



# Northampton & District Fuchsia Society NEWSLETTER



MAY/JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2023

## EDITORIAL

For those of you lucky enough to have won trophies at our Show last year now is the time to think about returning them – instructions are on page 3.

For those of you harbouring ambitions of winning a few trophies at this year's Show there is advice from Bob Malin on how to prepare your fuchsias and how to enter on page 5 onwards.

Once the Show is over we shall be thinking of our meeting in September when we have our Photographic Competition. Advice about this and details of the categories is on pages 6 and 7. There will also be a Cut Blooms competition.

### 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 next issue of the newsletter will be a bumper one with all the results and pictures from the Show.

As ever if you have something to contribute to the newsletter it will be gratefully received.

The Editor

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## FESTIVAL OF FUCHSIAS

**What** – in 2023 we will be celebrating the 85th year of the BFS with all sorts of special events starting with the AGM in March and finishing with a weekend at Malvern – our Festival of Fuchsias. It promises to be a spectacular weekend at a wonderful venue!

**Where** – our event will be part of the Malvern Autumn Show at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6NW. We will be in the same pavilion as the Wales and West Show and the Grow to Show.

**When** – 22nd to the 24th September 2023.

**Banquet etc** – in the next publication we will be giving details of the dinner and banquet that we will be having at the show on the Friday and Saturday evenings. There will be guest speakers on both evenings – Friday will be our Patron – Jim Buttress, and on Saturday Theo Margelony from Portland, Oregon.

**Badges etc** – as you would expect we will be having a special badge to celebrate our anniversary – they will be on sale from the AGM onwards at £2.50 each. They will also be available through the post with an extra £1.50 for Postage and packing. There will be other fuchsia goodies available – so watch this space!

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## ROLLING CALENDAR 2023/24 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

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

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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday!)

Christmas Party!

January 16th 2024

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

February 20th 2024

Meeting: Speaker to be announced

March 19st 2024

Care & Culture: Cuttings evening; Collect your Society plants

April 16th 2024

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

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## ROLLING CALENDAR SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2023/24

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 with the Festival of Fuchsias (see Editorial)

December 12th 2023 (2nd Tuesday!)

Christmas Party!

?Sunday March 3rd 2024?

Visit to Jacksons and Hawgrip Nursery

### 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)

## RETURNING TROPHIES

Will those members lucky enough to have won a trophy last year please return it (or them if you won more than one!) to Peter Pettitt.

If this is not possible please return it (or them) to St Crispin's Social Club on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> August, during the period for setting up your plants for the Show.

Should this not be convenient please contact Peter Pettitt on 01604 412637 or Bob Malin on 01604 459478 to make alternative arrangements.

If you wish to have your name engraved on the trophy, or trophies if you did very well, then please arrange this yourself if shops open in time. This will have to be at your own cost!

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**Have you visited your  
Fuchsia Society's  
website recently?**

[www.ndfs.webador.co.uk](http://www.ndfs.webador.co.uk)

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## GROWING YOUR FUCHSIAS

### May through to August

**Early May** and your plants should now be growing strongly; check your plants' root systems regularly and do not let them get pot-bound as this can result in premature budding. Pot up to the next size pot as soon as the roots begin to circle the bottom of the root ball. This is especially important if you are growing your plant as a standard.

The correct watering of your plants is very important; too much water will kill a plant faster than not enough. An over-watered plant can give the same appearance as a plant that is suffering from being under-watered so do not just add water to everything. Pick your plants up; experience with the weight of the plant will soon tell you what action is necessary. Picking your plants up should be a regular occurrence,

not only to check for watering but also to inspect for botrytis, greenfly, whitefly and red-spider mite; early detection of a problem is always beneficial. Treat any problems accordingly; whitefly is usually a thumb-and-finger job; greenfly and red-spider may need a spray treatment. Keeping the humidity levels in your greenhouse on the high side will also deter red-spider.

Shading of your greenhouse is now very important; temperatures can rise very quickly with just a few minutes' sun. All vents should be opened at every opportunity.

**June** is the best month for planting out your hardy fuchsias. Prepare the soil well incorporating plenty of well-rotted garden compost or a similar material. Adding some blood, fish and bone-meal fertiliser at this time would be highly beneficial. To plant your fuchsia make a saucer-shaped depression in the ground about 18 inches in diameter and 4

## 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

inches deep. Your plant, which should be well grown possibly in a 4 or 5-inch pot, is planted in the centre of the depression. The soil level at the top of the root-ball should finish up level with the bottom of the depression. The plant is then watered in. Allow the depression to fill in naturally over the rest of the season; this will result in the root-ball being some 4 inches deep and, hopefully, well established giving it good protection from frosts.

