



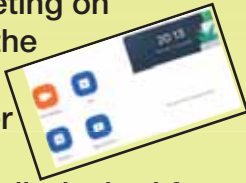
Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2020

September Zoom meeting

We are holding our 3rd Zoom meeting on Saturday the 5th September and all members all invited for an informal gathering and a chance to see and meet each other again and to catch up with the latest news. We had 11 members at our first Zoom meeting in July and 15 members in August and we hope for a larger group in September, building up to an even active attendance for the Society Zoom AGM in October. Joining the meeting is simpler than you think, just click on the link provided by Lina, who will be our host and follow the on screen instructions; you don't even have to download any apps! Give it a go, you may be pleasantly surprised and even enjoy the experience. We hope to see as many of you on Saturday at 2pm.



Welcome to the September Newsletter and I hope this edition finds every member well, healthy and successfully getting on with their daily lives. By now, wearing a face covering should come as second nature when we are in public places but with pockets of regional outbreaks, we are reminded that we must not be complacent and remain vigilant if we are to continue to be safe and avoid a second wave.

On a positive note, I hope that members have been able to take advantage of the now ended "Eat out to help up" scheme, getting on with normal life, supporting our restaurants while saving a few pennies, what's not to like.

SUFFICIENT NOTICE

You may be wondering why we are sending out the September Newsletter so early on in the month. The main reason is so that we can give sufficient notice for the Society to hold its AGM in October.

We have a legal requirement to hold an AGM 6 month after the financial year end, now extended due to Covid 19.

We traditionally hold our AGM in Sept. the cancellation of the Sept meeting meant that we now have to find a new date for the AGM.

It was generally agreed by members who attended the August Zoom meeting that we should hold the AGM sooner rather than later. One reason is to reappoint and legitimise members of the Committee so they can continue to

help carry out the functions of the Society, another is that members should be aware of the Society's financial position at the yearend before we embark on a new season. In any case, it would be nice to start a new year with nothing hanging over our heads so we can all concentrate on managing the future of the Society.

It was also agreed that we should hold the AGM as a Zoom meeting on the scheduled October meeting date which is the 3rd October.

The process at the AGM will be the same as if we are holding a physical meeting, an Agenda and all relevant papers will be emailed and made available to members before the meeting.

NO AUCTION

The only difference is that for obvious reason, following the AGM, there will not be a plant auction but that doesn't mean that there will not be an opportunity for members to offer to sell and buy plants, the auction which is always full of fun, will merely be postponed to a more appropriate later date when we can all meet physically.

Please make every effort to attend our first official Society meeting on the 3rd October and for those members who have not so far attended a Zoom meeting, this will be another opportunity to grasp a technology that is currently used in a lot of business and social meetings.

A Zoom invitation and the link to join the meeting will be sent to all nearer the time.



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



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If you have any pictures or information you would like to put on our website please email: tjinong3103@gmail.com or copy and pictures for newsletter: ballm1@mac.com
Society email address: www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk

Lockdown Pictures



Paph. thaianum

Malcolm Moodie



Bulb. claptonense



Paph. Gary Romagna



Paph. lowii



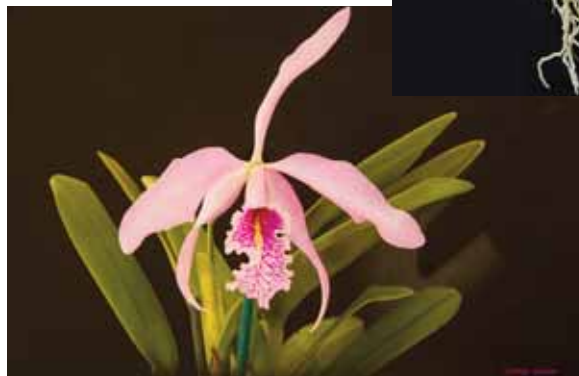
Epi. prismatocarpus



Paph. David Ott

Monica Johnson

Neostylis Lol Sneary



**Cattleya maxima
Highland
type**

Lockdown Pictures

Lina Smalinski



Bulbophyllum dearei



Neofinetia/Vanda Onami Seikai



Phalaenopsis Liu's Berry

Availability of meeting hall at St George & Teresa and future meetings

The parish hall where we hold our monthly meeting has been closed since the lockdown in March and we have been advised that it is still not open to the public. However, it is hoped that it will be re-open to all user groups from mid-September onwards, in line with the Diocesan Covid guidelines but all kitchen facilities will not be available. All user groups are expected to comply with a new terms and conditions of hire and to provide a risk assessment and clarify their cleaning arrangements. We will be sent the relevant documentation to complete before we are allowed to resume using the room. We have no details of the Diocesan's Covid guideline available at the moment but guessed that it will be the usual precautions and advice that are expected of us, i.e. 2 metre social distancing where possible or 1m+ with additional measures, face covering, regular use of hand sanitizers, wipe down of surfaces etc. We will keep members abreast of the reopening and when we are able to use the hall should we choose to. A big thank you to those members who have responded to the survey organised by Lina in

August, over half of the membership took part. A clear majority, 70% of you voted not to attend a September meeting and AGM, this is totally understandable and it's just as well as the hall was not available! You were ambivalent about attending a meeting in October with half of you not feeling confident enough to attend and again, just over half of you are happy to attend a regular Zoom meeting from September on. 66% of you who voted prefer for all meetings to resume in 2021. Given the fluidity of the current development and the continuing local outbreaks it is obviously extremely difficult to decide when it would be safe to return to a physical meeting. We all long for a return to normality, albeit with the necessary precautions and safety measures and what we all need is a little confidence to kick start the process. Following our Zoom AGM in October, the Committee will be looking for arrangements to resume society meetings for the forthcoming season and wondered, if there is no worsening of the situation in the Midlands area and we can ensure that all appropriate and

recommended safety measures are in place, including hand sanitiser, cleaning of tables, chairs and surfaces before and after use, wearing of face coverings and appropriate social distancing etc. whether there is an appetite for members to want to return to a physical meeting in November, hopefully with a speaker. This is clearly subject to a successful re-opening of the meeting hall. It is unlikely that refreshments will be provided in the current circumstances but members are encouraged to bring their own favourite beverages. To help the Committee with a way forward please consider the idea of a physical meeting in November, subject to hall availability and all safety measures being in place and let me know if you have strong views against the thinking by writing to me at tjinong3103@gmail.com We realised it may be a difficult decision for some members as we are all in different position health wise but if only half of the members turn up, it would be a pretty decent attendant and it may encourage future participation.

Cancellation of shows

We have heard from Hinckley, East Midlands and Birmingham & Midlands Orchid Society that their respective annual shows which were scheduled to take place in October and November have now been cancelled. This should come as no surprise and it means that none of the local Societies where we have reciprocal arrangements for putting on a show table have been able to host an annual show in 2020. However, putting our best foot forward, the good news is that we have already received invitations from Hinckley and East Midlands to attend their show in March and May next year and of course our own Spring show is scheduled for 17th April 2021 at the new venue of Bentley Heath Community Hall.