



Sussex Area News

Newsletter of the Sussex Area of NAFAS

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

Charity No. 292377



Celebrating Church Flowers

Typically at this time of year - Lent - our churches are stripped of any floral materials as we go through the Lenten penitence towards Holy Week and Easter. The return of church flowers is something we anticipate and look forward to, more so this year as again many churches are closed or not holding services due to the pandemic. Some have been bereft of flowers for many months.



Churches have always attracted flower arrangers, as early as the 4th century when monasteries grew flowers for decoration of the church. Even before then Buddhist Priests placed floral offerings to Buddha.

Renowned flower arranger Derek Bridges wrote, "Decorating churches with flower arrangements must be one of the best and ultimate ways in which the flower arranger can express his or her talent. It does not matter whether it's a tiny village church or a cathedral, flowers decorate beautifully, bring pleasure and giving thanks."



Noticeboard

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

2021 Diary Dates

please note some changes

6-9 May 2021 - CANCELLED
RHS Malvern Spring Show

18-22 May 2021 - NOW 21-26 September
RHS Chelsea, a virtual show will be held in May

3-5 June 2021 - POSTPONED
to 8-11 June 2022
Chichester Flower Festival

National News

National Chairman's Challenge

Congratulations to South Midlands Area who won the January challenge 'Burns Night'.

The March competition title is "A spring bonnet" and if you wish to enter then please send a photo of your design to sussexareaofnafas@gmail.com by 26 March 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.

Coming Soon
National Flower Arranging Day
7 May 2021

The Flower Arranger Magazine

The current issue, Spring, immediately catches the eye with its attractive cover which, together with the quality of the contents, led to the NAFAS Editorial team receiving much positive feedback. Well deserved bearing in mind current difficulties, for example, cancelled events leading to photoshoots.



The Summer issue of The Flower Arranger Magazine is now well under way. The focus is on the beauty of the garden, abundant plant material, colour and positivity.

First chance of 2021 to get lucky

The first Flower Arranger Free Draw of 2021 took place at the Council Meeting held on 8 February.

Lucky winners were Maria Baker who won the 2021 subscription, and Linda Burgess who won the Spring magazine. Both ladies are Little Common members. The Spring magazines were promptly posted so winners could start enjoying their win as soon as possible.

Any member wishing to take out a subscription, please contact your Club FAO or myself, nancy@hubbard3.plus.com to tel: 01403 264482.

Nancy Hubbard

Area News

Chairman's Piece

There I was, surfing away, and just happened to come across a wig in the style of Dusty Springfield. Then there was a pair of white boots, some flares, miniskirts and hotpants (but I didn't linger on those last two!). How very tempting to have some fun and dress up for **Flower Power** in September. Maybe you have a '60s little number in the back of your wardrobe? Does it still fit? Congrats if it does. I can't get into last year's clothes – must lessen my COVID curve!



As my finger steadied itself to click the Buy Now button on Amazon Smile, I saw that my purchases over

the last couple of months (including Christmas) have resulted in a contribution to the Sussex Area of over £2. Imagine how much we could raise this year if we all signed up to Amazon Smile. It's easy to do: go to smile.amazon.com (rather than the usual Amazon site); sign in; choose the Sussex Area of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (sorry – it has to be in full) and you're good to go.

If you're not an on-line shopper, maybe there's a youngster in your family who hasn't used their charity support yet and would look favourably upon us. Please encourage them to help.

If you're like me and read newsletters and newspapers back to front, you will already have read Gaenor's uplifting report on **Flower Power**. I'm getting excited already. Can't wait to be chauffeur driven in one of their electric buggies – wonder what their top speed is?

Back to the nautical theme (or introducing it if you started reading from page 1), I feel a trendy sea shanty coming on. "Hurray and

up she rises, Hurray and up she rises, Hurray and up she rises, Early in the morning." (that's **Flower Power** not Gaenor, although she does get up early!).

Keep safe and well

Gilly

The Sussex Area of NAFAS Diamond Anniversary 2021



Area Events

Monday 8 March - Virtual Members' Day
Thursday 11 March - Zooming for Everyone
Monday 29 March to Thursday 1 April -
Club Officers' Week
Monday 14 June - Members' Day



The Sussex Area of NAFAS

presents

Flower Power

An extravaganza of floral design
set in the beautiful grounds
of this Grade 1 listed garden
to celebrate the Sussex Area's
Diamond Anniversary

Thursday 9 September
to Sunday 12 September 2021

Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens

Brighton Road, Lower Beeding, Horsham
West Sussex RH13 6PP

9am to 5pm (last entry 3.30pm)

Trade stands * Raffles * Tombola * Refreshments

Early Bird Tickets purchased on or before 9 June 2021
Adults £12 to include brochure
Children 5-16 years £5

Email Carol at sussexflowerpower@yahoo.com

Sussex Area of NAFAS Registered Charity No. 292377



Flower Power

Thursday 9-Sunday 12 September 2021

The good ship '**Flower Power**' set sail in calm waters with its dedicated crew pulling up the anchor, climbing up the rigging and guiding our ship out of harbour and on to the high seas bound for the exciting adventure of organising Sussex Area's Diamond Anniversary extravaganza.

