



British Orchid Council

....promoting orchid growing...

Well, the sun is shining, the weather has finally warmed up a bit and the orchids are growing - perhaps not flowering, but you can't have everything! Despite all the difficulties of the past 18 months, things are starting to look somewhat brighter for everyone.

Societies are looking forward to meetings and many will be looking forward to holding shows, probably from September onwards.

The first show being proposed, but subject to Covid restrictions, so everyone's fingers crossed, is the North of England's annual show on 24th July (details below and on N. of England web site).

However, while most societies will be keen to start meetings and shows again, we need to sound a few general precautionary notes. Some societies are undecided about their shows, some have lost their venue, and many may be facing other difficulties.

Of course, the big problem facing all societies is that nobody knows what Covid restrictions will still be in place later in the year. Currently the maximum number of people allowed in a venue is 30, so if infection rates stay low this may be increased but should infection rates rise then potentially there may be further restriction imposed on the venue.

So should your society host a show this year or not?

Ultimately only you can decide if this is the best thing for your society, but please consider the following carefully when coming to your decision.

24th July 2021, Barton Village Hall, PR3 5AA

Barton, Lancashire, A6 North of Preston

Displays by:

North of England Orchid Society
East Midlands Orchid Society
Harrowgate Orchid Society
Darlington Orchid Society

Trade:

Burnham Nurseries
Phoenix Orchids
Laneside Hardy Orchids
John Keeling Orchid Nursery
Orchid alchemy
Peter White orchid accessories

Details on website: www.orchid.org.uk

(check for any updates nearer the event)

**North of England
Orchid Society
Annual Show**



Dendrobium brymerianum

photo: HJM

So, will you show be successful for you?

1. Will you get enough people there to make the show financially viable?
2. How many other shows are being held at the same time? There may be far too many all at once which will mean fewer visitors for everyone.
3. Will you cover your costs? Will your venue refund or waive charges in the event of cancellation?
4. Consider your trade - will you get enough people to buy plants? Traders need a show to be financially viable to cover their costs and make a profit, other wise it is not worth their while giving up their whole day (often from 4 or 5.30 am.) to be there.
5. If you are a small society why not consider joining with another local society and put on a joint show? That way you could potentially halve both the costs and risk and will get more members there. You may also have to consider the maximum number of attendees allowed in the venue at any one time.
6. If your show goes ahead and is not very good it could well ruin future shows by putting people off coming.
7. Why not have some sort of get together for members instead - perhaps a meal, or a picnic or trip out somewhere?
8. If you do decide to go ahead, please remember that you are responsible for the safety of the attendees and must ensure that you have complied with the relevant Health and Safety Guidelines and procedures.

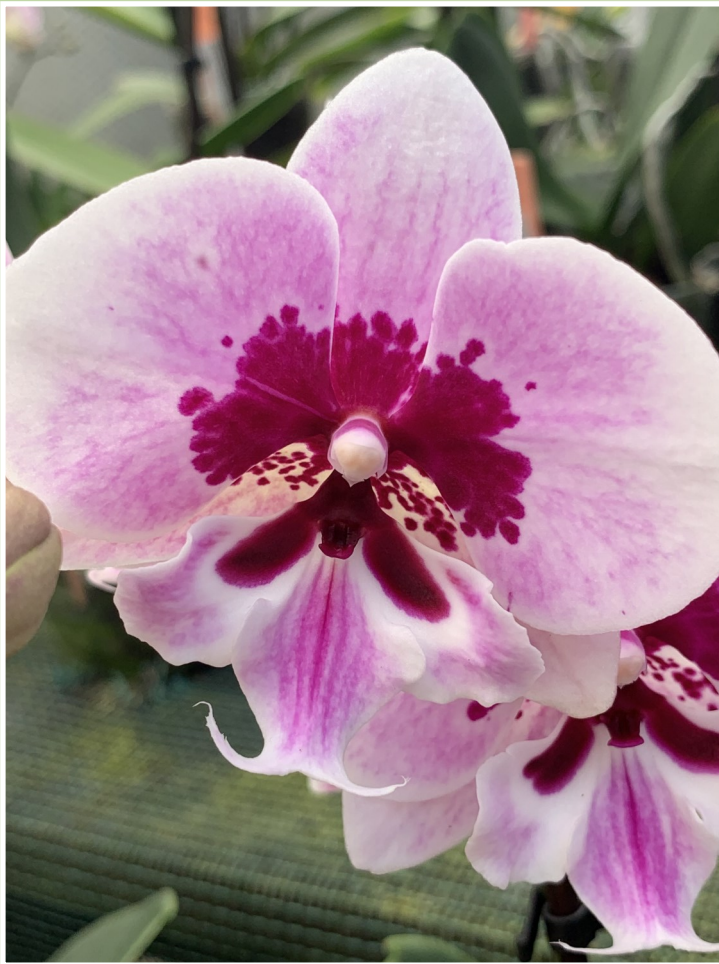


You should have carried out a written Risk Assessment and any checks carried out or incidents occurring during the day should be recorded. Emergency local contact details for ambulance, police etc should be available.

The venue will have carried out their own separate Risk Assessment and may ask you for yours (even if they never have before) and you should also ask to see theirs. You must be aware of and comply with any extra, Covid-related restrictions that your venue may impose.

A Risk Assessment does not have to be a lengthy or onerous document and currently BOC is working to provide a simplified form which societies can use either as a proforma or amend to be more appropriate for their own location and circumstances.

Further details of this to follow in the next few weeks.



Here are two examples of 'Big Lip' Phalaenopsis.

Photo taken at Burnham Nurseries, now open during the week and at weekends very soon.

Big-Lip Phalaenopsis

Is this mutation the lip is not as differentiated as usual and this is said to make the flower look much larger and rounder. This is an examples of reverse peloricism, which has taken more than ten years to reliably breed true.

You either love them or hate them! A bit like the more usual peloric types which may appear to have three lips or the markings on the lip also occur on the other two petals. Some people collect these various forms—others hate them!

Just one of the strange things that make orchids endlessly



fascinating!

*Is it dead??
Can you save it?
(see next page...)*



....promoting orchid growing....

No David,
a welding mask and
side cutters aren't
going to be any use.....



Useful BOC Contacts

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Year book editors: Chris Barker: cjbandjb@ntlworld.com

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A few trade contacts (others may be found in the current online Yearbook)

Burnham Nurseries www.orchids.uk.com

Elite Orchids info@eliteorchids.co.uk www.eliteorchids.co.uk

Laneside Hardy Orchid Nursery jcrhutch@aol.com

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Orchid Botanics www.orchidbotanics.co.uk