

# Fuchsia News – Autumn 2021

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Dear All

I am sorry that this is a bit later than usual, but hopefully you will enjoy reading the articles in this edition!

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 facebook page or website 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!
- 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!
- If there is a subject that you would like us to cover – then please let me know – I am certain that I will be able to find someone to write on the subject!

## 2021

Thankfully restrictions have lifted to a certain extent and there were a number of local and national shows that took place around the country! Meetings have also resumed in many cases but with changes depending on the halls etc. Looking to the future here is an article by Ric Reilly on the use of technology etc! Don't be put off we are here to help!!

## Fuchsia Society Hybridisation

*Note: If you are reading this copy of Fuchsia News online or on PC, pad or phone, I have 'hyperlinked' some text. Just click on bits that are underlined and in blue or purple and it will take you to a site on the web or open an email to a person.*

Against a bleak background, of tragedy and frustration, the BFS and some of its affiliates have kept going often thanks to previously unexplored tech, which can be a curse but during lockdown and restrictions it has been a godsend and could continue to be.

If you are involved with a local society, you could just return to normal and so called 'real life' (RL), or like the BFS and with the support of the BFS, you could move to a hybrid (combined RL and online) existence building on some of the benefits we've found with online activity, such as:

- ✓ Reaching out further to a wider audience, extending your catchment area.
- ✓ Opening up meetings and shows to those distant particularly in the winter or those with limited mobility.
- ✓ Bringing speakers to your meetings, drawing on a much wider pool of speakers and containing down travel and accommodation costs
- ✓ Extending the awareness of the your society and the full extent of its activities, as well as promoting and showing off the genus fuchsia itself.

One aspect of what we've done and are doing, and a focus of our trials, is that we are trying to limit the tech to that which is readily and economically available, and this may require a 'glass is half full' disposition from those benefiting.

Hopefully providing food for thought here is a summary of what have we done so far ...

### [Gossiping on Facebook](#)

Barely had Boris finished telling us to stay home and the [Fuchsia Friends Gossip \(FFG\)](#) group popped up on Facebook (FB), and thanks largely to Carol Gubler, Andrew Cathcart and Derek Luther (a CAD tribute band?) it has thrived and now has over 1,627 members, spanning the globe some in the most unlikely of places.

Even now RL beckons there are several daily posts eliciting discussion, banter, comments and 'reactions'. In the absence of physical shows, it's been great to have online shows organised in association with this group. Why not join the group and encourage your members to take a look, a guaranteed daily fuchsia fix.

### *Local Society Meetings Online*

Paul Munro and [Reading and District FS \(RDFS\)](#), with great support from Carol, were the trail blazers on this, using Zoom for online gatherings, which they are continuing with interspersed between physical meetings. This allowed them and many guests to keep in touch and to have talks from even wider afield than would normally be the case. RDFS have since invested in a license at £119.00 a year, and although there is a free cut down version (gatherings limited to 40 mins) I would not recommend it.

### [SIG Zooming and Expanding](#)

Very similar to RDFS's initiative, in October last year we decided to take that month's half yearly meeting of the [Species, Hybridisation and Heritage SIG](#) online, attracting some participants who were already meeting on Zoom and others who we had befriended on Facebook (sounds dodgy!).

This first online meeting a year ago was 'ad hoc' as we did not know what to expect, but two hours of catching up and nattering flew past. It was such a success that we changed the periodicity of meetings permanently to quarterly holding further online meetings with expert presentations on 17<sup>th</sup> January (a simple guide to species, potting compost, *F magellanica* in Argentina), 18<sup>th</sup> April (growing under lights, flow cytometry, James Lye), and 18<sup>th</sup> July (fuchsias around the bay, growing peat-free, Charles Plumier).

The plusses of these meetings have included:

- ✓ For the first time SIG meetings are easily accessible to BFS members nationwide, demonstrated by participation from our Scottish members.
- ✓ For a first time we were joined by friends and enthusiasts from the US, an international dimension noteworthy of a number of our online and hybrid forums.
- ✓ Our guest speakers demonstrated that online we might access many more speakers than an unconnected Sunday meeting in Warwickshire can.

More recently we have trialed our first hybrid (physical with online access), which is covered later in this article.

