



# Newsletter



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## Lincolnshire Orchid Group

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Happy New Year to one and all.

Now is the time of year when we can look forward to our orchids deciding that Spring is about to break out and it is time to start into new growth. I like to encourage plants that feel this way by giving them a feed of liquid seaweed. In the December Newsletter I mentioned that some plants were flowering early; this has continued, with *Coelogyne stricta* being three months in advance and also some of the *Pterastylis curta*. There are several pots of *P. curta* in two locations in my greenhouse, and some plants in each spot are flowering, but not all. As all of them have been grown from only two original plants they should behave in an identical manner, I would have thought. What do I know.

As you may notice, when you get to the back of the *Newsletter* you will find there is no Orchid Nomenclature - What's In A Name? Because of advances in DNA testing the relationship of plants to each other is becoming better understood and the list is now out of date. None of our members has the knowledge to maintain it, but I'm sure that if you are interested, a trawl of the Internet will yield some useful results.

Liz (Editor)

***Pterastylis curta*** See page 2



\* Members may bring their plants for sale.

## LOG Events 2012

**2 March:** \* Repotting demo by Liz Taylor. Members may bring plants for advice, and repotting if time allows.

**31 March:** Display at Hinckley & District Orchid Society Show

**13 April:** \* AGM, Pleiones by Steve Clements

**15 April:** LOG Spring Show

**22 April:** Display at Fenland Orchid Society Show

**4 May:** \* Orchids on a Windowsill: Members own experiences

**1 June:** \* Members' Meeting

**6 July:** Meeting Cancelled - because of Peterborough Show

**6 - 8 July:** Peterborough International Orchid Show

**3 August:** Orchids from Seed  
Andrew Bannister

## Plant of the Season

### *Pterastylis curta*

*Pterastylis curta* is a terrestrial orchid from Australia, where the tubers are said to be eaten by Aboriginal people, though I can't recommend that you try it. They will grow quite happily outdoors in light shade if you can protect them from frost.

The compost that I use is a mixture of 50% light garden soil or J1 no 1, 30% sharp sand or grit and 20% of our own Fine Bark Mix. *Pterastylis* grow from a tiny tuber not easy to see, so don't throw them out with the old compost. I re-pot in the middle of summer when the plants are dormant. Tip the compost carefully onto a tray and search through for the tiny tubers. Pot up into fresh compost, placing the tubers about one and a half inches (3-4cm) deep and two inches (5cm) apart. I use three or four tubers to a three inch (8cm) pot.

Keep the pot dryish until you can see new growth, then water normally. Use a high nitrogen feed until December, then switch to a low nitrogen flower feed.

I also give some seaweed feed once or twice a year. Your plants should now be nice and strong, and throw up their oddly attractive green hooded flowers in spring. Shortly afterwards they will go dormant so cease food and water until new growth appears.

It is not necessary to re-pot until the clump becomes very congested, probably in about three years, but if you want to re-pot every year they will not suffer.

Looking at this photograph I have just realised that the plants that are flowering early have much shorter stems. To me this does not seem to make sense as when the spikes developed over December and January we have had short days and less light, so by my reckoning they should have grown much taller searching for the light (if you want the correct word - etiolated).

Liz (Editor)



## LOG Spring Show 2012

Having not held a Spring show since 2009 we thought we might try again. As there are orchid shows all over the country at this time of year we have not been able to find another society that is free to support us, which is a shame, but nevertheless we think we will manage to fill the two halls quite nicely. We had a little difficulty in booking the hall and have had to settle for a Sunday this time. Steve will be putting on a display of his hardy orchids, there should be enough pleiones to make a separate small display, and possibly enough of the little things of the type that Brian and I grow to make another.

We are not yet sure if our usual trader, Laurence Hobbs, will be able to come, but if not, we will have Ray Creek, or at least his wife, as Ray will be at another show. We also have another trader to attend who will be new to at least some of you - Jeff Hutchings of Laneside Hardy Orchids ([www.lanesidealpines.com](http://www.lanesidealpines.com)). Many of his plants should be in flower and they will be completely new to most of the public. He has hardy orchids suitable for just about any garden situation, you just need to ask.

As well as beautiful flowering plants for the LOG display, which I am sure you will provide in abundance, we will need books for the bookstall, prizes for the tombola and cakes/biscuits for the kitchen. Please don't forget we also need lots of bodies throughout the day to set up, man the stalls, wash up and clear the hall at the end of the Show. Even if you can only pop in for a short time you could give a weary washer upper a refreshing break and a chance to look round.

