



# SUSSEX AREA OF NAFAS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT  
SOCIETIES

CHARITY No. 292377

[www.SussexAreaNAFAS.org.uk](http://www.SussexAreaNAFAS.org.uk)

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## Week 7 – Are We Nearly There Yet?

Dear Members,

It's Lilac Day on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May. Such beautiful blooms, I hope you have one near you. My grandmother was convinced there would be a pregnancy in the family if lilac were brought into the house! "Count your blessings" my grandmother used to say (see other sayings overleaf).

My to-do list doesn't seem to get any shorter and I haven't even started on the books I want to read. I think I must be working at mañana speed. I did make sure though that I made a design for National Flower Arranging Day.

I know that we are all looking forward to a time when we can meet at flower club once again but, in the meantime, being good citizens is the best contribution we can make to society.



Never in my whole life did I imagine that my hands would consume more alcohol than my mouth!

Stepped on my scale  
this morning and it  
said: Please use social  
distancing, one person  
at a time. 🤔 🤔

### Breaking News .....

The Sussex Area's **Executive Committee Meeting**: we dragged ourselves into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and held a virtual meeting. We'd like to reinstate the **Council Meeting** on **Mon 11-May-20** and hold it virtually. Let's hope delegates are brave enough to try! Our lovely Lesley Etherton, Area Secretary, will be in touch.

**Sussex Area Workshops**: these have been cancelled until September.

**National Flower Arranging Day** on **01-May-20** was not promoted this year but it doesn't stop us making a design, does it? See mine further on.

The **National Advisory Meeting** in July has been cancelled.

The **2020 Weekend** in Leicester in August 2020 has been cancelled.

The **National Flower Show** at **Hylands House** has moved from July to **11/13-Sep-20**.

The date of the **NAFAS AGM** has been changed from Weds 07-Oct-20 to **Tues 06-Oct-20** at **St Botolphs** (not the Bishopsgate Institute). Tickets required. Details to follow when known.

Lancing College will shortly take a decision regarding the possibility of holding **A Sense of Place** at Lancing Chapel in October. Fingers crossed.

**As your Mother / Gran used to say .....**

Count your blessings.  
Mustn't grumble.  
It's only your mother who's going to tell you the truth.  
I'm only doing this for your own good.  
Wait and see.  
I'll tell you when you're older.  
You'll miss me when I'm gone.  
When I was your age ... ..  
If I had talked to my mother the way you talk to me ... ..  
You have an answer for everything don't you?  
As long as you live under my roof, you'll do as I say.  
You're enough to try the patience of a saint!  
Don't sit too close to the television or it will ruin your eyes.  
Don't take sweets from strangers.  
There's no such word as 'can't.'  
Don't eat in the street.  
Get your hair out of your eyes.  
If you don't finish what's on your plate, you won't get any pudding.  
If you eat your carrots, you'll be able to see in the dark.  
Don't put your elbows on the table.  
You are not getting up from the table until you've finished.  
Don't leave the house with wet hair or you'll get a cold.  
I knew he wasn't right for you anyway.  
Don't sit on a cold wall or you'll get piles.  
Sit up straight.  
Behave, or I'll smack you into next week.  
*(could you make that next year please?)*

**HOW TO WIN YOUR WIFE**

Dine her, call her, hug her, hold her, surprise her, support her, compliment her, smile at her, listen to her, laugh with her, cry with her, romance with her, shop with her, give her jewellery, buy her flowers, hold her hand, write love letters to her, go to the end of the earth and back for her.

**HOW TO WIN YOUR HUSBAND**

Show up naked and bring food!

It is with great sadness that I have to mention the loss of a few local businesses as a result of COVID-19. A local bra manufacturer has gone bust, a submarine company has gone under, a manufacturer of food blenders has gone into liquidation, a dog kennel has had to call in the retrievers and a company supplying paper for origami enthusiasts has folded. Local strip club has gone tits up, Interflora is pruning its business and Dynorod has gone down the drain. The saddest one though is the ice cream van man found dead covered in nuts and raspberry sauce. He couldn't take it any more and topped himself.

