



Sussex Area News

Newsletter of the Sussex Area of NAFAS

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Flower Power Extravaganza



More pictures later in this issue



Noticeboard

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

**CROWBOROUGH
FLOWER CLUB**

THURSDAY 7th OCTOBER

DOORS OPEN 7PM

CROWBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE
PINE GROVE, CROWBOROUGH TN6 1FE

A SHORT AGM
FOLLOWED BY
FLOWER DEMONSTRATION

“TOUR de FRANCE”

MICHELLE KING
FLOWER RAFFLE

VISITORS WELCOME £5

BOOKING/MORE DETAILS
membersbox@outlook.com or 663702

Flower Power Winners

The winning raffle tickets were drawn by the restaurant manager at the Clocktower Café, Leonardslee.

Win a MINI for a weekend, sponsored by MINI Chandlers - Mr. Shuker

'T 4 2' – afternoon tea at Leonardslee House sponsored by Leonardslee - Mrs. Barbara Cooper, Crowborough Flower Club

'It's a Corker' – closest estimate to 4,103 corks: 1st: a case of Leonardslee wine sponsored by Leonardslee - Mrs. Teri Maher,
2nd: a copy of Quaffing & Scoffing - Mr Parsons

Steyning & District Flower Club
invite you to a floral evening with

Jacqui Arnold

Christmas Sparkle

WEDNESDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2021
THE STEYNING CENTRE, STEYNING
BN44 3XZ
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30pm for a 7:30pm start

Tickets £10 for members
£12 for visitors

For tickets please send a SAE and cheque to
"Steyning & District Flower Club" to
Val Hodges, 40 Penlands Rise,
Steyning BN44 3PJ
or call 01903 815803



steYning
ISLAND

Area Future Events

**Monday 4 October 2021 -
Club Chairmen's Forum.** Plumpton Village Hall,
9.30am for 10.00am start until 12.30pm

Monday 8 November 2021- Members' Day
Live meeting at The Chequer Mead Theatre
in East Grinstead
Speaker is Brenda Evers.
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
Thursday 21 October 2021 with Susie Barwick

National News

National Chairman's Challenge

Congratulations to North East Area who won the August challenge.

The October competition title is "*Here comes autumn*" and if you wish to enter then please send a photo of your design to sussexareaofnafas@gmail.com by 26 October 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 62nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 62nd Annual General Meeting of NAFAS will be held on Tuesday 5 October 2021 at 10.30am

Venue: Virtual - a link to the meeting will be available on the NAFAS website, and a presentation available on the NAFAS YouTube channel.

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

LATE NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the NAFAS TEAM of 8 who won **CHELSEA GOLD** including from the Sussex Area Wendy Parsons, Linda Porrett, Stephen McDonnell, Margaret McSheehy, and Ann Kennedy



Flower
Power
pictures



The Sussex Area of NAFAS Diamond Anniversary 2021

Area Chairman

What a spectacle! Were you there? Did you see? Did you take part? Did you see your rose in Kaleidoscope? Did you spot your sphere in Fetch? Have you seen the photos and video of **Flower Power**? Do check out the Sussex Area's website.

The Preview Evening was a great success, even if I did win something that I had donated! We hosted the NAFAS National President, Michael Bowyer, on the Saturday, along with Area Chairmen from Kent and Surrey. On the Sunday, 9 previous Sussex Area Chairmen (plus the next in line) met up for afternoon tea.

A huge debt of gratitude goes to the **Flower Power** Committee and Design Team, for their tireless efforts, eternal optimism, and good cheer. At the head of it all was Gaenor Circus, the **Flower** that **Powered** our 60th Birthday celebrations (have I really written that? Cheesy but true!). A member of the public asked us if



we organised such an event every year! I was about to say no when I realised that we are! A Sense of Place is now planned for August 2022.

