



Northampton & District Fuchsia Society NEWSLETTER



JANUARY / FEBRUARY / MARCH / APRIL 2023

EDITORIAL

A Happy New Year to you all.

A big change this year in the pattern of meetings. Please see the Calendar overleaf for details.

The Editor

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THE WALES and WEST BFS SHOW RESULTS from the MALVERN AUTUMN SHOW 2022

Our Lewis Northover entered in the beginners' class for the first time.

Lewis Northover

Class 40 Beginners - 1st - One pot any fuchsia.

Well done to Lewis.

Tracey Gould

Class 27 – 3rd - 9cm Triphylla.

Clive Gould

Class 1 – 3rd - 9cm pot any cultivar.

Well done to all.

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Ch-Ch-Ch- CHANGES

Hi All,

It was proposed at the AGM that we cut our meetings to one a month to help keep costs down and the club running for longer

So

As from January 2023 the Northampton and District Fuchsia Society will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month for either a Main

Meeting or a Care and Culture depending on what we need to be advised by Clive as to the action we need to be taking with our Fuchsias.

The only exception to this will be December when we will meet on 2nd Tuesday for our Christmas Party.

Watch this space for more details and see you on 17th January 2023

Marilyn
Secretary

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CRAMDEN NURSERY

THE GERANIUM & PELARGONIUM SPECIALISTS

A family run business growing Pelargoniums and Geraniums for over 30 years.

Now also selling Lavenders, Agapanthus and Penstemons.

The Nursery is open from March to August
Monday to Saturday - 9am - 5pm
Sunday from May to August - 10am - 4pm

Open Evenings and Talks available.

CRAMDEN NURSERY
HARBOROUGH ROAD NORTH
NORTHAMPTON NN2 8LU
Telephone: 01604 842365
www.cramdennursery.co.uk

ROLLING CALENDAR 2023 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

All meetings are held at the Conservative Club, 42 Billing Road, Northampton NN1 5DA commencing at 7.30pm

January 17th 2023

Care & Culture: Looking after your plants in Winter; Bringing plants out of dormancy

February 21st 2023

Meeting: Christine Rowe - Sulgrave Manor & the Washington Family

March 21st 2023

Care & Culture: Cuttings evening; Collect your Society plants

April 18th 2023

Care & Culture: Two Tables meeting – the Clive and Bob Show!!

May 16th 2023

Meeting: Colin Rowe - Luxurious Locomotion - the History of the Orient Express

June 20th 2023

Meeting: Arthur Phillips – The Versatile Fuchsia

July 18th 2023

Care & Culture: Preparing your plants for our show

September 19th 2023

Welcome New Members; Open Evening; Cut Bloom & Photography Competitions

October 17th 2023

Meeting: Sports Night & Buffet

November 21st 2023

Annual General Meeting, followed by:
Care & Culture: Preparing your plants for Winter

December 12th 2023 (2nd Tuesday!)

Christmas Party!

ROLLING CALENDAR SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2023

Sunday March 5th 2023?

Visit to Jacksons and Hawgrip Nursery

May 11th-14th 2023

RHS Malvern Spring Festival

SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST 2023

FUCHSIA SHOW

ST CRISPIN SOCIAL CLUB NN5 4XD

September 22nd-24th 2023

Malvern Autumn Show

JACKSONS NURSERIES

A good selection of young plants available from March to June.

Self-service greenhouse will be open from March 1st

Closed on Tuesdays

Send a large s.a.e. (2 x 1st Class) for list of plants or see

www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/Nursery-Plant-List?id=600&name=Jackson%27s%20Nurseries

Selection of our own compost available (replacement for Humber)

A range of other composts and Vitafeeds are also available

Clifton Campville, near Tamworth
Staffs B79 0AP
01827 373307

3 miles from Junction 11 M42

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55th Annual General Meeting Minutes
Date: 1st November 2022
Conservative Club, Billing Road, Northampton

Present: Bob Malin (chairman), Marilyn Daniels (secretary), Peter Pettitt (Membership Secretary) Janet Julyan, Pamela Pettitt, Clive Gould, Tracey Gould, Lewis Northover, Carol Jupp, Davis Jupp, Chris Malin, Wendy Addington, Dot Leeke, Clive Leeke, Sam Harper, Mavis Harper, Brian Harbour.

