



## March 2024

### In this issue:

- Sheffield & District Annual Show
- North of England March show at Rixton
- Liverpool 'Orchid Fever' Symposium
- A visit to The Mathers Foundation



At Rixton, John Gay's **Cymbidium Pinocchio** gained a Cultural Commendation and the judges awarded his 1<sup>st</sup> place Class 2 display a Large Silver Medal. Congratulations, John!

## Sheffield & District Annual Show Saturday 2nd March 2024

Sheffield was the venue for the first of our 2024 external shows, this one replacing the usual Harrogate OS annual show in Leeds.

Our thanks and congratulations go to the show team of Ian, David, Lynda and George who collected and arranged some 40+ plants lent by Richard and Dorothy, David, Trevor, Ian, Philippa and Phil. Our display won 7 rosettes.

Richard and Dorothy took four rosettes: two Class winners: **Lueddemannia striata x Acineta superba** and **Dendrobium Kunico**, and two Runners-up: **Lycaste Leo** and **Epicattleya René Marqués 'Flame Thrower'**.

George's **Vanda Blue Magic**, David's **Chytroglossa marileoniae** and Ian's **Porroglossum sergii** all took Runners-up rosettes.



(Photos: Ian)



Richard and Dorothy's **Lycaste Leo**



Ian's **Porroglossum sergii**

**Sheffield & District Orchid Society Annual Show 2024  
Overall Results**

Phalaenopsis		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	Phal. <i>lueddemanniana</i>	A. Deakin	EMOS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Phal. <i>japonica</i>	K. Pask	EMOS

Cymbidium & Allied		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	Cym. <i>erythraeum</i>	K. Pask	EMOS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cym. Yellow Lime	P. Arlington-Smith	Hinckley

Oncidiinae species		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	Brassia <i>brachiata</i> (syn. <i>verrucosa</i> )		Hinckley
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ada (Brassia) <i>aurantiaca</i>	M. Moseley	SDOS

Oncidiinae hybrids		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	Oncostele Anna-Claire	H. Hobbs	Harrogate
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Onc. Surville	J. Garner	SDOS

Vandaceous species		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	Sarcochilus <i>olivaceus</i>	C. Ford	SDOS

Vandaceous Hybrids		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	Sarcochilus Sweetheart	C. Ford	SDOS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Vanda Blue Magic</b>	<b>G. Barnes</b>	<b>NEOS</b>

Laeliinae species		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	Cat. <i>coccinea</i>	R. Evenden	EMOS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Prosthechea <i>vitellina</i>	C. Tyrie	NEEOS

Laeliinae Hybrids		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	Cattleya Chester	M. Bee	Hinckley
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Epicattleya René Marqués 'Flame Thrower'</b>	<b>R. Rhodes</b>	<b>NEOS</b>

Pleurothallidinae (incl. Masdevallia) species		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	Masd. <i>tovarensis</i>	K. Priestley	SDOS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Porroglossum <i>sergii</i></b>	<b>I. Eastwood</b>	<b>NEOS</b>

Pleurothallidinae (incl. Masdevallia) Hybrids		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	Restrepia Vauvarin	B. Paulesu	Harrogate

Coelogyne and Allied		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	Coel. <i>cristata</i>	C. Ford	SDOS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Coel. <i>granulosa</i>		Harrogate

