

IOS MEMBERS: HYLDA J. BECKETT

In 2001 the IOS was born. My friend and I, both keen amateur gardeners joined immediately. We did not know the treasure chest that would be opened before us. Not just the name orchid, but magical musical names and glorious colours and markings.

As time passed I became friendly with other members and one of them gave me two minute plants with exotic names - a Cattleya and a Paphiopedilum. As the years passed they grew, were repotted and settled happily on a windowsill. They were watered on Sundays, never fed, but stroked and admired and then gave me the most wondrous flowers.

The Cattleya, with a flower as large as a dinner plate, white creamy petals, the Paphiopedilum, dainty, shy, hiding among its leaves - a pouch and butterfly leaves of mauve and purple. They were breathtaking as they stood side by side. In 2012 the Paphiopedilum was chosen as the best exhibit (not just orchids) in the local horticultural show.

They still flourish with loving care, admiration and gentle stroking of their petals - perhaps they will bloom again.

How beautiful you are my dear
Standing in your earthbound pot
Your petals large and gleaming
No sign of mark or spot
Proudly you stand
Head held high
Your creamy coloured hue
Entrancing, all inviting
Shining in the morning light
Oh Cattleya, how beautiful you are
To those who live with failing sight.

HYLDA J. BECKETT

