

Fuchsia News July 2018

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Dear All

Again, another interesting summer!! I must apologise that this is coming out a bit later than I hoped but I hope to do better next time!

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 that 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 could 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

Hardy Fuchsias:

Hardy fuchsias are shrub fuchsias planted in the garden that will survive the winter when planted in the ground. There is no actual definition of a "Hardy fuchsia" other than a cultivar that has been planted in the ground and survived the winter. The B.F.S. accepts a plant as hardy that has survived planted in the ground for five consecutive winters. Any plant described as being hardy **is only hardy when planted in the ground** and grown as a shrub, any other growth form **will not** survive even when planted out. Even in the same garden different conditions can exist. Some areas are prone to being "frost pockets" and get frost when the rest of the garden does not. Added protection from frost can be given by the proximity of buildings and sheds, even hedges and trees can change climatic conditions.

When choosing your fuchsia to plant in your garden you should look for a well grown shrub fuchsia. A shrub fuchsia is a plant with one or more stems growing from below soil level. The fuchsia wants to be well grown in a five inch diameter pot with the root growth almost filling the pot and the top growth being strong and healthy. The fuchsia should be planted after the risk of frost as passed in early spring, but not later than the end of June. Planting any later will not give the root chance to become established in the soil, thus reducing the chance of the plant surviving the first winter.

The fuchsia should be planted with the root ball two inches/ fifty centimetres below the level of the ground. This will give the crown that added protection when the frosts come and perma frost does not penetrate much more than that depth in the UK. A good method of achieving this without burying the foliage or damaging the plant, is to form a saucer shaped depression the stated depth allowing the action of the elements to fill the depression over the season.

Fuchsias require plenty of water, but do not like to be water logged, so the ground they are planted in requires to be fairly free draining, if your soil is heavy or clay then before planting you need to improve the drainage for the fuchsia. Work into the area you have chosen some peat and horticultural grit. The grit will improve the drainage and the peat will make it easier for the root to spread. Fuchsia like partial shade. The ideal position being morning sun afternoon shade. If you cannot give

these conditions at least provide some partial shade from afternoon sun. This is a generalisation some fuchsias are more sun tolerant than others; the reds and darker coloured cultivars generally are so.

Even when planted out in the garden fuchsias should not be left to fend for themselves. In the early days they will require watering regularly especially so in the first year. They also require feeding and a good balanced 20.20.20 feed will in general meet the needs in carried out regularly. This will give it chance to establish good roots and ripen the wood as well as giving good blooms and encouraging growth especially in its first year.

Preparing for the Show:

You have given your fuchsia the tender loving care from the cutting stage (or when you purchased it) stopped it, watered and fed it. Regular turned it, ensured it is free from pests and disease, and successfully got it into bloom in time for the show. Now is the time to give it that final and important last bit of attention. You have looked at the show schedule and selected the class you intend to enter ensuring your fuchsia meets the requirements of the schedule and the rule book Nothing worse on finding your exhibit marked with the dreaded N.A.S. Send your entry to the show manager in good time. You need, ideally to bring or keep your exhibit undercover for about two weeks before the show to protect it from the effects of the weather etc. The week before the show remove any open flowers, fuchsia flowers are only good for seven days so those will be spent by show day. The day before the show, inspect your plant, remove any debris that has accumulated in the pot, remove any yellowing leaves, the stray seed pod, unneeded stakes and ties, and give the plant a good watering. On the day of the show arrive at the venue in plenty of time, report to the show manager and collect your class cards, find where the class you have entered is on the bench, go back to your fuchsia, change the pot for a clean one (preferably a new one). Tease out all of the blooms make a final check for anything is untoward. Place your entry on the bench on a saucer and put the best side of the plant to the front to the front, (it should not have a best side being equal all around!) place your class card face down in front of the exhibit fill in the cultivar card and await the judge's decision.

