed to rot as quickly as Bark) to a depth of about 1 ½ “ (5cm), then placed the plant on these whilst covering the lot with damp sphagnum moss. Eventually the moss turned green and the plant showed signs of growth (in the right direction) until early this year I excitedly noticed a flower spike appearing, just as the leader was having ideas of trying to escape the tray. Now towards the later half of May I now have a fully open spike of eighteen rather lovely flowers.
For the garden horticulturist, there are a million ways to defeat slugs, ranging from the lethal blue pellets to the more humane way to die—alcohol poisoning through the use of beer. Waste of good beer I say. And not all that humane—they die anyway!

The same is true of orchid pests—we all have our own pet remedies, which we say will guarantee bug-free days for all of us. And we have all heard the horror stories about that super-intelligent slugs, which knows precisely which favourite flower spike we are going to put on the show bench. And ‘chomp!’ it’s gone until next season, when, of course, it will not be open in time or it will have ‘gone over’ on the day of the meeting. C’est la vie, as the French put it so well.

Slugs, as we know, are wonderful trapeze artists and can climb the walls of the greenhouse, along wires and down the next wall to the plant it has decided to attack. Or do they simply walk to a position directly above the plant and drop down to it from a dizzy height? They are not very aerodynamic creatures so would not exactly glide down. More of a ‘plop’ or ‘thud’ would be the result.

There are some repotting and watering regimes which are recommended. For example, in repotting, I use 1.5 cm of Hortag, then some slug pellets, followed by compost, and then a final sprinkling of slug pellets on the surface, as recommended by Keith Andrew, I think. I have no idea if this works, but maybe I do have fewer eaten roots. What does eat live roots, by the way? Hatched out larvae of moss flies, or spring tails? I am told that the larvae only eat dead roots. Well whatever eats mine, it leaves the dead ones alone and goes for the live ones. Much tastier. Where was I before I digressed? Oh yes, slugs and snails. Every so often I water all my plants with a double strength Sluggit, plus an insecticide (whose name I dare not mention in print, but it begins with M). Why all the secrecy about the M word? Well, in my work as a peacemaker in Soviet Central Asia I write and speak in code anyway, since the Mafia, Secret Police, and the KGB are always on my tail. Generally, by the time they have found where I am, I am back on the plane again. Well apart from a few exceptions, when I have been kidnapped and arrested. It is supposed, that when the moisture content in the pot gets low, the essential anti-slug ingredient dries out and it becomes potent against slugs. So you don’t water it for a few days. Keith Andrew discovered one day that watering his moisture retaining material on the benches and also the pots themselves, with an insecticide, the springtails simply popped up to the surface in droves. I have seen him do it.

I have fewer moss flies this year, but they may yet still emerge with the warmer weather. But keeping sticky yellow papers and replacing them twice a year does catch quite a lot. And they are humane too, like beer—no chemicals involved. Humane? A bit of a misnomer if you ask me because they still die, but not from chemicals. Is that humane? It must be! But it is quite satisfying to see a mass of black bodies trapped in the yellow goo. But be careful when moving about the greenhouse, especially if you are lucky enough to have some hair left—it is a beastly experience to get your hair detached from the goo, and quite painful. Fluffy sweaters or jumpers can be a nuisance too, leaving very hairy papers. But it is all well worth the effort.

I have just realised that this will not be published until the summer. I should have written it for the Spring edition of Top Orchid. However, I hope it has amused you and maybe given you some useful tips to live by. Bye for now.
At the June meeting I was surprised and pleased to be asked to help judge the points competition table, I think they were short of their usual judges and I was available. Among the many lovely plants on the table was a striking plant of **Odontoglossum harryanum** owned by Roger Russell which, I thought, was a particularly striking clone, with an unusual coloured lip and our chairman, Derek Copley, was also impressed, who, incidentally, is establishing an important collection of Odont. species. On a subsequent trawl of the Web I was unable to locate a better example. This species comes from Colombia and Peru and it was while on an orchid ‘safari’ in Peru that Roger spotted this plant.

He was at the nursery of Ecuagenera who invited everyone there to look anywhere and choose plants to buy. Not surprisingly Roger asked to go into the Odontoglossum house, which, as he explained, was just a shade house. While there he spotted two plants of this species, both slightly different, and could not make up his mind which to pick and consulted other members of the party as to which was best, some of whom were BOC and RHS judges, but as Roger explained, they were non-committal. I would have thought being in the company of so many learned orchid people would have resulted in a more positive response. Perhaps they thought both plants were of equal value or Odontoglossums was not their speciality!

After receiving his plant he now wishes he purchased both, but isn’t that always the case. With Roger’s superb growing it should be even better next time it flowers and maybe he can get it put before the RHS Orchid Committee who, hopefully, would have brushed up on their Odonts!

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**Odontoglossum Harryanum**

Allan Burdis
It was with great sadness we heard of the death of Owen Ivamy on 17th May 2008.

Owen, and his wife Gwen have been Bournemouth Orchid Society members for several years. They became interested in orchids many years ago when they visited a Spring Show held in St. George’s Church Hall, Boscombe and soon after joined the society.

Gwen met Owen at Bournemouth ice rink in Westover Road, he worked as a postman and Gwen worked in Bealesons the department store. Gwen from Christchurch and Owen from Poole married on the 6th September 1952, almost 56 years.

Together, they revitalised the Tombola at the Spring and Autumn shows, making it an attractive and profitable addition to those events. They have a Son, Daughter and three grandchildren, one of 2½ years who keeps Gwen very busy.

Owen will be sadly missed by many people.
Christmas Dinner 2008
Saturday 13th December
12.30 for 1.00
New venue
Marsham Court Hotel
Russell Cotes Road
Eastcliff
Bournemouth
It’s not too early
to make a note in your diary!

SPEAKERS AT FUTURE MEETINGS

October
At our meeting on the 31st October we have invited Andy Philips to give us a talk on “Phragmipediums”.
Andy is arguably the top grower of Phrags. in the south of England and consequently has an extensive collection, which he has also photographed and will be sharing with us. Andy is an excellent speaker with a little humour added so even if Phragmipediums are not your cup of tea it will be a most enjoyable evening and one not to miss.
Andy’s other passion is glass engraving and although he cannot bring many examples he will bring a few for sale for those who like to do their Christmas shopping early. They usually have an orchid motif but you can always commission a design of your own.

November
Roger Bowden from Somerset is our speaker on the 28th November and his subject will be “Starting from Scratch”. Roger’s talk should appeal to both experienced growers and the not quite so experienced. He will be covering where and how, as well as, what to grow in or on. So that you can gain from his advice he will also be selling a range of accessories. This is yet another evening to tick off in your diary.
Of course the sale may be quite useful to the later Christmas shoppers too.

Roger Russell (Programme Secretary)
Life President               Keith Andrew Esq.

Life Vice - Presidents       Graham Smith & Allan Burdis

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