# Programme

**2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 27 Sept</td>
<td>Autumn Show</td>
<td>Allendale Centre, Wimborne Minster, BH21 1AS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 31 Oct</td>
<td>Daniel &amp; Joanne Denness</td>
<td>Hardy &amp; Unusual Species of Orchids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 28 Nov</td>
<td>Malcolm Perry</td>
<td>Orchids of the Nilgiri Hills (Western Gap in India)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sat 6 Dec</strong></td>
<td><strong>Christmas Lunch</strong></td>
<td>Days Hotel 1 pm BH1 3AB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 30 Jan</td>
<td>Lawrence Hobbs</td>
<td>My Favourite Orchids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sat 28 Feb</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring Show</strong></td>
<td>Allendale Centre, Wimborne Minster, BH21 1AS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 27 March</td>
<td>Max Hopkinson</td>
<td>Catasetums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 12 Apr</td>
<td>Coach Outing</td>
<td>17th European Orchid Council Conference RHS London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24 Apr</td>
<td>Plant Clinic</td>
<td>Your Cultural Questions Answered (Bring your problem plants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29 May</td>
<td>A.G.M</td>
<td>Including Plant Auction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 19 June</td>
<td>Trey Sanders</td>
<td>Dendrochilums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 19 July</td>
<td>Garden Party</td>
<td>Hosted by Graham &amp; Pat Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lynmoor Farm, Newman’s Lane, West Moors, Dorset BH22 0LW 2.30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 28 Aug</td>
<td>Geoff Hands</td>
<td>Breaking the Rules (Hydroponics for Orchids)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sat 26 Sept</strong></td>
<td><strong>Autumn Show</strong></td>
<td>Allendale Centre, Wimborne Minster, BH21 1AS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Members may sell plants ONLY at these meetings

Front Cover: *Dendrobium kingianum* ‘Berry Oda’

All photographs and artwork by Allan Burdis unless otherwise stated.

All photographs and articles are the copyright of the Bournemouth Orchid Society and their authors, and should not be reproduced without permission.

Bournemouth Orchid Society does not endorse any products mentioned in this publication.

Use chemicals with care:
Always read the label and use only as directed. Dispose of chemical solutions and containers safely. Store chemicals in cool dry conditions away from sunlight. Keep chemicals out of reach from children and pets.
Thrips seems to be the problem greenhouse pest these days, and continuing on from the article in the Autumn/Winter edition by John Dennis, Geoff Hands gives his recent experiences with this bug.

With fewer insecticides and fungicides available to the hobby grower controlling pests and diseases is becoming a big problem; so any information in this area will be a great help.

The biggest difficulty is the ability to spot and identify problems when they occur, and I have never been troubled with thrips, or so I thought. But after reading both articles I noticed similar symptoms, as described, on a Phragmipedium leaf and am now keeping a close eye on the situation. I will try some of the remedies mentioned as a precaution and see how things go. At the moment, this is the only plant showing any symptoms, but I will keep a look out for the possibility of it spreading.

Reading articles like this is much like opening a medical book and believing you have all the symptoms of several illnesses described. Although it is better to be on your guard and, if in doubt, a wipe over with a soft cloth soaked in clean washing up water is better than doing nothing. (See pages 2-5).

We have several members who are regular contributors to Top Orchid and, not least among them is Roger Russell. He has been giving much thought to the subject of orchid roots, a subject some might feel a bit boring, but there is much here of great value, and understanding what goes on in the pot, will go a long way to having great things going on above. (See pages 12-14)

At last, after several months work, we now have updated versions of the Member’s Handbook and Cultural Guide.

The Member’s Handbook is available to all members free of charge. This was always given to new members on joining the society, but it had become so out of date it was not deemed appropriate. This contains useful information such as the rules of the Society and Monthly Points Competition; both of which should be read and noted for future reference.

The Cultural Guide has also had a makeover, with some articles updated and most photos replaced with new ones. A new feature on repotting orchids replaces an outdated article. Hopefully, this will prove popular with society members and the general public, and is offered at a very reasonable price to everyone. These sold like hot cakes at the spring show and were soon sold out. Copies are available from the BOS secretary, Ken Griffiths, priced at £3.

Allan Burdis
Towards the end of 2013 I started growing Cymbidiums again. At first all went well; by mid-summer 2014 the new growths were looking good to me. But soon I started to see rows of spots appearing along the leaves (Fig 1) - punctures by some sap sucking insect. In the course of my orchid life I had never seen anything like this. Careful examination failed to reveal the actual pests themselves. Generally speaking sap-suckers are slow-moving things which hang about for their entire life- e.g. scale, and mealy bug. These things, whatever they were, did not. I could not, at that stage of my knowledge and understanding, see any other damage on any other orchids in the greenhouse, so I asked the Cymbidium specialists at Lewes for advice, and got the answer that I had got thrips.

I sprayed everything twice with Provado at the recommended two week interval, and sat back. But then, it all happened again. Could the advice have been correct? The acceptable answer agreed with the first advice; thrips. “Oh, and by the way, by the time you see the damage they have gone (!) but they come back - they are hard to kill” (they said). So assuming that they were resistant to Provado, which was my (wrong) interpretation of “hard to kill”, and over the course of ensuing months, I tried alternatives; wiping down both surfaces of all the leaves using balls of cotton wool dipped in Bug-off; spraying with Neem-oil solution, and a biological solution, using Neoseiulus (=Amblyseius) cucumeris ) which is a predatory mite effective, so they say, against thrips. The mites emerge from nest packs, over a month or so; at the start of that month I went through the Cymbidiums labeling all those so far undamaged with a yellow label; a week or so after the cucumeris should have all emerged and done their work I checked again - alas, many yellow labeled plants now were damaged.

I read up on thrips - a lot of different stuff available on the Internet; now I understand that there is a stage when the insects are in the compost, or even in the soil below the bench, not feeding, just undergoing some stages in their development, in the same way that a caterpillar turns into a chrysalis, before the butterfly emerges to lay more eggs and start a new cycle. So I filled a bath with an insecticide, and submerged every pot, in turn, soaking for minutes, in the hope of killing everything in the compost. But a few weeks later, new growths showed damage. I read some more, and realised another problem; that all the pictures of thrips damage I saw on the Internet,
bore no resemblance at all to what I was seeing. They go first for Cattleya flowers? Really? I had a series of Cattleyas open all throughout the summer, and never had a damaged flower; there is a typical silvered surface to damaged leaves - not on my plants. And so on. Further cause to (mistakenly) doubt the diagnosis.

