



# SUSSEX AREA OF NAFAS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT  
SOCIETIES

CHARITY No. 292377

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

[www.facebook.com/SussexAreaNAFAS/](https://www.facebook.com/SussexAreaNAFAS/)

## Week 18 – The Booze Edition

Dear Members,

I've been driven to it this week. Why is it that wine merchants always send their tempting offers at 8pm in the evening? You know: you've had dinner, a couple of glasses of your favourite tincture, you've just sat down to relax and BOOM! There in your in-box is temptation personified: a wine that brings back happy memories; a wine in short supply; an offer you can't refuse.....

I had hoped to survive lockdown drinking my way through my wine fridge (actually it's wine fridges but I didn't want to sound greedy or worse!). Instead, the fridge is bulging plus an additional 4 cases need a home!

Worse was to come: I was researching Sussex and booze. Unfortunately, I couldn't resist and there's more wine on the way. Think the party's at mine!

Jilly



### Your Area needs you!

The Flower Power Committee & Design Team visited Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens last week. They are brimming with ideas and excitement. Our 60th Anniversary celebrations are going to be such fun!  
Save the date: 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

We can still take more **Alliums** to dry as well as **Pampas Grass** and **Hydrangea** heads. For collection, please contact *Gorgeous Gaenor* on  
01798 812719 or  
[gaenor.circus@virgin.net](mailto:gaenor.circus@virgin.net)



## Maggie Hayes's Garden in Old Heathfield

We moved to our present house 5 years ago. The garden had some established shrubs such as rhododendrons, camellia, lilacs, viburnums and some perennials which were competing with ground elder. With the mature shrubs I wanted to keep, it would be impossible to eradicate the ground elder, so in the heavily infested areas we planted more shrubs to overshadow it, plus having the added benefit of foliage for demonstrating and competing.



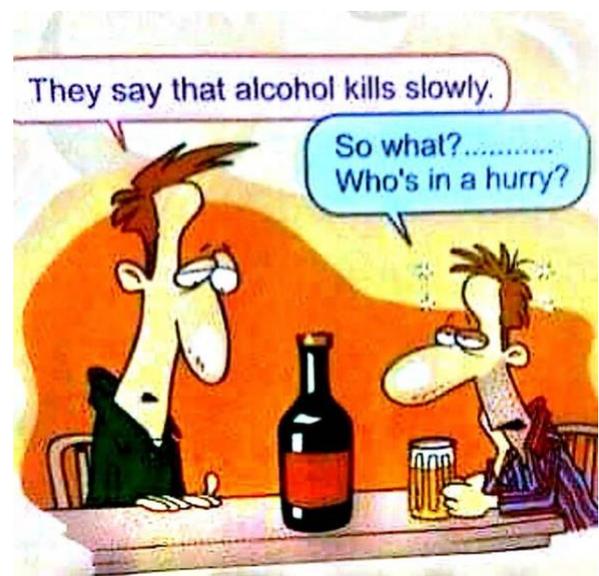
We added a pergola over the patio at the back of the garden over which there is a grape vine and some rambling roses (left) the one pictured is a David Austin "Malvern Hills", a lovely place to sit and enjoy lunch on these sunny days.

We continued with an arbour to one side and the length of the garden, giving some height, depth and seclusion from neighbours. We planted more climbing roses, 'Bathsheba', 'Open Arms', 'Generous Gardener', 'Constance Spry' and 'Clair Austin' and clematis to climb up them. They have relished the warm weather.

For those of you that have seen my demonstration this year you may be pleased to hear that our bees have also been enjoying the wonderful spring sunshine and working hard to bring in the nectar and pollen. As long as the summer stays fine, we should have a good harvest of honey, fingers crossed (right).



Thank you, Maggie, for giving us a tour of your garden. Maggie has just adopted the most beautiful collie dog, with bright blue eyes. How lucky is she!



## Stephen McDonnell's Favourite Design Style .....

I love all styles of flower arranging but the one I keep coming back to is.....Free Style. As the name suggests, it is just that: designing in a free and fluid manner.

The beauty of this style is that most, if not all, the designs you do will have a look and feel of a unique and one-off piece of work.



This style suits classical and more modern cutting-edge designs. The elements and principles of design still apply.

Choose a shape, structure, container or outline that visually looks like it is floating above your work surface. I find creating a visual flow or journey for the eye works well.



Creating several visual layers of interest will give even the simplest design a greater depth of interest.

Many thanks to Stephen for his enlightening piece. Can't wait for Flower Power next year or our Area Show in 2022 to see if this inspired you.

Maybe Gorgeous Gaenor isn't so evil after all - at least she's given us the answers to last week's devilishly hard quiz. How did you do (without the internet!)?

