



Newsletter
October/November 2021



British Orchid Council

~ promoting orchid growing ~

First of all, my apologies because this newsletter has been delayed due to circumstances. I had planned to include two other show reviews (as well as the Devon OS one) but have been unable to get to them.

I was so disappointed not to get to the Bournemouth show as it is always very good and well attended. The same was true this year and I believe they had over 200 visitors on the day - well done everyone! These first few shows with venues beginning to open up again are quite nerve racking for societies, in a way, as no-one really knows if there will be any visitors or not. The good news though, as far as the shows I have heard about, they have all been well attended, and consequently done very much better than expected, which has been a relief for the societies concerned.

Some societies will be waiting until next year (2022), until they hold their next show, by which time everyone should be more comfortable meeting up again indoors. A lot of you are still very hesitant and taking care due to health considerations but we need to see each other again and chat about orchids!

Hopefully we were able to get to the OSGB show at Wraybury this time and I will include some pictures from that next time.



There is a very special article in this newsletter by Izzy. She is a new member of Bournemouth Orchid Society and is only just nine years old.

It is a project she did for school about Rainforests, a visit to the Eden Project and setting up a terrarium.

I do hope you will all enjoy it - I have had to condense it a little as it was a bit longer, but it makes a great read!

Advance warning!

The next newsletter threatens to be BORING! I have had many requests regarding Brexit and Cites and how these now affect importing plants. While BOC cannot change regulations (however difficult they may be) we are in the process of producing a simple document to try and explain what regulations and costs anyone is likely to incur if they wish to import plants.

The £74 per genus is only the tip of the iceberg regarding costs, and the best advice for anyone thinking of trying to import a few plants themselves is, quite honestly, DON'T!

More next timebut fair warning, there appears to be nothing simple or straightforward!

There are also some important updates coming up in the near future which include:

1. Photographic competition 2021. This will be run on similar lines to last year, so start looking out your best pictures. Full details of how to enter will be in the next newsletter. It would be great to build on the success from last year and get even more entries.

2. Zoom meeting for delegates date to be confirmed. This is usually held sometime in November and a Zoom meeting is planned for the end of November or the beginning of December. The date will be confirmed next time.

3. Society details to be completed and returned for the records.

Many societies have changed their committees, delegates and officers over the pandemic. This means that our records are probably now out of date and need to be updated. Your society will be receiving a form by email to complete and return. Please be on the look out for this. This is just to alert you that you may receive this and you won't think it is either spam or an email hoax.

Has anyone ever used this or anything like it?

I spotted it in the local garden centre wondered if it would finish off the aphids that seem to have appeared this year? Killing mealy bugs would be an added benefit but perhaps that would be asking for too much?

I'm always worried about using these things just in case they would harm more delicate orchids like Pleurothallids. So has anyone got any knowledge or expertise they can share? It might help someone out.



Contact details for BOC

If you need to contact us, you can do so by using either of the following emails

Dr Helen Millner:
chairman@british-orchid-council.info

John Rigby and Tricia King jointly:
secretary@british-orchid-council.info

Pleurothallis species.



Devon Orchid Society display



Writhlington display

Other societies attending:





Flower details

Best In Show. This plant was also on display at the Welsh Orchid Festival the week before

Pleurothallis sonderiana

A lovely specimen miniature from Writhlington.

This particular species does not appear at shows very often these days.

It can be difficult both to grow and to flower but this one is flowering beautifully and was great to see as it had been a long time since I last saw this species!



Dendrobiums

A couple of different colour forms of *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*, and the popular hybrid *Dendrobium Hibiki* (*bracteosum* x *laevifolium*).

Dendrobium tobaense from Sumatra is not so often seen.

This genus is always popular at shows and there are some lovely plants about.



*Dendrobium
cuthbertsonii*



Dendrobium Hibiki



Dendrobium tobaense



Cleisocentrum merrillianum



Polystachya galeata



Restrepia trichoglossa

Rainforest biome by Isabelle Rowland-Pilgrim

I would like to tell you about a rain forest it is one of my favourite biomes and it's really interesting to learn about.

