



# Northampton & District Fuchsia Society NEWSLETTER



JANUARY / FEBRUARY / MARCH / APRIL 2022

## EDITORIAL

As I write this after New Year, we wait to see if Boris' gamble that the Omicron variant is not going to over-fill our hospitals in early 2022 will pay off.

Over the page you will find, perhaps not too optimistically, the diary for 2022. Hopefully, these meetings will take place and we will not find ourselves in lockdown again.

Below you will see some late results from the Malvern Autumn Show where Clive and Tracey Gould exhibited some of their fuchsias.

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## MALVERN GROW TO SHOW RESULTS 2021

### Tracey Gould

- 1st One pot Species ASP Class 5D
- 2nd One Hanging pot Class 9D
- 3rd One Pot any manner of Training Class 6D.

## BFS SHOW RESULTS 2021

### Tracey Gould

- 1st Class 31 Catch all Class More Unusual Cultivar.

### Clive Gould

- 3rd Class 7 One Pot Double 13cm
- 2nd Class 12 One pot Hardy
- 3rd Class 17 One Pot Species 15cm Max
- 2nd Class 21 One Pot Triphylla
- 2nd Class 31 Catch all Class More Unusual Cultivar.

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Also included in this issue are the minutes of the November AGM where decisions were made about the future of the Society.

With this issue you will find the Show Schedule and Entry Forms for our show on 6th August 2022. The classes are unchanged from the 2021 show. To go with them is the always useful Backwards Calendar to guide us when we should be stopping our fuchsias.

Keep Well, Keep Safe.

The Editor

## 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](http://www.cramdennursery.co.uk)

## ROLLING CALENDAR 2022 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

All meetings are held at the Conservative Club, 42 Billing Road, Northampton NN15DA commencing at 7.30pm

January 18th 2022

Care & Culture: Looking after your plants in Winter

February 1st 2022

Meeting: speaker tba

March 1st 2022

Meeting: speaker tba

March 15th 2022

Care & Culture: Bringing plants out of dormancy; collect your Society plants

April 5th 2022

Meeting: speaker tba

April 19th 2022

Care & Culture: Two tables meeting

May 3rd 2022

Meeting: speaker tba

May 17th 2022

Care & Culture: Plant sale

June 7th 2022

Meeting: speaker tba

June 21st 2022

Care & Culture: Feeding, Watering and Growing On

July 5th 2022

Meeting: speaker tba

July 19th 2022

Care & Culture: Preparing your plants for the show; dressing; the dreaded paperwork

September 6th 2022

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

October 4th 2022

Meeting: Sports Night & Buffet

November 1st 2022

Annual General Meeting

December 6th 2022

Christmas Party!

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## ROLLING CALENDAR SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2022

Sunday March 6th 2022?

Visit to Jacksons and Hawgrip Nursery

Sunday May 8th 2022

Malvern Spring Festival

**SATURDAY 6TH AUGUST 2022**

**FUCHSIA SHOW**

**ST CRISPIN SOCIAL CLUB NN5 4XD**

Tuesday November 1st 2022

Annual General Meeting

Conservative Club

Saturday December 3rd 2022

Christmas Fayre

Conservative Club

Tuesday December 6th 2022

Christmas Party

Conservative Club

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> Class) for list of plants or see

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

53<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting Minutes  
Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021  
Conservative Club, Billing Road, Northampton

Present:- Bob and Chris Malin, Marilyn Daniels, Pamela and Peter Pettitt, Tracey and Clive Gould, Dot and Clive Leeke, Wendy Addington, Dave and Carol Jupp, Sam and Mavis Harper

Apologies:- Peter and Maggie Ryder, Janet Julyan, Phil Hunt

Bob Malin opened the meeting

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the 53<sup>rd</sup> AGM of the Northampton and District Fuchsia Society.

The Agenda for the meeting was printed in the September newsletter and the running order is as follows

1. Chairman's Address
2. Society Officers reports
3. Propositions
4. The Election of Officers
5. The Election of Committee Members
6. Appointment of Auditor

Any other Business

This is where members can have their say and voice their concerns and suggestions regarding the society.

#### Chairman's Address

Bob welcomed everyone to the 53<sup>rd</sup> AGM in this, the 54<sup>th</sup> year of the Society.

Due to the strange events caused by the Corona Virus pandemic most of last year abs until July this year all meetings of the Society had to be cancelled.