17:24

**Answers to last week's quiz on places in Sussex:**

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Burpham       | 11. Patcham   |
| 2. Washington    | 12. Charlton  |
| 3. Rottingdean   | 13. Amberley  |
| 4. Rye           | 14. Singleton |
| 5. Warnham       | 15. Eartham   |
| 6. Billingshurst | 16. Fontwell  |
| 7. Coolham       | 17. Lewes     |
| 8. Colgate       | 18. Petworth  |
| 9. Dragons Green | 19. Shipley   |
| 10. Polegate     | 20. Boarhunt  |

**My new social distancing outfit just arrived from amazon**



boredpanda.com



## Buying Local

Who knows what the future will bring regarding Dutch auctions and imported flowers, but I know I'm going to try harder to buy locally.

After Sally Pearce approached me regarding Crosslands Flowers, I did a little research. The website Flowers from the Farm has a whole map of who's growing where:

<https://www.flowersfromthefarm.co.uk/meet-our-members>

To complete this topic, gorgeous Gaenor has written about her local dahlia grower at Ryecroft Nurseries.

Let's support our local businesses.



After seeing Captain Tom Moore walking 100 laps of his garden, The Department of Work and Pensions declares him fit for work. @bennettarron

When the quarantine kicks in...



## Alstroemerias for Friendship

by

**Sally Pearce**

Chairman of Ringmer Flower Club

Many flower clubs in the Sussex Area will have invited Ben Cross of Crosslands Flower Nursery to talk to members about the cultivation of alstroemerias in this country. He came to Ringmer Flower Club in February 2020 armed with buckets of fabulous flowers for members to purchase and wearing a

tee-shirt emblazoned with the phrase '#BritishFlowersRock'. I was inspired by his energetic determination to promote the British flower industry; his depth of knowledge of the entire growing process associated with his specialism; and his positivity and passion. Then came the news on the radio that he could not sell his flowers because of the closure of florists and churches. However, he has not been disheartened but has teamed up with florist Dave Carman at Beachtown Blooms and started a letterbox delivery service. I tried out this scheme recently to provide flowers as a thank you to my neighbours while I am self-isolating. I was not disappointed. After plunging the stems in a jug of hot water, they looked freshly picked. A box of blooms is £20.00 at

<https://www.beachtownblooms.com/letterbox-flowers> Or phone Dave at Beachtown Blooms on 07530 227244.





## Prize-Winning Dahlias by Gaenor Circus, Area Vice Chairman

I am sure that, when Philip Godsmark (Pip) and Mary-Ann Joyce of Ryecroft Nurseries look back on these days, it will echo Charles Dickens's memorable first line in a Tale of Two Cities 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.

Pip has owned Ryecroft Nursery since 2006 – a nursery which is located in a rural setting between the West Sussex villages of West Chiltington and Storrington. Ryecroft's modest exterior,

matching the modesty of the proprietors, leads through to a six-acre site making up the largest Dahlia collection in the UK. National Champion some 20 times, Pip is the last breeder of Dahlias in Britain having created between 100-150 new Dahlia varieties which are sold around the world.

Pip's successes in Dahlia growing are numerous, including the Luckhurst Trophy in 2019 at the National Dahlia show at Wisley, which he won for 'Ryecroft Jill', a ball variety of dahlia in an orangey-bronze colour.



Pip sometimes breeds new dahlias in remembrance of lost loved ones. He bred 'Ryecroft Jan' in memory of his late sister and this ivory-white pom-pom variety is one of the most popular in the world. He grows a comprehensive range of varieties of Dahlia including Collarette, Pom-pom, Ball, Cactus, Semi-Cactus and Waterlily. Dahlias grown from seed this year were sown on 10<sup>th</sup> April and will be planted out at the end of May to flower in mid-August. Dahlias from tubers are planted out mid-April to flower in mid-July. When in bloom, each tuber produces around 20 flowers and grows to an average height of 4 ft.

October is a busy month at Ryecroft because all the 8,000 tubers have to be dug up by hand, cleaned, labelled and stored with fans to dry them off.

