



# Sussex Area News

Newsletter of the Sussex Area of NAFAS

[www.sussexareanafas.org.uk](http://www.sussexareanafas.org.uk) [www.facebook.com/SussexAreaNAFAS](https://www.facebook.com/SussexAreaNAFAS)

Charity No. 292377

## Merry Christmas!



Where do you get your inspiration from?

The Winter 2019 edition of *The Flower Arranger* featured on the cover a design by Helen Hare.

This gave me inspiration to do my own version (*left*).

Using garden canes covered in wool to form the star shaped structure, I wired a bowl to the star frame, with some floral foam taped to it, and then added spruce and some decorations.

Tell us about where you get your inspiration from and show us some of your designs.

Duncan Ward  
Editor

**#Show Us Your Floral Designs**

## Noticeboard

Please send your articles and photographs to the Editor Duncan Ward email: [info@boxworthflowers.com](mailto:info@boxworthflowers.com)

### Sussex Area of NAFAS - Winter Show 2020

#### Spirit of Winter

December, the start of winter and festivities of Christmas, and we have planned another virtual show for you. We really look forward to receiving photographs of your designs. No competition or rules, but some guidance on designs and details on sizes so that we receive clear photographs (see below) to put on the website and Facebook. As we are once again in lockdown, we hope you may have time to have some fun with seasonal plant material.

#### Guidance

- 1 entry per person. Please choose a class and send one photograph.
  - Space allowed is discretionary, but please keep to a reasonable size, not too small or large to aid photography
  - Please send your photograph with an approximate size of 1 megabyte (MB) or above. This info should be visible when you upload photo onto an email.
    - **No** artificial plant material in classes 1 and 2 but can be used in classes 3 and 4 in this show. (*No artificial plant material is allowed in NAFAS competitions unless specifically stated*).
- Class 1 - **Welcome** A wreath exhibit.  
 Class 2 - **Winter Walks...It's Cold Outside** An exhibit  
 Class 3 - **Bling it on** An exhibit. Inclusion of artificial plant material and Christmas decorations allowed.  
 Class 4 - **Over to you**. Have fun doing a festive or seasonal exhibit of your choice. Inclusion of artificial plant material and Christmas decoration allowed.

Please email your entry to [ninatucknott@gmail.com](mailto:ninatucknott@gmail.com) **putting the Class 1, 2, 3, or 4 as the subject**. A comment card will be available on request.

Closing date **Sunday 6 December 2020**

## Christmas Sweets

Name the sweets

1. High class thoroughfare.
2. Dark occult.
3. Clever folk.
4. Toothless drink.
5. Wobbly infants.
6. Dairy holder.
7. Arranges marriages.
8. Noisy insect.
9. Pub pins.
10. Mothers local.

What do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees?

*Horn-aments!*

What does Santa eat for breakfast?

*Mistle toast*

Who is a Christmas tree's favourite singer?

Spruce Springsteen

## National News

### Looking Forward News

Our very first Virtual National Show

*'Spring the happy time of singing birds is come'* (John Clare).

Viewable on the soon to be launched new national website, YouTube and Facebook throughout April.

Please pass the word around, it's as close as we can get to being together at the moment.

- Demonstrations from our national demonstrators,
- 'How To' sessions with our national teachers,
- witty and entertaining presentations with our national speakers and
- a feast of spring themed classes to enter from a schedule created by our national judges.
- After judging all the exhibits will be available for viewing.
- Schedule details will be sent to all area chairmen for distribution to all clubs soon.

**Look out** for the following; worksheets on Colour and Texture downloadable free of charge from the new website when it is launched. 2 booklets - Show Work and a Basic Teaching manual both downloadable for a fee. The popular book The Principles and Elements of Design will soon be for sale again having been republished.

Next March, if all goes well there will be an exhibition staged by guest curator Shane Connolly within the Garden Museum in London about the life of Constance Spry. He asks our members via myself if anyone has memories and reminiscences to share or items and photographs to lend/copy and send. If so do

email me please. I am aware this maybe something our longer standing members may be able to help us with, so area chairmen do see if these members get this news please.

