



# Sussex Area News

**Newsletter of the Sussex Area of NAFAS**

[www.sussexareanafas.org.uk](http://www.sussexareanafas.org.uk) [www.facebook.com/SussexAreaNAFAS](https://www.facebook.com/SussexAreaNAFAS)

Charity No. 292377

## 4000+ knitted flowers - Well done knitters!



A big thank you to every flower club member who has knitted or crocheted a flower for Leonardslee in September. We are very pleased with the response and we have 4000+ flowers. Any remaining ones will be welcome and they will all be used, but they need to be with us by end of June. Brilliant work Sussex ladies.

Barbara and Paula

### 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 [flowerpowerpreview@yahoo.com](mailto:flowerpowerpreview@yahoo.com)**

Limited availability, so don't delay!

## Noticeboard

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

### NGS Open Garden Trail

Social distancing will apply and numbers may be restricted.

Pay on gate or booking available  
For more information and to book:  
[www.NGS.org.uk](http://www.NGS.org.uk)

Don't forget to enter the

### Sussex Area Photography Competition

The schedule and details were in the May edition of this newsletter, and are on our website.

Closing Date 31 July 2021

## In Memorium

### Daisy Farrall

passed away 8 June 2021

Daisy was chairman of Hassocks Flower Club for many years, she was a demonstrator and keen supporter of Sussex Area. She regularly attended Council meetings and attended Members' days with enthusiasm. She competed in both Ardingly Flower competitions and the Nationals and travelled to some of the Internationals making friends wherever she went. She will be sadly missed.

Margaret Simpson



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME  
Gardens Open For Charity



## Peacehaven & Woodingdean Trail

- Bagotts Rath, 5 Crescent Drive North, Woodingdean, BN2 6SP
- Boxworth, 21 Tor Road, Peacehaven, BN10 7SX
- Tor Cottage, 8 Tor Road, Peacehaven, BN10 7SX

**Saturday 17 July**

**Sunday 18 July**

**12 - 5pm**

Combined entry £6 Children free



More information at [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk)

Registered charity No. 113661

### East Grinstead Flower Club

will be celebrating their **Emerald Anniversary** (55 years) this summer. A Committee member has offered to host Afternoon Tea in her lovely garden on 12 August 2021 between 2pm and 6pm. All members, past and present, and their guests are welcome.

Please contact Anne-Marie Newby on [amd17@icloud.com](mailto:amd17@icloud.com) or on 07960 025459.

### The Burwash and District Flower Club

**Diamond Anniversary** Celebration 60 years  
Unfortunately with the delay on the roadmap from 21 June to 19 July, we will not be holding our Diamond Celebration on the 15 July 2021. Instead we are postponing until 2022 when we will celebrate our Diamond Plus One.

Claudette Neville



## National News

### National Chairman's Challenge

Congratulations to Dorset and Guernsey Area who won the May challenge.

The July competition title is "*Happy Holidays*" and if you wish to enter then please send a photo of your design to [sussexareaofnafas@gmail.com](mailto:sussexareaofnafas@gmail.com) by 26 July 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.

**Congratulations** to Third Place Winner - Julie Taylor, East Preston Floral Club



What happens once in a minute and twice in a moment but never in a decade?

*The letter "m."*

## 10 Questions to..... Tricia Bridgman

Area Media Administrator



### **Q What is your favourite flower?**

The Rose, I have a climbing rose near my front gate called New Dawn which has a lovely perfume.

### **Q Where was your last holiday destination?**

My last holiday was in Dalwood, near Axminster in Devon. We stayed in an apartment which was situated in 13 acres of garden. Idyllic for gardeners and flower arrangers.

### **Q When did you first join a flower club? 2008**

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

Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens. As part of the **Flower Power** committee I have visited several times, a lovely place to visit to enjoy the seasonal changes.

### **Q Have you entered Chelsea?**

No, I don't think I could manage to stay up all night!

### **Q Which club do you belong to? East Preston**

### **Q How long have you lived in Sussex? 15 years.**

### **Q Where is your favourite Sussex place?**

Ferring where I live. After spending 20 years of our lives in the Midlands, almost in the centre of the country, I just love living so close to the sea.

