

NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTS FUCHSIA SOCIETY

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

JAYNE'S JOTTINGS

I looked out the window one very gloomy morning and looked to see if there was any life to be seen. Now, I must have said previously that I do not like roses. Yet, on this particular day, it was a rose in full bloom in December, that put a smile on my face. I find the shrubs ugly and when the flowers drop, so messy; I almost forgave it when it was producing such colour on such a dull day.

However, after further scrutiny, I noticed flowers on some of my hebes and blossom on the forsythia and bulbs were starting to emerge, just to prove to us how resilient Nature is and perhaps Spring is just around the corner.

RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 2024 – 26TH TO 28TH JANUARY 2024

Doesn't it come round quick! Yes, once again, I'll be on the lookout; watching bird activity in the garden for an hour and reporting back to RSPB. At the moment, our back garden is perfect for wildlife. As it has been left unattended for so long, perfect for birds to hide. That will be the problem - finding them! However at mum's, we readily sit in the lounge looking out at the many sparrows feasting on the fat balls, sometimes as many as eight! (I bet I don't see that many when I'm on Bird Watch!)

Sadly, we had an unexpected visitor – a Sparrowhawk. It flew down into the Mahonia, it took me by surprise. It flew up and landed on the ground, clutching a poor defenceless sparrow in its talons. Yes, I know, it's only nature, and the Sparrowhawk has to eat! Even so, I quickly ran outside in an attempt to rescue the sparrow, but to no avail, the Sparrowhawk flew off, still holding onto the sparrow. At least I wasn't left with a mass of feathers to clear up – they are messy eaters!

In hindsight, what I should have done was grab my phone and take a picture! Didn't think of that till after the event and after I'd calmed down a bit!

POEM OF THE MONTH

WANDERING OFF AGAIN by Liz Cowley from 'Outside in My Dressing Gown

I wandered miserable as sin
Around the garden, bleak and bare,
And cried to see the state within
With plants and flowers dying there –
Within the borders, round the trees,
No blossoms blowing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle as the milky way
There stood a never-ending line
Of plants once gorgeous, dead today.
Two hundred saw I at a glance, not tossing

Quite oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant and in pensive mood,
They flash upon my inward eye
And spoil my winter solitude.
And then my heart with sadness fills,
I'll have to wait for daffodils.

You wandered lonely as a cloud,
But happy, wandering in Spring,
I wandered out in Wintertime,
And didn't see as blooming thing
Except the work I had to do –

now in sprightly dance.	I felt depressed, so unlike you.
The wind beside them danced, but they No longer bobbed and pranced in glee, As all of them had passed away – gone, all that jocund company. I gazed, I cried, and sadly thought – The flowering season's all too short.	
<i>Apologies to William Wordsworth</i>	

SOCIETY NEWS

MEMBERSHIP 2024

REMINDER: - If you haven't renewed your membership for 2024, please can I ask that this is completed by end of January 2024 to ensure that you get your **FREE** cuttings in **MARCH** – yes March this year. (See below)

FREE CUTTINGS: - As you may be aware, Jacksons Nurseries have ceased trading which means we have had to find another supplier. We have decided on Moores Nurseries as we already have a good relationship with them. However, after discussions with the nursery, it has been agreed that we have the cuttings a month later – in March.

RHS GARDEN ENTRY DISCOUNT CARD



RHS have introduced a discount card to be used by our members. It offers two adults a 50% discount off entry to any RHS Garden (i.e. **Bridgewater; Harlow Carr; Hyde Hall, Rosemoor and Wisley**) with unlimited use until it expires 31 January 2024, with the exception of Flower Shows and Glow illumination events.

If you are interested in taking up this offer at any time, please let me know.

We have decided to return to **Stapleford Methodist Church** to hold our 52nd Annual Show
Full Address: -

**STAPLEFORD METHODIST CHURCH
EATON'S ROAD
STAPLEFORD
NOTTINGHAM
NG9 7EA**

*****It will remain a ONE DAY show. The date is 10th AUGUST 2024*****



USED STAMPS – WANTED!

If anyone has any used stamps – I'd be glad to take them off your hands. Bob collects these and sends them off to the RSPB.

Many Thanks x

EXHIBITORS, JUDGES & STEWARDS RULE BOOK – 2024

Please note that the BFS have revised the above handbook, so there are a few changes that we will have to be aware of. Most of the amendments just add clarity: -

FLOWERS – GENERAL –

ADDITION – 'ideally the pollen is just breaking on the anthers'

For Bush; Shrub; Standards, Hanging Baskets & Pots - Interconnecting supports constitute a framework which is not allowed and **will be deemed to be NAS and a judge's comment card placed by the exhibit.** (Please note for fans, espaliers, decorative standard, pyramids, any other shape etc, interconnecting supports remain acceptable.)

Greater use of Judge's comment cards to explain their decisions.

More attention is to be given to the proportion of pot to plant: - with plants that are either too small or too large.

