

NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTS FUCHSIA SOCIETY

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

JAYNE'S JOTTINGS

Greenhouses are now being left open at night, (as long as frost is not forecast!). Tending for my fuchsias is now in full swing. Each one inspected for any pests and of course to check they are still alive!

I have gone round all fuchsias and all other pots in the garden giving them a high nitrogen feed to kick start them into action. However, as I wandered around the garden, I noticed so many more jobs I needed to do: -

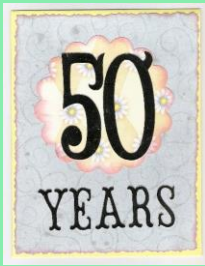
- Tidy away and clean all my used pots
- Pick up discarded plastic plant labels
- Throw away broken clothes pegs (I use these to secure the bubble wrap around my mini greenhouses, but which have fallen off due to the high winds)
- Dig over my vegetable patch
- Pot up root bound hebes situated near the pond
- Weed stumpy area
- Clear rockery and introduce alpines
- Clear pond of fallen blossom
- Mow lawn before any froglet invasion.

So much to do!

Snapdragons - I also noticed that my snapdragons which I planted last year and left in have flowered, which looks lovely even though the plants themselves look a little ragged, so some tidying up needs to be done, or should I just get rid?

Honesty – I love this wild flower. I grew some from seed a few years ago and subsequently planted, but they didn't set seed (or so I thought!) so imagine my delight when I found one growing strong in one of my planters near the pond – growing totally in the wrong place! However, beggars can't be choosers!

Tree Bonsai – I have inspected my collection and spread them out a little, keeping fleece handy in case of any late frost. I need to make a real conscious effort to take a couple with me when I go to the monthly **East Midlands Bonsai Society** meeting to seek advice and guidance. For the moment, however, I have tidied them, wired a couple and lightly pruned them.



DOWN MEMORY LANE

1987 -1990

In the late 80s our Society took part in a show at Holme Pierrepont Water Sports Centre hosted by a firm in Bristol - awarded best stand in the show.

Ken Brown ended his stint as Show Secretary and Shirley Williams took over, she remained Show secretary right up to 1993.



ON THE NOTICEBOARD...

APRIL – On the noticeboard this month is the list of Runners Up to Best in Show winners and Runners Up to best in Members classes, all from 1991 – 2021.

ROLL OF MERIT

RUNNER UP TO BEST IN SHOW – 1991 – 2021

Unfortunately, I seem to have a gap between 2001-2008, but with the information I have – Congratulations to Howard Kilbourn who has been Runner Up to Best in Show 8 times.

HOWARD KILBOURN	8
J STRETTON	3
F QUINCE	3

RUNNER UP TO BEST IN MEMBERS CLASSES – 1991 – 2021 (Refer to the Noticeboard for the full list.)

Fewer gaps (I can't explain why!) but the top 3 winners between 1991-2021 are:

HOWARD KILBOURN	8
F QUINCE	5
NEIL FOX-SMITH	4

PAST ARTICLE

I included this article in our May 2007 Newsletter: -

Recently read 'Fuchsia News - April 2007' (BFS) and felt the following article to be very thought provoking. What do you all think? -

GROW LESS - GROW BETTER - John Kirby from Birmingham FS

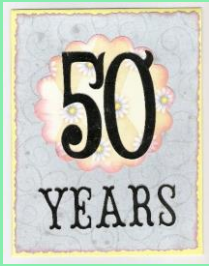
As beginners the one sound piece of advice that was always passed on to us by our tutors and which we always completely ignored was "Don't grow too many".

As beginners this overwhelming passion that we have for fuchsias caused us to take far too many cuttings than we needed and then after reading the very colourful and exotic names and descriptions in the new catalogues to even rush out and add even more to our collection and so we always ended up with far too many plants and too little time to devote to each ones individual development and so inevitably the end results for some growers are disappointing and many just become enthusiasts with little to enthuse over!

