



Newsletter

March 2022



Spring Show

If you need reminding our Spring Show is on Saturday 25th March at Bentley Heath Community Centre.

It is our biggest event of the year and will generate funds that enable us to continue holding meetings with interesting speakers and support everything else we do.

Many of you have donated food items and your time covering the various rotas on the day. Without your help the show could not run so thanks, in advance, for all your help.

Please find attached the Show Schedule etc and so if you are planning to enter please phone (01295 788159) or email me (laeliam@aol.com) with your entries by close of play on Thursday 23rd as this will help us lay out the hall in advance of the show.

Even if you are not entering any plants, we hope we will see all of you at the Bentley Heath Community Centre on Show Day.

I have also attached the Show Leaflet and Map.

See you on Saturday 25th March.

Next Meeting

Please be reminded that there will be no meeting in April so our next meeting will be on Saturday 6th May. I know this is Coronation Day for King Charles III but the ceremony will be in the morning so hope you feel able to join us in the afternoon when Trey Sanders will be giving us a talk titled "Orchid Hunting in Sumatra". What better way to spend a Saturday afternoon being whisked to the other side of the world to see the wonderful orchids growing in this Indonesian Island.

Malvern 2023

Don't forget that you have the opportunity to purchase tickets at a fantastically reduced price of £10 (normal price £23) to spend a day at the Malvern International Orchid Show as well as enjoying the delights of the Three Counties Show. The Show takes place on the 16th, 17th and 18th June so make certain you have marked these dates in your calendar – not to be missed. See George if you haven't put your name on the list already.



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

RHS Orchid Trophy



Trophy presented by Keith Weed of the RHS. Reproduced by kind permission of the RHS



Paph. Fumi's Delight "Bob Moodie" CCC/RHS - picture taken by Paul Upward

Most of you have probably not heard of the RHS Orchid Trophy. The Trophy is awarded each year to the best orchid presented to the RHS Orchid Committee during the last year. I am pleased to inform you that your Chairman, Malcolm, was awarded this Trophy for his Paphiopedilum Fumi's Delight "Bob Moodie" CCC/RHS which was also awarded Best in Show at our Spring Show in 2022.

Malcolm was delighted to have won awards with this plant which was aptly named after his father who got him into growing orchids, evidently quite reluctantly.

Malcolm and Andrea were notified about the award in January but were

sworn to secrecy and had to wait until Monday 6th March to attend the awards ceremony and lunch at the RHS Lindley Hall, Vincent Square in Westminster.

He collected a lovely, engraved glass bowl which was presented by Keith Weed, President of the Royal Horticultural Society in front of some of the great and good of the horticultural world who were either there as hosts or to receive awards of their own for excellence in horticulture. I am sure you will join with me in congratulating Malcolm on his superb plant and much deserved award.

Editor

For your calendar -

On Saturday 1st April Hinckley OS hold their Show at Stoke Golding from 10.30 - 4.00 - CV13 6DZ

Saturday 22nd April Central Orchid Society are holding their Show at Perton Civic Centre from 11.00 till 4.00 - WV6 7PD

See the back page of your Membership Card for address details.

Both of these Orchid Societies are great supporters of Solihull so please make every effort to support them.

Look forward to seeing many of you at these two Shows

Show Table

WINDOWSILL



**Phalaenopsis Lieke. John Choong
Windowsill 31 points**



**Dendrobium nobile Prima Donna John Choong
Windowsill 33 points**



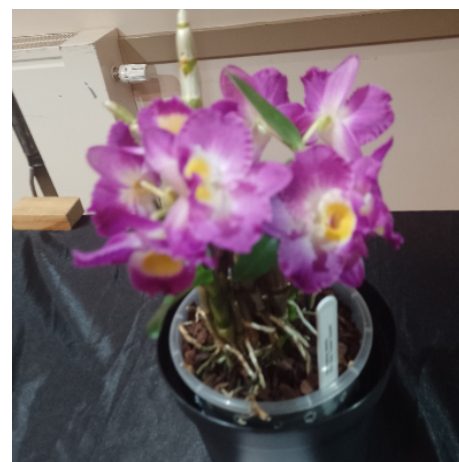
**Phalaenopsis Diffusion. John Choong
Windowsill 31 points**