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>All About Sussex Quiz Answers</b>         | 8. Sussex by the Sea. William Ward-Higgs. |
| 1. George IV. The Royal Pavillion.           | 9. Piltdown Man                           |
| 2. George Sanders. Storrington, West Sussex. | 10. Aubrey Beardsley                      |
| 3. Erich Mendelsohn and Serge Chermayeff     | 11. Eric Gill                             |
| 4. Douglas Bader. 'Reach for the Sky'.       | 12. Tim Peake                             |
| 5. Jerusalem.                                | 13. Laurence Olivier                      |
| 6. Claude Debussy                            | 14. Virginia Woolf                        |
| 7. Edward Fitzalan-Howard, Duke of Norfolk   | 15. Michael Fish                          |

## You've Driven Me to Drink .....

Some of you might know that, as a sommelier, I'm particularly interested in food and wine pairing (purely on a professional basis of course!). Investigating Sussex, I was staggered to find how fortunate we are to have so many award-winning makers of booze.

In our Area, there are 127 vineyards, nearly 70 micro-breweries plus more than a couple of distilleries! So, if we're venturing out, let's support our local industry: go to the pub (especially if it has a garden), visit a vineyard for a tasting, and in August you could get money off a meal (thanks Rishi). Make sure though there is a dedicated driver who's on the soft stuff.

Remember - everything in moderation. Have at least a few nights a week alcohol free. If you're trying to lose weight, take a month off. Alcohol is a poison and addictive. Check out this website for more information: <https://www.drinkaware.co.uk>. Keep safe and healthy.



The privilege of drinking with friends is that you can talk nonsense all the time and the best thing is:

Nonsense is Understood,  
Discussed and Respected.

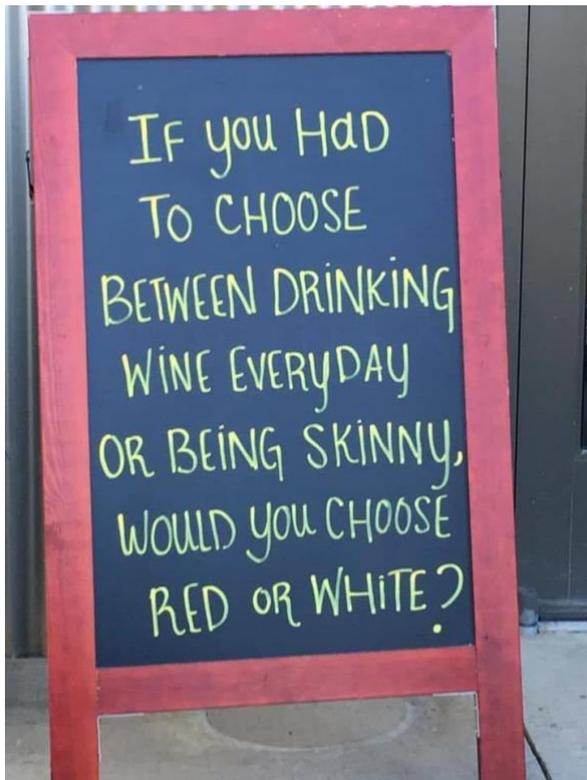
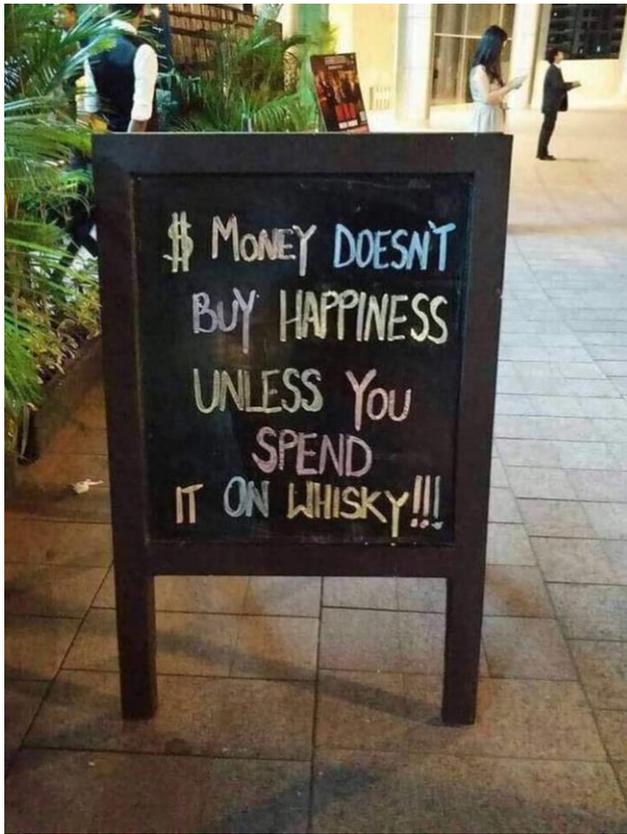
**People say that drinking milk makes you stronger.**

Drink 5 glasses of milk and try to move a wall.  
Can't?

