



Sussex Area News

Newsletter of the Sussex Area of NAFAS

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

Charity No. 292377



Celebrating St Valentine's Day

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WAFSA Show - one year on

Flower Power

Sussex Area of
NAFAS
Diamond
Anniversary 2021



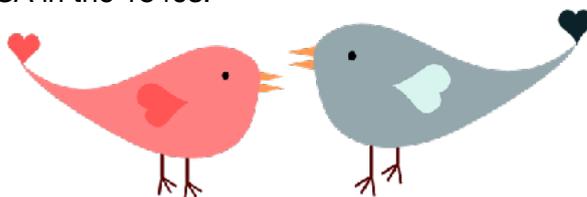
Saint Valentine

Saint Valentine has been closely associated with two early Christians, one a priest and the other a bishop. Both were martyred in Rome in the third century. It was later asserted they were the same person in the seventeenth century.

The Saint's feast day of 14 February is said to have come from the centuries old belief that this is the day that birds choose their mates. The most accepted version is derived from the Roman festival of Lupercalia a feast with a ritual sacrifice to ward off evil spirits and infertility. During Lupercalia, men randomly chose a woman's name from a jar to be coupled with them for the duration of the festival. If they stayed together until the next festival, many fell in love and they married.

Images of St Valentine are often shown with birds and roses as a symbol of love.

The custom of sending Valentine cards started in the USA in the 1840s.



Noticeboard

Please send your articles and photographs to the Editor Duncan Ward
email: info@boxworthflowers.com



Flower Power

Thursday 9-Sunday 12 September 2021

A huge thank you to all our members who are taking part in our 'Great Knit-off!' What a fantastic response we have received.

*Our Sussex members are on the ball
We needed your help
and you answered the call
There were vibrant flowers to knit and crochet
You have risen to the challenge and saved the day*



The 'Flower Power' Committee do have extra items on our wish list if you are able to help please – any condition, any size, anything!

As always, please let me know and I will arrange collection.



With many thanks,
Gaenor
[01798 812719](tel:01798 812719)



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

- Hula hoops
- Exercise balls/Footballs
- Foam and/or polystyrene spheres
- Raffia
- Sisal
- Round hanging baskets
- Buttons
- Wool – vibrant colours
- Clear plastic fish bowls



National News

National Chairman's Challenge

Congratulations to Dorset & Guernsey Area who won the December challenge.

The February competition title is "Valentine time" and if you wish to enter then please send a photo of your design to sussexareaofnafas@gmail.com by 26 February 2021. All the entries received from the various Sussex clubs will then be reviewed and the best one to represent Sussex will be selected and forwarded to HQ.

The NAFAS Board will award points and the Area with the most points at the end of 2021 will receive a small prize. Please note that by entering you are allowing NAFAS to use your photo wherever it chooses.

In Memoriam

NAFAS Past President and National Chairman Mary Shirville (Newnes) VHM, passed away peacefully in hospital on Christmas Day, aged 94.

We send our condolences to her family and friends.



NAFAS Virtual National Show

April 2021

The Spring....The Happy Time of Singing Birds has come

This is our first Virtual Show, and it will have everything you would expect. Each week for the first three weeks of April there will be a demonstration, talk and 'how to session' viewable on all our various media platforms including the new website. These will be provided by our National Demonstrators, Speakers and Teachers.

The full list of these platforms will follow nearer the time.

NAFAS National Photography Competition 2021

The schedule includes classes:

- The Great Outdoors
- It's all in the detail
- Terrific Textures
- Vintage Vibes
- Solitude (Novice)
- My Neighbourhood (Junior Class)

Closing date: 5pm Tuesday 31 August 2021

To download the Schedule and the Entry Form please see the following:
www.sussexareanafas.org.uk/latest-news

Roses are red
Violets are blue
If you were a flower
I'd pick you.

Area News

Area Chairman

Chairman's Piece

I know some of you have had the long-awaited vaccine already but what about the rest of us? Are we ready to give the jab a stab? Who cares what's in it! If you've ever had a rum and coke during happy hour and survived, you've got no worries!

