



## January 2024

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With blooms all round, David Crook's *Laelia rubescens* was awarded a Cultural Commendation at Plumley. Well done, David!

## North of England show at Plumley Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024

As members of the North of England Orchid Society, we are privileged to see close-up fascinating and beautiful orchids, and Plumley, our first show of 2024, provided such an opportunity, as the accompanying photos illustrate.

Thanks go to the willing helpers who carry out all the tasks which contribute to the smooth-running and success of our shows.

On this occasion, special thanks are due to Nick Gilliam who gave his long-awaited presentation on Cymbidiums.

All in all, a great start to 2024.

With the passing of the Winter Solstice, our orchids have sensed the increasing daylength and, as if by magic, have responded by growing faster and many are producing new flower spikes. Exciting times!

Happy New Year, everyone!

### Judging results – Class winners

Class	Plant	Grower	Award
2	Small group	John Gay	1 <sup>st</sup> *
4	Gomesa crispa	Trevor Crook	1 <sup>st</sup>
5	Angraecum sesquipedale	Denys Morten	1 <sup>st</sup>
7	Cymbidium Cliff Hutchings	Nick Gilliam	1 <sup>st</sup>
8	Paphiopedilum villosum	Trevor Crook	1 <sup>st</sup>
9	Phragmipedium besseae	Leon Skorczewski	1 <sup>st</sup>
10	Laelia rubescens	David Crook	1 <sup>st</sup> **
11	Oncidium ornithorhynchum	Phil Howard	1 <sup>st</sup>
12	Cuitlauzina pulchella	David Crook	1 <sup>st</sup>
13	Phalaenopsis Moonlight Serenade	Antonia Black	1 <sup>st</sup>
14	Dendrobium Spring Dream 'Apollon'	Antonia Black	1 <sup>st</sup>
19	Rhynchostylis gigantea White	Margaret and John Birks	1 <sup>st</sup>
22	Porroglossum sergii	Ian Eastwood	1 <sup>st</sup>
23	Phalaenopsis hybrid	Antonia Black	1 <sup>st</sup>
* Large Silver Medal			
** Cultural Commendation			