Hmm… I took a plant to our Autumn Show, left it in the car- so as to avoid any risk of contaminating your plants (!) and got several members and trade growers to come and look - they all nodded their heads wisely, and said - “ah yes, thrips- very difficult to get rid of…..”

I thought of consulting an entomologist e.g. at The British Museum, but ended up simply reading more and more about thrips, as a D-I-Y measure. The vital points I found include that there are nearly as many species of thrips (19000) as there are of orchids. They are all sizes from one or two mm long at the most, up to 20 mm. All the orchid sites seem to assume that if I have thrips it “must be” Western Thrips, Frankliniella occidentalis. It is plain to me that with 19000 species to go on, almost a thousand of them common in Europe, that “must” is an over-simplification. And remedies for Western thrips may easily be useless for “my” thrips, hence cucumeris, predatory on only half a dozen species, stands 6 chances in 19000 of working! But the next thing I realised is that many of the smaller thrips, in my greenhouse temperatures, maybe even in my winter temperatures in these days of global warming have a life cycle which includes feeding for only a matter of a few days - and it is only on those days they can be killed by a contact spray, apart from the few hours when the adults fly and lay their eggs. By the way, they are all females (parthenogenic - males not required!) it is therefore possible to examine plants once a week, always see fresh damage, but never see the thrips; they appear after I have gone, and have gone before I look again! Consequently, spraying every 2 weeks stands only a chance of culling those which happen to be present, but no chance of eliminating them.

I did, by the way, eventually find adults - they showed up well as (very) little black things, on the almost open buds of a yellow flowered Cymbidium.

I also found a different form of damage, easily attributable to this pest, when a Japanese hybrid cymbidium, with seven spikes, which I was watching and urging along to be ready for our Christmas meeting, suddenly had one spike after another wither and shrivel; the flowers which did open, after my spraying, were blotched - (Fig 2).
Then I found it on Oncidium leaves - (Fig 3), much smaller spots, due no doubt to the different leaf characteristics. The typical “bulls-eye” is due to cells having been sucked dry, and cell size is dependent on genera, maybe even species, hence the appearance of the damage differs in the same way. It is much less obvious in a thin-leafed Oncidium, because the leaves don’t stand up in the same way, but I believe it is the same thing.

I have not mentioned glue traps (Fig 4). I have always used them routinely in my greenhouses, but not methodically. I have only removed and replaced them for aesthetic reasons when they are unsightly with all the little black flying things caught - which makes me wonder whether I have had this problem for a long time and it took the obvious damage on cymbidium leaves to bring it to my attention. Glue traps do catch flying insects, but are reckoned incapable of catching everything.

Now the war against thrips is being fought scientifically. I have assembled 4 different kinds of insecticides - more than one of each kind in fact. First contact poisons, pyrethrins or permethrin for example (you will need good eyes to read the labels sufficiently closely to discover mention of what they actually contain) but essentially a different chemical after two sprayings with each kind; second, systemic insecticides like Provado (thiocloprids) or Bug-off; third, horticultural soaps or oil types which kill by denying oxygen e.g. Savona, Resolva, etc; and fourthly ones designed to be used on the compost - like Provado or Bug-off Vine weevil killer - preferably systemic ones, as both of these are.
The Vine Weevil killer version is more effective than the other version when used as a soil drench, I am told by the manufacturers. I intend to use each of the four in turn, with two applications of each at 3-4 day intervals and after a month of this, put out fresh glue traps, which I now date; hence by putting out fresh clean ones at the end of a cycle of spraying and dipping, I can see what the catch rate is, and decide whether to ring the bell to start round 2, or sit back and wait.

With all the spraying, proper personal protection is an essential. I wear a disposable face mask, goggles, rubber gloves and a waterproof coat too. (Fig 5).

For the plants, all the spraying means that crown rot is a worry, so I spray at first light, and then turn the stat up for the rest of the day to help dry the plants. Hardly any other watering is done, during this campaign, in the winter months.

Will the war be won?

I started a version of this piece in late November, and finished it in early January when the first new growths on my cymbidiums are some 6 inches high; all clean so far, keep fingers crossed, watch this space…whilst I watch my glue traps too!
How often these days do you sit at your desk trying to concentrate on your monthly accounts or how much one of your kids want merely to survive the next visit to the student pub etc etc and the phone goes. Your blood sugars are low and it’s a cold caller trying to get you to do yet another survey and you tell them, in the politest terms, to go to another place even if the conversation gets that far?? Well it came to pass one Wednesday afternoon in June last year when it happened to me and, as I was about to launch into my normal disinterested spiel about how important I was and not to waste my precious time trying to flog me something that I clearly did not want the, not unattractive sounding girl on the line, Claire Crofton, mentioned that she was calling from the BBC.

This kind of grabbed my cynical attention and before I had a chance to click the delete button, she wondered whether we, that is Bournemouth Orchid Society, might be interested in organising and hosting a recording of Radio 4’s Gardeners Question Time? Well it took me about a nano second and having a lifelong passion for publicity, good or bad, and an eye to a profit, immediately, subject to Committee approval, said we would love to do it. She sounded delighted, explained that she would send us all the appropriate paperwork and contracts for our perusal and approval and that was that. I duly brought this to Committee and with a great deal of excitement and unanimous approval the deal was sealed. There then followed a period of worrying non communication from the Beeb but eventually they contacted me again with details of local venues which they had previously sound checked and carefully chosen for suitable size, car parking etc. I wanted to have the Life Centre in Moordown as a venue because it holds up to a thousand people but got refused as it had not been sound checked and they were not prepared to do that as it would cost more lolly (good decision as it happens as it would have been too big). So we eventually agreed to hold it at the Community Centre at Pelhams, Kinson which turned out to be an excellent venue in all aspects and in particular the friendliness and assistance of the staff there. Contracts got signed and so we were committed and agreed the date of the recording which are always on a Monday evening, would be on November 24th to be broadcast on both 5th and 7th December.

