



Northampton & District Fuchsia Society NEWSLETTER



JANUARY / FEBRUARY / MARCH / APRIL 2020

EDITORIAL

A Happy New Year to all our readers.

Attached to this issue of the newsletter you will find our Fuchsia Show schedule, rules and entry forms. Also the backwards calendar to assist in the stopping of your plants to be shown. So get planning what fuchsias you are going to grow this year and in which categories you are going to be entering them.

Also in this issue there is the remainder of the show results where Clive and Tracey Gould had some success.

This is very much your newsletter and any contributions in the form of articles, your ten favourite fuchsias, and snippets of news will be gratefully received.

The Editor

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CHRISTMAS FAYRE

7th December 2019

The Christmas Fayre held at the Conservative Club on Saturday, 7th December, was really quite successful. The tombola raised £55, cakes and pickles raised £61 and refreshments brought in £35. The plant stall contributed another £93 to the Society's funds.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY

10th December 2019

We were back at the Conservative Club on the following Tuesday for our famous Christmas Party with thirty members in attendance.

Firstly, there was a quiz supplied by Phil Hunt

to tax our creaking brains. Once again it proved that the combined efforts of Judy Campbell and Dot Leeke, this time with Clive, outshone the rest of us once again.

The bring-and-share buffet was a sight to be seen and was eagerly reduced by all.

Entertainment then followed in the form of Play Your Cards Right run by Marilyn Daniels and Peter Pettitt. We all had a go but only Wendy Addington managed a win.

This was followed by 'Fuchsia Bingo' provided by Phil Hunt and Pam Pettitt was the first to complete a line.

Finally, there was the Christmas Raffle which raised £68 for the Society's funds.

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 2020 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

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

January 21st 2020

Care & Culture: Looking after your plants in Winter

February 4th 2020

Meeting: Adrian Perkins, the Ghost Detective

March 3rd 2020

Meeting: Pamela Larsen from the Air Ambulance Service

March 17th 2020

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

April 7th 2020

Meeting: Tricia Thompson - 'Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside' - a history of the British seaside holiday

April 21st 2020

Care & Culture: Two tables meeting

May 5th 2020

Meeting: David Garrett on Composting: Hot v. Cold

May 19th 2020

Care & Culture: Plant sale

June 2nd 2020

Meeting: Martin Hynes on Pest Control

June 16th 2020

Care & Culture: Feeding, Watering and Growing On

July 7th 2020

Meeting: Arthur Phillips on Fuchsias

July 21st 2020

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

September 1st 2020

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

October 6th 2020

Meeting: speaker tba

November 3rd 2020

Annual General Meeting

December 8th 2020 – N.B. 2nd Tuesday!

Christmas Party!

ROLLING CALENDAR SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2020

Sunday March 8th 2020

Visit to Jacksons and Hawgrip Nursery

Sunday May 10th 2020

Malvern Spring Show with Footsteps Tours

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST 2020

FUCHSIA SHOW

ST CRISPIN SOCIAL CLUB NN5 4XD

Friday August 7th 2020

Social evening - details tba

Tuesday November 3rd 2020

Annual General Meeting

Conservative Club

Saturday December 5th 2020

Christmas Fayre

Conservative Club - 10.0am to noon

Tuesday December 8th 2020 – 2nd Tuesday!

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 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

OPEN EVENING

Meeting – 3rd September 2019

Nineteen members gathered for the first meeting of the new season.

Our Chairman, Bob Malin, first welcomed everyone and then went on to speak about over-wintering our fuchsias.

Clive Gould then went on to demonstrate his method for cutting back and potting up his fuchsias.

Cut Bloom Competition

There were six entries in the cut bloom competition. Judge – Clive Gould. First place was taken by Peter Pettitt who was awarded the Hodge Cup.

Photographic Competition

There were thirteen entries in the photographic competition. Judge – Marilyn Daniels. Bob Malin's winning entry in Class 2 was the overall winner and he was presented with the Norman Jones Cup.

