



NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTS FUCHSIA SOCIETY

JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

JAYNE'S JOTTINGS

After experiencing record high temperatures – do I dare ask ‘how are your plants doing?’ it has indeed been a scorcher! I hope you all have survived the extreme heat. Yes, we must look after the elderly; our friends & family; ourselves and our pets. This leaves looking after our plants pretty low on the priority list! So, if your priorities are anything like mine - plants are way down the list – my mum’s plants come before my own!

I prefer to use small watering cans – I can monitor the amount of water each plant gets – but I have succumbed to using the hose. I normally just water containers and leave rainfall to take care of the borders etc. However, due to the lack of rainfall (and before they impose a hosepipe ban!) I have indeed resorted to using the hosepipe, filling up the pond and water butts as I go along! Sadly I had neglected the pond area completely and sadly I am left with crispy leaved Acers and a very dried up contorted willow! So I watered the surrounding area – stumpery; rockery, pond area and am just hoping for the best!

18/7 (1st official day of heatwave) – I noticed how sad my hardy fuchsias were looking in the front garden, and some ferns and young fuchsia cuttings were looking very limp, so, once again, out came the hose and gave the front borders a real drenching.

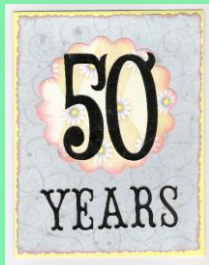
With shading covering most of my fuchsias which are situated in the more exposed areas of the garden, I still hope that some will survive and make it onto the show bench!

Here are a few casualties: -



As always when I wander around the garden, I find so many jobs I need to do; -

- Stumpery – mulch & weed as well as cut down a tall conifer
- Rockery – clear and start from scratch
- Bonsai area – redesign
- Lawn – mow!
- Nettle area – I have willow herb growing amongst the nettles and sapling has taken root - I can't believe I need to weed this!
- Front border – cut back bleeding heart – should have been done late Spring!
- Fuchsia cuttings – still need to be potted on, if survived this heat!



DOWN MEMORY LANE

1999 - 2002

In **1999**, our society was approached by O.P.F.C.S.F.S Association to put on a display and a possible show at Wollaton Hall over the August Bank Holiday. A 3 Day event with the chance of raising substantial funds (over £600) for the Society.

It was in November this year that various societies and associations joined forces with the aim of selling plants and the proceeds split equally between the different societies: -

Old Park Farm Association
Nottingham & Notts Chrysanthemum Society
Nottingham & Notts Fuchsia Society

Thus the Association was named: - OPS.CS.FS Association

Plant sales venues were held at Wollaton Park; Arnott Hill; Locko Park; Old Park Farm show; Riverside Festival; Arboretum – raised £280 in 2000 and continued to raise funds in the following years until it was disbanded in 2004.

Demonstration table – In **2002** Colin Pattinson suggested we had a demonstration table at the show to advise the public on how to take cuttings and to give general maintenance advice.

ROLL OF MERIT/TRIVIA DATA

Award Presentation – many ‘celebrities’ over the years have been asked to present the awards – many were Mayor or Mayoress of Broxtowe as they kindly donated funds to our Society, but also other well-known personalities.

Free Cuttings – I haven’t been able to determine when Free cuttings were first introduced. However, I can confirm that the Free cutting class was introduced into the schedule in 2001 and that in 2007 it was decided to be an ‘unnamed’ cultivar, and the name of the cultivar was revealed on show day. The 1st ‘unnamed’ cultivar was ‘Heidi Ann’, this caused a stir as it was a double and had different stopping times, so it was agreed that future cultivars would be a single cultivar.

*****SEE NOTICEBOARD FOR FURTHER DETAILS*****

PAST ARTICLE – *taken from July 2012 newsletter*

EXHIBITING

Fuchsias are essentially plants of the people, the majority of gardeners wishing to enjoy their exotic beauty in house, greenhouse or garden. However, there is a body of enthusiasts who have an inborn competitiveness. Showing fuchsias encourages excellence in cultivation, which is no bad thing, and much of what is written here can help to improve fuchsias in home and garden as well.

FINDING OUT ABOUT SHOWING

Before entering into the show world it is important to find out at first hand what is involved, not just in the cultivation of the plants, but also the results that are expected. An indication of the standards to be reached can be more quickly and readily appreciated by a visit to a specialist show.

To find out exactly what a judge looks for, consider being a steward for a day (there are special courses available). Many stewards ask judges if they will give reasons for their decisions, and in a close finish for an award it may be just a small factor like a dirty pot or label that will tip the balance. The top of the pot may be covered with moss or algae, or perhaps have one or two lingering dead leaves or flowers on it – presentation is so very important. All such points will be freely imparted by most judges, giving a real insight into the show world.

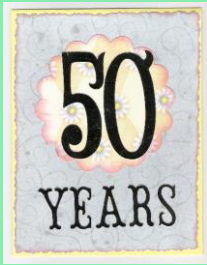
The annual show is the shop window of any local fuchsia society. Lecturers have encouraged members to improve their techniques during the winter months, and show day is when their advice is put to the test. It is tremendous fun being involved with the annual show, especially as an exhibitor. Even when the greenhouse looks full of plants that are too far gone or not quite ready, take a chance and exhibit – it is much more satisfying being a participant than a spectator. If your plants are not ready on the day, those of many fellow members are likely to be similarly placed. So, in fact, any well-grown plant should have a chance of a card. Remember, too, that a plant always looks better when properly staged on a show bench than when growing in a greenhouse.

