

Fuchsia News July 2015

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Dear All

Summer has arrived at last – although as we probably say every year – it is all a bit topsy turvy! I think it is the combination of chilly nights and some very hot days!

As usual a few notes before we start!

- Please feel free to use the contents of this newsletter in your own publications!
- Please remember to check if your affiliation fees are still outstanding, if they are this is why you haven't had your show awards! To save a panic – please contact me as soon as possible! If you are uncertain then please contact me – sooner rather than later
- At an Affiliated Society show some years ago - some BFS members insisted that they were able to get in for free as it was a part of their membership to the BFS. If anyone does suggest that this is so - the answer is no! BFS membership only covers the Regional BFS shows and definitely not yours. Also please can you point out to anyone who thinks that as they are a member of your society that they are automatically a member of the BFS – which they are not! It is you the Society that are affiliated and not the members!

Arthur's Articles

A Mad Scheme:

As some of you may know, my fuchsias are left to their own devices when we visit Nancy's Sister in the United States, these being left for anything from two to four weeks, but never longer, the longer spells being between end of September and end of January.

For some reason while we were in the United States we decided we would try and root some cuttings of some plants we had brought from the Northwest Fuchsias Society plant sales, just to see if we could actually get fuchsias rooted in nineteen days. Some did actually root in that time.

From that idea a mad scheme has evolved where we are going to see if we can keep fuchsias growing on through the winter in the US without access to a heated greenhouse. Also without us being there to attend to them. The plan is to use an thermostatically controlled electric heating mat to provide bottom heat and grow lights on a time switch to provide the light, this being set up in the corner of the sister in laws garage which is semi below ground and therefore frost free. We will use either an American dry leaf watering system, or rely on the sister in law to keep the plants watered - probably a little of both

We will be in the United States for a month running from 19th October until 20th November, so we should during this time be able to set the scheme up and gauge the results. I am even contemplating taking some hard wood cuttings from the UK to see if I can get this to root and shoot so that I can take soft wood cuttings during that time.

Mad it may be **but** if it works out it will be very satisfying if it does, to be able to grow fuchsias on both sides of the pond, and also prove the versatility of the fuchsia. Nancy's Sister already has a fair collection of fuchsias which she over winters in her garage successfully so we know that the frost does not penetrate into there so we are part of the way there, if the scheme works we will be able to extend the existing fuchsia collection. One problem we have encountered over there is that on Nancy's recent visit she has discovered that the free range chickens have added fuchsia leaves and flower buds to their diet, which as meant the relocation of the low level fuchsias.

Affecting a Change:

When talking with the late Ken Pilkington about the multi-planting of fuchsias. Ken always maintained that if the fuchsias were planted together as cuttings it would affect the growth habit of some cultivars, and the effect on different cultivars could be markedly different.

Although I have multi-planted in the past but always putting the fuchsias together in a pot after they had rooted I had never noticed to much difference in the growth habit multi-planting in that way. This year I have been striking some multi-potting planting specific cuttings with the aim of multi-potting (using four around the outside one in the centre, I root using 2inch square pots). With the aim of getting larger plants quicker for use on displays. Using this method I have noticed that some of long jointed cultivars are significantly shorter jointed giving me a more compact plant, certainly much more compact than they would be planted singularly.

One of the cultivars that has pleased me in growing it in this way is a long jointed hardy cultivar from the late John Robson from Adelaide, this is *Celtic Night*, a beautiful small flowered hardy cultivar which is very easy to propagate, but it certainly has when planted singularly a very long jointed rangy growth habit. While working on my fuchsias I have thought of several other cultivars that I have in my collection that might benefit from being multi-planted in this manner to see if will affect their growth habit a give me a more compact plant.

It will be interesting to hear how Arthur's plans succeed!

John's Jottings!

Bits and Pieces Summer 2015

Composts a follow up

In this ever changing world of composts I find many of the composts based on recycled materials tend to be a bit inconsistent from bag to bag, and many contain strange components such as shredded conifer wood. If you think about where most of the green and brown waste used for recycling into compost comes from, our own gardens, would you really like to grow your fuchsias in that. Also it will depend on the time of year as in the spring and summer it is more green waste and in the autumn and the winter it is more brown waste like pruned wood and fallen leaves, so it isn't surprising it is inconsistent by nature

I am still trying to use mainly moss peat based compost and I am always on the lookout for suitable composts. Currently my normal mix consists of;

LIDL Multipurpose	100% Peat	4 parts
Shamrock Multipurpose	100% Peat	4 parts
B&Q Multipurpose	59% Peat	4 parts
Irish Moss Peat	100% Peat	2 parts
Cornish Grit		1 part
Perlite		1 part

A big change for me this year is switching from Vermiculite to Perlite. The cost of Vermiculite is getting too much, but I still use it in my cutting mix. Perlite is more rigid and retains its structure well so will help more as a drainage aid, while Vermiculite is much better at retaining moisture and nutrients.

