



Sussex Area News

Newsletter of the Sussex Area of NAFAS

www.sussexareanafas.org.uk www.facebook.com/SussexAreaNAFAS

Charity No. 292377

WELCOME to our new look newsletter

It is a great honour to become your new Editor of the Sussex Area Newsletter. I hope you will look forward to receiving this, and more importantly share what you and your clubs are up to. It's your newsletter!

This month, we look at what you have been doing during lockdown. There will be regular features, and opportunities to participate. Please send your articles and photographs to me at:

info@boxworthflowers.com

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Duncan Ward, Editor



pictured: Harvest Festival 2019 at St Margarets Church, Rottingdean, Arranger Duncan Ward

Chairman's View

Jilly's view on the present

Club News

Spotlight on what clubs have been up to.....



Fabulous Flowers

Dahlias

Anagrams

Sussex Towns

What's trending

on social media?

Lockdown stories

Next issue

November, please email your articles and pictures by 20 October 2020

Email your news, pictures, stories to:
info@boxworthflowers.com

1

AREA NEWS

What's happening in the Sussex Area

2

CLUB NEWS

What's happening in the local clubs

3

OTHER NEWS

Catch up with other news from Sussex

Area News

The View from the Chair

Hello Members,

A warm welcome to this fresh Area Newsletter with new Editor Duncan Ward.

View from the Chair!

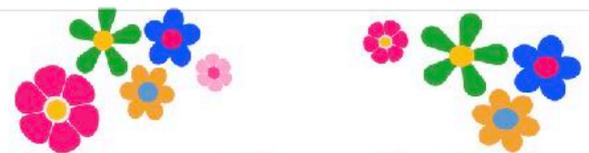
Well, the chair I'd like to view from at the moment is Madame ZjaZja's chair in front of her crystal ball in the fortune teller's tent.



Instead I seem to be tied to an uncomfortable seat, with a blindfold on, and non-stop white noise in the form of conflicting opinion.

When can we all meet up again? When can we get back to normal? What is the new normal? What's the *r* number doing? Who's bursting whose bubble? Instead of asking "Have I got a handkerchief?" when I go out, it's now "Have I got a mask? And a spare in case I drop that one. Perhaps one in my pocket too, just in case." Is this all a bad dream?

All we can do is follow Government advice, take cautious baby steps, assess the risk, and



Save the date!

Sussex Area of NAFAS

presents

Flower Power

An exhibition of floral design
to celebrate the Sussex Area's
Diamond Anniversary

**Thursday 9 September
to Sunday 12 September 2021**



Leonardslee Lakes
and Gardens
Lower Beeding
Horsham RH13 6PP

prepare as best as we're able for when we can get back together for fun, friendship and flowers.

If the fortune teller's chair is not available, how about a tennis umpire's tall seat? And a pair of binoculars, please?

Keep Safe.
Jilly

Dates for your Diary

Chairmen's Forum, Virtual Meeting at 10am on Thursday 8 October 2020.

Confirm to Lesley Etherton: lesleyetherton@outlook.com by Friday 2 October 2020

Virtual Area Show, entries to Maggie Hayes: sussexnafasflowers@gmail.com by Saturday 10 October 2020

November Area Newsletter deadline - Tuesday 20 October 2020

Virtual Council Meeting for club delegates and members – Monday 23 November 2020, details to follow

Virtual AGM Meeting for club delegates and members – Monday 23 November 2020, details to follow

Club Anniversaries 2020

Our Congratulations to:

Beaumont 45 years
(September),

Ferring 55 years
(October),

Steyping 55 years
(October)

Anagrams Sussex Towns

1. Allotment pith
2. Riches tech
3. Throwing
4. Cly wear
5. Launder
6. Stashing
7. Weels
8. Trig bhon
9. Ou rants bee
10. Mash Liah

Answers later in the newsletter

Club News

What have you been up to?

It's been a funny few months, life has been turned upside down. Our clubs have not been able to meet, and we have had to distance ourselves from family and friends. Many miss their monthly floral fix, meeting friends, with many competitions, festivals and shows cancelled.

Our clubs are keeping in contact with members with cheery chatty telephone calls, friendly emails passing on the latest news, or chats on WhatsApp. Some individuals, florists, clubs and demonstrators have been busy being creative. There has been an explosion of demonstrations, workshops and sharing of ideas on social media.

