



Newsletter



February 2022

Malvern tickets

As usual we will have the opportunity to purchase tickets for the Malvern International Orchid Show at a reduced price of £10 each. The normal price is £23 so this is a fantastic deal and a chance to visit the largest International Orchid Show in the UK.

The show is on the 16th, 17th & 18th June and should not be missed.

In addition, the Three Counties Show is a fantastic event with so much to do you will fill your whole day besides seeing the most wonderful display of orchids.

A list will be on the table on Saturday to add your name and the number of tickets you require.

Birmingham & Midland Orchid Society

It is very sad that our sister Society (BMOS) has now closed due to a low membership.

Our Society was delighted to receive a cheque for £1800 as a result of the distribution of their remaining assets.

Likewise, Central Orchid Society and the BOC also received monies to assist us all in continuing to promote Orchids and Orchid Growing in the Midlands and in the UK.

Many thanks to the outgoing committee of the Birmingham and Midland Orchid Society for their generosity.

Spring Show Saturday 25th March

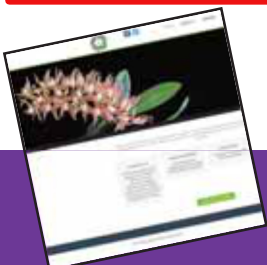
The various Rotas and Refreshment List will be circulated at Saturdays Meeting as we still have some gaps to fill. In addition, we have decided to have a Book and Sundries Table at the Show so if anybody has any Orchid Books they would like to donate and/or would like to look after this table on the day a new Rota will be circulated on Saturday.

If you have any books you would like to donate, please let us know.

Tombola – Need Donations

We will be running a Tombola Stall at our Spring Show on Saturday 25th March. If you have anything that is suitable that you would like to donate, please bring it to the meeting on Saturday.

George and Grace would be very pleased to receive anything that will help us make the Tombola Stall a resounding success.

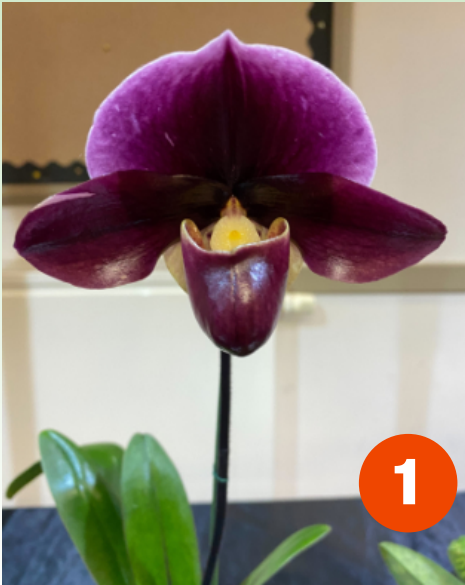


You can follow Solihull & District Orchid Society on Facebook and Twitter

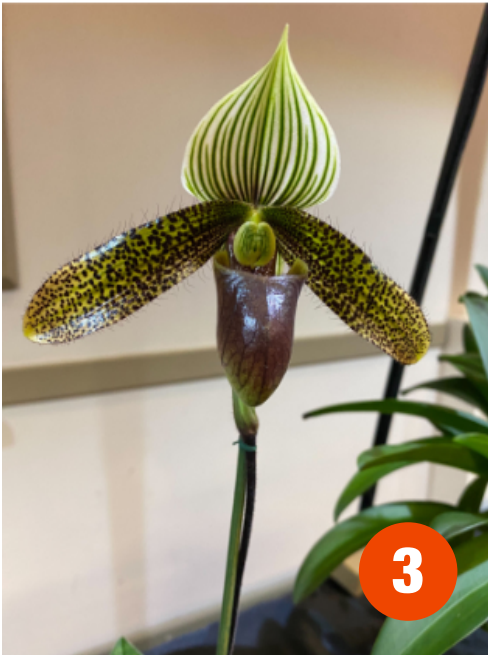
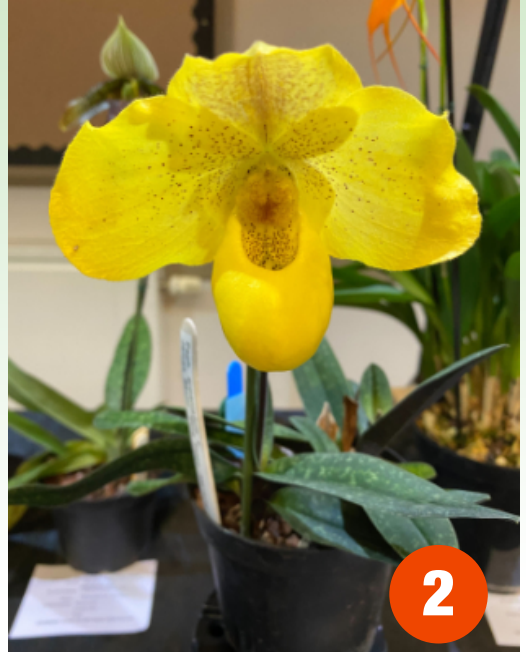


