



Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2020

Hopefully looking forward to next year



Janet and I would like to thank the committee for presenting us with the Banksian medal, also many thanks to Peter, Tjin, Jackie and Trish from Central for their retirement messages. Regards to all Janet and Martin



Here we are, the second week of Lockdown 2.0 and I hope everybody continues to be well and healthy.

As I look back to the previous November issues of the Newsletter, the main items have been the details for the big event of the year, the Christmas Show; procedures for entering plants for the competition, hamper(s) to be raffled, lunch, BOC photographic competition etc.

The fact that we are not able to have a Christmas show and a get together in December doesn't mean that we cannot have a Christmas party, albeit a virtual one and share some Christmas cheer and spirit (in more ways than one now that we can party at home and drink whatever our poisons are!).

Members are encouraged to attend our next Zoom meeting on the 5th December when in addition to having a Zoom presentation (more later) we can have a Christmas get together and meet for the last time in 2020.

We have been in regular contact with a number of members from our neighbouring orchid societies and the general consensus seemed to be resigned to the fact that nothing very much will take place within the orchid world until at least the summer.

The recent announcement of the breakthrough in Covid 19 vaccine and the potential timing of its availability may offer a glimmer of hope that situations may improve, hopefully to the stage where holding our Spring Show on the 17th April could become probable. In common with Orchid Societies which hold its annual show in the early part of the year, we are struggling to plan in any detail for the show, particularly to financially committing to an event that may or may not take place.

Nevertheless, we are mindful of the show and will continue to plan accordingly.

We are still looking for someone who is prepared to volunteer and help the Society by becoming our new Treasurer at the next AGM when Heike Lilley plans to retire.

The Society cannot function without a Treasurer to look after its finance, so I am appealing to members to come forward and help. The sooner

we can find a replacement, the more transition time we have for a smooth handover and as I previously mentioned, I will help to provide any training, guidance and support required. Please contact me at tjinong3103@gmail.com if you are able to help

A big thank you to members who have contributed articles and pictures to the recent issues of the Newsletter, your help makes all the difference and is very much appreciated. I hope that more members will support future editions of the Newsletter by sharing stories, anecdotes about the Societies, orchids or non-orchid related or even what you are up to. Please send your contributions to Martin Ball ballm1@mac.com

Next Zoom meeting Saturday, 5th December

We appreciate that members have continued to support the Society by attending social Zoom meetings.

Whilst it is good that we are able to stay connected this way, I am sure most would prefer to have a speaker for the meeting; there is no replacement for having a speaker to draw everyone's attention and interest.

We are working hard to try and find speakers who are able and willing to do a Zoom presentation for future Zoom meetings for however long Zoom may be needed as a vehicle for our meeting.

We are therefore pleased that for December, we have Mark from Elite Orchids to give us a talk on "Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums and more".

Elite orchids is based in Gloucester, it was started in 2017 as a small orchid nursery specialising in Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium. Mark gave the same talk to the members of the OSGB last weekend and his presentation was very well received.

We look forward to having Mark on the day. Martin Ball will send out the Zoom invite nearer the meeting date.



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



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07711 568848**

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

£5 bonus donation* when you sign up
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Over **£32m** raised for good causes through easyfundraising



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£5.90 **14**
Total raised Supporters

Support this cause

Members would have received a number of publicity materials relating to Easyfundraising in the past month. Since we registered with the site on the 19th October, we have, with the help of 14 supporters, raised £5.90. Many thanks to all our supporters.

You may think that £5.90 is a paltry sum but it is an amount we wouldn't have had and it was raised without much effort. It would for instance, help towards the additional costs of postages we have to incur for sending out membership cards. It all started with a very small and humble 14p donation a few days after registration and it very slowly builds up to what we have so far. Not a bad sum for just under a month and with some members perhaps not entirely convinced by the idea as yet.

If you haven't already thought about registering with Easyfundraising to support the Society and

shop online at over 4000 retailers or are thinking about doing it, please do so now and start help raise funds for the Society. Now is a particularly good time to register and join when we are more restricted physically to visit shops and as the festive season fast approaching. Supporters to the Society need not be restricted to members; anyone you know, families, friends who shop online and who wish to help us raise funds should be encouraged to become our supporters.

You, as our members can decide how much or how little we raise in the future. Remember the tagline from the popular supermarket, "Every little helps"!

You can find our easyfundraising page at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/solihullochidsociety/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-e1

Subscriptions

Many thanks to those members who have already renewed their membership subscription for the coming year, your continuing support and commitment during this difficult time is much appreciated.

A reminder to the members (including me!) who still have not renewed their membership, Heike Lilley, our Treasurer is waiting eagerly and patiently to hear from you.