Many, many times over the years when I was exhibiting my plants at shows I've heard lots of people say 'I've got no interest in showing' and I'm sure that most of the time that statement was genuine but sometimes I used to think that the truth was 'I would love to put a plant on the show bench but I just can't grow one good enough'. I'm definitely not saying that all societies should become full exhibitors, that would be wrong, but I do think upon joining it should be everyone's aim to learn the art of transforming a chosen cutting into a fairly well shaped plant that is covered with blooms, otherwise, why join a society; listen to the speakers and pick their brains? I have also known some exhibitors who have thought it wise to grow as many plants as they can, cram them in the greenhouse for the winter and come the spring throw out the ones that are not looking too good, grow the remaining ones on again and then later pick the best ones out again for the show, sorry but doing this means you'll always be amongst the seconds and thirds if you're lucky.

If you really want to improve your cultural proficiency whether it be to have better shaped plants that are full of flowers on your patio or push for the top place on the show bench, remember what you were told as a beginner - 'Don't grow too many'. Surely it makes sense to only grow as many plants as you can devote your time to, give each individual one the care and attention it needs, if you don't, the end results will always be disappointing - so grow less and grow better!

- WORDS OF WISDOM, PERHAPS, BUT EASIER SAID THAN DONE!



WHAT ELSE HAPPENED 50 YEARS AGO?

In April this year: -

9th – Jacques Villeneuve was born

12th – Tony Hately scored a hat trick for Notts County in a 4-0 victory against Colchester United in Bobs' first visit to Meadow Lane aged 7 (Bob not Tony Hately)!

12th – Shannen Doherty was born

18th – David Tennant was born

POEM OF THE MONTH

APRIL 20th by Liz Cowley	
My goodness, it is almost May. And what will you plant out today? Well, maybe nothing. Time to sit and think about your place a bit. And this year, not rush into it!	Perhaps a little colour scheme? Contrasting colours? Ones that team? Now, what would be your perfect dream? Stronger statements? Bolder plants? Time to plan, today's your chance!
Perhaps some kind of change is due? Perhaps it's time for something new or just another tub or two? Now, what would most appeal to you and what would you most like to do?	It's almost May, the perfect day to plan your plants, and keep away from what is in the garden centre. So easy is it when we enter to fall in love with something wrong as soon as summer comes along!

FUCHSIAS IN MY GARDEN



HERALD - Hybridiser: – Sankey 1887

A single flower; scarlet tube; sepals – scarlet, short and upturned; corolla – deep bluish-purple with cerise veining. It's an upright and bushy, easy to grow cultivar and a good exhibition variety.

GROWING FUCHSIAS



◀ f. Magellanica 'Purple Mountain'. I just need to decide what class. Normally f. Magellanicas can be entered into the hardy section or Species (as long as they are in the correct size pot), however, it's always best to check whether they appear on the BFS Show Bench Hardy or Specie List. Sadly, this one doesn't, so if I want to show it, I have the option of Class 40 – Ornamental or variegated-leaved cultivar. Although I will need to check size of pot!



It is time to really concentrate on your fuchsias, ensuring you pinch out; turn your plants regularly and feed. Whilst I overwintered my fuchsias, I also reviewed whether I needed to pot any on. Now it is just a case of tidying any debris from the surface and top dressing.



PROJECT 4 - HANGING POTS/BASKETS & PLANTERS



◀ Three 'Marinka' pots, ready to be planted into a hanging pot.

Trailing 'La Campanella,' also waiting to be potted up into a hanging pot. I have an extra one just in case I need a back up. ➤



SOCIETY NEWS

GARDEN VISIT – 22 JUNE 2022



We are planning a visit to an NGS Garden – this will include refreshments and a tour round the garden. Please let me know if this is something you would be interested in.

BFS AGM 2022



After months of planning the **BFS AGM 2022** took place on the 26 March 2022 at the Stapleford Methodist Church, Eatons Rd, Stapleford. Thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success. It was good to meet up with fuchsia friends and it was also a great way for us to celebrate: -

****OUR 50 YEARS****



A more comprehensive report will hopefully be included in the next Fuchsia News.