Yet **Flower Power** is already so last month, Darling! I'm already thinking about the next National Advisory Council Meeting where I represent all the Sussex Members, then it's the Club Chairmen's Forum on 4 October, NAFAS virtual AGM on 5 October, Crowborough Flower Club is representing Sussex and arranging flowers at Westminster Abbey for the Royal British Legion service on 11 October, I'm attending a Buddy Meeting (more time with a NAFAS Trustee and 3 other Area Chairmen) and then the Executive will be finalising preparations for live Members' Day at Chequer Mead, East Grinstead, as well as the next Council Meeting and our AGM.

You know what they say: ask a busy woman. Or, in our case, ask busy Sussex Area members!

Best wishes,

Past and Present Area Chairmen



Left to right: Barbara Harris, Anne Lee, Sue Flight, Elsie Chaplin, Doreen Nuttall, Jilly Griffin, Angie Hyde, Brenda Forrester, Jenny Coxhead.

Jilly

The number of corks in the 'It's a Corker' competition was 4,103.

Flower Power

Thursday 9-Sunday 12 September 2021

What a show that was! Well I would say that wouldn't I as Show Chairman, but I am simply repeating what so many have said to me and to other members of the **Flower Power** committee, particularly from visiting members of the public.

Led by Stephen, and ably assisted by Claire and Stef, our design team came up with an outstanding array of floral ideas. To turn these ideas into reality our members did us proud by producing some truly stunning work as you will all have seen in the photographs and video that have recently been circulated.

I am grateful to all those who played a part in **Flower Power** – a show which showcased our members' talents and commitment to Sussex Area.

My thanks also go to the **Flower Power** committee team of Carol Lathleiff, Lesley Etherton, Sheila Cheal, Tricia Bridgman, Joyce Skeet, and Carol Stanbridge who were



very supportive, hard-working and enthusiastic and with whom it was a joy to work. It took nearly 2 years to put the show together and we had such fun along the way. To coin a phrase, 'It wasn't a sprint, but a marathon'.

Last but not least, my thanks go to all of you who attended the show. We hope you enjoyed your visit. It encouraged us to see so many of you over the four-day period. As one of the Government ministers in the reshuffle put it recently, 'On to the next adventure!'

Best wishes,

Gaenor



Left to right: Carol Stanbridge, Sheila Cheal, Tricia Bridgman, Gaenor Circus, Carol Lathleiff, Joyce Skeet, and Lesley Etherton



Sussex Area Photography Competition 2021

Class 1. Flower Power

1st Brenda Bull –
West Chiltington
2nd Carol
Lathleiff –
Steyning
3rd Maggie
Hayes – Horam
& Heathfield



Class 1 - Flower Power
First - Brenda Bull

Class 2. River Dance

1st Duncan Ward –
Seaford Evening
2nd Jane Crouch –
Steyning
3rd Carol Lathleiff –
Steyning



Class 2 - River Dance
First - Duncan Ward

Class 3. Spin Me Around

1st Linda Burgess – Little
Common

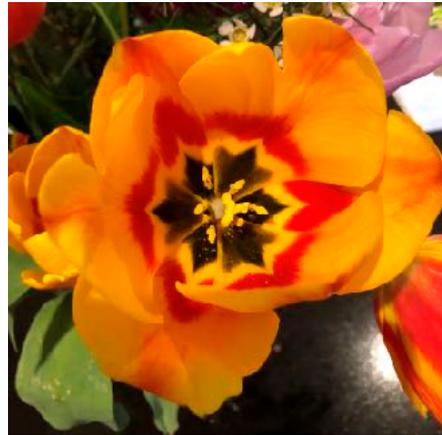


Spin Me Around

Class 3 - Spin Me Around
First - Linda Burgess

Class 4. Kaleidoscope

1st Linda Wardle – Crowborough
2nd Maggie Hayes – Horam & Heathfield
3rd Duncan Ward – Seaford Evening



Class 4 - Kaleidoscope
First - Linda Wardle



Class 5 - Precious
Diamond
First - Jilly Griffin

Class 5. Precious Diamond

1st Jilly Griffin –
New Visions

My thanks to Jill Hayes and Janis Davis who took part and didn't get an award, better luck next time.