I am busy working on other opportunities for the association to be involved in a variety of events. If you hear of anything that we could be involved in then do please let me know.

November sees the Emerald anniversary of Floraries Association of Garden Clubs of Peru, they have been affiliated since 1967 and were founded in 1965. The board have recorded a greetings video for them.

Look out for our festive greetings letter.

### And now the Chairman's Challenge

Given we are going to be less active for longer than we had hoped I am setting my CC as a simple way of giving clubs a chance to work on a simple project. Each month will have a title and areas are invited to ask each club to produce something to illustrate that title, it does not have to be an arrangement, it can be a collection of items as an assemblage, a collection of plants, containers etc, clubs are only limited by their imaginations. The area collects all the photographs of the entries, one from each club that wants to take part, the area then emails the image they think best to me and then the board will award points. There will be a small prize for the area with the most points at the end of the year. Obviously whilst lockdown lasts clubs will have to appoint one member to produce the entry. I am not setting areas against each other, just trying to keep creative juices going and insure the whole association remains active and interactive, only support this as an area if you choose. Entries to Chairman by the last day of the competition month. A selection of images will be put on our website, face book, etc. The sending of the image presumes you give permission for it to be used where ever NAFAS chooses.

December - *A Festive gift.*  
 January - *Burns night.*  
 February - *Valentine time.*  
 March - *A spring bonnet.*  
 April - no competition as we have our virtual show.  
 May - *May Day celebrations.*  
 June - *Wedding time.*  
 July - *Happy holidays.*  
 August - *A Picnic on the beach.*  
 September – *Back to school.*  
 October - *Here comes autumn.*  
 November - *Remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November.*

Look out for the regular **Looking Forward News** sheets.

Best wishes

**Katherine Kear**

National Chairman  
NAFAS



**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

## Area News

### Chairman's Comments

With nothing better to do – have you put up your Christmas decorations yet?

As we almost wish away the rest of 2020, let us take time to welcome and give support to our new National Chairman, Katherine Kear from Three Counties & South Wales. We're looking forward to welcoming Katherine to the Sussex Area in June next year as she is the speaker for our Members' Day. Katherine has sent out a newsletter to every member in the UK. What exciting news! We're to have a virtual National Show in April 2021.

Closer to home, on 8 March 2021, we're planning our first Members' Day of the year – by Zoom. We have the opportunity of a Sussex Area photoshoot with the Flower Arranger magazine in the Spring – many thanks to those of you who have renewed your subscription. But the highlight of next year will surely be our very own Diamond Anniversary celebrations at Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens, 9-12 September. So much to look forward to.

But before I dismiss 2020 completely, what good news that the Government is allowing us to meet in a bubble of three households for up to five days over Christmas. I'm looking forward to a memorable Christmas with lots of love and laughter and I hope you have the same. We must still behave responsibly though - nobody wants to be labelled a super spreader! I hope you enjoy all the seasonal festivities and I wish you and yours a safe, healthy and happy New Year.

Yours, in fun, friendship & flowers,

**Jilly**

*Watch out for the Sussex Area Chairman's Christmas personal message on our website from Tuesday 15 December*  
[www.sussexareanafas.org.uk](http://www.sussexareanafas.org.uk)

## Club News

*What have you been up to?*

## Happy Memories

In August 2018 **Henfield Flower Club** were asked by St Giles Church, Shermanbury, if we would be able to arrange a Flower Festival for them to raise funds towards the fabric of the Church. It was eventually agreed that the event would take place in September 2019.

Our committee discussed this and met with the Churchwarden and so begun preparations for the big event.

Our committee and some of the ladies from St Giles worked tirelessly. The effort, energy, imagination and generosity, and various ideas they came up with exceeded all expectation. They then spent two days before the weekend of the Festival designing and arranging more than forty arrangements for various areas of the Church and the outside area.



The weekend was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who came and raised more than £1100 for St. Giles Church.