There is one terrible side effect of this vaccine though. People who've had it, just won't stop talking about it. Despite this, I'm still game to join the resistance and get vaccinated. Vaccination centres are popping up like measles so there's bound to be one near you.

However, beware conspiracy theories and misinformation. The vaccine won't make you eat other people, and it won't put a chip in your body which can be controlled by Bill Gates. But if you see a racoon (anagram), do run away; they're riddled with it.

Whilst the young'uns amongst us have to wait their turn, remember hands, face, space. I was excommunicated from the Flat Earth Society Facebook page when I asked if the social distancing rules had pushed anyone over the edge.



If you've been unfortunate enough to have had COVID but fortunate enough to have survived, the Government wants your plasma. I'm telling you now, nobody's coming between me and my TV.

Finally, as we look forward to celebrating St Valentine's Day, if you feel nobody's thinking of you, if you thought you were getting a card and didn't, or if you just fancy a bit more attention, here's love, virtual hugs and an air kiss from me. Pucker up now!

Keep safe

Jilly

Roses are red
Violets are blue
I'm tired of
coronavirus
Are you?

Members' Day

Monday 8 March 2021 will be a ZOOM Meeting.

Speaker:

Susan Horne "Oh I do like to be beside the Seaside"

Demonstrator:

Vanessa Wellock
'Spring Forward'

Area Council Meetings 2021

Monday 8 February
Monday 17 May
Monday 9 August
Monday 22 November

Club Anniversaries 2021

Our Congratulations to:

Burwash Flower Club
(60 years in February 2021)

Cuckfield Flower Club
(40 years in March 2021)

CLUB News

GWEN SHUTTLEWORTH – 1941-2021

(East Grinstead Flower Club)

It is said that the pattern of a life is formed during the early years. This is certainly true for Gwen Shuttleworth.

Her Army officer father was killed in the 2nd World War when Gwen was one year old. Her mother was appointed housekeeper at a Sussex country house being used by senior Allied Commanders. Gwen returned to this house, now used as an hotel to celebrate a significant birthday. Her friends realised that it had been a wonderful playground for a little girl.

Gwen was educated at the Royal Soldiers' Daughters' School at Hampstead Heath. When the Patron of the Old Girls' Association, Princess Alexandra, held a Reception at St. James's Palace, I was honoured to be invited by Gwen to be her plus one. When the Princess crossed the room to speak to Gwen, I realised that here was another organisation in which she had played a role – she organised the reunions.

Gwen's lifelong commitment to the Royal British Legion is understandable and the East Grinstead Branch will miss her leadership and administrative skills.

Gwen's working life was as an accountant/ auditor – I believe she did the tax returns for some very famous Sussex residents, but she was very discreet.

Gwen was a member of of East Grinstead Flower Club for over 30 years. She served as Chairman and held other positions on their committee. She supported everything the club did and when she became too ill to attend club meetings, she still supported the charity events e.g. lunches and making craft items for sale.

When I was Vice-Chairman of the Sussex Area, the Area Treasurer sadly died in office and I took over the accounts. Gwen volunteered her assistance if needed. That November, when I became Area Chairman, Gwen became Area Treasurer and Tilda Conway became Area Secretary. We came from very different parts of Sussex but quickly bonded into a very strong team and our friendship has continued ever since.

Gwen was intelligent, efficient, reliable and trustworthy. Many organisations to which she belonged will miss her sound advice and experience.

Her husband and family have lost a much-loved matriarch. Many of us have lost a good friend.

Tribute by
Brenda Forrester

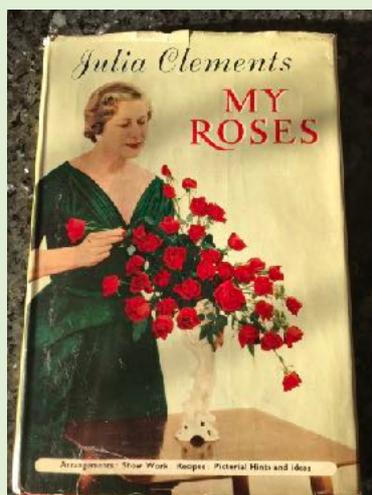
With thanks to Angela Merryfield for providing the EGFC information.

