

# **SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **DECEMBER 2011**



**DECEMBER PLANT OF THE MONTH  
PAPHIOPEDILUM TRANLIENIANUM**

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## EDITORIAL

The newsletter is a little bit thinner than expected this month as it is a relatively short turn around, and with Christmas and the new year getting in the way my own 'elvish' contributors have been unable to put the whole AGM details together, and I've been beavering away with January's presentation. There is little point in issuing half the AGM details, so the whole will be included with the January newsletter, together with a full report on the WOC.

My presentation for Sunday stands at 186 slides at present, and I'm trying to see what I can take out – otherwise it will be fast talk and quick fingers (I took almost 1000 pictures, so it is already severely reduced...). There are some really good and interesting plants to see. I just hope that the slight sore throat I have doesn't develop into a full cold by the weekend!

The 2012 programme is attached to the mailing, and there will be printed copies available on Sunday to collect rather than print yourselves.

## THE TABLE SHOW

The festive table show commentary was given by Charles Ford with a little assistance from the editor. Starting on the left with Ascda. Daryl Venables which is a frequently seen small round yellow speckled flowered vandaceous type that is quite easy to grow, and would do well in a glass container on a windowsill as long as it is kept warm and bright. Cym. Strathblane 'Cooksbridge' is another plant that should be easy to grow, but

is often more difficult to get to flower on time. This was a pleasant surprise, and had a shortish spike of deep red speckled flowers. *Onc. sotoanum* is the new name for *Onc. ornithorhynchum*, but remains the same with lots of spikes of tiny pink flower that creates a big effect along with its strong scent. It is an intermediate grower from Mexico. *Onc. Twinkle* has *sotoanum* as a parent (the other is *cheiroptherum*), and is a similarly small plant with tiny flowers a bit more towards red than pink. This was a division of the clone 'Laura's gift', and is growing strongly on the kitchen windowsill. *Gastrochilus calceolaris* was a small plant with 3 short spikes of tiny flowers best seen with a magnifying glass. They are generally yellow and brown with a white frill on the lip. Another *Oncidium* had been rescued from a DIY store skip, and was now growing well and would have had 4 spikes but 1 succumbed to transit damage. The flowers were large yellow ones typical of many hybrids in this group (possibly now a *Gomesa*). *Epidendrum psuedoepidendrum* is a tall plant with a smallish spray of small flowers of mainly green with some red and yellow.

In the slippers *Paph. fairrieianum* was a good example of the species with its typical Indian look. *Paph. tranlienianum*, also a species had 2 flowers of good form, although this is more of a connoisseurs' flower. Nonetheless this was adjudged to be the plant of the month. *Paph. wardii* f. *album* is slightly smaller than the normal brown form. *Paph. Dusty Miller 'Shelley'* is an old English classic that has stood the test of time well. *Paph. Puddleham 'Doolittle'* is another classic white with 2 flowers on the open spike. *Paph. Silvara 'Venus'* was yet another pure white classic. Some of the more modern breeding lines have produced *Paph. Icy Icy Wind* now a specimen plant with a large almost round white speckled flower. *Paph. Baroness Byford* is a recent white of Taiwanese production, and *Paph. Hellas x White Queen* had produced an interesting cream with radiating spots. *Paph. Coro Leopard* was a largish flower with a heavily mottled dorsal, and finally *Paph. Joe Dowdell 'Winter Rain'* was a tall pink of an open shape. Phrag. Mem. Dick Clements had a single flower of deep red.

*Calanthe Tokyo* is an old hybrid (from 1922) and had a tall spike of several pink and white flowers. The flowers are produced on leafless bulbs. Two plants of *Cat. Karae Lyn Sugiyama* were shown – which were a division of each other. One had 4 flowers on 2 spikes, and the other had 2 flowers, but had a sheath still developing. The flowers were a strong white in colour. It is said to grow like a triffid (on an east facing windowsill) with roots going everywhere. The final plant was *Phal Chromium Emperor 'Rising Sun'* which had a tall spike of well spaced yellow flowers. Thank you Charles.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### PAPHIOPEDILUM TRANLIENIANUM

This plant of *Paphiopedilum tranlienianum* was purchased from Plested Orchids about 3 or 4 years ago with a single growth and a small new growth, it has since grown quite well. *P. tranlienianum* is an unusual miniature slipper orchid and shares an affinity with the *P. insigne* group and is most closely related to *P. barbigerum* and *P. hermannii*. It is endemic in the central province of the Northern part of Vietnam, near to its border with China. It was described by Gruss and Perner in 1998 as a plant imported into Germany from Vietnam and was named after Mrs. Tran Ngo Lien. Wild populations of *tranlienianum* were found and studied in spring 2001 by Averyanov and Phan Ke Loc.

*P. tranlienianum* inhabits primary, broad leafed, evergreen and mixed forests that grow on very rocky steep slopes of highly eroded limestone mountains of 400 – 750 m. More or less dry winters last from Nov. to Feb, temperatures 12 - 16° C with March being foggy with drizzling rain. Summer is wet, with June, July and August having temperatures of 25 - 28° C and peaks of 35 - 40° C.

To sum up, mine has to grow in my 8 x 6 lean-to, with all the rest in intermediate conditions. **Derek Jackson**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...**

### **MONTHLY MEETINGS AT RANMOOR – 10AM**

**Jan 8<sup>th</sup>**                      John Garner – the recent WOC in Singapore

### **OTHER SHOWS**

**Jan 14-15<sup>th</sup>**                      CANWOS show at the Goredale garden centre, nr. Chester

Society website - [www.sheffieldorchids.org](http://www.sheffieldorchids.org)

Below: - *Calanthe Tokyo*