A small committee was then formed which had only one full meeting at which various jobs were delegated. Terry Eve agreed to look after refreshments, Glen Jamieson was in charge of crowd control, Allan agreed to look after a Society display in the venue, Nick Fry oversaw Health and Safety and Risk Assessment and Derek, Mike Powell and Graham Smith generally helped out with Chris Broomfield in setting out the Chairs and general preparation.
I was the Chairperson of this fine gang of very experienced stalwarts and was also in charge of general arrangement and ticket sales. Mary Pharoah, Diane Blackham and Nuala Sterling kindly offered their professional assistance (thankfully not required in the event) as first aiders. Well the tickets did not at £4.50 (max we were allowed to charge) exactly fly off the shelves but of the 193 available, 187 got sold so we were very pleased with that and a very useful profit was made for the Society funds (PS everybody had to pay for a ticket except of course the BBC staff and panel of experts). Costs involved the Hire of Hall and refreshment provision.

On the day the venue hall was prepared both by the BBC techs and volunteers from our society and all was ready, including Terry’s refreshment team, for the 6.30 pm kick off. And it all went brilliantly.

The panel was a very experienced one consisting of Matthew Biggs, Christine Walkden and Chris Beardshaw and very ably Chaired by Eric Robson. Howard Shannon was the producer who was very amusing during his warm up of what turned out to be a very enthusiastic audience whose applauding got specially recorded during the evening to make up for a less than satisfactory lot recorded in North Wales the week previously! The whole of the BBC team, I thought, were very friendly, thoroughly professional and experienced.

Further, three of our own members out of ten required were lucky enough to have questions selected for consideration by the panel, and all plugged our Society forcibly for publicity purposes. Derek had a problem with something chewing his vegetables (probably cabbage white caterpillars) while vehemently denying the presence of slugs in his garden. Dave Longman asked a specific question about favourite orchids which only managed to demonstrate how specialised we, as orchid growers, are about our hobby and how little the so called experts know about them and Ken Griffiths, who had a problem with his Magnolia Grandiflora, turned out to be having an intimate relationship with an adjacent bamboo and was also told to ‘Get a Life’. Alan Sapsard hasn’t stopped reminding him of that since, and neither have a load of his non gardening mates who Ken had flogged tickets to and had come along purely out of curiosity (although I have to say they thoroughly enjoyed the evening). All our Society’s questions were subsequently broadcast. The general consensus was that it was a very enjoyable evening and experience for all who attended.

The BBC was very pleased with the entire event and it’s smooth operation, and Christine Walkden actually took the time to come down and look at our impressive display of member’s orchids; set up by Allan Burdis and Mike Powell.

The entire recording can still be heard on BBC 4 I player.

Thanks go to all members of the Society who were able to help in the organisation and to all of those who attended.
The Bournemouth display was much admired and many people had questions for the orchid society team.

The panel, left to right, Eric Robson chairman, Matthew Biggs, Christine Walkden and Chris Beardshaw.
More images of the GQT event
Daniel has 15 years of growing orchids, and had 300 plants before moving house. Having sold so many through EBay, he realised that for tax purposes he may have been receiving too much money. So they started the business by forming a nursery. His greenhouse is 6 metres long and has 12 metres of staging and houses 300 plants. A further 1000 grow in the garden and he is now looking for more land.

Composts
These are very different from those needed for epiphytes, and can include sphagnum moss and even peat.
Their roots like to attach themselves to chips of gravel underneath. Lime chips work well since their contents leach slowly upwards. So pots can be crocked with chalk. Coir is useful too, as it retains water-suitable only for plants that like it wet. Live moss is good because it retains moisture and has antiseptic/antibiotic qualities, though it also harbours pests. Dead moss is also fine.

He does not add chemical fertilisers but relies on natural mulches. For example dactylorhoizas can be mulched with lawn mowings, since at this time of year they are putting out roosts and growing ‘noses’ for Spring growth. His general mix contains John Innes number one, and materials like fine bark, Perlite, course sand, gravel and leaf mould. He sterilises composts using a cheap microwave. He also makes a calcareous mix, which seems to suit seedlings. In a bog garden it is essential to have fungus present, and the same is true of mixes for pots.

How do you define ‘hardy’?
Descriptions can be a minefield, as some, described as hardy are only hardy when they are kept dry. For example, in China the plant may be under 2 feet of snow, but the plant beneath the soil is dry. When buying an orchid it is best to find out the conditions where it normally grows, and the type of soil it is in. For example, does the plant need a period of dormancy?

What is available?
Not every plant can be bought. Why? The stringent and expensive CITES regulations (£72 per species to move them from one country to another) deters their importing. Even so, EBay is rife with illegal plants. And when buying plants, check the names. Some may be synonyms of others and you could end up with duplicates.
Some of the plants described by Daniel

The UK has 56 native species. Here are some described by Daniel.

The rarest one is *Cypripedium calceolus* (ladies slipper orchid). It exists on only one site. *Neottia ovata* flowers well in summer but is very slow to grow from seed. *Epipactis palustris* (marsh helleborine) can flower well even with its feet in water. It can easily grow to 5 feet and will tolerate any soil and likes sun or shade. The more the sun, the brighter the colour. But tortoises enjoy the leaves! *Spiranthes spiralis* is only 8” tall, so to view it, it is best to lie down. Badgers like its tubers though! To distract slugs he uses hostas as decoys. Garlic will deter slugs too. *Orchis anthropophora* (man orchid) is slow growing, but will form colonies. *Orchis simia* (monkey orchid) is very rare and only exists in 2 locations. It hates the wind as the leaves get desiccated.

*Platanthera bifolia* (lesser butterfly orchid) is interesting because there are 2 forms of it, each needed totally different conditions. In general, terrestrials will acclimatise if it is done slowly. *Gymnadenia conopsei* (common fragrant orchid) needs full sun to avoid going into decline. There are many types of Dactylorhizas (marsh orchid) and exist all over the UK, and will form large colonies.

*Himantoglossum hircinum* (lizard orchid) is one of Daniel’s favourites, though it does smell like warm goat. It requires only low nutrient levels. *Anacamptis laxiflora* (Jersey orchid) grows well in Wakehurst place. *Serapias lingua* (greater tongue orchid, for obvious reasons) comes to the UK as seed blown in from the Continent and has settled in Devon and Cornwall. It has tubers on tendrils. *Ophrys apifera* (bee orchid) has suffered badly from being stolen. It is called that because bees try to mate with it.