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube have become a feast of visual entertainment. Clubs have held virtual meetings, sharing with flowery friends around the world. Demonstrators have shared their latest arrangement or favourite designs. We have seen floral designers' workshops sharing techniques, what to do, how to do it, and of course their finished designs. Other floral artists have shared their latest creations via many of the media and photo sharing sites like Pinterest, and Instagram.

Our Area Council meeting was held by Zoom, a web based video conferencing tool, which enabled people to meet up virtually and hear all the news. Some clubs have held Zoom meetings where members have been able to see and chat with flowery friends.

Later in this issue we hear about what Nina Tucknott has been up to with her camera and how East Preston Flower Club has been busy during lockdown.

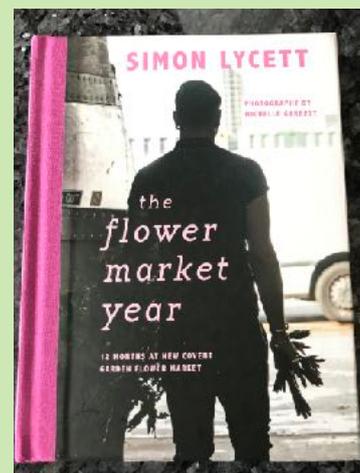
Please let us know what you have been up to.

Book Review: 'The Flower Market Year'

Simon Lycett takes us on a tour of the buzzing New Covent Garden Flower Market (pre COVID 19) through the seasons of the year.

Interspersed with some fabulous seasonal flower arrangements, beautiful images, and insight into the market activities makes this an entertaining and enjoyable book.

Published 2019 RRP £30



10 Questions to.....

This month our Area Chairman Jilly Griffin responds:

Q What is your favourite flower?

My favourite flower has to be *Centaurea Cyanus*, the beautiful English cornflower, which I grew from seed when I had my own garden patch (2' x 2') aged 10. That bright blue still does something to me.

Q Where is your last holiday destination?

Japan in 2019 for the Rugby World Cup. That semi-final against New Zealand was epic. The food is to die for (luckily I didn't, even though I ate Puffer Fish - the chef has to do an extra two years' training as it's so poisonous). Hospitable people, great transport system, saké masterclass, and super sightseeing.

Q When did you first join a flower club?

About 2005. Angela Merryfield encouraged us students to join a Flower Club. My nearest was Warnham Evening Flower Club and I'm still a member, even though I don't manage to attend as often as I'd like. I became a member of the committee, as you do, but then I moved to London so couldn't manage the committee meetings (pre Zoom) and had to take a back seat.

Q What was the last garden you visited?

The last garden I visited was my daughter's. She has just moved to Greenwich and has a typical townhouse back garden. We were planning her planting scheme. The garden is not very big but half covered by a deck; then astroturf. She and her boyfriend are renewing the astroturf and taking it right up to the back wall. Did you know they had a choice of 6 shades of green for the grass but could have had any colour at all?

Q Have you entered Chelsea?

Too scary! Plus I have nowhere to mock up. Winging it at Chelsea just won't cut it. Having been Chief Steward for 6 years, I've seen all the nerves, stresses, disasters and successes from the other side - much less of an emotional roller-coaster. However, never say never - it's good to have a challenge in life!

Q Which club do you belong to?

In Sussex I belong to Warnham Evening Flower Club and New Visions. Wessex Free Spirits in Wessex & Jersey; Southern Demonstrators in Surrey and I'm an individual member of London & Overseas.

Q How long have you lived in Sussex?

I moved to Rudgwick in 1993 but sadly had to leave in 2011.



Q Where is your favourite Sussex place?

That's a hard choice to make. I have particularly fond memories of walking the South Downs Way. If I can't have that as my choice then I would opt for Cuckmere Haven: physical geography in action with its meandering river and oxbow lakes. It's then just a sprint finish over the wonderful Seven Sisters to a good afternoon tea in Eastbourne.

Q Name a famous person you have met

Back in the day, I sat next to Eric Morecambe for lunch at a Lord's Taverners' cricket match. Eric kept wiggling his glasses at me and putting them on askew (one of his trade marks). He was sitting to my left and every time I lifted my fork, he would nudge my elbow! Hardly ate a thing.

Q Who would you like to receive some flowers from?