Where are the rainforests found and what is the rainforest biome like?

They are found in central and south America, western and central Africa, western India, southeast Asia and Australia. The rainforest is very hot and humid, a lot of the trees and plants it is around 88 % humidity.

They have different parts it has the forest floor, then the understory layer, next is the canopy layer and finally is the emergent layer. The emergent layer is the very top layer. The emergent layer has a very small amount of trees called emergent trees and there are butterflies monkeys and bats. The canopy layer is where the majority of the highest trees are, and some are 30 meters to 45 meters tall. The understory layer and the shrub layer are in between the canopy and the forest floor. The forest floor is the lowest it only gets 2 percent light only plants whom need not much light grow on the forest floor but the last layer is the subterranean which is the soil.

Rainforests are special because they have half the amount of land fauna and flora in the world and 6% of all the land in the world. It can take a rain drop ten minutes to fall onto the rainforest floor and its very shady on the Rainforest floor because the rainforest has lots of different plants. The rainforests get around 250cm of rain a year and can be more in some rainforests. The forests are near the Equator which makes them hot and does not change much, and some are a lot cooler because they are up very tall mountains. The trees grow very tall so the sunlight has a hard time reaching the ground.

There are two types of rainforest:

1. Tropical rainforest

this type of rainforest is hot because they are near the equator which makes them hot and the temperature does not change much so it is very hot and humid.

2. Temperate rainforest

this type of rainforest is found in cooler regions, but there is still a huge amount of rainfall but it's not as humid as the hotter tropical rainforest.

Visit to the Eden Project



I went to the Eden project and first I saw the big biomes and they were amazing then I went into the rainforest biome and it felt like the bathroom after the hottest shower ever!!! It was very hot and humid.

There were so many plants and the ones in the ground had big thick leaves because there's less sunlight and more water in the rainforest. I saw orchids there too. I saw *Bulbophyllum* and *Cattleya*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Coelogyne* and *Dendrobiums*. I saw Banana palms, Cacao trees where chocolate comes from and beautiful flowers and so many trees there was even a waterfall which helped make it humid.

There were little birds called Roul-roul partridges with very pretty backs which are blue and green they have red eyes and cute red heads that look really fluffy. I saw a baby and it was tiny and brown and it's dad was looking for food. Then I went to the Mediterranean biome and it was very different. It was a lot cooler and drier than the rainforest and it's mostly got bee's and tiny flowers with tiny leaves because there's not as much water in the Mediterranean and the soil is dry.

I love the Eden project I would love to go again it would be my favourite field trip out of all of the ones I've been to.

Deforestation and conservation

The Eden project showed how countries are cutting down the trees and turn it into palm oil farms so they only have one plant instead of biodiversity of different plants and animals which is making the planet heat up as the don't absorb carbon dioxide as much and are creating forest fires so we need to stop cutting down trees and stop burning fossil fuels to make it too hot and stop us living. It made me feel upset to see it destroyed. It has destroyed the homes of the animals like the Orangutan making them endangered which made me really sad.

Building my terrarium



First I put down a bin bag so that would be easier to clean later...



next, I put down clay beads for drainage and humidity...



A layer of coconut coir for air and to keep the soil separate...



and finally bark and little stones to act like the rainforest floor.

History of terrariums

Terrariums were invented by a botanist named Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward in the year 1842, also known as Wardian cases.