### *Friday Fuchsia Friends Gossip on Zoom*

With a touch of serendipity we sensed a worldwide enthusiasm for a weekly forum without too much structure, allowing participants to talk about fuchsias, gardens, plants and almost anything except politics, Boris and brexit. We are grateful to Carol for grasping the mettle on this and we have almost completed a year of weekly meetings that included Christmas and New Year's Day last year. As befits our fuchsia world we now have Gossip Improved with two features and many plusses:

- ✓ We have an alternating format with 'drop in and chat' one week and a guest speaker the next.
- ✓ The international dimension has blossomed and we often get attendees from four continents and have had participants from eight or more countries.

- ✓ Participants include the housebound, others with limited mobility, and others who don't have a local society.

If you fancy joining us please contact [Carol Gubler](#) or myself, [Ric Reilly](#). If you are not sure about Zoom and/or your tech just contact us and we can talk you through it and even have a one to one practice.

### *Broadcasting from the London Show*

As another experiment, we tried a broadcast from the London Show held at Normandy Village Hall in August, with John Nicholass as our roving reporter. Going into the unknown John and I had a practice the week before to checkout that, with his 'android' mobile phone, John could connect and do the job, showing me around his garden and plants, a bonus in itself.

On the Saturday of the show I set up the Zoom call on my laptop, with John using his phone to check network coverage at the village hall, which does not have Wi-Fi. Around twenty enthusiasts from the BFS and overseas took the opportunity to join John on a narrated tour, done class by class with others invited to chip in. Although there was some blurring of the video, possibly the phone struggling to focus in bright sunlight, the tour was enjoyed by everyone particularly the expert and amicable commentary.

### [Zooming Carol to a Physical Meeting in Camborne, Cornwall](#)

With speakers a perennial and worsening problem down in Cornwall, in September we invited Carol to talk to a physical meeting of the [Camborne-Redruth Fuchsia Society](#) from her home in Surrey. Being a glutton for punishment, I also invited, at short notice following a hint or two, some participants from our Friday meeting to join us over Zoom, for a first ever hybrid meeting (physical and online at the same meeting) on fuchsias.



Sage advice from a techy friend in the Devon Orchid Society was that the video would be a doddle and the audio could be tricky, and so it transpired, but overall it was a great success and hybrid meetings could be a saving grace for us. Unsure of whether the tech would facilitate an interactive meeting we held back on Carol's favourite 'A-Z' and instead thoroughly enjoyed a year in the life of a nursery.

In the picture above you can see the rather 'Heath Robinson' arrangement we used, deliberately avoiding specialist equipment. The Zoom gallery of participants and presenter are projected onto a screen so the physical audience can see them, with the presenter 'spotlighted' on Zoom for the talk. To the left of the screen you can see the tripod used for my iPhone itself used to capture the physical audience for those on Zoom, the laptop camera being unwieldy and blocked by the laptop user, me.

For the audio I used a Jabra conference speaker and mic attached by USB to the laptop, a device that I use for work gatherings. The speaker works fine for audiences of 15-20 people but the mic struggled with softly spoken members of the audience a few rows back.

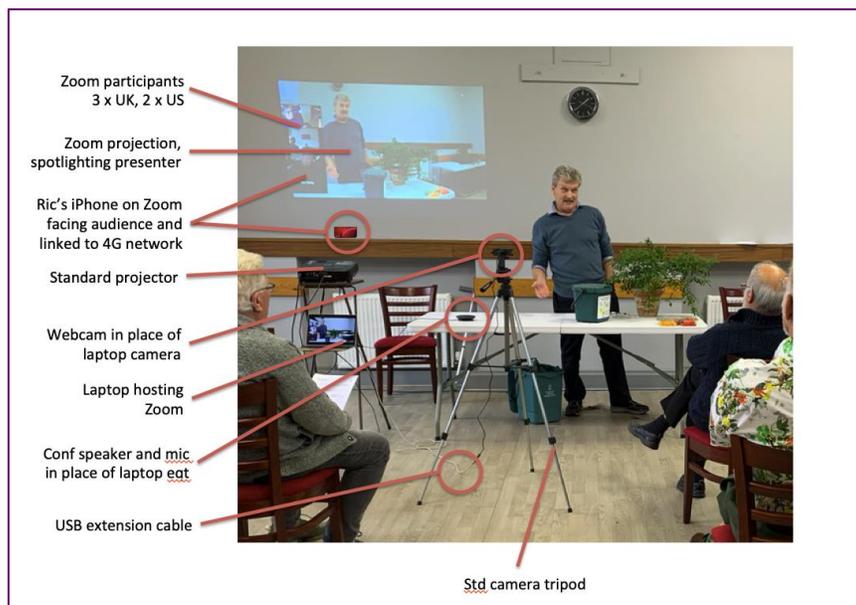
It was a trial and it was good to prove the benefits:

- ✓ For a society 180 miles farther SW than Bristol it's going to be a godsend, expanding our potential pool of speakers and containing our costs for speakers. We already have our next 'remote' speaker, Andrew Cathcart from Linlithgow, lined up for February.
- ✓ We're a long skinny county so not all our society members can get to meetings but they can now over Zoom.