John's Jottings

Unusual Fuchsias

Throughout the history of fuchsia hybridisation, there have been several times where new fuchsia cultivars are produced from a crossing between two species fuchsias. This was, of course, how the original fuchsia cultivars were produced in Europe after their first discovery by father Charles Plumier in Tahiti and subsequently in South America. These are known as

interspecific hybrids by fuchsia specialists. This type of hybrid, as other fuchsia cultivars must be multiplied by vegetative propagation.

In more recent years some hybridisers have re-explored hybridisation between species to introduce different characteristics and colours into the range of fuchsia that are available for enthusiasts to grow. Two who have produced quite a few new interspecific fuchsias are Herman de Graaff from the Netherlands and John Wright from the UK, but other hybridisers have also some. Below are some you can still obtain.

Mary A lovely red flowered triphylla type hybridised by Carl Bonstedt in 1897 resulted from a cross between *F. triphylla* x *F. corymbiflora*. While not the easiest triphylla to grow as it is a bit less tolerant to heat, the brilliant clusters of red flowers and velvety green leaves make this a favourite and spectacular when grown well as a show plant.



Mary

Tarra Valley An unusual upright with single flowers pale green tube sepals and a purple corolla. Produced by Felix/van't Westeinde and resulted from a cross between *F. colensoi*



fuchsia with a and corolla.

cross x *F.*

splendens. The flower on this one is quite spectacular with its pale yellowish-green tube and sepals and dark plum corolla petals. It

Tarra Valley

is one that is more difficult to get into flower in the show season preferring to flower in the spring or autumn. Introduced in 1987

Small Pipes An unusual cultivar with paniculate dark magenta flowers in clusters. The best bloom colour is supposed to be when grown in full sun. It was hybridised by Herman de Graaff in 1987 from a cross between *F. paniculata* x *F. triphylla*.

Dark Venus A long tubed cultivar with unusual colours and gloss leaves hybridised by Herman de Graaff in 1988 resulting from a cross between *F. excorticata* x *F. venusta*.

Purcellian Elegancy A new pale pink flowered triphylla hybridised by Mario de Cooker from a cross between *F. triphylla* 'HvdP' x *F. triphylla*.



Small Pipes



Purcellian Elegancy

Others by Herman de Graaff

Highland Pipes *F. magdalanae* x *F. excorticata*

Maori Pipes *F. excorticata* x *F. triphylla*

Northumbrian Pipes *F. magdalanae* x *F. paniculata*

Uilleann Pipes *F. paniculata* x *F. sanctae-rosae*

War Pipes *F. perscandens* x *F. magdalanae*

Others by John Wright

Lechlade Apache *F. simplicicaulis* x *F. boliviana*

Lechlade Fire Eater *F. triphylla* x *F. denticulata*

Whiteknights Ruby *F. triphylla* x *F. procumbens*

The Continuing Diary of a Fuchsia Nut – Ric Reilly

If you are reading an electronic copy of this edition of Fuchsia News, or have one on your PC, I have included a number of hyperlinks in [underlined blue text](#), which you can click on for more information or to go to a website or FaceBook group that I have mentioned.

It's been a while but it's good to be scribbling again for Fuchsia News, a chance to share my enthusiasm and addiction not just for my favourite plant but also for my fellow enthusiasts around the country.

Mini-show Part Two

As we look forward to all the BFS and local shows coming up ([for BFS dates click here](#)), it's been a fun week or two with two mini-shows, the first at home in [Camborne](#) and this week with old friends in [Reading](#). It was great to be back in Reading, where on my travels for work I have been an occasional member over many years, and to help Paul and Jenny who were running proceedings for the mini-show. At the mini-show members bring in a plant for each =of three classes (anything in a 3½", 5" and 6" pot) and then everyone judges each class and votes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd again for each class. It makes for a fun evening which can be a fixture in the calendar, a month before the main show.