Anyone! If everyone knows your hobby is flower arranging, nobody buys you flowers.

The Big Flower Fight

Think of 'The Great British Bake Off', except it's with flowers.

Ten teams compete over eight episodes to create large scale floral fun projects; each episode a couple are knocked out from the competition.

The series is available to view on Netflix. Great fun, and very entertaining.

One not to miss!

Fabulous Flowers

Dahlias



Dahlias have been regarded as an old fashioned flower, but are now enjoying a revival.

pictured left: 'Boxworth Gold', a semi cactus dahlia

Bold, bright and cheerful Dahlias come in a variety of forms and stunning colours. They are attention grabbers. There are hundreds of varieties, sizes, and forms - single flowered, double, waterlily, collerette, pompon, ball, cactus, and decorative. In the garden they can be planted in pots, or well-drained soil and need a sunny position. They are thirsty plants, so keep them well watered.



pictured left: 'Pooh', a collerette dahlia

The Dahlia is great as a focal flower. It has a hollow stem. If putting them in a vase the water will need changing

daily. They will last 5-7 days. In arrangements, team them with something that has movement and texture. Do handle them with care, they are precious.



pictured right: 'David Howard', a decorative dahlia

They originate from Central America, the Aztecs originally grew them as food. They are the national flower of Mexico, named after Dr. Anders Dahl, a Swedish botanist. In Eastern Europe they are called Georginas.



pictured left: 'Karma Bon Bini', a cactus dahlia

Dahlias are a symbol of 'dignity', and have the meaning of forever thine.

What's trending on social media?

Our regular review of what's trending on social media and the web - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, You Tube.



On the web - our shiny new website:

www.sussexareanafas.org.uk

is up and running. Well done to our talented Christine Purkess and Tricia Bridgman for setting this up. Check it out now!

Facebook - the **Sussex Area of NAFAS** page www.facebook.com/SussexAreaNAFAS. 'Friends of NAFAS' has changed its name to '**International Friends of Floral Art & Design**'. To join the group you need to answer a few questions. Members may not add or suggest members. Please follow group rules.

Also trending on **Facebook** is '**A Floral Affair by Francine**'. Francine Thomas from New Zealand shares her skills, techniques and designs with popular videos, advising on how to do a design. Regular worksheets available.

On **YouTube**, why not subscribe to **NAFAS** (www.youtube.com/c/NAFASFlowers/videos) & **Wessex NAFAS** videos (www.youtube.com/c/WessexNAFAS) - National Teachers, Judges, Demonstrators are sharing their skills. Michael Bowyer, Angela Turner, Debbie Wadge, Pip Bensley, amongst others, have made short videos.

If you are not yet on line, perhaps you have a young relative, friend or neighbour who could show you what the internet is all about. It could open up a whole new world for you.

Dame Judi Dench, aged 85, has learnt how to use '**TikTok**', a video social media sharing app, with her grandson. This gives inspiration to us all, to get on line and learn a new skill.

My Camera along My Covid-19 Path

When lockdown first entered our lives this spring and we were only allowed to go out once a day, I sure thanked my lucky star that the Devil's Dyke path happens to start at the top of my road (this path is actually the old railway line that ran from Brighton to Devil's Dyke and back and opened in 1887 and closed in 1939). What utter relief it was to be able to take a daily constitutional amongst such glorious scenery.

The weather of course has been pretty kind throughout our enforced confinement making whatever outings we can grab that much more enjoyable.

And for me it has been truly amazing to see the transformation Mother Nature has offered week in and out and perhaps, because of the weird situation we have all found ourselves in, our senses have become that little bit more heightened meaning that we appreciate things a bit more than normal.

So what has my lens seen since that very first walk on 26 March 2020? Well, first came spring blossom including Common Hawthorn,



Spring Blossom

Forsythia and ornamental cherry (this public path runs next to two golf courses which means that some exotica such as *Prunus* 'Kanzan' is thrown in too!), and these were quickly followed by large areas bedecked in one of my all time favourite wild flowers, cow parsley (*Anthriscus*

sylvestris) before giving way to an array of other wild flowers including poppy, *Chicory*, burdock (*Arctium*), knapweed (*Centaurea*), ox eye daisy, lilac, *Buddleia*, *Achillea* and another childhood favourite, green alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*). Now with autumn approaching, these have given way to various berries including *Viburnum lantana* (thank you golf clubs!), rowan (*Sorbus*), elderberry (*Sambucus*) and miles and miles of blackberry (*Rubus*).



