



# Solihull & District Orchid Society

## Stan's the man!

In December we chose our favourite 5 pictures to represent us in the BOC Photographic Competition. We are delighted to announce that Stan Taylor was adjudged as runner-up with his superb photograph of BLC. Chunyeah (above).

## Show Secretary vacancy

When I took on the role of Show Secretary I did not envisage taking the chairman's role as well.

As a result I have made it clear that to do both roles is too much, but to date I seem to be unable to relinquish the show secretaries role.

As a result, next April's Spring Show will be my last – that will be four years.

Would anybody be interested in volunteering to take on this activity?

Of course, all the help needed will be provided.

Please speak to Malcolm if you are even vaguely interested.

### Plants for Malvern

As you probably all know we will be putting on our usual display for the society at the International Orchid Show, at Malvern, 17th, 18th, and 19th of June.

Set up is on Thursday, 16th, and we will once again be hoping to borrow plants off as many members as possible.

We would need to pick up plants on the previous weekend or the beginning of that week, with

all plants returned as soon as possible after the show.

Please contact Janet on 01564822897 or janetjames13@outlook.com if you have any plants for the society's display.

### Tickets for Malvern

All of the tickets have been ordered – a grand total of 65, and these will be available for collection at June's Meeting.

## Speaker reports

I am sure you all enjoy reading the Speaker Reports in the Newsletter.

Each month when we have a speaker Margaret Dale has provided a summary of each talk and this is what you have all enjoyed in the Newsletter. Margaret has now decided to stand down and we would be very keen to continue putting a summary of each talk into the Newsletter but we need somebody to volunteer.

Lina has completed the write up for May and she will do so again for June and July but this is only a stopgap until somebody else volunteers. So if you think you would be happy to carry out this valuable task please let your chairman know. In the meantime, many thanks to Margaret for such a sterling job over the years.

## Next meeting

Our next meeting is on Saturday, 4th June, when we will have the pleasure of welcoming TJ Hartung who is coming all the way from Mexico to give us a talk on "The Orchids of Mexico".

TJ (as he likes to be known) is a director of the Vallarta Botanical Gardens and president of the Vallarta Orchid Society.

He and his wife are visiting a number of orchid societies in the UK and we are one of the lucky ones, so well done Monica for organising this talk.

It should be a wonderful afternoon so make sure you have it marked on your calendar.

You can follow Solihull & District Orchid Society on Facebook and Twitter



Chairman:  
Malcolm Moodie  
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If you have any pictures or information you would like to put on our website please email: [caroline.reid1@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:caroline.reid1@blueyonder.co.uk) or copy and pictures for newsletter: [ballm1@mac.com](mailto:ballm1@mac.com)

# May table points

1. Masdevallia ignea - Stan Taylor - 29pts
2. Paph. urbanianum - Malcolm Moodie - 28pts
3. Phrag.wallisi x longifolium - Malcolm Moodie - 28pts
4. Dendrobium unicum - Stan Taylor - non competitive



Pictures: Ken Johnson



## Central 60th Anniversary Show

Here we go again, 6.30 in the morning, Saturday 30th April, and everywhere white with frost as we set out for Central's 60th Anniversary Orchid Show at Perton.

Many thanks to all the members who kindly loaned us plants. We had a van full of a wide variety of plants, thus enabling us to put on a really good display for their 60th Anniversary Show which was all very nice with a crown of balloons to top their society competition display.

On our display Malcom Moodie won the best species with his *Pathiopedilum thianum*, and once again Stan Taylor won best hybrid with his truly delightful *Pathiopedilum China Moon*.

It was nice again to see some of our members and all our Central friends. We had a good day despite the weather, and a somewhat interesting journey home, still it's always nice to have a sleep in a motorway queue.

Martin Mitchell



# Spring in Dorset

Colin Clay

I had always wanted to visit Dorset in April, to see the Early Spider Orchids (*Ophrys sphegodes*) flowering in the short coastal turf.

On April 23rd 2016, I joined other members of the Hardy Orchid Society on one of their organised Field Trips.

My journey time from M40 Jcn. 12 was approximately 3 hours, with a rendezvous at the 'Spyways' free car park in Langton Matravers.

Thousands of small Early Spider Orchids (Fig. 1) were found as we walked down towards the sea to join the Coastal Path. The short flowering stems could be appreciated in the grazed turf (Figs.

2, 3). There were a number of peloric forms, where the petals either resemble the lip (Fig. 4) or have lip colouration (Fig. 5).

