



Sussex Area News

Newsletter of the Sussex Area of NAFAS

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

Charity No. 292377



The Sussex Area of NAFAS Diamond Anniversary 2021

NAFAS National Virtual Spring Show

Congratulations

to the following Sussex Winners



Class 4 As You Like It
FIRST - Brenda Bull

Class 5 Equinox
VHC - Stephen McDonnell

Class 9 A New Awakening
SECOND - Linda Porrett
VHC - Maggie Hayes

Class 12 Geometrical Conversation
C - Wendy Parsons

The Sussex Area of NAFAS

Diamond Anniversary Floral Extravaganza

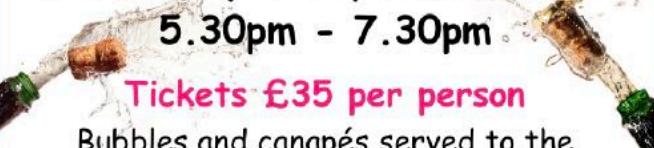
Flower Power



Preview Evening

Wednesday 8 September 2021

5.30pm - 7.30pm

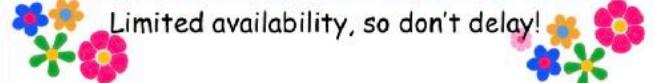


Tickets £35 per person

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



ONLY 6 WEEKS LEFT TO BUY
'FLOWER POWER'
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTED TICKETS

Thursday 9 – Sunday 12 September

Adults: £12 to include brochure
Children: £5

Please contact Carol at sussexflowerpower@yahoo.com

Noticeboard

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

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE

Lockdown is over

The Burwash and District Flower Club invite you to our

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION

60 years with

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATOR

MR MICHAEL BOWYER

Thursday 15th July 2021, 7pm

BURWASH VILLAGE HALL

A buffet supper will be provided

Entrance £10 for members and £12 for non-members
Tickets from JEAN PLUMMER 01435 883 483
Or MAUREEN JENNER 01435 882 045

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Diamond icons: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60.



THE FLOWER Arranger Magazine

The Summer issue has just arrived and Club Flower Arranger Officers have been busy distributing magazines to their subscribers, many taking the opportunity to chat for a few minutes at the same time.

This issue is bursting with colour and inspiration. If the Flower Arranger table at Council was possible, I would have difficulty choosing which design to make and place on it. Make sure to take a look at the NAFAS news. Linda Coleman's poem, '*Flower Club Blues*', appears, together with a very nice photo of Linda and one of her attractive designs.

If you wish to take out a subscription, contact your CFAO. It is possible to start subscribing at any time, so starting from now you would receive the Autumn and December issues (£6.40).

FREE FLOWER ARRANGER DRAW SECOND chance of 2021 to get lucky

The draw will take place at the **17 May** Zoom Council meeting which any member can attend. Top prize, a **2022 Flower Arranger subscription** (value £12.80 minimum), 2nd prize a **Summer 2021 Flower Arranger magazine** (value £3.20). Who the next winners will be remains to be seen, but as it is said, "you have to be in it to win it".

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 14 May, by 'phone, 01403 264482 or by e-mail, nancy@hubbard3.plus.com

Nancy will contact the lucky winners for their addresses to arrange postage of the current Summer magazine. The claim certificate for the 2021 subscription will be posted or e-mailed.

Nancy

National News

National Chairman's Challenge

Congratulations to South West NAFAS Area who won the March challenge.

The May competition title is “*May Day Celebrations*” and if you wish to enter then please send a photo of your design to sussexareaofnafas@gmail.com by 29 May 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.

It's Spring



Tricia Bridgman, Media Officer

National Flower Arranging Day

will be going ahead this year on **Friday 7 May** - with changes

necessary to fit in with current policies nationwide.

Please encourage all members you come in contact with to join in. We are using our homes to firstly mark the day but maybe more importantly to give a little cheer and sign of hope, maybe remembering the saying:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETIES National Flower Arranging Day 7 MAY 2021

These flowers have been arranged by member(s) of a local flower club in recognition of National Flower Arranging Day.

The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) is a warm and welcoming floral association with clubs nationwide. Our members enjoy:

- workshops on how to create wonderful floral designs
- demonstrations from accomplished designers
- entering shows and competitions
- qualification opportunities
- fun, friendship and a whole lot more

If you love flowers, look on the NAFAS website to find a flower club near you. Visitors are very welcome.

www.nafas.org.uk



Registration Charity no. 100349

“If you hold a flower close to your heart you will see only beauty and hope”.