Anybody else got any thoughts or suggestions? Please let us know!

After this piece was in the last Fuchsia News, Alan Wigley from the Kingsley & Moorlands Fuchsia & Geranium Society emailed Carol to say he had used a 50lt bag of the B&Q compost to plant up some bedding plants including some fuchsias and geraniums and they had all died, while plants in different compost were fine. I have used this compost for a few years with good results, but looking online at comments left by other people I could see there were several complaints about it! Somewhat worried, I have opened up one of the new 125lt bags bought in February, and the compost has a different smell, rather musty. I have dried out trays from an old bag and a new bag and visually it looks like there is less moss peat in it, hence it has a higher recycled content or some of the moss peat has been replaced by sedge peat.

I have planted up pairs of 6 different fuchsias, some I consider easy to grow, and some which are a bit fussier, straight from the rooting cells into 6cm (2½") pots, one in the "new compost", one in the "old compost", with no other additives. I have grown them on side by side and this is what happened.

The pairs of fuchsias used were a mixture of single, double upright and trailing. The varieties were 'Emily Eve', 'Frank Saunders', 'Golden Marinka', 'Postiljon', 'President Carol Gubler' and 'Widnes Wonder'. These were picked as the pairs of cuttings looked pretty identical in the rooting cells. Of these varieties I consider 'Golden Marinka' and 'President Carol Gubler' to be the most fussy. After about 4 weeks in 6cm pots, the 'Golden Marinka' in the "new compost" had died. All the other plants were doing OK, with the same number of stops on each plant, but except for 'Widnes Wonder', the plants in the "new compost" were very slightly behind those growing in the old compost. They were all moved on to 7.5cm (3") using respectively the "old compost" and the "new compost". After another 4 weeks they have all survived and grown more. The result is still similar to the 6cm pot stage. Both sets of plants have been OK, the pair of Widnes Wonder, look pretty much the same, in all the other pairs the ones in the "new compost" are slightly behind the ones in the "old compost".

Show Directory BFS Annual

John Nicholass

As the Editor of the BFS I have been thinking of doing something different for including details of affiliated society shows within the BFS Annual. That is to create a show directory which would include details of all affiliated society shows through the summer (July to September) in date order. My thought is that the cost would be included in the affiliation fee and all affiliated societies would contact the Editor with their show details. Societies would have the option to place an advert instead in which case their directory entry could be credited against the advert cost, or they could choose to have both.

This was briefly aired at the June BFS committee meeting and it was felt the best course of action was to contact the affiliated societies for your views, which I am doing via Fuchsia News.

I have created a draft layout of the page based on 2015 annual adverts which you can see below. In terms of cost a full page monochrome advert is currently £110. Assuming I could fit 12 entries on each page on average this would work out at £9.20p per entry. This compares with £14.50 for an eighth page or £28 for a quarter page advert. The amount is of course a first estimate and it would be up to the BFS committee to set the actual amount which may be lower if the majority of you supported the idea.