Phalaenopsis Hybrid. George Mayes. Windowsill



**Phalaenopsis Diffusion. John Choong
Windowsill**



**Dendrobium nobile Pink Kiss 'Comet Queen'
John Coong. Windowsill 28 points**

Show Table

**SPECIES and
HYBRIDS**



**Coelogyne lockii Pat
Bussy. Species 32 points**



**Coelogyne mossiae Pat
Bussy. Species 24 points**



**Coelogyne pulchella Pat
Bussy. Species 26 points**



**Odont. pulchelum var.
Majus. Malcolm Moodie
Species 31 points**



**Maxilaria picta Plant Pat
Bussy. Species 31 points**



**Dinema polybulbon Malcolm
Moodie Species 32 points**



**Dendrobium nobile Angel Moon 'Love
Letter' John Choong Hybrid 30 points**



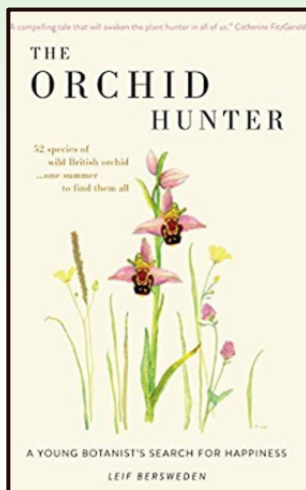
Disa Riette. Pat Bussy. Hybrid 24 points

Wild Orchids of Britain

Leif Bersweden

On 4th March 2023, we welcomed Leif Bersweden who gave a talk about his quest to find all 52 of Britain's wild orchid species in one season.

Impressively, Leif embarked upon his orchid adventure as a teenager on his gap year between school and university. He kept detailed log books of his travels and subsequently published his first book *The Orchid Hunter* in 2017.



Like many of us, Leif's passion for nature began during his childhood. He told us about how his father particularly

encouraged this interest and he quickly became interested in the minutiae of nature, enjoying examining insect specimens up close in jam jars.

A page in Leif's childhood wildflower guide highlighting some of Britain's wild orchids sparked his interest in wild orchids and he began searching for them in his school holidays. This eventually resulted in Leif's plan to spend a gap year attempting to see all of Britain's wild orchid species within a single season.

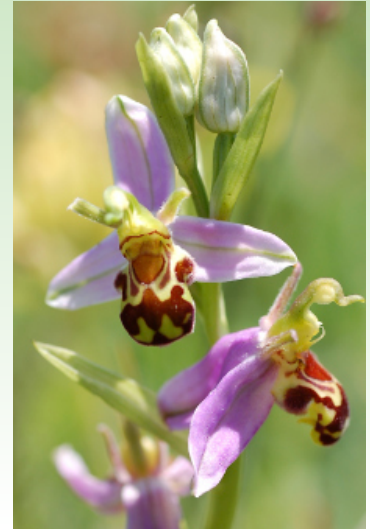
Leif then told us about some of the highlights of his orchid adventure.

He travelled to Kent to see the Man Orchid (*Orchis Italica*), typically the eighth flowering species in the year. The Man Orchid is aptly named due to



the clusters of small flowers which look like tiny little men wearing nothing but their birthday suits.

He went on to talk to us about his favourite orchid, the Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*), which commonly flowers in June and July.



He described how the Bee Orchid has evolved to exploit the sexual desire of male bees.

The flower of the bee orchid looks and smells like a female bee which entices the male bee to land on it. The male bee will gather pollen onto the back of his head as he attempts to mate with the flower. When he eventually abandons the attempt and flies off, the male bee subsequently spots a different population of bee orchids and will fall for the same trick all over again. He will land on a new flower, depositing the pollen from the back of his head onto the new plant. Leif described how much he enjoys ingenious interactions like this between plants and animals.

Finally, Leif told us about his attempts to see the Coralroot Orchid (*Corallorhiza*) in Newcastle. His quest very nearly failed at this point after various disasters including a broken down car leading to a motorway stranding. However, Leif's father saved the day after driving him many hours all the way back to Newcastle to enable him to see this orchid.

Leif's father was initially unimpressed by this unspectacular orchid, but after closer inspection, he was able to appreciate why he had just driven hundreds of miles to see it.

GRACE MAYES