



# 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



© Nina Tucknott

## Dates for your Diary

### 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

### December Area Newsletter deadline -

Friday 20 November 2020

## FEELING AUTUMNAL a walk in the wood

Someone once said that you like the season you were born in best.

Well I have a birthday in October and I have to say that autumn is a season that does appeal to me. I like the evenings drawing in so I can light an array of candles and I like walking in autumnal woods that smell of wet leaves and



moss but most of all I love arranging with autumnal goodies. There is so much to choose from: the colourful

foliage is tough as old boots making it last well, and the berries, seed pods, lichen and twigs make for some interesting designs.

And of course all that autumn colour makes for some fab photography too! Here are just three images to whet your autumnal appetite.

Happy snappy-ing!

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



© Nina Tucknott

## Noticeboard

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

### FREE

## The Flower Arranger Draw

Another chance to get lucky

The draw will take place at **23 November** Zoom Council meeting which any member can attend.

- Top prize, a **2021 Flower Arranger subscription** (value £12.80),
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize a **NAFAS 2021** diary,
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, a **Winter 2020 Flower Arranger 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 21 November, Nancy's details: 01403 264482 or by e-mail [nancy@hubbard3.plus.com](mailto:nancy@hubbard3.plus.com)

Nancy will contact the lucky winners for their addresses to arrange postage of the Winter magazine and diary. The claim certificate for the 2021 subscription will be e-mailed.

## NAFAS Diary 2021

£4.99 plus £1.09 postage. Order now

### Methods of payment

**Online** - At [www.nafas.org.uk](http://www.nafas.org.uk) to pay by debit/credit card

**Phone** - call NAFAS on 020 7247 5567 to pay with debit/credit card

**Post** - you can pay by cheque made payable to 'NAFAS Enterprises'. Send to NAFAS, Osborne House, 12 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4TE

## Puzzle - Where in Sussex?

### Can you guess the Sussex place?

Example: Crucifix being held = *Cross in Hand*

1. A drastic remedy for boils
2. A large scale fight
3. Free range eggs from here
4. A town for big black birds
5. Holy basin feeling fit
6. Chews cud in a sheep enclosure
7. A type of grain
8. What to do with torn trousers
9. Creepy
10. A quiet refuge

*Answers later in the newsletter*

## In memoriam

### Pauline Parks

Helen Cunliffe, Chairman of Ninfield Flower Group, has advised us of the recent death in St Wilfrid's Hospice of their Treasurer, Pauline Parks.

Helen said "Pauline was renowned for her organisational skills, her efficiency and her "can do" attitude to nearly everything. She also ran our superb sales tables. But it is as treasurer that the club will miss her most. She had worked for a large accounting firm in Hailsham nearly all her working life hence her exceptional abilities. I, and many others, will miss her as a very good friend."

Our thoughts are with Pauline's family.

## Area News

### Chairman's Piece

Greetings to you all from a Tier 2 location. I don't "wish you were here" although it would be grand to see you. It's nothing to boast about either and I hope Sussex doesn't catch up with me. So, what's the difference from Medium Risk Tier 1 where you are:

- I can't meet other households indoors (unless they're in my support bubble)
- Rule of 6 applies outdoors (I still think Rule of 6 sounds like a Sherlock Holmes story)
- pubs and restaurants shut at 10pm (hey - that's my bedtime!).
- I must check in with the NHS COVID-19 app when visiting a commercial or public indoor place or divulge my contact details
- I have to think twice about taking public transport (no worries there, I'm walking everywhere)
- Respect the rules and you'll stay in Tier 1 (I know we're dutiful and obedient but it's getting a little tedious, isn't it?)

That said, there's an undercurrent in London that's quite tangible. People are stressed and quick to flare. It won't take much of a spark for things to kick off. Civilised behaviour is only a thin veneer, isn't it? I digress – but what's new there?

