



Solihull & District Orchid Society

Now is the time to repot your Pleiones

BOC Photographic Competition

*Have a look,
and have a go!*

Please take time to go to www.british-orchid-council.info and vote.

If you go to the pull down menu "Photo Competition" then Current Gallery Slide Show and then Run Slide Show you will be able to see all of the photographs one after the other.

Select the ones you like the most and then if you want you can go back and have a detailed look at the pictures you have chosen but this time using "View Current Photo Gallery".

This will allow you to see the full picture one at a time.

You should then select your top 10 in order of preference and send them to Caroline (caroline.reid1@blueyonder.com).

She will count up all of our choices and then enter a consolidated vote on behalf our our society.

We have until **February 29th** to get our votes registered so please send your votes to Caroline as soon as possible.

Now is the time to repot your Pleiones before their roots start to grow. These roots are very brittle and if damaged will die completely thus reducing the vigour of the bulb to produce flower.

There are many choices of suitable compost but over recent years I have found that coconut fibre seems to work really well. The fibre needs to be soaked a minimum of 2 times overnight in rain water to wash out the salts and then left to drain.

Then it can be used without adding anything else. An alternative contained in Ian Butterfield & Phillip Cribb's book on Pleiones is 6 parts fine bark, 1 part coarse perlite, 1 part chopped sphagnum moss and 1 part moss peat.

I have not used this mix myself but sounds as though it should be effective.

Whichever compost you use now is the time to get busy.



Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Saturday 6th February when Philip Seaton will be our guest talking about "Orchid Conservation" and the wonderful work undertaken by the pupils at King Charles School in Kidderminster.

Meeting cancelled

Our April 2nd meeting has been cancelled.



You can now follow Solihull Orchid Society on Facebook and Twitter



Chairman:
Malcolm Moodie
01295 788159

If you have any photographs or information you would like to put on our website please email them to Caroline Reid at caroline.reid1@blueyonder.co.uk website at www.solihullorchidsociety.org Or copy and pictures for the newsletter to Martin Ball at ballm1@mac.com



Care and Potting Up of Orchids

Peter White

On January 9th Peter White, our Society's President, gave us an informative talk and

demonstration on orchid care and re-potting of the plants, concentrating on Phalaenopsis which are the most common orchids seen on sale everywhere.

When buying a plant, Peter recommended that the state of the roots is examined. In a transparent pot green roots indicate that the plant has been watered whereas silver roots need water and there may be dead roots amongst them. Supermarkets may have the plants on sale cheaply as loss leaders and they will have been grown in Holland. They are given a feed of hormones to speed growth in greenhouses at 85 degrees C, the temperature dropped to 65 degrees C to initiate flower buds and may be in flower within 14 months.

The plant bought from a shop will have undergone stress from being in different environments so it is best not to water it for at least 4 days. 90% are grown in bark compost which has no nutrients in it and the plant will therefore need feeding every other week. Phalaenopsis need a feed with balanced Nitrogen/Phosphorus/Potassium.

An East-facing window sill may give the best growing conditions but plants will tolerate other directions of light. The time to cut a flowering spike back to the third bud up the stem is when a spike has only the top one or two flowers out. This bud should then produce a stem with more flowers. Alternatively the flowered spike can be cut off right at its base and a new spike should form after a number of months.

Plants should be re-potted using soaked bark compost which may have some foam in it to aid moisture retention. The plant should be taken out of the pot, the old compost shaken off and any old roots removed then put in a new pot which may not need to be any larger than the old, given a twist to get the roots round the edge, and filled with new compost.

If a plant has keikis, young plants growing off a stem, they can be removed with their roots and potted into a small pot. If a plant has few roots it can be encouraged to produce new ones by putting some sphagnum moss round the base of the plant and keeping it in a polythene bag for a few weeks. Cymbidium plants require a special compost.

Peter's passing on of his knowledge of orchid culture will undoubtedly lead to us all growing great plants which will be shown on the display table in due course.

BOGA show Society stands



Birmingham & Midland Orchid Society



Solihull & District Orchid Society



The Central Orchid Society



Hinckley & District Orchid Society



BOGA

January table



Blc. Village Chief 12/13/25 Monica Johnson

Paph. Buckhurst
12/14/26
Malcolm Moodie



Mediocalcor decoratum
14/17/31 Malcolm Moodie



Catt. walkeriana "Blue Moon" Malcolm Moodie



Paph. javanicum 12/13/25 Malcolm Moodie



Coeloglyne usitana 13/12/25 Margaret Dale



Dend. Miss Singapore 14/12/26
Monica Johnson



Pterostylis ophioglossa



Paph. In Charm "Mystique"
13/14/27 Malcolm Moodie



Paph. Fanaticum 16/15/31 Malcolm Moodie



Paph. Coro Leopard 12/14/26 Malcolm Moodie



Ludisia discolor - Monica Johnson