

Fuchsia News Autumn 2013

Carol Gubler
Little Brook Fuchsias
Ash Green Lane West
Ash Green
Surrey
GU12 6HL
01252 329731
carol@thebfs.org.uk

Arthur Phillips
39, Highfields
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
B61 7DA
01527 870012

John Nicholass
36 Beach Road West
Portishead
North Somerset
BS20 7HU
01275 840203

Dear All

I hope that you have had a good summer and are now enjoying a mild autumn – so far!

As usual a few quick reminders!

- Please feel free to use any thing that you like from Fuchsia News – it is produced for you to use! Please don't keep all the information to yourselves – why not put it on your Society notice board or if you are a group who communicates by email then please forward it to your members/ If you don't get an email version – please let me know as it is much easier emailing than posting!
- Thank you to all the Societies that took the time and trouble to send me your show results – as usual they make interesting reading! The new Top Ten will appear in the January Fuchsia News. It is amazing that with such dramatic weather that so many of you reported fantastic show this year!
- Like any other editor I am always grateful for articles, of whatever length – so please send in any bits that you think I could include! Also many thanks to all the Societies that regularly send in their newsletters – I thoroughly enjoy reading them all!

Affiliated Societies insurance scheme - Carol and John

At the recent October committee meeting it was decided to go ahead with the Public Liability Insurance Scheme (PLI). Based on the expressions of interest received the annual premium has been set at £43 this year. This will provide the affiliated society with Public Liability cover of up to £5m, Employer's Liability of £10m and also cover loss or damage to the society trophies. The premium together with the affiliation fee must be paid by 31st December to qualify for the scheme and the first forty societies to apply will get the cover – this is based on the numbers that have expressed an interest so far. Details are on the renewal slip being sent out in the Autumn Bulletin. The cost is more than we originally hoped but is cheaper than the RHS!

Any questions – please contact Carol either by phone or email and we will get the answers

It has been brought to my attention that some societies are continuing their activities without Public Liability Insurance cover. This is not wise particularly if you have any shows or events attended by the members of the public. In the event of a serious injury to the member of the public the Officers and committee of the society could end up being sued for negligence in the event that the society funds do not cover the loss.

Arthur's Articles!

Questions Asked:

While working on the B.F.S. Stand at the Malvern Autumn Show, one of the questions we were frequently asked, or topics discussed with the general public, was why had fuchsias not bloomed, or more unusually, why they had only bloomed at the bottom not at the top, these being in the main fuchsias either in the garden as hardies or in pot's outside.

From my own experience the blooming around the lower branches was the result of thrips or capsid bug attacking the buds, the only other explanation I could come up with was that the buds had been damaged by the extreme heat during July.

I must say that the one bush that I had affected by this phenomenon has now recovered and is now blooming nicely in early October. I had been treating this as with most of my fuchsias with a systemic insecticide, which I account for its recovery.

The effects of light:

It has been interesting to note how the changes in the light levels have affected the colours of some of the fuchsia blooms; with the shorter day length some of my white sepaled blooms have changed to pink to light mauve, making them appear to be a different cultivar. Also according to what I have been told, because of the longer day length in Scotland the colour intensity of the blooms in the extra light is very marked. I am told that *Border Raider* looks almost a different plant to what is grown here in the Midlands.

B.F.S. 75th Anniversary Convention:

The B.F.S. Convention held the weekend of 6th, 7th & 8th of September was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone who attended. The trip organised to the nursery was staggering not just in the numbers of plants grown, they ran into many millions, nor to the sheer size. There are 22 acres of glass, one glasshouse being ¼ mile wide. Also the extensive use of computers not just controlling the likes of temperature, watering, lighting, but the detection of failed germination and the replacement of the failed seedlings.

The guest speakers covered a wide range of topics from composts to biological control of pest, fuchsia growing in the Northwest USA and South Africa, Fuchsia Lore Collecting around the world, to our own John Porter giving us a very relaxed talk on the History of the BFS -a talk that I found very enjoyable.

The displays of Fuchsia Lore had eight Lore Club Members displaying sections of their own collections, and very attractive and diverse were these with no repetition of items.

The Floral Marquee was a huge attraction with seven Societies staging displays, all of them being different. The marquee also housed the trade stands which were keenly supported mainly by our overseas visitors.

The pleasing thing was that the whole event managed to make a small profit to add to the BFS funds.