Now, this is a Sussex Area newsletter, yet I can't help but touch on the momentous events at HQ. How sad that the NAFAS Board wasn't able to act as a team. Christina Curtis has always been so supportive of and a good friend to the Sussex Area and I sincerely hope she'll remain so. I thank her for all she's done for NAFAS – one of the few qualified in all four of

our disciplines (teaching, judging, demonstrating and speaking) and what a competitor! Whenever I see a Vanda Orchid and bling, I think of Christina.

I count my blessings that I have the full support of the Executive Committee – this job (and I don't use that word lightly) is tough enough without internal strife. In Sussex's Constitution, if you, the members, don't like what I'm doing, you can get rid of me (Council can ask for my resignation – Clause 13). Be careful what you wish for though. I reckon Gaenor's response might be truly evil (reference earlier newsletters!).

We organise events like the Chairmen's Forum, which we've recently held, to check that we're

on the right track and delivering, or in these strange times trying to deliver, the services and opportunities that you all want. It's also a chance to let us know what we could do better, in a more informal setting than Council meetings.

Checks and balances are key to a happy and good working relationship, as well as respect and just being nice to each other. After all, we're all volunteers together with a common interest: a love of flowers.

So, let's switch off from worsening news and immerse ourselves in our awesome hobby: flower arranging. Hats off to everyone who entered the Sussex Area's Virtual Show – check out later in this newsletter, our Facebook page and website. Some inspirational work.

I'll end this time with my very best wishes to you all. Stay safe everyone and let's be kind.

**Jilly**



## Zoom

*"I showed up late for a Zoom meeting, and when asked for a reason I confessed: "You wouldn't believe the network traffic".*



Many years ago, I used to enjoy watching the T.V. programme 'Through the Keyhole' hosted by Lloyd Grossman. I think a lot of us are keen to see the inside of people's homes and now Zoom has become our very own 'Through the Keyhole'. How many of us, if we are honest, study bookshelves – so frequent a backdrop – to see what people read, and also what are on their walls and, in the early days of lockdown at least, whether they had been doing their own hair and, if so, what sort of job they had made of it!!

Oh yes, I nearly forgot, Sussex Area members have been attending Zoom meetings, not just to be nosy but to transact business. I well remember one of our early Executive meetings since lockdown and Jilly's request 'Who would like to volunteer to host Area Zoom meetings?' At that point, we all immediately looked down at our papers and hoped not to be noticed. 'What about you Gaenor?' asked Jilly in a way that did not suggest a refusal would be welcome!! I gave a polite smile and the answer that was expected, and then thought 'Help, how am I going to do this'? I needed to swot and I don't mean 'Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats!'

After one or two mishaps, I soon got the hang of things and so now we have working parties, Council, AGM's, committees and many other meetings conducted by the marvels of modern technology.

But one day we will be back to something that resembles normality, and we will need to become familiar again with the energy and engagement that comes from a live audience. Meanwhile, though, happy Zooming!

Words and pictures by  
**Gaenor Circus** Vice Chairman

## One Night Only

Margaret McSheehy and myself are members of Lewes Flower Club and thought this may be of interest to others in the Sussex Area.



Our "Moon flowers" only flower for one night but have the most wonderful perfume.

Margaret obtained her cutting many years ago from Greece and it regularly flowers every year.

Mine was a cutting I had from a workshop in Europe over 10 years ago and sadly mine only flowers every 3 or 4 years!

Words and pictures by  
**Wendy Parsons**  
Lewes Flower Club



## September Caption Competition

The winning entry was from

Mary in East Sussex



"Even Worzel Gummidge had more friends"

Thank you for all the entries.

## Autumn Show

Thank you, thank you to all who have taken up the challenge to enter our first Area virtual show. Well done to you all. You should be proud to have put your head above the parapet. I hope you have enjoyed showcasing your skills in interpretation and design.

There were entries from 21 clubs, which is fantastic. Hopefully the clubs and members that have not taken part this time will feel able to join us next time. Oh! Did I say next time? Well if you enjoyed creating or just looking at the entries this time, maybe you would like another show for December? Let us know.

