



Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2021

Christmas show and party

Attached to the newsletter is the show schedule, this was updated in 2018 and now mirrors the schedule for the Spring Show. Would you kindly send your entries by Thursday 2nd December to Maureen Jones please,

Email;

maureenpjones@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 02476 403148

Maureen only needs to know the class number and the number of plants you are entering in each class.

The plant names you will need to fill in yourself. If unable to send details please bring them along on the day.

The room will be open to accept your plants from 1.00pm to 1.45pm. After this this judging will commence.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

This year again we will have two lovely hampers put together by Janet.

If you haven't had the opportunity to make your donations, please bring them along and you will be issued with one raffle ticket per item.

You can also buy extra raffle tickets if desired for the hamper.

We will also be running our usual monthly raffle, run by Colin and Jean.



CHRISTMAS BUFFET

Christmas buffet is always enjoyed during the afternoon, in order to get some idea of what food we will have, could you kindly Email or telephone Jackie – Email: sandwichboard@knowle@gmail.com Tel: 01564 778331



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

My orchids at home



Coelogyne fimbriata

**Monica
Johnson**



Miltonia Sunset

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscription for the coming year is now due, please pay at the next meeting, or send a cheque direct to our new treasurer Sam Bridge, 27 Edinburgh Way, Banbury OX16 OPF.

Membership remains unchanged £12.00 per single or £16.00 per couple.

Please add another £5.00 to your subscription if you receive your Newsletter by post.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are still hoping for at least two new Committee Members to step forward, we need help in planning 2022 also help to run our annual Show in March, our current Committee are under a lot of pressure and we need your help.

November Table Show



**Phalaenopsis
No Name - 27pts**

**Graham
Jones**

**Paph. Henrianum x -
26pts**



**Odont. Hansueli Isler
- 28pts**

My orchids at home



Encyclia cochleata 'Octopussy'

Colin Clay



Oncidium 'Dancing Lady'



Growing Odontoglossum orchids

Richard Fleming



Richard's uncle was a keen Cymbidium and orchid collector, after he died Richard ended up growing some of his uncle's collection.

However, his true passion for Odontoglossums started when his neighbour friend convinced Richard to go to an orchid show in London.

He saw an Odontoglossum called "Annette" at the show and it reminded him of his sister. That's how his love for Odontoglossums started.

Odontoglossums originate from south America with some in South Mexico however most concentration is distributed in Andean regions like Ecuador, Peru and Colombia. After DNA testing Odontoglossums have now been moved to one big Oncidiinae group of orchids, however Richard thinks of them still as Odontoglossums purely because of their different cultivation requirements.

The genus originally consisted of 325 species before all DNA testing and hybridisation started. Some 137 out of those species, after DNA testing have been moved to other genera like Oncidium, Aspasia and etc.

Some 22 haven't been identified to belong to any group at all, some have been described as natural hybrids where's others have been described multiple times with different names.

Therefore there's only 58 true Odontoglossum species available to date. Those species have also been grouped into 6 distinct subgenera based on the flower shape and habitat: Erectolobata, Lindleyana, Nevadensia, Odontoglossum, Serratolaminata, Unguisepala. There are 4 main Odontoglossum species that have been used as a primary example to describe and place the rest of the species into their subgenera groups are: O.Crispum, O.Hallii, O.Nobile, O. spectatissimum.

Most Odontoglossums grow high in the Andes, therefore are cool growers with some even being exposed to frosts and snow on higher altitudes.

Odontoglossum tetraplastium is the only species growing furthest south in warmer conditions.

All of the species growing on the western side of Andes are regularly

exposed to heavy rainfalls up to 356 days a year and up to 7-8in, where those species

growing on the eastern side, only get high humidity and mist only seeing 4in of rain a year at most. All species growing on the lower altitudes are getting regular temperature throughout the year, however those on the higher altitudes are exposed to big day and night temperature (72F day – 54F night) differences.

Odontoglossums are usually found on the edges of forests, therefore receiving higher light levels up to 5000 Lux. Some, on higher altitudes, even requiring UV ray exposure to thrive and most often those are found growing terrestrially. In general, Odontoglossums are epiphytic growers clinging onto the branches on bark covered in moss and regularly exposed to 60-70% humidity falling to 90% at night time.

They are in active growth from March to May, they do go into dormancy through summer and a second growth period starts October to December followed by dormancy in winter. Only during those months they need their heaviest watering and feeding on a regular basis.

Most Odontoglossums end up with brown leaf tips only because of too much feed during non-growing periods. Root rot is also a big killer of these plants, due to too much water during dormant periods.

Most commonly red spider mite can be found when plants are exposed to prolonged dry periods. Richard has also mentioned that some Odontoglossums are just hard to keep in the greenhouse environment for more than 4-5 years.

He also did not shy from saying "I used to have this one", which goes to show that these plants do best in their native environments, even there the distribution of certain species is very isolated to specific small areas making these orchids vulnerable to extinction.