My overall impressions

Daniel is passionate about his terrestrials, as he is about other things too (like breeding stick insects). And is he young? (as Allan pointed out in his vote of thanks), unlike most of today’s ‘greats’, whom we see regularly on the orchid circuits. We need more younger men and I am glad that we are able to encourage several younger growers (not actual members of BOS) who have become associated with us in the past few years. Zoe Parfitt, for example, will be a speaker in the future, known to us through our connections with Writhlington School.
Is this the Root of the Problem?

Roger Russell

This is just talking about epiphytic orchids, not terrestrial or slipper type orchids as they do have different root systems. Now, just about everyone of us have had a favourite/rare treasured orchid plant die on us (as well as many others) and the most common cause of the demise is the plants lack of live roots. I have been reading some articles on this subject and thought I would put some of the information together into one, as it might help someone (me included) to keep some of their plants a little longer and maybe flower several times.

I know some people just switch off when they see scientific names like ‘epiphytic’ etc. but persevere, as they have to be called something (it just means ‘aerial’).

If we first have a look at the roots of ‘common’ plants as you find in most gardens, be it flower or vegetable, the basic root system is of an ever branching system. The ends of the smallest roots are covered in tiny ‘root-hairs’, only a few cells in diameter and they venture between soil particles seeking out water and air. These roots are also required to anchor the plant firmly in the soil and generally speaking the habitat of plants with fine roots is that of an open sandy type of soil whereas those preferring a clay type of soil are much thicker in order to be able to force their way into the thicker soil. A cross section of which can be seen in Fig. 1.

Cortex.
Consists of living cells which absorb both liquid and air which in turn is passed to the stele.

Stele.
Resembles a bundle of tube like cells which convey the nutrients up the roots and stem to the leaves.

If we pull up a ‘weed’ and leave it laying on the soil surface it will very quickly go limp, wither and dry out. The cortex being of living cells and once removed from moisture will collapse, dry and die, so the plant itself has no way of remaining turgid; once the roots are dry they are dead and cannot be revived, so the plant cannot survive.
The epiphytic orchid root differs in that the cortex is surrounded by a layer of dead cells called the velamen (cross-section see Fig. 2), these dead cells are large and have a thickened wall structure to stop them collapsing. The cells are empty apart from air which makes them appear silvery white when dry. The velamen is separated from the cortex by a layer of thick walled cells which are impermeable and so prevent the passage of water outwards but there are also some thin walled cells amongst them which are called passage cells and allow water to enter the cortex.

If you have managed to get through the previous, then the rest should become more obvious (with a bit of luck!).

The velamen is just like blotting paper, it cannot only absorb water directly but can become easily damp from water vapour in the air i.e. high humidity. It does not store water as it will dry out quickly but makes water available to the cortex as and when it can, which in turn is passed onto the pseudobulbs via the stele.

As the velamen is composed of dead cells you can see that if it is constantly wet then not only is air excluded but it is very likely to rot and leave the cortex with no protection. “Well, what about our illustrious president, Keith, who leaves some of his plants standing in water and with roots growing out into it too?” I hear you cry! Well I stand to be corrected but I believe that if the plants were to be in good open compost and the roots were in the top third of the pot when first stood in the water (up to the bottom third), then the growing tip (see Fig. 3) will extend into the water without the outer cells dying and becoming velamen. The secret is the openness of the compost allows plenty of air to the velamen in the top third of the pot. (I have no documentation or proof of this but is the only way I can see how it works).

What must be constantly remembered is that they are ‘aerial’ roots and need air, just putting polystyrene chips or crocks in the base of the pot is not good enough. Air must be available to the roots throughout the compost which is why bark chips are so popular. Bark kept damp does rot and with added nitrogen (in fertilizer) rots faster, then crumbles and fills the air pockets, which is why annual or at least biannual re-potting is highly recommended.
Using the smallest possible pot keeps the drying out time shorter and more natural to the epiphytic orchid plant. By using inert material like Rockwool there is no breakdown of the compost but care must be taken not to water too often and to allow it to dry, (which I find most difficult, I want to water!) as like using any compost over watering is not too much water but too little air.

Just to prove the point about ‘water roots, not shoots’ back in late spring of this year and under Keith’s instruction, I saved some of the old leafless pseudobulbs from some of my Odontoglossum type Oncidiums plus a few other orchids when re-potting and ended up with twenty ‘bulbs each placed in an empty pot together with a label (I usually just put them with all the old compost and roots on the compost heap). After about three months ten of the twenty had produced a shoot, nothing else in the pot. They were left un-watered, with no moss or bark until roots appeared and when the roots were over 1cm long I then potted them up with some damp moss and started the water and feed routine. It just proved that without roots the shoot grew using water and food from the ‘bulb until it produced its own root system.

I have taken to using Rockwool cubes for most of my orchids but mix a little ‘sponge rock’ (large Perlite) mixed in, hoping to create and maintain some air pockets as I do think the cubes do get compressed together over time.

If you tip out a plant from its pot (one should do this from time to time to see if you have any roots on your plant and to see what is happening inside the pot) it is quite usual to see the roots winding around the pot edge, this is normally if the centre remains wet and with no air. To combat this I am trying out an idea on a few plants, extending a theme used by some phalaenopsis pot manufacturers. The pots available protrude from the base about half an inch (or if you like 150mm) which I think is not enough.

Pam doesn’t always read the ‘Top Orchid’ but fingers crossed, here goes; I raided my wife’s ‘curler bag’ and removed some ‘unwanted’ plastic curlers which have a fine mesh enclosing them. When cut to a length equating to a third of the required pot height and inserted centrally over two small holes drilled into the pot base, a small piece of horticultural ‘fleece’ covers the top of the curler and the pot is then carefully filled with the favourite compost and the plant included (see Fig. 4). I am hoping my (wife’s) curlers may alleviate the problem [you may have fun getting hold of some. I have only recently started trying this so I cannot say how wonderful it is (or not) as yet.

Photo and artwork by Roger Russell
Making a welcome return in November 2014 to the Society was Malcolm Perry. His last talk a year ago was on his much-loved Bulbophyllums and he freely admitted to being a bit of a maverick, which allows him to experiment with orchid cultivation. Anyway, this time he described a two-week stay that he and his wife had in the Nilgiri Hills.