The task is to put ‘something floral’ on a front door, front gate, front fence.....you will get the picture. Use wherever there is in your home that can be seen from the road and path. We cannot have people picking up posies left in public places so this is our best option.

You can make of it what you choose, a single bloom and bow, posy on a gate, baskets on a gate post, swag on a fence or a wicker ring on the front door. The latter proved so popular when we did our ‘Rings of Hope’ last summer for the NHS. Some clubs told their local newspapers so the same could be done this time.

Have fun creating and please share your creations with us!

Katherine Kear
National Chairman

Elements and Principles of Design

This NAFAS book has been revised and updated and is now available via the NAFAS website.

£8.99

Area News

Area Chairman

Chairman's Piece

Just like Spring, the Sussex Area is sprouting with all sorts of activities for you.

This year, National Flower Arranging Day is on 7 May. You're asked to place something floral on your gate, fence, front door or somewhere visible from the road. Please promote your flower club and don't forget to send us some photos.

The Area Spring Show – look out for photos of the entries and prize winners from 10 May. Many thanks to Linda Porrett, Christina Payne and the judges for their time and trouble. Thanks go as well to all the competitors. Without taking part, we couldn't have a competition. In my mind, everyone's a winner, and practice makes perfect for our Area Show next year.

This month's Area Workshop is on 6 May. Our Workshop Wonder, Barbara Tucker, is arranging a treat for us this time. Pauline Foster, who was a finalist of NAFAS Designer of the Year in 2017 and a Chelsea medallist, will entertain and instruct us on "*Creating & Competing*." Don't miss it. I love a virtual workshop: if you've forgotten something, you can just nip to the garden or your storage area and collect it.

We have our Council meeting on 17 May, when your club delegate will be voting on behalf of your club, so please make sure you've had your say on the future name of our Area. Exciting times! We will be running a competition for our very own logo as well. Based on our website colours, we're looking for a modern graphic to depict us.

After a break for the first Virtual National Show, Club entries for the National Chairman's Challenge recommence in May. This month's title is: *May Day Celebrations*. Entry, via your club, should be submitted by 29 May.

Congratulations to all Sussex's prize winners at the Virtual National Show. We're very proud of you and thank you for representing Sussex.

Do you know? Forget the green shoots of spring. I think the Sussex Area is positively blooming!

Onwards &
Upwards!



Area Future Events

Thursday 6 May 2021 - Virtual Workshop "Creating and Competing".

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

Monday 17 May 2021 - Area Council Meeting at 2pm by Zoom

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 looks to be a really super day and we hope that lots of you will be able to join us on the day.

Tickets £8 each from Carol
Email: calathleiff@yahoo.co.uk

Flower Power

Thursday 9-Sunday 12 September 2021

LAST CHANCE SALOON FOR EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTED TICKETS

This may be a case of mixed metaphors, but we need to attract your attention for an important announcement. Time flies and there are now only **6 weeks left** for buying one or more of those fabulous discounted tickets for '**Flower Power**'. If you do so, all sales income will come to Sussex Area, whereas after 9 June the tickets will be full price and all income will go to Leonardslee. And a complimentary brochure will not be included.

Holidays may still be difficult, but our exhibitors have had a whale of a time over the last couple of weeks visiting Leonardslee. They have ridden around the site on the '*Leonardslee Shuttle*' buggies, some of them thinking they are on the dodgem cars at Blackpool! Oh, and of course, they have also been engaged in serious planning for their exhibits.



Many of you have also been working hard knitting roses and thanks to you we have amassed an amazing total of 1,850. So that means only another 1,150 to knit to reach our target!



Meanwhile, Steptoe's yard could do with replenishing and on our wish list at present are:

- Cymbidium orchid tubes
- Red ribbon
- Tent pegs
- Red paint
- Clear varnish

But please do remember that big ticket countdown – **6 weeks** to catch the early bird discount. Please contact Carol at sussexflowerpower@yahoo.com Or 'phone 01903 817187

Thank you all so much for the support you are giving the Area as we prepare for our major Diamond Anniversary celebration.

Best wishes,

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



SUSSEX AREA

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Winning images will be announced and displayed at **Flower Power** at Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens in September 2021

Class 1 - Flower Power

A colour image of any subject to interpret the class title

Class 2 - River Dance

A colour image of any subject to interpret the class title

Class 3 - Spin Me Around

An image of plants and/or flowers to demonstrate imaginative manipulation (the copy of the original image must also be included for comparison)

Class 4 - Kaleidoscope

A colour image of any subject to interpret the class title

Class 5 - Precious Diamond

A colour image of any subject to interpret the class title

Closing Date: 5.00pm on Saturday 31 July 2021

The Competition Secretary must receive all entries and entry forms by this date.

