



Sussex Area News

Newsletter of the Sussex Area of NAFAS

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An honour and a privilege



Crowborough Flower Club

See page 8



Noticeboard

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

The next **NAFAS National Show**, will be held at the magnificent Gloucester Cathedral from 12 – 14 May 2023.



Warnham Evening Flower Club
Christmas Open Meeting
Beneath a Shooting Star
with
Stephen McDonnell

Tuesday 16 November 2021
Warnham Village Hall RH12 3RH
7pm for 7.30pm start

Tickets from Janet Sharp
janetsharp1961@gmail.com
01403 251900 or 07823 331 345
£10 members £12 visitors

Flower Raffle Craft stall
Jean Plaskett's cards in aid of SKT
Light refreshments available

**CROWBOROUGH
FLOWER CLUB
THURSDAY 4th NOVEMBER**

DOORS OPEN 7PM
CROWBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE
PINE GROVE, CROWBOROUGH TN6 1FE
SIGNING ON EVENING FOR MEMBERS

FOLLOWED BY
FLOWER DEMONSTRATION
**"ART IS THE FLOWERS,
LIFE THE GREEN LEAF"**

ROBIN WHITE

FLOWER RAFFLE

VISITORS WELCOME £5

BOOKING/MORE DETAILS |

membersbox@outlook.com or 01892 663702

**CROWBOROUGH
FLOWER CLUB
THURSDAY 2nd DECEMBER**

DOORS OPEN 6.30PM
CROWBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE
PINE GROVE, CROWBOROUGH TN6 1FE

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER
DEMONSTRATION**

"FABULOUSLY FESTIVE"

GILL McGREGOR

FLOWER AND GENERAL RAFFLES

VISITORS WELCOME £10

BOOKING/MORE DETAILS

membersbox@outlook.com or 01892 663702

National News

National Chairman's Challenge

Congratulations to Devon & Cornwall Area who won the September challenge 'Back to school'. The November competition title is "*Remember, remember the 5th of November*" and if you wish to enter then please send a photo of your design to sussexareaofnafas@gmail.com by 26 November 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.



Julie Taylor's entry, on behalf of the Sussex Area, for the September Chairman's challenge - *'Back to School'*

NAFAS 62nd AGM

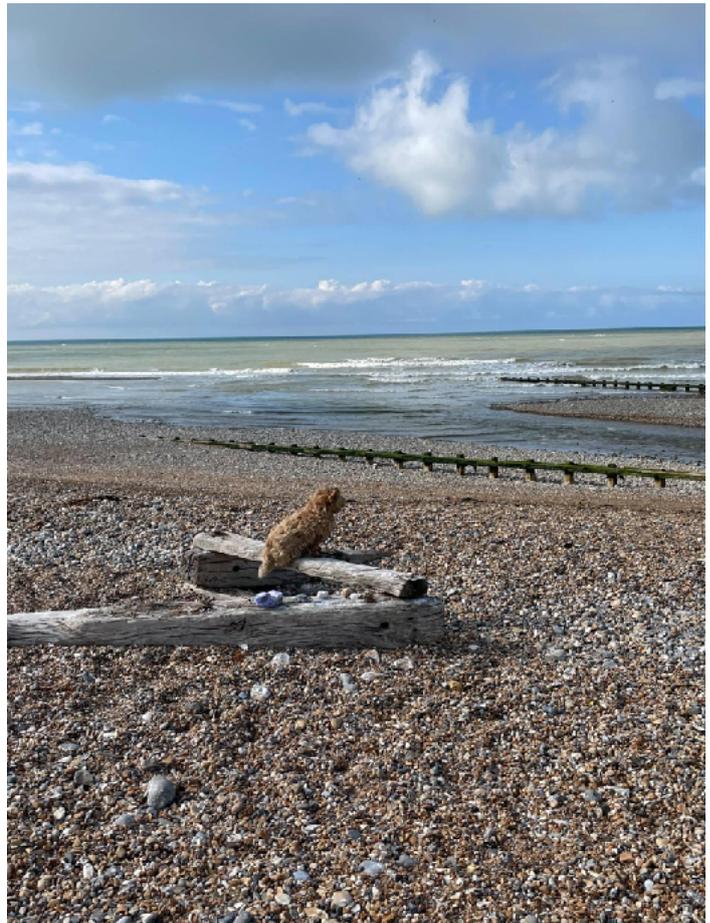
held on Tuesday 5 October 2021 is still available to view please use the following link:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDqBCgAOxlc>