However, there have been some members that have struggled without suitable cameras or internet access. All I can say is for everyone in that situation to ask friends or family to help out.

I know that you are all eager to see what our lovely members have produced. It has taken some time to organise as it was our first attempt.

There were 29 entries in Class 1, 6 entries in Class 2 and 13 entries in Class 3.

Here's to the next one!

**Maggie Hayes**

Chairman Elect JDS&E

### Class 2. Thin End of the Wedge



**FIRST**  
Wendy Jones  
Willingdon

### Class 1. Autumn Harvest

**FIRST**  
Carol Stanbridge,  
Worthing

**SECOND**  
Jenny Bigger,  
Horam & Heathfield

**THIRD**  
Carole Down,  
Horam & Heathfield

**VHC**  
Sonia Hobbs  
Wadhurst

**HC**  
Chrissy Desmond  
Storrington & District

### Class 2. Thin End of the Wedge

**FIRST** Wendy Jones, Willingdon

**SECOND** Paula Richardson, Lindfield

**THIRD** Sandra Fleming, Little Common Village

### Class 3. Hocus Pocus

**FIRST**  
Anne Bathard  
Smith, Willingdon

**SECOND**  
Brenda Bill,  
West Chiltington

**THIRD**  
Lesley Etherton,  
Warnham Evening

### Class 1. Autumn Harvest



**FIRST**  
Carol Stanbridge  
Worthing

### Class 3. Hocus Pocus



**FIRST**  
Anne Bathard Smith  
Willingdon

## Club News

### 'Zoom, Zoom, Zoom we're going to the moon'

Twenty six members of Horsham Flower Club recently logged on to Zoom for an inspiring floral demonstration entitled 'Zoom, Zoom, Zoom we're going to the moon,' by Alison Gillott, a Surrey Area of NAFAS demonstrator. Alison's husband Nigel acted as administrator and ensured the meeting flowed smoothly.

In addition to watching Alison create 5 beautiful floral arrangements, we were taken on a virtual tour of her garden where she described the foliage used in her designs. Finally, we 'met up' with other members over a virtual cuppa and chat. As we were unable to raffle the arrangements, Alison promised to deliver them to local worthy causes. The months of lockdown have been a difficult and isolating experience for many of our members so this Zoom meeting was very much appreciated as a delightful, relaxing occasion where we were able to share



Alison Gillott's designs

and enjoy our mutual interest of flower arranging as well as catching up with friends we've not seen in a long while.

Alison's dem was such a great success that we immediately took the opportunity to book her again. We eagerly await her return in December for our Christmas demonstration, again via Zoom.

*Words and picture by*  
**Helen Macklearn**  
 Secretary, Horsham Flower Club

## 10 Questions to.....

This month Sussex Area President, Jean Plaskett responds:

### Q What is your favourite flower?

They are all my favourites but I love roses.

### Q Where was your last holiday destination?

France.

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

I first joined a flower club in 1984.

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

The last garden I visited was Nymans.

### Q Have you entered Chelsea?

I have entered Chelsea with a team from Southern Demonstrators and gained a gold medal. I was also the NAFAS chief steward at Chelsea in the floral art marquee for 7 years.

### Q Which club do you belong to?

I belong to Warnham (Evening) Flower Club.

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

I have lived in Sussex for 36 years.

### Q Where is your favourite Sussex place?

I don't really have one I just love Sussex.

### Q Name a famous person you have met.

The most famous person I have met is Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall at Highgrove. Others include the Pakistan President's wife at the President's Palace in Pakistan, President Obama's official florist in his prep. room in the White House.

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

I would love to receive more flowers from Neill Strain (luxury florist in Belgravia).

## What a difference a year makes!

Last year Emsworth Flower Club celebrated our 30th (Pearl) Anniversary, with founder member Janet Payne, now our President, cutting our anniversary cake at the AGM.

We also presented a cheque for £3,278.52 to Nicola with Flora, her lovely Labrador, who received it on behalf of 'Canine Partners', our chosen charity for the year.



