



Newsletter



JUNE 2021

LIVE MEETING

at ST.TERESA'S HALL,
SATURDAY 7th AUGUST
1.30 – 4.00pm

SPECIAL REQUEST

Dear Members

At the above meeting we are planning an informal short afternoon's fun, Peter and Malcolm would like you to bring along any plants you may be having problems with, they will discuss culture, growing medium and any other problems you may be having, such as – Why won't this plant flower??.

We won't be able to use the kitchen, so please bring your own drink. We will be having a raffle.

We have accumulated quite a collection of booklets for Members to borrow, such as The Gardener, Orchid Review, & OSGB orchid journal. This should be a fun short meeting.

In order for the Committee to ascertain how many Members we may expect at the above meeting, if you intend coming, could you kindly either email, telephone or text me on the following numbers:-

Email: kenneth.johnson99@ntlworld.com

Mobile: 0790 481 4084

Landline: 01926 747822

It will be so good to get together again

Best wishes
Monica Johnson



SATURDAY'S
ZOOM
MEETING -
2pm
Saturday,
3rd July

MICHAEL
RADLEY

"ORCHID
TREKS
in COSTA
RICA"

This is a very interesting talk, and we can highly recommend joining the meeting

A Zoom link will be emailed later in the week



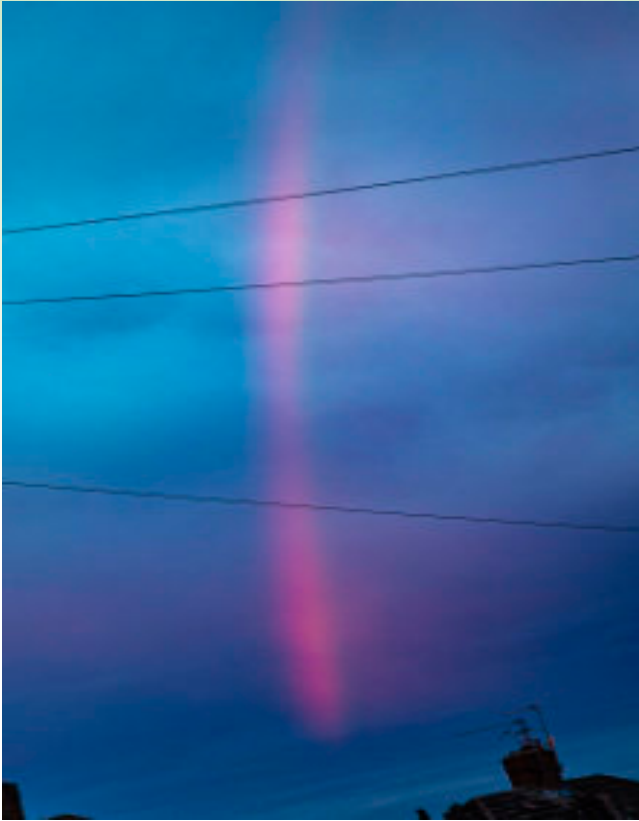
You can follow Solihull & District Orchid Society on Facebook and Twitter



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

Monica Johnson



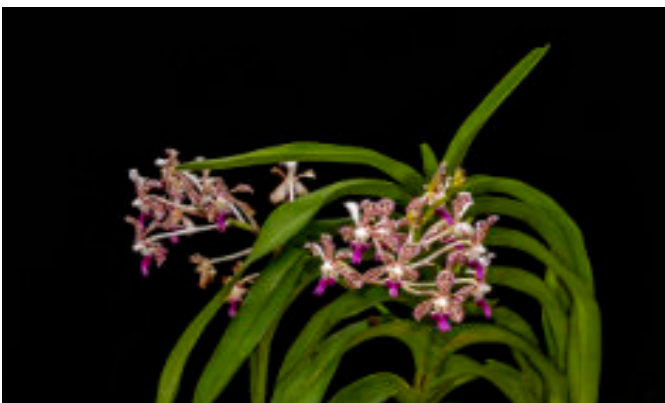
A rare Red Rainbow



Dendrobium Yellow Magic 'Festival'



Phal 'Lidl Bargain'



Vanda tricolor 'Sauvis'



