



Solihull & District Orchid Society

Annual General Meeting

There was a good turnout for our AGM which also meant that there were many keen bidders for the large number of plants that had been brought along for the auction.

Your Officers remain unchanged for the year ahead as are the posts of President and Vice President. The entire committee stood for re-election with Margaret Cressy joining as Show Secretary so we now have all posts covered.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped during the year which, on reflection, includes nearly everybody in the Society as we do have wonderful members who are always willing to lend a hand.

We have decided that next years Trip will be to Wisley on Sunday 5th August with a behind the scenes tour of the Orchid House. As the Society is a member of the RHS the trip should be at a lower cost than this year as we get free admission to the gardens. I hope we have a full coach and a lovely day out.

We have decided to increase subscriptions for next year to £12 and £16 for a couple. The subs have remained unchanged for more years than anybody can remember so I hope you will all feel that this increase is a fair one.

After refreshments we started the auction and soon had some enthusiastic bidding which meant that the meeting closed quite a bit later than on some previous AGMs.

Thank you to all those that brought plants to the auction and to all of you that went home with armfuls of goodies. I trust that your new acquisitions will thrive in their new homes.

Next Meeting Saturday 7th October

Your next speaker will be your Chairman, Malcolm who will be entertaining you with a talk on his recent trips to Borneo. Like his previous talks on Thailand and Ecuador you will see orchids that were seen growing in their natural habitat many that you may not have heard of before. I hope this will be a meeting to be enjoyed.



BOC Photographic Competition

It appears that the BOC made a mistake regarding Stan Taylor's wonderful photograph of *Rhyncholaeliacattleya* Chunyeah that adorns the front cover of the BOC Yearbook. Evidently, it should have been his lovely photograph of *Dendrobium ochraceum*. Anyway look out for more information for this year's competition at the next meeting and start sorting out those lovely orchid photos that you have taken.

We have a very proud tradition of doing extremely well in the BOC Photographic Competition so hopefully we can keep that going again this year.

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



Chairman: Malcolm Moodie
01295 788159



If you have any pictures or information you would like to put on our website please email: caroline.reid1@blueyonder.co.uk or copy and pictures for newsletter: ballm1@mac.com

Trip to Chester Zoo

Pictures: Ken Johnson, Andrea Moodie

It was an early start although not quite so early as last year when 20 of us met in Knowle to be greeted by our coach at 8.30. We were all a bit unsure as to whether it would rain or not but I am very pleased to report we managed to get a full day at the zoo without any interruptions for weather - how fortunate were we?

The journey up was very straight forward although we did have to stop at Stafford for an unplanned comfort break but that gave everybody the opportunity to stretch their legs.

Once we arrived at the zoo we were all desperate for a coffee so no sooner had we got through the turnstiles than we all headed

for one of the various cafes on site.

The first group met outside the Greenhouses at 12.00 with the other group convening for their tour at 2.00. Viv Bown, our host, is incredibly enthusiastic which is a good job when you see the

amount of work she and her team have to cope with. The new Display Area which has only recently been completed had numerous Dendrobiums, Phalaenopsis and Stanhopeas in flower and we were lucky to be able to go inside for a really close view whilst normally one could only view this from outside.

In this area is also a National Collection of Cacti with a vast range of very large and prickly specimens. Of course, this was not the purpose of our visit but it was great to see such a lovely collection of cactus and indeed later to view a wonderful array of animals in the zoo.

The Pleurothallid Collection is vast but unfortunately there were few in flower and although it was great to see such a wonderful collection it was somewhat disappointing that so few were in flower. Indeed in the other houses where we saw every genus under the sun there was also a distinct lack of flower. I visited in January to check out whether it was worth a visit and I was much luckier in that there were a large number of



plants in flower or in bud. However, I think everybody enjoyed their tour especially listening to our extremely enthusiastic host.

After visiting the orchid collection we were then free to roam around

the zoo and it soon became clear that a day was not going to be sufficient to visit every part of the park.

Even before we got to the greenhouses we had a wonderful view of the Asian Elephants who seemed extremely happy in their large enclosure.



We were particularly keen to visit the

“Islands” where various habitats have been created to house animals from Sumatra, Bali and Sulawesi and everything there was fascinating especially the

Monsoon Forest which was in a large enclosed area where various orchids adorned the trees and Sumatran Tigers and Orang Utans alongside dozens of other animals kept us enthralled.



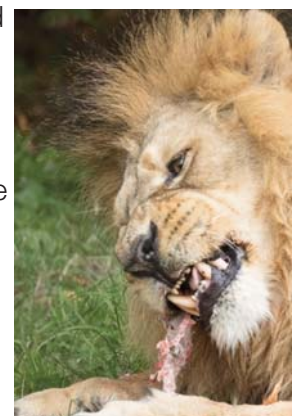
On the way back from the islands we were fortunate to see the Rhinos, the very entertaining Meerkats, Lions, Giraffes and Cheetahs to name just a few. The

aim of the zoo is to focus on endangered species and to create environments for the animals that would encourage them to mate. This is clearly being achieved as we saw many babies and young offspring in the numerous enclosures.

After walking many miles we all met back at the coach at 4.30 for our journey home which again was relatively straight forward although we did get caught up in a lot of traffic coming from Chester Racecourse. Anyway, our driver Nina took it all in her stride and we arrived safely back in Knowle before 7.00.

Hopefully, everybody enjoyed their day out despite the lack of orchids in flower.

Alas, poor Ken forgot to take his long lens



Birmingham Orchid Society Show

Birmingham & Midland
Orchid Society Show
will be at the Sutton
Coldfield United
Reform Hall, 1,
Brassington Ave, B73
6AA on Saturday 7th
October and Janet and
Martin will be putting
on a display for the
Society so any plants
will be greatly
appreciated.
This clashes with our
own meeting which is
somewhat unfortunate.



**Broadleaved Helleborines
at Snitterfield**

*Pictures sent in by Janet James
If you have any photos you would like to show
us in the newsletter please email them to
Martin - ballm1@mac.com*



Name that Orchid

After the AGM and auction we drew the ticket for the opportunity to name an orchid.

Well done to Caroline Reid who has chosen the name "Caroline Anne" to adorn the Hybrid that Peter White has selected. Watch out for this plant as it would be nice for a number of us to grow this plant.

Christmas Hamper

Please remember to bring items to be included in the Christmas Hamper.

Everybody who donates will receive some free tickets and of course we will all have the opportunity to purchase numerous tickets in the hope of scooping up this wonderful prize at our Christmas Meeting.

ORCHID WORD SEARCH

There are 20 orchid related words, see if you can find them all



BASKET KEIKI SPIDER ORCHID CULTURE MILTONIA SPIKE
PSEUDOBULB CYMBIDIUM MOTH ORCHID TERRESTRIAL
DENDROBIUM ONCIDIUM TROPICAL EPIPHYTE ORCHID
VANDA FERTILIZER PAPHIOPEDILUM VANILLA HUMIDITY
SHADE CLOTH