Blackberries

During my walks, the numerous fields changed from brown to bright green to bright yellow (wherever rapeseed was planted) and my absolute delight was to stumble across a whole field covered in blue tansy back in June



Blue Tansy Field

(*Phacelia*; so important for intense soil conditioning). Now of course many fields are reverting back to golden yellow wherever barley and wheat grow.continued

My Camera along My Covid-19 Path *continued*

Butterflies galore have added to the enjoyment of these walks including Peacock, Red Admiral, Cabbage White, Common Blue, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Dark Green Fritillary and a very rare Wall Brown (the latter has actually now been listed with an accompanying photo with the Butterfly Conservation as it is so unusual to spot). And listening to skylarks soaring high and thrilling away has been very special indeed.



And the sunsets, oh the sunsets.....

Mother Nature has fed my soul all my life and never more so than in these weird times. And having it all on my doorstep has made me one very lucky lady indeed.

And the icing on the cake has been the fact that our local newspaper, The Argus, has published four of my special path photos (to date that is... who knows there may be more yet!) making me feel rather proud and also pleased that my images are bringing enjoyment to a wider audience.

Words and photographs by
Nina Tucknott
Photography Representative

Congratulations to....

Jean Plaskett, Sussex Area President has received a HIGHLY COMMENDED for 'The Wonder of Wood'.

Class Seven in the **South African Flower Union** Facebook Page Virtual Flower Show held recently.



Thank you to Jean for sharing the South African Flower Union Judge's comments:

WOW! A magnificent piece of wood, very artistically and faultlessly executed using all the elements and principals of design. Good use of textures and unexpected colour harmony has created a stunning composition. (South African Judges)

A lovely piece of wood but the stand is overly dominant. (KIM)

A fine piece of wood to depict the theme! Unfortunately, the two separate plant material placements take emphasis away from the wood. (Kenyan Judges)

Please share your skills, experience, techniques, past competition entries, floral designs, how to do.... it helps us all to learn and develop.

Keeping Going.....with East Preston Floral Club

East Preston Floral Club have been very busy during recent months. Although not able to meet, they have been keeping in touch with members by emails and post. They have also held a Zoom Committee Meeting.

Keeping their monthly competition titles, members have been able to carry on with their arrangements. Here is a selection of the entries. Competition titles have included "Garden Party", 'Seaside', 'Bend It/Shape It', and 'Caged In'.

Thank you to all the members of the club for sharing their beautiful arrangements.



Chris Wright



Valerie Adams



Iris Tipper



Sue Seath

Remember When.....



Seaford Evening Flower Club recall 'Cider with Rosie'

For at least the last twenty years **Seaford Evening Flower Club** has had close links with fundraising events at Tate's Garden Paradise, Newhaven. Every October we have been invited to stage a large floral display, that showcases some of their merchandise, in the outside plant area of the centre.

The 2017 display '**Cider with Rosie**' was inspired by a large cartwheel backed garden seat, half cider barrels and trug baskets



sold in the centre, Jo Green coming up with the title. The plant centre had many trees in their autumnal foliage including crab apples and stunning acers that

along with grasses formed the background to the display. Plenty of apples were sourced from club members or by going scrumping (some of us had misspent youths!!). Cider and honey products from the food section



the ground next to a bottle of cider to link the display to the original story.

were added to the display. The flowers were chosen to enhance the overall autumnal look of the display, red gerberas to look like poppies, orange and yellow spray chrysanthemums, sunflowers, teasels and grasses. Teasel mice and a ceramic rabbit were included to give a sense of surprise. Rosie's hat was laid on



The design took a team of five nearly two days to execute (us oldies take a long time) and remained on display for three weeks. The public have free access to the display and have been known to

.....continued

**Remember When.....
Seaford Evening Flower Club recall
'Cider with Rosie'continued**



wander in looking for the price of the flower arrangements, remove plants or foliage and even insist on a particular tree being removed because it is nicer than the others on the shop floor.

In March and October each year the club supports the centre in its charity fund raising events. In March funds are raised for the **National Green Re-leaf Charity** that provides gardens for children's hospices and October funds go to Garden Paradise's local charity.