Maggie Hayes
Chairman JDS&E

CLUB News

What have you been up to?

Cuckfield Evening Flower Club - 40th Anniversary

The club treated 40 of its members to tea at the Sussex Prairie Gardens. The weather was beautiful and the garden looked stunning in its early Autumn colours and swaying grasses.



We now feel as if we are getting back to some form of normality and can once again enjoy our flowers and friendship.

Sue Spooner
Cuckfield Flower Club

Lewes Flower Club - new venue & meeting time.

We're back! Our first meeting since March 2020 was held on 12 August. Instead of a garden party, we had a lovely picnic in our new hall at Cooksbridge.



It was lovely to see familiar faces and to meet once again in person.

We were so excited to get our proper demonstrations started, which happened on September 9 2021.



We were not disappointed and were delighted by Jenny Nye and her 'Nature's Charm'. New members welcome 2nd Thursday commencing 12.30 with refreshments. Beechwood Hall, [Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge, BN7 3QG](#). Please, come along or contact our Chairman Sally for further information. sjp.blake@btinternet.com

Looking forward, there are more delights to come.

Louise Lewis, Committee Member
Lewes Flower Club

Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Hilda Craven – Lifetime Vice President of Warnham Evening Flower Club.

On Thursday 22 July 2021, a service was held at St Margaret's Church, Warnham, to celebrate the life of Hilda Gertrude Craven. The following day would have been her 100th birthday.

Hilda was born in Haslemere on 23 July 1921, but moved to Lower Beeding in 1926. Aged 9, Hilda travelled by bus to school in Horsham and in 1932 won a scholarship to Horsham High School for Girls, but in order to save the bus fare, switched to a bicycle for the 7 mile trip, which she did all year round for 5 years. This was a popular



form of transport for Hilda and she is fondly remembered riding to flower club meetings with her basket full of flowers and foliage – this is the

reason for the bicycle decorated with flowers in the church at her memorial!

When Hilda left school, she joined the General Post Office in Horsham and trained as a telephonist. During WW II she was in a

Reserved Occupation and was asked to volunteer to serve in the WREN's. Hilda was sent to Greenwich, Dover and Plymouth where she spent the remaining 4 years of the war and was involved with signalling and communications leading up to D Day.

Following the war, Hilda returned to Horsham and the Post Office until her retirement in 1980.

Hilda's outgoing and caring nature was typified by her 38 years voluntary service with the Order of St John which she joined in

1948. Her organisational and clerical abilities took her to the rank of Divisional Officer from 1971 to 1983.

Hilda joined Warnham Evening Flower Club in 1970 and was an enthusiastic and valued member of the club. She ran the competitions table for many years and entered regularly. She was made honorary Lifetime Vice President of the club – a position of which she was very proud.

She was a passionate arranger of flowers at St Margaret's Church and she and 5 of her friends would decorate the church for Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival. They would then retire to the



Sussex Oak for a well-deserved rest and lunch, so it's fitting that some of her friends from the club decorated the church for her memorial and went to a lunch at the Sussex Oak in her memory.



*Flower arranging, that's for me
Though only God can make a tree
I can make the flowers look good
With the help of a beautiful piece of wood
That He made*

*He sends us everything we need
What a reliable firm He is indeed
We take for granted all He gives
And sometimes forget that He still lives
To send them*

*I wonder what He thinks upstairs
When we twist and bend such lovely wares
Do those angels help, with fluttering wings
To send us down such wonderful things?
I hope so*

The flowers were arranged by Angie Hyde, Joyce Skeet and Lesley Etherton, assisted by Janet Sharp.

Pam Hadaway, who is a former Chairman of Warnham Evening Flower Club, read this poem at the service:

Janet Sharp, Chairman
Warnham Evening Flower Club

Flower Power pictures -

Coming soon
Flower Power
Souvenir
Brochure



10 Questions to.....

Christine Purkess
Area Website Administrator

Q What is your favourite flower?