Terrestrials		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Calanthe vestita</i> 'William Murray'	T. Croot	SDOS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Calanthe vestita</i> var. <i>rubro-oculata</i>	T. Croot	SDOS
Paphiopedilum Species and Hybrids		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	Paph. Daphne	C. Tyrie	NEEOS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Paph. Leanum	T. Croot	SDOS
Phragmipedium Species and Hybrids		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	Phrag. QF Maria	C. Ford	SDOS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Phrag. Mont. Fallu	A. Deakin	EMOS
Dendrobiinae Species		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Den. gracilicaule</i>	M. Stephens	EMOS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Den. jonesii</i> (syn. <i>ruppianum</i> )	P. Hobson	SDOS
Dendrobiinae Hybrids		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Den. Kuniko</b>	<b>R Rhodes</b>	<b>NEOS</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Den. Delicatum	B. Marsh	Harrogate
Any Other Species		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Maxillaria sanguinea</i>	A. Caro	EMOS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b><i>Chytroglossa marileoniae</i></b>	<b>D. Crook</b>	<b>NEOS</b>
Any Other Hybrids		Owner	Society
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b><i>Lueddemannia striata</i> x <i>Acineta superba</i></b>	<b>R. Rhodes</b>	<b>NEOS</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Lycaste Leo</b>	<b>R. Rhodes</b>	<b>NEOS</b>

Best in Show – *Coelogyne cristata*, Charles Ford, SDOS:





At Sheffield, *Spicesotic plants* donated a tropical fern, *Agaomorpha coronans* 'Jim', for our monthly raffle (pictured below).



## North of England show at Rixton Saturday 9th March 2024

The first business of the day was a Committee meeting to discuss job descriptions. Philippa chaired the meeting which had new Committee members Antonia Black and Chas Field in attendance.

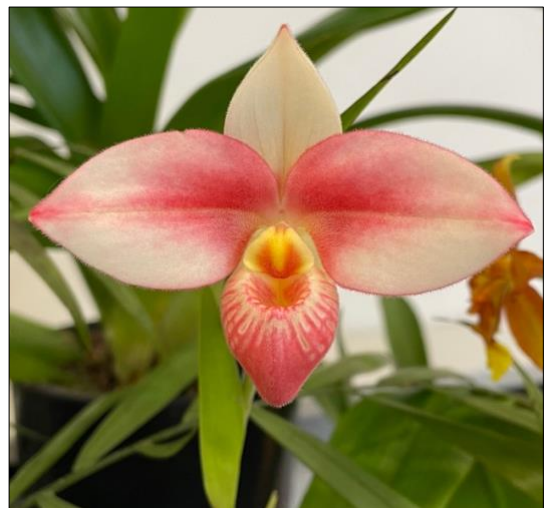
Here is the list of who on the Committee does what:

Job Title	Society Member
President	P Illsley
Vice President	D Crook
Secretary and social media	A Black
Speaker Secretary	G Barnes
Show Secretary	D Crook, transferring across to I Eastwood during 2024
Membership Secretary	P Illsley
Treasurer	T Crook
Show Registrar	L Crook
Newsletter and venue bookings	P Howard
Raffle	I Eastwood
Website	G Barnes
Sales	C Burrows
GWL Tickets	C Field
Senior Judge	G Barnes

Afterwards, Andres Ramos, our guest speaker for the afternoon talk, joined the judges in their deliberations.



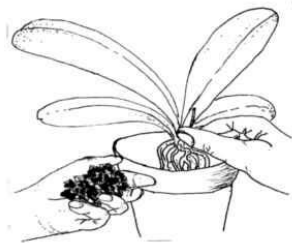
A Silver Medal was awarded to Phoenix Orchids



A close-up of **Phragmipedium Plemont**

## Judging results – Class winners

Class	Plant	Grower	Award
2	Small group	John Gay	1 <sup>st</sup> *
4	Chytroglossa marileoniae	David Crook	1 <sup>st</sup>
5	Coelogyne taronensis	Philippa Illsley	1 <sup>st</sup>
6	Cymbidium wenshanense	Phil Howard	1 <sup>st</sup>
7	Cymbidium Tiger Tail	Andrew Bonney	1 <sup>st</sup>
8	Paphiopedilum victoria-mariae	Philippa Illsley	1 <sup>st</sup>
9	Phragmipedium Patty McHale	Nick Gilliam	1 <sup>st</sup>
10	Rhyncattleanthe Young-Min Gold	Margaret and John Birks	1 <sup>st</sup>
12	Odontoglossum Les Perquage	Phil Howard	1 <sup>st</sup>
13	Phalaenopsis Chocolate Drop	Liz Rosenfield	1 <sup>st</sup>
14	Dendrobium Comet King	Antonia Black	1 <sup>st</sup>
15	Brassada Orange Delight	Trevor Crook	1 <sup>st</sup>
19	Vanda Blue Magic	George Barnes	1 <sup>st</sup>
21	Colmanara Masai Red	Betty Bray	1 <sup>st</sup>
22	Porroglossum schramii	Ian Eastwood	1 <sup>st</sup>
23	Vanda hybrid	Liz Rosenfield	1 <sup>st</sup>
* Large Silver Medal & Cultural Commendation for Cymbidium Pinocchio			