## Class winners at Plumley



Class 2. Small group



The uncommonly coloured *Cleisocentron merrilianum*



**Class 4. *Gomesa crispa***



**Class 5. *Angraecum sesquipedale***

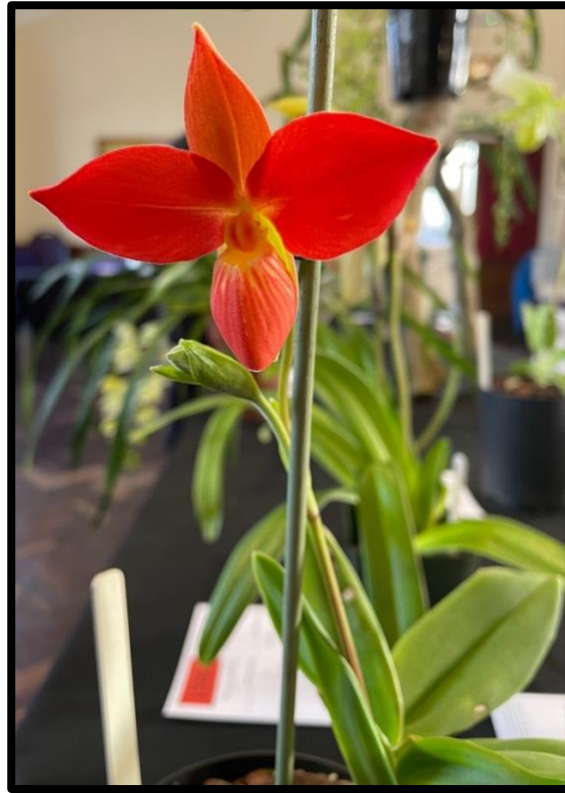




**Class 7. Cymbidium Cliff Hutchings**



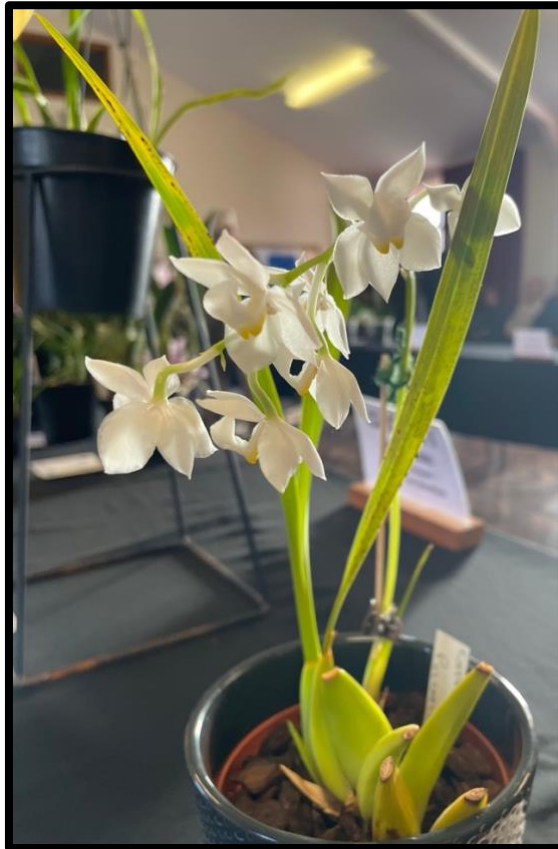
**Class 8. Paphiopedilum villosum**



**Class 9. *Phragmipedium besseae***



**Class 11. *Oncidium ornithorhynchum***



**Class 12. Cuitlauzina pendula**



**Class 13. Phalaenopsis Moonlight Serenade**





**Class 14. Dendrobium Spring Dream 'Apollon'**



**Class 19. Rhynchosstylis gigantea White.** Margaret and John Birks also took 2<sup>nd</sup> place with Rhynchosstylis gigantea Red, and last month they took 1<sup>st</sup> place with Rhynchosstylis gigantea Orange!





Class 22. *Porroglossum sergii*



**Above:** lip open. **Below:** Lip closed.



At Plumley, Ian Eastwood drew our attention to the fascinating lip which in **Porroglossums** is hinged and has a mechanism that snaps shut when stimulated by a pollinator, thus trapping the insect to ensure that the pollinia will be removed and later transferred to the receptive surface. The lip opens after 30 minutes or so to release the insect, but also closes at night and reopens at dawn.



**Class 23. Phalaenopsis hybrid**

**A few others...**



**Chas Field's Phalaenopsis hybrid**





Pat Hollings's **Phalaenopsis lobbii**



Andrew Bonney's **Cymbidium Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade**



Trevor Crook's **Laelia anceps**



The Phoenix Orchids display was awarded a Silver Medal.



*Laelia anceps dawsonii* 'Ball's variety'



## 'Cymbidiums' – Nick Gilliam



In the morning, Nick Gilliam's plant of Cymbidium Cliff Hutchings took 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Miniature Cymbidium class, and, in the afternoon, Nick gave a presentation, with Powerpoint, on the subject of Cymbidiums.

Nick gave as his main sources of information:

- Stephen Early's website: <https://www.cymspecies.com>
- The Genus Cymbidium – a book written by David du Puy and Philip Cribb
- Floriculture
- 'my mate Barry' [Openshaw]

After describing their different growth habits, Nick informed us that there are around 55 species and went on to present the major species.

Nick's favourite species is Cymbidium elegans.

*[Illustrated below are two recently awarded Eric Young Orchid Foundation plants – ed.]*



**Cymbidium elegans 'Saint Ouen'**  
CCC/RHS, 2 December 2022



**Cymbidium elegans 'Victoria Village'**  
AM/RHS, 2 December 2022

Nick then turned to hybrids and different flower spike habits, such as upright and cascading.

Moving on to Culture, Nick told us that Cymbidiums are traditionally described as being easy to grow and cool growing, but then he presented the research findings of a certain Mr Titley into the growing conditions of Cymbidiums in their natural environment. During the growing season, which matches the period between our Spring to Autumn equinoxes, the average temperature is generally higher than one might expect, though not exceeding 25C in Summer, and there is a nightly drop in temperature which triggers flowering. There is plentiful rain during the growing season, peaking in July, with frequent showers so plants are not receiving stagnant water.

In his own experience of growing Cymbidiums outdoors, Nick found that, if provided with some protection, the plants survived and grew but did not flower.

