



Newsletter



MAY 2021



Your Society **NEEDS** You!

At the beginning of this year our chairman and show secretary resigned leaving the society in a difficult position but Peter White, our president, stepped forward as a temporary measure to be our chairman but stressed this was only temporary.

This has enabled the society to continue and on top of that he has put in place all the necessary actions to ensure our Spring Show in March 2022 takes place.

In addition, Heike has already stated that she will not continue as treasurer beyond our AGM.

So, at our Annual General Meeting in September a new committee must be formed with a new chairman/secretary, a new treasurer and a new show secretary.

You do not have to be an orchid expert to do any of these roles and you might be thinking that others will step forward so everything will be ok anyway, but that is unlikely to be the case.

It is critical that these roles are filled

otherwise there is a grave risk that after 56 years the Solihull & District Orchid Society will cease to exist.

Our vice-presidents Janet James and Malcolm Moodie along with the other committee members are there to provide help, guidance, and encouragement, if needed, so you will not be on your own.

If you do not feel able to volunteer for the aforementioned vacancies but you would like to join the committee, we would still love to hear from you.

But now is the time to step forward because without you our monthly meetings, our shows, our auction and our monthly newsletter could be a thing of the past.

Do not think that everything will sort itself out – it won't.

We need you to step forward NOW.

Please contact our president, vice-presidents or any member of the committee to put yourself forward.



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



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

Lockdown Pictures

Colin Clay



Cypripedium 'Kentucky Maxi'
This one is hardy. It has been outside, uncovered and unprotected all winter

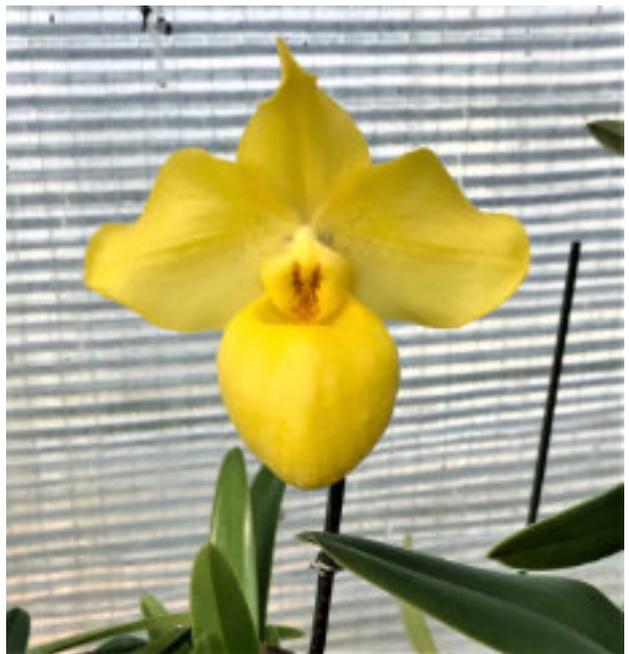


Paphiopedilum viliosum xc exul
This one has been in flower for a couple of months.

Malcolm Moodie



Masdevallia Peppermint Rock



Paphiopedilum armeniacum

Lockdown Pictures



Pleione Gerry Mundy

Janet James



Pleione Berapi, one of Ian Butterfields crosses Tongario x bulbocodioides, off Malcolm.



Serapias lingua



Ceologyne intermedia var?



Ceologyne cristata

June meeting

At our next meeting, via Zoom, on Saturday, 6th June, at 2pm, Phillip Seaton will be talking about his trip to Singapore. A link for the meeting will be emailed out before the day.

Return to normal

We had hoped to have a live meeting in July, however we have heard from the Church that we would not be able to have the use of the kitchen, also we would have to disinfect everywhere before we left, therefore the Committee decided to hold a Zoom meeting in July. Hopefully the next live meeting will be our AGM in September.

STAN'S CACTI PICTURES



Lockdown Pictures



Leptotes bicolor



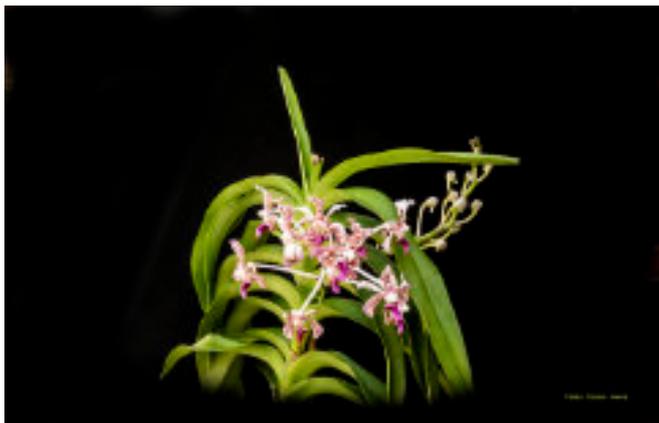
Monica Johnson

Dendrobium Jenkensis



Phal Papagayo

Phal Tesconium



Vanda Tricolor Suavis

Phal Tesconius

Dendrochilum

Trey
Sanders



Trey lived in Australia until his late 20s and has moved to United Kingdom since. His particular interest is the genus of Dendrochilum and Dracula. He has set up the information website in 2007 www.dendrochilum.com, because of the very limited and often incorrect information available on the internet.