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

The only person I can think of is my husband's uncle who was Black Rod.

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

I love to receive flowers and plants from anyone, but if it was from a professional, then Ian Lloyd, as he is such a talented designer.



## The Sussex Area of NAFAS Diamond Anniversary 2021

### Area News

#### Area Chairman



We were so close!!! 21 June was almost in touching distance but snatched away from us like a magician removing the tablecloth from a table laid for afternoon tea. Still, better safe than sorry. After all we've gone through over the last 15 months, what's another couple of weeks? Yet I never thought the expression "I wouldn't touch them with a six-foot bargepole" would become a national policy!

Given our demographic, for once it's in our favour and I expect most of you by now have had two jabs, hopefully with no side effects. It's noticeable that everyone is getting busier and enjoying getting out and meeting up as far as we're allowed. It's just having that confidence to go out when we're just not used to it anymore. If we respect the rules, then Freedom Day will be here soon, even if the buttons and buttonholes on my jacket continue to socially distance.

And as I contemplate buying tickets for a live, outdoor performance of Romeo & Juliet in Regent's Park, it occurs to me that the difference between Covid-19 and that Shakespeare play is that one is a coronavirus and the other is a Verona crisis!

Outdoor events are definitely in vogue this summer, so it's great to see that, at 60 years

old, the Sussex Area is bang on trend with **Flower Power**. I've had a couple of visits to Leonardslee lately, and it's been super to see some of you. The enthusiasm with which you've all taken part, whether it's planning a design, or knitting or crocheting those colourful roses, making spheres and many, many other activities, is very impressive and I thank you all whole heartedly. Thank you too for all those who have bought the early-bird tickets – we very much appreciate your support.

Keep smiling!

### Congratulations to

**Nina Tucknott**, Chairman of New Visions, and **Duncan Ward**, Area Judge & Editor for passing the NAFAS/OCN Teacher training course

### Area Events

**Friday 16 July** - Closing date for Christmas Card Competition

**Thursday 29 July** - Sussex Area workshop with Gill McGregor, at Henfield Hall. £20 contact Barbara Tucker  
Email: [barb@batucker.go-plus.net](mailto:barb@batucker.go-plus.net)

**Saturday 31 July** - Closing date for Area Photography Competition

### Club Anniversaries

Lancing Flower Club - celebrated 65 years in June

East Grinstead Flower Club - 55 years in August

Felpham Flower Club - 65 years in September

### Council Meeting

Date & time of next meeting:  
**Monday 9 August 2021**  
at 2pm by Zoom

# Flower Power

Thursday 9-Sunday 12 September 2021

Magnificent is the only word to describe the response we have received to our call for knitted/crocheted flowers. We have, at the last count 4,156, and there are more on the way! A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in this project. Please do visit the exhibit 'Kaleidoscope' at **Flower Power** where you will be able to see them arrayed in all their glory.

I can't mention the number of corks you have all been collecting, firstly because that would defeat the point of the cork competition which is based on estimating the total number within Jilly's exhibit. Secondly, it might be embarrassing to reveal how little difficulty our members have had in collecting them!

Ticket sales have been outstanding. They have surpassed all expectations and the final tally sold is approaching 800 tickets, although Carol is still counting! The only disappointment is that from now on we are unable to sell tickets through Area as ticket sales have now passed to Leonardslee. However, this is an appropriate time to say a big thank you to Carol who has masterminded our ticket sales operation and at a level far above what she, and the rest of us, were expecting. Also many thanks to Lesley who has patiently printed off all the tickets from her ground floor printing press!

Whilst on the subject of tickets, I need to mention that tickets are still available to

purchase for our very special Preview Evening on Wednesday 8 September commencing at 5.30p.m. This bubbles and canapés reception will include a renowned local harpist, raffle and a tour of the lakes and exhibits on the 'Leonardslee Shuttle' buggies. A super event to kick-start our Diamond Anniversary celebrations and one not to be missed.