To comply with regulations at least one of the people manning the kitchen needs to have a Food Hygiene Certificate. Janet has one but she and Brian will be away, so David and I will both take it. It is a one day course which we are taking in Boston as by the time we tried to book, the Sleaford one was full. The normal price is only £15 and we both qualify for the concessionary rate of £7.50.

We intend to do two homemade soups instead of one, everything else being as it was for the last Show, starting with bacon rolls of course, but I will ask that one of our excellent cooks makes a savoury something instead of sweet, to extend the range of food on offer.

### Shows LOG will Attend We will need your plants please

There is a brand new show this year at Ye Olde Bell Hotel, Barnby Moor, Retford, Nottinghamshire on **Sunday 19th February**. LOG will put on a display and as it is not too far away Tony and I will do a lot of networking in the hopes of gaining a new member or two. If you fancy attending this show as a visitor, entry and parking are free. Show is open from 10am to 4pm.

LOG will put on a display at two other society shows this spring. We will be begging for your plants for Hinckley and District Orchid Society Show on **Saturday 31st March**. They have a new venue for their Show this year, so that will be interesting.

Fenland Orchid Society will be having their Show on **Sunday 22nd April** at Terrington St Clement in the School Hall, so once again we will be calling for plants.

The Peterborough International Orchid Show will be on the **6th to 8th July 2012** and LOG will have a display. Note this is a different date to previous years.

### Other Events

Laurence Hobbs Spring Open Weekend. Bailiffs Cottage Nursey, Hophurst Lane, Crawley Down, West Sussex RH10 4LN. **Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th February 2012**. 10% discount on many plants. Free light refreshments (sample Sandra's delicious cakes). Note, there is not a toilet at the nursery.

The London Orchid Show is on from **16th to 17th March 2012** at RHS Lawrence Hall, Westminster, London.

Sheffield & District Orchid Society Annual Show returns to Chatsworth Cavendish Hall, Edensor as a one day event on **20th May 2012**.

## Seasonal Jobs

February is not too early to think about showing your plants. If they are reluctant to throw up new flower spikes have you been giving them the correct winter treatment? Some dendrobiums need a cool dry rest to induce flowering. Others need the same temperatures all year. Many plants prefer a cooler night and a warmer day. If your phalaenopsis will not reflower try putting it in a cooler room for a month or so. This usually does the trick. If you have any doubts bring them along to a meeting and ask for help. That is what the Group is for.

Some plants suffer from a shortage of light during the winter months and need to be moved, but be careful if you do this as on a sunny day they could get sunburnt. Remember also that snow reflects light and a snowy day that looks dull because of a grey sky can be quite bright in reality. Just giving the leaves a wipe over with a damp tissue every now and then will keep them clean and allow as much light as possible to get to the leaf surface. Some diluted washing-up liquid won't hurt and will kill adult insects but not the eggs. Please don't use leaf shine products as they can stop up the pores of the plants.

Keep an eye open for pests, particularly in the house. Greenfly can reproduce without mating, in fact this is what they do for most of the year, so missing just one today can mean a whole colony within a couple of weeks.

While you are about it give the pots a wipe over and remove dead leaves if they will come off with the gentlest of tugs. Do not force them, and only cut a leaf off if it is diseased.

Make sure before you put away your tools that they are cleaned, dried, sharpened, oiled, whatever it takes to keep them in tip-top condition. Good tools are not cheap but if you look after them they will last and last.

## LOG AGM April 2012

The AGM is not the most popular of meetings, but we have to hold one to comply with our constitution. It is important to the running of the Group that as many members as possible attend, and speak up if they feel the need. If you are too shy to speak for yourself or unable to come, please talk to any member of the Committee who can speak up for you, anonymously if you prefer.

We need congratulations, complaints, or any comments at all. We do not want the Group to stagnate and we need suggestions even if we can not act on all of them.

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## Lincolnshire Orchid Group

Formed in March 2005, the main objective is to promote interest in the cultivation and preservation of all species and hybrids of the Family Orchidaceae (Orchids) by exchanging information and experiences related to successful orchid culture. The Group aims to cater for all types of members, from the experienced grower with large greenhouses and a vast collection, to the novice and beginner with one or two plants on the kitchen windowsill. To this end, the novice and beginner, and even those with merely an interest in orchids, are welcome to attend.

### Membership:

Single Membership   £10.00 per year  
Joint Membership    £15.00 per year

The *Newsletter* is published quarterly. Please submit any suitable material to the Editor at [orchids.taylor@virgin.net](mailto:orchids.taylor@virgin.net), or by hand, for inclusion in the next Newsletter.