



Sussex Area News

Newsletter of the Sussex Area of NAFAS

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

Charity No. 292377

National Flower Arranging Day Friday 7 May 2021

Some of the many arrangements prepared by members from across East and West Sussex.



Sue Seath, East Preston



Vicky Tuck, East Preston

Liz Morgan-Jones, Seaford: "I put one simple arrangement on one part of the wall and a jug of red roses on another asking passers by to 'Take a rose to brighten your day' and several people did!"



Duncan Ward, Seaford



Joyce Skeet, Warnham



Val Adams, East Preston

Noticeboard

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

Flower Power Tickets

It's now just over 2 weeks before the cut off date for applying for discounted tickets at the price of £12 - a price which includes a complimentary brochure. Please contact Carol on 01903 817187 or sussexflowerpower@yahoo.com

The revenue from these tickets before Wednesday 9 June 2021 will come to the Area. After 9 June tickets will no longer be available and will need to be brought directly from Leonardslee. They will be more expensive and will not include a brochure.

National News

National Chairman's Challenge

Congratulations to South West Area who won the March challenge. There was no challenge in April due to the National Show.

Julie Taylor from East Preston Floral Club was the Sussex entry for March pictured below.



The June competition title is "Wedding time" and if you wish to enter then please send a photo of your design to sussexareaofnafas@gmail.com by 26 June 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.

The Burwash and District Flower Club.

Diamond Anniversary Celebration 60 years with National Demonstrator Michael Bowyer

Thursday 15 July 2021 7pm.

Burwash Village Hall.

Entrance £10 for members £12 for non members

Tickets from Jean Plummer 01435 883483 or

Maureen Jenner 01435 882045

The Sussex Area of NAFAS

Diamond Anniversary Floral Extravaganza

Flower Power

Preview Evening

Wednesday 8 September 2021

5.30pm - 7.30pm

Tickets £35 per person

Bubbles and canapés served to the accompaniment of a renowned local harpist in a beautiful courtyard setting at the Grade 1 listed

Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens

Brighton Road, Lower Beeding, Horsham RH13 6PP

For tickets, please contact Carol at

sussexflowerpower@yahoo.com

Limited availability, so don't delay!



The Sussex Area of NAFAS Diamond Anniversary 2021

Area News

Area Chairman

What's in a Name?

A topic of major importance was on the agenda at our lively Council Meeting a couple of weeks ago. Over two thirds of clubs voted to adopt an operational name. We'd still be the Sussex Area of NAFAS and we'd still be affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies, but we're going to have a new day-to-day name to reflect our outgoing approach to educate and raise awareness of our fabulous hobby.

The aim of the proposed name change is to broaden our appeal and raise awareness of the Sussex Area, particularly on social media, to those with an interest in floral art, whilst continuing to remain relevant to those who enjoy flower arranging and floral design at all levels.

But the devil's in the detail. Are we flower arrangers or floral designers? Feelings ran high at the Council meeting, but whatever we call ourselves, we all have a mutual passion for flowers which manifests itself in different ways:

- competing at a club, Sussex Area, national or world stage as several of our members do
- watching a demonstration and catching up with friends
- judging floral competitions,
- demonstrating at flower clubs,
- teaching, sharing, and passing on our knowledge to those wishing to learn,
- speaking and entertaining us, using floral props,
- craftwork
- gardening and growing our plant material
- organising and taking part in club nights, flower shows and festivals, competitions and other events

for the enjoyment, education, and entertainment of others.

Please ask your Club Chairman or the Area Secretary for the spec, and send your suggestions, which should be inclusive of all members, to Lesley Etherton, lesleyetherton@outlook.com, by Friday 9 July 2021. The Executive Committee will draw up a short list of five options, on which Delegates will vote at Council on Monday 9 August 2021. The winner will be the name with the most votes.

Best wishes,

Area Future Events

Monday 14 June 2021 – Members' Day

Our June Members' Day which once again will be held via Zoom looks to be very interesting. We have our very own National Chairman Katherine Kear, a fluent and experienced communicator giving us a talk titled '*Tales from an Elizabethan Still Room*'.