We have just a few more items on our wish list please:

- Metal rings: 70cm diameter, 4-5mm thick
- Typha grass - long stems (late August)
- Green cornus - (late August)

Many thanks to you all.

*Gaelor*



The Sussex Area of the National Association  
of Flower Arrangement Societies  
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)

\* Floral Art Demonstrations \* Trade stands \* Prize Draw\*

\* Tombola in aid of The Sussex Kidney Trust \*

\* Radio controlled model boats and yachts\*

Refreshments on sale at the gardens - no outside food or drink allowed.  
Leonardslee only accepts card payments in their cafeteria and shop  
but please bring cash for the Leonardslee Afternoon Tea for Two prize draw, Tombola,  
trade stands and the competition for a case of Leonardslee wine.  
Free parking

Adults £13.50, children 5-16 years £6.50

Tickets from Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens

[www.leonardsleegardens.co.uk/buy-day-tickets-online](http://www.leonardsleegardens.co.uk/buy-day-tickets-online)

Flower Power brochure £1 on sale at the entrance

The Sussex Area of NFAAS Registered Charity No. 292377



## Christmas Card Competition

As you know, NAFAS will not be producing Christmas cards for the festivities in 2021. The Executive Committee has decided that the Sussex Area can fill this gap locally, using designs from our members.

We'd be pleased to receive your photographic entries to the Christmas Card Competition by Friday 16 July 2021.

Here are the Rules and further information:

1. The competition is open to all Sussex Area of NAFAS members.
2. Designs must be on a Christmas theme (from any year).
3. Photographs must be portrait, with no background 'noise' or interference.
4. Photographs must not have been published (in print or on social media) before.
5. Only one entry per person is allowed.
6. The designer and photographer (if different) will both be accredited on the card.
7. An independent third party, John Evans, will award 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> prizes.
8. The judge's decision is final.
9. The first and second prize photographs will become the Sussex Area's Christmas Cards.
10. The third and fourth prize photographs may become the Sussex Area's Christmas Cards, depending on demand.
11. Images should be sent in jpg format and must be a minimum of 2000 pixels and a



minimum of 1 megabyte in size.

12. Image should be emailed as an **attachment** to the Competition Secretary, Christina Payne, [christinapayne1000@gmail.com](mailto:christinapayne1000@gmail.com) with Christmas Card Competition in the subject line. Please include your full name, contact details and name of your Sussex club in the email.

13. By entering this competition, you are agreeing to the future use of your image by the Sussex Area of NAFAS in any form, whether electronic or in print.

14. Any information you submit will not be passed on to any third party nor authorised by the Sussex Area and will only be used for the purpose of contacting you regarding the competition.

15. The closing date for entries, via email, is 5pm on Friday 16 July 2021. All entries must be received by this date.

16. Any queries, please contact the Competition Secretary.

The Christmas Cards will be available to purchase at **Flower Power** in September, November Members' Day, and November Council & AGM.



## The QR Code

Did you see where it takes you.....

**The Sussex Area of NAFAS website**

try scanning the QR code now

## CLUB News

### *What have you been up to?*

## An Inspiration

As you know we all had the details about National Flower Arranging day and I suspect most of us just thought: 'CBA' as Stephen McDonnell is so fond of saying.



However one of our members Maureen Fuller, who has had a terrible 18 months, first her husband died Christmas 2019, then we had lockdown and she had to 'shield' due to having Parkinson's, then when she was released she had a fall and was taken to Conquest Hospital in Hastings with several fractures of her pelvis. Whilst there she picked up Covid and that delayed her recovery even more.



Maureen has now had to go into care as her mobility is restricted and she is at risk of further falls. So you can see if anybody 'can't be bothered' it should have been her, but no, a phone call to me to deliver oasis and a notice, flowers that her

daughter got for her and foliage from the home's garden and off she went to provide an arrangement for the entrance hall to the home.

As you can see in the attached photos an inspiration to us all and I suspect that when the home opens up again and activities can resume she may well be teaching the other residents.