The weather was glorious and the tea tent provided by the ladies of St Giles who had made various cakes and goodies was very well attended and much appreciated by all.



Sadly this year we have been unable to meet since March, and we are really looking forward hopefully to starting again in March 2021, but we do have wonderful memories of all the wonderful times we have had at Henfield Flower Club and all the wonderful times to come in the future.

*Words and pictures by*  
**Pauline Hair**  
 Chairman  
 Henfield Flower Club

# Christmas Tree Festival



Alternative and regular Christmas trees are the theme for the festival which has taken place over the past six years in St Margaret's Church, Rottingdean. **Peacehaven & Telscombe Flower Club** have participated for a number of years in the Christmas Tree Festival.



The natural looking tree is the very first one we made, and the copper coil is from 2018.

On the coil tree some of the copper wire decorations were made by one of our members from an idea in *The Flower Arranger* several years ago.

Words and pictures by **Christine Webb**

Chairman  
Peacehaven & Telscombe Flower Club



## Angels Trumpets (Datura/Brugmansia)



In the last issue Lewes Flower Club members proudly showed some unusual plants.

Now Elizabeth Gould has taken these photos of her two plants which she has grown from cuttings and



brought on in the greenhouse. They have been outside this summer and have

produced numerous flowers. All parts are poisonous.

**Sally Blake**

Chairman  
Lewes Flower Club



## A look back to past Area workshops.....

Some time ago National Demonstrator Tom Hodge did a workshop on **Alternative Christmas Trees**

Using a frame of garden canes, with the help of rubber bands to keep them in place whilst a frame was formed, a star shape came through.

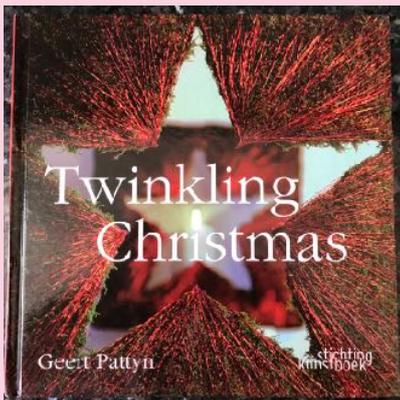


## More Alternative Christmas Trees...



Another alternative idea, and one on a much smaller scale, is the 'packed' Christmas Tree, using bound layers of various coloured dogwoods (*salix*) and fir, tapered to form a tree and then decorated. The 'trees' shown (*left*) are by (now retired) National Teacher, Lyn Constable at another Area workshop.

Words and pictures by **Christine Purkess**  
Ninfield Flower Group



## Book Review

### 'Twinkling Christmas' - Geert Pattyn

This is a seasonal book for the contemporary floral artist, with a twist on Christmas wreaths, trees and other decorative structures. Sadly it is now out of print, but can occasionally be found on auction websites. In this book there are lots of beautiful designs, which are all in colour, ready to inspire. There are alternative ways of using Christmas baubles to excite the imagination and give your designs, tables and room decorations, an extra twinkle this Christmas.

## Festive Wreaths

Hanging a festive wreath on your door is really essential in my native Scandinavia but did you know that the main reason why this became so is because of tree prunings?



Every house was (and still is) decked with a real Christmas tree and a lot of the time branches had to be chopped off to ensure it was more uniform in shape or simply fitted into the room. Instead of throwing the spare branches away, Scandi folk started weaving the excess into wreaths.

And there was symbolism aplenty, the circular shape with no end means eternity and the material was pretty important too — from an evergreen tree. Evergreen trees were looked upon with awe and admiration, since they, unlike most living things, survived the harshness of winter. So basically a wreath was eternal life.

But my ancestors cannot take total credit for the wreath though as, before they became associated with Christmas, they were emblems of victory and power in ancient Greece and Rome. In fact athletes who were victorious at the Panhellenic games were crowned with different types of material depending on where they gained their success; olive at Olympia, laurel at Delphi, wild celery at Nemea and pine at Isthmia. And a lot of households at the time

hung wreaths on their doors to show victory.