If you are going to show any of your plants this year keep an eye on the stopping dates. The *backwards calendar* issued with the last newsletter will give the timing details.

### July – August

With the exception of plants being grown on the biennial system and those being grown for late summer shows all stopping and potting on should now be just about finished. But our plants still need plenty of attention; watering, feeding and regular inspections for attacks from pests. Act quickly if a problem is found; any delay can quickly double the size of your problem.

Be careful with the watering. Pick the plant up and, if necessary, take the plant out of the pot to check the moisture level; a plant can die very quickly if over-watered. Feeding can be carried out at every watering but only at quarter strength. Switch to a higher potash feed if you think budding is a bit slow.

Any hardies planted out last month should be kept well-watered and a balanced feed applied every 2-3 weeks. It is essential to keep them growing well so that they form a good root system to help survive any hard frosts that we may have over the winter months. Hardies planted in the garden do not require stopping; a good hardy is self-branching and will produce plenty of laterals and, of course, lots of flowers all through the summer and well into the autumn.

Good Growing and Showing

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## SULGRAVE MANOR & THE WASHINGTON FAMILY Meeting - 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Laurence Washington, the great, great, great, great grandfather of George Washington, hailed from Wessington, Tyne & Wear. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century the family moved to Warton in Lancashire, where there is a plaque in St Oswald's church showing the direct line of ascent to George Washington.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century the family moved to Horton in Northamptonshire where he worked for Will Parr, a friend of the Spencer family. Laurence achieved great success as a wool merchant and bought the land at Sulgrave for £324.10s.10d and built the manor house.

There is a royal coat of arms above the porch door of the manor house granted by Elizabeth I for giving her refuge while fleeing from her sister Mary.

Laurence sold the manor in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century and his descendant, Col John Washington, emigrated to Virginia USA in 1655.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Sulgrave was tenanted to a series of farmers but by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the manor was derelict.

Theodore Roosevelt suggested in 1911 that there should be a permanent memorial to the Washington family at Sulgrave to commemorate 100 years of peace between England and the USA. After a fundraising campaign Sulgrave was purchased in 1914 for £60,000.

The Washington coat of arms, which was called the stars and bars, is said to be the inspiration for the USA flag.

This was a fascinating talk by Chris and there was a personal element to it as she was a guide at Sulgrave for 4 years and also married her husband Colin there in 2006.

Report by Dot Leeke

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## SHOWING YOUR FUCHSIAS

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Members are urged to make every effort to enter as many plants as they possibly can into our Fuchsia Show on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August.

'If in doubt bring it along' – it will look better on the show bench with all the other fuchsias than it does on its own at home.

Your Society Needs You!

#### Filling out the entry form

Fill out the entry form ensuring that you keep a copy for yourself. At this time making up a list of your plant cultivar names would be very helpful. Forward your entry form to me, Bob Malin, by one of the methods indicated on the entry form, usually by post or, if you have a scanner, by email. Your entry should arrive by Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July. Late entries will be accepted only if there is space available.

#### Transporting your plants to the show

With just a relatively short journey involved I find pot plants are very stable using the appropriate plastic tray. Another practical method is to use shallow cardboard boxes with holes cut to the size of the pot. Hanging pots, baskets, half-baskets and standards all present different problems.

#### Times for staging of entries

Staging of entries can take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August from 1.30pm to 8pm and on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August from 7.00am to 8.30am.

#### Arrival at the venue

Leave your plants in your car and have a walk around the room to see where your entries will be staged.

Collect your entry cards from the Admin table and hand a list of your plant cultivar names to Marilyn Daniels.

Bring your plants in and place them on one of the preparation tables. Dress the plants,

removing any yellow leaves, faded flowers and seed pods. Ensure the plants are in clean brown standard pots. The exception is hanging pots as it is very difficult to obtain them in brown.

#### Staging the entries

To position your plant on the show table, use one of the empty saucers provided. Do NOT move other people's entries. If you have a problem staging your plant, ask the Show Secretary or the Assistant Show Secretary for assistance.

Place your entry card next to your plant with your name on the underside. Collect labels of the plant cultivar names from Marilyn Daniels and place them by the appropriate entry. These are not required for the Society plant.

Check that your plants have been watered.

To give your entry the best chance position the plant showing its best features to the front. Lift plants that have laterals touching the table with an upturned pot, plastic-coated wire or string.