We made good progress with a fair wind behind us and nothing looked as if it could go wrong. But then we met very stormy waters as we battled to keep the ship afloat against the force of storm Covid.

Undaunted, our intrepid crew battened down the hatches. No sooner did things seem to get quieter than the word from the crow's nest was that another bout of the storm was on its way and we had, once again, to batten down the hatches and get all hands on deck. How could we reach port if we ended up with storm sickness?

Fortunately, it has been possible to winch on board supplies of the storm vaccine and more is promised. This has given the crew renewed belief in the mission and there is a growing confidence that the good ship '**Flower Power**' will make land and not hit a reef and be lost with all hands.

It's still some way off but the crew can just about make out the landing lights on Leonardslee Island. Now what the crew are hoping for is a large crowd of Sussex Area well-wishers on the quayside, all with their multi-coloured knitted flowers and their stunning floral designs ready to welcome the crew of the good ship '**Flower Power**' into port.

To gain access to the port, a ticket will need to be purchased from one of our shipmates, the lovely Carol Lathleiff. Any income Sussex Area receive from the ticket sales on or before 9th June will be retained by Sussex Area. After that date, Leonardslee will sell the tickets at their normal rate and they will retain the income from the sales (as from 1st April, their prices will increase to £13.50 adults and £6.50 children and will not include a brochure).

Carol is looking forward to receiving your application. Enquiries to Carol at sussexflowerpower@yahoo.com

Opening times: Thursday 9 - Sunday 12 September 2021 inclusive 9 am - 5pm daily (last entry 3.30 pm)

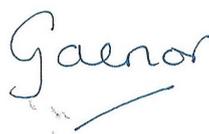
Adults 'Early Bird' discount to include brochure £12.00 (if purchased on or before 9 June)

Children aged 5-16 years - £5.00 (if purchased on or before 9 June)

Exhibitors: One complimentary ticket for their chosen day (to include brochure)

Stewards: Half-price ticket for a stewarding slot of 2 hours or more for their chosen day (to include brochure) £6.00

Preview evening - Wednesday 8 September: Further information will be available soon. Thank you for your support.



Gaenor Circus
Show Chairman



The Sussex Kidney Trust (SKT) Committee and I hope all is well with everyone.

Some of you may not have seen my report in the Area Minutes, the good news was that we were asked if the Trust could purchase 6 more chairs for the Home Dialysis (*pictured*) due to the generous donations we have received it was possible, the total cost was £2,472, they have been delivered to the hospital already and



waiting to be despatched to the Home Patients.

The Trust has been invited to run the Tombola at **Flower Power** which is taking place in Leonardslee Gardens September 9 - 12 the proceeds from the Tombola will come to the SKT for which we thank the Sussex Area. We will require a lot of prizes to cover 4 days so please if anyone has unwanted gifts or suitable items we would be most grateful to receive them. Thank you for the ones already given us so far. For the time being, however, owing to Government Regulations other arrangements can be made for collection.

Please contact me either by email jenwrenc@gmail.com or phone 01243 826604 or Barbara Garnell 01903 787243 for further information.

Best wishes to you all and stay safe and very many thanks for all the support we receive.

Jenny Coxhead
Chairman Sussex Kidney Trust



Coming soon

Sussex Area Photography Competition

The winning images will be announced and displayed at **Flower Power** @ Leonardslee Gardens in September 2021. There will be five classes and the closing date for entries will be Wednesday 30 June 2021.

More details will be released soon but meanwhile get practicing...

Nina Tucknott
Photography Representative



10 Questions to.....

Gaenor Circus, Sussex Area Vice Chairman

Q What is your favourite flower?

Orchid

Q Where was your last holiday destination?

Wengen in Switzerland.

Q When did you first join a flower club?

In Surrey in 2001. I didn't know anything about flower clubs, or flowers, and only joined because a neighbour invited me. I was persuaded to join the committee (does that sound familiar?!).

Q What was the last garden you visited?

Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens

Q Have you entered Chelsea?

Yes, on three occasions - 2017, 2018, 2019.

Q Which club do you belong to?