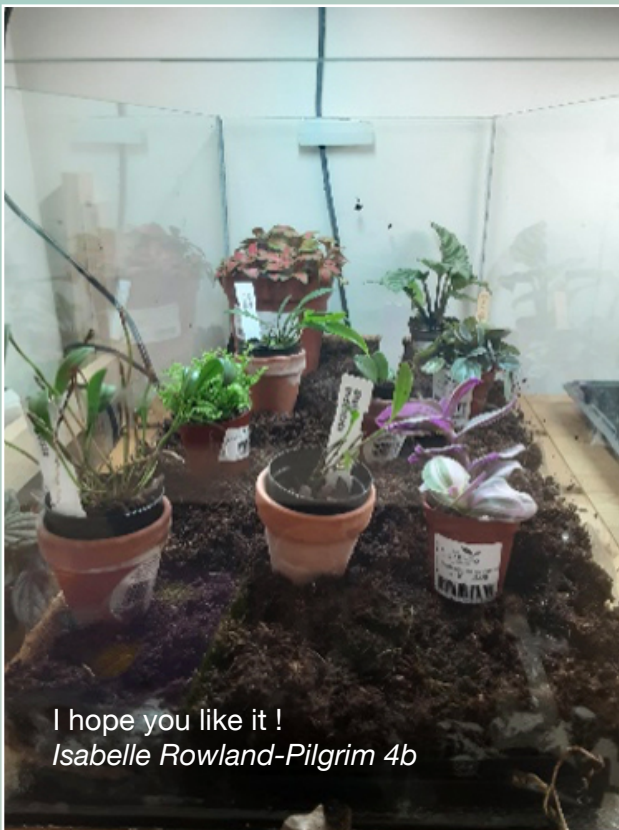
A terrarium is trying to replicate the conditions and environment of the plants home. Wardian cases were used for decades by kew gardens and all around the British empire to take plants all around the world making sure they arrived well. Animals like tree frogs and lizards can live in terrarium climate as it's like a rain forest temperature.

I've been making a terrarium based on the cloud rainforest in Venezuela which is a country in south America bordering the Caribbean sea and the north Atlantic ocean between Columbia and Guyana

How did you do it?

I spoke to a lady called Helen Milner who is the Chairwoman of the British orchid council who told me about terrariums and what to grow and where to get the things I need and how to do it.

I first I put down a bin bag in a fish tank so it was easier to clean later. Secondly, I put down clay beads like the subterranean layer to create drainage and to create humidity as I couldn't use a waterfall like the Eden project. I put down coconut coir for air and to separate the soil which was coconut soil and bark and little stones to act like a rainforest floor which is made up of bits of leaves and trees and plants.



I hope you like it !
Isabelle Rowland-Pilgrim 4b

What plants are you using?

I am using plants that originally came from a cloud forest and me and my mum checked which we could use. I put the plants in the terrarium and left them in there for 3 weeks to check they were happy and if there were insects. I took the baby snails out as they would eat my plants but left the two centipedes in it like the real rainforest floor.

I used orchids called *Stelis congesta*, *Stelis emarginata*, *Restrepia condorensis*, *Stelis tridenta*, *Stelis cilliolata* which would grow on the trees as they are epiphytes. I put bog wood in to replicate the trees. I also used *Calathea*, *Tradescantia nanouk*, *Peperomia* and *Fittonia* as they grew on the ground at the Eden project. I planted the *Fittonia* in the soil and buried the others in their pots so that I could clean it easily if it gets green.

I've put in plastic tree frogs in and a hummingbird because they live in a cloud forest. Venezuela is one of the ten most biodiverse countries on Earth, Venezuela has more than 21,000 species of plants, 353 mammal species, 323 reptile species, 1,400 bird species, and 288 amphibians. I

keep my humidity high by keeping the lid on at night and take it off in the day for the plants to have fresh air and I spray water in it when the humidity is down like rain. I measure the humidity by a humidity measure. I put on my grow light to keep the light at the right level. I hope you like it !!!!

(I'm sure everyone will really enjoy this Izzy - it was lovely to read and I hope you got a good mark for it as you deserve it after putting it so much hard work!)



A final thought

Do you ever see something and have to look again because you don't believe your eyes?

Just check the price of this Spider Plant and then the price of the Phalaenopsis below.

On sale, same day and same place.

You cannot be serious!!

In case you can't see it says
£21.99
for a SPIDER PLANT!

Perhaps we are all growing the wrong things!!

