

# NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTS FUCHSIA SOCIETY JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

## JAYNE'S JOTTINGS

Looking back at past newsletters, I came across this article which appeared in July 2011's 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?

**Extract from 'The Fuchsia Book' by Allan Waddington & Philip Swindells.**

# POEM OF THE MONTH

## *DRAGONFLIES* by Liz Cowley

About to leave my house one day I heard a tapping noise again, and saw a dragonfly enmeshed in cobwebs on the window pane. I fetched a ladder, lunged my hand amidst the webs – the spider fled – and took the lovely creature down. The flapping stopped – yet was he dead?	At last he fluttered, braced himself, and finally he flew away. What joy it was to see him go! I never will forget that day. And better still, he flew right back and circled round me once or twice. Was that a thank you? Who can tell? But thinking that was rather nice.
But then I stroked each silky strand from both of his entangled wings. He also tried to free himself of all his ropes and sticky strings. I stayed with him a good two hours – I had to wait 'til he was free, and knew I'd make my uncle cross arriving two hours late for tea.	I love all dragonflies today, and watching them is utter bliss – Especially when they soar away. I always feel a heartbeat miss.

## SHOW NEWS

**TROPHIES** – please can you return any trophies to this month's meeting in readiness for the show and subsequent engraving.

**\*\*HELP NEEDED TO PUT UP TABLES FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND TO PACK AWAY SATURDAY AFTER THE SHOW.\*\***

### **NOTTINGHAM & NOTTS FUCHSIA 52<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL SHOW**

We have decided to return to **Stapleford Methodist Church** to hold our 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show

Full Address: -

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

**\*\*\*It will remain a ONE DAY show. The date is 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024\*\*\***

# SOCIETY NEWS



## WOOL – WANTED!

Christine, Carol and myself (mostly Christine and Carol) are busy knitting and crocheting so that we can sell hand crafted items at Craft Fayres, but mainly at our show in aid of the Society.

Therefore, if anyone has any spare balls of wool they do not want and would like to donate, please bring them along to any of our monthly meetings.

Many Thanks x



## 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 RNIB (NOT RSPB which is what I have been quoting!)

Many Thanks x

## 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 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

## 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 2025, 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.**

## EASY FUNDRAISING

The easiest way for **all** internet users to help raise funds for our Society is simply by every time you search the Web you use easysearch.

Easysearch combines results from Yahoo!, Windows MSN Live Search and Ask.com in one simple search, the address is <http://nottsfuchsia.easysearch.org.uk> Please try it and encourage others too. Don't forget if you make any purchases on the internet, to go through our webshop to make sure we receive commission from the retailers (currently over 2000 well known retailers), the address is <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/nottsfuchsia> .

# PLANNER FOR 2024

27 JULY	<b>MONTHLY MEETING – SPEAKER:</b> Paul Leatherdale Subject: <b>Show Talk.</b>
10 AUGUST	<b>NOTTINGHAM &amp; NOTTS FUCHSIA SOCIETY – ANNUAL SHOW –</b> Stapleford Methodist Church, Stapleford, Nottingham. NG9 7EA.
17 AUGUST	<b>DERBY &amp; DISTRICT FUCHSIA SOCIETY – 53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL SHOW -</b> Grange Hall Community Centre, Park Lane, Littleover, Derby, DE23 6FX
18 AUGUST	<b>BFS MIDLAND SHOW –</b> Palmers Garden Centre, 11 Main Street, Ullesthorpe, Lutterworth, LE17 5DR.
27 AUGUST	<b>MONTHLY MEETING –</b> Subject: <b>Trophy Presentation &amp; Slide Show</b>
14 SEPTEMBER	<b>TRIP TO RHS HARROGATE AUTUMN SHOW AT NEWBY HALL &amp; GARDENS.</b> Organised by the Derby & District Fuchsia & Gardening Club. Trip – fully booked.
24 SEPTEMBER	<b>MONTHLY MEETING – SPEAKER:</b> Andrew Cathcart Subject: <b>Overwintering Fuchsias</b> <b>**ZOOM**</b>
22 OCTOBER	<b>TBC</b>
26 NOVEMBER	<b>AGM &amp; SOCIAL EVENING</b>