Warnham Evening Flower Club and New Visions

Q How long have you lived in Sussex?

Since 2005

Q Where is your favourite Sussex place?

Anywhere on the seafront in Sussex.

Q Name a famous person you have met

Jilly Griffin...oh and I nearly forgot - lunch with the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh.

Q Who would you like to receive some flowers from

Stephen McDonnell!

Church Flowers at East Preston

It was touch and go because of Covid-19 restrictions whether we would be able to decorate St Mary the Virgin Church, East Preston for Christmas 2020.

Then we got the go ahead, so armed with buckets of flowers and foliage, and a box containing Candles, Baubles and lots of glitter we arrived at church. With face coverings and social distancing in place we enthusiastically set to



work on our much missed hobby of flower arranging. When we had all finished the church looked amazing, all dressed in glory ready for the Christmas services which I expect were by Zoom, although the church was open for private prayer.

Hopefully once we are all vaccinated, we can get back to normal.

Words and pictures from Valerie Adams, East Preston

REMEMBER WHEN

Horam and Heathfield Flower Club although based in Heathfield was originally started in 1962 by Susan Fountain who lived in Horam, hence the name. I spoke to Pam Fuller a very knowledgeable and valued member of our club with regards to information about the history of the club. Pam kindly submitted the following information to me in her own words:



Pam Fuller

I wasn't at the first meeting, I started in 1963 at St Richards Church Hall in Heathfield. I had been a member for three months

when the club held an inter club competition with Seaford Club. I was roped in to enter as a beginner and not knowing anything about it I had to make a basket arrangement, and spent the evening rubbing bottoms with a real live lady. We had kitchen classes at Joyce Ingamell's home and every club meeting there was a competition which still goes on today.

At Christmas we decorated the local Library window which was greatly admired. We also made small dried arrangements to go out with the Christmas Meals on Wheels, this carried on for years. A hundred arrangements were made each year by club members at my house. I was soon



Dried Flowers

asked to be Flower Show Organiser at Heathfield Show

and also at Horam Show where we had competitions for the public to judge as well as the normal competition classes.



We did Church Flower Festivals, and lots of other festivals eg: The Vineyard at Waldron, St Richards Church, Herstmonceux Castle, Christ's Hospital and Batemans to name but a few, raising money for various charities. We also did floats for the local carnival and the lorries belonging to my husband John were used to provide transport. This is where the Fuller Cup started and was won. We now have two Fuller Cups - one is awarded each month for the winner of the beginners class in the club competition and the second cup is awarded to the club member who has obtained the most points throughout the year in the club competition.

The club grew in numbers. Susan Fountain demonstrated for our 45th anniversary which we celebrated with a beautiful cake and a glass of wine. We outgrew St Richards and moved to the new Community Centre where we still meet today. After a few years numbers started to drop, I became chairman, I was teaching at night school and demonstrating locally. By informing everyone about the fun that was had at the club many joined and are still members today. When I retired as chairman Doreen Nuttall took over.



Thank you Pam for sharing this information about our club.

Our club is a happy hardworking club with an excellent committee who are committed to fund raising events throughout the year, the Cuckoo Fair, Horam Fun Day, Cream Teas, Quizzes and workshops with monies raised for different charities. We have all enjoyed the celebrations for each milestone at the club and look forward to celebrating our Diamond Anniversary in 2022.

As difficult as this last year has been we as a club have managed to stay connected together via e-mails, post and telephone calls and are so looking forward to the day when we can all meet again. Goodness me what a celebration that will be.

Words and pictures from
Phyllis Stevens
Chairman
Horam and Heathfield Flower Club

St Andrew's Church Ferring

Ferring is probably one of the oldest churches in Sussex. The first church of St Andrew in Ferring was built between 765 and 791. The existing building was started in about 1120 on the site of the original church. The west wall and south wall in the Nave date back to this time. The church was enlarged in 1250, when the chancel was built and the northern side extended.

We have a team of 6 flower arrangers at St Andrews. The only times we meet as a team are when we arrange for the festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Sadly this year we had to wear our masks, sanitize and distance ourselves not quite what we have been used to. Our arrangements in silver and white at Christmas were dedicated to all those who lost their lives due to Covid in 2020.

Sadly the Flower Club in Ferring has closed not due to lack of members or funds but due to lack of committee members.

Words and pictures by
Tricia Bridgman
Media Administrator



St Andrew's Ferring 2020
Church Flower Arrangers



The rocky road to flower arranging – a personal journey.

Ever since I was a child living in Northampton I have always loved nature especially flowers.

