

Essex Orchid Society

Announcements & dates for your diary.

12 May - Spring Show

19 May - AGM and Plant Auction

London Orchid Show 6th - 7th April 2018

RHS Lindley Hall, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2QW

Tickets: RHS Members £5 in advance and at the door. Non Members £6 in advance and £9 at the door.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-london-shows/rhs-orchid-show-and-plant-fair>

Malvern International Orchid Show 15th - 17th June 2018

Royal Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW

Tickets: admit to the entire showground including the Orchid Show Tent. The cheap Orchid Society tickets will be £8 compared with £19 ordered in advance and £23 at the gate. As in previous years, tickets are ordered (and paid for) through Moira.

<https://www.royalthreecounties.co.uk/whats-on/international-orchid-show/>

British Orchid Show, Writhlington School 2nd - 4th November 2018

Writhlington School, Radstock nr Bath, Somerset BA3 3NQ

This is actually the British Orchid Congress but with a punchier name. There will be an Orchid Show open to the public on both days plus an Orchid Science Symposium on Saturday open to Congress delegates. Writhlington School is famed internationally for its propagation, conservation and exhibition of orchids. No information yet about prices or booking but we will circulate it as soon as it appears.

If you have an article you would like to submit for the newsletter please email it to me at peggy122@hotmail.com



Next Meeting

10th March 2018
2pm-4pm,
South Green
Memorial Hall,
Billericay CM11 2PR



Problem Plants

Come along from
1:30pm with your
plant for some
expert advice.



Today's Speaker
10th February
2018, Peter
Johnson, Orchid
Hunting in Peru
and Ecuador

The British Paphiopedilum Society

How many of our members grow 'Paphs'? The British Paphiopedilum Society was founded in 1990 with the intention of bringing together growers around the world to enhance their love of slipper orchids.

The Society exhibits at most major orchid shows throughout the year and is a member of the British Orchid Council. This gives members an opportunity to show their plants and win national and international awards. At present there is one meeting a year, (in January at the Ramada Solihull), which includes the AGM.

We have been members for many years and attended the meeting in January. We met at 1pm on the Saturday for a buffet lunch and members plants were displayed on tables the length of the room for the 'Plant Appreciation' competition. There were ten classes, some of which included a very large number of plants. At 2pm there was an illustrated talk by our guest speaker, Hilmar Bauch who owns a large nursery in Germany. It was entitled 'Paphiopedilum, the Genus, a complete review.' The photographs were magnificent and there was plenty of time for questions. After a break for coffee, the AGM was expertly conducted by our new chairman, Allan Burdis.

On Saturday evening, 44 of us sat down to a dinner which was a happy social occasion and an opportunity to chat to members who we may only meet once a year.

On Sunday morning Hilmar gave another illustrated talk 'Phragmipedium, species and selected hybrids, the cultivation guide', again with plenty of time for questions and then we had the results of the judging and the presentation of awards.

The morning came to an end far too soon and it was time to make for home.

We have put some booklets on the table: A Members Handbook, and a copy of the quarterly Journal. You can also visit the website:

<https://www.paphiopedilum.org.uk> which exhibits many plants from the Table Show.

We hope some of you would like to join us next year.

Pam and Peter Hall.

11 Rare Orchids That Look Like Animals (Including A Naked Man)

When you think of an orchid, what usually comes to mind is a pretty pink or white pot plant – right? Well orchids can be found in all shapes, sizes and colours and with more than 35,000 species of orchid in the world one could spend a lifetime discussing them all. Instead we thought it would be much more fun to share the surprising number of orchid species that bear an uncanny resemblance to animals. So in reverse order of similarity, here we go:



Number 11 – The Lion Orchid

Ok, so this one we just sneaked in because in this particular image the orchid looks like a bit like lion and under the rules of the internet, all blog posts must feature a photo of a cat. I have no idea which orchid this is, so if you have any idea, let us know. It even has whiskers!



Number 10 – The Donkey Orchid

Scientific Name: Diuris

Common Name: Donkey Orchid

Habitat: South West of Western Australia

Named the Donkey Orchid due to the two lateral petals, protruding from the top of the flower like the two ears of a donkey. You can almost see this flower squealing “Hee haawwww”!



Number 9 – The Goat Orchid

Scientific Name: *Ophrys Reinholdii*

Common Name: Reinhold's Bee-orchid

Habitat: Southwest Balkans, Greece, Turkey, Iran & Iraq

This horned flower is said to look like a goat, although to me I would say it looks more like a purple-headed alien giraffe, with its long-necked stem. Either way it's a bizarre looking flower.



Number 8 – The Bird Head Orchid

Scientific Name: *Phalaenopsis* sp.

Common Name: The Pink Moth Orchid

Habitat: Southwest Balkans, Greece, Turkey, Iran & Iraq

Some of these species supposedly resemble moths in flight, but within this gorgeous flower there is what looks like a curious ghost-like bird's head guarding the nectar. Cool yet slightly creepy.



Number 7 – The Green Squid Orchid

Scientific Name: Prosthechea Cochleata

Common Name: Cockleshell Orchid or Clamshell Orchid

Habitat: Central America, Caribbean Basin, Florida Everglades

With their purple “hood” and floaty green legs these little flowers look like baby squids swimming in the sea. Either that or an alien invasion floating down from the sky to herald their impending takeover of Earth.