Which society doesn't struggle to provide variety and entertainment in the annual programme, so it's worth thinking about if you're on a society committee. If you would like to know more about arranging your own mini-show, there are details in the Summer 2017 edition of Fuchsia News. If you don't have that edition drop me a line on ricreilly@icloud.com and I'll send you the article.

My part in Reading's mini-show was to waffle about each plant on the bench, as I've done in past years, and although they just have three classes, there was a wide array of singles, doubles, triphyllas, species, interspecifics, encliandras and even a mini standard, which won the Best in Show on the evening. One talking point was a couple of seedlings from Sid Garcia from the same parentage and perhaps the same berry, but with quite different flowers demonstrating how much variation you can get when you cross two fuchsia hybrids. This reflects the 'suck it and see' nature of hybridisation by [Phenotype](#), where parents are chosen based on their physical characteristics, rather than Genotype where ancestry and genes are considered in choosing the parents.

A Bonus Plant, and Watering Fuchsias in Hot Weather

As if the hospitality of the Reading Society wasn't enough there was an unexpected bonus for me and that was finding a plant of Lechlade Apache on the bench in the 6" class, which I'd lost a few years back. It's an interspecific cross between *F simplicicaulis* and *F boliviana*, hybridised by John Wright and introduced in 1972. John was a one time resident of Reading where he worked at the university in the Whiteknights area, after which he named some of his early hybrids (e.g. Whiteknights Pearl, Whiteknights Amethyst). The real bonus for me was that on cheekily asking for a cutting, Janet was kind enough to give me the plant, one of a number she had.

As is frequently the case when checking out details of a fuchsia I turned to Eddy De Boever's brilliant reference website fuchsiafinder.com. Eddy has spent years building and populating the site with a meticulous approach, and at the time of writing it lists 18,763 cultivars of which 7,798 are available across 31 nurseries in Europe.

So, I left the Reading Society meeting with a big smile, clasping my new acquisition and only then wondered what I was going to do to keep my Lechlade Apache alive and not fried on my travels, associated with my rather nomadic work demands. It was just Monday with Brum on Tues, back to Reading on Wednesday, Brum again on Thursday, before heading home to Cornwall. Luckily at least for the first few days I was able to persuade Jacq the night porter at the hotel I use and abuse in Reading to look after it until Thursday morning. They were kind enough even to water it, but that may have been a well-intentioned mistake.

On the Thursday, going into Birmingham by train, I had to leave the plant in the car at Bromsgrove station for the day and of course it was a bit worse for wear but still with us, when I returned in the afternoon. I was reminded of an excellent article by Brian Morrison in one of the BFS publications many years ago. Brian hypothesised that the [stomata](#) in the leaves, which take in carbon dioxide and expel oxygen, start to shut down when a fuchsia gets too hot say above 80°F, and this also means the incidental transpirational loss of water through the leaves also ceases. So this time of the year we must be careful as our plants may look like they're flagging in the heat, and look like they need water, but the last thing they may need is more water as they may not be taking up the water they already have in the pot.

It's worth remembering that most plants, fuchsias included, need three vital things from the pots and compost they are in. They need nutrients, water and air. Roots need to breathe and the air that is essential occupies the same miniscule spaces in the compost as water. So, if you keep your plants constantly topped up with water and worse still they become waterlogged, then in human terms they are drowning. With some plants, such as pellicies, we are encouraged to let them noticeably flag before watering them again reflecting their origins of hot climates, but I wonder if we should do the same but less drastically with our fuchsias. What do you think?

Talking of past BFS publications, I am pleased to share with you that the Committee are arranging for all our past publications to be scanned and made available in electronic form going all the way back to 1938. Watch this space as they say.

