



SUSSEX AREA OF NAFAS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT
SOCIETIES

CHARITY No. 292377

www.SussexAreaNAFAS.org.uk

www.facebook.com/SussexAreaNAFAS/

Week 20 – You're as Young as You Feel

Dear Members,

Where do the weeks go? Time is flying by, but I did squeeze in a visit to Tate Britain which is just around the corner from me. I wanted to support a museum as they all seem to be struggling and many face the threat of closure. There I was, queuing up at 09.45 (as instructed) for my 10am slot. It was chaos. Busier than a usual Saturday afternoon. Didn't get to where I needed to be until 10.25. I saw the '1930s to Now' collection (Ben Nicholson and his White Relief; Barbara Hepworth and then Bridgit Riley from the 1960s). Couldn't really get some of the political works from the 21st Century – Tracey Emin and then some works of meat and offal (or did I mean awful???).

If you're being a culture vulture – enjoy yourself.

Jilly

**I thought the dryer made
my clothes shrink.**

**Turns out it was the
refrigerator.**



Club Chairmen - Breaking News

**We all missed our Spring Chairmen's
Forum meeting so let's save the date
for our Autumn one: Thursday 08-
Oct-20 courtesy of Zoom. More
details to follow.**

Nina Tucknott's Garden in Hove

On 8 June 2000, my family and I moved into our current house in leafy Hove and I must admit that for months on end I simply couldn't stop grinning like the Cheshire Cat; never in my wildest dreams had I ever thought I'd own a patch of land so precious. Both John and I did a 2-year RHS gardening course at Stanmer Nurseries in the early '90s and to finally have a reasonable plot to experiment on was (is) just magical.

Twenty years on, our special place has become even more precious in the middle of this Covid-19 pandemic and the amazing weather we've had for most of lockdown has meant that barely a minute has been spent indoors...

So, let me take you by the hand and lead you up our garden path...



Next to the house is a sheltered patio area where I display my fondness of succulents including *Sempervivum*, *Agave* and *Aeonium*; I simply cannot get enough of these and John (sensibly!) has given up suggesting that perhaps I don't need to propagate any more. But hey, they're so simple to multiply: cut off, stick in a pot and voilà, another little gem is soon on the way.

On this patio is a butler sink too which we inherited from John's parents; normally it's my herb garden but since garden centres weren't open when the spring bulbs died down, improvisation became the key and I quite like the different display this year. In fact, the two *Muehlenbeckia* were purchased at Clair Hall courtesy of Jean Plaskett...

Being close to the sea, I wanted to feature some gravel too; such a nice crunchy sound to walk on and a perfect base for *Hosta* since slugs aren't keen on sliding along their sharp form.

Our middle patio is a fab suntrap to sip a Pimm's (or three) when the sun goes down; it was meant to be a sunken area but we hit chalk quite early on so it didn't become as sunken as originally planned! My rose garden is nearby so I can sit and admire the various blooms as they open; so far this year they've been amazing.



For Christmas 2015 Father Christmas brought me the best prezzie ever; a 12'x8' shed which is now housing an array of floral paraphernalia which I need for demonstrations, workshops, weddings and courses (as fellow designers you will totally understand when I say that the garage too holds an awful lot, as do a few wardrobes, several under bed storage boxes, a further shed and so on and so on!). Oh! What joy to gaze at all the goodies I've accumulated over the years...

Flower Power 9th-12th September 2021: why not register your interest for a £12 ticket with cuddly Carol Lathleiff, our Ticketing Administrator: calathleiff@yahoo.co.uk or 01903 817187? As soon as we have more details, we'll be back in touch. Remember: proceeds from all tickets sales before the end of May come to the Sussex Area.

At the top of the garden is a precious raised decking area; a surprise gift from our son Lucas back in July 2010; we came back from a week's holiday in Finland to find that he and a friend had built it for us. Sea views up here too so very, very special.

Coming from Scandinavia where there's plenty of space for everyone, I'm especially pleased to have a plot which is my secret hideout; I don't like seeing fences if at all possible so evergreen shrubs form a backdrop to most of our borders; this of course has become super handy meaning that this demonstrator has lots of foliage on tap.

I hope you enjoyed our little wander!



Thank you, Nina, for a peek over the hedge at yours. How clever of Lucas to hit the spot with that decking - what a super surprise! Lucas is judging the Area Photography Competition. What a good lad!

FREE FLOWER ARRANGER DRAW - DO YOU FEEL LUCKY?

The draw will take place at the 10th August Zoom Council meeting. Top prize, a **2021 Flower Arranger subscription** (value £12.80), 2nd prize an **Autumn 2020 magazine**.

To enter, it is not necessary to attend the meeting, just send Nancy Hubbard your name, club and 'phone number or e-mail address by 7th August, by 'phone, 01403 264482 or by e-mail, nancy@hubbard3.plus.com

Nancy will contact the lucky winners for their addresses so that she can post a claim certificate to the 2021 Subscription winner, or the current magazine.