Book Review

My Roses - Julia Clements

Julia wrote this book in 1958 in response to many requests to write a book about arranging roses. Her passion for the rose comes through her text, with the inclusion of her arrangements and experimenting with rose recipes - creating potpourri to wines, conserves and jellies.

Julia wrote, "No flower offers more interesting material to the decorator



than the rose. It has such varieties of form, colour texture and size that no matter which way it turns, it offers an interesting study."

This book is a celebration of the rose, how to arrange and use them. Sadly out of print it's a fascinating read if you love roses, and so many of us do.

Julia Clements was fortunate to have three roses named after her during her life - 'Lady Seton', 'Julia Clements' and 'Julia's Rose'.

10 Questions to.....

This month Lesley Etherton, Area Secretary responds:

What is your favourite flower?

Anemone japonica, especially the white ones. I love their pure simplicity, height and interesting seed heads.

Where was your last holiday destination?

The Gers in South West France where my dear friend Ruth lives in an old farmhouse with a wonderful view of the Pyrenees.

When did you first join a flower club?

I joined Banstead Flower Club, Surrey in the mid 1970s.

What was the last garden you visited?

Great Dixter at Northiam, my all-time favourite garden. I would go there more often than I do if it were a bit nearer to Horsham.

Have you entered Chelsea?

Not for floral art. However, I was part of the team from Cowfold Horticultural Society when

we won a bronze medal in the hanging basket and window box competition back in the mid 1990s.

Which club do you belong to?

Warnham Evening Flower Club which I joined seven years ago when I retired.

How long have you lived in Sussex?

Since 1984.

Where is your favourite Sussex place?

We are blessed with both a wonderful coast and landscape - Cuckmere Haven and the Seven Sisters for the coast and the South Downs for landscape

Name a famous person you have met

Christopher Lloyd and Beth Chatto on a visit to Great Dixter.

Who would you like to receive some flowers from?

I'm always happy to receive flowers whoever they are from!

Fabulous Flowers

Rose

Rosa

Probably the most popular flower in the world, it has regularly featured as a favourite flower in our '10 Questions to' feature....

'Rosa' is Latin for rose and is the flower of love and romance. It is available all year round and so versatile it can be used as a simple buttonhole, or in a bouquet. It has style, elegance, comes in a range of exciting colours and often a fragrance.

To add to its appeal the rose ranges from showy hybrid teas to delicate miniatures. It is a popular flower to dry as well as being easy to grow.



When arranging roses you need a generous supply of water. They are sensitive to bacteria. Change the water every 2-3 days to keep them fresh.

A medley of nine months' worth of designs I have created during Covid-19

For April I created a design in a pin-holder which featured *Aquilegia* and Spanish bluebells from my garden together with wild flowers and twigs from my daily constitutional. In May, it was the turn of glorious *Paeonia* (again from my garden) to take centre stage, whilst a raid on some garden flowers and foliage as well as houseplants made an eye-catching summery design in June.

Come July, I simply could not resist picking a glorious cacophony of summery grasses on my daily walks, whilst August saw me create a design featuring majestic *Eucomis* that, year in and out, grace a pretty pot on my patio and when September came knocking on the door, I



April, May, June

decided to create a foam free design with *Phalaenopsis* orchids on a log slice.

October is harvest time so a wall hanging made in the shape of a straw heart was bedecked in a medley of autumnal hues and I then paid homage to Bonfire Night for the month of November. And finally, to round off our extremely tough year, no door is ever complete without a glorious wreath and my beautiful new front

door was no exception as I created a welcome ring of spruce, pine and laurel as well as cones, baubles and *Craspedia*.



