



# British Orchid Council

....promoting orchid growing...

Just as we had hoped for things to begin returning to normal, the virus has begun to spread again and things are looking very worrying at the moment. Many of you may be facing greater restrictions yet again by now. As I'm sure you all know, all orchid shows and meetings had been cancelled until the New Year and it now looks as if it will be March/April at the earliest before any can be held again.

So in the interim I would strongly advise societies to consider holding informal meetings via Zoom and to contact speakers who might be willing to present a talk via Zoom. Possibly you will be able to find people on the BOC speakers list. This list has recently been updated by Celia Wright and may be found on the BOC website.

<http://www.british-orchid-council.info>

Please read the following from Celia carefully if you intend to book a speaker for a Zoom meeting. There are certain copyright issues that you will need to be aware of, in particular if you are going to record the talk.

## **An updated copy of the BOC Lecturers List on the BOC website was posted on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October.**

I have approached all speakers on the list for any updates in their information and asking whether or not they are prepared to give talks by Zoom, information that has not been included on previous versions of the List. A number of speakers are willing to provide this service. Fees for talks are likely to be the same as for a face to face meeting at the host society, but there will of course be no travelling expenses. Zoom meetings can never be quite the same as a normal society meeting but they do offer the possibility of having a speaker from a distant part of the UK or one who is not normally available to travel far.

If you intend to book a speaker from the List for a Zoom meeting please read the information on recording Zoom meetings (on page 1) before you do so.

**It is essential that the Copyright of speakers is not infringed by making and using a recording of the Zoom meeting without the speaker's written permission.**

Please respect our speakers.

**Celia Wright**

If you require any help setting up a Zoom meeting, Trish (BOC joint secretary) will be only too happy to help you and will talk you through anything you may be unsure about.

She may be contacted at: [secretary@british-orchid-council.info](mailto:secretary@british-orchid-council.info)

In the last newsletter I was trying to encourage everyone to keep in touch with their orchid friends, especially those you haven't heard from for a while and again I would repeat this. For anyone living alone who may be facing another local lock down of some sort, they will be really happy to hear from you. Dave and I have heard from so many people that we have been unable to see for a long time and it has been great!

Dave sends a big thank you for the virtual beer to Colin!! It didn't taste too good though!!

Do stay well and safe everyone— Helen



# Burnham Nurseries open weekends



A socially distanced Sara and Arthur!



This was probably the first day out Dave and I have had this year and we enjoyed seeing everyone at Burnham. Arthur was posing in his custom Burnham mask (pity you can't see the details in the picture). Social distancing was carefully maintained by everyone and it was good to be able to peruse all the lovely orchids for sale.

If you can, do go along to the next open weekend it is well worth it, especially if you are in need of that orchid 'fix'!! Don't forget that they provide excellent mail order by the way!!

**Sat 31st October and Sunday 1st November.**



## SUE LANE



Sue Lane *Bulbophyllum graveolens* CCC RHS

Photo: Dr Henry Oakeley

*Ian Parsons has sent me the following article about Sue Lane which describes her life, her time in orchids and her many achievements much better than I could. She was a lovely person and a wonderful orchid character who will be very badly missed by everyone who knew her. I have done many shows with her and always looked forward to them if I knew that Devon Orchid Society were going to be there. I loved judging with her at the Malvern show as we always had such fun. The above photograph really captures what she was like. Thank you Henry for allowing us to use it.*

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Sue Lane on September 18th 2020. Sue had suffered a stroke in the previous week from which she did not recover.

I first met Sue in the early 1980's, and was introduced to her by Brian Rittershausen. Sue had started an interest in growing orchids, and naturally sought the advice of her local orchid nursery; Brian described her as having potential as future orchid grower. He was not wrong! A little later, one of the members of the Devon Orchid Society, Joan Haddon, introduced us again, and was surprised that I had already met Sue. It was about this time that Sue joined the Devon Orchid Society.

Sue lived and worked with her husband, Roger, owning the local post office and village store in Willand, near Cullompton in Devon. It was described to me by a local businessman as "Not so much a Village Store - More a way of life!". Sue and Roger provided almost everything that was necessary in a small rural village community, and some things that were not so necessary, but desirable. Sadly, Roger passed away some years ago, leaving Sue with the onerous task of running the business single-handedly whilst at the same time trying to sell it. Eventually Sue succeeded, and moved to the village of Silverton close by. Sue and Roger had no children, and Sue was able to devote much of her spare time to growing her orchids.

To describe Sue as an orchid grower is a gross understatement; Sue was an exceptionally good orchid grower. Her plants were consistently both culturally magnificent and also beautifully presented. Sue won many awards, and very many of them were for Best In Show. Sue was a member of the RHS Orchid Committee from 2007 until 2011 and won 21 Royal Horticultural Society Orchid Awards, 16 of them were Cultural Certificates



*Sue's most recent Cultural Certificate was for Dendrochilum latifolium 'Grace Trebble' at Burnham's last October. She had a cultural for the same plant in 2011 when it had 50 spikes compared to last year's 87.*

*We must not forget her superb showmanship with plants on the Devon displays. How to maximise a plant's potential and solid design were her strengths, aside from her wonderful growing. She will be missed.*

*Clare and Johan Hermans*

*Photo: Johan Hermans*

During her membership of the Devon Orchid Society, Sue took on the task of Secretary, and was instrumental in organizing the regular Devon Orchid Weekends held at the Langsones Cliffs Hotel, near Dawlish in Devon every two years until recently, and organized the 2001 Orchid Society of Great Britain's 50th Anniversary Celebrations, also held at Langstones Cliffs Hotel.

Sue's involvement in the wider orchid world expanded when she became a Delegate for the Devon Orchid Society to The British Orchid Council (BOC). As with everything that Sue took part in, she took an active role in the organization. Sue's activities in the BOC include qualifying as an Orchid Judge in the BOC Judging Scheme in 1999.

From 2002 to 2005 Sue was elected to the post of BOC Vice Chairman, and from 2005 to 2008 Sue was the BOC Chairman.

Following on from completing her term as Chairman in 2008, Sue was elected as a BOC Vice-President.

In 2008 the British Orchid Council Congress was held at the Langstones Cliffs Hotel under the guidance of Sue and her team.

Other roles within the BOC included a long period as a member of the BOC Judging Committee from 2006 to 2015, and also as Chair of the BOC Congresses Committee from 2005 to 2012.

*Thank you to Ian for allowing us to use his account.—there is not really anything I can add to it he has covered everything so well. Except to say again how much Sue will be missed and that many shows will not ever be quite the same without her.*

*Please stay well and safe everyone.*

*Helen*