Vanessa Jeffries, Chairman  
Eastbourne Flower Club

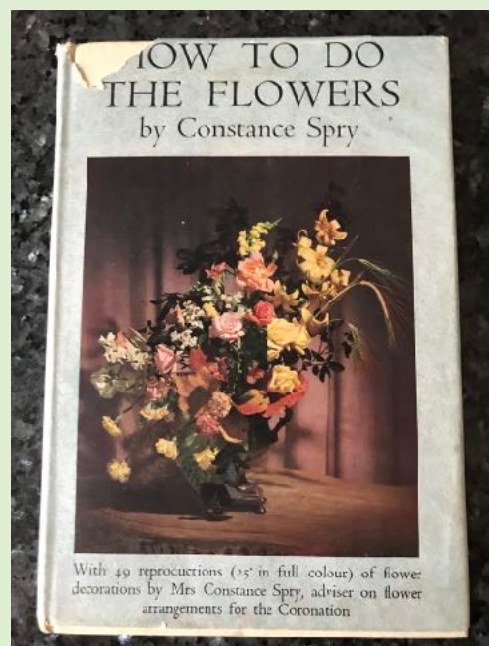
## Book Review

### How to do the Flowers by Constance Spry

This book may be out of print, but if you are able to get a copy you will step back to a time when everything was simple.

Constance talks about choosing flowers, colour, line, proportion and mass. As well as using vases and flower holders - a pin cushion or wire netting - which are now being advocated as environmentally friendly.

With her flowing natural style for beautiful and unusual flower arrangements she would say: "Keep an observant eye and an open mind, never stunt in order to be original".





## Constance Spry at The Garden Museum

Just over the river, south of Lambeth Bridge, is the former St Mary's Church, now deconsecrated and repurposed as The Garden Museum.



This quirky museum has all sorts of gardening paraphernalia, information about the Tradescants (father and son), whose tombs can now be found in the courtyard garden (along with Cap't William Bligh's – yes, he of The Bounty fame). Don't forget to visit the tower built in 1377, with its superb views of the River Thames, Palace of Westminster, the London Eye, and the City. Yes, there is a lift or you can climb the 131 steps!



Yet the main reason for my visit this time was the exhibition on Constance Spry, a founder of our flower club movement. When I took my



speakers' test, another lady's talk was based on Constance Spry, so I felt I knew her already. However, the newspaper cuttings and video clips of some of the high-class events Flower Decorations (the name of her first shop) was engaged for opened my eyes afresh to the talent of this enterprising woman. Samples of the containers she used, records of her assistants' pay, an itinerary of her tour abroad, all sorts of minutiae of her life can be found here. Constance Spry was certainly ahead of her time and instrumental in showcasing our art form.

If your visit has worked up a thirst, meander out to the courtyard garden, which was designed by Dan Pearson to be a shady oasis with choice, rare plants. Café tables sit spaciouly around the perimeter and just beg you to sit down and enjoy delicious refreshments. During lunch service, tea/coffee and cake is take-away only, but Lambeth Park is just a stone's throw away and you can check out what my Gardening Club has been up to!

**Constance Spry & the Fashion for Flowers** is on at The Garden Museum until 26 September 2021, tickets £12, concessions available. <https://gardenmuseum.org.uk/>

Jilly Griffin  
Sussex Area Chairman

Photos by Graham Lacdao



## Funny how things turn out

Going back a few years, I joined Warnham Evening Flower Club, not realising that several Area Demonstrators were members, one of whom was the then Area Chairman. These ladies all knew a little about me as I was, and still am, Horsham Flower Club's Programme Secretary. Next thing I knew my collar was being felt; "Would I agree to be the next Area Flower Arranger Officer (AFAO)?" It's nice to be wanted, so I said: "Yes". That was 2016.

Nel de Jong, the outgoing AFAO, invited me to her home to give me a handover. Nel's husband Michael had created electronic systems to help Nel. These were demonstrated to me and downloaded onto a memory stick for my use. I had a flying start!

