

A detailed red dragon sculpture, likely made of metal, stands in a garden. The dragon has large, textured wings, a long neck, and a head with prominent horns and a wide, toothy mouth. It is surrounded by lush green foliage, including long, narrow leaves and several flowers. To the right, there are large, light-colored orchids with pink and yellow centers. In the foreground, there are yellow flowers and green stems. The background is a soft-focus view of a garden with various plants and trees.

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i Gymru!

BOC Newsletter
September 2021



British Orchid Council

~ promoting orchid growing ~

There is only one show to report on for this newsletter - The Welsh Orchid Festival.

This event has been held annually for well over ten years now. Originally held at the National Botanic Gardens of Wales but now held at the very beautiful historic Aberglasney House and Gardens. The weather was kind again this year with plenty of sunshine and most importantly lots of visitors; which helped to make the event a huge success for everyone! More information about Aberglasney may be found at

<https://aberglasney.org>

The Orchid Study Group are a small society which meet every month at Aberglasney, if anyone wants further details of the society they can obtain these by contacting their secretary

secretary@orchidstudygroup.org.uk

Further information about the group may also be found on their website:

www.orchidstudygroup.org.uk

In case you are wondering, the very magnificent dragon on the front page was part of the display by Farmyard Nurseries and he seemed a very appropriate image to start the newsletter with this time.

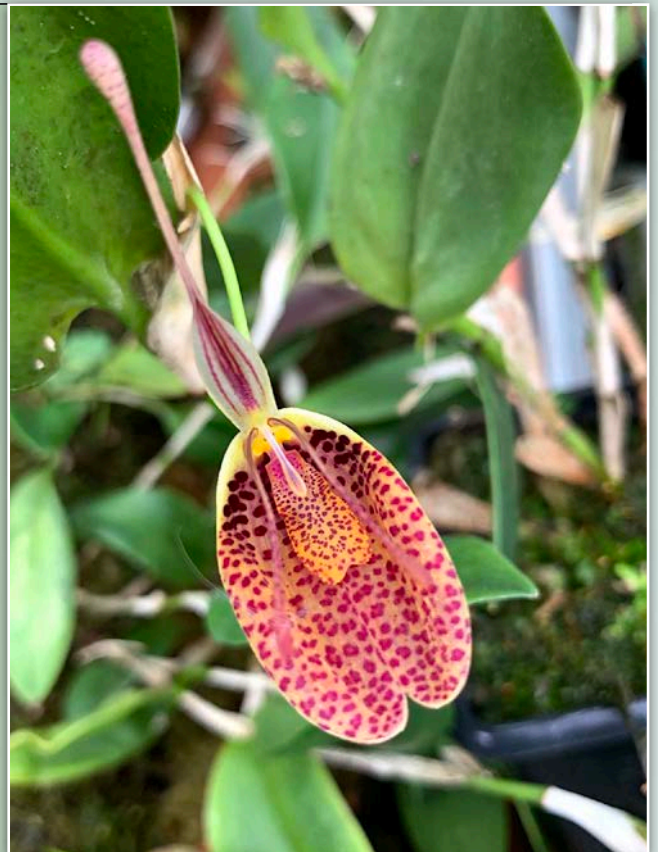
The following article about Silvia Maunder has been written by Chris Barker, and I hope you will find it interesting even if you didn't know her. Unfortunately, I don't have any photographs of either Silvia or her husband Cedric, so if any of you happen to have any digital images you could send me, I would be very grateful and I will include them in the newsletter next time.

What's on: *(I was beginning to think this section might never, ever reappear!!)*

If your society has decided to hold their show, please let me know so that I can include it.

Two shows in September that I have had news of:

1. Devon Orchid Society Show,
Saturday 11th September at Burnham Nurseries.
Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions numbers have had to be limited to invitation only.
2. Bournemouth Orchid Society Show,
Saturday 25th September,
the Allendale Community Centre, Wimborne
Further details can be found on their website at:
<https://www.bournemouthorchidsociety.org.uk/>



Silvia Maunder 1936 – 2021

For over 50 years, Silvia and her late husband, Cedric, shared a passion for orchids. During these years they advised, encouraged, and inspired orchid lovers in many different ways.

Silvia was born in West Burton, Wensleydale and met Cedric when they were in the same class at Appleby Grammar School. Silvia went on to study agriculture and horticulture, while Cedric trained to be a doctor. They married 1957.

In 1960 they went to Singapore where Cedric served three years of National Service at the British Medical Hospital. It was here that their life-long passion for orchids started.

Back in England, they joined the newly formed Sheffield and District Orchid Society (SDOS) and also in the early 1980s Harrogate Orchid Society. They became delegates to the British Orchid Council (BOC) for both societies. In 1979 Silvia became the Show Secretary for SDOS and in 1982 she was Show Manager for a highly successful BOC Congress in Sheffield. Silvia qualified as a BOC orchid judge in 1982. From 1985 - 1999, Silvia and Cedric ran the BOC Judging Programme and helped to develop this internationally recognised judging scheme. Together they organised the judging at the 1993 World Orchid Congress in Glasgow. Silvia and Cedric were members of the RHS Orchid Committee from 1996-2012. In June 2009 Silvia became a member of the advisory committee of the Eric Young Orchid Foundation. It is interesting to note that although very much a couple, they had separate greenhouses; Silvia's contained her favourite Oncidiums. Silvia continued as a member of the BOC Judging Committee and I know that many trainees have appreciated her support and guidance.

Silvia died on Thursday 29th July after a long battle with Cancer. Ted Croot, of SDOS, summed up Silvia perfectly – “She was certainly very much appreciated as the one to go to if you were having a problem with any of your plants or if you wanted advice. She was probably the most highly valued member of our Society for both her knowledge and her easy approachability. She will be missed for a long time.”

Chris Barker (RHS Orchid Committee member and Vice-President of BOC)



Two magnificent specimen plants on the Devon stand. The Phragmipedium was huge, the picture does not do it justice.

The Miltonia 'Honalulu' (left) was in beautiful condition and absolutely full of flowers.



Above and left. I was told this was a Grammatophyllum, so I hope that is right. A very unusual species and one you really don't see that often



Another couple of gorgeous plants from Devon stand.



The artists were there in force as well!

With lots of enticing things on sale.






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www.orchidbotanicus.co.uk
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Linda Cole - orchid seedlings and cultivation





No idea who these people were!!



Some very pretty house plants and sundries on sale!



Last but not least -
Farmyard Nurseries, resplendent
with dragons!
And one of the best displays of
Sarracenias I have seen, including
at some of the big RHS shows.





Unique to Aberglasney, as far as I can discover, is the Ninfarium.

Completed in 2005, it was named after the gardens at Ninfa, South of Rome. A glass atrium was built over the ruins of the central rooms of the mansion and it is now used to grow a wonderful collection of tropical plants. This area has really filled out since the last time I saw it, and the plants are lush and extremely healthy.





Part of the lovely grounds, with plants in wonderful condition



And I found another one! *Gunnera manicata* - no botanical garden is complete without one!



Autumn is upon us - sad but true!



So Goodbye to these lovely gardens for another year - it was so good that the weather was kind and everyone had such a great weekend.

Oh, and if I tell you that's the flag of Saint David on the lager, you'll all know whose it was!!!