



SUSSEX AREA OF NAFAS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT
SOCIETIES

CHARITY No. 292377

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Week 22 - Beat the Blues with the Sussex Area News

Dear Members,

It's a busy week for visits this week. We go to Christine Purkess's garden in Crowhurst and Christina Payne's in Bognor Regis. Added to that, Nina Tucknott is giving us a look at her favourite style: European Parallel Design. Many thanks to these contributors.

Extra thanks go to Nina for organising the Sussex Area's virtual photography competition. And the winners are (drumroll):

1st: Brenda Bull - West Chiltington Flower Club

2nd: Joyce Skeet - Warnham Flower Club

3rd: Jan Crouch - Steyning & District FC

Congratulations to all three of them. A big thank you goes to Nina's lad, Lucas, for judging. Check our website and FaceBook page to see the pics.

Keep cool.

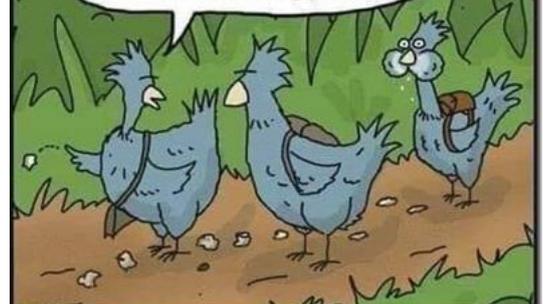
Jilly

It may take a village to raise a child, but I swear it's going to take a whole vineyard to home school one.

www.bizwaremagin.com

BIRD HIKES

We're not going to get lost. I've been leaving a trail of breadcrumbs.



Nina Tucknott's Favourite Style

European Parallel Design is a formal linear design where the forms and lines are dominant and this particular style became very popular in the UK in the 1980s and is, happily for me, still going strong.

The lines are created by grouped plant material set in a vertical pattern with negative (empty) space between each section. In fact, in this type of design, the negative space is almost as important as the flowers as you need open space for all of the upright placements to be clearly visible. You should also ensure that nothing much hangs over the edges and do remember that it is very usual that you have more than one focal point.



Parallel designing is often called a European or continental style design because many designers from Europe popularised it although the actual style can be traced back hundreds of years to Japan and China.

Recalling long ago geometry lessons, parallel lines were defined as two (or more) lines that were side by side but never touched or intersected, and it is this concept that has gradually been adapted by designers throughout the world, with each one giving it his or her own unique vision.

You can make your design stylised (decorative) or naturalistic (vegetative) and in this particular design here (above), I have used grasses I collected from my regular Covid-19 walks to create the resemblance of a wild meadow.

The second design is one that I made during my 2019 demonstration for Crowborough Flower Club (right) and I love the delight on Phyllis 'Ginger' Stevens' face winning it and being so excited to take it home!



My final one will always be dear to me because it was the very first design I chose to do during my demonstrator training; a Finnish winter wonderland (left). Not perfect in any way but it holds great memories!

It would be fair to say that since I am so fond of parallel designs you will more than likely see me creating them year in and out...

Thank you, Nina. Super photo of Nina with Ginger, who is a big fan of these newsletters: here's a shout-out to her!



Relaxing Lockdown: Doctors were asked if we should reopen the country. Here's what the experts said: Allergists were in favour of scratching it, but Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves. Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, but Neurologists though the Administration had a lot of nerve. Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while Ophthalmologists considered the idea shortsighted. Many Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while Paediatricians said "Oh, grow up!" Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while Radiologists could see right through it. Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and Internists claimed it would indeed be a bitter pill to swallow. Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter." Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea. Anaesthetists thought the whole idea was a gas, and those lofty Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no. In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to those assholes in Whitehall.

If you had to look up the definition of Proctologists like me, then you'll understand why I had to keep the 'a' word in. Apologies for any offense.