Prematurely opened buds remain unacceptable **but additionally will be down-pointed.**

DECORATIVE STANDARD – a clearer, comprehensive ruling/description has been given to differentiate between: - A PLAITED STEM STANDARD, A TWISTED STEM STANDARD and A MULTI STEMMED STANDARD – if you are planning to show these, it is definitely worth purchasing the new rulebook.

SPECIES AND VARIANTS EXCLUDING ENCLIANDRA – Decorative fruit should be allowed to develop as an added attraction, but it is desirable but not essential **and a lack of fruit will be deemed detrimental and lead to the exhibit being down pointed.**

SPECIES AND VARIANTS EXCLUDING ENCLIANDRA – Plants in this section must be correctly named **and should be spelt correctly.**

ENCLIANDRA SECTION - Decorative fruit/seed pods must be allowed to develop as an added attraction, but it is desirable but not essential **and a lack of fruit will be deemed detrimental and lead to the exhibit being down pointed.**

TRIPHYLLA SECTION - Plants in this section must be correctly named **and should be spelt correctly.**

Care must be taken not to confuse an array of buds as open flowers especially on the larger exhibits.

PRESENTATION

5. Addition of the word **ACTIVE** Red Spider Mite, Rust or Fuchsia Gall mite...

JUDGING PROCEDURE

7. **Addition** of the word **ACTIVE** Red Spider Mite, Rust or Fuchsia Gall mite...
10. **Amendment:** - Separate comment cards to read Judge's report cards.
16. **Amendment:** - Judges should be available to answer questions for at least one hour to read Judges **MUST**...
18. **Amendment:** - Comment cards have been replaced with **Judges' Report cards**

STEWARDS GUIDELINES

Additional check: - Check and ensure that there is a clear view from the front of all Bonsai exhibits. Only moving exhibits with the agreement of the exhibitor.

9. **Addition** – Hands etc, must be cleaned after handling the exhibits.

DURING JUDGING A STEWARD MUST

1. **Addition:** - ... and should not converse with the judge/s unless spoken to first.
2. **Addition:** - Not handle exhibits unless requested.
6. **Addition:** - ... and ensure that all 1st place cards remain face down until all trophies and awards have been judged.

EXHIBITORS RULES

7. **Addition:** - **Species, Hardies and Triphyllas**...Exhibits in these classes cannot be marked as 'Unknown'.
11. **Addition:** - Species which are not on the Show List can be exhibited in the 'Catch All' class.
12. **Addition:** - ...**Triphyllas which are not on the BFS Triphylla List can be exhibited in the Triphylla Type class.**

HARDIES; TRIPHYLLA & SPECIES LIST

A revision of these lists have been made this year, so please familiarise yourself with the lists to ensure that your exhibit is put in the correct class come show day.

BRING AND BUY STALL

We will be holding a **Bring and Buy stall** every month to help raise funds for the Society and to support the cost of running our Annual Shows.

Please can you bring along any unwanted items to our monthly meetings to help our Society.

Many Thanks x

WAYS TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

As a society our membership is sadly reducing and therefore the Committee would be very grateful if anyone has any suggestions on how we can promote our society and ultimately increase membership. **Please let anyone on the Committee know.**

Many Thanks x

TONIGHT'S SPEAKER

Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, tonight's speaker, John Palmer has had to cancel. In his place, Geoff Smith will be our speaker. I am not sure what Geoff will be talking to us about – a Mystery Topic, but I am sure it will be worth listening to.

Thank you Geoff for stepping in at such short notice.

PLANNER FOR 2024

23 JANUARY	MONTHLY MEETING – SPEAKER: Geoff Smith Subject: TBC – see above
27 FEBRUARY	MONTHLY MEETING – SPEAKER: John Nicholass Subject: <i>Fuchsia cuttings in peat free compost.</i> **ZOOM**
26 MARCH	MONTHLY MEETING Subject: Buffet & Free Cuttings
23 APRIL	MONTHLY MEETING – SPEAKER: Ric Reilly Subject: Orchids **ZOOM**
28 MAY	MONTHLY MEETING – SPEAKER: Mike Davey Subject: Allotment Gardening
25 JUNE	MONTHLY MEETING – SPEAKER: Jeff Bates Subject: Herbaceous Plants and Borders
27 JULY	MONTHLY MEETING – SPEAKER: Paul Leatherdale Subject: Show Talk **ZOOM**
10 AUGUST	NOTTINGHAM & NOTTS FUCHSIA SOCIETY – ANNUAL SHOW – Stapleford Methodist Church, Stapleford, Nottingham
17 AUGUST	DERBY & DISTRICT FUCHSIA SOCIETY – ANNUAL SHOW - Grange Hall, Park Lane, Littleover, Derby
18 AUGUST	BFS MIDLAND SHOW – Palmers Garden Centre, Ullesthorpe
27 AUGUST	MONTHLY MEETING – Subject: Trophy Presentation
24 SEPTEMBER	MONTHLY MEETING – SPEAKER: Andrew Cathcart Subject: Overwintering Fuchsias **ZOOM**
22 OCTOBER	TBC
26 NOVEMBER	AGM & SOCIAL EVENING