Overwintering and More! – Derek Luther

There are many different ways of over wintering fuchsias depending on where they are, how large, and if they are wanted as large structures the following year. i.e. Standards and Fans. All with the exception of plants being grown on the Biennial system are defoliated, kept just moist and stored in a frost free environment. You may wish to dig up some of the fuchsias planted in the garden. Fuchsias that you want to be taller have to be dug up and over wintered in a frost free place, as do any fuchsia that is not regarded as hardy. Even hardy fuchsias that are grown in pots must be given protection to prevent the roots from freezing. Non hardy fuchsias grown in pots are dealt with by defoliating and keeping frost free.

Hardy fuchsias in the Garden.

In this part of the country a covering of peat or soil drawn over the crown is sufficient.

The top growth is normally left untouched as it helps to protect the crown, but any that is in the way~ can be trimmed back. The main pruning is done in the spring when the new growth is evident.

Hedges

Hedges need more protection. Cover the crowns as already said but protect the top grown by weaving bracken or straw amongst the branches. Wire netting helps to keep it in place. Now modern technology has given us fleece which placed over the hedge would give good protection during bad spells of cold weather. In severe weather polythene could be secured over the hedge to give added protection.

Summer bedding.

This applies to fuchsias that are planted directly in the ground, but are too tender to leave out through the winter. Ideally wait until the plant becomes dormant. The first frost generally does a good job of getting rid of most of the leaves, but if you cannot wait this long cut off sappy growth and strip remaining leaves by hand. Remember that some of the species and the triphylla types are frost shy so always try to deal with those first.

They need to be stored in a frost free area like a Greenhouse, Cold frame, Shed, Garage, Cellar or Attic. Dig up the plants you wish to keep and be ruthless in your selection as we all keep too many. Tidy root ball and trim off withered and broken stems, then reduce the head to about three nodes on each stem. Tie a label to the plant and pot up into the smallest pot that will comfortably accommodate the roots. If you so wish, more than one plant can be placed into a container, and tomato trays, ice cream tubs or buckets can be used as long as there is adequate drainage. Cover the roots with compost, peat or soil. Spray with an insecticide followed by a fungicide, do not mix these unless the manufacturer

allows. Let the plants dry out, but not dust dry. Remember that standards and fuchsias grown as 'large structures' need to be kept slightly moister while dormant. Now they are in containers they can be treated as plants in pots as follows

Plants in pots.

To prepare for dormancy water is gradually withheld. Allow to dry out slowly but do not allow to get dust dry. Cut back as for summer bedding and spray against pest and diseases. If these or the summer bedding fuchsias are going to be overwintered in a heated greenhouse I think it is better to re-pot them all using fresh compost. This way you will reduce the number of soil borne pests like Vine Weevil. Now where to overwinter? A\where ever chosen it must be frost free by either supplying minimal heat or extra protection. The extra protection can be given by covering plants with peat, straw bracken, leaves or any other suitable insulating material, but in my experience avoid shredded polystyrene, it gets everywhere. Individual pots can be wrapped in bubble film for added protection. The plants in their pots can be stood upright or laid on their sides. On their sides has two advantages: Less likelihood of water getting into pots and less depth of insulating material required. Check on their condition every now and then. Watch out for Botrytis and Mildew. Are the plants still moist enough?

Biennial Method.

These plants are generally kept in a greenhouse at a minimum temperature of 40F (4-5C). Growth will cease during winter so no feeding is required and the plants are kept on the dry side but never allowed to dry out. Fuchsias grown in this manner are kept in green leaf throughout the winter. Keep a sharp lookout for pests. I have found that hardy varieties of fuchsias can tolerate lower temperatures without losing their leaves.

BIENNIAL - This is a system of growing fuchsias for show over a two year period. Cuttings are taken from mid to late summer, pinching them out at every pair of leaves during the first year and not allowing them to flower. In the second year they are pinched out at every two pairs of leaves. You have to overwinter them at a minimum temperature of 6°C. Many believe that fuchsias should be rested through the winter and aid this by reducing water so that the plant becomes dormant. This is not so, many species behave like Privet and in their natural environment, retain their leaves and slowly grow through the winter period as long as the temperature remains high enough

HARDWOOD CUTTING This is a good way of regenerating a plant that has been severely damaged by vine weevil grubs. A cutting of ripened wood (buff coloured) from the current year's growth taken during the dormant season. Choose a stem and trim just above and below a node leaving it three or four nodes long. Dress wounds with fresh rooting hormone powder and insert by a third of their length into a suitable cuttings compost round the edge of a pot. This can also be done very successfully by using a strip of polythene about 2ft long by about 6" wide. Place compost down through the middle, place cuttings on the compost and fold bottom edge of polythene over cuttings and then roll up like a Swiss Roll and secure with string. In both cases make sure that the compost is damp enough and place out of direct sunlight under your benching and basically forget about them until end of March and you will be surprised by most rooting. I have taken a hardwood cutting as thick as a broom handle by the first method.