This was made possible with help from many botanical institutions and knowledgeable individuals around the world. Trey has grown orchids in a personal collection since he was a child, and now he sells orchids professionally across Europe through his business "Orchid Botanics", which helps fund his many orchid interests like traveling the world identifying and describing them. According to Trey, traveling and seeing orchids in their native surroundings has revolutionised the way he grows his plants - this way he gets the first hand insights of individual plant requirements that he can then replicate in his greenhouses.

Dendrochilum belongs to Coelogyninae subtribe where Pholidota, Pleione, Coelogyne and many more rarely seen species in cultivation. Originally, Karl Bloom in the 1820 described only 6 Dendrochilum species, later many more were added by other explorers. However, all Dendrochilums are distributed in a small region called "The Malesian Region" around Philippines, New Guinea, Java, Sumatra and Borneo. There's only 339 species in total, with no hybrids known in existence. Majority of the species have only recently been described and a very small amount is available in cultivation.

Generally, this is a genus that likes high humidity at all times and high altitude. Most of the species are found in the mountainous regions at 1700-1800m

elevations were temperatures in a day time reach 27C and 15C during the night.

Identification of different species on Dendrochilums is done by comparison of column and the labellum, because these plants usually have very small flowers and most of the time leaves are very similar, that is the only indication to differentiate between species. Trey really hopes that nobody will attempt to make any hybrids as it would complicate the identification even more.

In cultivation Trey uses trays with rain water under his plants to keep the humidity up and he also uses very little fertiliser. He has fans on at all times and he uses fine bark and live sphagnum moss for potting. Humidity in his greenhouses is kept at 78-80%. Trey also mentions that Dendrochilums don't like to be re-potted at all, same as dry periods, these plants will have yellow or browning leave ends or the flower buds will abort. By visiting these plants in situ, Trey has noticed that many plants grow mounted in moss higher on the trees, receiving more light. On his return, he has planted many of his plants in hanging baskets in pure moss and placed them up to the roof of his greenhouse following with many plants flowering profusely. Slugs and red spider mite are the main pests for Dendrochilums and Trey also encounters them often in his greenhouses.

Trey has taken us on his phone through his greenhouses and shown many of his flowering plants. He's got many plans to go back to Borneo and Sumatra to identify new undescribed species of Dendrochilum and produce more field guides once the Covid restrictions are lifted.

Lina Smalinske



Wild Orchids

Janet and
Martin



Janet and i went off to Draycote. Only the second time we've been out together since this dreadful pandemic started.

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust has two fields where the green winged orchid's and later on common spotted can be found, together with lots of other wildflowers.



We have been going for many years now but this year was by far the best we have ever seen them, there were literally thousands of them and intermingled with the cowslips was truly a site to behold, at least made up for not being able to get to see them last

year.

We always keep an eye out for an occasional pure alba one, the most we have seen up to now has been two, but were really pleased to find three.

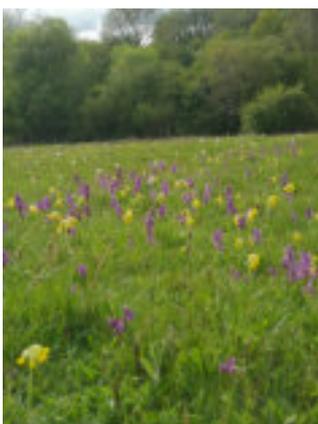
A really enjoyable visit, we then moved on to Snitterfield bushes again a WWT site, Oh dear what are they doing, masses of trees have been felled and the place looked absolutely dreadful.

We had come to see the early purple's, unfortunately they were the other way, very depleted in numbers, we found eighteen in the first of the usual places, but the rest of the wood we only found eight considerably down on numbers.

We found several young non flowering plants so hopefully next year will see an improvement.

We also came across two fairy rings one small and the other probably 10ft across, but with all the superstition that surrounds them made sure we didn't step into either of them

Happy Orchid hunting. Janet and Martin



South Wales

Margaret Dale



I've just spent a few days in Usk, South Wales at my sister's. We had some good outings, one to a wonderful bluebell wood on the site of Iron Age Fort. The bluebells were taller, larger and darker than any I've round here.



We found two Common Purple Spotted Orchid plants at the edge of a path.

We had two other attempts to see orchids. One at Newport Wetlands, where rain drove us off from getting to the Marsh Orchids area, and another day glorious mud became dangerous negotiate a path to an orchid field.



We were lucky with a sunny day at N.T. Dyffryn Gardens in the Vale of Glamorgan. A large estate, whose house is not open yet, has an arboretum and a lot of small gardens separated by huge lawns and is judged as one of the top 100 gardens in the UK by the British Tourist Authority. A very large greenhouse has a tropical area, cacti and cool growing plants areas. There were amazing pitcher plants, some orchids and many other genera.