Bob Malin opened the meeting.

Bob gave a brief account of his 11th year as Chairman as he saw it.

Bob thanked the Officers and Committee for their help during the year and the members who also help when required.

Bob thanked Marilyn Daniels for her many contributions with the events and taking on the Social Secretary role as well.

Bob also thanked David Jupp for his many years providing the BBQ, he said David, and you did us proud. Marilyn has now provided an excellent alternative in the form of a sports and social evening with an excellent buffet for the October meeting.

Phil Hunt has done an excellent job of controlling the club finances; Phil is also a member of the Show Committee.

Peter Ryder, our editor now produces an excellent newsletter that he prints himself; this together with the email distribution is providing great cost savings. Peter is also the Vice Chairman.

Bob thanked Peter Pettitt, our membership secretary for maintaining the membership whilst trying to encourage new members.

Bob also thanked Dot Leeke for arranging the monthly speakers, this year we have had diverse speakers from pest control, the methods of composting, Charles Taylors workshop and beekeeping. It is a difficult job so if you have any ideas for speakers, please let Dot have the details.

Bob then thanked Wendy Addington for arranging the raffle and prizes ably assisted by Clive Leeke.

Finally in this list Bob thanked Clive Gould for taking over the presentation of the Care and Culture meetings, this has help Bob personally but also been a great success.

Since the last AGM we have had our Christmas Party which, as usual, was very enjoyable although the numbers were down even with members being able to bring a guest. We had a great time with Marilyn and David bringing their game show and Phil with his general knowledge quiz, testing the old grey matter. This year's party will be on Tuesday 6th December and raffle prizes and buffet items are always very welcome.

In the summer we held our annual fuchsia show and St Crispin Social Club but more of that in the Show Secretary's report.

That concluded Bob's address.

Apologies: Peter and Maggie Ryder, Phil Hunt

Correspondence: Marilyn advised she has 1 piece of correspondence, a proposal that will be bought up at the appropriate time.

Secretary's Report:

Chairman, officers and members,

Marilyn said she cannot believe it is a year since our last AGM, where has this year gone?

Members visited Jackson's in March, Noel and family made us welcome as always and some different plants were obtained for the show bench.

Some members went to the Malvern Spring Show which again was very good but it is getting so big you can't get round it all in the day – luckily for us the weather was good, it would have been awful in the rain.

As you heard from Bob, we had a marvellous show, which is not unusual for us but with the weather being like it was in the summer it was touch and go at times.

Our sports night was a great success, new addition this year was the table football – it caused a lot of giggling as we tried to beat our opponents but there was also the pool table, skittles, darts and cards. The free buffet was up to the usual high standards of the Conservative Club and there was not a lot left on the table at the end.

Just the Christmas party to come now so book the date in your diary – 7:30pm on 6th December. Don't forget your plate of food for the buffet and if you have any prizes for the raffle, please bring them along on the night.

Marilyn finished with a thank you

Treasurer's Report:

In Phil's absence his report was read out by Bob. The accounts have been audited and signed off by Pam Osbourne.

There was a loss of £200.

We have £2000 in the bank so we can continue for the moment with an annual loss of £200 or so each year.

Show Secretary's Report:

Bob advised that the show was once again held at St Crispin Social Club. The venue has proven to be very suitable and a perfect format for our show.

Throughout the year Bob asked everyone to make the effort to put as many entries into the show as possible and our members certainly did. Bob said that we always complain about the weather and the growing conditions but this year was especially challenging with temperatures up to 40 degrees centigrade on several days.

For the second year Tracey Gould set up a Fuchsia Lore table to demonstrate the variety of objects available that are decorated with fuchsias, this also proved a success.