TEMPERATURE - the temperature required in a greenhouse through the winter is a minimum of 1°C, a further drop of a degree or so is acceptable as long as it is not prolonged. Triphyllas and some of the softer species may succumb, so if you are struggling to keep your greenhouse heated think about insulating those types with fleece, or something similar. The maximum advisable temperature through the winter is 9° C. There is not sufficient light to warrant it being any higher. You can raise the temperature to 10°C in March. During the summer 21°C is plenty warm enough. Plants do not respond well to fluctuating temperatures. Low temperatures slow growth and high temperatures stop it. A cool greenhouse is one kept at 6-7°C and if you raise the temperature to 10°C you will double the fuel bill, and if you raise the temperature to 16°C the bill will be four times the original figure. When considering buying a heater, degrees lift must be taken into consideration. This refers to the capability of the heater to raise the temperature by 14°C. Therefore if the outside temperature is 0°C the heater must be able to raise the temperature to 14°C.

FLOWERING -

Photoperiod Requirement and Flowering

Fuchsias are known as long-day (LD) plants. This means they will not flower if exposed to a dark period greater than a certain critical period. The critical dark period may or may not be more than 12 hours of darkness. In this area, nights are technically shorter than the critical night period from March 1 to October 15. During this time days are long enough for Fuchsia to flower. Between October 15 and March 1, nights are too long for flower initiation, so plants remain vegetative. To initiate flowering, it is necessary to interrupt the "night" period. This can be done by interrupting the night period with 10-20 fc of light from incandescent lights (chrysanthemum lighting). Lighting from 10:00 PM. to 2:00 AM. effectively exposes the plants to two "short-night" periods. Although referred to as long-day plants, this is something of a misnomer. The length of the dark period controls flower initiation.

Temperature, Photoperiod and Flowering

As with many other crops, the greenhouse temperature may modify the flowering response of plants to the photoperiodic signal. At 73° F the flowering of Fuchsia will occur after plants have been exposed to 40-50 short or interrupted nights. One day should be added for every degree below 73°F, even under appropriate photoperiod conditions.

Conclusions

It is clear that regardless of temperature, fuchsias grown under long-night conditions remain vegetative and fail to flower. When photoperiods were satisfactory (short nights) under natural and growth chamber conditions, flowering was earlier as temperatures increased. Since flowering was no earlier at 79°F days and 72° F nights than at 72°F days and 64° F nights, there would seem to be little benefit in maintaining night temperatures much above 65°F - if you are providing an interrupted night (chrysanthemum-lighting). In Fuchsias temperature plays a role in both the initiation of the flower and its rate of development.

As a guide, it would be prudent to supply night interruption (chrysanthemum lighting) from 10:00 P.M. to 2:00 A.M.. from about February 20 to March 7, in conjunction with minimum temperatures of 73°F days and 65°F nights to insure a reasonable period of time for flower initiation. Regardless of photoperiod, greenhouse temperatures below 60° F will result in excessive delays in flowering.

Autumn 2013 - John Nicholass

Well another fuchsia season has gone by and for a change we had a hot summer. I had almost forgotten what they are like! The only trouble is with the number of plants I grew, I was spending far too much time watering everything. I also probably overfed the plants and I should have alternated water and quarter strength fertiliser rather than use it all the time! As I write this nearly all the plants are cut back and this weekend I really need to get the greenhouse properly cleaned out and ready to put the plants away for the winter. Apart from one cooler snap around here in mid to late September it has been unusually mild, so there is not the pressure to put things away. Unfortunately we are only two weeks away from November and then the weather can change suddenly!