October, November, December

Staying creative has really helped me a great deal during our dreadful pandemic and it sadly looks like I am going to have to keep going well into the new year so you may see a few more designs yet...

Words and pictures by
Nina Tucknott
 Sussex Area Photography Representative



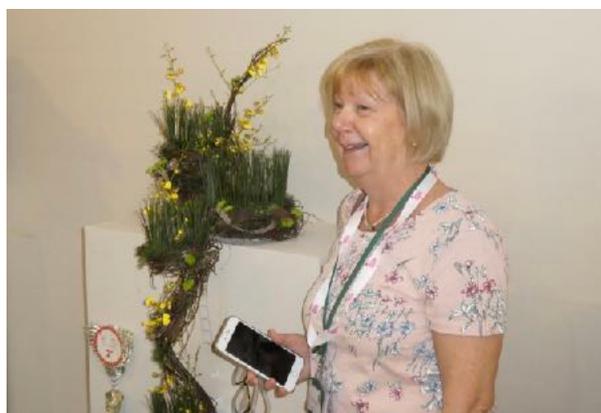
July, August, September

World Show in India - 1 year on

Well, what a year 2020 has been. None of us on the ECT NAFAS trip could have expected what the future would hold when we travelled to India for the WAFA show, held in Jaipur, last February. So now my memories of this special event have been put into a very different perspective, as this was the only floral show I attended in 2020.

For over a year before the show a lot of preparation was required for the design of the UK exhibit, and the logistics of exporting the materials to India.

Consideration of the weight of mechanics to take on the plane, within normal luggage limits, and what choice of plant materials, if any, were allowed to be taken with us into India were uppermost in my mind. I designed a stand and container, which was laser cut in lightweight plywood, to keep within weight limits. Just two flower boxes were allowed for the design, so materials had to be kept to a minimum. The stand was broken down to a flat pack in one box and the other box included all other mechanics and plant material, tools etc and also components for my own individual design. With these restrictions also in mind, the class I entered, Monsoon Memories, had to be relatively small.



Flowers were ordered through an Indian wholesaler, but a lot of foliage that we would normally use here is not available in India, so with much emailing between us, I managed to source some suitable flowers to represent a British theme. We are so fortunate here in the UK to have many rose varieties available to us, but these are not imported into India in order to protect their own rose trade, so I purchased

locally grown roses. A small amount of plant material was taken with us, which had to survive several days of travelling as we were on tour for the week before the show. These were mostly dried components and some fresh pine needles. As many plant materials are not allowed to be imported into India it was necessary to have an inspection of the plant materials we were taking with us to enable import licences to be granted on the day before travelling.

We spent an exciting week in Jaipur for the show, and I had one day, prior to the main competitors, to set up the WAFA exhibit. Having collected and sorted the flowers I began to assemble the stand/ container which slotted together, like a 3D jigsaw, without any trouble. The exhibit was over 6ft high so reaching the top required a pre-ordered ladder, but alas there was no sign of it, and having

been assured it was on its way I carried on with arranging the parts I could reach. Eventually the ladder arrived and I had to work very quickly to

assemble the arrangement. Finishing it off was left to the following day, after completing my competitive design.

With much anticipation the first viewing day arrived and the results of the competition. In my class, "Monsoon Memories", I had been awarded 2nd prize. How wonderfully unexpected this was, as there was some stiff competition in my class. It was also so exciting to discover that many of the UK competitors had also been successful, including members from Sussex and our neighbouring Surrey Areas.

As is usual with international competitions there were some innovative and magnificent designs, some of them very intricate, especially in the craft classes. There were some extraordinary mechanics in some designs and unusual dried plant materials that competitors had brought



Best in Show

with them. The many Indian competitors fully utilised their diverse colourful plant material, also using paper and featuring jute especially. This was used in many craft items within their designs.

As well as all the competitive classes, international exhibits and a special Indian marquee for large scale individual arrangements, there were many workshops and demonstrations to attend, shopping stalls to explore, and of course prize giving.

