



Newsletter



JANUARY 2022

SPRING SHOW

19th March 2022

Once again our Spring Show is just round the corner, We are still short of helpers, even if you can only spare an hour, there are lots of various jobs, whether it be sitting taking the money at the door or for food, helping Jackie's team, or on the tombola, your help would be greatly appreciated.



TOMBOLA ITEMS

Heike is kindly collecting items for the Spring Show tombola, any unwanted Christmas presents, or any small items would be most welcome, many thanks

Welcome to David Wray who has joined us on the Committee

BEST WISHES JOAN

Our best wishes go to Joan Smith who had a fall on the ice and fractured her elbow,

Joan is now in respite but it will be five more weeks before the plaster is removed - "keep smiling Joan"

CONGRATS MALCOLM!

Our congratulations go to Malcolm Moodie, Malcolm's Paphiopedilum fairrieanum recently shown at the OSBG AUTUMN SHOW is featured on the front cover of the Orchid Society of Great Britain's Journal for the first quarter of this year. (available to see at our February meeting)



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

christmas show pictures



MALCOLM MOODIE - Best species and hybrid trophies



GRAHAM JONES - Best windowsill grown orchid



Paph. forrieianum 25pts - M. Moodie



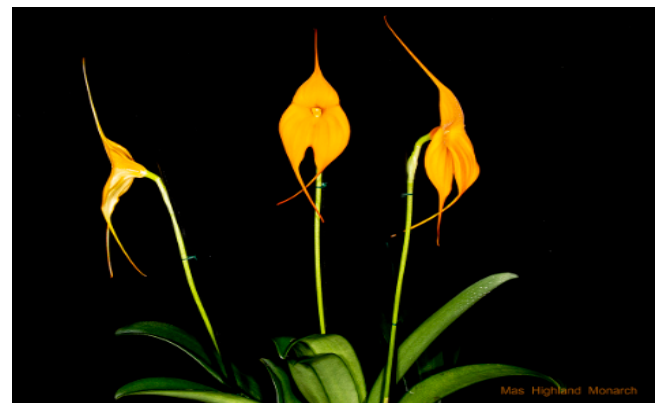
Oncidium tigrinum - 26pts M. Moodie



Masd. Chloe Jackson - 28pts M. Moodie



Masd. Ishbee Kirkwood - 30pts M. Moodie



Masd. Highland Monarch AM AOS - 29pts M. Moodie

Making a wardian case

Having kept tropical fish for over 30 years, we realised that the joy had gone and decided that the maintenance of the tank had become a burden.

Disposing of the beautiful bow-fronted Corner Unit was unthinkable; also, the fitted carpet sadly did not extend under the heavy Unit. Then the wonderful lightbulb moment came "Fill it with Orchids" and make a 'Wardian case'.

This name comes from Dr. Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward, who accidentally discovered in 1829, that plants being brought back to Europe from the New Worlds, could survive in an enclosed case, whereas previously many had died en route.

Our tank was emptied and cleaned thoroughly before the addition of new substrate - bark, sphagnum moss, perlite etc.

The old fluorescent tubes were replaced with a modern LED unit which uses a lot less energy and provides wonderful brightness.

A large choice of LED units, offering a range of illumination densities and spectra of light output, are available.

I have added structure (height) using some of the old Bogwood, now dried out and large pieces of Cork.

Good companion plants appear to be Bromeliads (e.g. *Bromeliad neoregelia*)



and 'Air' plants such as 'Spanish Moss' (*Tillandsia usneoides*); also, other Tillandsias. Unexpected plants, such as *Cyclamen hederifolium*, must have arrived as seed in some of the substrate and ferns have arrived via spores.

We have tried a range of Orchids and most live happily in the unit.

Maintenance without the fish is much simplified. Watering is infrequent, as there is a contained microclimate, although the unit is deliberately not completely sealed. Occasional pests, such as small snails, are easily dealt with.

We never did replace the glossy aquatic backing paper of the tank but it doesn't look too out of place.

The only problem is that occasionally after a few beers, I do find myself staring in and wondering whatever happened to all of the fish?

Colin Clay

My Home Orchids



Cymbidium unknown hybrid



Coelogyne fuscensens

Pat Bussy



Cymbidium Magic Chocolate



Coelogyne assamica

My Home Orchids



Brian Slater



Paph. Insigne



Janet James



Masdevallia