To clean the greenhouse properly you need to clear everything out, put all the dirty pots in a container to be washed and sterilised, throw away all the rubbish which has accumulated, clean all the glass and replace any poor bits of insulation. Then clean all the surfaces with diluted Jeyes fluid, and finally when everything is dry and there is no frost forecast, remove all the plants and sterilise the greenhouse with a sulphur candle. Remember to follow the instructions close all the doors and vents. I usually leave the greenhouse shut up overnight after the treatment, and then ventilate it for 24hrs. Check any heaters are working properly and have them serviced if necessary. If you use gas from bottles ensure you have some spare full bottles at the beginning of the winter. I use 13kg propane bottles with two on an auto changeover valve and one spare full one. It gives you some breathing space if there is a shortage of supply in the winter. Don't forget it is important to treat the plants to remove any pest and diseases before you put them back in the greenhouse, otherwise you are wasting your time! I have had some rust in the last week so any affected leaves need to be removed and the whole plant needs to be dipped in a bucket of fungicide solution, foliage and stems first then immersing down so the top inch or so of the compost is immersed.

Before I treat the plants though, I sort out the plants to put away. Firstly I decide which cultivars in my collection I am not going to grow anymore and throw them away quickly before I have chance to change my mind!! Then I decide on the cultivars that I am not going to grow for show and with these I will keep one small plant or a standard if I have one and take some cuttings as insurance. Then the plants I intend to grow for show next year. Firstly I will establish how many plants of each cultivar I have. Then I will go through the plants looking carefully at the shape and structure of the wood and if it is shooting again, how even the growth is. Keep the best and throw away the excess plants you don't need. If you can't make up your mind, then start with the older 15cm pots. After a few years they do not usually do as well. They can be replaced by the stream of 13cm pots which you can grow in 15cm pots the next year. The only exception to this would be if it was a very good plant you plan to grow on in an 18 or 20cm pot the next year. You can only grow a few of these though!! So when you have all the plants sorted and cleaned. Then start putting them away but if the greenhouse ends up being more than half or two thirds full, and you still have plants you want to keep, then you have to go through the first part of the exercise again. Don't fill the greenhouse up completely as you need some room for the plants to grow in the spring. It is better to look after fewer plants properly than more plants badly!! (Now I have told you how to do it I just have to take some notice myself!!)

Follow these guidelines and then you have a chance to get off to a good start for the next year and you will hopefully not carry over any pests etc. and you will be working with the best plants you have. Happy growing!

FOR SALE

FUCHSIA LORE 2014 CALENDARS

A4 size with cover. One page per month in full colour featuring items of Fuchsia Lore.

Space allowed to write those important gardening and fuchsia events.

Available at £4.00 each including postage and packing from: Peter Holloway, 85 Rutland Crescent, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 0NX.

email: pj.holloway@btinternet.com Cheques payable to Fuchsia Lore Club BFS.

Makes an ideal gift or present, don't delay order today.

HAVING A FORTHCOMING PARTY?

The Fuchsia Lore Club has available decorated fuchsia napkins and square paper plates for your party or event.

Maybe even for your own local society party. For more details please contact:

Peter Holloway, 85 Rutland Crescent, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 0NX email: pj.holloway@btinternet.com

Wagtails Books – Margaret Smith – Clacton FS

I have agreed to try to sell some Wagtail books for a friend for her Charity. Is it possible to put this information in the next Fuchsia news? I have books 1-4 still in their original clear plastic covers and the cardboard purpose made postage covers.

I also have books 1,2,3 & 5 in their clear covers. All are as new condition. There is a postcard with them from Eileen Saunders regarding the delivery of them.

My phone number is 01255 435944 for people to contact me if they are interested

Taking Care of Speakers - Ric Reilly Camborne and Redruth FS

If you are a member of an affiliated society then I'll guess you've listened to many speakers, from near and far, on taking care of your Fuchsias. Even after a lot of years I still enjoy listening to guest and in-house speakers, and rarely do I come away without having learned something or having been reminded of something I've forgotten! In contrast, I think every society absolutely dreads the challenge of finding speakers for the next year; good speakers are precious, a little like gold dust, but do we really take care of them, as we should?

Does your society give the same level of thought to your guest speakers as you do in caring for your plants, and do you really extend the welcome that you would show a guest to your home, so that they will remember their visit with fondness and leap at a chance to visit you again?

I can almost hear a clamorous cry "of course we do, don't we!" and with it no small amount of indignation. I would argue that you probably don't but that you don't realise it. Until work got in the way, I used to give a lot of talks and almost always felt quite welcome, but sometimes the little touches that make a big difference were missing, not intentionally but because nobody has ever thought about it. The purpose of this article is to be a little provocative, and to give societies and their organisers food for thought that comes from a mixture of good, mostly average and some not so good personal experiences.