### Repotting?

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



## Class winners at Rixton



Class 2. Small group



Class 4. *Chytroglossa marileoniae*



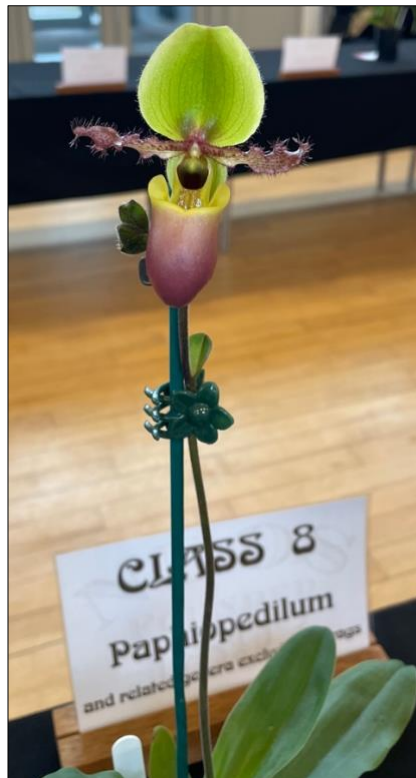
**Class 5. *Coelogyne taronensis***



**Class 6. *Cymbidium wenshanense***



**Class 7. Cymbidium Tiger Tail**



**Class 8. Paphiopedilum victoria-mariae**



**Class 9. Phragmipedium Patty McHale**



**Class 10. Rhyncattleanthe Young-Min Gold**



**Class 12. Odontoglossum Les Perquage**



**Class 13. Phalaenopsis Chocolate Drop**



**Class 14. Dendrobium Comet King**



**Class 15. Brassada Orange Delight**



**Class 19. Vanda Blue Magic.**



**Class 20. Colmanara Masai Red**



**Class 22. *Porroglossum schramii***



**Class 23. *Phalaenopsis* hybrid**



**A few others...**



**Betty Bray's *Coelogyne cristata* var. *hololeuca***



**Trevor Crook's *Scaphosepalum verrucosum***



**Philippa Illsley's Pleione Glacier Peak**



**Phil Howard's Odontoglossum wyattianum**



**Robyn Gee's Phalaenopsis**



**Chris Burrows's Coelogyne cristata**



Nick Gilliam's **Ansellia africana alba**



**Chas Field's Vanda Pachara Delight.**



...and here is Chas with his 2023 Class 23 winning trophy. Well done, Chas!



## Andres Ramos: Conservation of Mexican Orchids

After taking lunch with members at The Black Horse, Andres Ramos spoke about orchid conservation in Mexico with the aid of a Powerpoint presentation containing superb photographs and informative maps and diagrams.



Knowledgeable and passionate about his native country's orchids – he spends about 5 months a year in Mexico – Andres described Mexico's climate and terrain. Mexico with 170 genera, he told us, is one of the top 5 countries for orchid diversity. Although it has a dry climate – Mexico lies on the same latitude as the Sahara and Arabian deserts - it has 3 mountain ranges rising to over 3000m and the vegetation ranges from rainforest to ice cap tundra. Mexico has 30-40% of oak species.

For Andres, the task of conserving orchids is deeply personal, as Andres's grandfather has a 10 hectare reserve near Veracruz where they work on conservation in collaboration with Veracruz university.