If you have any pictures or information you would like to put on our website please email: lina_sala@yahoo.co.uk or copy and pictures for newsletter: ballm1@mac.com
Society email address: www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk

Hybrids Table



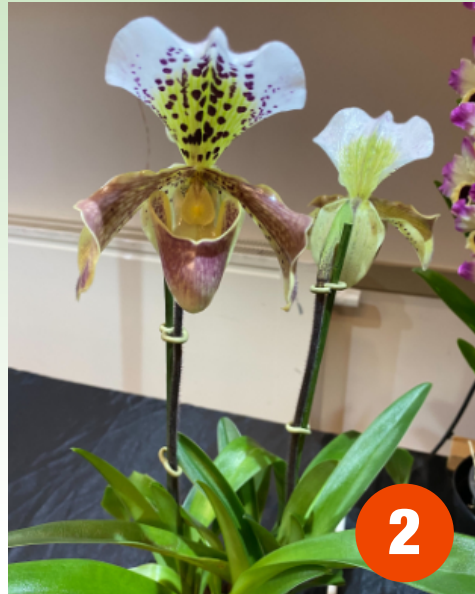
- 1. Paphiopedilum De Devant 27pts Malcolm Moodie**
- 2. Paphiopedilum armeniacum x James Bacon "Pine Ridge" 26pts Malcolm Moodie**
- 3. Paphiopedilum Johnny Shaw 27pts Malcolm Moodie**
- 4. Paphiopedilum Rosy Dawn 29pts Malcolm Moodie**
- 5. Masdevalia Highland Monarch Hayley Suzanne 28pts Malcolm Moodie**
- 6. Masdevalia Red Hybrid 24pts**