If like Camborne-Redruth you struggle for speakers then you really should give Zoom and online speakers a try. If you fancy giving it a try but you need help, just drop me, [Ric Reilly](#), a line and let's see what we can do. If you have a member or a relative who has been on Zoom, Teams or Google Meet then you have all expertise you're going to need. We'll also be happy to join Zoom meetings online to help you get started.

### Sharing a Speaker and our SIG Meeting with Online Participants

This was a logical next step after the Camborne meeting, when Carol was our online speaker, and was requested by some of the SIG members that had enjoyed being part of the SIG on Zoom but were too far and in some cases far too far away from Warwickshire. We limited publicising the online aspect of the event as the Zoom was a last minute decision and we were wholly unsure if the mobile coverage would be good enough.



The set up was quite similar to the previous trial at Camborne, except this time we used a USB connected webcam mounted on the tripod, facing Paul Leatherdale our speaker, a snip at ~£25 and better quality output than the one on my ageing laptop. This is also a good answer if you've wanted to join Zoom calls but your laptop or PC doesn't have its own camera or microphone.

The hall did have Wi-Fi, but that joy was short lived when we found it wasn't connected to the internet, possibly the hall committee allowing the subscription to lapse during lockdown. In the event we found more than one good 4G mobile network signal so on the day the laptop was tethered to my iPhone and back to the internet across the BT/EE network. The only concern to note if individuals use their personal phones is that Zoom eats data at about 1Gb per hour, expensive if you are on 'pay as you go'.

The main event, in the afternoon, was Paul Leatherdale's talk on encliandras which was excellent and enjoyed by all attendees, whether in person or online. You can see the speaker/mic combo on the edge of Paul's table and Paul's words were very clear to those online, but the mic was not so good at picking up comments and questions from the physical audience, something we are working on.

Overall our first, and largely unplanned, hybrid meeting worked well, again with welcome benefits:

- ✓ SIG meetings, traditionally in a central location that is distant for some, can now be accessible to all BFS members. For our SIG that is increasingly important as age and/or mobility makes travelling more difficult for many of our members.

- ✓ SIGs are now at least partially accessible to overseas enthusiasts. I say partially as daytime meetings start in the middle of the night for some of our friends, so hybrid content will have to be concentrated on afternoons.
- ✓ Going back twenty years and more, speakers have always been difficult to get for our SIG, and now we might have much more scope.
- ✓ We've proved that meetings on Zoom can use 4G mobile, though Wi-Fi will be a preference for economics and stability.

Online meetings have been such a success and our first hybrid meeting went so well that we have four SIG meetings planned for the coming year, alternating between online (16<sup>th</sup> Jan, 17<sup>th</sup> Jul both 7 pm to 9:30 pm UK time) and hybrid from Lilbourne (8<sup>th</sup> May, 16<sup>th</sup> Oct both 10 am – 4 pm). All are welcome, and for further details please contact [Paul Munro](#) or myself, [Ric Reilly](#).

*Thanks to Ric for such a comprehensive round up of possible ways to go in the future – I think that we all agree there is nothing like a face to face talk- both for the speaker and the audience but this is a great alternative allowing for a new range of speakers.*

## Arthur's Articles

### Monthly Guide to Fuchsia Care:

**October:** The shows are all over the fuchsias are looking tired. Time to think about giving them a rest (And yourself). Reduce the watering until the leaves start to wilt. Defoliate and prune approximately two thirds of current growth. (I personally also remove the old compost completely as I was told that late August /September was the time the dreaded vine weevil lays its eggs) that being so, by removing **All** of my old compost I have in theory removed any eggs. If you do not heat your greenhouse store your fuchsias in a location like your shed wrapping your plants with horticultural fleece.

**November:** check your fuchsias have not dried out if not heating. If heating, then start spraying with a fine mist at greenhouse temperature to soften the wood and encourage new growth.

