



# Newsletter



AUGUST 2021

## BACK AGAIN - AT LAST!

**It was good to meet up with friends again after 17 months of zoom meetings although only 15 people attended.**

Peter opened the meeting welcoming everyone back, emphasizing how important it is for the Society to progress, to recruit new Members for the Committee. We are hoping at the AGM new Members will step forward.

We then had a very interesting talk from Peter and Malcolm.

Malcolm had brought along several different makes of orchid feed & orchid mists which can be found on the shelves in garden centres.

He then went on to point out how inadequate many of these feeds are as they do not contain the necessary nutrients required by your orchids.

Malcolm continued to explain the importance of the correct N.P.K for your orchids and advised buying a proprietary reputable feed such as DynaGro or Rain Mix.

Although these are more expensive, they are concentrated and therefore more economical. Alternatively, using Orchid Focus is another option as this is widely available. It is not as concentrated as DynaGro but does contain all the necessary nutrients.

Several orchids had been brought along for advice. Graham Jones is a windowsill grower and had brought a most impressive Vanda. Peter pointed out at great lengths how well this plant had been grown, all the leaves the length of the plant were perfect and most importantly it had been staked at the correct time. Monica brought along three plants one for Identification, which has since been named. Malcolm continued impressing on us all how important it is to stake your plants in

the early days, when new growths appear, otherwise when the plant comes into flower, you will possibly have flowers pointing in all directions.

Malcolm went on to say, "know your plants, read up on their cultural requirements, where they grow, what conditions they like, you will then become a more successful grower.

It is much better to purchase one good plant than five cheap ones, which will take years of hard work to make anything of".

We then had our raffle and left the Hall at 3.55pm, as requested.

Look forward to seeing everybody at the AGM and Auction on Saturday September 4th.



## Happy birthday!

Belated birthday greetings to  
Keith Bates, **80** on the 24th  
August



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](mailto:lina_sala@yahoo.co.uk) or copy and pictures for newsletter: [ballm1@mac.com](mailto:ballm1@mac.com)  
Society email address: [www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk](http://www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk)