Our floral demonstration in the afternoon will be the talented demonstrator and judge Cherie Nummy. She will be entertaining us with her floral expertise to the title '*One for the Money*'.

This promises to be a really super day and we hope that many of you will be able to join us on the day. Government guidelines permitting, if you invite a non-zoomed to share the day, there will be no additional charge. Tickets £8 each from Carol
Email: calathleiff@yahoo.co.uk

Tuesday 15 June 2021 - Virtual Workshop

"*Back to the Future*" Our tutor for the day will be Rosslind McGookin, a national teacher from Northern Ireland, with expertise in both contemporary and traditional floral design.

Further details from Barbara Tucker.
Email: barb@batucker.go-plus.net

Don't forget to enter the
Sussex Area Photography Competition
Closing Date 31 July 2021

Flower Power

Thursday 9-Sunday 12 September 2021

Preparations for our 'Diamond Anniversary' celebrations are going very well.



We have received an excellent response to our request for knitted roses. If you would like to continue knitting then, please do. The cut-off date is Tuesday 15 June and if you would like to arrange for someone to collect please e.mail me on gaenor.circus1@gmail.com

It is now just over 2 weeks before the cut-off date for applying for discounted tickets at the price of £12 - a price which includes a complimentary brochure. Please contact Carol on 01903 817187 or sussexflowerpower@yahoo.com The revenue from these tickets before Wednesday 9 June will come to Area. After 9 June, tickets will no longer be available and will need to be bought directly from Leonardslee. They will be more expensive and will not include a brochure.

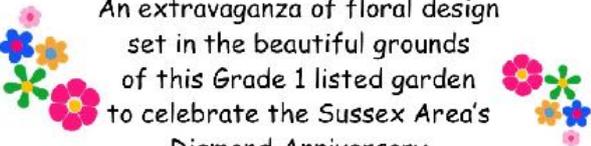
I know many of you are considering hiring a coach. All good coach companies are adhering to social distancing guidelines so a coach can be booked with confidence.

One of the highlights of 'Flower Power' will be the Preview evening we are organising for Wednesday 8 September in a delightful courtyard setting at Leonardslee from 5.30 pm. The tickets are on sale now at £35 per person to include bubbles and canapés to the accompaniment of a renowned local harpist. There will also be the opportunity of taking a tour around the gardens on 'The Leonardslee Shuttle'. Please email sussexflowerpower@yahoo.com

Please do come along and take part in our Area's Diamond Anniversary celebrations. There will be plenty to see in the 240 acre Grade 1 listed gardens, as well as trade stands, a competition, raffles and demonstrations. So please don't delay in applying for tickets before Wednesday 9 June.

Gaenor


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

NAFAS Virtual National Show 2021

Congratulations to our Sussex winners and to all who took part. We asked our winners about their designs.

Class 9 A New Awakening

FIRST - Brenda Bull

Brenda says: "My aim was to depict the fresh new growth of spring set against the harshness of winter. I used pieces of bleached wood with acrylic test tubes set in wax for the mechanics, within a low square container, which I painted soft green and grey to blend with the wood. I chose white Freesia, Narcissi, Galanthus (snowdrop) and a few Ornithogalum (Star of Bethlehem), with willow, a little dried moss, small fern and a bright green salad leaf for contrast."



Class 5 Equinox

Very Highly Commended - Stephen McDonnell

Stephen says: "My design came into being after a wander around my garage. Both the metal framework and curved container were given to me as "I'm having a sort out, can you use these?" items. After coupling container and framework together I had a strong shape to work with. The mechanics cost nothing but the flowers cost a small fortune. Black and white callas and white hypericum berries spent the weeks housekeeping!"



Class 4 As You Like It

SECOND - Linda Porrett

Linda says: "A perfect title to use snowdrops, pussy willow buds, ivy leaves and moss. I made a handcrafted wire structure covered with brown stemtex tape to support a container made with natural blue eggshells. As I couldn't get an egg shape the correct size, I made a form from plaster of Paris bandage."



