

March 2023

Bonatea speciosa

Mike Powell, Bournemouth Orchid Society
Wisley Orchid Show,



British Orchid Council

~ promoting orchid growing ~

In this newsletter, there are photos from the Wisley Orchid Show, 15th - 18th March, a few photos from the RHS Committee Meeting at Bournemouth Show and some from South West Show that was held last Saturday at Monkton Heathfield. This has made quite a long issue this time and there are a few items that have had to be held over till next time: a report on the Kew orchid festival and an article on setting up a terrarium, more of which next time.

At last we seem to be getting some better weather, the clocks have gone forward and finally we can look forward to Spring.

I do not know how your orchids have faired, but a lot of people seem to have struggled through this past winter, with heater failures and rising costs. So at least now the days are longer and temperatures are rising, and perhaps we can look forward to better things for our orchids!

Reminder: There has been a lot of information sent out to societies with up to date details regarding Malvern. Please make sure that you let Chris Barker know about your society's stand requirements. If your society has never exhibited before, please don't be intimidated, consider just putting on a few plants and information literature about your society. We want to see as many societies as possible there!!

Also, please follow instructions about ordering wristbands and make sure to get your society order in in good time.



It never ceases to amaze me that orchids always flower their best the week before the show or the week after! I expect you have all had similar experiences! It is amazing as well how some people always seem to have such well bloomed plants.

There are incredible blooms on display at the shows, and often the more unusual species are well worth taking the time to look at carefully. For example the *Bonatea speciosa* shown on the front of the newsletter and this well grown and flowered *Maxillaria* shown at the South West show.

Terraria come in all shapes and sizes, as you can see! I don't know if this *Stelis* keiki will do well or not as yet, it has only just been set up. Updates next time and more details and ideas about setting terraria at home.



Pam Grove

We received the sad news last week that Pam Grove, a member and secretary of Birmingham and Midland Orchid Society had passed peacefully away following a long battle with ill health.

Pam had battled with various health issues for many years and yet always had a cheerful face and a smile for everyone. She will be missed by everyone who knew her, and her absence at all of our local shows will be very much felt.

Birmingham and Midland Orchid Society closed just before last Christmas. Up until then Pam had been an active and efficient club secretary, and had always put a lot of work into the refreshments at shows over the years in order to make them a success. For many of the remaining members this news may come as a shock, as the society had not met for a while.

She was a lovely and very brave lady, who I, personally, will always remember with affection and admiration for how much she was able to get on with things against the odds and always thought about other people



On behalf of the BOC, I would like to send our condolences to Pam's husband Bob and to her family at this sad time.

You are all in our thoughts.

Helen Millner

The funeral is to be held on Thursday, 13th April, 11.30 am at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium



RHS Orchid Show at Wisley

17 – 19 March 2023
RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey.

There were some beautiful displays by orchid traders and societies, not forgetting the Mathers Foundation, who gained the best display in the show.

It was a magnificent traditional style display of mainly Cymbidium and Odontoglossum/Oncidium hybrids and species. The photograph does not do it justice.

Jim Durrant can be seen on the left, tending to the display.





Writhlington School Project silver-gilt award



Bournemouth Orchid Society silver-gilt award



Elite orchids Gold award



Spicesotic Plants silver-gilt award



Burnham Nurseries Gold award



Laurence Hobbs Orchids silver-gilt award



Orchid Society of Great Britain silver award



Thames Valley Orchid Society silver award



Life as an epiphyte Helen Millner Gold award

The show was well worth a visit at some time over its three days. At times the hall was packed with people, which was great to see after the past couple of years. Many of these visitors may have been buying orchids for the first time, which is encouraging for the hobby.

The RHS Orchid Committee met on the Saturday and plants from the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, the Mathers Foundation and Elite orchids all gained Awards of Merit.

The BOC held a judging symposium on the Sunday, which was very well attended. I heard how difficult some of the tables were to judge and get in the correct order, so congratulations to anyone who gained their judging qualification last weekend.

And do not forget next year's show - I believe they have already sorted dates out! So all being well, as they say, I'll see you there!!

There are a few of the plants shown below!



Bournemouth Spring Show
25th Feb 2023, Wimborne Minster

This show, as usual was well supported by members and many excellent plants were on view. The RHS Orchid Committee also met at this show and below are the plants belonging to Bournemouth members that were presented to the Committee.

Well done Mary Pharaoh for gaining a Cultural Certificate for her lovely *Dendrobium*.



This beautifully grown and exceptionally clean plant was shown by Sally Mills

Its correct name is now *Dinema polybulbon*, but its previous name by which it may be more commonly known was *Encyclia polybulbon*



Dendrobium infundibulum 'Phoebe'

Presented to the RHS Committee by Mary Pharaoh, who was awarded a Cultural Certificate for this lovely plant



This unusual species *Maxillaria* was originally part of the National Collection belonging to Michael McIlmurray. It was presented by Kew, where the collection now resides.



South West Orchid Society Show, Saturday, 25th April

Well supported by neighbouring societies who all staged lovely displays with some well grown and unusual plants on display. A great friendly show where it was good to meet up with some orchid friends that we hadn't seen for a while. I mustn't forget Burnham Nurseries who represented the trade.



Cheltenham and District
Orchid Society display



Cornwall Orchid Society display



Devon Orchid Society display



Dendrobium tetragonum



Dendrobium farmerii



Dendrobium apphylum



Dendrobium speciosum



Dendrobium kingianum possibly



So good to see Rita and Arnold Clevely there - this is Bonny their daughter's dog who came with them.
She was a lovely dog and so well behaved!



Pleione Barbarae



I still can't understand why this didn't get best in show?? Answers on a post card only please!