We had raised this in the past year, 2018, at two flower festivals held in the chapel at Stansted House during the Garden Show in June, & Christmas Fayre in November. The themes being 'A Floral Feast' & 'A time for Giving'.



This year the Flower Club meetings came to an end in March, after our AGM and the Garden Show was cancelled.

Since then, 6 committee members have met with social distancing approximately once a month for Coffee Mornings in one of their gardens. At one of these meetings it was decided to repay this year's membership fees to our members as we had not had to pay the NAFAS affiliation fees. This was well received by the members.

We are hopeful that March 2021 will bring our club back together for the next AGM. Unfortunately many of our members do not have computers or e-mail accounts making it impossible to communicate through modern techniques such as zoom. However they will all receive a Christmas card in the post, hand signed by all the committee members!

*Words and pictures by*

**Pat Shergold**  
Committee Member,  
Emsworth Flower Club



## My favourite style and techniques....

### Jean Plaskett

1. When asked '*what is your favourite style or technique*' my reply is always a line design. Whether it's horizontal, vertical or curved you name it it is one of my all time easy to do designs.



Design 1  
'Foliage only'

Photinia Red Robin with dried phormium in a hollow piece of bark fixed to a metal stand.



Design 3

'A Design using Wood'. An orange cut in half, contorted hazel, and two fatsia leaves arranged in and around a Clive Booker container.



Design 2

'A Design using a Piece of Wood'

2 Heuchera leaves and a rose with a piece of wood and a once discarded (but saved just in case!) metal stand.

2. *What do I like about a line design?* For me it is a simple and uncluttered design. You decide the line and stay within that line. A piece of wood will give you a line, a container can give you a line and the two together can be amazing. A line design can be achieved with 100 blooms or just one – it can be achieved with just foliage or a combination of the two (flowers and foliage) or when flowers are not available why not try fruit or vegetables (they are natural plant material).

3. Try to use foliage with attitude like hosta, fatsia, aspidistra, phormium, monstera, bergenia and only use small amounts of 'fussy' foliage as a filler to cover the foam and for contrast of texture (from smooth to rough) – the stars of the show are the architectural leaves and the flowers. If doing a foliage only line design use just one foliage with perhaps a swirl of phormium or cane to emphasise the line – anything that you can bend and curve to enclose space around the leaves. Contorted Hazel is wonderful for featuring in a line design and when dried can be saved and used for years – it does need, with care, to be 'decluttered' so prune carefully and slowly – looking at the line you want to achieve as you do it.

3. Try to use foliage with attitude like hosta, fatsia, aspidistra, phormium, monstera, bergenia and only use small amounts of 'fussy' foliage as a filler to cover the foam and for contrast of texture (from smooth to rough) – the stars of the show are the architectural leaves and the flowers. If doing a foliage only line design use just one foliage with perhaps a swirl of phormium or cane to emphasise the line – anything that you can bend and curve to enclose space around the leaves. Contorted Hazel is wonderful for featuring in a line design and when dried can be saved and used for years – it does need, with care, to be 'decluttered' so prune carefully and slowly – looking at the line you want to achieve as you do it.



Design 4

'A Design using Wood'.

A willow tray made at an Area workshop with a single rose, geranium leaves, epimedium leaves with physocarpus diabolo to pick up the colour and continue the line.

Words and pictures by

**Jean Plaskett**

Warnham (Evening) Flower Club

## What's trending on social media?

The great thing about social media is the **giving and sharing of information.**



It's up to you what you *give* and *share* with either a small group of friends or followers, or the rest of the world. On each of the main platforms **Facebook, Instagram, Twitter**, you can **friend** or **follow** people who can share every detail of their lives, to people who just observe what others do; it is the interactions that can then follow which can bring joy. Many are good, others may not be. Friendships across the world can be formed. To deal with the not so nice, there is the facility to **block**. By using it sensibly and being kind, there is a lot to gain.