Very Highly Commended - Maggie Hayes

Maggie says: "I first made a wire shape like a nest from 22g wire and bind wire and raised this up on feet to give space. I used moss inside and placed snowdrops in quail eggs, clematis and a petite variety of ivy around and up to create movement and a couple of stems of hazel to add more interest."



Class 12 Geometrical Conversation

Commended - Wendy Parsons

Wendy says: "I used Celotex insulation board to form 4 geometric shapes, these I covered with hand made paper and attached them to a metal spike. Glass tubes were pinned in place with wire. Caspelia stems were inserted into the boards as a link then a central row of tulips completed the design. "



Area Virtual Spring Show 2021 IT'S SPRING AGAIN

Class 1 "And now that winter's gone"

- First:** Wendy Parsons, Lewes
- Second:** Jill Hayes, Rustington
- Third:** Carole Down, Horam & Heathfield
- VHC:** Christina Payne, West Bognor

Best In Show:

Wendy Parsons,
Lewes

Class 4
Simply Spring



First



Second



Third

Class 2 Layers of Spring

- First:** Lesley Locke, Rustington
- Second:** Wendy Allaway, Peacehaven & Telscombe
- Third:** Jennifer Thompson, New Visions



First



Second
6



Third



Class 3 “There is no time like Spring, When life’s alive with everything”

- First:** Sandra Dean, Felpham
- Second:** Lorette Cross, Rustington
- Third:** Duncan Ward, Seaford Evening
- HC:** Tricia Bridgman, East Preston
- HC:** Claire Bryant, Warnham
- C:** Jill Hayes, Rustington

First



© Lorette Cross
Rustington
Award: 2nd



© Duncan Ward
Seaford Evening Flower Club
Award: 3rd

Second

Third



© Wendy Parsons
Lewes
Award: 1st Best In Show

First

Class 4 Simply Spring

- First:** Wendy Parsons, Lewes
- Second:** Lesley Locke, Rustington
- Third:** Lesley Etherton, Warnham Evening
- VHC:** Theresa Fennings, Horam & Heathfield
- HC:** Wendy Allaway, Peacehaven & Telscombe
- C:** Paddy Winter, Steyning



© Lesley Locke
Club Rustington
Award: 2nd

Second



© Lesley Etherton
Warnham Evening Club
Award: 3rd

Third

Congratulations and well done to all winners and entrants.

CLUB News

What have you been up to?

Tunbridge Wells 65th Anniversary

When asked to write an article to accompany a photo celebrating Tunbridge Wells Flower Club's 65th Birthday I thought this is going to take much memory searching.



Arrangement by Myra Lester

I was not a Founder member, but I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Marjorie Ayton who was the founder of the Club. In 1956 it was her idea to form a Flower Club from a Horticultural Club. I believe their meetings were held in the Church hall of the Church of King Charles the Martyr. As the Church is on the border between Kent and Sussex it was decided to join Sussex. (I think there was more activity in Sussex Area).

Over the years we have taken part in many, many festivals, charity fund raisers, and for many years arranged flowers for the old Kent and Sussex hospital no longer here. We have had so many lovely happy times over the years and I am sure this will continue.

On a personal note, a few years ago when I was Chairman, I saw this motto in a pub "There are no Strangers here only friends we have yet to meet." This is printed on our Membership card and I think this sums up the Club's friendly spirit.

We look forward to all the events planned for this year and the following ones.

Pearl Sirman
President
Tunbridge Wells Flower Club

Burwash Show Success

Burwash and District Flower Club was well represented at the Burwash Horticultural Virtual Spring Show, Floral Art Classes. All entrants were members of our club.



*Arrangement by
Collette Ash*

Congratulations to the winners, in particular Collette Ash who took first prize with this 'Arrangement in a Triangular Shape'.

Claudette Neville
Burwash and District Flower Club

10 Questions to.....

this month to Sussex Area Treasurer
Brenda Bull

Q What is your favourite flower?

It's hard to choose but probably Freesia as they remind me of my mother, they were her favourite.