Date/Time	Society and Show	Venue
Sat 18 th July 1:30 - 4	Shropshire Fuchsia Society 14 th Annual Fuchsia Show	St John's Church Hall, Northgate, Brignorth WV16 4ER
Sat 18 th July 2 - 5pm Sun 19 th July 11 - 4pm	Stevenage & District Fuchsia Society 28 th Annual Show	Knebworth Village Hall, Park Way, Knebworth SG3 6PD
Sat 25 th July 1:30 -5pm Sun 26 th July 12 - 4pm	Clacton & District Fuchsia Society 26 th Annual Show	St James Church Hall, Tower Road, Clacton-on-Sea CP15 1LE
Sat 25 th July 1 -5pm Sun 26 th July 10 - 4pm	Enfield & District Fuchsia Society 48 th Annual Fuchsia Show	Capel Manor & Gardens, Bullsmoor lane, Enfield Middlesex EN1 4RQ
Sat 1 st August 12 - 5:00 Sun 2 nd August 10 -3:30	Ashtead & Dorking Fuchsia Group Annual Fuchsia Show	Squires Garden Centre, Epsom Road, West Horsley Surrey KT24 6AR
Sat 1 st August 12 - 4:30pm	Bristol Fuchsia & Geranium Society 36 th Annual Fuchsia Show	St Luke's Church Hall, Glenarm Walk, Brislington, Bristol BS4 4LS
Sat 1 st August 10 - 6pm Sun 2 nd August 10 -5pm	Northampton & District Fuchsia Society Two Day Show	Harlestone Heath Garden Centre, Harlestone, Northampton NN5 6UJ
Sat 1 st August 12 - 4:30pm	Woking Fuchsia Group Annual Fuchsia Show	The Salvation Army Church, Sythwood, Goldsworth Park Woking GU21 3 BE
Sat 8 th August opens 2pm	Windsor & Slough Chrysanthemum, Pelargonium and Fuchsia Society 116 th Annual Fuchsia Show	Gardeners Hall, 213, St Leonards Road, Windsor SL4 3DR
Sat 8 th August opens 2pm	Guildford Fuchsia Group Annual Fuchsia Show	Ripley Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF
Sat 15 th August 12:30 to 5pm	Derby & District Fuchsia & Gardening Club Annual Fuchsia Show	Swarkstone Nursery, Lowes Lane, Swarkstone, Derby DE73 7EQ

The draft table above is formatted at the size to fit on the standard A5 page of the Annual.

So my questions to you are the following:

1. Would you in principle support the idea?
2. Is there any other detail you would like to see included within the directory entry?
3. Have you got any other ideas or suggestions to improve the idea?
4. What do you think is a reasonable cost for this?

If you would like to send me any feedback, give me a ring or send me an email to editor@thebfs.org.uk

A Blank Page or Screen – Derek Luther

This is what the future holds for you. The talk is all about saving The Planet. No it is not! It is about saving mankind. The planet will still evolve long after mankind becomes extinct. However extinction is much closer to home than you might think. Just look around the audience at your next meeting, where are the young, and no I do not mean the young “young”, but the forty to fifty year olds?

In my travels giving talks and judging shows and conversing with the members of those clubs it is becoming more evident that nearly all clubs are in crisis especially those where members have to participate by displaying their produce or handicrafts. The more clubs that cease to exist the smaller the pool gets from where we draw showmen, speakers and judges and their expertise will be lost. I have around one hundred and forty different books on how to grow fuchsias but the best source of information is from the spoken word by those that are growing and showing who are able to articulate the nuances that books lack. My fear is that eventually the pool of skilled gardeners in all the dimensions of the subject will disappear and we will be left with the BBC coverage of Chelsea and the Show Gardens. Just stare at this screen until you see the answer.



If you discover the correct channel let Derek Luther know or any other member of the BFS committee.

Thanks Derek

A few more Fuchsia Shows

Enfield and District Fuchsia Society Summer show at Capel Manor Bullsmore Lane, Enfield EN1 4RQ on the 25th and 26th July 2015 Entry on the 25th from 1pm and on the 26th 10am.

Chelmsford & District Fuchsia Society 30th Anniversary Display Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd August 10am-5pm, at St John Payne School Patching Hall Lane Chelmsford CM1 4BS .

Camborne-Redruth Fuchsia Society 26th Annual Show is on Sunday 2nd August, 2015 at Camborne Science and International Academy, Cranberry Road, Camborne, TR14 7PP. Doors open to the public from 1:00pm to 4:30pm, with hundreds of exhibits, a huge variety of fuchsia (always more than 100 different fuchsias on show), plants sales, a raffle, tombola and refreshments, culminating with an auction of some of the stunning exhibits.

Craven & District Fuchsia & Geranium Show Sunday 9th August 2015 West Street Gargrave Skipton, BD23 3RD
Open to the public 12 – 5pm BFS in attendance. Raffle, Plant sales & Refreshments
Contact Mrs Paula Jackson 01756 752175 email pjackson1951@talktalk.net

The Heald Green Show on the 22nd August 2015 - at St.Catherine's Church Centre, Outwood Road, Heald Green. Cheadle. Cheshire.SK8 3JQ. Further details from Mike Savage on 0161-437-4207.

Fuchsia Event!

The event will take place on Thursday 13th August in the Greenhouse at Percy Thrower's, a Wyevale Garden Centre in Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Below is a brief description about what the talk will be about:

"Shrewsbury Flower Show is just around the corner and to get you into the swing of things why not come along to our expert talk on Thursday 13th August which will be all about fuchsias, Percy Thrower himself & keeping your garden blooming with colour throughout August.

