

## It's a Gardener's World!

Fuchsias are one of the mainstays of the summer garden. They produce masses of delightful, pendant, bell-like flowers for months on end, from early June to the first severe frosts of autumn.

Fuchsias provide colourful displays in beds and borders, hanging baskets and all manner of containers. They are so popular, that fuchsias have their own national society – the British Fuchsia Society – plus numerous local clubs and societies. We're certainly going to miss the fabulous spectacle we get in the Horticulture Tent at Stokesley Show this year! But if you want to see a remarkable display, there's a garden full of Fuchsias in front of a little cottage overlooking West Green.



The fuchsia flower is a beautiful, highly ornamental, exotic flower with striking two-tone colours. The fuchsia flower is quite unusual with regard to its shape and the fact that they are really delicate.

Few flowers brighten a garden quite the same way as the fuchsia. The beautiful pendants come in a range of colours, though my favourites are the deep, dark pink variety. They seem so perfect in every way, their shape, their form & their colour. I marvel that God has created something so wonderfully meticulous & is repeated from flower to flower. Folklore has it that the fuchsia provides fairies with a favourite hiding place! They make me think of little ballerinas with their outstretched petals that look like a tutu skirt and their stamen that look like legs! These little flowers really dance & in doing so remind me of one of my favourite sayings: **“Life is not waiting for the storms to pass ... it is about learning to dance in the rain.”**

The fuchsia actually comes from South America, having been brought to Britain in 1788. The western world first discovered the fuchsia in 1695. A French Catholic priest named Charles Plumier discovered a strain in the Dominican Republic. Also known as Lady's Eardrops, the fuchsia family contains more than 100 species. It's named after Leonhart Fuchs (1501-1566). This 16th-century German herbalist was also a doctor and a botanical illustrator.

In western Ireland, it's called 'Deora De', which translates as God's Teardrops. There is an ancient story that the fuchsia sprang from the blood of Christ at the foot of the cross. Its pendants dangle because it hangs its head in sorrow.

**Fuchsia** is a **symbol of** elegance, good taste, **confiding love** and amiability. So, generally, fuchsias are given as a way of expressing your trust for someone. The Canaanite woman trusted that Jesus could & would heal her daughter. We too should be willing to entrust all that is personal to us, to Him.

Should we feel at times disheartened and discouraged, a **confiding** thought, a simple movement of heart towards God will renew our powers. Whatever He may demand of us, He will give us at the moment the strength and the courage that we need.