Images should be emailed as an [attachment](#) to the Competition Secretary, jevansx@gmail.com, with "Sussex Area of NAFAS 2021 Photography Competition" Class?? in the subject line.

Please include your full name, contact details and name of your Sussex club in the email.

Any queries please contact Maggie Hayes: rephayes@aol.com

Phone: 01435 408605 or 07929 000417

Fabulous Flowers Lilac



Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) a garden favourite due to its fragrant flowers, being an ornamental shrub.

It bridges the gap between Spring and Summer, and is available in purple shades, pink and white. If cutting straight from the garden remove the foliage so that the water goes straight to the flowers. When conditioning wrap the heads in paper to support them. It's thirsty so keep it well watered.

Lilac doesn't like floral foam, it's great in vases as a filler flower. Popular for 'vintage' arrangements, due to its cottage garden appeal. It originates from Eastern Europe/Asia, but is now widely available in Europe and North America.

In the language of flowers its meaning is 'Beauty', and represents first love. The white lilac can also represent innocence.



CLUB News

What have you been up to?

Warnham Flower Club's Easter Competition

We recently had our Easter Virtual Competition. There were 2 classes "Easter Basket" and "Spring Fever" and were judged by Barbara Harris, National Judge.

Joyce Skeet
Warnham Flower Club



*Easter Basket
Joint First - Lesley Etherton*



*Easter Basket
Joint First - Joyce Skeet*

Easter Basket
Joint 1st place - Joyce Skeet and Lesley Etherton
2nd Jackie Calway
3rd Janet Sharp
VHC Marion Nedem
C Veronica Pooley



*Spring Fever
First - Joyce Skeet*



*Easter Basket
2nd Jackie Calway*



*Easter Basket
3rd Janet Sharp*



*Spring Fever
2nd Catherine Chandler*



*Spring Fever
3rd Lesley Etherton*

Spring Fever
1st Joyce Skeet
2nd Catherine Chandler
3rd Lesley Etherton
VHC Debbie Jackson
C Michelle King

'Definitely Daffodils'

For the last few months we have been busy having virtual monthly competitions, here is our latest - 'Definitely Daffodils'.

Seaford Evening Flower Club



Pam Titchmarsh

Duncan Ward



Jane Mills



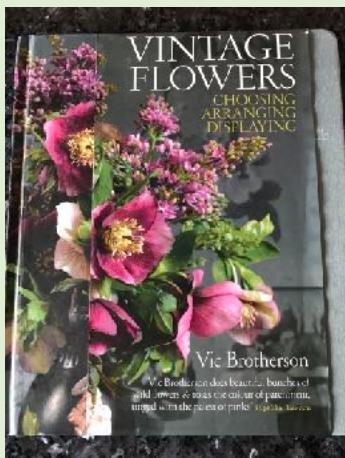
Linda Stubbings



Mary Blair

Jane Mills

Our members gave their permission for the photos to be used here when entering the competition.



BOOK REVIEW *Vintage Flowers* by Vic Brotherson

Despite the title this is a very modern book, written by an experienced florist. Turning each page of the book is a floral delight - choosing, arranging and displaying flowers is covered here. Packed full of pattern, texture and colour, the designs go from simple flowers in a jam jar, to the more vivid mixed bouquets.

Vic calls her flowers the performers - the leading ladies, the backing singers, the percussion, and the guest stars. She arranges many in vintage vases and containers using chicken wire. This is a performance not to miss and may bring back some happy memories of the containers she uses. RRP £25

A walk in Angmering woods.

What could be nicer on a sunny morning than a walk through the bluebell woods. We never tire of the first signs of the wild spring flowers bursting into life.



On our first foray this year we did indeed find some early bluebells, along with primroses and violets. You can't beat the sight of the first flowers with the sun shining through the trees. No leaves on the trees as yet. Later on, when

there is a blue hazy carpet of flowers the scent is quite overpowering, not good if you suffer from hay fever. We were also lucky enough to see a young deer too. He seemed to stop and look at us as we stopped to look at him.



It's a perfect place to forage for fir cones, bark, dried leaves or fallen twigs to squirrel away for future flower designs. We like to think of it as community tidying, much more satisfying than a litter pick in our opinion.