Remember any member of the Sussex Area can join in a Council Meeting (but only club delegates can vote). As this one will be virtual, please register with lovely Lesley Etherton, lesleyetherton@outlook.com, by 04-Aug-20 to get the Zoom link and find out if you've been lucky.

NAFAS Elections

Here are the results of last week's elections which will take effect from the AGM in October 2020:

National Vice-Chairman: Katherine Kear, Three Counties & South Wales
(Katherine is our Speaker at next June's Members' Day)

Board of Directors: Peter Mathers, North East (re-elected), Mala Williams, Wessex & Jersey, Nicky Wylie, Cheshire

National Associates of Honour: Katherine Kear, Three Counties & South Wales, Sue Davis, Mercia & North Wales, Margaret Rumens, South Midlands, Alan Beatty, NIGFAS

You're as Young as You Feel

This week I take great pleasure in celebrating the wisdom of age. Others might think we become invisible at 50, on the scrapheap at 60, past it at 70, but I think we're just getting our second wind (sometimes literally). Here's to the voice of experience yet feeling forever young, and saving a bob or two:

Handyperson services from your local council. Many councils offer a handyperson service for those who are over the age of 60 or have a disability. Services offered vary from council to council, but the implementation of safety and security measures and small repairs can usually be offered via the service. Age UK also offer a similar scheme - check their website to see if your area is covered: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/services/in-your-area/handyperson-services/>

Grandparenting can pay. If you're one of the 63% of grandparents that help care for grandchildren, then you could be entitled to extra tax credits to the tune of £250 a year. And, what's more it can be backdated as far as 2011. To be eligible, you'll need to spend some time each week caring for a grandchild under the age of 12. <https://www.gov.uk/>

Sign up for a free myWaitrose card, which entitles you to a free coffee as long as you make a purchase. When you buy a paper, they'll also deduct the cost of it from your shopping, provided you meet the minimum £10 spend.

Over 60s' discounts at Boots. If you have an Advantage Card, you can get extra savings at Boots once you turn 60, including 10 points for every pound you spend on Boots' own brand products. Registration is not automatic, even though they know everything about you. You have to go into a store. As well as 25% off your first pair of glasses or prescription sunglasses, you can get every additional pair of glasses or prescription sunglasses half price at Boots. If you're a hearing aid-wearer, there's also a 15% saving on their hearing aids.

Discounts on vet bills. Vet bills can be really expensive if something goes wrong, but even routine check-ups and injections add up. Ask your local veterinary practice if there are discounts for over 60s. **Dogs Trust offers a 50% discount** - just £12.50 a year. Benefits include unlimited access to the 24-hour emergency advice service from veterinary professionals, 3rd party public liability insurance for your dog, free Canine Care Card to guarantee that Dogs Trust will take care of your dog should you pass away and Wag! Magazine three times a year (that's wag as in tail not footballers' friends).

Buy a Senior Coach Card for £12.50 per year and all National Express coach tickets are a third off, with no peak time restrictions. Still not sure? If you don't save the cost of the card in a year, they'll refund you the full cost of the card.

Fancy a trip to the Isle of Wight? Foot passengers enjoy a discount at Wight Link: <https://www.wightlink.co.uk/bwl-advanced-faq/do-you-offer-a-discount-for-over-60s/>

British Rail: let the train take the strain and get a senior railcard: £30 per annum for a third off most journeys (even cheaper if you buy it using your Tesco Clubcard points): <https://www.wightlink.co.uk/bwl-advanced-faq/do-you-offer-a-discount-for-over-60s/>

Save on car maintenance at ATS Euromaster. If travelling by car is your preference, then you can still save yourself money by joining Club 60 at ATS Euromaster. You'll get special seasonal discounts including reduced weather checks, cheaper MOTs and discounts on tyres.