Confirmation of Booking – Most talks are booked more than a year ahead. You really should contact the speaker about a month before the talk and ensure everything is still OK, as circumstances can change. You should confirm the arrangements in writing including arrival times, costs, and the facilities that society is providing (e.g. projector, screen, microphone, etc).

Directions, Map and Postcode – More than a few times I've been left to find details of the venue from the BFS website. You really must provide your speakers with a clear map, directions and the postcode with the booking confirmation and for your speakers it's good to know of any road-works that might hinder their journey. There seems to be real reluctance with some societies to even know a postcode for a venue let alone divulge it, yet if you are driving alone, often in the dark on a winter's evening, a sat nag is boon, even essential, and it needs a postcode, which you must try out to test its accuracy.

Time to Prepare – When I am giving a talk, I like to arrive half an hour before the start, so that I can set up in a relaxed and unhurried manner with time to spare. The venue should be open, any promised equipment available, and some help with setting up on hand 30 minutes before the meeting starts.

There is a law that says the less time you have to prepare; the more stuff like PCs and projectors play up. If speakers have their presentations on large computer files these can take 5-10 minutes to load and PCs are not to be hurried. Personally, I hate it when the person with the mains extension or the screen turns up minutes before the meeting starts, and people then glare at me because I am not ready on the dot.

Slaking a Thirst – If you have a visitor to your home, I'll bet almost the first thing you do is offer them a cup of tea and maybe even a bickie or two. I will equally bet that you never offer your speakers a cuppa when they arrive, as in my experience it's a real rarity, the sort you can count on one hand. Quite simply you had a cup of tea before you came out and can wait until half time for the next one, so your speaker is going to have to wait even if they did spend the last hour or two on the road and have a mouth like the bottom of a budgie's cage. It's not difficult, why not have a small kettle around, or even a Thermos flask, so you don't have to wait for the boiler to do its stuff and can show this most basic and rarest of courtesies.

Start Promptly and with the Speaker – Your meeting should start promptly so your speaker's time is not squeezed and society business really ought to be left to the end of the meeting. There is nothing worse, as a speaker, than being ready to start, only to have to wait sometimes for a quarter of an hour or more, while a pile of society business is gone through sometimes with a couple of cameo in-house pieces thrown in.

Expenses – You must not wait for your speaker to prompt the society about money, it's horribly embarrassing if they have to or worse if they leave without feeling able to do so. Expenses should be agreed when the booking is made, even if it is nothing because your speaker is local and doesn't want any expenses. If expenses are declined, a small gift works wonders for the future relationship; gag the Treasurer and think of it as an investment!

In the vast majority of cases the expenses paid to a speaker won't cover their travel costs let alone their time at the meeting, their time travelling and the time they have spent preparing the talk (each of my talks has probably taken more than 100 hours to prepare, and that is not unusual). So a small gift, a strip of raffle tickets, etc might demonstrate that your society appreciates the speaker's generosity with their time and knowledge. I still remember with fondness a visit to the Swindon society, unfortunately no longer with us, where I received a very tasty lardy cake for my efforts (they had a master baker amongst their members).

Cut the Chatter – While your speaker is talking, your society's members should be attentive and must not be chattering among themselves, even if in some cases they've heard it all before. And your society's committee must lead by example as they are often the worst culprits, and really they should be sat within the audience when possible.

Half-time – Within reason half-time should fit around a speaker and not the other way round. And during half time please, please talk to your speakers and bring them into conversations. Not all speakers, even good ones, are extroverts and able to readily strike up or break into conversations with comparative strangers.

And Finally – Isn't it nice a few days after you've done something for somebody to receive a thank you card or a letter of thanks, and the same is true when you have given a talk to a society.

In my first draft of this article I finished with almost an apology for any sensitivities I've trampled on, but I've changed my mind because if you are not doing these things, then you are not showing your speakers the care and courtesy they deserve, and ensuring they leave your society with a glow looking forward to their next visit.

Thoughts or comments!! Like Ric I have experiences both good and bad! One point I would like to add is an emergency mobile phone number- for any last minute problems- - in my part of the world the M25 can give last minute problems and the ability to contact the Society at the last minute can be vital to assure them that you are close but not going to make it quite on time. It can save all sorts of panic! Carol

A great lesson on Stress – an email from Terry Cook – Felixstowe FS

A young lady confidently walked around the room while explaining stress management to an audience with a raised glass of water. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, 'half empty or half full?'...