**December:** If heating your fuchsias should be showing signs of growth, start feeding with a weak high nitrogen feed. Keep your heating at 40f at bench level as the light levels are very low. Turn plants regularly ¼ turn daily is a good practice. If you are heating by gas especially mains gas the green house **MUST** have sufficient ventilation to support combustion and disperse fumes. (I always leave the louvre vent open and one roof light on the first hole.)

**January:** Again, if heating fuchsias should be putting out nice strong growth, ideal for early cuttings. If unheated do not forget to check the fuchsias have not dried out.

**February:** Keep turning your plants. Pick up all debris. Dropped leaves soon start botrytis (Grey Mould). Keep your heat, light watering in balance. Ventilate the green house on any mild days.

**March:** Fuchsias in heated Greenhouses should be making good growth, Light levels should be improving time to increase the feeding. Your fuchsias should also be regularly stopped to encourage more growth. Check your roots and pot on if the pot is filling with root avoid letting plants become pot bound (Root growth equals top growth)

**April:** All fear of frost should have passed, and it is time to turn the heaters off and think about bringing fuchsias outdoors during fine days. Fully ventilate the greenhouse to allow full air circulation to those plants still inside. Rooted cuttings should be potted up and stopped. It is also a good time to take more cutting as even rested plants will be putting on good strong growth. Those rested plants and those you have been growing on biennially should have already been selected for which shows they intended for and should be receiving special attention in stopping leaf pruning (taking off leaves that overshadow growing tips)

**May:** Plants should at this time start to be moving out from the greenhouse into a shade house, as during sunny days the green house becomes too hot to support growth (fuchsias stop growing above 70deg F)

**June:** All of the fuchsias should be out of the greenhouse it is now far too hot for them to be under glass. They should be looking good and getting ready for the show. Now is the time if you are entering early shows to be looking at carrying out bud selection. That is looking at the fuchsia carefully then selecting a range of bud that are of equal size and removing all of the larger ones, this takes some nerve, but it is worth doing because all of the buds you have selected will open at the same time. This needs to be done about fourteen days before the show.

**July August and September:** the time of the shows time to enjoy the fruits of your labours.

### **BFS 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations:**

Come and join in celebrating the 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the British fuchsia Society at the Malvern Autumn Show 22<sup>nd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023!

The event will be part of the three day show and will involve both society displays and those done by individuals and so much more Do come and join in the event! Why not put on a display and enjoy the whole of the show?

We are still in the very early planning stage at this moment and more details will follow on in the new year!

If you have never been to the Malvern Autumn Show then 2023 will be the year to go!

### **F. jimenezii – Trevor Strickland**

(Written after reading *Dabbling with Fuchsia's Species* in the Fuchsia News February/March 2021)

It's good to see some Fuchsia Nurseries listing *F. jimenezii*, but is it the correct one? I was given a plant of *F. jimenezii* in the late 80's by the late Brian Morrison. I found it so unusual that I had a water colour painting commissioned (see below), but after a few years I sadly lost the plant. It would be great to have it back again.



Berry light to dark red 3/8 inch to 1/2 inch long. Tube is obconic – subcylindric less than a 1/4 shorter than either the sepals or petals. Red to rosy red in colour 1/8 in to 1/4 in at rim. Red to rosy red sepals are broadly lanceolate 1/8 to 1/2 in by 1/6 in dull red filaments and style, barely visible. Hermaphrodite (with male and female reproductive organs) tiny flowers throughout the year on terminal racemes, rarely axillary, also in 2 to 3 branched panicles and erect, somewhat similar to *F. arborescens*. Foliage dark green, flushed purple underneath. Leaves are produced opposite, elliptic to lance-elliptic, vary in size 2 to 4 1/2 in by 1 to 2 in wide. Native to Panama and Costa Rica in secondary vegetation of wet evergreen cloud forests at elevation of 5,000 to 6,500ft. Growing as a climbing shrub 20in to 5ft, branches quadrangular and pale tan in colour. Upright, vigorous, capable of forming a small tree when established, very small flowers with large foliage. Said to be not in cultivation in Britain. Chromosome number n=11. (Described by Berry and Raven in 1976).



### **Fuchsia jimenezii Hybrid**

This fuchsia (see photograph) is the one people grow as *F. jimenezii*. This is more like an *Encliandra* type, than the plant I had from Brian Morrison.