# Supporting Mexican research

- Pollinator identification using rigged trees: visual, auditive
  - Research into ecology and habitats
  - In vitro propagation
  - Myco-sequencing and Identification
  - Circa, in and ex situ conservation
  - IUCN red list assessments
  - Taxonomy
- All help is welcome

Logging and the taking of wild plants are two major concerns. Whenever a tree is to be cut down, they try to rescue the orchids growing on it.

Andres described in detail individual characteristics of laelia species. The most beautiful specimens are often taken from the wild as they are used in popular local customs e.g. **L.autumnalis** in the Day of the Dead celebrations and **L.speciosa** at Easter.

Andres singled out **Acineta barkeri** as the most endemic, most endangered species in the reserve. Andres has not yet managed to discover this orchid's pollinator.



Andres was warmly applauded for his excellent presentation.

To find out more about this conservation work, click on [Orchidarc](#)

## **Dates for your diary**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Hinckley and District OS Annual Show**

Stoke Golding Club,  
Stoke Golding, CV13 6DZ

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

**Saturday 13th April 2024**

**NEOS show at Hoghton**

HOGHTON VILLAGE HALL

Blackburn Old Road, Hoghton Nr. Preston

11.00am Judging

2.00pm Presentation.

**NEOS member David Redmore, landscape architect and former head gardener: 'Mabsoot - a garden in a moment in time'**

**Saturday 11th May 2024**

**NEOS show at Rixton**

Community Hall Rixton with Glazebrook

Hollins Green Warrington. WA3 6JZ

11.00am Judging

2.00pm Presentation

**John Gay: Eric Young Orchid Foundation (Part Two)**

**Saturday 1st June 2024**

**NEOS show at Hoghton**

HOGHTON VILLAGE HALL

Blackburn Old Road, Hoghton Nr. Preston

11.00am Judging

2.00pm Presentation.

**Antonia Black: Humidity & Indoor Growing**

## Full Programme 2024

**Please see newsletter & website for changes**

Jan. 6th Plumley Village Hall, Plumley

Feb. 10th Barton Village Hall, Barton, Lancs. **Annual General Meeting**

*Mar. 2nd Sheffield & District O.S. Annual Show*

Mar. 9th Rixton Community Centre

*Apr. 6th Hinckley & District O.S. Annual Show*

Apr. 13th Hoghton Village Hall

May 11th Rixton Community Centre

June 1st Hoghton Village Hall

*June 13th – 16th The UK International Orchid Show, Gardeners' World Live, Birmingham NEC*

July 5th/6th **North of England OS Annual Show** Barton Village Hall, Barton

*Aug. 3rd/4th Joint Meeting with Harrogate O.S. Harlow Carr, Yorkshire*

Aug. 10th Rixton Community Centre

*Aug. 15th – 18th Southport Flower Show*

*Sep. 1st Durham Annual Orchid Show*

Sep. 14th Hoghton Village Hall

*Sep. 29th East Midlands O.S. Annual Show*

Oct. 5th Barton Village Hall, Barton Lancs.

Nov. 9th Plumley Village Hall Plumley

Dec. 7th Broughton Tennis Club, Barton Lancs. **Christmas lunch – Members Only**





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.

You can also follow us on **Instagram** and **Facebook**:



Our Instagram is [northofenglandorchidsociety](#)

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

You can scan this QR code:



**facebook**

Click [here](#)



**Orchid Fever: Propagating and Hybridising Orchids over the last 200 years  
Croxteth Hall, Liverpool, Saturday 16th March 2024  
Report and photos– Phil Howard**

Following a successful bid which Liverpool City Council submitted to The National Lottery Heritage Fund, £245,000 has been awarded which will be invested in creating a permanent home for Liverpool’s historic Botanical Collection.