# My orchids at home

**Monica Johnson**



**Cattleya rex**



**Neostylis Lou Sneary**

**Malcolm Moodie**

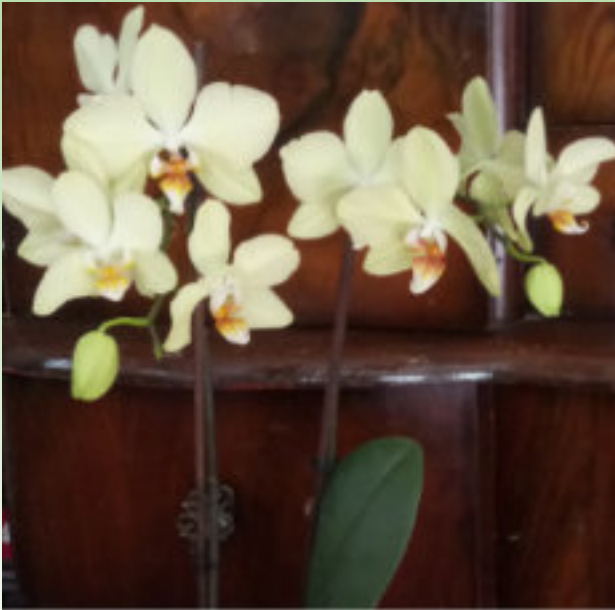
**Photos: Ken Johnson**



**Paph. schaelzen**



**Paph. Lowii Doll**



**Phalaenopsis hybrid**

# My Pictures

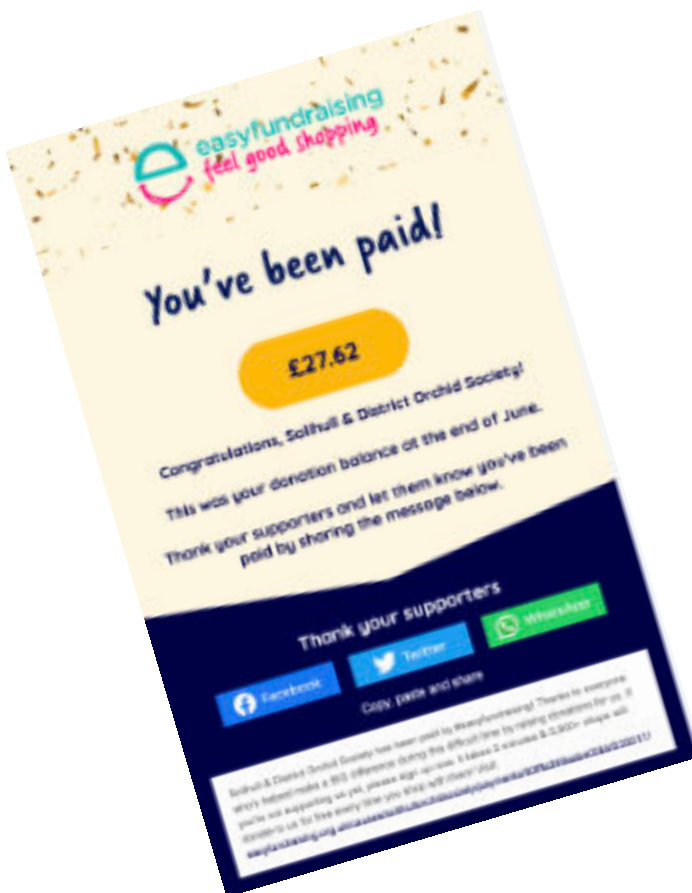
**Janet James**



**Stenoglottis woodii (kloof)**



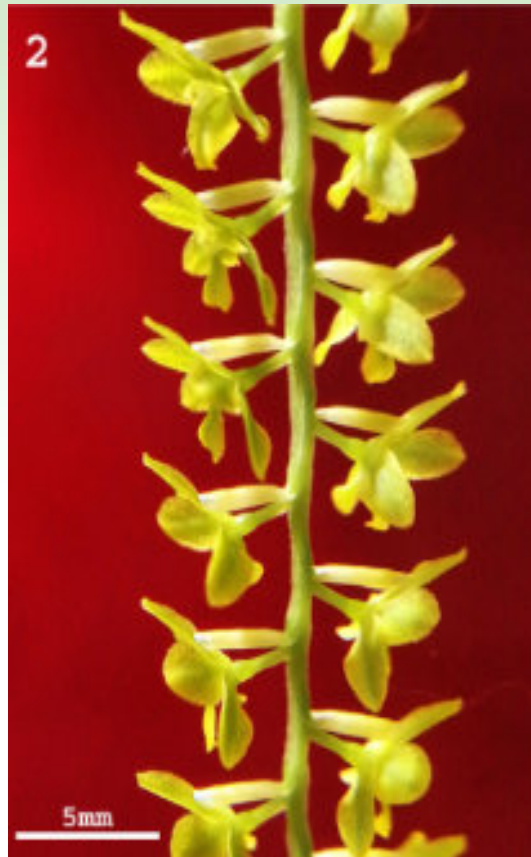
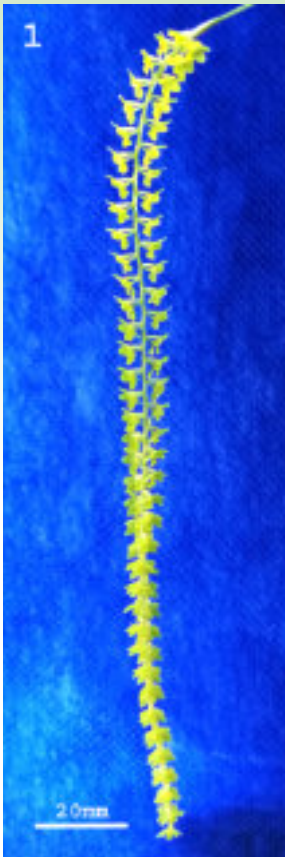
**Broad Leaved Helleborine**



**Another orchid walk, looking for Broad Leaved Helleborines, we only found these two small plants in flower. I didn't have any flowers on my own plants this year**

# My orchid pictures

## Colin Clay



**Dendrochilum filiforme**, photographed using a Huawei smartphone (other brands are available). On my plant, the pendulous inflorescences are around 150mm long (Fig. 1, blue background) and bear up to 80 small flowers (Fig. 2, side view). Each flower measures around 6 mm across (Fig. 3).

## Next meeting: AGM and Plant Sale

On Saturday 4th September our meeting will consist of the Annual General Meeting, the Plant Auction and for the first time we will also have a Display Table.

The timings for the meeting will be different from usual meetings with the Hall open by 1.00 for your plants to be booked in for the Auction.

Please ensure this is completed by 1.45pm so that the AGM can start at 2.00 pm. All plants should be bug free

with 10% of the sale price going to the Society.

This is a great chance to acquire plants grown by society members and so if you have any plants that are surplus to requirements please bring them along as other members will be eager to buy them.

It is always a fun afternoon and with the added attraction of a display table it shouldn't be missed. Look forward to seeing you all.