



Northampton & District Fuchsia Society NEWSLETTER



MAY/JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2022

EDITORIAL

I distributed the Winter/Spring issue of the newsletter a little earlier than usual so was unable to acknowledge the passing of George Dawson.

With other members we did have the pleasure to visit George and Diana in their garden and see George's greenhouses (plural) where he nurtured his fuchsias ready for our Shows. The results of his efforts enabled him to carry off many trophies over the years.

I have trawled through the Fuchsia Show photograph albums and found a few photographs of George to include in this issue

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

with a couple of tributes from members.

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 6.

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 8 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 9 and 10. There will also be a Cut Blooms competition.

I was sorry to miss the talk on composting at the meeting in April. I might have picked up some tips on how to keep our Hot Bin running through the winter. We have always had a problem with insufficient material and had three or four attempts at restarting the bin after moving it into the greenhouse thinking it might keep it frost free. It was not until we had the first cut of grass that we had any success.

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

---ooo000ooo---

ROLLING CALENDAR 2022/23 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

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

May 3rd 2022

Meeting: The Story behind Charles Taylor's Workshop

May 17th 2022

Care & Culture: Plant sale

June 7th 2022

Meeting: Arthur Phillips – The Versatile Fuchsia

June 21st 2022

Care & Culture: Feeding, Watering and Growing On

July 5th 2022

Meeting: Trevor Minett from Northampton Beekeepers Association

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!

January 17th 2023

Care & Culture: Looking after your plants in Winter

February 7th 2023

Meeting: speaker tba

March 7th 2023

Meeting: speaker tba

March 14th 2023

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

April 4th 2023

Meeting: speaker tba

April 18th 2023

Care & Culture: Two tables meeting

ROLLING CALENDAR SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2022/23

?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

Sunday March 5th 2023?

Visit to Jacksons and Hawgrip Nursery

Fri/Sun September 22nd/24th 2023

Festival of Fuchsias, Malvern Autumn Show

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

GEORGE DAWSON

12th October 1928 – 5th January 2022



George at the Fuchsia Show in 2008

Tributes to George Dawson

George joined The Northampton & District Fuchsia Society in 1983, five years before me and was a very active member who soon joined the committee and went on to become a vice-president of our society. George's passion for fuchsias was very evident in the wonderful plants he entered in our shows; he was an excellent grower.

In my early days of showing, I visited George in his garden at Pury End and he was very willing to share his vast knowledge of growing and showing fuchsias and was a regular exhibitor in the BFS national shows; he certainly grew some wonderful plants.

In George's later years he had to cut back on his larger exhibits because they were quite heavy; his hanging baskets in particular were massive. I have not seen many better baskets, especially his favourite, Marinka.

George also had a wonderful vegetable plot and, together with his wife Diana, regularly opened their gardens and greenhouses to our society members. Diana had a lovely garden also providing cut flowers for her passion, flower arranging.

Our deepest condolences go to his wife Diana and his family.

Bob Malin



George and Diana with our late President, Ernie Sayers, pictured at the Fuchsia Show in 2015



A couple of George's entries in the Fuchsia Show in 2005, a year in which he gathered six awards.

We have known George since we joined Northampton & District Fuchsia Society. He was one of the stalwarts of the club. A grower of fuchsias to look up and aspire to. Willing to give advice and encouragement. He was one third of the 3-tables night when you moved round each table in turn to be taught by the expert. His expertise was basket work, either full or half basket. He could also grow good pot plants as well.

We both have fond memories of evenings at his and Diana's home where they invited the Fuchsia Society for a bit of a do. Their gardens always looked so neat and tidy. Tracey used to covet the vegetable patch which was immaculate. How he found time to work, tend to his fuchsias and tend the garden. We suspect he had help from Diana, a lot of help.

You could always ask him questions and he helped us finally get one of Tracey's favourite fuchsias on the show bench - Nellie Nuttall - keep it on the dry side he said. He could grow some good ones of Nellie. He loved to show you round his greenhouse.

It was fitting that George was remembered alongside others past and present who were no longer with us at the BFS AGM 2022.

Clive and Tracey Gould



George collecting awards at the Fuchsia shows in 2005 and 2009

RETURNING TROPHIES

The arrangements for the return of trophies are different this year as Peter Pettitt is not available to perform his usual duties.

