



Northampton & District Fuchsia Society NEWSLETTER



JANUARY / FEBRUARY / MARCH / APRIL 2019

EDITORIAL

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 which categories you are going to be entering them in.

Also in this issue there is the rest of the BFS Show results where several of our members had some success.

This is very much your newsletter and any contributions in the form of articles, snippets of news, items for sale, etc., that you care to give will be gratefully received.

The Editor

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CHRISTMAS FAYRE

1st December 2018

The Christmas Fayre held at the Conservative Club on Saturday, 1st December, was really quite successful having contributed £264 net of all costs to the Society's funds. This was about the same as last year so well done all those who contributed to the success of the day.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY

4th December 2018

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

Firstly, there was a quiz supplied by Phil Hunt to tax our creaking brains. Later, when the

answers were given, it proved that the combined efforts of Judy Campbell and Dot Leeke outshone the rest of us 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.

Finally there was the Christmas Raffle which raised £51 for the Society's funds – a little down on last year which was in line with the attendance.

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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 2019 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

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

January 15th 2019

Care & Culture: Looking after your plants in Winter

February 5th 2019

Meeting: David Garrett - Composting

March 5th 2019

Meeting: speaker tba

March 19th 2019

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

April 2nd 2019

Meeting: speaker tba

April 16th 2019

Care & Culture: Two tables meeting

May 7th 2019

Meeting: speaker tba

May 21st 2019

Care & Culture: Plant sale

June 4th 2019

Meeting: speaker tba

June 18th 2019

Care & Culture: Feeding, Watering and Growing On

July 2nd 2019

Meeting: speaker tba

July 16th 2019

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

September 3rd 2019

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

October 1st 2019

Meeting: speaker tba

November 5th 2019

Annual General Meeting

December 10th 2019 – N.B. 2nd Tuesday!

Christmas Party!

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ROLLING CALENDAR SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2019

Sunday March 3rd 2019

Trip to Jacksons and Hawgrip Nursery

Sunday May 12th 2019

Malvern Spring Show

SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST 2019

FUCHSIA SHOW

ST CRISPIN SOCIAL CLUB NN5 4XD

Friday August 9th 2019

BBQ

Conservative Club

Tuesday November 5th 2019

Annual General Meeting

Conservative Club

Saturday December 7th 2019

Christmas Fayre

Conservative Club

Tuesday December 10th 2019 – 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 – 4th September 2018

Nineteen members, including three new 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. This demonstration included taking his secateurs to his prize-winning triphylla!

Cut Bloom Competition

There were six entries in the cut bloom competition. Judge – Clive Gould. First place was taken by Peter Pettitt and second place by Phil Hunt.

Photographic Competition

Class 1 - A close-up of Fuchsia flowers (6 entries)

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1 st | Phil Hunt |
| 2 nd | Phil Hunt |
| 3 rd | Mike Simms |

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

Class 2 - A branch of a Fuchsia plant (6 entries)

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1 st | Mike Simms |
| 2 nd | Phil Hunt |
| 3 rd | Bob Malin |

Class 3 - A well-grown Fuchsia plant (5 entries)

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 st | Bob Malin |
| 2 nd | Phil Hunt |
| 3 rd | Bob Malin |

Class 4 - Any floral display (4 entries)

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1 st | Mike Simms |
| 2 nd | Mike Simms |
| 3 rd | Bob Malin |

Judge – Peter Ryder.

Phil Hunt's winning entry in Class 1 was the overall winner.

The Editor

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BFS NORTHERN SHOW RESULTS

Chris Woolston

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Hardy class - 3 rd | Bernisser Hardy |
| Mini Standard - 3 rd | Olive Smith |
| Variegated – 3 rd | Janice Perry |
| Triphylla asp – 2 nd | Insulinde |
| Half-Basket – 1 st | Putts Folly |

This exhibit was also awarded Best in Show, winning the BFS Enamelled Medal, this being their 50th. It was also awarded the Best Basket in Show award.

BFS MIDLAND SHOW RESULTS

Chris Woolston

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tom West Class - 3 rd | |
| Triphylla asp – 3 rd | Mary |
| Triphylla 1x9cm – 1 st | Roger de Cooker |
| Hanging Pot - 1 st | Janice Ann |

He also won the BFS Blue Rosette with this plant.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Half-Basket – 1 st | Alfonso |
|-------------------------------|---------|

This was also Best in Show, winning the BFS Enamelled Medal. This was Chris and Rosie's 51st Best in Show and it was also awarded the Woolston Trophy for the best basket/hanging pot in show.

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BFS WALES & WEST SHOW RESULTS**29th-30th September 2018****Clive Gould**

Class 15 One pot Triphylla type 15cm
2nd Thalia

Class 16 One pot Enliandra type
2nd Gina Bowman

Class 17 One pot Species
2nd F. procumbens var. wirral
(argenteus)

Malcolm Beerman

Obtained a 3rd with his seedling of Jan Furlong

Chris Woolston

Class 1 One pot any cultivar
3rd Louise Nicholls

Class 5 Three pots at least two distinctly different
Cultivars
? Louise Nichols and another

Class 7 One pot double flowered cultivar
2nd Whoopee

Class 9 Two pots same cultivar judged as a
matching pair
1st President George Bartlett

Class 12 One pot Hardy
3rd Bernisser Hardy

Class 13 One pot Ornamental foliage excluding
Tom West
3rd Janice Perry

Class 18 One Mini Standard
2nd Olive Smith

Class 23 One pot Triphylla type 13cm
3rd Thalia

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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.