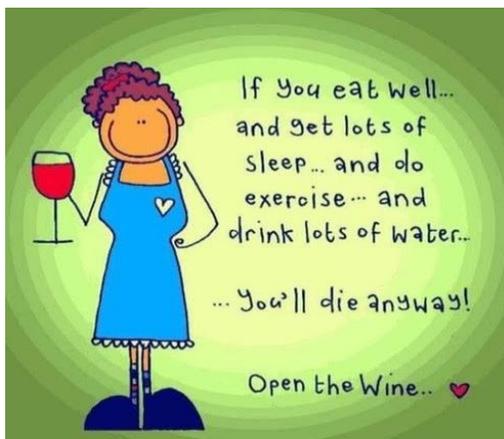


Please read ALL directions before assembling your cat



Now, four great confusions still unresolved.....

1. At a movie theatre, which arm rest is yours?
2. If people evolve from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?
3. Why is there a 'D' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?
4. Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?



Christina Payne's Garden in Bognor Regis



We moved to West Sussex last year and once the builders had finished destroying what little there was in the garden, we started planting. Mostly I was looking for plants that I could use for demonstrating.



Sadly, we soon discovered that, 8" down, the garden is on concrete/tarmac from the car park for the Riviera Lido. The old lido was here in early 1990s before the bungalow was built. So, to plant, we have to use a bolster and mallet!



Of course, I had great plans for the garden this year and was excited at the thought of visiting lots of different garden centres - duh! A lot of plants have been ordered online instead.



Why do we put cups in the dishwasher and dishes in the cupboard?

How do you get off a non-stop flight?

Why is it called Rush Hour when traffic moves at its slowest?



Our undercover seated area, top right, was used right up until late November.



Thank you, Christina, for the tour of your garden. Can we come back in 10 years to see how it's matured?

Members - look at this tidy garage with all the flower-arranging accoutrements neatly stored. I reckon Christina is just showing off now - let's wait until she's back on the road demonstrating!

Thanks too go to Christine Purkess for inviting us to her choice garden:

Christine Purkess's Garden in Crowhurst



When you are house-hunting and find somewhere with a view of the sea from the kitchen sink, it is very hard to resist! You may already know the roof needs work (the rain came in on our first night), but what matters? It is an old farmhouse, about 5 miles from the coast and on top of a hill; with nothing between us and France, it can be somewhat windy!

The house is sheltered by a 500 year- old yew tree (left) (a seedling in 1500, during the reign of Henry VII). It is a male tree, which first sheds flowers, then pollen followed by the needles... The tree suffered very badly from the salty winds during the hurricane and it took several years to recover.

The garden is generally quite rustic but with a formal patio and rose bed. This seat (right) is one of our favourite spots from where we can watch the birds on the bird feeders. Regular visitors include great spotted woodpeckers, nuthatches, goldfinches amongst others.



Roses grow well and this rose (left) is supported by a wooden arch: a stunning sight! Behind it, one can see a hedge, which was a sparse hawthorn hedge, but on a whim, we bought a Chilean Potato



Tree, which has now grown through it and flowers profusely each summer. Sadly, like the rest of the potato and nightshade family, it is poisonous (right).

This white rose (right) was old when we moved in, so we guess it is at least 60 years old, but regular pruning has kept it going well and it flowers very early. It has seen at least three lots of trellis come and go, but thankfully keeps on growing. The pink rose to its left is 'Lady Penzance', which my father grew from a cutting; it has lemon scented leaves. In the foreground is the remains of my variegated fatsia: decimated like so many others a couple of years ago, I have not yet had the heart to dig it up.



One bedding plant which thrives in the garden is the Gazania (left) and generally overwinters well. It spreads its seeds generously and various friends now have plants growing as well. Other plant that thrive are the lupins (right).



One current problem we have is vine weevils. Like so many people have found, these pests have been eating the Bergenis. However, they have now decided to move on to the large fatsia growing just above and it is now time to wage war. Fatsia leaves are just too useful for any flower arranger, but not ones with frilly edges. Wish me luck!

One of the symptoms of Covid-19 is having no taste.
Looking back on my exes,
I think I've been infected for years!

Why are goods sent by ship called CARGO and those sent by truck SHIPMENTS?