Will those members lucky enough to have won a trophy in 2021 please return it (or them if you won more than one!) to St Crispin's Social Club on Friday, 5th August, during the period for setting up your plants for the Show.

Should this not be convenient please contact 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!

---ooo000ooo---

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

www.ndfs.webador.co.uk

---ooo000ooo---

GROWING YOUR FUCHSIAS

May/June/July/August

May is another very active month for the fuchsia grower. Plants should now be growing well and potting on will be a regular occurrence. Do not let your plants get pot bound; regularly check the roots of all plants and pot on to the next size pot as soon as the roots begin to circle round the bottom of the compost. Premature budding may occur if plants are allowed to get pot bound.

If you are growing any of your plants as standards it is even more important not to let them become pot bound. If buds appear at the growing tip growth will almost certainly come to an end and your intended height will not be reached. Remember that all side shoots (with the exception of the top three sets) must be

removed. The leaves, however, must be left on the plant until the head is developed. Make sure that you support your plant stem with a straight cane; secure it with a tie every 2- to 3-inches or so. Pinch out the growing tip when your intended height is reached; the three or four sets of remaining laterals are then developed as that of a bush plant.

If you can get your plants outside, away from strong winds and direct all-day sunlight, you will see a great difference in their leaf colour and general condition. Keep a regular lookout for insect pests; greenfly, whitefly and red spider mite are the main culprits. These pests can ruin a good plant very quickly. They are becoming immune to many of the insecticides so change the insecticide you use during the season.

Shading of your greenhouse is now very important. Temperatures can rise quickly in just a few minutes of sunshine.

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

'Coolglass' is an excellent liquid shading which can be applied with a brush or a sprayer. Shade netting is also very effective and can be removed in periods of dull weather. All vents and windows should be open at every opportunity.

June is the best month for planting hardy varieties of fuchsias. Prepare the soil well, incorporating plenty of well-rotted garden compost or soil improver. Make a saucer shaped depression in the ground, about 12 inches in diameter and about 4 inches deep. Your plant, which should be well grown in a 4- or 5-inch pot, is planted in the centre of the depression. The soil level of the plant should be level with the bottom of the depression when planted. Water well in and add some general fertiliser. Do not attempt to fill the depression but allow it to fill naturally over the remainder of the season. This will result in the root ball being some 4 inches below soil level at the end of the season giving it good protection from winter frosts.

If you are going to show some plants this year check on the stopping dates by referring to your backwards calendar.

July – any hardies planted in the garden last month should be kept well-watered and a balanced liquid fertiliser should be applied every 2 to 3 weeks. It is essential that hardies planted last month are encouraged to grow well all through the season. A good root system will help your plant survive the winter frosts. Give the occasional spray of insecticide to prevent damage from capsid bugs, thrips and gall mite. These are three pests that are difficult to combat with the limited insecticides available to the hobby gardener.

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 finished. The plants, however, still need a lot of attention. Watering, feeding and checking regularly for insects, e.g., greenfly, whitefly and red spider mite. Act

immediately if any problems are found as at this time of year the insect colonies can increase very rapidly.

Be careful with the watering; do not just water for the sake of it. Pick up your plants and look at the root ball. An over-watered plant can look similar to a plant that needs water. Over watering can soon kill a plant off. Hanging pots and baskets need a lot of watering, possibly a good soaking twice a day.

August is show time. The show is the highlight of the year for many of our members, not just the showing side of it but also the staging of the whole show. Erecting of staging, laying the cloth, sorting out the classes, etc.

Most 'showers' clean up their plants well before show day but when the plants are staged there is always that final touching up to be done including such tasks as removing dead leaves, cobwebs, dead flowers, etc. It is also important to tidy up the compost surface; sprinkle some fresh compost over the surface and give a light watering. If you have not shown before give it a go this year.

---ooo000ooo---

PEST CONTROL with MARTIN HYNES **Meeting - 1st March 2022**

Our talk on 1st March was by Martin Hynes of Front Row Services.

Martin is the former Orrell and Northampton Saints rugby player who retired from the game in 1999 after an elbow injury. He set up Front Row Services and also coached Bedford and the Saints, but now runs the business full time.

The company deals with pest control for residential and commercial properties including restaurants, pubs, schools and care homes.