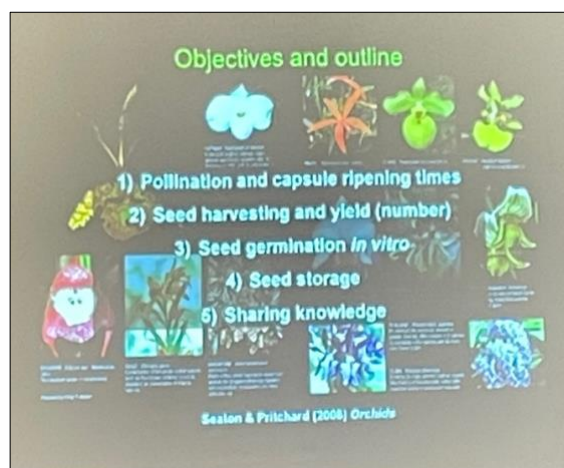
Located within Croxteth Hall’s walled garden, a detailed project plan is now being developed which will see the culturally significant collection nurtured and developed, with plans to open it up to the public to become a leading visitor attraction in the city. The collection dates back to 1803 and was founded by William Roscoe.

Initial works will restore The Peach House, which will become the gateway to the collection and will house some of the key botanical exhibits. Currently in a state of disrepair, new glazing is required for it to be a suitable home for the hundreds of varieties of plant species in Liverpool’s ownership.

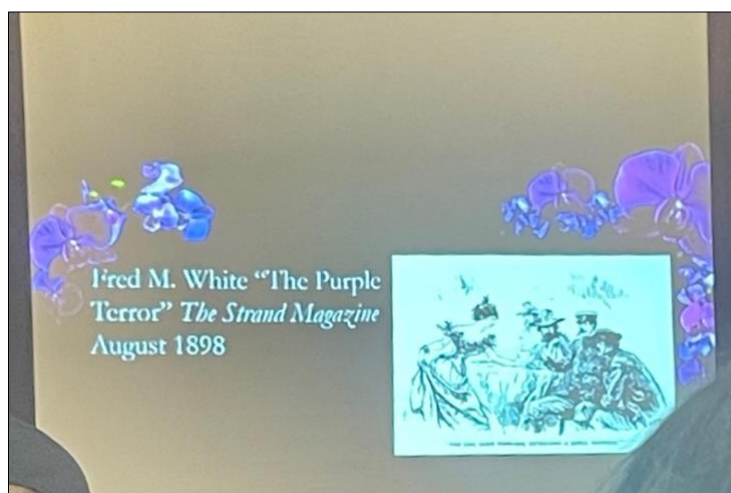
Philippa and I attended this one-day symposium, the first organised by the Liverpool Botanical Trust.

There were several talks, a tour of the glasshouses in the Victorian walled garden and the opportunity to meet and talk with other enthusiasts.

We were delighted to see two of our members there: Lisa Price and Chris Needham, who run a houseplant shop called Root near the Bluecoat in the Liverpool City Centre.



Keynote speaker Dr. Philip Seaton, a member of the RHS Orchid Committee and project manager for Orchid Seed Stores for Sustainable Use (OSSSU), a UK Darwin Initiative project based at The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew's Millennium Seed Bank, gave two presentations: 'Orchid Diversity and Its Conservation' and 'Looking After and Propagating Orchids' where he explained how orchids are raised from seed.



Dr. Leanne Darnbrough, a Canadian researcher and lecturer at the University of Leuven, Belgium, told us that in the literature of Victorian times, there was a fascination with orchids which were described as sinister, carnivorous plants.