This love was fostered by parents who took me to see the snowdrops at Mantle Heath, to gather primroses, pussy willows and catkins on trips to Nobottle Woods, collecting sticky buds and in the autumn looking for wild mushrooms, conkering at Clifford Hill and picking hips and haws. (This was all before conservation was considered to be important.) Miniature garden competitions at primary school evoked my more creative side along with taking flowers from the garden to make posies for 'old aunties' when we were sent out to have tea with them, always taking bread and milk with us as they could not feed an additional three mouths.

My first experience of formal flower arranging came when the Church Flower Committee asked if any of the youth clubs would help with the Easter flowers for the church. My friend and I volunteered and were detailed to get the flowers for the hanging basket-like containers that were hung in the side aisles. Luckily one of the church members offered to let us take whatever spring flowers we could find in her garden. I don't know which was more daunting arranging the flowers or sitting down to tea with the ladies. The church always looked and smelt lovely at Easter with the daffodil cross on the altar and all the umbrella drip trays at the ends of the central aisle filled

with primroses.

Whilst in the sixth form at school the headmistress decided that each house would be responsible for providing and arranging flowers for the large entrance hall and the table

on the stage in the main hall.

I always used wild flowers like the fluffy reed heads, wild forget-me-nots, milk maids, berries in autumn, spring catkins and buds. These made some stunning displays in the large terracotta vases that had to be filled.



Flowers at home were a luxury and mainly came from the garden. Dad's allotment was purely for vegetables and fruit. When I got my first Saturday job working in a family run restaurant and bakery I loved to go down to the market to buy a bunch of flowers using my tip money. These were always put into a vase, no fancy arranging.



Years later when working in a very small village Church of England Primary School the junior school class (all 15 of them) were studying the church

and the various roles people had within it. I decided to ask if the pupils could provide the flowers and arrange them for one Sunday. The church flower committee were very dubious about this venture but after gentle persuasion from the young vicar it was agreed that we could decorate the window sills. We used every sort of container we could find and filled the window ledges with all manner of foliage and flowers. It was a great success and the flower committee agreed that next time we would be able to do the arrangement for the altar.



Years later when working in a larger primary school I was asked to help with the harvest festival display. A colleague was already a member of Seaford Evening Flower Club and she agreed to do a large pedestal arrangement of flowers for the centre of the harvest display and suggested that I could go along to the next flower club evening when it was bring a friend for £1. I thought it would be a nice relaxing evening after the stress of dealing with pupils with additional needs all day. I could not believe the displays that the demonstrator created – I was hooked and joined the club.



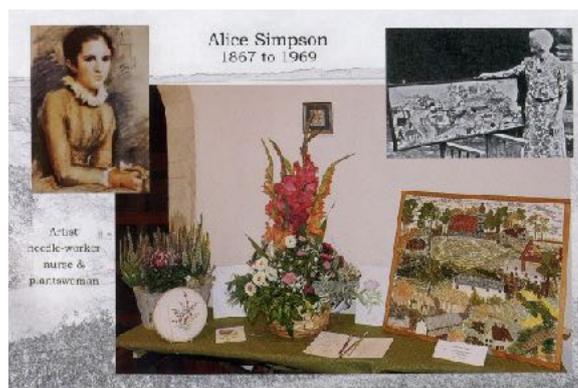
the floral displays at Garden Paradise. The first two years I carried plants and handed flowers to those doing the display. The year we did The Mad Hatter's Tea Party I was confident enough to do a pavé for one of the chairs and all the small floral cakes for the table.

Saturday workshops introduced me to basic flower arranging and every month I had a go at the club competition slowly gaining confidence.



As with most clubs the committee was looking for additional members. Two years later having retired I offered to join the committee. I had very little experience of flower arranging but could make cakes, organise events and run meetings. The first time a committee meeting was held at my house they had a cultural shock – I only had 6 teacups and there were 8 on the committee so it was mugs!! – I did remember the serviettes and forks for the cakes and still had a few doilies left over from mum. Hosting the committee meeting gave me a chance to follow my other passion, cake making, little did they know they were often the

Next it was the dreaded baskets for the charity raffle. Talk about being dropped in at the deep end, I had never done a basket before but I watched the others carefully and managed a reasonable creation. I've learnt to make posies for Mother's Day sales, Christmas decorations for stalls at Christmas Magic in Seaford and even plucked up the courage to demonstrate to our club and others as well as the WI. Running workshops for the club has helped me develop my skills and I always remember being told that



the best way to learn a new skill is to watch, try and then teach someone else even if it did mean revamping the leaf manipulation booklet diagrams using different coloured paper for each strand of foliage so that all members of the club could achieve at least one design.



guinea pigs for a new recipe. Soon I was programme secretary and after 4 years became chairman being only committee member who had not previously held this position.