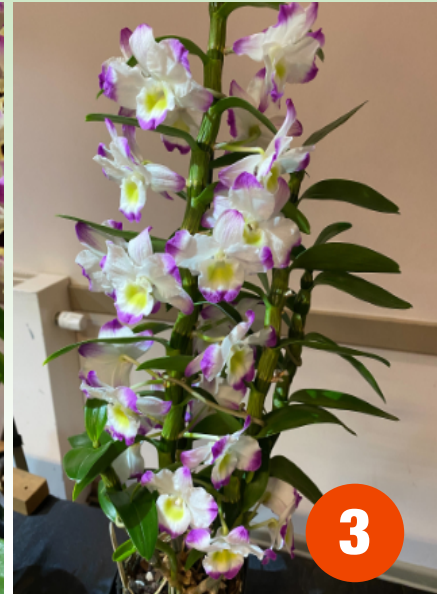
Windowsill Table



**1. Dendrobium Nobile
Oriental Smile "Butterfly "
32pts John Choong**



**2. Paphiopedilum
American hybrid 30pts
Graham Jones**

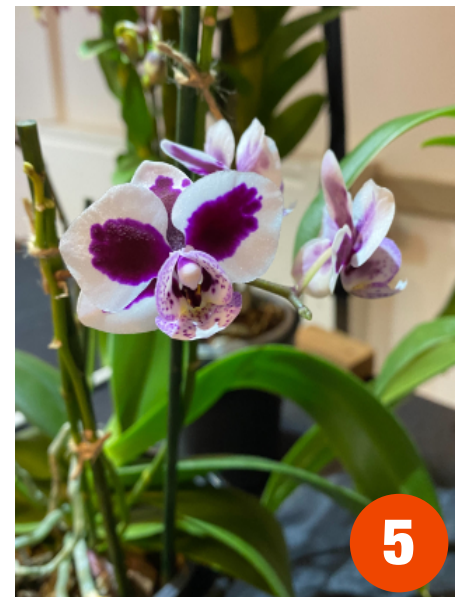


**3. Dendrobium Nobile
Irene Smile 29pts Graham
Jones**

**4. Phalaenopsis equestris
hybrid 26pts Graham
Jones**



**5. Phalaenopsis Nold
23pts George Mayes**



Pleiones – FREE

By now many of you will have repotted your Pleiones and as a result of completing mine I have a number of small bulbs and bulbils which are available free to anybody who would like to grow them on.

I have the following varieties – formosana (a lovely and easy to grow species), Tongariro "Jackdaw" (purple) and Ueli Wackernagel (pale pink).

Please speak to Malcolm who will be bringing them to the meeting on Saturday.

Next Meeting

At our next meeting on Saturday 4th March, we welcome Leif Bersweden who will be giving us a Talk titled "The Orchid Hunter".

Leif is a Botanist and Author and on Saturday he will take us on a remarkable journey to see all 52 British Native Orchids which he achieved in one season (something that has never been done before).

This is sure to be an interesting and fun afternoon.

Hardy Orchids

Celia Wright

Celia has introduced us to her garden near a Welsh border where she lives together with her husband, in a place called Long Mountain. Their house was previously a windmill and now been extended.

The garden is on slopes and plenty of uneven land and it ends with a stream. They have lived in this place for over 20 years, this was previously a farm.

The garden is surrounded with plenty of tall and old trees with slightly acidic soil and lots of clay that regularly floods with seasons.

The first native orchid was introduced into the garden in 2008 when they already have lived in the place for 10 years.

She planted them in large deep pots and those were placed in the ground. She soon realised, that all her pots have been infected with "black death", therefore she's been planting her native orchids directly into the soil ever since.

She has planted many varieties of *Dactylorhiza* that have started hybridising around Celia's garden in various places.



Bletilla striata caught Celia's eye in a garden in Devon, so she tried to introduce them into her's too. By adding a lot of sharp sand she's loosened her clay soil and selected a South facing bed in a sheltered spot next to a house wall, where they don't get much rain, as a result, the clump is growing very happily. She fertilises them every year and adds a little bit of lime to encourage regular flowering.

Next genus in Celia's garden is *Epipactis* and she thinks these orchids have been made to grow in her garden. The one and only requirement for them is to be able to

spread their roots very deep because they should never dry out, they have no tubers underground, and otherwise the plants die. She has also noted that, to get many good size flowers *Epipactis* needs around 6hrs of sunlight every day, therefore the spot *Epipactis* is planted in needs to be clear from light obstruction.



Celia has admitted that she hasn't been doing very well with *Pleiones*, however she has tried to find a good spot in a peat bed and they are growing considerably well if they are not found by birds first.

In the shady area with high trees Celia has made a special raised bed for *Cypripediums*. She wanted to grow them for a long time. She has lined this bed with mesh to stop moles digging them up. Keeping moisture constantly is a struggle; she has introduced some clay, which made



plants happier. What Celia has realised, that hybrids tend to grow better in her garden than species, so she continues experimenting. Celia has admitted that she still struggles to grow *Cypripediums* successfully.

Calanthes are also a very hard to keep, but she continues to persist and find the right spots for them in her garden.

LINA SMALINSKE