You can **follow** for example a floral artist, florist, flower arranger or gardener. Some will go into detail, others will just post pictures. Some gardeners tell you on a daily basis how their garden progresses, when it is battered by the wind, drenched by the rain, or scorched by the sun. Others simply enjoy it for what it is - their pride and joy or their work. You can learn a lot from some, have fun interactions, or make friends. You can have an enjoyable time passing a coffee break, or an evening away

from the TV; reading about their adventures. Give it a go!

**YouTube** - The **61st NAFAS Annual General Meeting** took place on YouTube, with presentations of awards, reports on finances and a chance to *be there* and hear first hand, without travelling. Over 2,500 views of the AGM have been made so far. The latest NAFAS video is a demonstration from Arnaud Métairie using garden materials; also '**Drying and Preserving Flowers**', easy, clear instruction on what to do. If you need a further floral fix, subscribe free to **Fabulous Flowers TV** on YouTube. Celebrity florist Paulie Hawkins focuses on different flowers each time. Uplifting and entertaining!

**Instagram** - there's a flourishing feast of floral pictures to cheer the duller months. Whether it's recalling what has been grown in the garden, to seeing the latest posts from NAFAS, to what contemporary floral designers Mark Pampling is up to in Australia, or seeing Leopoldo Gomez in America, amongst many others. Just do a search for floral designers, and they will burst from the screen with rich colours, designs and ideas, all to brighten the day. Enjoy swiping!

*What do you get if you cross  
a sheep dog with a daisy?*

*A Collie-flower.*

## Book Review

### 'How to Go Greener Floral Foam Free' by Gill McGregor

We are all trying to do our bit to avoid using floral foam in our designs.

This book suggests some easy ways that you can become greener without using floral foam, and uses no chicken wire or test tubes.

An easy handy sized reference guide, packed with illustrative pictures of Gill's designs and how you can make them.  
RRP £9.95. Available from [www.gillmcgregor.com](http://www.gillmcgregor.com)



# A visit to ..... The Wonders of Wisley

The **RHS Wisley Flower Show** in September is usually one of the highlights of the beginning of autumn.



Not only to visit the beautiful gardens, but to see and buy the latest plants from the traders in the garden show; the Dahlia growers from across the country competing for their shiny cups; catching up with friends; and seeing the excellent classes in the *Surrey Area of NAFAS show*. I have been going to the Wisley Flower Show for many years, and each year it gets better and bigger. This year's September visit was very different, the show had been cancelled due to the pandemic, and social distancing was in full swing.

I had been to Wisley, just days before the lockdown started in March, to see a fabulous display in the Glasshouse of thrilling and imaginative room settings with the exhibits made of plants & succulents. Some of the bold exhibits, the mix of succulents in picture frames had been saved and relocated to a small area



in the garden, where they could be enjoyed again. This time, displayed like an art exhibition, rather than high up on a wall, allowed you time to appreciate the different colours, forms and textures.



Wisley has so many exciting areas to visit to cater for all tastes, whether you like the heat of the Glass house displays, the peacefulness of the Bowes Lyon Rose Garden, the richness of the Exotic Garden, the calmness of the Bonsai

Avenue, the miniature detail of the Alpine houses, the allotment laden with fruit and vegetables, the long borders bursting with flowers of all the colours of the rainbow, the rugged rockery, or the tranquil walks amongst the trees, and around the pond.



There is so much to see and do!

This time there was a display of fifteen foot high sculptures of the seasons by American artist Philip Haas.



Spring



Winter

How they dominated the scene with their fierce and powerful stares.



Autumn

The bright new entrance, vast shop, and well stocked garden centre greatly added to the experience. It was a busy time in the garden, and a joy to be able to be there again.

Not to be disappointed the Dahlias in the Wisley grounds were in full flower.

Another great visit, and looking forward to the next time already.

The Sculpture display - 'the Four Seasons' is on at Wisley until 31 December 2020.



Summer

Words and pictures by

**Duncan Ward**

Seaford Evening Flower Club

## Fabulous Flowers

### Poppy



The Latin name is Papaver, and it is easily grown in the garden to produce both flowers and seedheads. Apart from the Corn poppy there are also the Oriental poppy, and Icelandic poppy.