National NAFAS Photography Competition

Congratulations go to

VHC - Class 5 - Solitude -
Maggie Hayes, Sussex Area





The Sussex Area of NAFAS Diamond Anniversary 2021

Area News

Area Chairman



I'm hearing the buzz of excitement and social chatter all the way from Sussex to London as clubs get back together and members see each other again.

The Area is meeting up again too at Chequer Mead, East Grinstead with our first physical Members' Day in eighteen months. A fantastic national speaker, Brenda Eyres, and a very entertaining demonstrator, Lucy 'Tiger' Ellis, catering facilities on site as well as a special appearance from Flowers for Florists who will be selling all sorts of Christmas and flowering arranging sundries. What a day that's going to be. See you there and you might find out what the 'Tiger' is all about!

Later in the month we have our last Council of the year and our AGM on 22nd November. We will be experimenting with running these two meetings as hybrids: we will be meeting at Plumpton Village Hall and, if technology allows, running Zoom as well. We would encourage members to join us in person as we cannot guarantee Zoom will work to your satisfaction. After all, flowers are our forte not cameras and technology.

Next we're trying something new. An all-inclusive workshop aimed at non-members which a view to encouraging participants to join a club. We'll be delivering leaflets around the vicinity of Thakeham Village Hall and we'll be handing them out near local schools. Members will of course be very welcome too.

For a while now we've been running our usual Area Workshops at Henfield Hall. Lucy Ellis will be inspiring us on Sunday 7 November before

entertaining us at Members' Day. Please support them.

Finally, thank you to all those clubs who have been inviting me to their Open Evenings and special events. Not only is it a privilege to represent the Sussex Area, but it's a true joy to see members enjoying themselves after so long. Long may it continue!

Best



Jilly

Area Future Events

Monday 8 November 2021 - Members' Day

Live meeting at The Chequer Mead Theatre in East Grinstead

Speaker is Brenda Eyres.

Title "There is nothing like a Dame"

Demonstrator is Lucy Ellis.

Title "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds"

Lancing Flower Club will be running the flower raffle and East Grinstead will run the general raffle.

Monday 22 November 2021 -

Area Council Meeting

11.15am at Plumpton Village Hall

Followed by AGM at 1.30pm

Area Workshops

The next workshop is on

Sunday 7 November 2021 with Lucy Ellis, a national tutor from Wiltshire

The title for the day is "Mum(my)'s the Word"

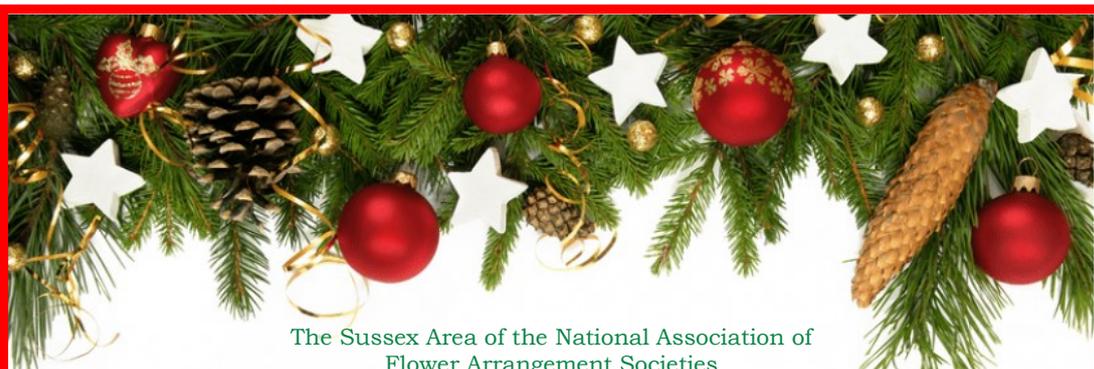
Christmas Workshop

In a drive to attract new members, your Executive is planning a Christmas Workshop this month – see ad to the right. A busy day with Christmas tunes, seasonal refreshments and all ingredients included in the price. We'll even have scissors and secateurs to borrow. Members are of course welcome to come too, and I know that you will welcome the opportunity to try out your tools which, no doubt, you have honed to a fine sharpness over lockdown!