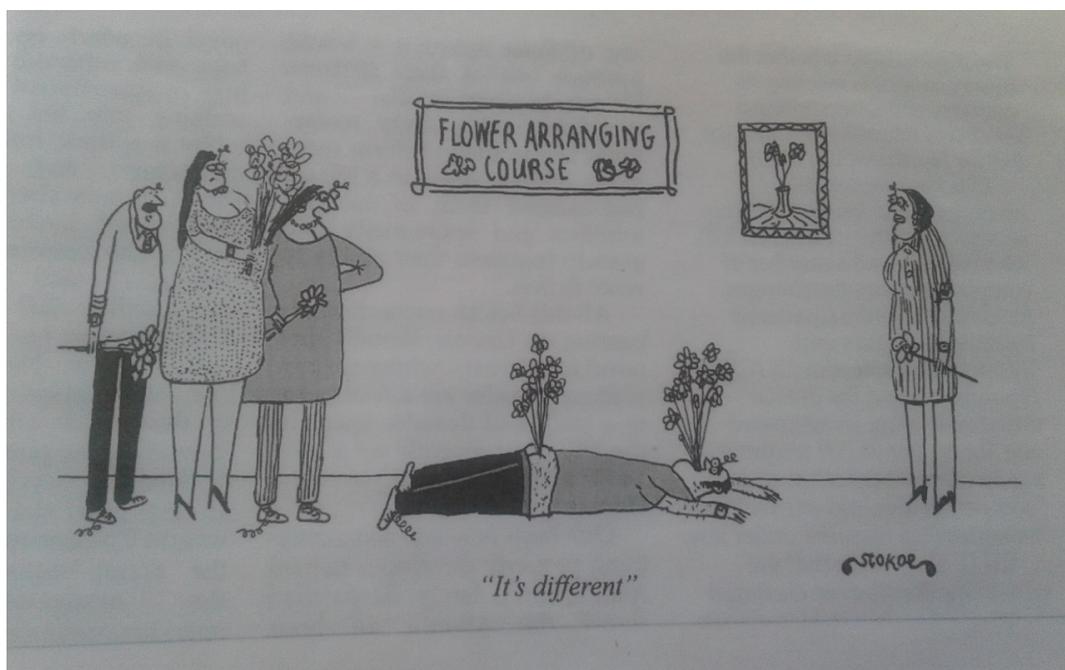
The farm shop at Ryecroft is also flourishing due to the current lockdown and it sells home grown vegetables, Sweet Peas, Zinnias and Gladioli.

Pip can look forward to the future with confidence. In fact, you could say that Pip is a man with great expectations!

Ryecroft Nursery,

Tel: 01903 743036

[ryecroftdahlias@hotmail.com](mailto:ryecroftdahlias@hotmail.com)



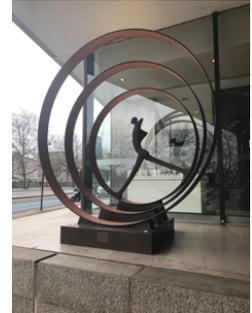
## The Race

I've been in training in recent weeks: walking as fast as my little legs will carry me for my daily exercise; up and down stairs (I live on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor); and doing online Pilates. I'm setting the timer on my oven so that I have to get up from my desk every hour. I'm absolutely exhausted and all because I challenged my son to a race.



I will be power walking a circuit. My route starts at Lambeth Bridge, and continues along Millbank. My first iconic building is Thames House, home of MI5. It has many entrances, but this is the most decorative. If you're about to argue with me and say that in the BBC series *Spooks*, Thames House was a different building, you'd be absolutely right. They used Freemason Hall in Covent Garden instead.

Next I walk past Millbank Tower which has this distinctive sculpture: Momentum III by Michael Speller from 2012.



On past Tate Britain, home to the national collection of British art from 1500 to the present day. My favourite floor is at the top: 1930s & Barbara Hepworth sculptures. It houses a good restaurant too Whistlers (booking essential).



Just over the road is a striking sculpture of the ballet dancer David Wall, entitled *Jeté* by Enzo Plazotta. Then it's on past the bollard which helped secure ships bound for Australia, taking convicts from the nearby penitentiary. A Henry Moore sculpture comes next: *Locking Pieces*. It's been on display here since 1968 and was created in 1963/64. It's on loan to Westminster Council from Tate Britain and the Henry Moore Foundation.