**Now drink 5 glasses of wine.  
The wall moves all by itself!**

### TOP TIP

Never pay full price for a bottle of wine. Set up a unique, free, email address (e.g. Gmail, Hotmail, etc.). Subscribe to your favourite supplier (M&S, Waitrose (you've just missed their 25% off a mixed case of 6+), Lidl, Majestic, vineyard, etc.). Check your emails when you're ready to buy some booze, and find the special offers.



I may have a small drinking problem.  
My husband asked me to toast some bread for him.  
I raised my glass and said  
"Here's to bread."

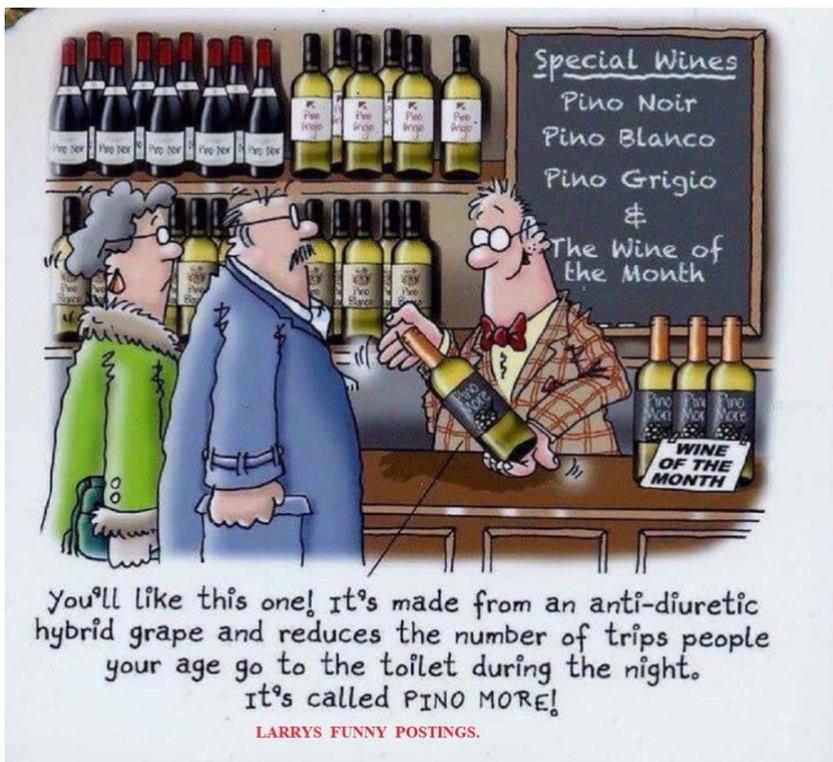
**Wine:** Sussex is famous for its soils that are very similar to those in Champagne, hence the proliferation of sparkling wine. Bubbly is usually made from a blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier grape varieties; it's labour-intensive so pretty pricey. Many wineries have tasting rooms. Find your local here or contact me for one near you:

<https://mapmanltd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2f84bfd46a4c4a25930f3380f11b8ff2>

Don't forget to try still wines too: often using unusual grape varieties designed for cooler, wetter climes. One of the vineyards at Leonardslee is the first in the country to plant Pinotage - South Africa's classic grape variety.

When asked the similarities between women & alcohol, Shakespeare replied: They both have the amazing quality of giving pleasure at night and headache in the morning!

When I drink alcohol, everyone says I'm an alcoholic.  
When I drink Fanta, nobody says I'm fantastic.



**Beer:** CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) in Brighton has a website listing the 60+ breweries in Sussex: <http://www.brightoncamra.org.uk/Breweries.html>. From the micro-brewery to well-known Harvey's in Lewes, established in 1790.

**Distilleries:** here is a map of gineries in Sussex: <https://www.theginguild.com/interactive-gin-distilleries-map/> and a search of vodka distillers as well <https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=vodka+distilleries+in+sussex&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

**Food & Drink pairing:** match your drink with the strongest flavour on your plate; delicate flavours need a lightweight drink; full-bodied drinks need robust foodstuffs; spicier food requires a fruitier, sweeter drink (a perry is a classic with a curry); finally try the timeless combination of fish & chips with a glass of local bubbly - a perfect way to celebrate the bounty of Sussex. Bon appétit!