The subscription remained unchanged at £12 for single member and £16 for two members from the same household. If you would like to pay by cheque, please send your payment to Heike Lilley at:

33 Batsford Road,
Coundon,
Coventry,
CV 6 1AQ

Should you prefer to pay by bank transfer, the Society's banking details are:

Sort Code: 53 61 41
Account number: 03612414
Account name:

Solihull & District Orchid Society

Please contact Heike 02476 593625 or email her at heikelilley@outlook.com if you have further queries. Please note as in the past, if you wish to receive your newsletter by post please add another £5 to your subscription to cover the additional costs of postage and printing.

Your new membership card with the programme for the year ahead will be sent to you by Heike when they are ready, hopefully by December.

Unlike previous years, your membership card will not be accompanied by the BOC Year Book for 2021. The BOC has advised all

Societies that the constraints of Covid 19 has made it extremely impractical to produce a hardcopy of the Year Book and has decided it will just have an online digital version of the Yearbook on the BOC website, planned to be available from 1st January 2021.

The online 2021 Year Book will be updated as events unfold during the year.

We are extremely pleased to report that our follow up with the members who had not renewed their membership in 2020 has resulted in 7 members deciding to return and support the Society.

A very warm welcome back and just you know, we missed you!

We are also pleased that we have a number of new members and we look forward to welcoming them when they join their first Zoom meeting.

Janet James



Cymbidium no name



Stenoglottis longifolia

Lockdown Pictures

Monica Johnson



Phal. Dame Blanche the three tenners



Phal. Jiaho Blueberry



Lc. Love Knot Sato



**Renanthis Mildred Jameson
Bonsall HCC AOS**



Monica in her greenhouse



Cat. Portia 2020

Lina Smalinske



Coelogyne celebensis



LC Angel Kiss



Neofinetia Kibana



A basket of no ID Phalaenopsis for a table decoration

Chris Gibbs



P. Liz Shan (*lagenaria* x *maculata*)



P. Lassen Peak (*lagenaria* x *praecox*)



P. Confirmation - artificially produced version of the natural hybrid P. x *lagenaria* (*maculata* x *praecox*)



P. *praecox*



P. In x *lagenaria*



P. In *maculata*



Epiphyllum x 'Guatemala'



Nopalxochia phyllanthoides x 'Deutsche Kaiserin'



Some of my plants in a lean-to greenhouse on the side of the house



Schlumbergera x 'Christmas Flame'

And now for something a little different - ORCHID CACTI ANNE HAINES

Epiphytic cacti of various genera share more characteristics with orchids than they do with desert cacti.

Epiphytic cacti are native to Central and South America, growing in tropical to subtropical conditions in rainforests and cloud forests. They require a minimum temperature of 45 degrees Fahrenheit with slight air movement. Like orchids, they need an open compost which drains freely, and watering with rain water. I use a mixture of bark and sphagnum moss, with added grit for weight (they can be top heavy), and fertilise them with tomato feed from February until September, but not during June and July which is their resting period after flowering. The individual flowers only last a few days depending on the daytime temperatures in May - they need bright light to bloom, but not direct sunlight.



Schlumbergera sp. "Christmas Cacti"

This is my favourite group of epiphytic cacti, because they flower during the winter when not much else is happening - until I started growing orchids; now I have Phals, Paphiopedilum, epidendrum and oncidiums in flower during winter too !

Schlumbergera are short day plants, and come into bud as soon as the daylight hours equal the nights at the autumn equinox. Except in very severe weather conditions, they live in a small lean-to greenhouse on the side of the house, where the temperature in winter regularly stays about 10 degrees warmer than in my large cacti greenhouse, which is free standing. To achieve the greatest number of flowers, it is important that these plants receive no artificial light at all, and by maintaining cooler temperatures the flower display lasts much longer. Compost is the same as above, and I feed them from spring until autumn. Like orchids, all these plants are a tiny bit uninteresting when not in flower, but also like orchids, the flowering display makes growing them worthwhile !

Maureen Jones

The blue Vanda, *Ondontocidium* "Hansueli Isler", a white and purple Phalaenopsis and Vanda "Orange Magic".

The blue Vanda shown with a white Phalaenopsis and a pink Vanda was taken last month and is still flowering.



Down in the woods today . . .



**Giant Funnel Fungus
uncommon**



Pink Waxcap Fungus



Chicken in the Wood

Any Fungi Experts?

My interest in fungi was sparked this Autumn when I came across a large group of shelves of a bracket fungus on a tree in Elmdon Park, Solihull in August. I sent a photo to a friend's son who is a keen forager and he named it as Chicken in the Wood, apparently tasting of chicken and delicious!

Since then I have walked in a number of wooded areas and spotted and photographed over fifty species. They are not easy to identify but I think I've named a few. I've found the more you look the more you see.

I'm introducing friends to the hobby and they say they enjoy the 'nature walks'. I'm still sticking to eating supermarket mushrooms!

MARGARET DALE



Angel's Bonnet Fungus



Orange Peel Fungus - uncommon



TurkeyTail Bracket Fungus



Jelly Ear Fungus



Stump Puffball