



NEWSLETTER - October 2023



Congratulations to Barry Openshaw whose *Phragmipedium Cardinale* (Class 9) gained a Cultural Commendation at Barton. The hybrid (*Sedenii* x *schlimii*) was originally registered by Veitch in 1822.

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- **NEOS show at Barton**
 - **BOC Judging Symposium**
-

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 11th November 2023
North of England Orchid Society show

11.00 am Judging

1.30 pm Members' Plant Auction

**PLUMLEY VILLAGE HALL, Plumley Moor Road,
PLUMLEY, Nr Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0TR**

Saturday 16th December 2023
North of England Orchid Society show
BARTON - LANCASHIRE - BARTON VILLAGE HALL PR3 5AA

11.00 am Judging.

**Early finish, followed by Christmas Lunch at Barton Manor Hotel,
746 – 768 Garstang Road, Barton, PR3 5AA – MEMBERS ONLY**

Repotting?

If you would like to purchase the Society's
medium grade (10-15mm) orchid bark, contact
Chris Burrows, tel: 01772 431442
(answerphone)

North of England show at Barton Saturday 7th October 2023

After the busy months of August and September with three shows in each, Barton was our only show in October.

It was good to see new members at the show, with one new member joining the Society on the day of the show.

The raffle was organised for the first time by Ian who was assisted by Hazel and Leon. John led the team of judges and trainees around the exhibits.

Barry brought three splendid plants, one gaining a Cultural Commendation.

John for his Small Group and Phoenix Orchids for their display were each awarded a Large Silver Medal.

Our guest speaker, Helen Milner, and husband David joined the diners for lunch at The Roebuck, prior to her afternoon presentation.

Judging results – Class winners

Class	Plant	Grower	Award
2	Small group	John Gay	1 st *
4	Gastrochilus japonicus	David Crook	1 st
5	Maxillaria hematoglossa	Trevor Crook	1 st
7	Cymbidium munronianum	Barry Openshaw	1 st
8	Paphiopedilum Maudiae	Ian Eastwood	1 st
9	Phragmipedium Cardinale	Barry Openshaw	1 st **
10	Cattleya Sophia Martin x Thospol 'Flower Girl'	David Crook	1 st
11	Oncidium Sharry Baby	David Crook	1 st
13	Phalaenopsis equestris	Philippa Illsley	1 st
14	Dendrobium polysema	Denys Morten	1 st
15	Maxillaria sangai x molitor	Trevor Crook	1 st
17	Miltonia Queen Anne	Trevor Crook	1 st
21	Aliceara Renaissance White	Philippa Illsley	1 st
22	Masdevallia mystica	Trevor Crook	1 st
23	Phalaenopsis hybrid	Lynda Woodburns	1 st
*	Large Silver Medal		
**	Cultural Commendation		



Class 7. *Cymbidium munronianum*



Class 8. *Paphiopedilum Maudiae*



**Class 10. *Cattleya Sophia Martin* x
*Thospol 'Flower Girl'***



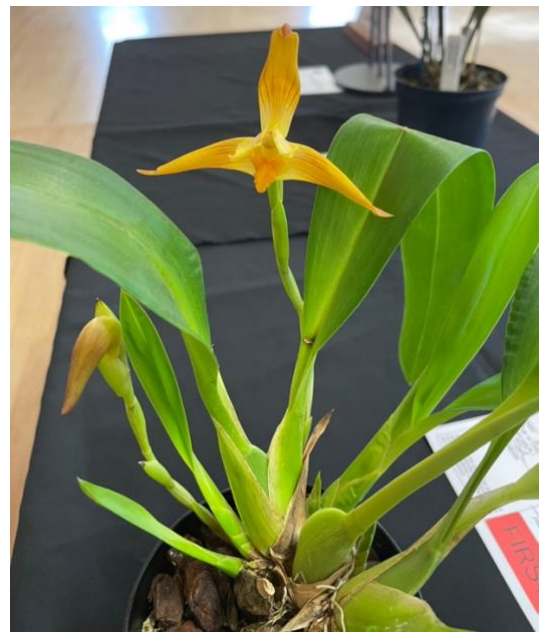
Class 11. *Oncidium Sharry Baby*



Class 13. *Dendrobium polysema*



Class 12. *Phalaenopsis equestris*



Class 15. *Maxillaria sangai x molitor*



Class 17. Miltonia Queen Anne



Class 21. Aliceara Renaissance White



Class 22. *Masdevallia mystica*



Class 23. *Phalaenopsis* hybrid

And a few others...