Our Horticulture Expert Harry has a fountain of knowledge about plants, gardening and history of horticulture, come along and enjoy what a wonderful Garden Centre Percy Thrower's is!

It is perfect opportunity to ask our Horticulture Expert all the questions you want about gardening. 3pm - 4pm
Pre-book only £4. 50 per person includes talk, demonstration & refreshments You will also be able to book on line!

For more information please email

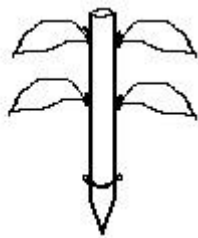
TheGreenhouse@wyevalegardencentres.co.uk<mailto:TheGreenhouse@wyevalegardencentres.co.uk

Percy Thrower was a real fuchsia enthusiast!

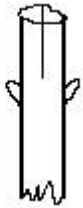
Grafting Fuchsias as by Ernie Cox *Bournemouth & Poole Fuchsia Society.*

1. Use a hardy variety to start with, as they are easier to get through the winter.
2. Having grown your standard to the required height, grow on as normal for the first year.
3. At the end of September in the Northern Hemisphere cut the standard's head back by one third. Remove all the leaves and spray against diseases as a preventive measure.
4. You will find that your standard comes back into leaf again after three or four weeks.
5. Now it is a case of keeping the standard in leaf through the winter. Minimum Temperature required is approximately 40 F (4.5 C).
6. In early March prune head back hard to produce new shoots where your grafting will take place.
7. In the first week of May or earlier if you can maintain a constant temperature of 55 F (12 C) Prune the standard back to the first node on the new growth.
8. This is the point (stock) where the grafting takes place. Take a cutting (scion), preferably a single, from a plant that has been well watered several hours before.
9. This cutting (scion) is trimmed below the third from tip leaf node leaving sufficient stem below the node to cut it into a wedge shape.
10. The cutting (Scion) is then inserted into the stock which has been carefully slit vertically.
11. This union is tied together using raffia and then a polythene bag is tied on to cover the cutting.
12. At no time should the standard now be subjected to any sunshine until the graft has taken which, with luck, will be between four and five weeks.

You can do this as many times as the stock will allow and you can use different varieties on the same head.



Scion



Stock

Many years ago there was a great standard fuchsia at Merrist Wood College that had about 20 different fuchsias within the head!

BFS Bits

Top Ten 2015

It is that time of the year again and I do need your help!

A special request to all show managers. Please can you send me the results of the 3.5", 5", 6.5" or the metric equivalent, and any size pot classes. Listing if possible the cultivars that came first, second and third - it helps with my points system. Also I would like if possible the results of the basket, half basket and hanging pot classes.

No extras this year!

I really appreciate that it makes a lot of extra work on show day there is always such a lot of interest in the final results. I do hope that you can help - please can you send me your results by the end of September. My address is at the front of this publication or why not email it to carol@thebfs.org.uk Also if you want to tell us all a little bit about your show then please feel free! Are you trying anything new for your show this year – a new venue or format – we would all love to know.

21st Autumn Gathering!

When? Sunday October 4th from 10am to 4.30pm

Where? We are back at the excellent Normandy Village Hall- with its light hall, large car park etc!

What is the format of the day? If you have never been before – the plan is as follows. On arrival everyone gets a cuppa of some sort. We then have two speakers in the morning - each talking for one hour. We then provide you with an excellent cold sandwich/ buffet lunch with cold drinks, fruit and cake! Plus of course more teas and coffees!. In the afternoon we have the final speaker followed by an informal workshop type session, where everyone can dip in and out of the chats that the speakers are having – this gives everyone the chance to ask questions etc.

Cost? We like to keep the cost down to a very affordable level – so it is still £8.50 per person!

Who are the Speakers this year? A few who are new to us!

Ray Boughton who come highly recommended and will be talking on Pests and Diseases - not just those of Fuchsias!

Nancy Phillips (no doubt ably assisted by Arthur) Will be talking on Fuchsia Bonsai – a subject that most of us know very little about – and most of us would like to know more!

Finally our third speaker will be **Trevor Strickland** who will be talking on the Subject of "Over 50 years with Fuchsias" – lessons he has learnt etc!

If you would like to book please pop a cheque in the post – made payable to **BFS AUTUMN GATHERING** and send it to Carol Gubler, Little Brook Fuchsias, Ash Green Lane West, Ash Green, Surrey GU12 6HL along with a sae and full details will be sent to you early in September. The Closing date for booking is 1st October.

Fuchsia Gall Mite – It is still with us!

