



Solihull & District Orchid Society

The Website address has been changed to: www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk

Wisley trip - a great day out!

On Sunday 5th August we all awoke to another sunny morning and the prospect of a lovely day out at the Wisley Garden.

Upon arriving in Knowle it was obvious that the coach was going to have some difficulty in negotiating the tight bend to access the car park as workmen were digging up the road and so sure enough we all had to walk out to the main road to get on the coach.

This could have been a sign for future troubles but other than this minor inconvenience everything else went like clockwork arriving back in Knowle safely and on time.

We arranged with David McLaughlin to split the group into two for the behind the scenes tour of the orchid collection and this turned



out to be a good decision as one group would have been too large to hear David's talk about the collection and with so many in the greenhouse at the same time we would have had great difficulty in moving around the staging.



The greenhouse is extensive with a large amount of automation installed at incredible expense but without it the workload for staff would have been prohibitive. We all marvelled at the size of the specimen plants

many hanging up in massive hanging baskets most of which were so huge that none of us would have been able to accommodate them in our own collections.

Most genera were represented in 2 greenhouse areas – one cool the other intermediate/warm. Both housed numerous species but were dominated by a large number of showy hybrids which David explained were key to him being able to provide large colourful exhibits for the public areas which is what paying customers expect.



We noted a large number of Thunias growing in the intermediate house and were very pleased to accept the gift of a *Thunia gattonensis* from David which sat between my feet for the journey back to the Midlands. However, I didn't realise at the time that I might have



trouble getting this plant out of the Wisley Garden - sure enough I was challenged at the main gate. Fortunately, David had called ahead to warn them that I would be carrying a plant and fortunately the lady in charge saved me from interrogation and I was waved through.

For those that came to the AGM this *Thunia* was offered at the Auction with all the proceeds donated to the society – many thanks to David.

Besides the orchid collection there is so much to see at Wisley that a day hardly does it justice but by mid afternoon most of us were flagging in the heat so setting off home in an air conditioned coach was most welcome.

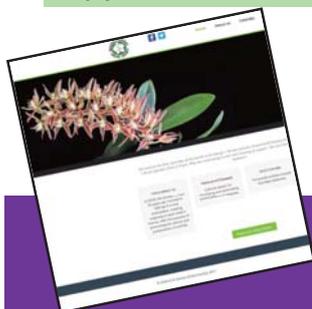
Anyway it was great that so many members were able to join the trip along with our friends from Central, Hinckley and Birmingham & Midland Orchid Societies.

We look forward to another interesting and enjoyable trip next year.

Malcolm Moodie

Next meeting

Our next meeting is on Saturday 6th October when Jean Barker will be talking on "Cool Growing Orchids". Jean is an extremely accomplished grower who is also on the RHS Orchid Committee and Chair of the BOC Judging system. She along with her husband Chris (Show Secretary of the Malvern International Orchid Show and Editor of the BOC Year Book) are travelling down from Stockton on Tees so hope to see you all there to support what will be an extremely enjoyable afternoon.



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: LaeliaM@aol.com or copy and pictures for newsletter: ballm1@mac.com
Society email address: solihulldistrictorchidsociety@gmail.com

Annual General Meeting and Auction

There was a good turnout for our AGM with some very keen members arriving early which, hopefully, indicated that there was going to be some keen bidding when we got to the Auction.

Your Officers remain unchanged for the year ahead as are the posts of President and Vice President. However, Malcolm announced that this will be his last year as Chairman. He will be standing down at the next AGM in 2019.

Margaret Cressy has stood down but all of the remaining committee were re-elected along with Bill Carmen who has kindly agreed to join the committee.

The Show Secretary role has been changed with a sub committee of Tjin, Maureen and Jackie jointly taking responsibility for all show activities. This shares the workload and provides a strong platform for ensuring our Annual Spring Show will be a success.

In addition, many thanks Margaret over the last 12 months and 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 Burnham Nurseries in Newton Abbot – Burnham's are the last surviving Orchid Nursery and need our support and so this should be a great day out with their huge orchid collection to view along with the opportunity to return home with a selection of new plants.

We have decided not to increase subscriptions for the following year so these will remain unchanged at £12 and £16 for a couple. After refreshments we started the auction and soon had some enthusiastic bidding along with some humorous moments – who would believe that Janet grows so many "Pink" flowered orchids!!!

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.

Birmingham & Midland Orchid Show

Our friends at BMOS will be holding their Autumn Show at Sutton Coldfield on Saturday 20th October so hope many of you will be able to attend.

Janet and Martin will be putting on a display on our behalf and they will be looking for as many members plants as possible.

Janet and Martin have done a great job this year in putting on displays at Central, Hinckley and East Midlands and have agreed to do so for 2019.

Well done and thanks.



BOC Photographic Competition

Once again we were successful in the BOC Photo Competition with Stan Taylor once again picking up one of the prizes.

This maintains a wonderful tradition of success for the Society.

At the December Meeting we will, once again, choose our best orchid photographs to enter the BOC Photo Competition so start sifting through your photographs in preparation for the meeting.

More information will follow in the next Newsletter on the process itself.

Christmas Hamper

Once again Heike will be putting together a wonderful Hamper to be won at our Christmas Meeting.

Please remember to bring items to future meetings for inclusion in this superb 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 great prize that will get Christmas off to a flying start.

WRITE A CAPTION . . . best wins a bottle of Wine!



Email yours to LaeliaM@aol.com

*During a visit at the Bank Holiday to Castle Moreton Common, Janet and Martin only found 8 *Spiranthes spiralis*.*

Sadly the area isn't managed for the orchids, where there used to be lots of them.