Some of the fallen trees have a fascinating structure, all inspiration from nature to put away for another day. Some visitors to the woods had made a wigwam style shelter. These appear every year,



and grow in size as the year progresses.... then disappear again during the winter.



We will visit the woods many times during

April to see them at their stunning best. If you get the chance, do treat yourselves to a peaceful walk in the woods. You may be sharing with other walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders, but all happy to share the space.

Another walk with a difference.... counting cowslips.

We set off from home up towards Cissbury Ring. Our mission? To count any wild cowslips we found. 'Plantlife' are asking for people to record how many cowslips they see in the countryside, and record their findings on the app.

Apparently, cowslips are disappearing as habitat changes. The findings will give a better picture of the distribution and health of the environment.



They seemed to be thriving along the edges of the pathways we walked as we progressed up the chalky grassy paths towards Cissbury. Our first clump numbered almost 100 flowers. Not simply just a case of counting stems, but counting how many males and how many females. Would you know how to tell the difference? A down on your hands and knees job to do that. Interesting that it was an almost 50/50 split, it would appear that cowslips locally are doing well; as is the Blackthorn. Looks like being a bumper year for sloes again. We didn't count the clumps of cowslips we came across later on, just enjoyed the scenery and the singing of the first warbler we have seen/heard this year.

Must say that the tracks were being well used by dog walkers, cyclists, walkers and runners. If you want to take part on the cowslip count, it's on the 'Survey 123' app.

Words and pictures by
Carol and Sue
Worthing Flower Club

10 Questions to.....

This month we ask Maggie Hayes, Chairman of the Sussex Area JDS&E

Q What is your favourite flower?

My favourite flower is not easy to answer there are a lot, but if pushed I would have to say old fashioned roses such as David Austin's large, full and heavily scented.



David Austin rose
'Boscobel'

Q Where was your last holiday destination?

My last holiday was a Caribbean cruise in January 2020.

Q When did you first join a flower club?

I first joined East Grinstead flower club about 15 years ago.

Q What was the last garden you visited?

The last garden I visited was Sheffield Park in December.



"Westminster Abbey arrangement
I did there, such a privilege"

Q Have you entered Chelsea?

I have not entered Chelsea unfortunately, because I couldn't cope with working overnight, I like my 8 hours sleep!

Q Which club do you belong to?

I belong to Horam & Heathfield Flower Club which I joined when we moved to Heathfield in 2008, I am also a member of New Visions.

Q How long have you lived in Sussex?

I have lived in West and East Sussex for 39 years.

Q Where is your favourite Sussex place?

My favourite place in Sussex is the Seven Sisters Country Park & Cuckmere Haven where we often walk our dogs. Even on a frosty early morning we love the space and peace.



Cuckmere view

Q Name a famous person you have met

I have met Richard Greene from Robin Hood, Clive Dunn from Dad's Army and much more recently Katherine Jenkins.



Frosty Cuckmere

Q Who would you like to receive some flowers from

Anyone, it is such a joy to receive flowers.



Cuckmere fishermen's cottages and beach

Pictures by
Maggie Hayes

The Jab

So I've just had my Covid jab
I had it in my arm
My appointment was quite early
So I had to set the alarm

I got up feeling nervous
Dreading what was to come
But I suppose it could have been worse
Least it wasn't in my bum!

Off I went to the "hub"
And joined the snaking queue
You're 2 metres behind me
I'm 2 metres in front of
you

We're all wearing our
masks
Like a nappy over our face
Jumping to one side
So a passer-by can have space

Everyone looked so serious
Maybe they were nervous too?
But at least the sun was shining
As we all stood in our queue

I'm feeling very anxious now
I actually feel quite sick
Which is quite silly really
'Cos it's only a little prick!

And then it was my turn
That needle was on its way
And I'd waited a very long time
For this very special day

But I started to feel quite nauseous
As I was questioned at the door
And I hoped I wouldn't faint
And lie spread-eagled on the floor

"Do you have any allergies?"
I heard this lady burst
"Well actually I've got a list
So which would you like first?"

"Oh dear", the lady said
"You're quite a funny girl!"
Which didn't go down too well
'Cos I was already in a whirl

"Don't worry", I replied
"I've got my Epipen
So if I have a funny turn
I can put it right again"

"That's a relief", she said

"Cos we're all terribly busy
And if we had to dial 999
We'd send everyone into a tizzy"

Well that wasn't very nice
In fact it was quite unkind
But then I was rushed inside the hall
Before I could change my mind

I was asked a load more questions
Was I this? and Was I that?
While I got half undressed
On the chair where I was sat

We were chatting away quite nicely now
I started to think she's quite kind
When all of a sudden from nowhere
This nurse appeared from behind

And before you could say "Covid-19"
She'd stabbed me like a shot
No niceties about it
A wicked woman or what?