So wherever the tradition hails from, surely there is no nicer welcome for your guests than to be greeted with a heavenly scented ring of goodies. It is sobering to learn in today's throw-away society that those early festive wreaths were made because people didn't want to throw anything away!



As an aside, my dad went one step further and used some of the pine branches on our door step - very handy to wipe your snowy boots on them before entering the house!

God Jul!

Words and pictures by  
**Nina Tucknott**  
Chairman  
New Visions



## #Share your floral designs

Please send us your pictures of your floral designs - spring arrangements, traditional or contemporary etc.

Please send your pictures to:  
[info@boxworthflowers.com](mailto:info@boxworthflowers.com) with your name and flower club by  
Sunday 20 December 2020.

## 10 Questions to.....

This month Barbara Harris, NAFAS National Judge & Teacher responds:

**Q What is your favourite flower?**

Rose



**Q Where was your last holiday destination?**

Croatia

**Q When did you first join a flower club?**

1968

**Q What was the last garden you visited?**

Nymans

**Q Have you entered Chelsea?**

No

**Q Which club do you belong to?**

Bexhill Floral Group, and Little Common Village Flower Group

**Q How long have you lived in Sussex?**

34 years

**Q Where is your favourite Sussex place?**

Battle, Rye, Winchelsea

**Q Name a famous person you have met**

HRH Princess Anne (several times), Alan Titchmarsh.

**Q Who would you like to receive some flowers from?**

I would love to receive flowers from either (or both!) of my daughters.

## Flower Power

Look at me I'm still fine growing tall on the vine,  
I should have stopped growing it's true  
But my spirit is strong like the fence I grow on  
And my flowers a beautiful blue.

I kick and I climb like the passage of time,  
With my beautiful flowers on show  
Loving the sun while my leaves are still on  
But I'm dreading  
the falling of  
snow.

The winter draws near, it's the  
weather I fear  
No choice in the  
looming retreat,  
Although I am  
brave, it's the  
under ground  
cave

Where I must  
snuggle down for  
the deep sleep.



The snow keeps  
me warm deep  
down in my dorm  
I patiently wait for the Spring,  
Holding my breath, enjoying the rest,  
Till the Sun, like a bell gives a ring.

Pictured: Phyllis's Clematis

### Phyllis Stevens

Chairman

Horam and Heathfield Flower Club

## Ding Dong Merrily on High

by Jane Riley  
Seaford Evening  
Flower Club



## Fantasy Birds



by Sue Spooner  
Cuckfield Flower Club

*Why are Christmas trees  
bad at sewing?*

Because they always drop their  
needles!

## What's trending on social media?

**Pinterest** - if you liked scrapbooking when you were younger, Pinterest is like an on-line scrapbook. You can pin photos, images or articles to your folder/folders for future reference. These can be organised into topics such as floral displays, places you have visited, ideas/techniques to use in the future, etc.

You can spend many a happy evening 'pinning' to your folders. You could save items that are all the same colour, to recalling favourite recipes or items from the past. Like other forms of social media, you can follow people or things, see what's on trend, share with others or just keep it to yourself. If you are open about what you follow, others will pin your saved items. Pinterest will auto suggest pins that you might like based on your interests.

Get pinning now!

## Which floral magazines do you read?

**The Flower Arranger** - the market leader in flower arranging magazines. Cheapest subscription is £12.80 pa (4 issues) through your Club Flower Arranger Officer. Rapid direct delivery is £22 pa from the NAFAS website ([www.nafas.org.uk/product/1-year-flower-arranger-magazine-subscription-uk/](http://www.nafas.org.uk/product/1-year-flower-arranger-magazine-subscription-uk/)) Or call Warners on 01778 392491, save 10% by direct debit. In the shops, it's £4.60 an issue. Wonderful Winter edition out now.