Scented roses. My father belonged to the Rose Society and we used to go their shows.

The scent as you went in was incredible. A particular favourite though is Lady Penzance, which while having a delicate scent, also has apple scented leaves. Mine was grown from a cutting by my father!



Q Where was your last holiday destination?

A small Greek island called Halki off the coast of Rhodes. It is very quiet but very friendly. We have been going there for the last 32 years – like many other people.

Q When did you first join a flower club?

1985

Q What was the last garden you visited?

Hole Park Farm, near Rolvenden to see the bluebells



Q Have you entered Chelsea?

No

Q Which club do you belong to?

Ninfield Flower Group

Q How long have you lived in Sussex?

38 years

Q Where is your favourite Sussex place?

On the coast: I love the sea with its many changing moods

Q Name a famous person you have met:

Dr John Hall, former Dean of Westminster Abbey. Two of us were invited to arrange flowers at the High Altar for Easter and he came and talked to us. It was the week before William and Kate got married and the Abbey and all of London were buzzing with excitement. (As you will guess, our arrangements were not part of the wedding flowers, but were moved to St. Margaret's Chapel instead).

Q Who would you like to receive some flowers from: Anyone: it is such a friendly gesture.

Editor: A reader asked a question, following Jan Bailey's article on Drying and Preserving Flowers, in the last issue; about drying verbena - can this be dried and used like statice? Is it dried hanging upside down?

Jan Bailey: Yes you can dry the leaves of Lemon Verbena and then when they are dry you can crunch them all up and make tea. Verbena Bonariensis can be tied in bunches and hung upside down in a cool airy place but needs to be picked before coming out fully otherwise all the flowers will fall off.

Editor: Thank you Jan for your help.

Midhurst Flower Club and The Great Big Green Week

To celebrate The Great Big Green Week in September three members of Midhurst Flower Club set out to achieve a floral display in a local village church which embraced the ethos of 'action on climate change' by doing their bit for a greener future.



with differing textures, and arrange them in chicken wire, which none of us have ever used before. We also promoted the use of peat free compost for our pot plant display. I hope you like our arrangements by three complete amateurs!



Here are pictures of our efforts. To achieve our goal we abandoned floral oasis and used chicken wire (not easy for tall pedestal arrangements), with only flowers and foliage gathered from our gardens.

Our theme was "all green with a pop of white" and we had to use our ingenuity to

find as many shades of green as we could, all

Anne Connor, June Barnard and Janet Ismay
Midhurst Flower Club



Have you visited the One Garden, Brighton?



The former walled garden at Stanmer Park, Brighton, once the home to the City Council's nursery, has been extensively refurbished and redeveloped into a new and exciting place to visit.



Now managed by Plumpton College, the One Garden opened in April 2021, as a

horticultural centre of excellence. Designed by modern-day landscape architect Dominic Cole, renowned for his work on the Eden Project.

The gardens are inspiring to all, not only for gardeners with the fruit and vegetable crops, but the series of contemporary show gardens bursting with flowers and shrubs that are a flower arranger's delight. The show gardens include - the rose garden, the hot & dry



garden, the medicinal garden, the pollinator garden, the kitchen garden and more.

It's a great venue to visit as it's all on the flat and easy to walk around, especially if you have poor mobility or are bringing someone in a wheelchair. Apart from the wide range of show gardens, there is cafe/restaurant, garden centre and shop.

Entry is free, although you need to pay for parking your car via a mobile app or card.



It's well worth visiting.

For further details see www.onegardenbrighton.com

Duncan Ward,
Editor

And finally

Thank you to all contributors of articles and photographs. Don't forget to contribute your designs and articles. Please continue to send them in, to tell everyone what you are doing.

December issue will be a bumper issue, as it is likely to be the last monthly edition - so please send in your Christmas florals, designs and articles. Enjoy your meetings!

Duncan