The Nilgiri Hills (1) are a mountainous region of the Tamil Nadu state in south-eastern India. The peaks of the Nilgiri rise abruptly from the surrounding plains to elevations of about 1,800 to 2,400 metres. They are considerably cooler and wetter than the surrounding plains and the upper hills form undulating grassy downs. Tea, as well as cinchona (whose bark yields quinine), coffee and vegetables are grown extensively. However, it was initially to a tea plantation in Chamraj (2) that Malcolm was invited to stay by his friend Tony in a very British-looking dwelling surrounded by lawns and some non-native trees that acted as windbreaks.

Malcolm was there in March during their dry season, which is from December until April/May. He was hoping to see some Coelogynes there, but the area is mostly tea plantations now.

Due to the altitude (Chamraj is at 2,000 metres) it can get very cold during January and February – around -6°C. March is an ideal time as the temperature is at 21°C during the day and drops to 10°C at night. Also, there is 0% humidity and no insects – the latter was very much appreciated by Malcolm’s wife who suffers from allergies to many insect bites! It was also a good time to see an example of *Paphiopedilum druryi*,(3) which is endemic to the area. It is also the only southern Indian orchid species in the genus.
Malcolm mentioned that you never see places selling orchids over there and, in fact, many people tend to grow Phalaenopsis for themselves at home. We were also shown a photo of a Nilgiri Tahr (4), which Malcolm aptly described as an ugly goat! It is in fact known locally as the Nilgiri Ibex or simply Ibex, although it is more closely related to a sheep than an Ibex.

We then saw several photos of Chamraj tea plantations – all the tea is picked by hand by ladies taking the top two leaves and the bud from each plant.

Next was a photograph of the Shola forest interspersed in valleys among the high altitude grasslands. This consists of stunted trees, caused by the local climatic conditions.

We also saw a photo of a local Macaque monkey, which is somewhat of a local nuisance as it removes the tiles from the roofs of houses to gain entry and steal things!

Malcolm commented that the foothills are quite warm environments that suit Vandas very well. The daytime temperature gets up to 90°F (32.2°C) – too hot for comfort! However, he saw some nice Dendrobiums, such as Dendrobium barbatulum, even at these intermediate altitudes of 2,000 metres or so, together with a fine selection of Bulbophyllums, including Bulbophyllum macrobulbon, a Vanda tessellate, a Catatonia and a Coelogyne mossiae (5).

Next up was a lovely photo of Bulbophyllum nilgherrense, otherwise known as The Nilgiri Mountain Bulbophyllum. This was followed by Bulbophyllum fimbriatum, a white Habenaria and a Disperis.

The next stop on Malcolm’s adventure was Korakundah at an altitude of about 2,400 metres and another British-looking house complete with a tennis court, where we were reliably informed that a tiger often sleeps! Again, non-native trees were planted as windbreaks around the house. In this area, workers are given satellite dishes by the Indian government, as well as gas cylinders, so that they don’t collect local wood for fuel. We were shown a photograph of elephants and some cows who, given the scarcity of grass at this altitude, have taken a liking to nibbling tea!

Moving up to really high altitudes in the Shola forests, we saw photos of tiny Coelogyne odoratissima (6), an Aerides ringens (7) and also a Oberonia brunoniana (8) which has rather strange flower spikes and a not particularly spectacular flower.
For a change of scene, Malcolm showed us a picture of a Nilgiri black langur monkey, which is about 5 feet tall with a 5 feet long tail! Also shown were the beautiful Nilgiri flycatcher (9) and black and tan flycatcher birds, together with a bit rather more scary leopard, although Malcolm informed us that while tigers will attack you, leopards won’t. However, the gaur (10), or Indian bison, that lurks there is known to kill more people than tigers! At these altitudes, *Calanthe triplicata* is very prolific and covers trees with its fantastic white flowers.

Finally, Malcolm showed us more pictures of the lovely white *Coelogyne mossiae* (5) with its yellow lip, together with *Coelogyne nervosa* (11). Concluding the fascinating talk, Malcolm showed us a photo of a real tiger just to keep us on our toes! Nick Fry then gave the Vote of Thanks and we were all left looking forward to Malcolm’s next visit to the Society, which he has promised us.

Additional orchids shown by Malcolm:- *Satyrium nepaplense* (12) & *Calanthe perritetii* (13)

Photos (5, 8, 12, 13) by Dr. A Hoare; Photo (9) by N.A Naseer; Photo (11) by Kalyan Varma All other photos by Malcolm Perry
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>AWARD WINNERS</th>
<th>PLANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THE PRESIDENT’S SHIELD</td>
<td>BEST IN SHOW</td>
<td>ALAN SAPSARD Papilioanthe teres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIES CUP</td>
<td>BEST SPECIES</td>
<td>ALAN SAPSARD Laelia anceps v. Williamsonianum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDITH EDGE CUP</td>
<td>BEST ONCIDIUM</td>
<td>ROGER FRAMPTON Oncostele Masai Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHALAENOPSIS CUP</td>
<td>BEST PHALAENOPSIS</td>
<td>LYNN SMITH Phalaenopsis hybrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PURBECK CUP</td>
<td>WINNER CLASS 13</td>
<td>MARIAN GRIMES Masdevallia Teipels ‘Mary Candy’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADGE MULES CUP</td>
<td>MOST POINTS</td>
<td>BRIAN GOULD 15 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOHNNY DYBALL AWARD</td>
<td>BEST MOUNTED ORCHID</td>
<td>ALAN SAPSARD Laelia anceps var wiliamsianum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONGRESS CUP</td>
<td>BEST GROUP OF THREE</td>
<td>BRIAN GOULD Cymbidium Kiri Te Kanawa ‘Maori Maid’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIMPLY CONTROL SHIELD</td>
<td>BEST HYBRID</td>
<td>BRIAN GOULD Cymbidium Kiri Te Kanawa ‘Maori Maid’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNIVERSARY CUP</td>
<td>BEST CYMBIDIUM</td>
<td>BRIAN GOULD Cymbidium erythraeum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROVES BOWL</td>
<td>BEST SLIPPER ORCHID</td>
<td>ALLAN BURDIS Paphiopedilum malipoense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAMPSHIRE CUP</td>
<td>BEST DENDROBIUM</td>
<td>NEVILLE ROBERTS Dendrobium X delicatum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILLENNIUM BOWL</td>
<td>BEST CATTLEYA/LAELIA</td>
<td>ALAN SAPSARD Laelia anceps var wiliamsianum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRANCES SIMMONS MEMORIAL CUP</td>
<td>BEST PLEUROTHALLID</td>
<td>JOHN DENNIS Masdevallia hybrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELIA HUDSON MEMORIAL CUP</td>
<td>BEST COELOGYNE</td>
<td>ALAN SAPSARD Coelogyne cristata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SINGAPORE CUP</td>
<td>BEST S.E. ASIAN ORCHID</td>
<td>ALAN SAPSARD Papilionanthe teres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESULTS BY CLASS