**Fusion Flowers** - £4.50 the latest edition December/January is now available on line only. October/November was the last hard copy edition. Subscriptions at [www.fusionflowers.com](http://www.fusionflowers.com)

**Flora Magazine** - £4.75 an issue in the shops, the winter edition is out now, with an extra magazine on wreaths. Available by subscription [www.selectmagazines.co.uk](http://www.selectmagazines.co.uk) direct debit £18 for 4 issues.

**Fleur Creatif** - master florists show the latest trends in floral design. Available by subscription £45 for one year includes delivery every two months via [www.fleurcreatif.com](http://www.fleurcreatif.com)

**Did you know?** the following are available on line via *pocketmags* ([www.pocketmags.com](http://www.pocketmags.com))

- The Flower Arranger £3.99 an issue (4 issues £9.99)
- Flora Magazine £3.99 an issue (4 issues for £10.99)
- Fusion Flowers £3.99 an issue (also available on *Readly*, the magazine app on tablets)

## Fabulous Flowers Hellebores

At this time of year the Christmas Rose, later the Lenten Rose are the first cut flowers of the season. They brighten up winter gardens with their cup-shaped flowers in a variety of colours.



In the garden Hellebores enjoy moist fertile soil, in the semi-shade.

Seal the cut stems in hot water, and leave overnight in cold water before arranging. They are best displayed high as the bowing heads look downwards, or use just the heads floating in water. Make sure you wash your hands after use.

It is said that the Christmas Rose flowered outside the stable in Bethlehem - not the ideal present for a newborn as the hellebore is poisonous. Its name originates from the Greek - hellein (to kill) and bora (food).

In ancient times it was used as a medicine, often to cure insanity; hence the flower meaning is 'relieve my anxiety'.

## Raising funds

Sussex Area of NAFAS has signed up to Amazon Smile.



**amazon**smile  
You Shop. Amazon Gives.



How it works:

Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisation of your choice. Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organisation by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)

To date, Amazon has donated £4.6M to British charities. Worldwide the amount is a phenomenal \$164M!

Simply follow this <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/292377-0>

If you already have an Amazon account, then it should recognise your normal login. It should then allow you to choose your charity. **Just remember** though, **Amazon Smile** donations are only generated by using the <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> website not the basic Amazon site.

In case you need to know, Sussex Area of NAFAS charity number is 292377 (England and Wales). If you're not an Amazon user, we bet you know someone who is. Please ask them to support the Sussex Area.

Happy shopping!

## Christmas Trees

The first Christmas trees came to Britain sometime in the 1830s.

They became very popular in 1841, when Prince Albert (Queen Victoria's husband) had a Christmas tree set up in Windsor Castle. In 1848, a drawing of "The Queen's Christmas tree at

Windsor Castle" was published in the Illustrated London News.

The publication of the drawing helped Christmas trees become popular in Britain.



One of the most famous Christmas trees, is the one in Trafalgar Square, London, which is given to us by Norway every year as a 'thank you' for the help we gave them in World War II.

*Why did the  
Christmas tree go  
to the barber?*

*It needed to be  
trimmed.*



*by Pam Titchmarsh  
Seaford Evening Flower Club*



*by Jane Riley  
Seaford Evening Flower Club*



*by Rae Batchelor  
Brighton & Hove Flower Club*

## Members' Autumnal Arrangements

### Christmas Sweets Answers

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Quality Street | 5. Jelly Babies |
| 2. Black Magic    | 6. Milk Tray    |
| 3. Smarties       | 7. Matchmaker   |
| 4. Wine gums      | 8. Humbug       |
|                   | 9. Skittles     |
|                   | 10. Mars Bar    |



*Remembering all those  
whom we have lost during  
this difficult year.*

## And finally....

Thank you for the feedback and comments on the second edition of the monthly newsletter. It's great to know that you enjoyed it.

Thank you to all contributors of articles and photographs. Don't forget to contribute your designs and articles. As restrictions continue so will the monthly newsletters.

January 2021 will have a 31 day challenge to keep you all busy - please send in your floral designs & stories by Sunday 20 December 2020.

Happy Christmas and stay safe

*Duncan*