Mini-show Part One

The Thursday before my trip to Reading, with my friends Marie and David, I ran a mini-show at the [Camborne-Redruth Fuchsia Society](#), just the second year of having this fun and instructional evening in our programme. With their encouragement I had lifted the idea and the format from the Reading Society, and adapted it a little to Camborne, so we have four classes, the three

from Reading plus a maximum 20 cm (8") class, mainly for my benefit as most of what I grow is in large pots. Also, with our inaugural event last year I had encouraged, and still do, up to two entries in each class for each member exhibiting, as I didn't know whether it would catch on. I shouldn't have worried as this year's mini-show had 43 entries across 4 classes including entries from three newcomers Eileen, Stan and Margaret which bodes well for our beginners and novice classes at our main show in August.

As with the Reading mini-show, as well as giving members a practice at exhibiting, they get a chance to pop their feet into the shoes of a judge, prompting them to think about what a judge might look for. Quite what a challenge it can be judging, is illustrated by 33 of the 43 entries receiving at least one third place vote at Camborne, whereas if it was obvious and easy that would be nearer 12. It also perhaps gives us an indication that when the public view our show, beauty is very much in the eye of the beholder, and we all should bring along our plants in good health with some, even just a few flowers, because even if we don't think they'll win prizes the visiting public will still enjoy them.

Bonnie Scotland

Last month in early June I had an outing to Scotland to help with the latest BFS Roadshow, which was hosted and organised by BFS Scotland. The venue was the Allan Centre in the picturesque town of [Bridge of Allan](#) not far from Stirling, Dunblane and Falkirk. I would think it would make an ideal base for a Scottish holiday with fabulous scenery, loads of history, and less than an hour's travelling to Edinburgh and to Glasgow.

The day started with a talk on encliandras from Andrew Cathcart, who's photographs are quite superb and the photos included many of Bob Wilson's wonderful bonsai encliandras. Andrew and Sheena also provided us with a lovely display of fuchsia lore including jewelry, pottery and a selection of mounted prints. Talking of encliandras it was also good to meet and share a lift from Sandra McInnes with Robert Fulton who is focusing on hybridising encliandras and who was kind enough to give me a couple of his latest introductions to take home.

Next up was Tom Sneddon who treated us to a very entertaining talk on successful propagation, and he included taking cutting by layering stems down on the compost. I have never seen it demonstrated or recommendation although some of the more scendent fuchsias such as *Corallina* and *F denticulata* layer and root naturally. One thought from Tom that did strike is that he does not cover his cuttings, and providing they are sprayed daily this makes a lot of sense to me as covered I tend to lose a lot to botrytis,

Next up was Lisa Hegg who is putting together a collection of fuchsias with a Scottish connection such as ones named after places in Scotland or people from Scotland, or bred by Scottish hybridisers. She already has over 80 listed and a growing collection and Lisa's talk was on her top 10 from that 80 odd, and accompanying her talk she had many on display, on a wooden thistle crafted by her husband

As the Secretary of the [Fife Fuchsia Society](#), it's not surprising that one of Lisa's favourites is Pride of Fife, an Alan Swaby seedling (AS5) which was adopted and named by the Fife Society after Alan's untimely death. Alan will be best remembered for the double Lynne Patricia named after his wife. Lisa's choices included Matt Busby, who many of us had forgotten was a Scotsman, and Toni Hegg a red and mauve single with recurved sepals bred by John Porter, and chosen by Lisa's daughter Toni as her ideal 21st birthday present.

On Lisa's exhibit were also some of Jim Gordon's numbered introduction, one of which he donates each year to BFSS for a class in the Borders show, with the winner of the class given the privilege of naming the plant as his or her prize. What a fabulous idea, and how fitting that no.7, last year's plant, is to be named after Jim himself, when it is registered.

After a break for lunch, there was a chance to look over the various exhibits and the plants sales, tempted as always but already pondering how to get two small encliandras home – can you take plants as hand baggage? I suspected not so wrapped up into the case they went and into the hold. I don't understand airlines, flying up if you volunteered to put your cabin bag in the hold you got a free tote bag, flying back you get charged for the same gesture, but I guess it does make Squeezyjet a fitting name.