Phal Morrisons Pride



Bletilla striata

**Colin
Clay**

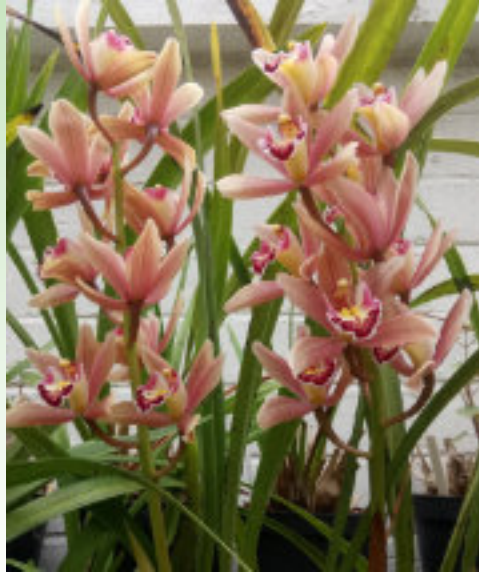


Phal Tesco's Finest

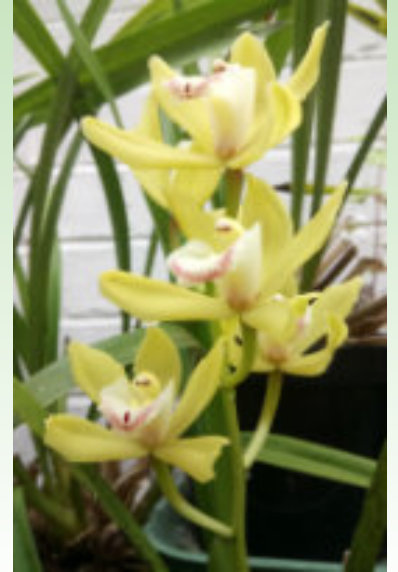
Lockdown Pictures



Cymbidium Carrisona



Cymbidium Mimi Sandalwood



No name

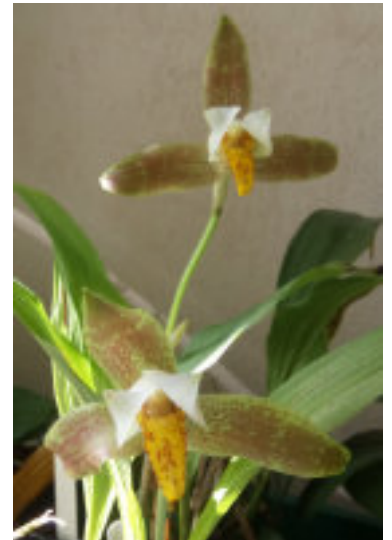


**Janet
James**

**Nomocharis
aperta not
an Orchid
but unusual
and rather
nice.**



Ponerorchis graminifolia



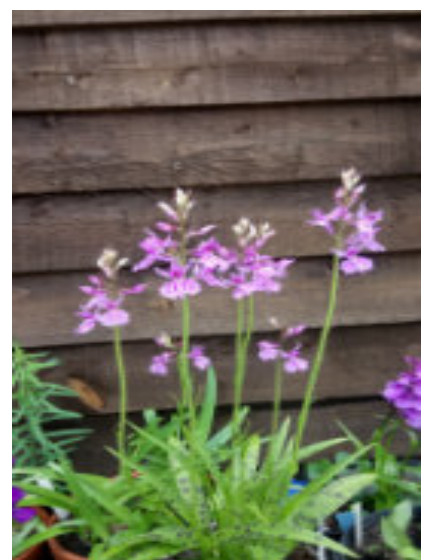
Lycaste deppie



Dactylorhiza hybrids hybrid



Dactylorhiza elata



**Dactylorhiza x grandis Blackthorn
hybrid**

Wild Orchids

Margaret Dale

A pleasant walk through Clowes Wood, Earlswood with Janet on June 15th was topped off by finding a colony of Heath Spotted Orchids. *Dactylorhiza maculata* growing in a meadow.

The name is from the Greek meaning finger, root, spotted. It flowers between June and August.

The flowers can be almost white, pink to purple.

Hybrids occur between other orchid species and we may have seen examples of those between Heath Spotted and Common Spotted. Heath Spotted orchids have pointed leaves with round purple blotches and a more rounded flower lip.



Small-Flowered Tongue Orchids alive and well!

A colony of 15 plants of *Serapias parviflora*, the Small-flowered tongue orchid, has recently been found to be growing in the roof-top garden of the Japanese Bank Nomura International, 1 Angel Lane in the City of London.

A previous colony was found in Cornwall in 1989 but had died out after 20 years.

The species grows commonly in the Mediterranean basin and Atlantic coast of France, Spain and Portugal.

It seems unlikely that they arrived as seed blown in on Southerly winds and more possible that there was seed of them in the soil brought in to make the garden about ten years ago.

MARGARET DALE

Eric Young Foundation

Chris Purver moved to Jersey to take up a post at the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, one of the world's most prestigious orchid centres.

In 2002 he became curator, responsible for the successful operation of a major tourist attraction and overseeing the hybridising programme.

Chris is also responsible for major international orchid show exhibits, as well as presenting lectures nationally and internationally.