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GROWING YOUR FUCHSIAS**January through to 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 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 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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Have you visited your
Fuchsia Society's
website?

www.ndfs.btck.co.uk

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

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PHIPPS BREWERY with ALARIC NEVILLE Meeting – 2nd October 2018

Alaric gave a very interesting talk about brewing beer, from when it was used as currency in Ancient Egypt to when Pickering Phipps founded the steam brewery in 1801 at Towcester. In 1817 Phipps bought the brewery on South Bridge and moved the family to Northampton so beginning commercial brewing in the town. In the 1840s many of the family rose to the top of society. Phipps was thuggish and expelled from school but turned his life around when he met his wife and was responsible for the building of Deragate, Phippsville and The Guildhall.

Brewing of IPA (Indian Pale Ale) began in the 1840s and is made with maize not hops. Lloyd George introduced a tax on alcohol so beer strength was reduced from 5.8 to 4.3; this annoyed the workers in the shoe industry, who said it killed the taste, but then they discovered Phipps IPA. In 1960 the family lost control of the business; Watneys bought it but ran it down and it was eventually sold to Carlsberg. The brewery was relaunched in 2008 when Alaric and his brother bought it.

It is a long involved history and this is just a short version of what was a fascinating talk which concluded with some very tasty samples.

I emailed Alaric to thank him and he replied as follows:- "A pleasure to meet all of you; always nice to have chats after the talks with interesting people."

Dot Leeke

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COMMITTEE MEETING 16th October 2018

Together with other minor matters your committee discussed:

- the upcoming AGM
- the audited accounts that will be presented at the AGM

- Fuchsia Show - Phil Hunt has replaced Michael Conroy on the show committee – minor changes to the show schedule – there will be two society plants next year – St Crispin's Social Club and one judge have been booked
- Christmas Fair - duties
- Christmas Party – to be open to 'other halves' – quiz and entertainment.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 6th November 2018

There was a good attendance at the Conservative Club for our 51st AGM. Sadly, our President, Ernie Sayers, was not well enough to be present.

The Officers and post-holders delivered their various reports.

Bob delivered his Chairman's Address thanking the Officers and committee members for their efforts during the year. He also thanked David and Carol Jupp for their assistance at the Show and BBQ. He also thanked Judy Campbell and Jerry Leahy for their service over several years as they retire from the committee and also Michael Conroy as he retires from the show committee.

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 3rd March and to the Malvern Spring Show on Sunday 12th May 2019.

Phil reported a loss of £453.87 for the year. This included the subsidy for the 50th Dinner.

Peter Ryder explained the reasons for the change of format of this newsletter – we had already seen the cost savings in the accounts.

Bob, with his Show Secretary hat on, reported that the show had been affected by the hot weather but had been a great success in the new venue.

Peter Pettitt said that 43 members (11 double, 21 single) had renewed and he was still chasing 3 other single members.

The Officers, post holders and committee members were then elected. Due to retirements there are two vacancies on the committee – if you feel you can contribute to the planning, etc., of the Society please have a word with Bob or one of the others listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Under Any Other Business it was suggested that we have a Fuchsia Lore demonstration table at the show.

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COMMITTEE MEETING

13th November 2018

Together with other minor matters your committee discussed:

- Fuchsia Show - minor changes to the show schedule – there will be two society plants next year – St Crispin’s Social Club and one judge have been booked – show schedule, entry forms and backwards calendar are now available for issue with the January newsletter
- Christmas Fair - duties
- Christmas Party – to be open to ‘other halves’ – quiz to be provided by Phil, musical entertainment by Peter Pettitt and ‘play your cards right’ by Marilyn and Peter.

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RHS FLOWER SHOWS 2019

RHS London Spring Launch and Orchid Show
8th-10th April

RHS Flower Show Cardiff
12th-14th April

RHS Malvern Spring Festival
9th-12th May

RHS Chelsea Flower Show
21st-25th May

RHS Chatsworth Flower Show
5th-9th June

RHS Harlow Carr Flower Show
21st-23rd June

RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival
1st-7th July

RHS Tatton Park Flower Show
17th-21st July

RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show
31st July – 4th August

RHS Rosemoor Flower Show
16th – 18th August

RHS Wisley Flower Show
3rd – 8th September

RHS Malvern Autumn Show
28th-29th September

Phew! Twelve shows and that does not include the RHS Early Spring Plant Fair and the RHS Harvest Festival Show that will be moving from their usual base in London to RHS Hyde Hall for 2019. Dates as yet unconfirmed.

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BFS MEETINGS & SHOWS 2019

Annual General Meeting, Bilsborrow Village Hall
23rd March

Fuchsia Lore Meeting, Great Bridgford
9th June

Eastern Show, Roots & Shoots Garden Centre
14th July

Northern Show, Bilsborrow Village Hall
28th July

Far South West Show, Tamar View Nurseries
8th August

London Show, Normandy Village Hall
18th August

Midland Show, Palmers Garden Centre
25th August

Scottish Show, Linlithgow Primary School
1st September

Harrogate Show
13th-15th September

Wales & West Show, RHS Malvern Show
28th-29th September

Fuchsia Lore Meeting, Great Bridgeford
6th October

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THE NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT FUCHSIA SOCIETY

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Mr Ernie Sayers Trefela, 29 Careys Road, Towcester, Northampton NN12 7NX
Tel: 01327 811645

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Leo Boullemier (Founder) and V. Evans Esq

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Josie Lepper; George Dawson; Dave Watkins

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