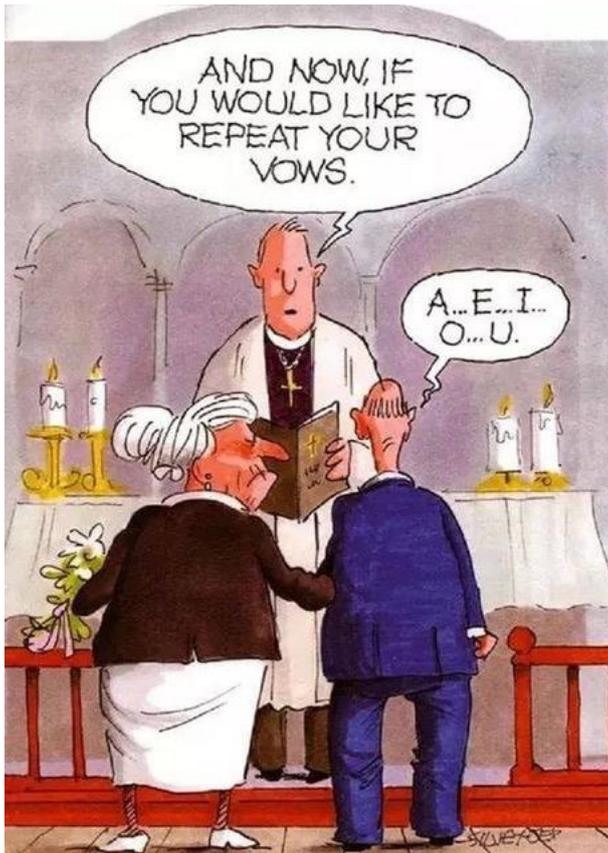
Are you a National Trust member? If you've been a National Trust member for five out of the last 10 years, you could be eligible for a senior membership once you turn 60, which means receiving a heavily discounted price of 25% off annual adult rates. The discount isn't automatic once you turn 60 though - to activate it you'll need to contact the National Trust directly.

English Heritage discounted membership

If you're over 65, you can opt for a senior membership with English Heritage and get a monthly pass for £4.08, an annual pass for £49, or a lifetime pass for £1,000. For further savings, you can also get discounted joint senior memberships for you and a partner or friend.

B&Q Diamond Club Card. On Wednesdays, members can benefit from 10% off gardening products and Christmas goods (when the time is right), as well as other incentives.

<https://www.diy.com/diamond>



There was an elderly couple who in their old age noticed that they were getting a lot more forgetful, so they decided to go to the doctor. The doctor told them that they should start writing things down, so they don't forget.

They went home and the old lady told her husband to get her a bowl of ice cream. "You might want to write it down," she said. The husband said, "No, I can remember that you want a bowl of ice cream." She then told her husband she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream. "Write it down," she told him, and again he said, "No, no, I can remember: you want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream." Then the old lady said she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top. "Write it down," she told her husband and again he said, "No, I got it. You want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top."

So, he goes to get the ice cream and spends an unusually long time in the kitchen - over 30 minutes. He comes out to his wife and hands her a plate of eggs and bacon. The old wife stares at the plate for a moment, then looks at her husband and asks, "Where's the toast?"

Getting to grips with the New Technology.....

I was visiting my son and daughter-in-law last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

'This is the 21st century, old man,' he said. 'We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, you can borrow my iPad.'

I can tell you, that bloody fly never knew what hit it.....

Senior Moments; early signs.....

You discover that your car has mysteriously parked itself on the other side of the road.

You try to straighten out the wrinkles in your socks - and discover you aren't wearing any.

You bend down to pick something up off the floor, then begin wondering what else you could do while you're down there.

You start answering the 'phone when it rings on television.

You know you're getting old when your wife believes your excuses for getting home late.

The triumph of age and experience

A farmer stopped at the local garage to have his tractor fixed. They couldn't do it while he waited, so he said he didn't live far and would just walk home.

On the way home he stopped at the hardware store and bought a bucket and a gallon of paint. He then stopped by the feed store and picked up a couple of chickens and a goose. However, struggling outside the store he now had a problem — how to carry all his purchases home.

While he was scratching his head, he was approached by a little old lady who told him she was lost. She asked, 'Can you tell me how to get to 1603 Mockingbird Lane?'

The farmer said, 'Well, as a matter of fact, my farm is very close to that house, I would walk you there but I can't carry this lot.' The old lady suggested, 'Why don't you put the can of paint in the bucket. Carry the bucket in one hand, put a chicken under each arm and carry the goose in your other hand?' 'Why thank you very much,' he said and proceeded to walk the old girl home.

On the way he says, 'Let's take my short cut and go down this alley. We'll be there in no time. The little old lady looked him over cautiously then said, 'I am a lonely widow without a husband to defend me. How do I know that when we get in the alley you won't hold me up against the wall, pull up my skirt, and have your way with me?'

The farmer said, 'Holy smokes lady! I'm carrying a bucket, a gallon of paint, two chickens, and a goose. How in the world could I possibly hold you up against the wall and do that?'

The old lady replied, 'Set the goose down, cover him with the bucket, put the paint on top of the bucket, and I'll hold the chickens.'

An elderly man in Australia calls his son in London and says, 'I hate to ruin your day, but your Mum and I have decided to separate - 40 years of misery is enough for anybody.' 'Dad! I can't believe it!' his son exclaims.

The elderly man says 'We can't stand the sight of one another any longer. Call your sister in New York and tell her.' The daughter panics and phones her parents. 'You can't possibly divorce. Don't do anything until my brother and I get there.'

The father hangs up and says to his wife 'It's OK. They're coming for Christmas and paying their own air fare.'