



Newsletter

October 2023



It's time for the Christmas Hamper

We will be having a Christmas hamper (or more if we get enough donations) that will be raffled at the Christmas Show at our festive meeting on Saturday 2nd December 2023.

Janet James has again kindly volunteered to put this together but she will need your donations to help fill the hamper(s).

Please bring along any food or drink items that you would be willing to donate to ensure that we have a good festive hamper offering.

All donations are welcome at both the November and December meetings.

Every person that donates some produce will receive a ticket for the prize draw. Additional tickets will be available for purchase to increase your chances of scooping the win.

The hamper is always a lovely bonus Christmas treat for the lucky winner but most importantly, it helps raise money for our wonderful club so please give generously if you are able to.

Can you help please!

Grace Mayes, our new Chairwoman is now handling items for the monthly newsletter.

She would like to hear from you if you have any information, pictures, stories etc, that you think might be useful for the monthly edition.

Grace's email address:

gew30@outlook.com

Next Meeting

Our next meeting on Saturday 4th November 2023 will feature Phil Seaton talking about Orchid Conservation in the Americas: a Journey from Florida to Chile.

Phil is always a very popular speaker with good reason and this topic is sure to be a very interesting one.

Phil is always happy to answer any questions after the meeting so please do raise your hand at the end if there is anything you would like to consult Phil on.

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

Short Courses at Burnham Nurseries

Burnham Nurseries have recently started to offer a range of short 2 hour workshops and courses designed to cover a range of orchid related topics to help you have success with your growing at home.

Grace, George and Fred recently attended the orchid terrarium growing workshop which was run by Sara.

We had a brilliant time learning about which orchids grow well in terrariums, selecting suitable complimenting plants for the terrarium and learning how to care for terrariums to ensure successful flowering.

All materials were included in the course fee and we were able to plant up our own terrariums which turned out very well. Grace Mayes



Well done Monica!

Monica Johnson was awarded Best Species (*Dendrochilum magnum*) and Best Hybrid (*Vanda Pinky Red*) rosettes at the East Midlands O.S. show recently.



Journey to London – A trip to remember

On Tuesday 8th October we had to drive to the RHS Hall at Vincent Square in Westminster to take some plants to the Orchid Committee. However, before one even contemplates such a thing one must check whether your car is compliant with the new ULEZ scheme and to pay the Congestion Charge.

Once this was done, I was quite relaxed until the journey itself. I picked up Peter White as he was attending the meeting only to find that the M40 was at a standstill. An alternative road south had a barrier across it stating, "Emergency Closure", so we had to take an even longer detour. Fortunately, I had added an extra hour to the journey just in case I had problems in London but as it turned out my problems were all in Oxfordshire and that hour completely evaporated.

We were supposed to be at the meeting 1 hour before it started to process the paperwork and get the plants photographed. Fortunately, we were only 10 minutes late with a parking slot just outside the door. Once I had downloaded the App to pay for parking, we had completed the journey – Phew what a relief.

I had three plants of my own plus one from Paul Upward who is a member of Thames Valley OS and the Paphiopedilum Society who dropped the plant up to me the day before, so we were more than relieved to be there in time for judging.

I am very pleased to report that 2 of my plants, *Masdevallia Highland Monarch* "Hayley Suzanne" AM/AOS and *Masdevallia Susy de Bermeo* both received Cultural Commendation Certificates so was able to drive home with a large grin on my face.

In addition, Paul Upward's *Paphiopedilum* also received a Cultural Commendation Certificate so a great day all around.



Malcolm Moodie

OCTOBER TABLE

OCTOBER TABLE PICTURES TO FOLLOW