Being part of the committee I was asked to help with



Church flower festivals were a mystery but I was eventually asked to do a foliage only design to stand by a pillar – nothing too challenging just a double Hogarth Curve. Luckily I had plenty of different foliage in my garden. I was given a quick lesson on how to

make flowers out of foliage and help to get the curve the correct proportions. From then on I was asked to help with Church Flower Festivals soon realising that it was a good idea to volunteer early so that you had the full lists of suggested display topics to choose from. I learnt to choose designs that would enable me to use my craft skills as well as flower arranging.

Inter-club competitions at the local horticultural show were another challenge. 'Grand designs' and 'Our rugged coastline' (*pictured right*) proved challenging. Fortunately my husband's engineering and design skills helped us solve the problems of how to get a 6 foot piece of drift wood vertical without damaging it and how to get rectangular display stands balanced to look like the interior structure of a house. I still have not managed to get him to understand that flowers do not behave like wood and metal and often annoy him by not be able to give the precise dimension for structures I need making and some of his



precious garage space (we have two) has been invaded by flower 'junk'.

2020 has been a quiet year but when I have been able to buy some flowers I have been trying hard to arrange them without oasis and the club's new online competition has given me a challenge each month least of all to take a photo of the design without shaking.

I enjoy flower arranging but still get it wrong and cannot always see why until someone more experienced tells me. I cannot wait for the restrictions to end so that we can get back to face to face flower arranging, long committee meetings, friends and at last I will be able to sit back and watch in awe at the talent of the demonstrators.

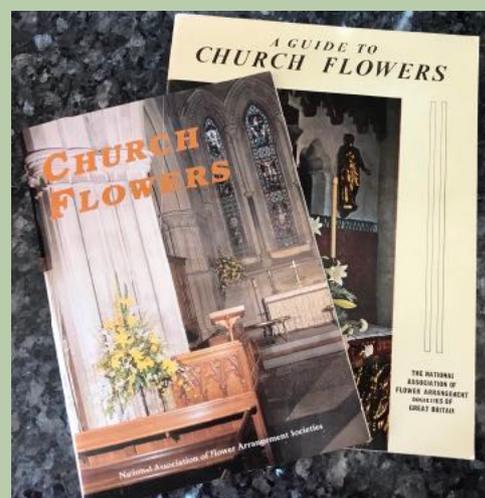
Words and pictures by
Jane Mills
President
Seaford Evening Flower Club

Book Review

NAFAS Guide to Church Flowers

This publication was first produced in 1968 and subsequently revised in 1994. If you have either edition, these booklets are crammed full of useful information to help the church flower arranger.

The later version reflects more recent trends and styles for the modern church, from styles of arrangements to practical tips. It covers, for example, arranging large pedestal displays to organising a flower festival. The information contained in these booklets will help you gain knowledge and confidence in church flower arranging.



Lockdown

I hate this horrible lockdown
It's making me really depressed
I drift around in the morning
It's lunchtime before I get dressed

I can't go out to the village
And shop like I used to do
All my shopping gets delivered
By the jolly nice Waitrose crew

I drink far more than I ought to
It's my only pleasure in life
I'm becoming an alcoholic
A classic Cheshire housewife

My house looks a mess all over
Well nobody comes any more
They're not allowed on the premises
So why bother to clean up the floor?

Why bother to make the bed?
It's only me gets in it
Why bother to clean the bathroom?
When nobody pays it a visit

There's not much food in the cupboard
The fridge is looking bare
But the wine rack's always fully stocked
So really no change there!

I'm becoming an alcoholic
A confession I have to make

Well it's easier to open a bottle
Than to make another cake

The only bonus to all this
Is the laughter that flies around
The friends that keep me going
The WhatsApp clips that abound

Oh please get us through this Lockdown
Send Covid on its way
I just want to hug everybody again
And be allowed out to play

I miss all my family and friends
They're all shut away behind doors
I want us all to party again
And all be together once more

So please go away Mr Covid
Bugger off to where you came from
We've all had enough of you now
So hop it, get lost, get gone!

Poem by
Linda Coleman
Acting Chairman, Rustington Flower Club

And finally

Thank you to all contributors of articles and photographs. For the Church Flower pictures, my thanks go to the teams at St Mary the Virgin East Preston, St Andrews Ferring, St Margaret of Antioch Rottingdean, and Jane Riley Seaford. Don't forget to contribute your designs and articles. Please send them in.

The next issue will cover the following:
April - Easter - please send us photos of your Easter arrangements by 20 March 2020

Keep well and stay safe.

Duncan