Q Where was your last holiday destination? Madeira & Canary Islands in 2019.

Q When did you first join a flower club? 2003.

Q What was the last garden you visited? Wakehurst Place.

Q Have you entered Chelsea? No.

Q Which club do you belong to? West Chiltington Floral Club & New Visions.

Q How long have you lived in Sussex?

64 years. My parents moved to Crawley from London when I was four months old.

Q Where is your favourite Sussex place?

Possibly Wakehurst Place with Nymans a close second.



Q Name a famous person you have met

John Denver, following a concert at the Brighton Centre. He stopped and spoke to us when he was leaving to board his tour bus.

Q Who would you like to receive some flowers from.....

It is always a pleasure to receive flowers and very special when from one of my grandchildren.

Photos by Brenda Bull

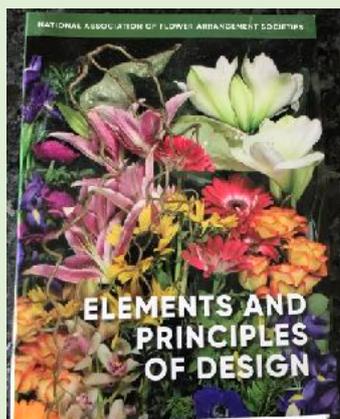
Club Officers' Week You said - we did

At the media session a discussion took place as to what members would like to see in the newsletter.

Last month we highlighted our website content, what you can see and download.

This month in the following pages we hear from two Area Demonstrators as to what they do, and the training they undertook to entertain and brighten our days.

You will also see information about the Sussex Area of NAFAS Instagram page, and the QR code.



Book Review - Elements and Principles of Design

This second edition of the NAFAS book has been revised and updated. Covering in detail the Elements and Principles of Design, an essential for all floral designers, it will help you obtain the best results for your floral arrangements.

A must have book for all floral designers.

£8.99 from NAFAS www.nafas.org.uk

Hard work...but very rewarding!

My name is Gill Homer and I am an area demonstrator for the Sussex area of NAFAS.



My demonstrators career really started following my City and Guilds Floristry Part 1 course at Chichester College and then my three years at Brinsbury College, Pulborough where I obtained my City and Guilds certificate in Floral Arrangement, Art and Design. Before my NAFAS demonstrators test I did gain confidence by demonstrating at various holiday parks and local NAFAS clubs. I passed my demonstrators test in 2011 and have enjoyed demonstrating ever since. I also run a successful florist business which I started in 2004 and I find the two go together brilliantly.



I really enjoy the live situation as it provides a platform for me to be artistic and I do enjoy the interaction with the audience and of course making my demonstrations a fun and informative time with inspiring ideas.

The training seemed to take a long time and looking back I wish it had been condensed down, but it did set me up with the determination to have the confidence to deal with some of the very large stage areas as well as larger audiences.

Since becoming an Area Flower Demonstrator I have achieved four medals at the Chelsea Flower Show and many awards at area shows which I have enjoyed taking part in immensely, including being placed twice at the National show at Bournemouth.



A demonstrator's job is quite complicated and time consuming – ordering and conditioning flowers, obtaining or making containers, stands and other props, researching and trying out both new and exciting ideas, loading and unloading both at home and at the venue, not to mention travelling to and from the venue, sometimes in the dark and usually encountering rush hour traffic and often having to navigate traffic diversions where roadworks are encountered. The placements need to be transported home by the raffle winners and this too needs careful consideration.

It is hard work with a lot of the work undertaken before you get anywhere near a stage – but very rewarding!

Words and pictures by
Gill Homer
Area Demonstrator

Life as a Demonstrator

In July 2009 I was introduced to a Flower Club and sat open mouthed as the demonstrator created exquisite designs one after another. I was hooked!!!! From there I attended an 8-week beginner course at the Club, and moved on to my Level 2 and 3 NAFAS Certification Courses. My tutor suggested I train to be a demonstrator.

