



# SUSSEX AREA OF NAFAS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT  
SOCIETIES

CHARITY No. 292377

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## Week 23 – The Final Curtain

Dear Members,

All good things must come to an end and this edition is my last one as Editor. Thank you for indulging me!

I'd like to thank the Executive and especially Gaenor Circus, Tricia Bridgman, & Carol Lathleiff for their supply of jokes, eagle-eyed proof reading, encouragement and support, Lesley Etherton for putting up with me when my file sizes exploded, and for distribution to members, and all the contributors who have sent in pics of their gardens or arrangements or written a few words.

Thanks go to all of you too who've let us know you enjoyed these scribblings – it makes it all worthwhile. Here's an example from Pat Northeast, Lancing Flower Club who was inspired by our Limerick edition:

A BIG THANK YOU TO JILLY & FRIENDS  
FOR THE MESSAGE THE AREA SENDS,  
IT'S MADE THE LOCKDOWN SEEM BETTER,  
THE RECEIPT OF THE NEWSLETTER  
I SHALL BE ALMOST SORRY, WHEN IT ENDS.

From September, dishy Duncan Ward, who volunteered Bless 'im, takes over the role of Editor of the Area Newsletter. Newsletters will reduce to monthly editions and then in 2021 quarterly ones (between Council meetings). I look forward to seeing Duncan's fresh ideas.

Over & Out.

Jilly

Top 10 Songs for When It's All Over:

1. Walking on Sunshine - Katrina & The Waves
2. Oh, What a Beautiful Morning - Howard Keel
3. Dancing in the Street - Martha & The Vandellas
4. Lovely Day - Bill Withers
5. Happy - Pharrell Williams
6. What a Wonderful World - Louis Armstrong
7. Freedom - The Isley Brothers
8. It's All Over Now - The Rolling Stones
9. Here Comes the Sun - The Beatles
10. Running Free - Iron Maiden

Does anyone know which page  
of the Bible explains how to  
turn water into wine?  
Asking for a friend.

If money doesn't grow on trees,  
how come banks have branches?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables,  
what does a humanitarian eat?

Did you know that if  
you replace W with T  
in What, where and  
When, you get the  
answer!

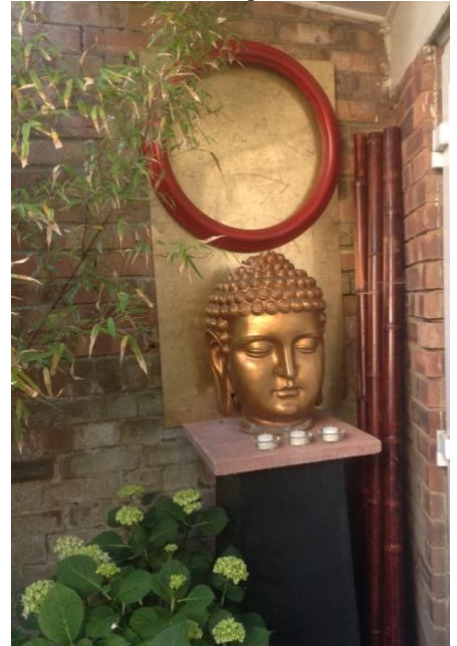
How come  
noses run and  
feet smell?

## Stephen McDonnell's Garden Sculptures



**TWINE TWIST:** This fluid swirling structure was made for the designer of the year competition. I thought it deserved to be seen rather than hidden in my garage. The metal structure is covered in garden twine. The twine surface has been sprayed to give a more aged appearance.

**BUDDHA SHRINE:** This Buddha head was found in a flea market in Brighton. It was already coloured gold when I acquired him. I had an awkward corner in the garden that needed a focal point. The Buddha was mounted on a very tall pot. The pot was turned upside down and a paving slab gave a base to mount the head. The background was created using a gold panel that I had in



the garage and the circle of life was provided by an old circular frame from a neighbour's skip. All that was needed were some candles and incense sticks.