He is an accredited British Orchid Council (BOC) judge and serves as judge and current Vice Chair for the Orchid Committee of the

Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), he also serves on the RHS Advisory Sub Committee on Orchid Hybrid Registration Advisory Group (OHRAG), and on the International Orchid Committee (IOC).

The Eric Young foundation is only few miles out of the capital St. Helier. As well as having a fantastic greenhouse open to public visitors the foundation has an

extensive orchid hybridisation programme which totals up to 3000 sqm of greenhouses.

The most famous Cymbidium and Paphiopedilum, Phragmipedium hybrids that are RHS awarded came from these greenhouses.

These three groups of orchids take 50% of their hybridisation programme the next 35% are cool and intermediate Oncidiinae, 5% Calanthes and 10% are various different genera.

Production houses are split into eight areas and flowering orchids move to display house that's open to visitors.

Mostly, all breeding is happening using tetraploid plants to achieve a better petal consistency, longer flowering and bigger flowers: the main difference why this nursery is different from many others in the world. There are no time or financial restraints that many other nurseries face. A usual time frame for developing a new hybrid can take from 5-10 years.

Lately, Eric Young foundation has been focusing on breeding Miltoniopsis and have developed some world class hybrids so far. The flower size and the texture is the main focus when producing new hybrids. In the

past years by using only tetraploid parents the foundation has achieved Miltoniopsis with flowers up to 15cm in diameter.

Most of them have been RHS awarded with FCC and AM awards. Some of their most famous ones are Mlts. Les Landes "Trinity", Mlts. Cotil Point "Jersey", Mlts. Le Couperon "Jersey".

Alongside, another strong focus at the foundation is on Oncidiinae breeding that also involves tetraploid plants too. In 2012 RHS has awarded AM for their Oncidonopsis Champs du Rey "Le Don de Carteret" for a white looking flower reminding an old *Oncidium crispum* species.



The main aim of this programme long term is to eradicate the blotching to achieve pure white flowers on 4N plant. Another large flower that received an FCC at RHS with 15 large flowers and a spike reaching more than 1.5m "Le Hurel Tower".

A famous breeding of *Phragmipedium* using *kovachii* has now been undergoing for many years again using diploid and tetraploid plants. The most famous

hybrids the foundation has produced *Phragmipedium* Fritz Schomburg, *Phragmipedium* Memoria Mariza Rolando "Le Hocq Tower" and the RHS awarded FCC *Phrag. kovachii* "Trinity". As Chris has highlighted that *kovachii* is only good to be bred with due to its unstable petals, which he calls a "Mickey mouse" stage.

So another unusual focus of the foundation is nothing about the size of the flowers. Recently, Chris has been responsible for making about 150 unregistered crosses of *Restrepia*.

He can see a lot of potential in breeding *Restrepia*: not demanding on heating and flowering all year round, breeding cycle can be achieved in only 18 months.

The foundation has been the first time achievers an AM from RHS for a *Restrepia* *Dielamont' Jersey' 2020*, usually this genus is overlooked by judges due to the flower size. Now Chris has focused introducing tetraploid flowers in his *Restrepia* breeding in the future.

Chris has kindly invited visitors to the foundation greenhouses, the only requirement from him was to let know in advance of the visit.

LINA SMALINSKE

cephalanthera longifolia

Colin
Clay

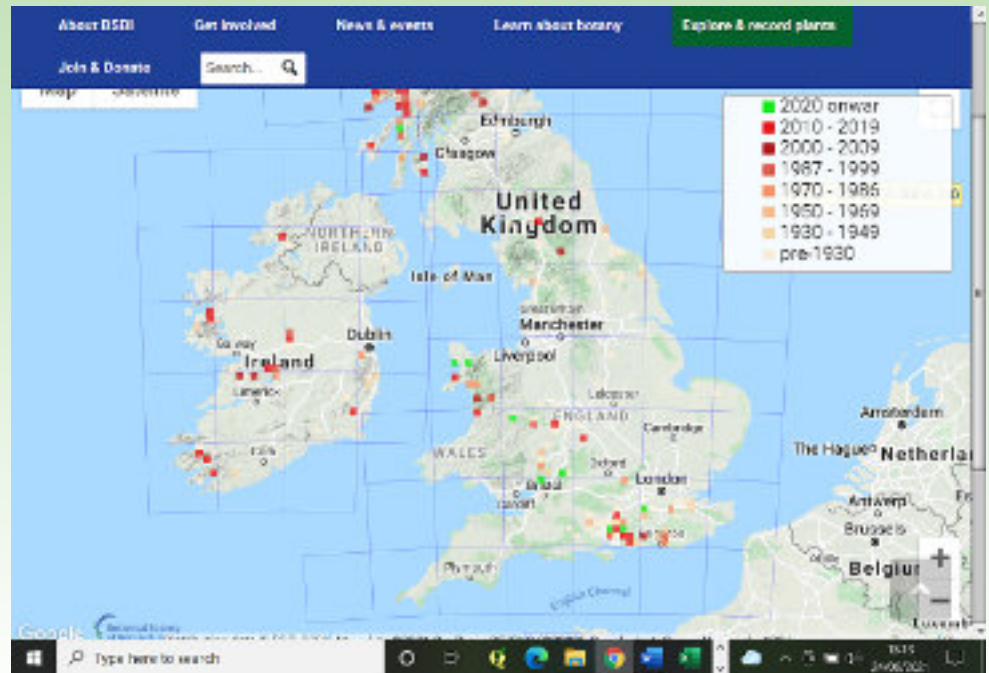
A visit to see Sword Leaved Helleborine (Cephalanthera longifolia) at its' only Warwickshire site, 4th June 2021.