Just before Christmas last year we sadly lost our Society's president, Ernie Sayers. I'm sure that all members will agree with me that Ernie is greatly missed. Ernie was the last surviving founder member of our Society.

Bob thanks the Society officers and committee members for their contributions during the last two years and also members who help on a regular basis to make our Society run efficiently. Bob hopes that we are now getting back to some sort of normality for the rest of this and the whole of next year and so on.

During the time that the Society's meetings were cancelled, the Society officers and Committee still had many tasks to perform, and Peter Ryder did a great job keeping the membership regularly informed of the situation with emails, post and the excellent newsletter.

Our first meeting this year was on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July when Clive Gould gave a talk "preparing plants for our show" for our show on 7<sup>th</sup> August. Bob said he would say more about the show in his show secretary's report.

Bob said that Marilyn had organised a social evening for members and guests on 5<sup>th</sup> October which went extremely well, especially the excellent buffet.

Bob advised that the next and final event for our 2021 programme is our annual Christmas party, which is always well attended and very enjoyable, members bring along prizes for the raffle and also bring contributions for the buffet.

Lastly, Bob hoped that we can return to the programme of meetings as published in the last newsletter.

Due to length of time lapsed (due to Covid) incomplete Minutes of 52<sup>nd</sup> AGM were accepted

Matter arising – none.

Correspondence: - none

### Secretary/Social Secretary's Report

Marilyn firstly apologised for the incomplete minutes of the 2019 AGM, a mixture of not having the tape (tape machine did not appear to work) and the book of notes since I started writing them.

It has been quite a time for all of us since 2019 but hopefully we are now at a stage where we can start to live with Covid rather than it rule us.

Bob has spoken about and will deal in detail later regarding the show, all I want to say is a big thank you to Tracey for her help with the admin side of the show. I would like to concentrate on the sports night, held here on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

Debbie had the skittles table moved into the Churchill room, the dart board was set up, tables were set for Cribbage – or cards; we had free pool games and a fabulous buffet, paid for by the Society. Unfortunately, we only had 17 people turn up for this so hopefully next year we will attempt the same thing again with more people attending. Those who did attend agreed it was a good night out.

We are not having a Christmas Fayre this year, but our Christmas party will be on December 7<sup>th</sup>, please bring something for the buffet and if you have anything for the raffle, please bring it along on the night.

Next years' main meetings will be in the Newsletter, and they promise to be interesting evenings. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Care and Culture from March till July will, as always, be interesting and informative.

Our annual visit to Jackson's will also be arranged hopefully for 6<sup>th</sup> March, confirmation of this will be made at a future meeting.

Marilyn said that we will (hopefully) include the tombola at the show next year – Covid permitting – so if anyone has any unwanted Christmas/birthday gifts or things that could be used as prizes, she will be pleased to collect them at the meetings and store them until next August.

Finally, if anyone wants a copy of the constitution and rules, Marilyn had a copy here but would email a copy of anyone requested.

Proposed: Tracey Gould

Seconded: Dot Leeke

Treasurer's Report

Although Phil was not at the AGM, he left details with Bob regarding the accounts.

There was very little action in the Fuchsia Society last year apart from the show. The donations were mainly by Chris Woolston selling his show entries

<u>Income</u>	Meetings (raffle)	£ 41.00
	Donations	£104.70
	Plant sale	£ 11.00
Total		£156.70

<u>Expenditure</u>	BFS & insurance	£ 71.00
	Newsletters	£ 73.41
	Show	£365.40
Total		£509.81

NET LOSS £353.11

This compares with a profit of £269.02 the previous year with no Show.

Accounts were audited.

Proposed: Peter Pettitt

Seconded: Clive Gould

Editor's Report.

No report.

Show Secretary's Report

Bob reported that after a very disappointed 2020 with no show because of Covid, we had a wonderful show this year. The show at St Crispin's Social Club was a great success and well supported by our members.

Members were pleased to be able to grow and display their plants and they certainly did that to great effect. We had a pleasing number of visitors to the show and many were very complimentary about the quality of the plants and exhibits on show.

Johnny Amos who presented the trophies and awards said, in his pre presentation address to the members, how pleased he was to see our Society show maintaining such a high standard after such a difficult year previously.