If you can't make it, you can help in other ways. We need masses of foliage. You know the sort: fir, cedar, leylandii, spruce, holly, tree ivy with berries, yew (don't lick your fingers!), bay, rosemary, eucalyptus, skimmia, dried hydrangea heads, seed heads and cones, packed in bin liners so that it's manageable for us to carry.

Maybe you're having a tree cut down or know someone who is. Perhaps you know a tree surgeon who could supply us with some of the above.

Please spread the word.



The Sussex Area of the National Association of
Flower Arrangement Societies

Bring your friends and join us!
Have fun creating a beautiful, natural, mossed
Christmas Wreath
for your front door
Thursday 25 November 2021

10am to 1pm or 2pm to 5pm

Thakeham Village Hall

1 Abingworth Crescent, Thakeham RH20 3GP

£35 per person
including all mechanics, materials
and Christmas refreshments.

Book your place by contacting Carol at
SAONWorkshop@yahoo.com

A selection of natural decorations will be available to buy or bring your own
Christmassy flourishes to add on. Suitable for beginners.

You will need secateurs and scissors. Some tools available for loan.

Please advise if you need to borrow.

www.sussexareanafas.org.uk

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Sussex Area of NAFAS registered charity no. 292377

CLUB News

What have you been up to?

October Challenge Night

NO FOAM, NO CHICKEN WIRE AND NO PIN HOLDERS!!

This followed on nicely from last month's in house demonstration by Duncan when he used all recycled materials to make his containers and no foam etc.

We were given a jam jar, hessian ribbon, raffia, stub wire, doilies, 2 roses and 3 stems of spray carnations. Greenery consisted of 2 phormium leaves, pittosporum and short stemmed ivy leaves that would need wiring. The



brief stipulated that the doily had to be used and that if used the phormium leaves should be manipulated.

We were shown some ways to use the doilies including making flowers or fans or using them as collars.



After much consternation and head scratching those using the jam jar soon realised that they needed to tape across the top if the design was to stay in place or even stuff raffia into the jar to help support the design. Others opted to ignore the jars and make button holes.

An hour later we had finished our design and had a well earned refreshment break before admiring each other's work. We had created 18 different designs and all for £2 a head, a value for money evening and very enjoyable.

Jane Mills
Seaford Evening Flower Club

Tell us about what you have been doing

What was your first meeting back like?

Have you celebrated a belated event?

Have you had a workshop that you enjoyed?

Have you organised an event?

Please share with us and others what you are up to

FELPHAM FLOWER CLUB

CELEBRATES 65TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

A celebration cake and a glass of bubbly was the order of the day, as Felpham Flower Club welcomed over 40 members to its first meeting of the new season which also happens to be the club's 65th (*Blue Sapphire*) Anniversary Year.

Before cutting the cake, club President Eileen Anderson said how lovely it was to see so many members. She reminisced that when she had first joined the club many years ago, she knew very little about flower arranging but over the years her skill had grown and she had found it a most rewarding hobby.



This was followed by a wonderful floral demonstration by area demonstrator Michelle King entitled "*Once upon a time*" who took us on a far-ranging journey from Italy to Japan and India. She created some stunning displays which were later raffled.

As members enjoyed their refreshments, it was clear how much everyone appreciated being able to meet again in person after the restrictions of the last eighteen months.

We are really looking forward to the coming year, especially our open meeting with Nick Grounds next May and participating in the Chichester Cathedral Festival of Flowers next June.

The club meets on the fourth Thursday afternoon of the month in Felpham Memorial Village Hall and further information may be obtained from club chairman Sandra Dean on 01243 542684.

Margaret Hatton
Felpham Flower Club

Flower Power Souvenir Brochure



Relive this great event through the souvenir brochure which is now available (digital only), recently issued to Club Chairmen and available on our website.