On each occasion three club members do live demonstrations in the cafe area . We are given the containers, wicker baskets, cup & saucer or



a watering can in which to do the designs.

Once completed they become the prize in each of the three raffles, two other members sell tickets to the unsuspecting people trying to have their coffee and cake. The evening sees us forming a team or two, returning to pit our wits against local horticultural societies in the 'Green Re-leaf Quiz'. We have yet to win but have come second on many occasions.



We don't know how we came to be involved with these projects; we enjoy the challenge and hope to continue our association with the garden centre and its charities.

Words and photographs by
Jane Mills
President,
Seaford Evening Flower Club

Activities like this bring the public's attention to your club, raise money for other good causes, educate through demonstrations, and introduce new members.

How does your club promote itself? Please share this with us, to give others ideas.

NEW NAFAS LEAFLET

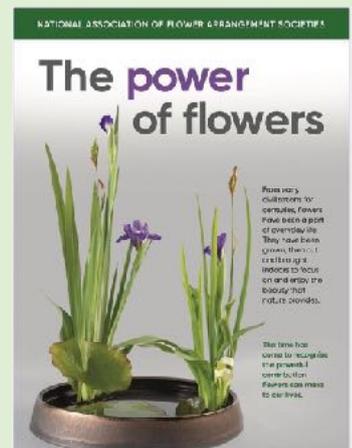
There is a new leaflet 'The Power of Flowers' which has been produced by NAFAS to promote clubs.

Available to download from the News section of our website www.sussexareanafas.org.uk/news.

The NAFAS AGM is to be held on

Tuesday October 6th 2020 at 10.30am

via video presentation, a virtual link to the meeting will be available on the NAFAS website.



Caption Competition

WIN a copy of the current edition of **The Flower Arranger** magazine

Can you think of an amusing caption for this picture?

Please email your name, address, flower club, and caption to :

info@boxworthflowers.com

Closing date: 20 October 2020



Photograph from Nancy Hubbard, Area Flower Arranger Officer, and Chairman of Horsham Flower Club

Don't forget to renew your subscriptions to **The Flower Arranger** with Nancy. They are due in October. You wouldn't want to miss your favourite floral magazine.

Nancy's French Tour

It's October 2013 and les deux Hubbards are touring in South Western France, the Gascony region (Gers Department) being our favourite. The countryside is beautiful and the area rich in history, as the many fortified castles and villages testify. There are also many extraordinary churches and monasteries.



We went to visit the church at the little village of Lachapelle, in the north-west corner of the Tarn et Garonne region, close to the border with Gers. We found the church door locked but nearby we found this 'parishoner' (*Caption*



Competition picture), who made up for our disappointment at being unable to enter the church's and enjoy it's fine baroque interior.





A homegrown Dahlia from
Maggie Hayes,
Horam & Heathfield Flower Club

Friendship

A club is a meeting of bodies and minds
Where people will gather and spend pleasant times.
Arranging and sorting the leaves and the flowers
Engrossed in their hobby for hours and hours.

The pleasure obtained throughout all the years
Is often amassed through laughter and tears.
Then Covid arrived and put paid to the club
No solace was found in restaurant or pub.

The laughter, the joy that once we'd all shared
Was taken away as though nobody cared.
But strong as we are it will not get us down
We'll ride through this year without even a frown.

Come Spring we will rise with the beautiful flowers
And meet once again for our pleasant hours.
There's one thing that grows through the tunnel time,
It's the FRIENDSHIP and love with flowers entwined.

By Phyllis Stevens,
Chairman
Horam & Heathfield Flower Club

Remember When

Please share

- your past designs,
- competitions,
- where you have been,
- gardens you have visited,
- your floral memories,
- were you at the National Shows or when they came to Sussex?

Anagram Sussex Towns - Answers from page 3

1. Littlehampton
2. Chichester
3. Worthing
4. Crawley
5. Arundel
6. Hastings
7. Lewes
8. Brighton
9. Eastbourne
10. Hailsham

And finally....

Thank you for the good wishes, kind words, and feedback received so far. Thank you to all contributors of articles and photographs.

Please let us know what you think about the newsletter. What do you like? What could be improved? What you would like to see? Don't forget to send in your articles, stories, photos etc.

December will be a Christmas edition - please send in your Christmas floral designs & stories by Friday 20 November 2020. There will be a great competition too!

Duncan