I now cross Vauxhall Bridge – a Grade II\* listed arch bridge designed by Sir Alexander Binnie, the resident engineer of London County Council which, opened (5 years late) in 1906. Each side sports four bronze statues. Four from Alfred Drury (Science, Fine Arts, Local Government and Education) and four designed by Frederick Pomeroy (Agriculture, Architecture, Engineering and Pottery). Each statue weights 2 tons. The bridge is almost 250 yards long and I certainly notice the incline on the first half.

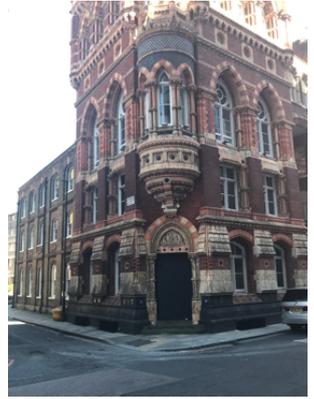


At the end of the bridge, I skirt the MI6 building (no I haven't seen James Bond yet!) which is currently obscured by the Tideway Works (a new 25km super sewer under the Thames). From being biologically dead in the 1950s, the River Thames now hosts over 120 different species of fish. This picture is of the front of the MI6 building. To my right is Vauxhall Cross – a fantastic transport hub of rail, underground and bus station at Vauxhall. The bus station is only 15 years old but is about to be demolished! Transport for London has the licence to kill in these parts.

Vauxhall is named after an early 13<sup>th</sup> Century Anglo-Norman mercenary Falkes de Breaté. His lands were confiscated when he revolted against Henry III but continued to be known as Falkes' Hall, then Fox Hall and finally Vauxhall (note that locals say **Vauxhall** not **Vaux**hall – actually we say **Westminster** too). Vauxhall is also famous for the car company of the same name, which grew from Vauxhall Iron Works (1860s). Falkes was granted the right to bear his own coat of arms. He chose the Griffin, which is also the symbol of Vauxhall Motors.



I'm now walking back on the south side of the River Thames. I pass the White Hart Dock, whose origins can be traced to the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. It became an inland dock in 1868 when the Albert Embankment was constructed. There are tunnels underneath so that Royal Doulton, which was housed in a beautiful building just around the corner on Black Prince Road (see right), could still access the river. Royal Doulton first started in 1815, here in Lambeth.



The International Maritime Organization has its offices just near Lambeth Bridge. It's a specialised agency of the United Nations. Whenever there are meetings attended by VIPs, the member nations' flags are flown.



Finally, I reach Lambeth Bridge. Diagonally opposite are the gates to Lambeth Palace and the former St Mary-at-Lambeth church. There's been a church here since 1062:



Edward the Confessor's sister had a wooden church built. The current structure was due to be demolished in the 1970s but was saved and has become The Museum of Garden History. Both elder and younger John Tradescants are buried there. So too is Cap't Bligh (of Bounty fame) who ended up an admiral. If you're in the area, do climb up the tower (131 steps). Tourists never seem to go there so you can have views of Westminster Palace all to yourself. Rather fine café too.



I'm on the home straight now over Lambeth Bridge to my finishing line. This bridge is painted red which matches the colour of the leather seats in the House of Lords. Westminster Bridge is painted green which is the colour of the seats in the House of Commons. George V opened the bridge in 1932.



Originally, there was a horse ferry at this position (most ferries were for pedestrians only) and the name lives on in Horseferry Road. At either end of the bridge is a pair of obelisks, on top of which are pinecones or pineapples (the latter interpretation said to be a tribute to John Tradescant the Younger who grew the first pineapple in the country). You might just make out the London Eye in the far background of the picture (left), There are super views from Lambeth Bridge of the Palace of Westminster.



As I might have mentioned before, Tim's in the army and super fit. So, it's only fair that he has further to go as he's running and I'm walking. His route of about 5km (his personal best is 17 minutes) includes my route but, on the return, at Lambeth Bridge, he continued eastwards along Southbank past the London Eye to Waterloo, over the Golden Jubilee Bridge to Embankment and back round. My circuit is a little shorter at 1.5 miles and my personal best is a little longer! And, now, as the drum roll from East Enders plays, the winner is