Croxteth Hall botanical horticulturist Gerry Weaver welcomes us to the glasshouses



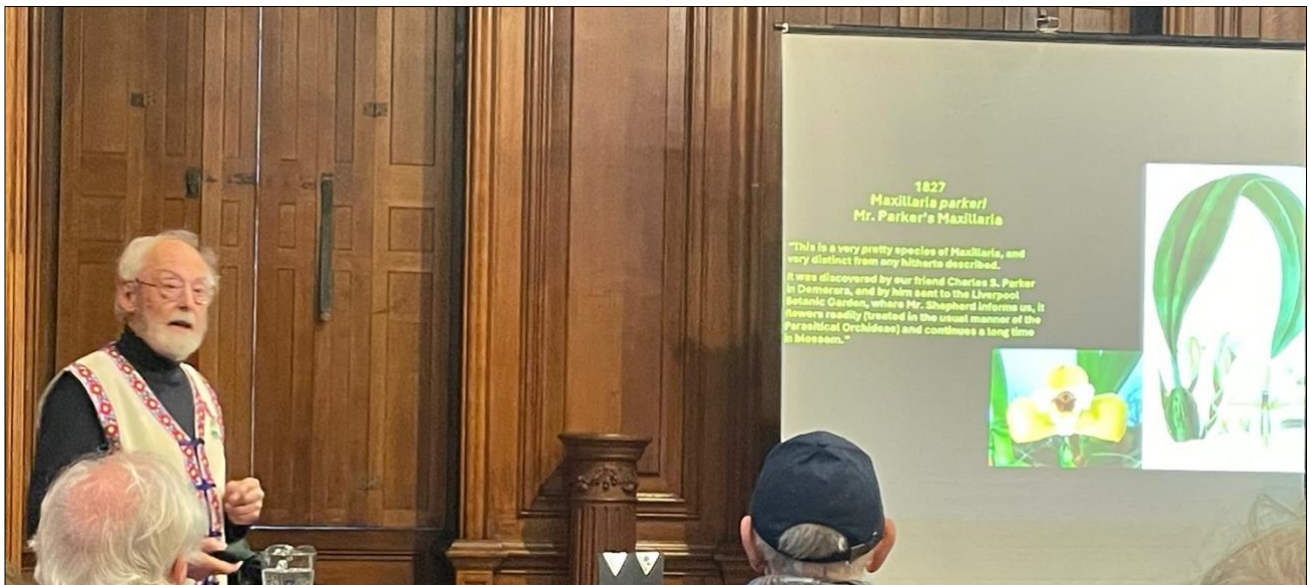
The Peach House



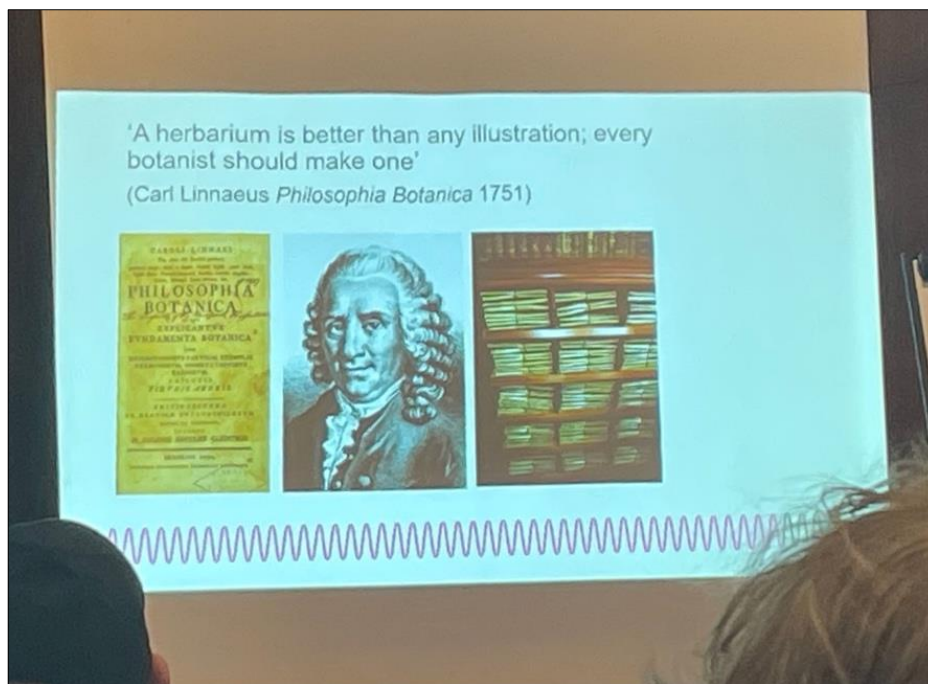
The glasshouse structures are in need of attention, as are the orchids.