As usual our members performed very well setting up the show, Peter Pettitt and a team collected the show equipment from our store at Hanslope. Then on the Friday the show was put together with great efficiency and was completed by lunchtime, well done everyone.

Many thanks to Marilyn and Peter for organising the tombola and also to their helpers, this is a valuable source of income which helps towards the show costs.

Bob thanked again all the members who helped put the show together, those entering plants, those setting up and taking the show down, the admin team, the caterers, the photographers and to those members who simply visited the show.

Bob finished by saying that St Crispin Social Club is booked for Saturday 5th August 2023 so now we can start all over again.

Membership Secretary's Report:

Peter Pettitt advised we have 34 members, made up of 16 singles and 9 doubles, all of the members have paid subs for the year.

Propositions:

Marilyn advised that she had one proposal.

In view of the number of members at the meetings diminishing it has been proposed that we only have 1 meeting a month, on either the 1st or 3rd Tuesday and that we have care and culture meetings for the newcomers with a couple of speakers thrown in. We could also have a summer party night on one of the evenings. This proposal is made in view of the dwindling membership (subs diminishing) and the cost of the speakers rocketing (even if they only charge travel expenses) to enable the club to continue for longer into the future.

After discussions it was agreed that meetings would be on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and care and culture or speaker would be worked out between Dot and Clive. This change will take place as from January 2023. Full details will show in the newsletter.

Election of Officers:

Chairman	Bob Malin	accepted
Vice-chairman	Clive Gould	accepted
Secretary	Marilyn Daniels	accepted
Treasurer	Phil Hunt	accepted
Editor	Peter Ryder	accepted
Show Secretary	Bob Malin	accepted
Membership Secretary	Peter Pettitt	accepted

Election of Committee

Dot Leeke	accepted
Wendy Addington	accepted
Tracey Gould	accepted
Clive Gould	accepted

Appointment of Auditors: Appointed as before, Pam Osbourne.

Any Other Business:

Janet Julyan thanked everyone in the Society for their commitment to the Society and for keeping it going.

Tracey Gould advised that the judge Peter Holloway died. He was our judge last year.

AGM bought to a close.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES, PLEASE CONTACT MARILYN DANIELS BY EMAIL, POST OR AT THE MEETINGS SO NOTES CAN BE MADE AND KEPT FOR THE 2023 AGM.

MEETING - 6th September 2022

The meeting was a short one because Tracey had Covid and Clive could not do his talk because of not mixing.

We had a very good number of entries for both competitions.

Here are the results of the competitions.

Norman Jones Cup, Photographic competition. 42 entries.

First Place – Peter Pettitt, Class 4. Any floral display consisting of single or multiple plants.

Second Place – Bob Malin, Class 3. A well grown fuchsia plant in any type of container.

Hodge Cup, Cut bloom competition. 6 entries.

First Place – Phil Hunt, 6 blooms of Auntie Jinks.

Second Place – Peter Pettitt, 6 blooms of Daisy Bell.

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GROWING YOUR FUCHSIAS

January/February/March/April

Early January is not the most active time for fuchsia growers but there are still some important tasks to be carried out.

Our over-wintering plants are always prone to an attack of botrytis so it is vital to keep the air circulating around the plants by opening the vents of the greenhouse whenever possible. Check the plants for correct moisture levels; water if necessary but do this early in the day so as to give any excess water a chance to dry off before evening. Plants that are being over-wintered in sheds, garages or cold frames should also be checked over, taking the opportunity on a good day (bright, dry and reasonably warm) to bring your plants out into the open air. Check them for any problems but

make sure they go back into their winter quarters before the winter chill sets in.

This is a good time of the year to plan for new hardy fuchsia beds. Dig the ground thoroughly incorporating some farmyard manure, if available, or some well-rotted garden compost. Do not choose a site that suffers from waterlogging as this can be deadly for fuchsias. A position that gets half a day's sun is ideal. When planning the cultivars you intend to use always check the ultimate height of the plant and plan accordingly, i.e., tall growing cultivars at the back and smaller or dwarf cultivars to the front. Many of the catalogues list the hardy cultivars separately; some give the ultimate heights but if you have any doubts ask at the nursery. Hardy plants may last many years so it is best to get things right at the outset.