**TUMBLE WEED:** I had far too many garden canes and no use for them. They are the type that is supplied with many an orchid plant. They are a bit too small for garden use. My idea was to recreate a design I did a Nyman's one Christmas. The body of the structure is a sphere of expanded high grade foam. I cut the canes to the required lengths and inserted them into the sphere, and sprayed it with some left-over spray paints. You can make it a big of small as you wish. In windy weather I discovered it tumbles around the lawn. My friends call it the "Corona Virus "

**WOODEN WREATH:** A bare brick wall sparked the idea for this

wooden wreath. I had a collection on a piece of cedar wood. It is a scented hardwood and has a lovely grained structure. I roughly laid out the pieces so as to make a pleasing ring shape. With nail gun in hand, I secured the pieces together. Using a nail gun is a less obvious method of securing all the pieces. Hot glue can be used but will show here and there, plus it's not as weatherproof as using nails.



**GIANT BAMBOO:** After many years clogging up my garage, this giant bamboo had to be put to use.

This sculpture was sparked off by having some excess railway sleepers left over from the garden. I wanted to use them rather than discard them. I build a box surround out of the sleepers. The bamboo poles were mounted on stands I had made for them previously. The interior of the box was filled with pea shingle. The finishing touch was to paint the base black to emphasise the structure.



Many thanks to Stephen for this tour of sculptures in his garden. I think that's inspired me to make a sculpture or two of my own - shame I've got no garden!

## Barbara Hoy's Garden in Lindfield and her favourite Period

My garden during lockdown - or who planted that there? Well of course I did and some time ago too when the offending plant was a decent size in a pot. The plant itself was a neat Miscanthus (variety unknown) and I had a gap in the front garden.

Busy times passed and all of a sudden I couldn't see anything but a huge plant with plenty of feathery plumes knocking on the window and on the front door the other way. Time for action came last autumn and I cut off several stems to reduce it whilst leaving some for admiring during the winter as the best time to move miscanthus is when just coming into growth.

Spring was coming but Covid-19 reared its ugly head and how was I to remove this thug? Normally my daughter comes to do the heavy stuff but during lockdown I have had to do it myself. I got out the allotment spade and fork from over wintering in the shed and started - totally unsuccessfully, as I broke the handle off the old fork and also the ancient spade in my efforts. Start again! And lots of rest required!

Change of plan by digging out the soil around the plant and putting it in the wheelbarrow and after several goes I had a moat around that plant. Chopping through the roots achieved success and the plant was loose. New problem. What was I going to do with it as I could barely move it? Fortunately, a friend and her husband who were in need of thugs for the bottom of their garden, a somewhat wild area, were able to take it away.

Before I could plant anything in its place the crater needed filling, back went the contents of the wheelbarrow plus some best compost. There were no garden centres open, but I had 4 Skimmias in pots and one Stipa gigantea which was squashed into one pot. You will be pleased to know that I didn't break either of the forks when splitting that plant. In true flower arranging style I have form, colour, texture, line, space, contrast, rhythm and repetition, etc. Transferable skills, hey ho!!.

One of my favourite practical periods to learn about was the Tudor period. Each period has highlights but I particularly enjoyed making a pomander. These were used for fragrance, storing clothes and for health reasons against the 'stinking aire'.

To make a pomander :

An orange, cloves, ribbon, tape and pins. Orris root powder and spices

Action :

Mark the orange into 4 with narrow tape

Into each area press cloves into the orange, using a fine skewer to make a small hole if cloves are difficult to insert. Make a neat pattern starting on the outside of quarter and then infill.

Leave space between each clove as the orange shrinks as it dries.

Put the pomander into a paper bag with 1 teaspoon orris root powder and 1 tsp spices, e.g. cinnamon or nutmeg. Pop it into a warm cupboard until it is dry and firm.

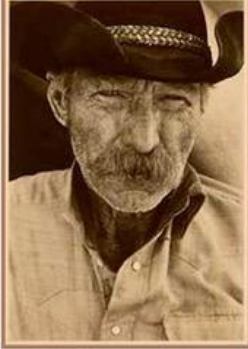
Remove tape and replace with ribbon to fit securing at top and bottom. Make a loop to suspend the pomander.