*Ophrys tenthredinifera*, a Western Mediterranean species, also flowers here but a few weeks earlier. Did this species blow-in as seed and establish as a sign of global warming or did someone introduce it? Whichever is the case, the species is able to grow with the mycorrhiza present in the soil and may possibly spread? We also found a small colony of *Anacamptis morio*, with one plant showing abnormal colouration.

This was a great day out with a fantastic Coastal Path and many flowers to enjoy.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

# Orchid hunting in the Golden Triangle

Presented by Bernard McDonald

The Golden Triangle is the famous area where three countries (Thailand, Laos and Burma) meet. It is a very popular tourist destination and this is what one of the travel agent web pages say about this area:

“Extending up towards the Myanmar and Laos borders, northern Thailand is the least developed part of the country and offers the chance to enjoy traditional Thai culture & rugged scenery.

To the north-west the plains of central Thailand give way to hills, mountains & rainforest with a network of streams, lakes, rivers & waterfalls (especially during wet season). Popular adventure travel activities include trekking, cycling, rafting & elephant rides through the jungle, with most travellers starting from Chiang Mai or Chiang Rai.”

Chiang Rai is the area that Bernard McDonald was focusing on in his talk. Rick Jacobs is the reason he has been presenting this topic with lots of interest and a huge amount of unseen pictures of orchids that are mostly unheard of.

Bernard got to know Rick about 10 year ago through an Australian orchid chat forum. They have been in close contact sharing information on orchids ever since.

Rick has retired from a very technical job in oil industry and has lived with his Thai family in Chiang Rai for the last 10 years or so. He found interest in orchids when after a storm a tree fell in his garden which was full of orchids. A natural curiosity has driven him into the rainforest to find out more about these plants.

As this part of Thailand is least developed the forests are mostly nature reserves.

There are lots of hill tribes living there trying to continue the way of life of their ancestors.

Although with the tourist influx it is becoming increasingly hard to keep identity and on the other hand local government is supporting a policy to utilise this area for farming and land cultivation. Hard wood trees are being cut down, trees with no value are left and a lot of natural vegetation is removed for cultivation.

Therefore, land suffers from regular floods and fires. In the mountains away from villages in these tropical forests, collection of orchids fallen from the trees is allowed. What Rick has been doing for the past years is collecting seeds from wild, fire and flood affected areas bringing them to his shade house and then re-introducing those local plants again in the safer areas of the forest. What is most amazing is that this tremendous detailed documentation and recording of these unusual plants is done out of Rick's own initiative and is not supported by any schemes or any government programmes. The dedication Rick has as Bernard describes is outstanding. He carries a GPS to record precise locations and has created about 20-30 maps, he photographs every seen specimen and produces an enormous amount of very good quality pictures.

And comes back to visit unopened flowers a few times to make sure and record their flowering periods as every year the season patterns are slightly shifting and some plants have stopped producing flowers altogether. All this amazing work ends up in Bernard's inbox regularly to use and share as he likes.

Here are some of the rarer plants:

*Crepidium klimkoanum* first described in 2005, *Cyrtosia integra* one of the 5 known species of this genus. *Bulbophyllum miniliforme* it forms mats on trees and is a very small plant. *Heteraria affinis*, *Ornithochilus difformis*, *Obenoria pachyarchis* – unusual flowers,

*Vanilla siamensis* is the only vanilla species found in these forests.

*Holcoglossum amesianum* – a self-pollinating orchid, *Tainia bicornis* has two horns, *Celogyne trinervis* this is the orchid that inspired Rick to like orchids in general. *Vanda denisoniana* is the most wide spread species you can see them anywhere and everywhere. Dendrobiums, Bulbophyllums and Pleurothallis are the largest and most widespread groups of orchids there. Most orchids grow

tangled in fern and could easily be missed if not in flower, some forests are inaccessible and that's where most orchids are found.

What Rick has found in these rain forests so far, has brought an immeasurable value to maintaining these species in their habitats and preserving the orchid plant family in its natural environment regardless of the harsh economic reality.





# Hinckley Show

On Saturday, 23rd April, we set out on a very frosty morning for Hinckley Orchid Show, it was easy to find their new venue at Stoke Golding.

Following the road signs that they were busy putting up, and it was great to see everyone again.

We had a nice display with some interesting plants thanks to the members who let us borrow them, and it was good to see several of our members at the show.

Stan Taylor won the rosette for the Best Species with his *Dendrobium unicum* and the rosette for any other with his *Paphiopedilum China Moon*, Peter White won the a rosette for Best Hybrid with his *Cymbidium Sarah Jean Peach*, Martin Mitchell received an Award of Merit for his *Ornithidium coccineum* and John Clarke also got an Award of Merit for his alba form of *Dendrobium nobile*.

Congratulations to all of them. Janet James