She fooled them all "How heavy is this glass of water?" she inquired with a smile. Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. To 20 oz.

She replied , "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it.

If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem.

If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm.

If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance.

In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes." She continued, "**and that's the way it is with stress.** If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on."

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden - holding stress longer and better each time practiced.

So , as early in the evening as you can, **put all your burdens down.**

Don't carry them through the evening and into the night... **Pick them up tomorrow.**

- 1 Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!
 - 2 Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
 - 3 Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
 - 4 Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker
 - 5 If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague
 - 6 If you lend someone £20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
 - 7 It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
 - 8 Never buy a car you can't push.
 - 9 Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
 - 10 Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
 - 11 Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
 - 12 The second mouse gets the cheese.
 - 13 When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
 - 14 Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
 - 16 Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.
 - 17 We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colours, but they all have to live in the same box.
 - 18 A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
 - 19 **Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today**
- AND MOST IMPORTANTLY
- 20 Save the earth..... **It's the only planet with chocolate!**

Computer revised proverbs

Home is where you hang your @

The e-mail of the species is deadlier than the male

Don't byte off more than you can chew

Windows will never cease

What boots up must come down

You can't teach a mouse new tricks

A journey of a thousand sites begins with a click

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach him to use the net and you won't see him for weeks!

And on a similar theme **"How to clean your house using a Computer"**

1. Open a file in your PC
2. Name it "housework"
3. Send it to the Recycle bin
4. Empty the Recycle bin
5. Your PC will now ask "Are you sure you want to delete housework permanently?"

6. Answer calmly "Yes" and press the mouse button firmly.....
7. All done! Feel better?

Cookery Corner

Fuchsia Flower Wine

4 pints dried fuchsia flowers – remove the stigma and filaments, 3lbs sugar, the juice of 1 lemon and 1orange, 1 gallon boiling water, yeast nutrient and tannin

1. Cover the flowers in boiling water.
2. Leave for 3 days stirring DAILY – keep well covered
3. Strain carefully and avoid pressing
4. Add the juice of the lemon and orange, as well as the sugar, yeast nutrient and tannin
5. When finished fermenting, decant into sterile bottles and cork

Fuchsia and Apple Pie!

½lb fuchsia berries, 1lb cooking apples, a little lemon juice, 1 clove, sugar to taste, white of one egg, sufficient short crust pastry to fill your deep pie tin.

1. Simmer the berries and apple with water or juice, the lemon juice and the clove until tender.
2. Place fruit mixture on the pastry, sprinkled with sugar and cover with pastry lid.
3. The top can be brushed with the white of egg and sprinkled with sugar.
4. Bake – sadly the recipe, doesn't give too many clues but I guess just like an apple pie!

Fuchsia desert sauce Ingredients - 2 lb fuchsia fruit, 2 oz sugar, 1 teaspoon cornflour, 1½ teaspoon lemon juice and a good pinch each of cinnamon and cloves.

Method - Finely chop the fuchsia fruit. Put in pan with all the other ingredients. Simmer gently until the fruit is very still. Stir lightly. Serve warm or cold with ice cream or custard

FUCHSIA FRUIT AND ONION RELISH Ingredients - 1 lb apples, 1 lb onions, 1 lb fuchsia berries, ½ lb Demerara sugar, 1 pint vinegar, 1 oz salt and ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper.

Method - Peel, core and chop apples. Cook with sugar, salt, pepper and vinegar until tender but not mushy. Slice onions and fuchsia berries. Mix with cooled apple mixture. Pack tightly into jars and seal. Tastes better if kept for a few weeks before eating.

Any other ideas of recipes would be great! I know that this isn't the right time of the year but at least you can plan for 2014!

And finally.....

- Let's hope that we all have good winter with just the right weather! Not too much of anything!!
- Please think seriously about the PLI – we have got the best deal that we can on it and it should save you all money compared to the RHS and other local federations
- Please don't forget that I am always on the lookout for articles long or short – possibly about your Society or how you grow fuchsias – whatever you like!
- Do you have a fuchsia joke or pun (clean!!) – I would love to put some in the January Fuchsia News - there will be prize for the one that I like best

Best Wishes

Carol, Arthur and John