CLASS 1   CYMBIDIUM SPECIES OR HYBRID

1st Brian Gould  
*Cymbidium* Kiri Te Kanawa ‘Maori Maid’

2nd Geoff Hands  
Eastern Beauty ‘Karagibi’

3rd Terry Eve  
*Cymbidium* hybrid

CLASS 2   ONE SLIPPER ORCHID HYBRID

1st Alan Sapsard  
*Paphiopedilum* hybrid

2nd Brian Gould  
*Paphiopedilum* Ferox

3rd Mr G Hands  
*Paphiopedilum parishii*

CLASS 3   ONE SLIPPER ORCHID SPECIES

1st Mr A. Burdis  
*Paphiopedilum sukhalulii*

2nd Alan Sapsard  
*Phragmipedium* czerwiakowianum

3rd John Hilliard  
*Paphiopedilum* hybrid

CLASS 4   ONE Oncidium SPECIES OR HYBRID

1st Roger Frampton  
*Oncostele* Masai Red

2nd Geoff Hands  
*Brassia* Rex

3rd Brian Gould  
*Odontocidium* Margaret Holms

CLASS 5   ONE DENDROBIUM SPECIES OR HYBRID

1st Neville Roberts  
*Dendrobium x delicatum*

2nd Lynn Smith  
*Dendrobium* Star of Bethlehem

3rd John Dennis  
*Dendrobium Comet King*  
‘Akatsuki’

CLASS 6   ONE CATTLEYA/ LAELIA SPECIES OR HYBRID

1st Alan Sapsard  
*Laelia anceps*  
*var williamsonianum*

2nd Sally Mill  
*Encyclia adenocaula*  
*x Rhyncholaelia digbyana*

3rd Allan Burdis  
*Cattleya coccinea*

CLASS 7   ONE PHALAENOPSIS SPECIES OR HYBRID

1st Lynn Smith  
*Phalaenopsis* hybrid

2nd Pat Marshall  
*Phalaenopsis* hybrid

3rd John Dennis  
*Phalaenopsis* hybrid
### RESULTS BY CLASS  continued

#### CLASS 8  ONE ORCHID HYBRID NOT MENTIONED ABOVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Entrant</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Michael Powell</td>
<td><em>Stenorrhynchus speciosum</em> x <em>Sarcoglottis grandiflora</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>John Dennis</td>
<td><em>Masdevallia</em> hybrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Geoff Hands</td>
<td><em>Masdevallia</em> Southern Sun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### CLASS 9  ANY OTHER SPECIES NOT MENTIONED ABOVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Entrant</th>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sally Mill</td>
<td><em>Dinema polybulbon</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Michael Powell</td>
<td><em>Sarcoglottis</em> species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Allan Burdis</td>
<td><em>Leptotes bicolor</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### CLASS 10  THREE SPECIES ALL DIFFERENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Entrant</th>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Alan Sapsard</td>
<td><em>Leptotes bicolor</em> <em>Papilionanthe teres</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Coelogyne cristata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Allan Burdis</td>
<td><em>Cattleya coccinea</em> <em>Paphiopedilum tonsum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Paphiopedilum malipoense</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Mary Pharaoh</td>
<td><em>Aerangis fastuosa</em> <em>Dendrobium infundibulum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Dendrobium kingianum</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLASS 11  THREE HYBRIDS ALL DIFFERENT

1st Brian Gould  
*Cymbidium* Christmas Joy  
*Cymbidium* Devon Lord  
*Cymbidium* The President

2nd Geoff Hands  
*Cymbidium* Eastern Beauty  
*Cymbidium* King Arthur  
‘Imperial’  
*Cymbidium* Freckle

3rd Alan Sapsard  
*Paphiopedilum* Magic Lantern  
*Lycaste* Gladys Ejuri  
*Phalaenopsis* Little Decam

CLASS 12  GROUP OF THREE MIXED ORCHID SPECIES AND HYBRIDS

1st Brian Gould  
*Cymbidium* erythraeum  
*Cymbidium* Black Flame  
*Cymbidium* Merv Dunn  
x Patsy Bauman

2nd Geoff Hands  
*Cymbidium* Mighty Mouse  
‘Minnie’  
*Bulbophyllum* Ambrosia  
*Miltoniopsis* hybrid

3rd Michael Powell  
*Stenorrhynchus* speciosum  
*X Sarcoglottis grandiflora*  
*Gennaria* diphylla  
*Paphiopedilum* Daiboth x Toby Strauss
**CLASS 13**  NOVICE CLASS

1st Marian Grimes  
*Masdevallia* Teipels ‘Mary Candy’

2nd Not Awarded

3rd Not Awarded

**CLASS 14**  ONE CUT ORCHID FLOWER SPIKE

1st Brian Gould  
*Cymbidium* Goldrum

2nd Colin Aitken  
*Cymbidium* Flamingo

3rd David Walters  
*Cymbidium* Strathbraan ‘Cooksbridge Pearl’

**CLASS 15**  ONE WINDOWSILL ORCHID

1st Geoff Hands  
*Phalaenopsis* Mini Mark

2nd Doreen Williams  
*Dendrobium* kingianum ‘Berry Oda’  
Neville Roberts  
*Phalaenopsis* hybrid

**AWARDS FOR CULTURAL EXCELLENCE**

Allan Burdis  
*Paphiopedilum* fairrieanum  
*Paphiopedilum* malipoense  
*Paphiopedilum* sukhakulii

Brian Gould  
*Cymbidium* erythraeum

*Cymbidium* Kiri Te Kanawa  
‘Maori Maid’

Alan Sapsard  
*Coelogyne* cristata

*Laelia anceps*  
var *williamsonianum*

Sally Mill  
*Dinema* polybulbon

Michael Powell  
*Stenorrhynchus* speciosum  
*x* *Sarcoglottis* grandiflora
SHOW REPORT

This was the Society's most successful spring show in ten years. Attendance by the public was up nearly fifty percent from 2014, from 266 to 390. Adding in complimentary tickets raised the total attendance to exactly 400 - a figure we have not reached since 2005! The reasons from this steep increase are not entirely clear, though the weather as always played a major part, as did precisely targeted publicity. The Show Committee, and especially the Show Manager and the Publicity Officer, deserve great credit for this result. The Society also reaped the benefit of having hosted a programme of Gardeners’ Question Time which stimulated the interest of the general listening public, even if they hadn’t attended the programme itself, to come along and see a real live orchid show. They would not have been disappointed!

