



# Newsletter

## November 2025



### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will take place on Saturday 1st November when we will be joined by Helen Millner giving a talk entitled 'Orchids but not as we know them'. This talk will focus on the fascinating topic of miniature orchids and will look at macrophotography to take a new look into their world.



### Christmas Hamper

Janet James will be collecting donations for the Christmas Hamper at the next meeting.

Any contributions are gratefully received.

The hamper (or hampers plural if we get enough donations) are a great fundraiser for the society at our Christmas meeting so

#### Winter Orchid Care

Water less let soil dry slightly between drinks

Light matters bright, draught-free window spots are ideal

Humidity helps use a tray or light misting

Feed lightly once a month with weak orchid fertiliser

-Simple care now = beautiful spring blooms!



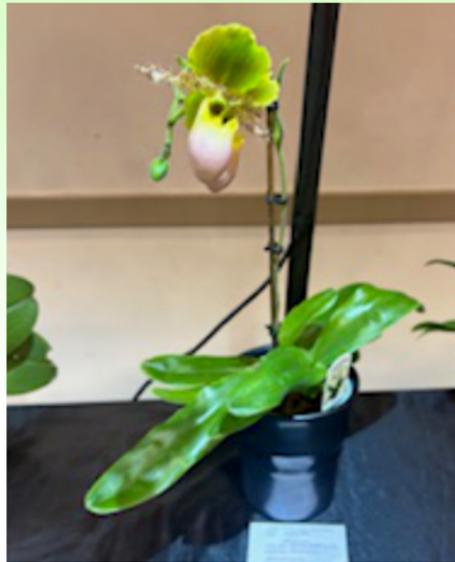
You can follow Solihull & District Orchid Society on



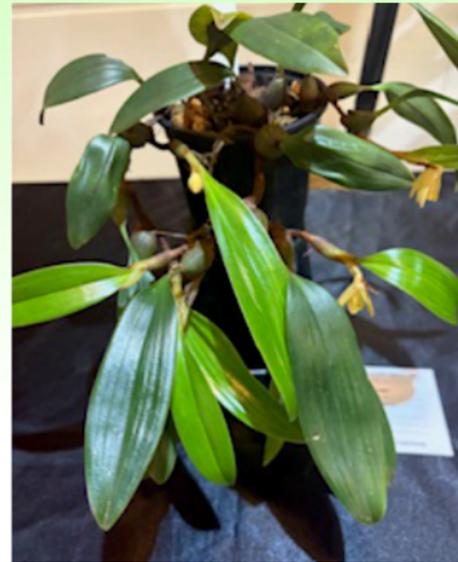
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# October Plant Table



**Paphiopedilum Pinocchio**  
was grown by Carol Evans



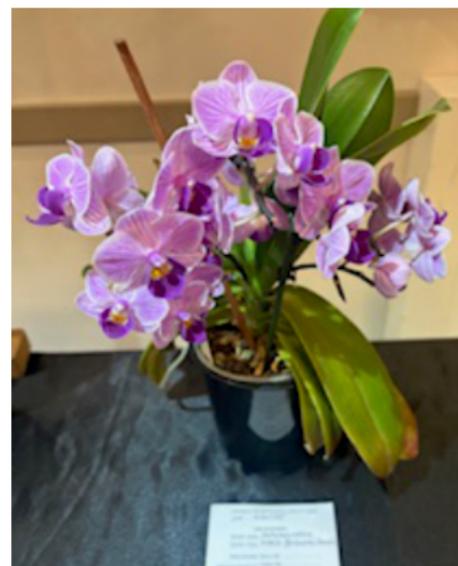
**Eria biflora** was grown by  
Monica Johnson

**Unfortunately the Table Display was not judged due to all 4 of those who could judge being absent**

*Scaphosepalum verrucosum* - This plant is native to the cloud forests of Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Bolivia and Guyana and thrives in cool environments at between 5,000 and 10,000 feet. It was first described in 1888 and is notable for its continuous flowering.

*Dendrochilum magnum* is recognised as the largest species in this genus and comes from high elevations in the Philippines. It is very fragrant with a smell of allspice and can last for up to 4 weeks in bloom. It is now been renamed as *Coelogyne magna*.