She could at least have said "Hello"
Or "This won't hurt, my dear"
But no, straight in there matey
"I'll show you why you're here"

I think I know why she did it
She was probably in a bad mood
Or maybe she's just a sadist
But I thought she was very rude

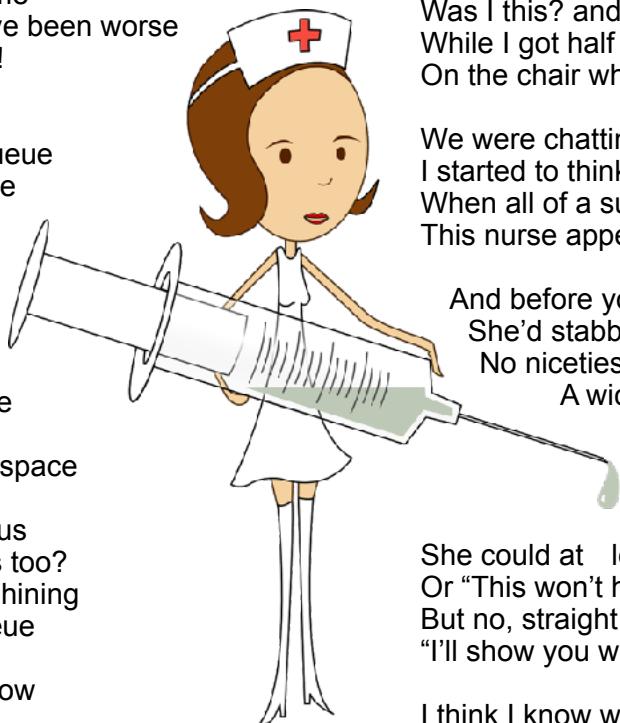
So I thanked her for her cruelty
And skulked off to a different chair
Adjusting my dress as I went
And sat on my own over there

And a very nice volunteer lady
Kept her beady eye on me
"Shout if you feel funny, dear,
And we'll make you a cup of tea"

"Cup of tea" my life!
A brandy's what I need
To stop me keeling over
After that dreaded deed

But I'll just sit here quietly
Until I feel okay
To leave this scene of torture
And get on with my day

And I breathed a sigh of relief
I didn't need 999
It was only a little prick after all
And I came home feeling fine!



But later on that evening
When I thought I'd be quite calm
I felt like someone had come along
And shot me in the arm!

Or even chopped it off!
I've never known such pain
And the awful thing about it is
I've got to do it again!

But it's better than getting Covid
And I'm protecting my family and friends
So that little prick will be worth it
If it gets us to the end!

So here's to the next 12 weeks
I'll just sit and watch the clock tick
And wait for that day to arrive
When I can get my next little prick!!

Poem by
Linda Coleman
Acting Chairman, Rustington Flower Club

Linda has had another one of her poems "Flower Club Blues" published in the NAFAS News Summer 2021 edition, well done Linda.

The Sussex Area of NAFAS website

The new website is the go to place for all the information that you need regarding the Sussex Area of NAFAS. The main landing platform is the *Welcome* page, from here you can see the main menu (top right hand box), links to the flower clubs, and the latest news.

Opening the menu breaks the site down to the following pages

- News
- What's On
- The Area
- Flower Clubs
- Gallery
- Resources
- Links
- Contact

News - contains the newsletters, NAFAS national news, the Virtual Spring Show, details of **Flower Power**, and other news

What's On - a calendar detailing Area meetings, Area workshops, club events, and National events and other events

The Area - here you will find details of the Area Executive - members of the Executive Committee,

and non Executive appointments, JDS&E Committee - members of the committee, JDS&E information - details about booking Judges, Demonstrators, Speakers, Education (Teachers).

Flower Clubs - a list of clubs in Sussex with contact arrangements and when they meet.

Gallery - images of past shows and events

Resources - briefings, documents, forms

Links - to other related websites

Contact - form to contact Sussex Area of NAFAS

www.sussexareanafas.org.uk



How to

Watch out for a new series of articles in response to suggestions from the Club Officers' week.

Next month **Setting up a Facebook page**

If you have any other suggestions for future articles please let us know.

And finally

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

Keep well and stay safe.

Duncan