There were a number of changes from last year, reflecting comments made at the autumn show. In particular the non competitive display was moved back inside to augment the packed show bench and added to the overall impact. Instead, outside in the foyer was a piece of floral art provided by Diane Adams, a florist and one of our members. This helped to pull people in. The members were also encouraged to help run the show by signing up to a ‘door rota’ so that the entrance was constantly manned. There was no Tombola this time; it is being rested in order to build up a more attractive stock of items and will reappear in the autumn. Its place was taken by a number of guessing competitions: ‘Name the Cuddly Bunny, ‘Guess the Weight of the (very large homemade chocolate) Cake’ (courtesy of Mike Powell) and ‘Number of Sweets in the Jar’. Together these raised £87 – about the same as the Tombola. The repotting and advice table also raised £119, mainly due to selling every single copy of our new edition Cultural Guide (courtesy of Allan Burdis) and constant repotting. The audience seemed to enjoy watching and listening to the entertaining advice and repotting – so much so that it is planned to site the membership and information table adjacent to benefit from the interest generated. The Trophy Table was also augmented by a colourful display of photographs of members’ orchids. All in all there was an enormous amount to delight the eyes of those who paid to come in.

It also helped that we again had the support of the restaurant staff who stayed open and provided hot food right up to the close of the show, reaping the benefits of increased trade. People remember things like that and it will encourage them to visit our shows again.

The show bench was one of the largest and best in memory and was remarkable for the quality and range of species on show as well as the quantity of exhibits. The non-competitive display was enhanced by the presence of a fine Stenorrhynchus speciosum and a large Phaius tankervilleae previously of our late dear Colin Carter. Mike Powell showed a range of small cold growing terrestrial orchids, and Geoff Hands contributed a number of Cymbidiums that made a bold splash of colour. A number of other interesting orchids helped to make a fine display.
On the show bench itself Allan Burdis showed a range of unusual and hard to grow *Paphiopedilum*, supported by specimens of *Cattleya (aka Sophronitis) coccinea* and *Leptotes bicolor*. He was deservedly given a cultural award and a trophy for *Paphiopedilum malipoense* (tricky) and cultural awards for *P. fairrieanum* (tricky and rare) and *P. sukhakulii*. Mike Powell showed his usual range of oddball terrestrials including a fine hybrid between *Stenorrhynchus speciosum* and *Sarcoglottis grandiflora*, which gained him a cultural award, and an unknown *Sarcoglottis* species with attractively marked leaves and strangely shaped flowers in a light shade of jade green – a real connoisseur’s plant! Sally Mill received a deserved cultural for the unusual *Dinema polybulbon* supported by a range of her specialty South American orchids. However the major honours went to Bryan Gould for a huge *Cymbidium Kiri Te Kanawa ‘Maori Maid’* which scooped two awards and a range of superb orchids from Alan Sapsard who won best species for a superb *Papilionanthe teres* and a very fine *Laelia aniceps var williamsonianum* which took two awards apiece. Less experienced growers would also have been pleased to win awards, with Marian Grimes winning the novice award for a pretty little *Masdevallia Teipels ‘Mary Candy’* and Mary Pharaoh winning a well deserved third for a group of three orchids including *Aerangis fastuosa*, and *Dendrobium infundibulum* – not beginners orchids by any means! In total twenty three members showed plants – more than last year and a good reflection on the keenness and application of our members. Indeed if any more members had showed plants we could not have fitted them all in!

**Mike Powell - Show Committee**
In the last Top Orchid I planned out a conversion of my existing conservatory into a ‘plant-room’ for my orchids and ‘me’.

I am very pleased with the end result but the path to get there was far from straightforward. There’s a saying about ‘the best laid plans of mice and men’ which springs to mind even though I’m not really sure what it means?

So an update:
Firstly, the shade netting on the outside only reduced the temperature a few degrees so a double layer was installed. Better, but still far too hot!
The need for electrics was now all too obvious. Cheapest way to buy cable is to get extension leads – they also come with a plug and some sockets. Using one of the sockets in the lounge nearest to the conservatory with a bit of drilling and fixing, 2 banks of sockets installed in areas away from the ‘wet bits’. Next a 6” inlet fan near the floor and on the shady side was installed – easily said but this meant removing a large pain of glass which shattered and took three hours to clear up and I’m still finding the odd piece of glass, normally in my foot - grrrrrr. This was replaced with a wooden panel so I could cut the round hole. Fan arrived and of course I had forgotten that it has ducting attached and I’d be using it ‘back-to-front’. So a box section was built and fixed in place and the fan installed. And then the outside needed a grill so that the ‘hole’ was closed off when the fan wasn’t on (gotta keep them bugs out). Better again, but still too hot!
Ok, 6” extractor fan near the roof. Having had the problems with the inlet fan, this one was a lot easier. Still too hot – but nearly there – just a few more degrees!
Running short of ideas, but good air circulation seems to be mentioned anywhere I read about orchids. So a 16” air-moving, oscillating fan on a tall stand was purchased. That did the job. I really enjoy watching the leaves and flower spikes gently moving in the breeze. Very relaxing for me and VERY good for the orchids!
So, good light, fresh air, and circulation. Looking good but then…Humidity!
Purchased two ‘room humidifiers’ (e-bay cheapies). Overriding the push-button ‘on/off’ switch allowed one to be connected to a humidistat. The other one is ‘manual’ and only needed on days when the sun is out for the whole day – we’ve had a lot of those this Summer and that is definitely NOT a complaint.
Adding a thermostat switch for all three fans and the automation was complete. I connected a 4 gang extension lead directly to the thermostat so that I can pick and choose what it controls. Predicting warm sunny days in the Winter but NOT wanting a sudden gush of outside air at an unsuitably low temperature! – so the inlet fan can be unplugged separately.
Now the best bit – getting in the sofa and the coffee table and finally the plants - with some ‘help’ from my two cats - grrrr again!