Number 6 – The Bee Orchid

Scientific Name: Ophrys Apifera

Common Name: Bee Orchid

Habitat: Europe



It looks like a female bumblebee visiting a flower and for good reason too. This sight attracts the male bee which tries to mate with the flower, in the process of which the bee is covered in pollen and then proceeds to spread it around. Clever stuff!

Number 5 – The White Egret Orchid

Scientific Name: Habenaria Radiata

Common Name: White Egret Flower, Fringed Orchid or Sagiso

Habitat: China, Korea and Russia



This orchid really is uncanny. Its fringed petals replicate a white egret spreading its fluffy white wings ready for take off.

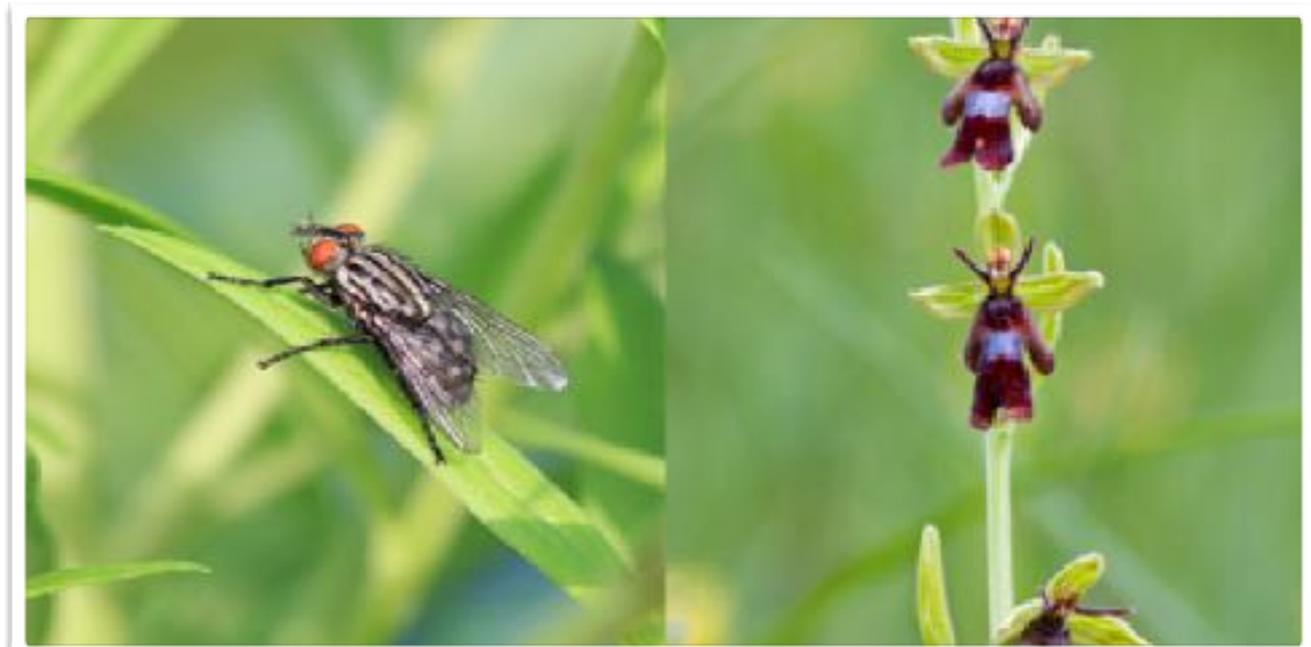
Number 4 – The Fly Orchid

Scientific Name: Ophrys insectifera

Common Name: Fly Orchid

Habitat: Europe

Just like the Bee Orchid, this species resembles an insect in order to attract the male of the species, which pollinates the flowers as it attempts to mate with them. Not the prettiest of flowers (unless you're a male fly obviously, in which case...it's HOT!).



Number 3 – The Dove Orchid

Scientific Name: Peristeria Elata

Common Name: Holy Ghost Orchid

Habitat: Central America to Ecuador and Venezuela

Similar to the Pink Moth Orchid this flower also has a hidden creature inside, in this case it's an entire dove (well, not a real one, obviously). The bird looks exquisitely carved in an almost Holy stance and it is hard to believe it has been grown by nature.



Number 2 – The Flying Duck Orchid

Scientific Name: Caleana Major

Common Name: Flying Duck Orchid

Habitat: Eastern and Southern Australia

This incredible orchid looks like a duck in flight, albeit a pretty weird duck.

Surely there is nothing more amazing that orchids can offer, or is there...?



Number 1 – The Monkey Orchid

Scientific Name: *Dracula Simia* & *Orchis Simia*

Common Name: Monkey Orchid, including one with the moniker “Naked Hanging Man Orchid”

Habitat: Southeastern Ecuador and Peru

Let's stop monkeying around (I'm sorry, I couldn't resist that) and get to the grand finale. Last but not least is our favourite of all the animal look-a-like orchids, these aptly named flowers either have monkey faces or monkey bodies! The best thing about them is they smell just like ripe orange when fully blossomed.



No matter their shape or size, these exotic flowers convey an elegance which make them perfect for gifts. So, which is your favourite? Or do you have any that you would like to add to the list?

Article taken from arenaflowers.com