In January 2014 I started training with Sussex Area. The topics covered were presentation, public speaking, how to cost your demonstrations, putting a demonstration together, plant recognition (learning the Latin names of plants not just the common names), in fact all aspects of being a demonstrator.

There was a pre-test which we had to pass in order to go on to the main test. The main test was in a large hall, with about 100 people and two adjudicators sitting at the back. No microphone so you had to speak loudly so they could hear you. Twenty minutes exactly to produce two designs. Our designs were judged, our presentation, appearance, use of elements and principles of design and knowledge of plant material were taken into consideration. Then a plant identification test. The pass mark was very high. I was informed by phone that I had passed and was now an Area Demonstrator. As pre-test candidates we had already been presenting our demonstrations to various clubs.

A huge amount of unseen work goes into a demonstration before the demonstrator even appears in front of a Club. Initially you have to come up with an idea, something innovative, 6 designs to go with the theme, I sketch out the outline of the designs and then start filling in details such as flowers and suitable containers. A title is chosen. All of this can take me several months to hone.



Once contacted by a Programme Secretary and a date agreed, I await the blue form which is the contract between me and the Club in question. I return the completed form and fill a copy by date order. Some could be as much as three years in the future. Nearer the time the Club contact me to iron out any queries, and I check that none of the details on the form have changed. The changes sometimes happen without the Club informing me!

A week before the demonstration I work out what flowers to order according to the budget given me by the Club. I then place my order with the wholesaler which is delivered two days before the demonstration to allow time for conditioning. I do not use supermarket flowers because the choice/quality of flowers is limited, compared to the wholesalers and after all the demonstration is

really about the flowers!

I soak the foam, prepare the containers and green up a little. All this preparation will take several hours. On the day of the demonstration, I pack my containers, box stand, turntable, workbox, etc, into the car. Hair and make-up done, half an hour before I leave I pack the flowers up into flower boxes, in reverse order of the designs and how they will be placed in the design. Then load the flowers into the car. Check I have the blue form and set off, allowing at least an extra 45 minutes more on the suggested travel time to allow for unexpected delays. Arrive at least one hour before meeting commences.

At the venue, introduce myself to the committee, unload car into hall and onto stage. Sort out containers and flower boxes for ease of access when on stage, discuss where display tables should go, set up worktable, place box

stand to side, have tools to hand. Sort out possible microphone and/or acoustics.

Fifteen minutes before going on judge the monthly Club competition if applicable. Then begin the demonstration.

At the end, once the raffle has been drawn and photos taken, hand over designs to the winners, pack up containers, flower boxes, etc., load into car and drive home. If an evening demonstration you might not get back home until gone midnight.

Words and picture by
Christina Payne
Area Demonstrator

The QR Code

The QR stands for 'quick response'.

The QR Code is a two-dimensional version of the barcode, typically made up of black and white pixel patterns. Scanning it with a smartphone, it will read the hidden code and take you to more information - usually a website, or it might be contact details.

For most iOS and Android users, a QR Code scanner is already built into the camera app. Simply open the camera app and hold it over any code until a notification pops up. It should take you to the information.

Scan the code below to see where it takes you.....



Sussex Area of NAFAS Instagram

Instagram is a social media platform that is based on photo and video sharing.



53
Posts

132
Followers

53
Following

Sussex Area of NAFAS 🌸

One of the 21 Areas which make up the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies 🌸

Head to our website for information on your local club 📍

www.sussexareanafas.org.uk/

You can take, edit, and publish visual content for your followers to interact with - through likes, comments, and shares. You can follow people, message them, like their content and share it with others. If you have a look at our Instagram page you will see the Spring Show entries, and all the interactions that have happened with our followers. You too can comment and like.

There are so many people, NAFAS areas, individuals, or organisations for you to follow. Get plenty of floral ideas from across the world by following floral designers like Gregor Lersch, National and area demonstrators, florists etc.

The site gets extra points if you like the post, more if you comment, and the most if you share. Get posting now!

And finally

Thank you to all contributors of articles and photographs. Don't forget to contribute your designs and articles. Please send them in. It would be great to hear what you are planning

Keep well and stay safe.

Duncan