

MINUTES OF THE A.G.M. OF THE IRISH ORCHID SOCIETY

Monday 8th June 2015

Total Attendance 14. Meeting began at 8.05 pm

Apologies

Marie Hourigan and Larry May

Minutes of the A.G.M. 2014 were read by members present.

Matters Arising from the 2014 minutes. None.

Minutes were proposed by Brendan Sayers and seconded by Scott MacNaughton.

Chairperson's Address

As the society did not have a Chairperson Mary Bradshaw gave a review of the I.O.S. year.

2014

July 3rd Trip to Bull Island led by Brendan Sayers.

July 7th Trip to Mullaghmore. Many non-members joined the exploration.

September 1st Tour of the NBG Orchid House by Marie Hourigan.

October 6th "Irish Orchids, Past, Present and Future" by Dr. Declan Doogue.
(Threats to our National plants and habitats) (Dublin Naturalist's Field Club)

November 3rd Deborah Lambkin. Official Orchid Artist Kew Gardens gave an interesting review of her methods, techniques and the requirements of her job.

December 1st Christmas party, good fun, eating too much.

2015

February 2nd Re-potting demonstration for members. Excellent as always. Twelve people attended.

February 14th Re-potting demonstration for the public. Eighteen people attended. There was good interest from the public. Marie Hourigan has a list for a 2016 event if Brendan Sayers decides to give another demonstration.

March 2nd Shane Kerr spoke about Pleiones and their cultivation. His sales were contributed to the society.

April 8th-12th European Orchid Conference. Five members attended.

April 25th-26th Orchid Fair at Glasnevin. Ray Creek Orchids and Burnham Nurseries provided the plants. The exchange rate made the prices very high. Thanks to all members who took their place on the I.O.S. table and showed their plants.

Some new members joined and there was some subscription renewal. The raffle made €217.00.

May 5th Maryanne Harris from Dublin City Council gave a talk on "Orchid Diversity in Dublin City Parks" Good slides. Refer to A.O.B.

June 8th Annual General Meeting

Brendan Sayers thanked the committee for organising these events and for all their hard work.



Treasurer's Report

The treasurer, Mary Bradshaw gave a synopsis of the year's financial statement.

Financial Statement 2014/2015

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	670.00	Pollinia	775.00
Life Membership	0	Website costs	193.09
Raffles	699.00	Prizes for raffles	255.98
Sales of Bark	134.00	Engraving	60.00
Pleione Bulbs	40.00	Orchid Flasks	56.25
Potting Demonstration	255.00	Stamps	256.00
		Orchid Soc GB sub	27.35
		Bank Fees	15.54
		Speaker 1-Doogue	50.00
		Speaker 2-Lambkin	75.00
		Speaker 3-Harris	12.00
		Orchid Bark	30.00
Total	1,798.00	Total	1,806.43
Deficit:	-8.43		

Cash in Bank, in two accounts, 6,303.46

Mary pointed out that in future the number of copies of **Pollinia** would be cut to 100 from 125 due to declining membership.

Engraving on the perpetual Silver tray has been brought up to date. The Orchid flasks will be raffled in September. Olwyn Lanigan suggested that the financial statements for the present and previous year should be on the same page.

The treasurer's report was proposed by Olwyn Lanigan and seconded by Úna Breathnach.

Election of Committee Members

Present Committee

Chairperson:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Mary Bradshaw
Secretary:	Vacant
Editor:	Laurence T. May

Committee:

Úna Breathnach, Marina Andreeva, Lisa Coffey, Deirdre Mc Grane, Laurence T. May.

Úna Breathnach is stepping down from the committee after three years. Mary Bradshaw thanked Úna for organising the Raffle every month. Marina Andreeva has received a placement in Wisley RHS Gardens in the UK. Brendan Sayers

congratulated Marina and explained the prestigious nature of such an achievement. The I.O.S. are indeed very proud to have a member accepted on such a course. Marina will keep the committee up to date with her work.

Deirdre McGrane nominated Brendan Sayers as Chairperson of the Society. Brendan accepted and the nomination was seconded by Scott MacNaughton.

Brendan Sayers nominated Alexandra Kucharezyk as a Committee member. This was seconded by Marina Andreeva. Brendan also nominated Deirdre McGrane to the position of secretary. This was seconded by Mary Bradshaw.

The New Committee for 2015/2016.

Chairperson: Brendan Sayers
 Treasurer: Mary Bradshaw
 Secretary: Deirdre McGrane
 Editor: Laurence T. May
 Committee:

- Lisa Coffey
- Alexandra Kucharezyk
- Marina Andreeva
- Laurence T. May

A.O.B.

Maryanne Harris (Dublin City Council) spoke to Mary Bradshaw about an upcoming surveying project on plants growing on the Bull Island. Faith Wilson will talk to the I.O.S. about the plants and how they will be surveyed. Volunteers will be grouped in twos and they will be taught how to use GPS. Three trips to the Bull Island over one year will be required. People interested were asked to contact Mary Bradshaw.