The Sword Leaved Helleborine grows in only one woodland in the West of Warwickshire and in only a handful of sites across England and Wales. In the UK it is classified as Nationally Scarce and protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act; and, in Ireland, under the Flora (Protection) Order (source BSBI).

A BSBI distribution map shows the decline in sites where it has grown. Fig. 1.

Up to 30 flowering spikes can be seen at the site and one is shown in Figure 2.

The plants are associated with trees via mycorrhizal connections in the soil but usually are found alongside pathways or margins of the woodland, rarely in deep shade. Figure 3, shows the habitat, with 5 plants flowering in the foreground (yellow arrows).



Wild Orchids

Colin
Clay

A Visit to Ufton Fields, a Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) SSSI, 18th June 2021

Ufton Fields was handed over to the Wildlife Trust in 1972 after limestone quarrying had ceased. The site boasts a variety of habitats, including coniferous and broadleaved woodland, elongated pools defined by spoil ridges, marshes and lime-rich meadows.

Up to seven species of hardy orchid may be seen in flower here, including the Northern most site for Man Orchid (*Orchis anthropophora*), classified as endangered under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. [WWT choose to advertise that this species grows here]. Fig. 1. Man Orchid, close-up.

Management of the site includes regular removal of hawthorn scrub which continually encroaches into the meadows. This may be carried out by volunteers or contractors.

Volunteers also identify the emerging Man Orchid foliage in January and erect chicken-mesh cages, to protect them from grazing by rabbit and deer. Fig. 2.

Caged Men. Mechanical scrub control proves difficult in areas such as Snipe Meadow, where Ancient Ant Hills need to be preserved. Fig. 3. Ant Hills.

Flowering Greater Butterfly Orchids (*Platanthera chlorantha*) used to be seen 40-50 in number but seem to be suffering from scrub encroachment and possibly the large rabbit population. Twenty years ago, as a volunteer, I used to cage these until it seemed unnecessary, with large numbers in flower each year. Fig. 4. Greater Butterfly Orchid.

Figure 5 shows some variability in the population of the Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*). The plant on the right seems to have modified foliage but actually had bindweed twining up its' stem. This plant has the more typical stature and flower with the plant to its' left being diminutive. The yellow flowering plant surrounding the orchids is Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), known as a 'meadow maker'. This annual plant, parasitises grass roots, suppressing the growth and giving other meadow plants such as orchids more of a chance to compete for space and light.

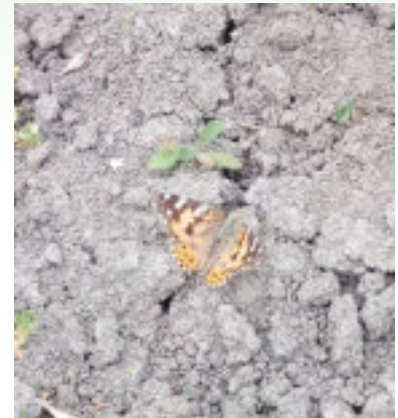


Stockton cutting ...

Martin and I spent a lovely afternoon at Stockton Cutting, counting Butterfly Orchids. Its two years since we were last there and thankfully the Hawthorn Scrub that had been allowed to grow in the field had been cleared. With those in the field and the ones growing around the cutting we have never seen so many. We also



found some Twayblades and the Common Spotted were coming out too. Sadly there were no Bee Orchids they may have suffered in the cold dry April weather, followed by a very wet May. I also saw my first Painted Lady Butterfly for this year.



... and Hillfield Park

Janet James

I have since been to Hillfield Park in Solihull, where there are some lovely wild flowers. I found Common Spotted Orchids and white form of Ragged Robin, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*. It's a big area and I hadn't been for a long time, so I expected there were other things that I missed. I also saw some Butterflies, not near enough for photos.