*Eria biflora* is found widely across South



**Phalaenopsis Boguetto Delight**  
was grown by Carol Evans.

# October Plant Table



**Zygopetalum Hybrid** was  
grown by Bernard Diaper

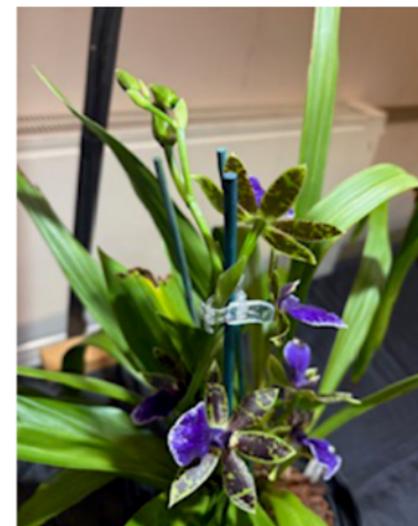
*East Asia and is relatively easy to grow and tolerant of a wide range of temperatures.*

*Paphiopedilum Pinocchio is a primary hybrid made from a cross between glaucophyllum and primulinum, has an Award of Garden Merit and is relatively easy to grow. A good hybrid for a grower to choose as their first Paphiopedilum.*

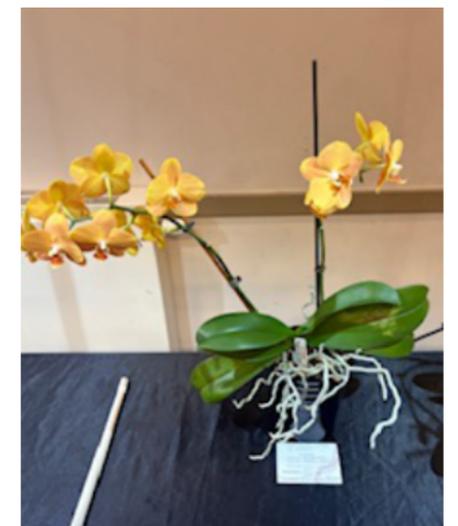


**Dendrochilum magnum** was  
grown by Monica Johnson

*Zygopetalum is a family of orchids that come from South America. The hybrids are extremely striking with a range of colours although the blue/purple ones are the most widely available. Their scent is often extremely powerful filling a room with a delightful aroma.*



**Scaphosepalum verrucosum**  
was grown by George Mayes



**Phalaenopsis Hybrid** was  
grown by Carol Evans

# Orchids of Crete and the Dodecanese

On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025, we welcomed Celia Wright and her husband Ian to the society for Celia's talk on 'The Orchids of Crete and the Dodecanese'. Celia's talk focused on Rhodes, Crete and the lesser known island of Karpathos which is situated in the middle of Rhodes and Crete. Rhodes and Crete are easily accessible by direct flight from the UK but to get to Karpathos a connecting flight is needed from Athens.

Celia and Ian have visited these three islands on several occasions over the years. They tended to visit in spring time March/April as this is when most of the wild orchids are in flower.

Celia told us that generally there are four common orchid habitats in Greece which are:

1. Pine forest;
2. Phrygana (poor soil areas such as road side verges);
3. Disused olive terraces; and
4. High plateau (rocky slopes with damp areas).

First Celia told us about her trips to Karpathos. Karpathos is known as 'the windy isle' as it is very windswept. It is a sparsely populated island with lots of mountainous landscapes. Celia and Ian observed 14 species of ophrys, 3 orchis and 4 other species.

Amongst the highlights were ophrys canophilia which has a small flower less than 1cm long and ophrys iricolor which has bright red colouration on the back of the petals. Ophrys aegaea was

particularly striking with lovely deep red and pink flowers. A further notable sighting was ophrys kotschyi ssp ariadne named after the daughter of King Minos of Crete in Greek mythology. Celia and Ian also saw ophrys heldreichii which is endemic to Greece. Other species included neotinea maculata and orchis italica.

Rhodes was much easier to get around than Karpathos with better roads. Here, Celia and Ian saw a huge number of different orchid species including ophrys persephone and ophrys speculum which Celia described as her favourite orchid of the Greek islands.

They also spotted ophrys rhodia named after the island and many ophrys tenthredinifera which is commonly sighted in Greece.

In Crete, on one visit Celia and Ian were able to spot 18 species on a 2 hour visit. Notable sightings included ophrys cretensis, named after the island and orchis simia which is known as the monkey orchid due to the monkey-like shape of the flower.

After several visits to Crete, Celia and Ian were lucky to spot the rarer spiranthes spiralis orchid in a cemetery.

Other flower species were also seen across all three islands including muscari, peonies, cyclamen and autumn narcissus.

Thank you very much to Celia for braving the stormy weather and to share with us such an informative talk about her Greek travels.