I made pomanders in 2008 and I have them out each Christmas storing them back in their bags afterwards. If needed more spices may be added then.

I enjoyed all the Periods which are part of Level 3, e.g. the thyrsus from the Roman period, pomanders from the Tudors and the work of Constance Spry 1920s/30's. Part of the period work also included gardens of the eras, interior features and the arts. Plenty of work to do but so interesting and worthwhile.

# The End is Nigh - Epitaphs

Here are the Five Rules for Men to Follow for a Happy Life that Russell J. Larsen had inscribed on his headstone in Logan, Utah. He died not knowing that he would someday win the...  
"Coolest Headstone" contest..."



A COWBOY TOMBSTONE .....

## FIVE RULES FOR MEN TO FOLLOW FOR A HAPPY LIFE

1. It's important to have a woman who helps at home, cooks from time to time, cleans up, and has a job.
2. It's important to have a woman who can make you laugh.
3. It's important to have a woman who you can trust, and doesn't lie to you.
4. It's important to have a woman who is good in bed, and likes to be with you.
5. It's very, very important that these four women do not know each other or you could end up dead like me.

Epitaph in Bushy churchyard circa 1860:

Here lies a poor woman who always was tired,  
For she lived in a place where help wasn't hired.  
Her last words on earth were, Dear friends I am going  
Where washing ain't done nor sweeping nor sewing,

And everything there is exact to my wishes,  
For there they don't eat and there's no washing of  
dishes...

Don't mourn for me now, don't mourn for me never,  
For I'm going to do nothing for ever and ever.

Epitaph for John Dryden 1700:

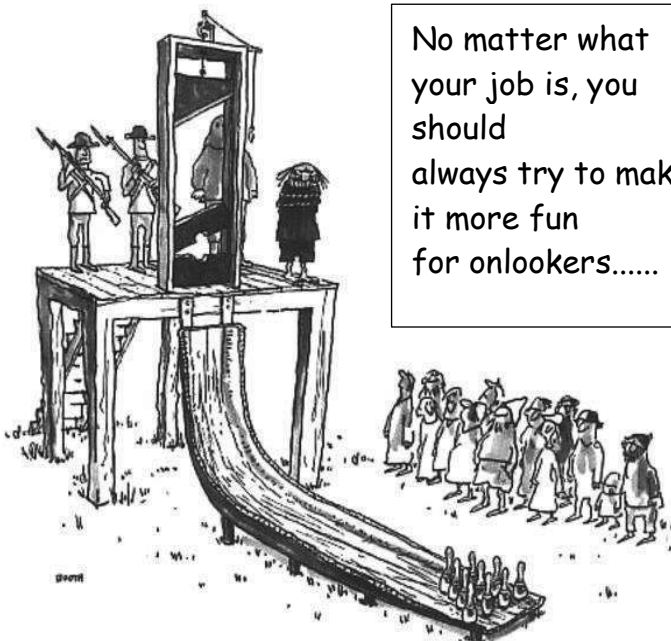
Here lies my wife; here let her lie!  
Now she's at peace and so am I

Why does  
the word  
funeral  
start with  
FUN?

Epitaph for Frederick, Prince of  
Wales who was killed by a cricket  
ball in 1751: Horace Walpole  
'Memoirs of George III' (1847)

Here lies Fred  
Who was alive and is dead:  
Had it been his father,  
I had much rather;  
Had it been his brother,  
Still better than another;  
Had it been his sister,  
No one would have missed her  
  
Had it been the whole generation,  
Still better for the nation:  
But since 'tis only Fred,  
Who was alive and is dead,-  
There's no more to be said.

Here lies a woman. No man can deny it  
She died in peace, although she lived unquiet,  
Her husband prays, if e'er this way you walk,  
You would tread softly - if she wake, she'll talk



No matter what  
your job is, you  
should  
always try to make  
it more fun  
for onlookers.....

A husband's less than reverential  
mourning:

This spot is the sweetest I've seen in  
my life,  
For it raises my flowers and covers  
my wife