Other warm growing plants such as (left) bromeliads and (right) the Green Jade Vine (*Strongylodon macrobotrys*), native to the Philippines, high in the roof.



Steve Lyus, Chair of the recently formed Liverpool Botanical Trust, spoke of the rich and fascinating history of Liverpool orchids.



The final presentation of the day came from Donna Young of National Museums Liverpool who is particularly interested in historical herbaria.

We took the opportunity to tell the audience a little about the North of England Orchid Society and we left our contact details with the Symposium organisers.

We shall follow with interest the progress of the Liverpool Botanical Trust's research into Liverpool's orchid history and its restoration efforts.



## **The Mathers Foundation Open Day Guided Tour, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024** **Report and photos – Phil Howard**

This year, The Mathers Foundation, situated in Pulborough, West Sussex, celebrates its fifth birthday. Since my previous visit in March 2022, the already impressive collection has expanded in both the range of genera and the number of plants, of which there are thousands. It is a breath-taking venture.

The UK orchid charity is the National Collection holder for *Oncidium*, *Pleione*, and *Stanhopea* and *Acineta*, and is also committed to *Miltoniopsis*, *Cymbidium*, *Masdevallia* and *Bulbophyllum* conservation.

David Mathers gave a short introduction to the Foundation before the grower Jim Durrant (ex-McBeans) led the guided tour and happily answered visitors' questions about the plants and their culture.



Left to right: Jim Durrant, David Mathers, and (in the distance), Gill Mathers, David's wife.

Here Jim is explaining to visitors that the plants on the bench are part of a consignment of a thousand plants imported recently from Colombia.

Behind him are racks of orchids with those below growing under lights. On the right, a double row of *Stanhopeas*, hanging from wires, runs the length of the greenhouse.

**Masdevallias at the front of the Oncidium house**



**There are a lot of orchids!**





**Automated systems control heating, ventilation, humidity/misting, shading.**





## The Cymbidium house



## There were some Calanthes and Lycastes in Cym house



David Mathers, who is an RHS Orchid Committee member, gave a presentation in February at the World Orchid Conference in Taiwan and again, this month, at the European Orchid Conference in Dresden.

Foundation orchids regularly feature in the RHS awards. At the recent RHS London Orchid Show – a fortnight after my visit to the Foundation - their display won an RHS Gold Medal and was judged Best in Show for the second year running. Two of the Cymbidiums in their display won awards: one for Best Hybrid and another for Best Specimen Plant plus a CCC/RHS, and one of their Pleiones gained an AM/RHS.



**Above, recently repotted Pleiones in their polytunnel**



**The warm Bulbophyllum house**

Plants and flasks are continually being added from around the world. They are also carrying out their own breeding and seed sowing with the aid of their new laboratory which I didn't see - Jim Durrant told me it was off-site. Given that the greenhouses already appear full, I asked him where all these plants are going to go. Apparently, there is another large greenhouse on site which they are not currently using.

To create some space and to raise money for the Foundation, some plants, which have already flowered and are deemed surplus to requirements, are offered for sale. For the last two seasons, Pleione bulbs have been offered via a catalogue. This year, there is also an Oncidium catalogue. The plants can be bought at Open Days held by the Foundation, and mail order may be available on request. You can download the catalogue [here](#).

## And finally...

Wearing their new North of England Orchid Society polo shirts for the first time, our show team looks very smart at the Sheffield show.

The shirts were a huge hit. The team being easily identifiable, this seemed to encourage people to approach them for a chat.

We shall be placing an order for more shirts, so, if any member of the Society is interested in ordering one at the very reasonable price of £10, please let Philippa know.



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