



# Newsletter

## March 2024



## Spring Show

The Spring Show takes place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Bentley Heath Community Centre (same venue as last year).

This is the club's biggest fundraising event of the year so please do come along and ensure a bumper turn out. Last year was our most successful show in years raising vital funds to enable the club to continue operating so let us hope that we can keep that up this year with another brilliant show.

Many of you have donated prizes for the tombola and have signed up to cover volunteer slots on the day. However, we still have numerous slots that are not covered so if you are planning to come to the Show and hope that you are, if you can help out in the Kitchen or on the Door or the Sales Table Rotas it will be much appreciated. Many hands make light work. Without the time and effort of the society's members, the show could not run so thank you in advance for all of your help.

Spicesotic and Orchid Alchemy will be in attendance so am sure there will something to tempt you on the day. Anyway come along and enjoy the show, play the Tombola and enjoy some cake.

Please find attached the show schedule so if you are planning to enter please email David by close of play on Thursday (21<sup>st</sup> March) with your entries ([wraydavid565@gmail.com](mailto:wraydavid565@gmail.com)).

Attached is also the show leaflet and map. Looking forward to seeing you at the show.

### Next meeting

Please be reminded that there is no meeting in April so our next one will be Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May when Simon Tarrant will be giving us a talk entitled 'An Austrian Orchid Adventure'. Hopefully this may inspire some of you to book your own alpine adventures in future.

### Hinckley Show Saturday 6th April

The members at Hinckley will be pleased to welcome you to their Show starting at 10.30 on Saturday 6th April at Stoke Golding CV13 6DZ.

There is always plenty to see and buy along with refreshments so make certain it is in your calendar.

### Central Orchid Show Saturday 27th April

Many of you have visited Perton before so don't miss out this year.

The show is open from 11.00 at Perton Church Hall WV6 7QH and has a number of Nurseries in attendance as well as visiting Orchid Displays.

Another opportunity to find some more orchids to buy.

You can follow Solihull & District Orchid Society on



If you have any pictures or information you would like to put on our website please email: [lina\\_sala@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lina_sala@yahoo.co.uk) or copy and pictures for newsletter: [ballm1@mac.com](mailto:ballm1@mac.com)  
Society email address: [www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk](http://www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk)

# MARCH TABLE



**Vanda NOID - 35pts**  
Graham Jones



**Pleione Lhasa**  
"Blushes" - 34pts  
George Meyes



**Zygopetalum**  
NOID - 29pts  
Pat Bussy



**Dendrobium**  
Sunny Eye - 35pts  
John Choong



**Volkertara Juan Yi**  
Delight 'orchid'

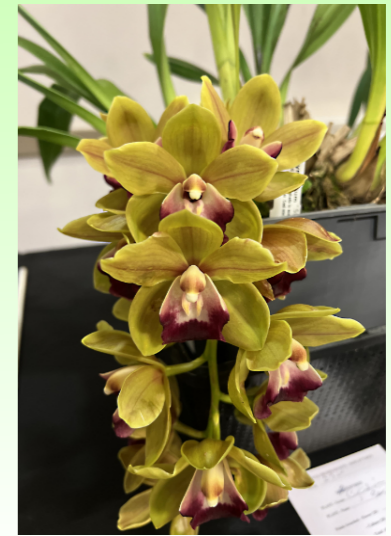


**Dinema polybulbon**  
- 36pts Malcolm  
Moodie

# MARCH TABLE



**Cymbidium NOID - 29pts**  
Steve Wade



**Cymbidium Sensation -**  
31pts Pat Bussy



**Maxillaria picta - 35pts**  
Pat Bussy



**Coelogyne mossiae**  
"Mendenhall" - 35pts  
Pat Bussy



**Laelia/Cattleya "Love Knot"**  
- 33pts Pat Bussy



**Cattleya loddigesii F**  
coerulescens -34pts  
Steve Wade

Michael Radley

# Sanders Orchids

Michael has got an orchid library that he occasionally checks out to see if there are any interesting facts written in those books that he has.

You may think that there is a lot of information available on internet these days, but Michael has stressed out that a lot of that information isn't accurate or just incomplete, therefore he is going back to these books to find some valuable information that can't be accessed via internet.

Having a range of material gives a good variety of knowledge and information that is a very good way of improving knowledge about orchids. One particular book he had in his library was Sanders nursery orchid book, many orchids are named after Sanders, therefore Michael has had an interest in exploring where these names came from and that's why he started composing this talk.

Frederick Sanders was an immigrant from Germany in 1880's he worked in nurseries and had very little money to start with, however when he married into our wealthy family he was able to start up a business using some money from his wife's family. Sanders business accelerated because at that time when he started it also clashed with a widespread orchid mania.

All new orchid discoveries were catalogued at the time and all these discoveries were coming at a very high price, they were all facilitating the wealthy collector's needs. These catalogues were published every year and they were only aimed at the top of aristocracy. Orchids were brought by request on ships from the New World.

It took a long time for them to arrive and many plants didn't survive the journey. Many collectors from the wild were writing diaries that gives us now lot off information on how these orchids were brought into this country. It was a very dangerous pursuit, as rivalry wasn't uncommon due to big sums of money being involved in this business, as a result many orchid hunters didn't live very long.

Orchid collections after they arrived to the UK, where sold in the auction houses, and they were a "new cutting edge technology" that you could extract as much money as you wanted from these plants. Many collected orchids that were commissioned to be picked from the wild by Sanders were named "sanderiana" and therefore can be recognised as orchids discovered by Sanders' orchid hunters.

Many places were ravaged by different rival orchid hunters therefore depleting orchid numbers en masse and some driven to extinction.

Sanders had 3 sons who have helped running the nurseries in Germany and UK. The constant financial mismanagement was putting a toll on a business.

Gradually, the market started to change at the turn of the century: the orchid empire started to slowly dissolve. During the second WW when 2 of his sons entered the military, more nurseries had to be closed.

Sanders collection was disposed in 1957. As the result of Sanders business and passion for orchids we now have many plants and books with vast knowledge available to us.