They only have a short life, so enjoy them while you can. The latex from the hairy stem is an irritant, you can seal the end of the stem by holding in a flame. The Poppy does not like foam, so is happiest in water in a vase. The dried seed heads are popular in dried arrangements.

Its flower meaning is : Remembrance.

Red corn poppies flourished on the battlefields of France during World War One, probably as they thrive in freshly turned soil, and the seeds need light to germinate. The Poppy has become the universal symbol of remembrance.

## Remembrance

They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them,

nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and  
in the morning

*We will remember them.*

(from 'For the Fallen' by  
Laurence Binyon)



Arranger: Duncan Ward,  
St Margarets Church, Rottingdean  
Flower Festival 2013

## Where do you get your inspiration from?

Many floral artists get their inspiration from the art world.

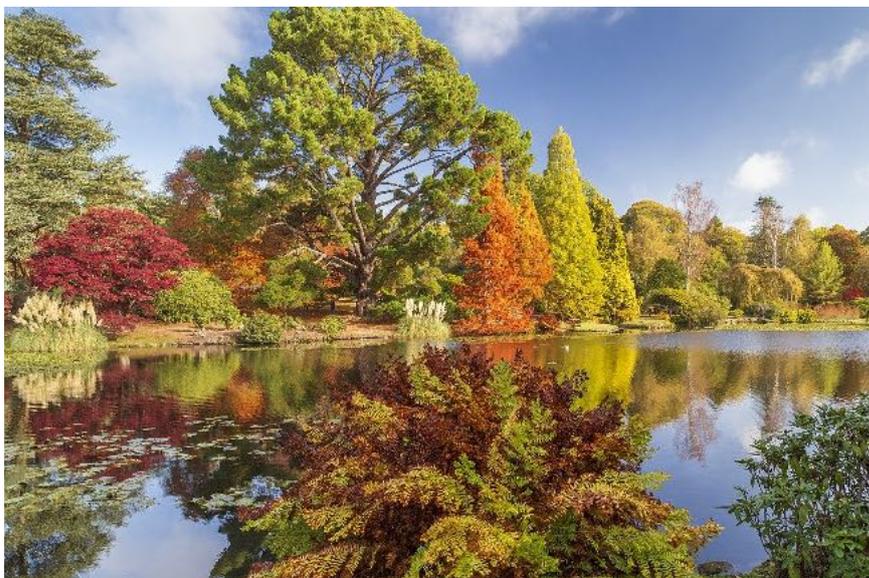
How lucky we are amongst the five winners in our area to have the Art Fund 'Museum of the Year 2020' - The Towner Gallery in Eastbourne.

The gallery displays modern and contemporary art, including the largest and most significant body of work by Eric Ravilious, particularly known for his watercolours of the Sussex Downs.

Open 10am to 5pm Tuesday to Sunday, and Bank Holiday Mondays. Free entry.

The gallery is next door to the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne.

[www.townereastbourne.org.uk](http://www.townereastbourne.org.uk)  
[www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org)



## The Joy of Sussex

Sheffield Park - Autumn colours.  
 What is your joy of Sussex?

### WANTED

Gaenor Circus is seeking spray paint (any colour) that could be used for Leonardslee. You might have cans of paint - used or unused, that you don't need anymore. Please contact Gaenor on 01798 812719.

*What do you get if you cross a monkey with a flower?*

*A chimp-pansy.*

## Puzzle Sussex Places

### Answers

1. Lancing
2. Battle
3. Henfield
4. Crowborough
5. Fontwell
6. Cowfold
7. Rye
8. Patcham
9. Crawley
10. Peacehaven

## And finally....

Thank you for the feedback and comments on the first 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.

December will be a Christmas edition - please send in your Christmas floral designs, wreaths, swags, trees & stories by Friday 20 November 2020.

There will be a great competition too!

*Duncan*