






# Hardy Orchid Society

## AGM, Spring Meeting & Plant Competition 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Exeter Hall, Oxford Rd, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 1AB

Time	Activity
09.00	Set up trade and members stands and plant competition
09.30	Doors open to members and guests
10.30	Chairman's introduction and brief AGM
11.05	<p><b>Anneke Wagner – A new chance in the Netherlands for the Summer Lady's-tresses – the Dutch reintroduction project.</b></p> <p>The talk is about the process of an attempt to reintroduce Summer Lady's-tresses in an area where they were growing until 1938 but disappeared after that. About 900 plantlets were planted since spring 2023. Some flowering and seed setting has been observed, but evidence of sustainable reintroduction, the discovery of spontaneous seedlings in the field, is of course yet to come. Also included in the talk are some spin-off results about symbiotic and asymbiotic cultivation of the Summer Lady's-tresses. Some thoughts will be shared about objections that may be raised about whether or not such reintroductions should be done at all and if so how (just sowing seeds or planting grown up orchids as we did).</p> <p><b>About Anneke</b> - Anneke has an MSc in Biology (major Plant Physiology, minors Microbiology and Immunology), PhD in Plant Physiology (topic Carbohydrate metabolism in potato tuber callus) and has undertaken research (<math>\pm</math> 50 peer reviewed publications), lecturing (plant physiology/biochemistry and plant anatomy for 1st and 3rd year biology students) and (in the last years of my working life) educational management. Anneke was employed first at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and later at the University of Amsterdam. Now retired Anneke is 'back to the lab': a small room at home with a flowcabinet and everything else needed for culturing orchids and doing little experiments.</p> <div>    </div>



## 12.05 Phillip Cribb – Orchid hunting in the Peloponnese

The Peloponnese can be considered as Greece's largest island, separated from the rest of mainland Greece by the isthmus of Corinth and the Corinth Canal. Visiting there combines two of my favourite pastimes, visiting ancient sites and looking for plants. My history lessons as a schoolboy would have been greatly enhanced if I had visited already Olympia, Mycenae, Sparta, Messene and Corinth, rather than just reading about them. These ancient sites used to be a wonderful hunting ground for the orchid enthusiast until archaeologists decided that herbicides revealed more of the ruins. In a few years, the ancient sites, formerly enhanced by spectacular floral displays became deserts. Fortunately, the Covid epidemic has seen a return of many sites to somewhere approaching their former glory and, amazingly, the orchids have begun to return. In this lecture, I will introduce the ecological and orchid diversity of the Peloponnese and highlight some of the taxonomic conundrums in orchids that continue to perplex us, despite modern advances in systematic botany.

**About Phil** - Dr Phil Cribb is a plant taxonomist who joined the staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in 1974 where he was Curator of the Orchid Herbarium and Deputy Keeper of the Herbarium, retiring in 2006. He is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at Kew where he continues to work on orchids. In 2007 he received the Linnean Society's Medal for Botany. He served as president of the Ray Society (founded 1843), one of Britain's oldest scientific societies, from 2015 to 2018. He is currently patron of the Chelsea Physic Garden's Florilegium Society. He has undertaken many botanical expeditions, the first in 1970-1971 to the Peruvian and Bolivian Andes and subsequently in tropical Africa, Madagascar, China, SE Asia, Australia, the southwestern Pacific and Central and South America. He is currently working on Afro-Madagascan orchids.





13.05

Lunch

14.05

Plant show awards and comments from the judge

14.35

**Keith Boseley – Finding the narrow lipped / broad leaved helleborine hybrid at Warburg**

Using the recently published paper confirming the *Epipactus* x *stephensonii* at Warburg as a guide to the talk but putting in the human story behind the paper and to detail the hard work and foresight of Terry Swainbank's in searching for it.

**About Keith** – Keith is a retired gardener, key volunteer for BBOWT at Warburg, Committee member for Lavells Wetland Trust and also runs the work parties there. In addition Keith is also a Warden of a scout ancient wood campsite.



15.05

Refreshment Break

15.25

**Paul van Maaren – Orchids of South Wales**

The talk will be an overview of the wild orchids that Paul has encountered in his travels in South Wales over a number of years. South Wales has locations that are well known to orchid enthusiasts, such as Kenfig, a National Nature Reserve located 6m from Bridgend. This is a vast

area of sand dunes, freshwater pools, lakes, grassland, scrub and woodland providing a vast array of habitats suitable for the many orchid species that are found there. South Wales isn't just about Kenfig however. There are many other sites and locations to hunt for orchids and enjoy in South Wales. Paul will illuminate some of these and show the orchids he has found and photographed in each one.

**About Paul** – Paul's travels have taken him orchid hunting in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland and in Austria. Paul is also interested in butterflies (especially the High Brown Fritillary, living close to the last remaining population in Wales) and adders (having recently created a Machine Learning model that can be used to identify individual adders using photographs). Paul is also involved in theoretical chemical physics research (20+ peer reviewed papers) and is a member of the BSBI and Butterfly Conservation.



16.25 Chairman's closing remarks

16.30 Meeting ends