After lunch I did a short spell on species and my approach to keeping and growing fuchsias, and I was followed by the other guest from south of the border, Keith McManus with Charlie the dog, who goes everywhere with Keith on his travels.

Keith's talk was on the biennial (two year) cultivation of fuchsias, for which he takes cuttings in May or June with the plants grown, stopped and shaped in that first year but not allowed to flower. They're given a dilute feed keeping the growth compact, and potted up one pot size at a time, dropping the plant to the bottom of a new pot so encouraging shrub-like growth. He stops his plants, how many pairs of leaves, relative to the intermodal difference. Keith grows his plants under lux tubes rather than more expensive and intensive LED lights.

The day was appropriately finished off with a talk from George Cameron on fuchsias with ornamental foliage, with many exhibits including Autumnale, Sunray, Roswitha, Old Somerset and Tom West, Preston Field and Linlithgow FC. George reminded us of the new BFS rule on exhibiting ornamental fuchsias and that is that exhibit should have no more than three stops on the current year's growth to give a more natural appearance and there should be an abundance of new young growth requiring the last stop five or six weeks prior to the show (see page 20 in the yellow 2018 edition of the Exhibitors, Judges and Stewards Rule Book & Guidelines).

One final tip from George that made me chuckle was if you are using pegs to weigh down the branches of fuchsias in hanging baskets and pots, use brightly coloured ones so you leave none behind for the judges.

I had an absolutely super day in Scotland and I'd like to thank George, Doreen, Andrew, Sheena and Lisa for their hospitality and particularly Sandra for the best ever taxi service.

The BFS remain committed to a programme of roadshows with two each year at different locations. The next one is in the West Midlands at Fairfield near Bromsgrove on Sunday 20th October, which needs your support and that of local societies. In 2020 roadshows will be in the north-west and in the south-east, so watch this space, and ideally, we will be in the north-east in 2021 for which we need a local or two to work with us in making the arrangements.



Top Ten 2019

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" and 4", 5", 6.5" or the metric equivalent, and any size pot classes. Listing where 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. I have added in the 4" pot classes this year as so many Societies are now using 4" as the 3.5" are now so difficult to buy.

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?

24th Autumn Gathering!

For many of us the Autumn Gathering is a great way to end the fuchsia season as it is a day that is both social and educational!

So some more details!

When? Sunday October 6th from 10am to 4.30pm

Where? Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Rd, Ash, Aldershot GU12 5DN – there is a small car park beside the hall and a large one just over the road

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? Still only £8.50 per person!

Who are the Speakers this year?

Paul Leatherdale is a new speaker for us and his subject will be “Encliandras and how I grow them” Paul is a real enthusiast on these delightful small flowered fuchsias and I know that we will all learn a lot on how to grow them!

Kristopher Harper – is again a newcomer to the gathering and his passion is James Lye that great Victorian hybridiser and grower of fuchsias and that will be the subject of his talk. Kristopher holds the national collection of James Lye’s wonderful fuchsias

Finally – our third speaker is **Ray Broughton** – who we have had before on pests and diseases. His talks are both fascinating and an occasion to learn a lot. He asks that people bring a long problem plant from their garden – not only fuchsias and he will use the microscope attached to his laptop to show us the problem etc! It is quite fascinating!

So there it is a great day out in Surrey , a chance to meet friends old and new and even to talk about our favourite plant!