I had already established that the AFAO role is non-Executive, so although invited to one or at most two Executive meetings a year, the AFAO is not closely involved in Area decision making. First and foremost the AFAO promotes **The Flower Arranger** (TFA) and is the link between NAFAS HQ's Distribution Officer (DO) and Sussex Area Clubs. I liaise with the NAFAS DO who takes care of our quarterly orders and sorts out delivery problems. The DO also answers queries and keeps AFAOs informed of changes. There is an annual AFAO's meeting at NAFAS HQ, sadly not possible for the last couple of years, but this gives the opportunity to meet with AFAOs from all over the country. The meetings have always proved enjoyable and allow AFAOs to circulate news from their Areas.

The Area Clubs know me as the person who annually sends out TFA order forms together

with the order and delivery schedule and collects Club TFA subscription payments. Another task is to sort out any problems that arise. Happily, Sussex Area has very few delivery problems and to date, no complaints about the number of magazines received.

To ensure magazines are delivered as ordered, I ensure records are kept up to date with highest importance attached to order quantities, address and contact details.

I attach importance to communication, so write to the Club FAOs at intervals to remind them of forthcoming order dates and impending deliveries. On occasion I 'phone, always enjoyable but calls are limited by time. E-mail is a very big help with virtually all CFAOs able to use this means of communication.

I also send all new CFAOs a 'welcome pack' which includes the order and delivery schedule. This gives them a good start in their new rôle and new CFAOs appreciate knowing I am ready to help and answer queries.



Promotion of TFA is a major objective. Nel suggested a Step-by-Step arrangement on the TFA table at Council meetings. I tentatively tried this inspired by a Summer 2017 design, see picture. I didn't like the horizontal edges on the strips of wood, so used strips of rough bark instead. I also used foliage from my garden, pink roses and chive flowers so my design didn't look much like the picture. However, Barbara Harris had a look and gave me an immense boost as after comparing my design with the TFA's she declared she liked mine better as she also didn't like

the straight edges. I quickly realised fellow members are not judgemental, they simply like having a design to look at.

Later I had the idea of passing the TFA table design on to the raffle which proved popular as everyone likes to be a winner. The free draws at Zoom Council meetings for TFA subscriptions

and current magazines are similarly a bit of fun as well as promoting the magazine.

TFA has given me many opportunities to enjoy getting to know many members from around the area.

I cannot close without saying that the CFAOs work very hard delivering the magazines and collecting subscriptions. Liaising with these ladies is a pleasure and I receive many thanks and sometimes cards.

Nancy Hubbard  
Flower Arranger Officer

## June Members' day

Our Members' day on Monday 14 June was our second attempt via Zoom at providing a members' day worth staying indoors for.

We certainly were, not let down by our morning speaker. It was our National Chairman Mrs Katherine Kear with her talk entitled ' *Tales from an Elizabethan Still Room* ' It was such an



interesting subject brought to life by Katherine being in costume from the period. She did so well in the incredible heatwave we were experiencing at the time.

Katherine had also placed lots of interesting items and plants, bottles and other curios on her dresser, such as a woman would have had at that time. In her clear and animated voice she took us on a journey way back and made us feel as though we could really imagine life during that era. It was certainly an entertaining and fascinating talk, most professionally delivered. What a tremendous start to our day!

In the afternoon we welcomed Cherie Nummy to our meeting. Cherie is preparing once again to take her National Demonstrators test which had been cancelled during the first lockdown.

We were lucky enough to get to see her demonstration that she has planned for her test which was called ' *One for the money* '. Cherie had lots of wonderful designs and talked eloquently about each one which was probably helped by the fact she has recently



passed her National speakers test. We wish Cherie every success when taking her National demonstrators test later this year.

We look forward now to going live for our next members' day.

It's an exciting prospect and the thought of us being able to mix once again will be a real pleasure.



As we have sadly lost our venue in Haywards Heath due to the pandemic, we are going to visit different theatres until we find something that feels right. We have a large area to cover here in Sussex and we fully intend to visit a theatre near you during the next couple of years!

So our starting point is on Monday 8 November and we have booked the Chequer Mead Theatre in East Grinstead, West Sussex. This will be a hybrid meeting where we will be offering the options to visit live or to see it filmed and zoomed professionally.

Onwards and upwards!!