Looking back, I cannot believe how long I spent moving plants around the shelves trying to get tall ones to fit on the shelves and shade-loving ones lower down etc.

Some bonsai wire across the roof beams added some hanging space. Some of the mesh shelving was removed from the staging to allow for taller plants and this was fixed vertically to the uprights to give places to hang the bark mounted orchids and baskets. Plants in – Dendrobiums and other bright light lovers near the roof gradually down to the lowest shelves for the others like Phalaenopsis and Masdevallias. Things like Oncidiums, Brassias etc near the middle, Cattleya types on the top shelves and some Dendrobiums hanging from the roof. Although there is definitely more light/heat near the roof, both sides get filtered light through the shade netting so the whole room is quite bright.

Next BIG unexpected problem. The roof is polycarbonate and is NOT clear – I thought this would be enough to shield the bright sunshine. But it still lets the sun burn some leaves! Emergency lowering away from the roof all scorched plants along with some ‘appropriate language’! Shade netting ordered for the roof and I didn't think I’d need that. Arrived, installed and hanging plants back in place.

Adding in a 2nd table to hold the old halogen oven stand and glass bowl gives me a ‘tank’ for water that I can add measured feed etc. so I don’t have to trek back and forth to the kitchen.

Little ‘surprises’. An unexpected bonus is the micro-climates. It's 4-5 degrees C cooler on the floor compared to near the roof. The humidity stays about 10 percent higher near the floor as the foggers produce cool mist that sinks. The circulation fan stirs it all up when it kicks-in but generally, these micro-climates can be relied on. As a consequence of some more ‘studies’, I've found out that there are 'intermediate' Masdevallias so I’m giving some of them a go – yet another type of orchid to the collection. I’m reasonably sure that the term ‘intermediate’ should really be replaced with ‘more heat tolerant’ when used with Masdevallias but so far the leaves are staying green with plenty of new growth. I also place their pots inside larger clay pots that get sprayed. The evaporative process has a cooling effect around the roots. They are placed directly on the pebble trays at floor level – shady, cooler and very humid plus moving air. Should be ok? Several have produced flowers so ‘so far so good’.

Another little surprise is that my two cats can manage to take up the WHOLE SOFA (bless). But they usually ‘run for cover’ when the fans first start up leaving it all for ‘me’.

So with pebble trays under all the shelves, the hard work is all done. I have a place to relax, enjoy my coffee (and my wine) and read all about the plants I’m caring for. And yes, I do dose off sometimes.

So as the day lengths shorten and the sun shines at a lower angle and it’s intensity decreases, I can remove a layer of shade netting from the sides and come Winter time, remove the netting from the roof altogether.
As it’s a wooden structure, if I have to, I can install some bubble-wrap on the inside for the Winter. It’s all ended up ‘adjustable’ for the time of year. Now that wasn’t planned in – it just happened.

Now all I need to worry about is keeping it all warm in the Winter – but not for a while yet. The ‘plan’ for Winter is to open the conservatory door at bed-time to utilise the residual heat from the lounge (which will be replaced by the central heating before the ‘humans’ get up in the morning). And I have top-up heat from an oil-filled radiator with a thermostat (that was in the original plan I think).

I didn’t get the ‘before’ pictures but I’ve included some of the ‘after’s. I don’t know how many our beloved editor will allow, but there’s a good selection – along with a better pic of ‘me’ – well I think so anyway.

I have already noticed a huge increase in growth rates and root production. During a ‘hot day’, the fans keep the temperature down to 27/28C max and the foggers keep the humidity at least 60% but usually around 65%-75%. With varying degrees of light/shade and good air circulation, fresh air, the orchids are now better looked after than ‘me’.

In the future, given the variety and actual number of orchids I now have to choose from, I may be able to enter more into the shows and supply some plants for the various displays the society puts on – I know these are hard work and I try to help where I can.

Next ‘project meeting’ agenda : Dratted Dendrobiums etc that need the ‘difficult’ bright, light, cool Winter rest to get those flower buds induced. Hmmm – more ‘planning’….. And somewhere down the line, I suppose I’d better get this coach trip sorted out. Always busy, always planning – keeps my mind active. As they say ‘use it, or loose it’.

I am well-pleased with this project, well-pleased. I feel more like a proper orchid loony now but still have a lot of catching up to do (tee hee).
Eddie Kirkwood-Lowe

It is with great regret that we have to report the very sad passing away of Eddy Kirkwood Lowe, on 11th November 2014 in the Macmillan unit, Christchurch, after a relatively short illness.

You will remember Eddy as a very enthusiastic member of the Society who was a regular attendee always sitting in the same seat just at the back of the hall but regularly contributing to debate and voting/proposing and seconding at our AGM’s. Eddy will be sadly missed by the Society and our condolences have been sent to his family.

Ken Griffiths
President: Keith Andrew Esq.

Vice - Presidents: Graham Smith & Allan Burdis

Officers
Chairman: Derek Copley derekeuea@aol.com

Vice - Chairman: Ken Griffiths

Hon. Secretary
Ken Griffiths
Tally House
Hawthorn Road
South Bockhampton
Christchurch
Dorset
Tel. 01425 672492 ken.griffiths@virgin.net

Hon. Treasurer: Terry Eve
16 Barton Way
Barton-on-Sea
New Milton
Hants
BH25 7JN
Tel. 01425 623470 terryeve@talktalk.net

Show Manager: Chris Broomfield Tel. 01202 381019 chrisbroomfield@ntlworld.com

Hon-Librarian: David Longman

Committee
Glen Jamieson, glenjamieson@yahoo.co.uk
Mike Powell, mgpowell@greenbee.net
Neville Roberts (Programme Secretary) nroberts@theiet.org
Nick Fry (Publicity), nickjohnfry@hotmail.com

Top Orchid Editor
Allan Burdis
31 Heath Road
Walkford
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 5RH
Tel. 01425 275251
E-mail: allanburdis@hotmail.com