### **What would the Judges do, if one was entered in the class for Encliandras**

To see the real *F. jimenezii*, go to page 85 of {The Species Of The Genus Fuchsia } published by the {The Special Interest Group} in 1992.

Thanks Trevor for this information – I like others was growing what I thought as *F. jimenezii* but now I know it wasn't! We are all learning all the time!!

### **What's in a name – Continued!! Mario de Cooker**

I read in the BFS Fuchsia News (July 2021) a comment by Mr. Arthur Phillips on the Fuchsia cultivar 'Poermenneke'. Mr. Phillips came across this cultivar in the United States. It was not clear how it got there, and its name was mentioned as 'Pour le Menneke'. As a comment it was stated by Carol Gubler: "I reckon that it was imported via Hendricks Young Plants who sell fuchsias everywhere! However, looking at FuchsiaFinder the name seems to be 'Poermenneke' and there are references to a statue of a man fishing for eels!!"

And this is indeed correct! 'Poermenneke' is the only valid name for this long-tube cultivar. The name refers to a special way of fishing for eels with a bunch of worms. It's called 'poeren' or 'peuren' in Dutch. This bunch is suspended in the water and invites the eel to bite into it. Then the string of worms is carefully pulled up and the eel is shaken off into a floating wooden trough. Best time for 'poeren' is on summer evenings from 8pm – midnight, and about 60 years ago I spent many evenings with my father on the waterfront catching eels this way. Even my wife Sonja has joined us several times for catching eel. It used to be very popular in Flanders (Belgium) and Zeeuws-Vlaanderen (in the southwest of the Netherlands). It therefore seems no coincidence that the name was used by a Belgian breeder, Mr. Michel Deelkens, to name one of his new fuchsia introductions. As will now be clear, 'Poer' comes from 'Poeren'. 'Menneke' translates as something like lad, boy, guy or man. So 'Poermenneke' is a man fishing for eels. Unfortunately, most of the eels are gone now, and I wonder if 'poeren' is still practiced today.

*Thank you, Mario, for sorting this out for us!*

### **Finally some odd bits and pieces!!**

#### **Computer proverbs!**

Home is where you hang your @

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

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?

#### **Facts of life!**

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screeched."

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.

There are only 4 words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open

The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.

There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.

The average human eats 8 spiders in their lifetime at night.

A cockroach can live nine days without its head before it starves to death.  
A polar bear's skin is black. Its fur is not white, but actually clear.  
More people are killed by donkeys annually than are killed in plane crashes.  
Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left hand.  
Shakespeare invented the words "assassination" and "bump."  
Women blink nearly twice as much as men.  
Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people do.  
TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters on only one row of the keyboard.  
A snail can sleep for 3 years.  
"Go!" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.  
The average chocolate bar has 8 insect legs in it!  
Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least 6 feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.  
No piece of paper can be folded in half more than 7 times.  
You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.  
Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are fifty years of age or older.  
Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.  
Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.  
The plastic things on the end of shoelaces are called aglets.  
It is possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.  
A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.  
Butterflies taste with their feet.  
Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.  
Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.  
It's physically impossible for you to lick your elbow.  
Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing. SCARY!!!

And finally - a poem - **Reflection on a Greenhouse Widow by E Stubbings**

In last month's journal Walter Rugg, was bitten by the fuchsia bug  
Now spare a thought for Walter's wife protesting at her lonely life  
"I clean the home – he's never in it. His precious flowers claim every minute"  
Then whilst complaining to herself, she noticed on a nearby shelf  
A book which told the "Hows and Whys" to those who wish to hybridise  
This flower which calls to mind a dancer. "Now that" she mused" could be the answer"  
Straight away with every brain cell flexed she settled down to read the text.  
In Walter's absence through the day genetically she learnt to play  
A little hesitant the whiles doing mystic things to styles  
Or stigmas if you like precision (but they need poets of more vision)  
The rhymes we know are, so to speak irrelevant – and from the Greek.  
Then, with parents' names she tagged 'em breathed a prayer and neatly bagged 'em  
Oh! Her agony while waiting for signs of ovaries inflating:  
But her great pride – we'd call it crowing when tiny hybrids started growing.  
Thus, it was in due season (and many wondered at the reason)  
The winning seedling, shown at Penge was labelled "Mrs Rugg's Revenge  
Since fuchsia folk should never budge from friendliness to show a grudge  
Walt applauding her success – enrolled her with the BFS!

Best Wishes for 2022!

Carol, Arthur, John and Ric