We had 16 members making 103 entries in 37 classes for the show, which resulted in 119 pots, baskets and exhibits being entered. Although numbers were down on the 2019 show, the quality was wonderful.

Bob said that all things considered we had a great show and he felt very proud of every member who contributed in some way to put this show together. The members with all their help make his job as show secretary a great deal easier and thanks everyone for the effort made.

Bob confirmed there would be a show in 2022.

Proposed: Clive Leeke

Seconded: David Jupp

Membership Secretary's report.

Peter confirmed that we have: - 25 paid up members  
12 still not paid (he will be chasing these in the near future)

37 members in all

Proposed: David Jupp

Seconded: Wendy Addington

Propositions

None

Election of Officers

Chairman	Bob Malin	accepted
Vice-chairman	Peter Ryder	accepted
Secretary/Social 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

No AOB but Bob stated that

Website has now been updated

AGM brought 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 2022 AGM.**

## GROWING YOUR FUCHSIAS

### January/February/March/April

It is **January** and the shortest day is well behind us and we will soon be noticing the change in light conditions. We are at the beginning of another 'fuchsia' year. January is not the most active month of the year for the fuchsia grower but there are some important tasks to be carried out.

We must regularly check our over-wintering plants as they are always prone to attacks of *botrytis* (grey mould) so it is vital to keep air circulating around the plants by opening the vents in the greenhouse and by use of a fan. Check also for correct moisture levels; a moisture meter is handy for this job if you have one. Water if necessary but do this early in the day so as to give any excess water a chance to dry off before putting them away again in the evening.

Plants that are being over-wintered in sheds, garages or cold frames should also be looked at, taking the opportunity on a good day (bright, dry and reasonably warm) to bring your plants out into the open air. Check them over for any problems but make sure they go back into their winter quarters before the evening chill sets in.

**Late February**, depending on weather conditions can be the time for the *wake up* process to begin. Spray the woody stems of your plants with very warm water; this will soften the wood and encourage the new buds to appear. Do this spraying frequently but again always allow enough time for surplus water to dry off before evening time. Cuttings material may now be available from plants that have had that extra little bit of heat; always take the best cuttings available and give a little bottom heat if possible; your cuttings should root in 3-4 weeks.

This is a good time to plan and prepare for a hardy fuchsia bed; dig the selected area well and incorporate some good garden compost or peat, or even farmyard manure if available; a well-prepared fuchsia bed should last for many years.

Many of the specialist fuchsia nurseries open their doors for business on 1<sup>st</sup> February so why not order a few catalogues and be prepared to visit one or two and obtain a few different cultivars; give the species a try!

By **Early March**, 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.

Spraying the woody framework of your plants with fairly warm water softens the stems and encourages the new growth to break but only do this on suitable days; 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.

By the **End of March** 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. The small sandwich bags are ideal for the job. If they can then be placed in a propagator with some bottom heat then all the better but the kitchen window sill 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 can be 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. Wishing you **good growing** in the New Year!

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### RAIN

It rained and it rained and rained and rained

The average fall was well maintained  
And when the tracks were simply bogs  
It started raining cats and dogs.

After a drought of half an hour  
We had a most refreshing shower  
And then the most curious thing of all  
A gentle rain began to fall.

Next day was also fairly dry  
Save for the deluge from the sky  
Which wetted the party to the skin  
And after that the rain set in.

*By Anon, on a postcard published by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.*

### CHRISTMAS PARTY 2021

The Christmas Party went well, although we had slightly less members this year, the weather forecast may have had a part to play in this.

The buffet as usual was excellent and was thoroughly enjoyed.

Marilyn and her brother David did "Play your cards right" and were great, covering for Peter Pettitt.

Phil as usual provided a very good quiz which tested the old grey matter, this was won by Clive and Dot.

We had 36 prizes for the Grand Draw, one of which was a handmade quarter scale wheelbarrow planter, made by Dave Jupp.

In all a very enjoyable evening, and the weather after all wasn't bad.

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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 Boulemier (Founder) and V. Evans Esq

### VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Josie Lepper; George Dawson; Dave Watkins

### SOCIETY OFFICERS:

#### CHAIRMAN:

Bob Malin                      68 North Western Avenue, Kingsthorpe, Northampton NN2 8HL  
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Clive Gould	01604 863522	Tracey Gould	01604 863522

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#### SHOW COMMITTEE:

Clive Gould	Phil Hunt
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