#### Useful equipment to take with you

Small watering can; spare clean pots and saucers; twine, wire, split canes; labels and marker pen; cleaning cloths; mist sprayer.

#### Judging the exhibits

Judging of the exhibits will start on Saturday at 9am with BFS Judge Rebecca Gillard assisted by our Society stewards.

#### The Show Opens!

Doors to the show will be open for members and the public from 11am.

#### Presentation of Trophies

The presentation of trophies and awards will take place at 4pm on the Saturday. Would all members please try to be in attendance for the presentations.

#### End of Show



The Show will end at 5pm. Please do NOT lift your entries before then. Once the Show is declared closed and the members have had a chance to remove their entries the Show will be dismantled.

Please let us make it a great Show and give it as much publicity as you possibly can. So please spread the word and help to keep our Show tradition great!

Thank you.

Bob Malin

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## **PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

### **Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

In September each year the Society holds its annual photographic competition. We wish to encourage members to enter photos in the classes in which they will be judged. The competition is intended as fun, so here are a few hints from the judges.

#### Taking photos

Now is the time to start taking your photos and even improve your technique.

Firstly, get to know your camera and its controls. Maybe look at the guidance leaflet that came with the camera. If you wish to use the controls set at 'auto' that is fine but you will take better photos if you try the other controls. We do not expect members to have the latest or most expensive cameras as all models of digital cameras can take terrific shots. It is the photographer that composes the photo, not the camera with lots of features.

For practice, take lots of photos of anything - it need not be a fuchsia at this stage - as we just want you to follow our guidelines. Take shots from slightly different positions, move nearer or further away and try the zoom control. Avoid distractions in your photos like bright colours, windows or door frames, posters, etc., that are not needed in the photo. Now look on the camera's screen and see the difference this makes. Delete the shots you do not want, this

could be most of those you have taken, but it shows you are improving. Only keep your best photos.

Now try photographing plants, using the guidance notes above, and see how much better your shots have become. To help you there are always books and magazines on photography in charity shops and elsewhere. During the Society meetings look more closely at slide shows to see how photos have been composed.

#### Printing photos

Photographs can be in either portrait or landscape format, with or without a border. The photo should be well exposed, in focus, not cluttered by other material but with the subject taking up most of the available space. To make it 'look right' the subject does not need to be in the centre of the photograph as it may include a group of flowers.

If you have your own printer, use the paper size advised, 7" x 5". Photo paper need not be expensive; why not buy at a Pound shop, Aldi, or Lidl? You will be surprised how good your photos can look. If you wish, use the 'compatible' ink cartridges specified for your printer to avoid paying for the more expensive branded inks but read the guidance notes for your printer.

If you prefer to use commercial printing, such as at Boots, etc., they will be printed on first class photo paper but check that they offer the size of paper that you need.

#### Selecting photos for the competition

Having a selection of photos gives the opportunity to show your best shots. Again, see the first paragraph under 'Printing photos' above for hints and be certain your photos meet the requirements specified in the rules below. Enter your name and class number on the back of the photo. If you wish you may write the details on a sticky label that can later be removed. Hand your photos to the judges before the start of the meeting. Entry is free to members.

#### How the judges 'judge'

It makes our job more interesting if there is a good selection of photos to be judged and the modern digital camera makes it easy for everyone to have a go.

Although judging is largely subjective, we apply the guidance notes shown above to each photo. Is the photo in the right class, is it well exposed, is it in focus, clear of clutter, the minimum of distraction, does it use most of the space in the photo, and is it generally 'looking right'?

You are not limited to entering just one photo, or just one class and we do not expect 'perfect' photographs that would only appear in photography magazines. At the NDFS meeting, once the winners have been declared, we will both be available should you wish to discuss the techniques in any photos. Even if you do not win this time around, it is still a valuable experience to enjoy taking photographs.

And finally ... Good Luck! From The Judges

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION THE RULES

1. You may enter up to three photographs in each class.
2. Enter your name and the class number on the back of each photograph.
3. Maximum size of your photograph to be 7" x 5" unmounted.
4. Fuchsias to be correctly named where possible.
5. Closing time for entries is 7.15pm on the night.
6. The Judges' decision is final.

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION THE CLASSES

Class 1 A close-up of Fuchsia flowers showing not more than THREE open blooms. Buds and foliage are permitted.

Class 2 A branch of a Fuchsia plant showing a number of open blooms. Buds and foliage are permitted.

Class 3 A well-grown Fuchsia plant in any type of container or display. Multi-pots are permitted.

Class 4 Any floral display consisting of single or multiple plants of any type in containers or growing naturally.

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