Mice often enter our homes for warmth and can get through the smallest of gaps; interestingly they will not chew through steel wool. They are treated most successfully in

clean homes as if they can't find food will go straight to the bait.

Flying ants which are often a problem during the summer are in fact sexually mature ants leaving the nest to establish new colonies.

Fleas are best treated with veterinary powders, aerosols etc, but more serious infestations need qualified control.

Cluster flies enter our homes in large numbers in Autumn to overwinter and will emerge when sunny and the temperature rises.

Birds are protected by law and licences are needed by the bodies who control them. Bird spikes are effective ways to prevent pigeons landing.

Bed bugs live in cracks and crevices in the bed frame. Their flat shape allows them to hide in spaces a fraction of a millimetre wide. They are wrongly associated with squalor as they can enter a clean establishment like a hotel with travellers from elsewhere.

Front Row deal with the full range of pests; rats, cockroaches, wasps, etc, but this was just a snapshot of a very interesting talk. Who would have thought such a subject could be so fascinating.

Report by Dot Leeke

---ooo000ooo---

SHOWING YOUR FUCHSIAS

Saturday 6th August 2022

Members are urged to make every effort to enter as many plants as they possibly can into our Fuchsia Show on Saturday 6th 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 29th 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 5th August from 1.30pm to 8pm and on Saturday 6th 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 Alan Solomon 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

---ooo000ooo---

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Meeting – 6th September 2022

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

---ooo000ooo---

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.

---ooo000ooo---

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.

---ooo000ooo---

HOT v COLD COMPOSTING with DAVID GARRETT

Meeting – 5th April 2022

The speaker on Tuesday 5th April was David Garrett from Ryton Organic Gardens. He spoke at the July 2018 meeting about general composting, but this time the subject was hot versus cold composting.

The general rules are the same in as much as what to compost, i.e., plants including moss and uncooked food waste.

Cool compost can be kept in a homemade open variety or one of the commercially produced plastic bins.

With hot composting heat is produced by metabolic activity of bacteria, so the more waste put in produces more heat. Bacteria digest more waste at higher temperatures (up to 70°C) therefore hot creates compost more quickly. As a rough guide it can take 12 months for cool compost to decompose and 12 days for a hot heap.

In a Hot Bin, temperatures of 40°C – 60°C can be achieved, producing mulch in 7-30 days, and compost in 30 – 90 days. All food waste can be added, and it can even kill weed seeds.

There was a discussion about the different types of bins and how much they cost, which depends on personal choice and circumstances.

It was another very enjoyable talk from David.

Report by Dot Leeke

---- ooOOOoo ---

Reprinted from Fuchsia News Spring 2022

Festival of Fuchsias

2023 will be the 85th year of the BFS and we will be celebrating it in style!!

Where - as part of the Malvern Autumn Show in the Harvest Pavilion. The already large pavilion will be expanded in 2023 so that it can accommodate not only the usual (including our own) shows, but also our "Festival of Fuchsias"

When – 22nd to 24th September

What – We are only at the early stages of planning at the moment, however there will be a combination of displays both educational and full of flowers, mini talks and demonstrations. On the Friday and Saturday evenings we are planning on having special guest speakers as well as a meal. We will be able to give more information as time progresses!

Can I get involved?! – A resounding yes!!

Displays – we are hoping that both groups and individuals will put on stands – if you are interested in knowing more – please contact me. (carol.gubler@outlook.com) Each stand will get 6 tickets to the show each day.

Talks, demonstrations and being part of the team – we will be needing help on all of these – again please get in touch – we might not have a job for you immediately, but we will need you!

Visiting the event – as it is part of the show (which is vast!), we will be subsidising entry for BFS members to the show (a one day ticket) – again more details nearer the time.

We look forward to seeing you there!!

We are really hoping that you would like to get involved and we are taking this opportunity to get you up to date with the plans so far and to see if you would like to get involved in this one-off celebration at a fantastic event!

However, please try and have a chat with the rest of your committee and then let me know if you would like to come! Even if you are unable to put on stand then perhaps you or some of your members could get involved as a helper that weekend!

Anyway, I do hope that you will make the most of this opportunity and come and join us at the Malvern Autumn Show

---- ooOOOoo ---