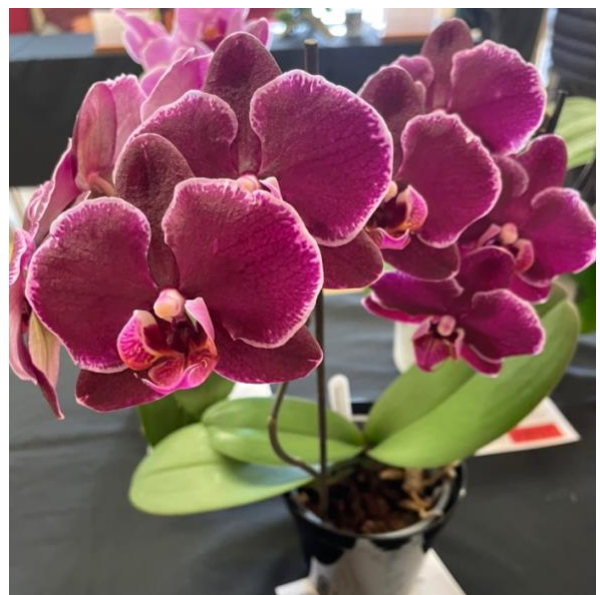
John and Margaret Birks's **Cattleya dolosa**



Liz Rosenfield's **Stelis microphylla**



Pat Hollings's **Phalaenopsis Blue x Norton**



Antonia Black's **Class 23 Phalaenopsis hybrid**



Allan Brown's **Class 23 Phalaenopsis hybrid**



The photo does not do justice to the Phoenix Orchids display which gained a **Large Silver Medal**

After lunch, Helen Milner, who had staged a display at several major shows this year, including Malvern and our own annual show, gave a talk supported by a PowerPoint presentation.

She began with Pleurothallids, “the Marmite of the orchid world – you either love them or hate them”. She explained that they have no pseudobulbs, grow directly on a rhizome or ‘ramicaul’ and are often small.

Using high-definition macro photography, she indicated the parts of flowers and their function in the pollination process.



Helen then spoke about classification, **Pleurothallidinae** being a subtribe of **Orchidaceae**. In the case of **Restrepia brachypus**, **Restrepia** is the genus and **brachypus** indicates the species.

As for their habitat, they are to be found in tropical montane forests – temperate and wet – at an altitude of between 1500 and 3500 metres. These habitats are some of the most diverse and most endangered.

We were then introduced to Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward who discovered that plants could be transported successfully in Wardian cases, and the survival rate of plants on long sea voyages was thereby improved from less than 50% to over 95%.

This discovery led to the fern and orchid craze of the Victorian era. The Wardian case was designed to fit into the bay of a window.

Helen pointed out that an orchid seedling flask is a miniature Wardian case. It is sterile inside and it is sealed – ideal growing conditions.

Turning to the importance of humidity, Helen showed a close-up of a leaf's stomata and described the temperature and humidity levels she had recorded in various parts of her house, the bathroom being most humid and the conservatory least humid.

She then gave tips on how to make a terrarium and warned that care must be taken with water. Algae can be an issue. There should not be a reservoir of water in the bottom; a layer of gravel is useful.

Members were most interested to take a close look at examples, in a range of sizes, that Helen had made and had brought along to illustrate her talk.



British Orchid Council - Judging Symposium Oct 8th, 2023
(Report and photos by Philippa)

On a misty Sunday morning in October, we all set off for RHS Harlow Carr with strict instructions on which door to use, the main one not the side gate.

We arrived at 9.30 and were greeted by Chris Barker who organises these events and tackles all the paperwork which on this occasion had been a marathon, due to increased H&S issues.

Jean Barker, Chris's wife, is the Head judge for the BOC and as such leads on all matters relating to the training and qualifications of Judges. The BOC's job is to ensure that the standard of judging in England, Scotland, Wales, and N Ireland is consistent and that amateur growers have their plant/s judged in the same way.

Each new judge needs a mentor as they judge their first tables. So, Trevor Crook and Antonia Black were mentored by John Gay, and I was mentored by Bacchus Paulescu (George was still out of action at this point). Nick Gilliam has been attending the Judging symposium for a couple of years and is within one/two tables of the required amount (31 classes/tables). He will be qualified by the time we attend the spring symposium in Devon Spring 2024.

Each class or table is worth 40 points and the aim is to pass each table with a minimum of 30 points (giving an average of 75%). To do this, the trainees must decide the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place plants that a group of judges have assessed.

By lunchtime, with 2 tables complete and 3 to go, the new trainees were feeling the strain a little. After each table has been completed, the scores awarded by the trainees are put into envelopes for checking and marking by Chris. Chris meticulously scores us, records our progress, and emails trainees a few days after the event to let them know what their running total is. The day was enjoyable but pretty intense and I have included a few pictures of some of us deliberating or listening to feedback.





And finally...

Talks at our Monthly Shows

Would you be willing to give a talk
at one of our monthly shows?

You don't have to have a Powerpoint
presentation to support your talk but if you
would like help to make one, just ask a
member of the Committee.

Do you have suggestions for talk topics
or outside guest speakers?

Please let us know.

Photos and other items for the newsletter should be sent to neosubmissions@gmail.com