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

BF SHOW WALES & WEST 2019

Clive Gould

- 3rd One pot any cultivar 13cm pot - Blue Heaven
- 2nd One pot double cultivar ASP pot - Lynne Patricia
- 1st One pot Hardy fuchsia min 13cm/max 25cm pot - Herald
- 1st One pot Species max 15cm pot - F. procumbens var Wirral

Tracey Gould

- 1st Catch all class - one pot of fuchsias of the more unusual cultivar - Leslie Bowman

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MALVERN AUTUMN SHOW 2019

Tracey Gould

- 1st Triphylla type max 25cm - Insulinde
- 3rd Any manner of training 15cm pot - June Marie

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COMMITTEE MEETING

15th October 2019

Together with other matters your committee discussed:

- visit to Malvern Spring Show with Footsteps Tours
- Jacksons Nursery visit on Sunday 1st March (since postponed to Sunday 8th March 2020)
- judge – Peter Holloway booked for next year's Fuchsia Show
- two Society classes as this year – 3½" a single and 5" a double flowered fuchsia
- arrangements for Christmas Fayre on 7th December from 10am until noon
- and for the Christmas Party on 10th December

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GROWING YOUR FUCHSIAS

January through to April

January - another fuchsia year begins; not too much activity at the moment though; no change in light levels yet but it is on the way.

In the meantime, we must still regularly check our plants for any sign of botrytis/mould and ventilate whenever possible, i.e., dry, bright days.

Cuttings that were struck in the autumn will also need daily attention; they must be kept at a temperature of about 40/45°F, no higher or it could encourage long, spindly growth when what we want is short, stocky growth. They must also be checked for botrytis.

February – strong winds may cause hardy fuchsias and other shrubs to rock back and forth in the wind. This can create a depression in the ground at the base of the plants that, if they fill with water and then freeze, can seriously damage the crown and root system and cause our plants to die. Regularly check for this problem. A mulch of garden compost or peat can be placed over the base of the shrubs for added protection against hard frosts.

A bed of hardy fuchsias of selected cultivars in full bloom can be a sight for sore eyes and, with a flowering period of 4/5 months, it is well worth considering having one in your garden. If the bed is well prepared with plenty of humus added, i.e., garden compost or manure, and the appropriate fertiliser is used this bed will give pleasure for many years. February/March is a good time to begin the task; the plants are set out in June. More about that in the next newsletter.

If you have a heated greenhouse and the outside weather conditions are favourable the end of February can be a good time for the wakening process of your dormant plants to begin. Spray the woody stems/laterals with warm water; this will soften the wood and encourage the growth of new buds; only do this, though, on days that are dry and there is

no moisture in the air and allow time for any surplus water to have dried off by early evening or you may get problems with botrytis.

With thousands of fuchsia cultivars to choose from now is a good time to browse the catalogues and select a few to grow that you think may be a little different; many fuchsia nurseries open in February, others in March. Do not purchase young tender cuttings if you haven't the facilities at home to maintain good growing conditions, especially warmth.

It is early **March** and you could normally be expecting to see signs of life in your plants, i.e., pink buds appearing on the laterals or from the base of the plant.

Some cultivars are quicker to break into bud than others; it may 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.

End of March and many of your plants may have shoots suitable to be taken as cuttings. Before taking cuttings make sure the plants have been well watered; the cuttings will then be in a turgid state.

Prepare your cuttings compost beforehand with some added Perlite or Vermiculite. The cuttings need only be what we call 'tip cuttings' which are just the growing tip and a pair of leaves; a 3" pot of compost is big enough to accept 6/7 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. If they can then be placed in a propagator with some bottom heat then all the better but the kitchen window cill will suffice; rooting will take longer but it should still happen.

April, once you know your plants have overwintered 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 7" to 5" or a 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 up 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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Have you visited your
Fuchsia Society's website?

www.ndfs.btck.co.uk

The Show Schedule, Entry Form and
Backwards Calendar are available
to view and download.

Updates to the year's programme of meetings
will be shown as they become available.

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NENE WETLANDS with KATIE KING Meeting – 1st October 2019

Our final speaker of the year was Katie King from the Wildlife Trust talking about the Nene Wetlands. There are 46 local trusts under the Wildlife Trust 'umbrella' of which Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire is the largest.

The River Nene is at the heart of the wetlands which flows through Northamptonshire and Peterborough, a landscape of 41,000 hectares, before draining into the Wash.

The Nene valley has a long history, from the ice age 15,000 years ago through the Iron Age when it was woodlands and Roman times who

used it as farmland as it was not suitable for building due to it being prone to flooding.

Iron ore mining took place and also gravel extraction during WW2 and this continued following the war for building.

Today the oldest of the lakes making up the wetlands is at Ditchford and the newest being Rushden Lakes, which includes Wilson Pits, Higham Ferrers Pits and Irthlingborough Lakes.

When the new shopping centre was planned the developers agreed to build a new visitors centre in exchange for managing the land. As well as being home to large variety of wildlife the land is also home to a herd of Highland cattle, chosen because they are a very docile breed and they act as natural lawnmowers during the summer. During winter they are taken to a farm near Towcester.