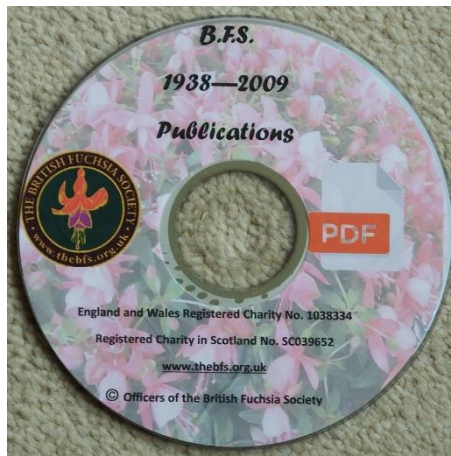
This publication is really the last chance to remind you about booking although I will put it onto the website and facebook. However why wait – pop a cheque in the post – made payable to South of England Fuchsia Fellowship and send it to Carol Gubler, Little Brook Fuchsias, Ash Green Lane West, Ash Green, 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

Bits and Pieces!

BFS Awards etc

At the end of Fuchsia News you will see that I have included the annual form asking for nominations for the range of BFS awards – please have think of any possibilities either with in your group or locally that could receive an award. The Committee carefully considers and votes on all the nominations that are received, and you will have noticed in the last publication that quite a few are given out at the BFS AGM each year, and locally shortly afterwards.

As mentioned by Ric the BFS has had all of its publications from 1938 digitalised and is available on disc as PDFs and are fully searchable. Years 1938 - 2009 includes all Annuals, Summer, Autumn bulletins and miscellaneous items such as Fuchsiarama. Price £10 including p&p. If interested contact Derek Luther.



Alternative Help & Advice from Robert Fulton of Glasgow and District Fuchsia Society – taken from an old FN

Help with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

If you watered them this morning you don't have to go home at lunchtime to check if they need more.

If you fed it this morning it won't starve in the next couple of days.

There comes a time in every plants life when you have to stop stopping it.

Judges may only be lenient with the 'odd' popped bud.

When on holiday there's no point in worrying about your plants there's nothing you can do until you get back, if they're still alive.

If aphids are still present 5 minutes after spraying don't spray again, they're probably not resistant, they just need time to die.

No matter how much you will them to grow they'll do it in their own time.

Sometimes there really is nothing to do.

Help with Paranoia

Your neighbours' compost is only secret because he won't tell you what's in it.

Your neighbours' compost probably isn't better than yours.

Pests and diseases don't actually target your plants.

Not seeing growth on your cuttings a week after taking them, doesn't mean they're not rooting.

Because someone else in the cutting competition potted theirs up doesn't mean you have to.

Real knowledge is to know how to grow better, not why everyone else seems to.

If you find a vine weevil grub it probably is the end of the world for your plant but not for you or your collection.

Feathered and furry friends don't deliberately break branches off your prospects for the show.

Help with Excuses

Because the sun reaches your neighbours' greenhouse 10 minutes before yours isn't why he grows better plants.

Your intuition probably isn't poor, just a lack of good judgement.

A hot/cold/mild/wet/dry, summer/winter/spring isn't the reason why your plants aren't as good as everyone else's.

It is your fault the wind blew over your best standard.

It is your fault the frost killed your best plants.

You got the flowering time wrong not the plant.

The judge didn't make it NAS, you did.

Have a good Summer!

Carol, Arthur, John and Ric



The British Fuchsia Society

England and Wales Registered Charity No. 1038334
Registered Charity in Scotland No. SC039652



President
Mr. Derek Luther
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.

If you are in any doubt on which level of award to use, please contact the secretary in confidence.

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 an 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 either the society or fuchsia.

NOMINATIONS TO BE MADE FOR ONE AWARD ONLY

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

Please PRINT.

Name of Recipient: BFS Membership No:

Name of Award: Date:

Brief description/statement to support the nomination. (50 words approx.).

Signature of Proposer;BFS/Affiliated Soc. Membership No:

Please PRINT Name:

Signature of Secunder: BFS/Affiliated Soc. Membership No:

Please PRINT Name:

Please return to The Secretary, Mr. John Nicholass, 36 Beach Road West Portishead Bristol BS20 7HU. Tel: 01275 840203, email bfsecretary@outlook.com