<https://www.sussexareanafas.org.uk/latest-news/flower-power-diamond-anniversary-celebrations-souvenir-brochure/>

it is absolutely wonderful - what treasured memories.

Thank you so so much for a great job well done.

The Flower Power souvenir brochure is fabulous!

An honour and a privilege

Five Ladies from Crowborough Flower Club were given the honour and privilege of arranging flowers in Westminster Abbey for the Centenary Service of The Royal British Legion to be held the following day Tuesday 12 October in the presence of HM the Queen and the Princess Royal.



For Jennie Thomas, Ela Cashman, and Sandra Rouse it was the very first time to arrange flowers at the Abbey, great excitement as indeed it was for Lynda Wardle who was our helper.

I had done flowers at the Abbey eighteen years ago, but even so the atmosphere is so very special.

On arrival we were made very welcome by the Westminster Abbey Coordinators Liz and Marilyn. Straight away we were presented with Abbey aprons to put on and were led to our allotted plinths with containers and oasis already. Foliage and flowers arrived before we could take it all in. How spoiling is that!



The eight and ten foot arrangements were done with visitors to the Abbey looking on. Needless to say the fact that our Sussex Chairman Jilly Griffin was also arranging was a wonderful support.

It is a memorable experience to be treasured.

Ruth Collingridge Chairman
Crowborough Flower Club

BOOK REVIEW

The Illustrated Booklet of Basic Designs 1 & 2

Whether you are after the traditional design or the more modern, these NAFAS guides provide advice on how to prepare and understand the requirements of each design. A brilliant guide for the beginner and for those brushing up their skills. Available from NAFAS or your publications officer.



Flower Festival at St Leonard's Church, Seaford 2021

So many appreciated being able to visit the Flower Festival in September: so thanks are due to all those arrangers, many from local flower clubs, who set to and produced such imaginative interpretations of the theme, 'Window on Our World'.

As visitors looked around there was a sense of joy that once again we could come together to delight in the beauty of creation and the skill of the arrangers. It was a sign of celebration, an expectancy that life is continuing despite our current difficulties and restrictions.



Two displays caught the current mood: one entitled 'the Pandemic' and the other being 'Remembrance'. In the first there was a collection of viruses like no other, a reminder perhaps there have been over 231 million in our world who have had Covid 19 with over four and a half million deaths worldwide. Lifting us above these virulent pathogens were two resplendent pedestals giving us a tribute to the toll that had been taken by those working in the NHS and in contrast the brightness of the rainbow colours as used to express everyone's thanks.

In the second was a poignant ethereal cascade of beautiful flowers and man-made poppies displayed in front of two evocative stain glass windows from the First World War complete with a silhouette of a soldier from the Second World War.

The remainder of the arrangements reminded us of the diversity of our worldwide cultures as we caught a glimpse of several different countries.



As one entered there was a vibrant African scene overshadowed by the prominent Table Mountain.



The beauty of Bali was simply but elegantly conveyed. The exotic flora of Cuba and Grenada emphasised the diversity of plants that we can enjoy. There was a patriotic blend of afternoon tea and English roses complete with floral map of the British Isles and an exuberant display of flowers and sheep in New Zealand. Austria's

lush flower meadow included a contented cow and some beautiful edelweiss. There was a complete French meal that could be washed down with a very bubbly bottle of champagne – and even the open window to look through at our friends across the channel.



The origami lotus flowers and cranes displayed amongst the real blossoms together with the ikebana flower arrangement immediately transported everyone to Japan.

Sweden was creatively displayed in one of the smallest and therefore most difficult of spaces. Everyone admired



Ireland's splendid display which included a cascade of cabbages (albeit painted a very patriotic orange together with green chrysanthemums and white carnations) and the leprechaun's gold from the end of the rainbow.