As well as many walks throughout the area the visitor centre also hosts many workshops for adults & children.

Dot Leeke

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5th November 2019

There was a good attendance at the Conservative Club for our 52nd AGM. Sadly, our President, Ernie Sayers, was not well enough to be present.

The Officers and post-holders delivered their various reports.

Bob Malin delivered his Chairman's Address thanking the Officers and committee members for their efforts during the year.

As noted in the rolling calendar of events on page 2 of this newsletter, Marilyn said there will be trips to Jacksons Nursery on Sunday 8th March and to the Malvern Spring Show on Sunday 10th May 2020 with Footlights Tours. Members should book directly with them.

Phil Hunt, Treasurer, reported a loss of £131.72

for the year which was a considerable improvement on last year. With losses at that level the Society had sufficient funds to continue for several years.

Peter Ryder thanked Dot Leeke for her reports on the meetings with speakers and also for her submission of '10 favourite fuchsias'. He asked other members to think of entering lists of their favourites with reasons why. (See page 7 of this Newsletter for Phil Hunt's list. Ed.)

Bob, with his Show Secretary hat on, reported that the show had once again been a great success in the new venue. Although some regular members were absent from the show table others had filled the gaps and there were more plants on show this year.

Peter Pettitt said that most members had renewed and he was still chasing some others.

The Officers, post holders and committee members were then elected as last year. Clive and Tracey Gould had agreed to join the committee to bring it up to full strength.

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COMMITTEE MEETING 19th November 2019

Together with other minor matters your committee discussed:

- Fuchsia Show - show schedule, entry forms and backwards calendar will be available for issue with the January newsletter
- Christmas Fair - duties
- Christmas Party – a quiz to be provided by Phil Hunt, also 'Fuchsia Bingo'; musical entertainment by Peter Pettitt and 'play your cards right' with Marilyn and Peter.
- Draw tickets at meetings to be 50p for each number instead of for a strip of tickets – the same chance of winning but will reduce the calls of 'draw again'.
- thought will be given to holding committee meetings following cultural evenings.

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A TRUE STORY from the pages of Fuchsia News

She did her best to break the code,
Read every book in fuchsia mode.
Boullemier, Bartlett, everyone
And the bible by Pilkington.
Now this gave her inspiration
To go and join the congregation.
With bowed head and bended knee
To heaven above was her plea.
How do I pinch out, turn and feed?
Proper answers are what I need.
Got the message, off home she went
And worked faithfully up to Lent.
Pinching, turning and potting up,
She was certain to win the cup.
Thirty-one more days passed on by
Horror upon horror, whitefly.
She never asked about spraying,
Far too late for any more praying.
How do I get rid of this pest?
Will put the pundits to the test.
Systemic sprays some advocate,
Making sure it is up to date.
Dimethoate formulated
Is it the best they debated?
Off to the shop to buy a can
And was told by the friendly man
That smokes and powders sprays and dust
Will not only tackle pests, but rust.
Obtained them all and mixed them well.
What happened next I cannot tell.
Did not read the warning label.
Flash, bang, alas! Poor old Mabel.

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PHIL HUNT'S TOP 10 FAVOURITE FUCHSIAS

Waveney Gem



This was one of my first basket fuchsias. It is very reliable and is very free flowering.

Olive Smith



I have used this for standard as well as a good 5in pot. Easy for cutting.

London 2000



I won this in a raffle at one of the first Fuchsias meeting I went to.

Daisy Bell



Used as my main hanging basket variety for showing. Needs longer to flower after pinching. Peter Pettitt beats me every year.

Boogie Woogie



A good exhibition fuchsia.

Love's Reward



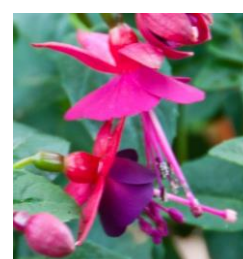
A lovely light pink.

Wendy Bendi



A small flowered fuchsia now well known as a society plant in the 2019 show.

Pabbe's Kirrevalk



A less common fuchsia. I don't know where I got it. A small flower that I haven't got to show standard yet.

Kenny Walkling



Another good show variety with a nice flower.

Celia Smedley



A large waxy flower. A hardy plant which I also have as a 4ft standard.

THE NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT FUCHSIA SOCIETY

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Leo Boullemier (Founder) and V. Evans Esq

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Josie Lepper; George Dawson; Dave Watkins

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