We attended the prize giving ceremony at the marvellous theatre in the Borla Auditorium, and afterwards entertained at an amazing reception for

competitors, exhibitors and dignitaries in the garden there, with 13 Taali, a famous dance performance of Rajasthan & Vrindavan's Phoolon ki Holi adding to the amazing spectacle. A buffet of Indian delicacies and video show in the late afternoon and evening completed the ceremony.

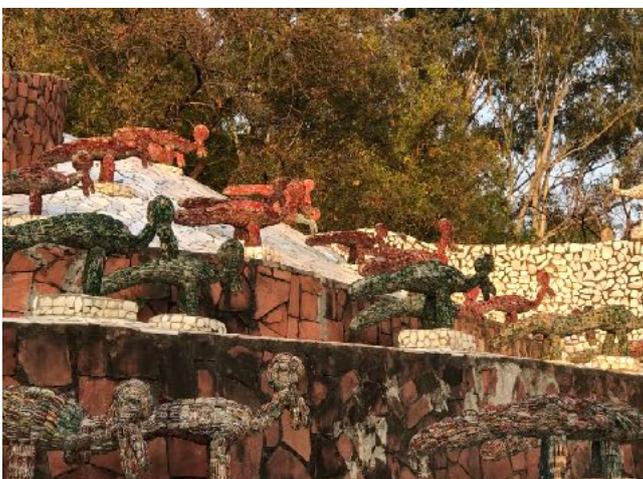


On the final day of the show we attended one of the many demonstrations, which focused on jute, with Premysl Hytich from the Czech Republic and Preeti Sarada from India. There were some beautiful designs using local flowers and plant material. With the demonstration over we eagerly rushed over to the jute stand to stock up on their exclusive products.

And it seemed so quickly that the show was over and we left Jaipur to continue our trip by car to Shimla, high up in the Himalayas, with twisty turns and dramatic scenery. I thought it might be like Switzerland with more trees and few subtly coloured cabins, so not how I imagined it at all. There were brightly colourful towns packed closely together up the mountains, evident at every view.

We had brilliant guides and coach drivers for our tour as we travelled from place to place. They looked after us really well and showed us anything and everything with much knowledge and patience, explaining the history of each venue and allowing us to fully appreciate the Indian culture.

Our Indian journey had begun in Delhi after a long overnight flight and we were immediately driven to see a temple and the market. The cacophony of sights and sounds and general hubbub of central Delhi is a sight to behold, so different from our own subdued culture, but captivating with the many and varied street traders. We saw the Indian women in their colourful saris with ornate jewellery and bangles and men with their turbans, all living life outside, as is usual in countries with hot climates. We were delighted to be driven around the market on a rickshaw, much hooting and shouting of street traders haggling, pot holes to avoid...sometimes...cattle, always, and smells



Lots of bangles used in this part of the sculptures.

of curry being cooked on outside makeshift kitchens.

From Delhi and the Taj Mahal, so serene, to Rambathore, with a safari visit, and then on to Shimla in the Himalayas. I looked forward to the visit to the famous Rock Garden at Chandigarh, named after its founder Nek Chand Saini, a government official who started the garden secretly in his spare time in 1957. It is made from household scrap items such as bottles, glasses, bangles, tiles and ceramic pots, broken pipes and electrical waste, placed within a series of walled paths.

My personal highlight was the Golden Temple, absolutely magnificent, and we visited on two days. Each evening the holy book is closed and placed on a pillow in a flower filled palki (palanquin). The procession carries the book to the bedroom, before being put to bed for the night. The temple is so atmospheric with the 100,000 people of all religions visiting to worship every day. The following day we saw the food being served to all visitors, regardless of their faith, in the Langar kitchen. All religions are welcome and it is free to all who come.

During our last few days in India the news was coming through of Coronavirus spreading. We had not noticed this too much whilst at the Show, but then there were stirrings in that direction on the last part of our Indian tour, as we heard that tourist spots were beginning to close. On the final day we visited the border between India and Pakistan, where the daily theatrical event of shutting the gate and bringing down the respective flags. The following day that amazing spectacle was closed to all tourists.