There was confusion about the date of the July trip to Bull Island. Lisa Coffey will check this and inform as many members as possible. [See website]

Lisa told the meeting that the number of visits to the website were greatly up on last year's numbers. Brendan Sayers asked if the society should consider opening Facebook and Twitter accounts. It was stated that this would be time consuming. Lisa Coffey offered to set up these accounts if there was anyone willing to look after them.

Olwyn asked if the car park could be opened for I.O.S. meetings. Brendan explained that due to staff numbers this was not feasible.

Tom Doran thanked , on behalf of the I.O.S. the director of the National Botanic Gardens for the use of the facilities over the year and hoped that the good relations between the I.O.S. and the N.B.G. would continue.

Brendan Sayers thanked Larry May for the Trojan work he does in editing **Pollinia**.



Larry has suggested some changes to the format of **Pollinia**, shape, size and number of issues. This would have to be discussed with the Committee and the members.

Clear figures would be needed for cost implications. Brendan suggested that more information on the monthly meetings be inserted in **Pollinia**.

Lisa Coffey will make out a template for members to fill in on the plants they bring to the meetings.

Tom Doran brought a very healthy, de-flasked, Phalaenopsis which he grew in a sealed plastic bag. Well done, Tom.

At the end of the meeting we had a slide show of images taken by Mary and Bob Bradshaw at The European Orchid Conference.

The meeting concluded at 9pm.

ÚNA BREATHNACH



EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of **Pollinia** marks the 32nd issue I have created and edited (with the help of Microsoft Publisher,) then sent to the printer. I don't count the hours involved because I like doing it. I'm in my mid 70s; it keeps me busy and using my faculties. I think I have built an interesting, informative and attractive publication, constructed on the efforts of publishers before me and my own design sense. Apologies for the typos that slipped past me, even though I go over every page several times.

In many respects, though, I have the same problems that previous publishers had. We all want more input from the readers, the members. I really do not know what the majority think of the publication. Over the years I have had several very much appreciated 'Thank you' notes - one member sent a note last week writing '...the magazine is always a joy to behold...Congratulations on the high standards you've brought it to.'

Yet I have heard that some members want to "to make **Pollinia** more of our own," by which remark I think they do not want articles about anything other than native orchids in Ireland. That, for me, would be both interesting and repetitive.

In order to add content to an issue of 32 pages, I first use any and all items on the Society and Irish orchids written and sent to me by members or the Secretary. This includes the quarterly Calendar and any notes from meetings. Second, I ask Marie Hourigan to submit an article on what orchid is in flower in the National Botanic Gardens. Third, I ask Stuart Dunlop and Zoë Devlin, our regular columnists, for a contribution.

After reviewing everything, I then research for articles of interest about Orchids anywhere, including book reviews of interest, and I try to include one scientific article in each issue. Next would be items about plants in general and biodiversity in Ireland.

The current issue features articles and photographs on the Dublin Orchid Fair and a report on our Annual General Meeting.

I. O. S. member Peter Stiller sent me a good story of his trip to Thailand.

Do you, dear reader, have something to contribute?

In the past year the number of members has decreased to where it is not economical to have four issues printed and mailed. Each printed issue and postage costs approximately €4 per member.

There would be some savings from postage costs by using email distribution of PDF or other format. Not all members have computer access or want to receive email issues. They prefer hard copy for easy future reference.

As mentioned at the AGM, I have suggested that if we want to continue with **Pollinia**, the number of issues could be changed to two per year. That alone would cut costs by approximately 50%. I would like to change the format to a slightly different size, add a few more pages, change the font sizes a bit, and other cosmetics. In seasons where quarters where there is no **Pollinia**, there could be a simple mailing by the Secretary of event reminders and news.

Additional ways to augment publishing costs would be to accept and solicit advertising. The current advertisement is included *gratis*. Perhaps the Committee could find patrons or sponsors, as some Societies have managed. I'm sure there are many suggestions out there, and solutions.

Ideally, the Society needs new members. Perhaps advertising in garden and plant magazines and websites could bring additional members.

The Committee will discuss these changes and welcome the Members contributions. Please send them.

LAURENCE T. MAY





THE A. G. M.

Can you imagine a group of avid orchid enthusiasts meeting for their AGM. Where you may ask? Why in the secure theatre of the National Botanic Gardens no less.

The meeting got underway under the skillful guidance of Mary Bradshaw when suddenly all was in darkness. Brendan, knowing this building inside and out, quickly rushed to the rescue but not even his magical fingers could produce a flicker never mind a beam.

But wait; all was not lost – doors were opened and propped with chairs – late evening sunlight streamed in followed quickly by the chill evening air of our Irish summer.

Mary Bradshaw continued valiantly until Lo!, the meeting was suddenly transformed as the alchemy of technology restored light. Members were mollified by the showing of scenes from the recent European Orchid show.

The meeting was not so much as the ‘Meeting on the Turret Stairs’ as ‘Goodbye from the Postern Gate’ and the key rapidly turned. Ah! Where are thou Romeo?

H. J. BECKETT



WINTER IS COMING!

While our plants no doubt enjoy being outdoors in our all-too-brief Irish summer, be sure to bring them indoors before the first cold weather arrives.

IRISH ORCHID SOCIETY
www.irishorchidsociety.org

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POLLINIA and *Magairlíní*
www.pollinia.org