The prominence of football was evident in Brazil's lively arrangement, reminding us that many from rich to poor follow their national

team. The Philippines was aptly depicted with an explosion of flowers representing one of the twenty four active volcanoes. There was a reminder of this year's postponed Olympics which took place despite the difficulties and

Australia's colourful arrangement represented



the many aspects of life from the indigenous culture stretching back over 60,000 years to the more recent cricketing

heritage. A Koala, kangaroo, emu and other objects were crafted from grasses, seeds and husks and other natural materials. In contrast we could see the joy of movement in the Argentinian couple dancing the tango –shoes and bow tie included. The arrangement from Cambodia was in 'the shade of the bamboo' (some seven feet of it) as a reminder of the charity of that name supported by the church.

Finally there was an uplifting conclusion with a splendid reminder of the sunshine of Spain.

So an opportunity to get together in a good sized space, appreciate the talents of those who enjoyed creating the displays, raise some money for the church in an atmosphere enhanced by live musical interludes and simple refreshments.

Liz Morgan-Jones
Seaford Evening Flower Club



drew the world together amidst the sparkle of fireworks from the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

The Blake Gardens

NAFAS National President Michael Bowyer is leading a wonderful trip to Ireland to see some beautiful gardens in springtime 2022. He is going to visit Helen Dillon's Garden, Powerscourt Estate, Hunting Brook, June Blake's Garden and Kilmacurragh Botanic Gardens.



Having been fortunate to visit all these gardens in Ireland with my partner over the years, we can thoroughly recommend visiting

them. In this issue we look at two of them - brother and sister June and Jimi Blake, and their gardens -

June Blake's Garden - we visited June's three acre garden set in the heart of West Wicklow at Blessington on a beautiful summer sunny day. It's an exciting



contemporary garden in the grounds of a granite stoned Victorian farm. The garden is an eclectic mix of plants from around the world in a prairie style -

herbaceous planting, ferns, grasses, bamboos and many other woodland plants. There is a peaceful shallow reflecting pool, and a woodland surrounding the garden. At the time of our visit, a group of artists were busy painting the garden to reflect



all its glory. With a sales area and tearoom it was a lovely visit, where we enjoyed tea and delicious homemade scones.

Hunting Brook - June's brother's Jimi's garden is down the road and around the corner, still on the family farmland. Designed on the side of a valley, a brook breaks up the garden. Jimi is known for his colourful shirts and passion for gardening and this is reflected in Hunting Brook. Jimi's



twenty acre garden is a mix of colourful herbaceous borders, a meadow and the woodland valley garden. The borders

burst with colour and contain an exciting mix of plants. When we were there, Jimi was



redesigning the border along the entrance path with his team of volunteers. His enthusiasm came across as he was telling us of his

plans for the garden.

We hope to visit both gardens again on our next visit to Ireland to see what they have both done.



Duncan Ward
Editor

10 Questions this month to Angie Hyde, past Sussex Chairman

Q What is your favourite flower?

All flowers are delightful but the rose is my favourite. The rose that is most beautiful to me is 'Perle d'or' an apricot polyantha.



Q Where was your last holiday destination?

Holidays are a rare thing for us. The New Forest is always a favourite. A walk through the forest at Sway in the Autumn - bliss.

Q When did you first join a flower club?

1995 My Mum bought me an annual membership to Warnham Evening Flower Club. Mum and her pals needed a lift as they no longer wanted to drive in the dark! Little did I know I'd end up an Area Demonstrator and become a member of committees.

Q What was the last garden you visited?

Apart from my own, Leonardslee to Flower Power.

Q Have you entered Chelsea?

No I have never been brave enough.

Q Which club do you belong to?

Warnham Evening

Q How long have you lived in Sussex?

All my life. Horsham born and bred. My Father's family originate from Albourne in Sussex my Mother's from Horsham.

Q Where is your favourite Sussex place?

The Causeway Horsham. We were married at St Mary's church. It's a beautiful stroll and never changes.



Q Name a famous person you have met

Rick Stein. We were visiting the Chilli Festival at West Dean and he was recording there. I only met him because his little dog Chalkie managed to get his lead tangled around my ankles!

Q Who would you like to receive some flowers from

Ian Lloyd a brilliant florist and of course my husband Allen

And finally

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

The next issue is Christmas, please send in your article and photos by Saturday 20 November 2021.

Keep well, stay safe and enjoy yourselves!

Duncan