Late January or **early February**, if you have heat available, is a time you may want to begin the 'wake up' process of your plants. Spray the woody stems with warm water; this will soften the wood and encourage new buds to appear. This spraying can be done as frequently as possible but always remember that any surplus water must have dried off by late afternoon. The extra heat may encourage new shoots suitable for cuttings that should be placed in a propagator.

The **end of February** is the ideal time to visit the fuchsia nurseries to obtain new cultivars or replace poor stock. Why not try one or two species types? They can be a challenge but well worth it when you see the flower.

It is **Early March and** depending on how your plants have been over-wintered, you may now be seeing new pink buds or shoots appearing from the woody stems. Those with a heated greenhouse may possibly have shoots big enough for cuttings but if you have a cold greenhouse, or your plants have been over-wintered in a shed or garage, then your plants may be in the pink bud stage.

Some cultivars are quicker to break into bud

than others. It may still be a few weeks before you see any sign of new growth on some of your plants. Triphyllas like Thalia and Insulinde are very slow to break if they have been allowed to go into dormancy. These types are much better kept 'ticking over' in green leaf throughout the winter months if possible.

Continue spraying the woody framework of your plants with warm water to soften the stems and encourage the new growth to break but only do this on suitable days; remember, it is best done about 10 o'clock in the morning so that any surplus moisture has dried off by evening time. Excess moisture can cause botrytis to set in.

It is now the **end of March** and many of your plants may have shoots on them suitable to be taken as cuttings. Before taking cuttings make sure that the plants from which they will be taken have been well watered, preferably 24 hours previously if possible; the cuttings will then be in a turgid state (fully charged with water).

Prepare your cuttings compost beforehand; a mixture of 75% peat and 25% sand with perhaps some added Perlite or Vermiculite is ideal. The sand should be washed river sand, not the very fine builders' type.

Your cuttings need only be what we call 'tip cuttings' which are just the growing tip plus one pair of leaves. A 3-inch pot of compost is plenty big enough to accept 6 or 7 cuttings; they need only to be pushed lightly into the compost then given a light overhead spray to settle the compost and to just moisten the leaves. They must then be covered to conserve the moisture level until rooting takes place. Try using the small sandwich bags which can be ideal for the job. If they can then be placed in a propagator with some bottom heat then all the better but the kitchen windowsill will suffice (given the permission to do so!); rooting will take longer, of course, but it should still happen.

In **April**, once you know that your plants have

over-wintered successfully and new roots are beginning to show, it is time to 'pot back'. Not all growers do this but it is beneficial to the plants and gives them a kick start to the season. It involves removing as much of the dead root and old compost as possible; you will normally find that you can then fit the remaining root ball into a pot some two sizes smaller, e.g., from a 7" to a 5" or 5" to a 3". New compost is then added and lightly watered in. As the plant grows and forms new roots they are then 'potted on' one size at a time.

Do not forget to visit our local nurseries. They all have good quality plants for sale. Give the Triphyllas or Species a try this year.

Good Growing

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NENE VALLEY ORGAN & KEYBOARD CLUB

For over 35 years NVOKC have been producing electronic organ and keyboard shows to the public on the 3rd Monday of the month.

Top international artistes are presented, performing a wide range of music on state of the art instruments.

A NVOKC show is a superb evening for all in the comfortable surroundings of the Plough Hotel, Northampton NN1 1PF

Come along and join us one Monday.

Doors open at 7.15pm. Start 8.00pm. Finish 10.30pm.

For any further information call Matthew Bason 01933 420130

THE NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT FUCHSIA SOCIETY**PRESIDENT:**

The Late Mr Ernie Sayers

PAST PRESIDENTS:

Leo Boullemier (Founder) and V. Evans Esq

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Josie Lepper; George Dawson; Dave Watkins

SOCIETY OFFICERS:**CHAIRMAN:**

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SHOW COMMITTEE:

Clive Gould	Phil Hunt
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