Stef Maynard  
Programme Administrator

Pictures from Stef Maynard & Cherie Nummy



## What am I doing and why ever am I doing it.....?!!

I have asked myself these questions several times since starting the NAFAS Level 2 course in Floral Art and Design. My answer each time seems to be that I love flowers, I really enjoyed the NAFAS Beginners Course that I did about three years ago and I need something to get my teeth into to keep my brain active now that I have retired. What I didn't know however when I signed up for the Level 2 course was just how active my brain would need to be!

We started our studies back in February 2020 B.C. – before Covid! and 16 of us from various



flower clubs across Sussex met at the Village Hall in Scaynes Hill, near Haywards Heath, under the expert eye of Barbara Hoy, our tutor.

We were all full of enthusiasm, though maybe a bit unsure of whether we would be up to the task ahead. We arrived at the hall laden with notebooks, toolboxes, aprons, buckets of foliage and of course flowers. Some ladies had done this before, I could tell, as they confidently pulled their expertly packed and stacked pull along trolleys. I meanwhile scuttled backwards and forwards several times from car to hall, carrying a hotch-potch of bags and boxes and looking every bit like the novice I was.

One thing I've noticed about flower arrangers is that everyone is very friendly and chatty and these ladies were no exception. We all chatted informally over coffee and soon settled into our new venture and Barbara guided us through the syllabus. Yes, a syllabus - this is serious stuff!

The syllabus consists of 9 modules covering topics from health and safety, basic mechanics, elements and principles of design, basic shapes, contemporary work, basic botany and

horticulture to floristry. As well as learning about and producing the various designs, each module has to be written up, with photographs and illustrations, to form a portfolio. Hence my brain is certainly getting a major workout!



Sadly we had to stop after only a few sessions due to the pandemic but back in April this year we started up again via Zoom. I was very sceptical of how it would work but actually it was much better than I expected and with just 12 of us (we lost four people along the way) there was time for everyone to show their work and have feedback. We are now looking forward to getting back together in the hall in June and moving forwards so that we can complete the course by the end of the year.

I would definitely recommend getting involved in any future courses if you have the chance (this one is organised and subsidised by



Sussex Area of NAFAS). They are fun to do and not to be taken too seriously – no longer does my job depend on completing the course and getting good results so I can be much more relaxed about it! I have met some lovely people and my interest in flowers has grown. I still have a lot to learn and I still consider myself a beginner but I'm doing this for my enjoyment and will take from it what is important to me.

Sue Oliver  
Horsham Flower Club

**N.B.** Due to the Government extending lockdown, the JDS&E hope to restart classes in July 2021.



# Fabulous Flowers

## Paeonia



The Peony peaks between April and June. The Peony is popular amongst gardeners, florists and flower lovers for the large glamorous flower head and colour range from white to deep burgundy.

Once picked the peony can be discouraged from opening too quickly by storing out of water in a cool dark spot. In a vase they will last from five to ten days, but check water levels as they are thirsty and regular topping up of water is necessary. They prefer water rather than being placed in floral foam where they will wilt quickly.

Similar to the rose in bloom, the peony is a much sought after wedding flower. It has a sweet light fragrance. It can be dried, if hung upside down in an airy space.

In the Chinese city of Louyang they hold an annual peony festival. They are treated as a symbol of nobility and value, as well as of reproduction and female beauty.

Its flower meaning is bashful!

What is brown, hairy, and wears sunglasses?

*A coconut on holiday.*

God made me a flower  
He thought he got it right.  
Like a beacon on a tower  
He sure did make me bright.

No one ever picks me  
To wear upon their gown.  
It seems most dislike me.  
They strive to take me down.

I am sure that I am pretty  
I am as good as all the rest.  
It sure seems quite a pity  
But it seems I am not as blessed.

I wish they would love me  
After all I am his design.  
It seems I never will be  
For I am just a dandelion.

Anon



If you have 13 apples in one hand  
and 10 oranges in the other, what do  
you have?

*Big hands.*

## And finally ....

Thank you to all contributors of articles and photographs.

Don't forget to contribute your designs and articles.  
Please send them in.

Till next time - be kind.

*Duncan*