So far this year we have been advised of new sighting in different parts of the country – such as Essex and Worcestershire – so we all need to be vigilant – so I thought a few reminders would not go amiss

Gall mite is a microscopic pest so you can't see it all you will see is the damage that it causes. If you are thinking what's all the fuss about, it's just another pest that is an inconvenience, particularly on a show plant, for which you can whip down the DIY store or garden centre and get a spray. You couldn't be more wrong, very wrong, on all counts.

This pest you can't see, it's microscopic; you can't stop it; there are no recognised chemical cures at least not in this country for the amateur; it could devastate your fuchsias and not just one or two but all of them.

Prevention is usually better than cure, and in this case prevention is essential because there is no cure. I would strongly advise everyone with immediate effect to be careful about where you get your fuchsias from and to be on the lookout for the effects of this pest.

Some thoughts

- ✓ Only buy from sources you can be sure of (I'm afraid this means no more from boot sales and charity events).
- ✓ If buying from a nursery look around and check for gall mite damage before buying any plants.
- ✓ Only buy from mail order sources you can be sure of.
- ✓ Check plants weekly and if I ever suspect I have it I will act immediately.
- ✓ Without intruding keep an eye on fuchsias in neighbouring gardens and hedgerows. If this seems wrong, just remember if a neighbour gets it and you do nothing, then you will get it too and so will all your friends.

Fuchsia Gall Mite – Derek Luther

Fuchsia Gall Mite was spotted on new shoots of fuchsias in March in the South, so be on your guard if you live in an affected area.

I would be grateful if you spot FGM that you send me the postcode so that I can continue to monitor the spread. It is no longer a reportable pest unless found in a Nursery.

I would also like to compile a list of fuchsia species and hybrids that are affected by FGM the list may grow too long to be off use, but who knows until one is compiled.

So far I only know that the following are affected in the U.K: Alison Patricia, Border Raider, Brenda White, Cambridge Louis, Cloverdale Pearl, Derby Imp, F. magellanica, F. procumbens, Genii, Jenny Sorresen, Kenny Walking, Mr. A Huggett, Pop Whitlock, Shelford, Swingtime, Waveney Gem.

Treatment

The advice is to cut back below the galled area and destroy by burning, or putting into a sealed polythene bag and sends to landfill, do not compost.

The only product available to amateurs that contains Abamectin which has some measure of control is Westland's Bug Killer for Ornamentals.- which may or may not be available this year

As I live close to an affected area I now cut down my hardy bed to ground level in autumn so that I get rid of the start of an unseen invasion, prevention is better than cure. The mites cannot be seen with the naked eye and are not present within the galls. It is their sap sucking that causes the distortions.

Please make sure that you correctly identify the problem as several growers have mistaken Capsid Bug damage for Fuchsia Gall Mite damage.

Photos of both are available at Fuchsia Friends, Foes and Diseases.

<http://www.Facebook.com/groups/167016081323/members/>

Another is The B.F.S facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-British-Fuchsia-Society/129336353815810> where you can leave messages and chat with other members

And Finally...

Have a good show season without too many extremes of weather or pests and diseases! And spread the good word on how great our favourite plant can be!

Best wishes

Carol, Arthur and John

The British Fuchsia Society

President Arthur Phillips

Nomination Form For BFS Awards.

The BFS has four different types of awards which you may propose someone for if you consider they deserve such an award. All nominations must be correctly proposed and seconded and carry a brief (50 words approx.) description/statement as to why they should be given this award.

Categories of awards are:

1. **Honorary Vice President** — this award is for a person who has contributed in an outstanding way to both the British Fuchsia Society and the Fuchsia.
2. **The Medal of Honour** to be awarded to any member who has contributed in an exceptional way to either the British Fuchsia Society or to the Fuchsia.
3. **The Medal of Achievement** to be awarded to any member who has contributed in any outstanding way to either the British Fuchsia Society or to the fuchsia — such as hybridisers — showmen/women or in any other way.
4. **The Award of Merit** to be awarded to any member who has made a valued contribution to the society or the fuchsia.

All completed forms **must** be returned to the Acting Secretary by the **30th September**.

Please PRINT.

Name of Recipient.....

BFS Membership No:

Name of Award:

Date:

Brief description/statement (50 words approx).

Sig. of Proposer:

BFS Soc. Membership No:

Please PRINT name:

Sig. of Seconder:

BFS/Affil. Soc. Membership No:

Please PRINT name:

The Acting Secretary, Mr G Oke, 2 Lichfield Avenue, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 3EA