A GUIDE TO DRESSING

1. Make sure that all plants are free from pests and diseases.
2. Remove all spotted, yellow or discoloured leaves.
3. Remove any marked or faded blossoms.
4. Remove seed pods or berries, except on species and those referred to as species types.
5. Make sure that pots are clean and not cracked, chipped or split (use new pots).
6. Scrape stale compost and debris from the pot surface. Replace with fresh compost.
7. Adjust any branches that are out of place. Tie them in discreetly with green twine and stake carefully if necessary.
8. Lift out any blooms and buds that are hidden by foliage.
9. Water well on the morning of the show, wetting only the compost, never the flowers or foliage.
10. Provide a new, clear, well-written label.

A GUIDE TO STAGING

1. Check that entries are correct: single-flowered plants in single classes, semi-double in single or multi-pot classes, double-flowered plants in double classes.
2. Check that labelling is complete and correct.
3. Tease out any leaves or blossoms that have become misplaced on the journey.
4. Remove any fading leaves and blossoms.
5. Move each plant around until its best side is facing the judges.
6. In classes for multiport entries, raise the rear plants up slightly by placing an upturned saucer under them. Never balance plants upon an upturned plant pot; this is too precarious.
7. When an odd plant in multiport entries is smaller than the rest, place it at the front of the exhibit. Those behind do not then require raising at all.
8. Do not water plants before judging takes place. It does not endear the judge to your exhibit if she or he gets soaked when examining a plant, and if you use a saucer this often sticks to the pot and can cause damage when it drops off, as well as splashing water everywhere to the general detriment of the exhibit. (When the show is longer than a single day, saucers are usually placed beneath each plant by a member of the show committee to permit watering).
9. When you think that you have finished staging your exhibits, look around at the competition. Will your plants compete satisfactorily? If not, is there anything else that you can do by way of presentation to ensure that they do?



WHAT ELSE HAPPENED 50 YEARS AGO?

1st – Missy Elliott born
3rd – Jim Morrison died
6th – Louis Armstrong died
14th – Howard Webb born
19th – Vitali Klitschko born

POEM OF THE MONTH

TIME TO LET THINGS GO A BIT by Liz Cowley 'Gardening in Slippers)	
Let the ramblers ramble, Let self-sowers sow. Too much order – boring. At times, let gardens go.	Let it do its own thing. You may well find your show Becomes a lot more pleasing Without your fork and hoe!
Don't go out there strimming. Leave the place to grow. Forget about the trimming – At least a month or so.	

I think this may become my motto!

FUCHSIAS IN MY GARDEN



◀ AUTUMNALE – Meteor 1880

This is my favourite ornamental foliage fuchsia. As you can see, the leaves are so bright and colourful. However, very difficult to train into a decent shape – but not impossible!



GROWING FUCHSIAS



◀ It is now important to keep deadheading and turning your plant to ensure even growth and even flowers, especially if you are wanting to exhibit.

Regular watering and feeding to ensure your plant remains healthy.

PROJECT 3 - COMBINATIONS



◀ Back in April, as I was checking over my fuchsias following winter, I was saddened to spot only two out of three plants had survived. F. Hawkshead had failed. I took some more cuttings in order to replace.

Now I have a suitable cutting of F. Hawkshead, I can plant it and hope it survives the winter! ➤



This pot houses 3 different cultivars; - Our Pam; Lillie Maye; Lauren. Pam was my sister; Lillie-Maye and Lauren are names of two of her grandchildren ➤



SOCIETY NEWS

13 th /14 th August	<u>Nottingham & Notts Fuchsia Society 50th Annual Show</u> - this year, the Annual show is returning to Attenborough Village Hall, Attenborough Lane, Nottingham, NG8 1FG. Open to the public; Sat - 1.30p.m to 5p.m and Sun - 10a.m to 4p.m. Admission - £1. Refreshments; Plant stall; Cake stall and Craft stall. Everyone is welcome.
20 th August	<u>Derby & District Fuchsia & Gardening Club Annual Show</u> -The show will be held on the 3 rd Saturday in August (as usual) at the Grange Hall Community Centre, Park Lane, Littleover, Derby, DE23 6FX. Please make a note in your diaries.
21 st August	<u>BFS MIDLAND SHOW</u> - open 12.30p.m - 3.30p.m at Palmers Garden centre, Lutterworth Road, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire, LE17 5DR
23 RD August	<u>TROPHY PRESENTATION</u>
28 th August	<u>Beauvale Horticultural Show</u> - RETURNS! Open from 1p.m to 4p.m at Greasley Sports & Community Centre, Dovecote Road, Newthorpe, Notts, NG16 3QN
10 th /11 th September	<u>Long Eaton & District Horticultural Society Autumn Show</u> - held at the Coronation Hall, Portland Road, Toton, Nottingham NG9 6EE - 2.00p.m to 5.00p.m on the Saturday and 10.0am to 3.45p.m Sunday. ADMISSION FREE.
27 th September	<u>OVERWINTERING FUCHSIAS</u> - monthly meeting, Speaker - Derek Luther at Wollaton Park Community Centre, Harrow Road, Wollaton, starts at 7.30p.m.
25 th October	<u>HOSTAS</u> - monthly meeting, Speaker Robert Barlow at Wollaton Park Community Centre, Harrow Road, Wollaton, starts at 7.30p.m.
22 nd November	<u>AGM & CHRISTMAS BUFFET</u> - at Wollaton Park Community Centre, Harrow Road, Wollaton, starts at 7.30p.m.