He was impressed to see Cymbidiums thriving on a visit to Madeira where there was morning mist, good air movement, high humidity, and it was never too warm or too cold.

Nick suggested that unsightly leaf markings on Cymbidiums may be due to poor culture, the usual suspects, or virus. He himself had thrown away a large number of plants which appeared to exhibit signs of virus. He emphasised the importance of good culture to ensure healthy-looking plants.

One of his favourite hybrids is Grammatocymbidium (Grammatophyllum x Cymbidium) Lovely Melody.



**Grammatocymbidium Lovely Melody 'Sweet'**



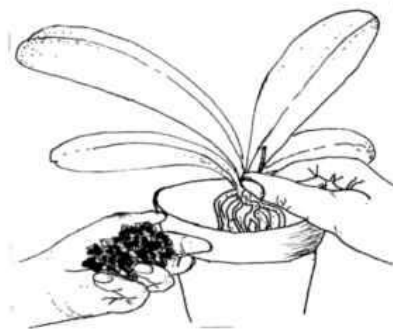
To finish, when asked to recommend a Cymbidium that members might enjoy growing, he suggested the species **erythrostylum**.



**Cymbidium erythrostylum**

We are grateful to Nick for sharing his knowledge and his experience with this informative presentation which was very well received by the audience.

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### **Repotting?**

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

## **Dates for your diary**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**North of England Orchid Society Annual General Meeting and Show at  
Barton**

**BARTON - LANCASHIRE - BARTON VILLAGE HALL PR3 5AA**

### **A message from our President, George Barnes:**

*As many of you know, I have been an active member of the Society for the last 40 years or so, holding various positions during that period, including Vice President and, in more recent times, as President.*

*I now believe it is the time for someone else to take the North of England Orchid Society forward, so I do not seek re-election to the position of President at our AGM.*

*If you wish to nominate someone for the position of President, you must firstly have their permission and submit that nomination to the Secretary :  
[philippa.illsley@btinternet.com](mailto:philippa.illsley@btinternet.com) prior to the meeting.*

*If no nominations are made prior to the AGM, then nominations will be accepted at the meeting.*

*I am not vanishing into the sunset and will still be at the meetings, judging the shows etc.*

**George**

**11.00am Judging**

**1.30pm Annual General Meeting,  
followed by the Presentation of Trophies**

***N.B. If you hold any trophies, please bring them, cleaned and polished, to the AGM on 10th February, for presentation to this year's winners.***



**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**

Our society will be staging a display at Sheffield



**Sheffield Orchid Society**  
**Orchid Show**

**St. John's Church Hall,  
Abbeydale Road South,  
Sheffield, S17 3LE**

**Saturday March 2nd  
2024  
10am to 4 pm**

**Entry £5**  
**Tickets from Eventbrite**  
**Carnivorous plant display**  
**Amazing displays by seven  
different societies**  
**Buy plants from Britain's leading orchid  
and house plant vendor - Spiceotics**



*Please support your society by lending your plants for our North of England displays at external shows.*

*The show team will carefully look after your plants and will, if necessary, collect plants from you where possible, but it makes life easier if you could deliver them to one of our addresses or perhaps bring them to the show in time for setting up.*

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
**NEOS Show at Rixton**

**Community Hall Rixton with Glazebrook .**  
**Hollins Green Warrington. WA3 6JZ**

Check our website: <https://www.orchid.org.uk> for details of all the North of England monthly shows and the external shows where we shall be staging a display in 2024.



Our Instagram is [northofenglandorchidsociety](https://www.instagram.com/northofenglandorchidsociety)

Email is [northofenglandorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:northofenglandorchidsociety@gmail.com)

You can scan this QR code:





**And finally...**



### **Membership Renewals for 2024**

At our meetings we have the facilities to pay by Cash or Card (Membership cards distributed immediately)

**Single Membership = £20**

**Dual membership = £25**

If you are unable to attend our meeting in February, our website has the facility to pay using PayPal.

The fee is slightly more to cover the cost of Postage and PayPal admin.

Any questions please email: [philippa.illsley@btinternet.com](mailto:philippa.illsley@btinternet.com)

Photos and other items for the newsletter should be sent to [neosubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:neosubmissions@gmail.com)