How lucky we were to attend the World Show, as only a few days after we returned the whole of the UK went into the first lockdown.

Words and pictures by

Linda Porrett

Sussex Area Judges' Representative

Inspired by Nature



Jane Riley
Seaford Evening Flower Club

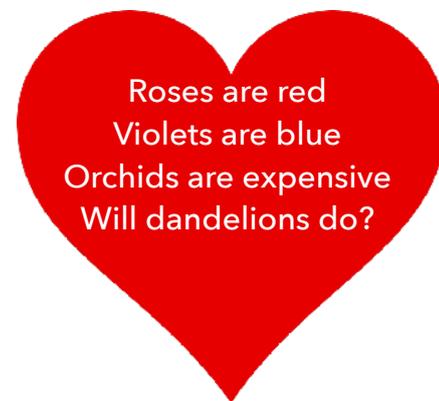
Violets

The first flowers given on Valentine's Day weren't the red roses that are popular today.

Instead, violets were the flower of choice. It's believed that violets grew outside St. Valentine's jail cell. He would crush violet blossoms to make ink, which would be used to covertly write letters that were said to have been delivered by doves.



Violets are known as a symbol of faithfulness and requited love.



F	I	E	L	K	C	U	S	Y	E	N	O	H
N	P	B	C	A	G	Z	Q	T	T	P	F	Y
G	B	N	L	R	Z	I	Q	D	A	I	S	Y
P	O	I	F	G	O	Y	T	E	L	O	I	V
R	L	G	D	I	H	C	R	O	L	J	B	Q
H	E	A	E	L	Q	B	U	G	X	I	B	X
H	Y	W	V	R	O	V	Q	S	Q	Y	L	I
Q	S	F	O	E	A	G	M	P	F	S	Y	Y
U	L	U	S	L	N	N	I	R	Q	N	X	A
M	R	Q	W	X	F	D	I	R	O	A	C	S
L	T	U	L	I	P	N	E	U	A	P	E	T
C	K	V	C	E	X	S	U	R	M	M	X	E
D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	S	D	M	S	R

Flower Word search

Can you find all these flowers

- ASTER
- CROCUS
- DAFFODIL
- DAISY
- GERANIUM
- HONEYSUCKLE
- LAVENDER
- LILAC
- LILY
- MARIGOLD
- ORCHID
- PANSY
- SUNFLOWER
- TULIP
- VIOLET

Valentine's traditions

In this country romantic lovebirds exchange gifts of red roses, chocolates and jewellery. When love is in the air what better way to celebrate with a candlelit dinner for two.

What happens around the world?

In the **United States** billions of dollars are spent on candy, cards, chocolates, flowers and jewellery. The candy comes in the form of hearts with messages like "Be Mine" and "Kiss Me". Cards are also exchanged between family, friends and schoolchildren with notes of friendship, affection and appreciation.



In **South Korea** and **Japan** the women buy chocolates for their male partners, family members and co-workers as a token of affection and appreciation. A month later the men pamper the women on March 14, 'White Day', with cake, candy and flowers.



In **Finland** it's all about celebrating with your friends on 'Friends' Day'. The flower of the moment is the pink rose, friends are also happy to receive gifts, cards or candy.



In **Peru** most are on holiday on February 14 for 'Carnival Day', whilst exchanging orchids – a flower native to the country. This is the most romantic day of the year as many mass weddings are held.



In **Brazil** instead of February 14, they commemorate Saint Anthony, the patron saint of marriage and matchmaking on June 12.



And finally

Thank you to all contributors of articles and photographs. Don't forget to contribute your designs and articles. Please send them in.

The next issues will cover the following:
March - Church Flowers
April - Easter

Keep well and stay safe.

Duncan

Roses are red
 Violets are blue
 I'm sick of this poem
 You probably are too