



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1 st November 2024		31 st October 2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

The British Fuchsia Society

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

UK & Wales CC reg No 1038334

OSCR SC039652

Charity's principal address

36, Beach Road West

Portishead

BRISTOL

Postcode

BS20 7HU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mr John Nicholass	Secretary & President		
2	Ms Carol Gubler	Assistant Secretary		
3	Mr Paul Waldron	Treasurer		
4	Mr Paul Munro	Editor		
5	Mr Paul Russell	Committee Chairman		
6	Mrs Bonita Hesketh	Committee Member		
7	Mr Paul Leatherdale	Committee Member		
8	Mr Arthur Phillips	Committee Member		
10	Mr Geoffrey Smith	Committee Member		
11	Mr Eric Reilly	Committee Member		
12	Mr John Palmer	Committee Member		
13	Mr George Cameron	Committee Member		
14	Mrs Lisa Hegg	Committee Member		

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

The British Fuchsia Society Constitution - Issued June 2023

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Unincorporated Association: National Plant Society

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Trustees must be nominated by two current society members and undertake to be willing to serve as trustee. If more candidates are nominated than places available, a membership vote takes place, and the results are announced at the next Annual General meeting. For Society Officers references are requested plus an interview with three members of the Committee. Trustees may also be co-opted by the committee subject to the terms of our constitution.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees.
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works.
- relationship with any related parties.
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Membership of the society is open to all adults in the United Kingdom and we also accept overseas membership for mailing of the society publications overseas. We also have a junior membership for younger people who are interested in fuchsias with a dedicated newsletter and a plant distribution included. An electronic membership tier has been introduced UK and worldwide for the same cost.

All new trustees must complete a declaration with the information required by the Charity Commissions and HMRC and declare there is nothing preventing them from becoming a trustee. They are provided with the both the England & Wales and the Scottish charity commission's guidance for trustees and a copy of the society's Duties Manual.

The major risk to the charity is the declining membership of all specialist national plant societies, and the increasing age of the membership.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance education of the public and further knowledge of fuchsia plants by encouraging, improving, and extending cultivation of fuchsias in all possible ways, and in the furtherance of this object but not otherwise.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The trustees have borne in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings. Some of our major activities are detailed below. This year our 2024 AGM was held as a meeting in the Southwest at Monkton Heathfield near Taunton. Nearly all shows and events were able to take place in the summer of 2023 with appropriate precautions.

- Arranging "Road Shows" around the country open to all to learn about fuchsias from experts.
- Organise national fuchsia shows in various parts of the country open to the public with exhibition fuchsias and experts who can answer questions. These may be held in halls, garden centres or as part of major RHS Shows.
- Put on stands or displays at major national flower shows with education about fuchsias and information about the society to the public.
- Running a training scheme for national fuchsia judges and show stewards and maintaining a list of qualified judges on our website.
- Publish a list of speakers, primarily speaking about fuchsias which any organisation may use.
- To publish and support the publication of books, leaflets and articles relating to fuchsias.
- Maintain a website which includes a section where anyone can ask a question within several fuchsia categories and have it answered by one of our experts. The website also provides links to other useful websites related to fuchsias.
- Maintain a registration system which allows for the registration of new fuchsia cultivar releases, with information being displayed on our website in the seedling register.
- Maintain a Facebook page with current information and items of interest related to fuchsias.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Society has continued to hold its own in this financial year, despite a drop in the level of membership at the end of the 2024/25 financial year. This seems be mainly due to ageing membership, the long-term effect of the COVID pandemic and ageing membership on the Affiliated Societies and the rise in the cost of living. An Annual General meeting was held in Perth, Scotland in line with our objective to move the AGM meetings around the country.

Electronic membership which was introduced in the 2023/4 membership year has continued to grow. All publications and documents are sent via email to those members reducing the need for printed copies and postage.

Stands were put on to promote the Society and the fuchsia at five major flower shows gaining new society memberships and funds for the Society. These events give an opportunity to meet members of the public and give them advice and information. This year it was decided to give away the cultural trifold leaflets free to promote the society and the fuchsia.

Seven National shows were held from mid-July to late-September again to demonstrate different fuchsias trained in different ways to create interest in the society and the fuchsia.

The Society has continued to make use of the Zoom platform to hold judges' meetings, subcommittee meetings, and special interest group meetings. Two of the normal three scheduled trustees' meetings are also held over zoom. It has also been used to broadcast a tour around the seven national shows, using mobile phones. One of the special interest groups is also experimenting with hybrid meetings which are also broadcast over zoom. Some affiliated societies have made use of Zoom to have lectures from experts via hybrid meetings reducing the need for travel.

Evaluation of the scanned slides is ongoing. It is planned to make these available to members.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Society aims to keep approximately two years' worth of expenditure, represented currently by a combination of fixed term deposits and investment funds.

The Society has some restricted funds as part of our reserves which are designated for certain purposes only.

Designated fund, currently £910, from monies given by UK affiliated societies which have closed. These are held for 5 years and can be given back to anyone wishing to start a new society in the same area. After this time the funds are moved to the General Society funds.

The investment funds have now been invested with Eden Tree in charity specific funds in a manner consistent with our investment strategy. These were valued at £64,845 on 31st October 2025.

In this financial year we ran an operating deficit of circa £3530, but overall the society's funds rose by £2291 due to the increase in the value of the investment funds. The next financial year may be more difficult because of inflation and cost of living concerns.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The trustees decided to continue assisting the affiliated societies whose activities had been very restricted in the last years by reducing the cost of affiliation and the Public Liability Insurance scheme for the 2023/2024 financial year.

Section F**Other optional information****Section G****Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Paul Russell	John Franklin Nicholass
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Hon Secretary
Date	1/06/2026	01/06/2026