

Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

Area News



Sense of Place Afternoon Tea Launch



Newsletter of the Sussex Area of the
National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies
Charity No. 292377
www.sussexareanafas.org.uk
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Noticeboard

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

For the June issue by
Friday 20 May 2022



EAST PRESTON FLORAL CLUB

In Festival Week present an Exhibition

THIS WONDERFUL WORLD

Friday 3rd JUNE

Saturday 4th JUNE

10am-5pm

Sunday 5th JUNE 2022

10am-4pm

£1 entrance

Donation to The Sussex Kidney Trust

Registered Charity Number: 254265

At the

Conservative Hall

Sea Road, East Preston

BN16 1JN

www.epfloralclub.co.uk



FELPHAM FLOWER CLUB OPEN MEETING

65th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



SATURDAY 14 MAY 2022

DOORS OPEN 1.30 FOR 2PM

**THE WINDMILL THEATRE,
LITTLEHAMPTON BN17 5LH**

TICKETS £12

PLEASE APPLY, ENCLOSING S.A.E TO:
MRS R BALL, 6 BROOMCROFT ROAD,
BOGNOR REGIS, WEST SUSSEX, PO22 7NJ
Cheques payable to Felpham Flower Club
Enquiries: rhondamball@yahoo.co.uk

HORAM & HEATHFIELD FLOWER CLUB

PRESENT AN OPEN EVENING TO CELEBRATE THEIR
DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

GILL McGREGOR

DIAMOND FLORAL FANTASY

THURSDAY 9TH JUNE 2022

Doors open 6.45pm for 7.30pm

HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Sheepsetting Lane TN21 0XG

Refreshments, sales table & raffles

Tickets available from Jenny Foster-Smith

fsjenny@btinternet.com or 01435 810452

Visitors £10, Members £5

Area News

Area Chairman



The month of May is apparently named after Maia, the Greek goddess, adopted by the Romans for fertility and growth. The gentle warmth of the month causes flowers to blossom, crops to sprout and people to dance. As ever, please send in your photos!

I'm looking forward to May Day celebrations (no, listen carefully now, not mayday but May Day – if anyone celebrates my mayday, I'll come back and haunt 'em). As I was saying, I'm planning my May Day activities. I shall crown myself May Queen, cook a rather nice little lunch (with of course accompanying liquid refreshment), move on to a little light Morris dancing, and then tie myself in knots around my imaginary May pole in bacchanalian abandon. What a day!

Later in the week, on 5 May, there is the Area Workshop making a Himelli structure with straws – who knew? I know our Nina Tucknott knows because she used to make them the traditional way from dried grass and needle and thread. Remember that non-members can come to these workshops now too so do bring along a friend.

Our next event is for members and delegates only. It's our Council meeting and we have a couple of guests after lunch: our National Vice Chairman, Nicky Wylie as well as NAFAS CEO, Steven Lane. They are coming to answer any questions you might have (about NAFAS not how to overcome gravitational pull because that really would be rocket science and NASA not NAFAS).

Also at Council, you will find a table for a '*Sense of Place*' at Lancing Chapel in August. If you're not exhibiting yourself or as part of a team, do offer to help steward or simply come along with some friends – the more the merrier. The schedule for '*Seasonal Sensations*', our Area Show in Crowborough in October, will be available. Exciting times.

Those who have entered the NAFAS Virtual Show '*Chasing Rainbows*' will be busy preparing and photographing their exhibit to meet the deadline of 30 May. Good luck to all the competitors, especially our Sussex ones.

And as I reflect on my May Day activities (apparently banned by the Puritans for being licentious and pagan), I find myself humming of Smokey Robinson's tune: "*When it's cold outside, I've got the month of May.*" Oh yes, indeed, we've all got this marvellous month of May, full of gardening, flowers, new growth, promise and potential, and long, long evenings (as opposed to the usual May of sneezing, itchy

eyes, and runny nose of pollen-induced hay fever).

Whatever you're doing, wherever you're doing it, enjoy your flowers.

All the best

Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

Area Workshop

Thursday 5 May 2022
9.30am to 4pm

Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield BN6 9EQ

Helen Hare

Fun with Himelli

Helen Hare, is from Kent and is an Area Demonstrator and Teacher.

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

Don't miss out – just 4 spaces left!

Lancing College Chapel
Lancing, West Sussex BN15 0RW

Sense of Place

Flower Festival

by the Sussex Area of NAFAS
in aid of
The Friends of Lancing Chapel
18–21 August 2022
10am–5pm
TICKETS £15
Booking and information:
lancingcollege.co.uk/events

Friends of Lancing Chapel is a Registered Charity No. 241403
Sussex Area of NAFAS is a Registered Charity No. 292377

Area Events 2022

Council:

Monday 9 May at Haywards Heath Town Hall.
11am start with lunch break (bring your own)
around 12.30pm, reconvening at 13.15 for Q&A
session Nicky Wylie, National Vice-Chairman and
Steven Lane, NAFAS CEO.

Monday 8 August and
Monday 21 November (Council & AGM)

Area Days:

Wednesday 22 June at the Meridian Centre,
Peacehaven. In the morning there will be a talk by
Sarah Lavery of Southlands Valley Wines and the
afternoon demonstration will be by National
Demonstrator, Ian Buxton.

The final Area Day for 2022 will be incorporated
into the Area Show at Crowborough and will be on
Saturday 29 October. The Speaker will be Tony
Strange with his title "*Henry VIII*" and the floral
demonstration will be by National Demonstrator,
Dr Christina Curtis.

The cost for each day will be £20 for members
and £22 for guests.

Sense of Place

18 - 21 August at Lancing College Chapel

Sussex Area Show: *Seasonal Sensations*

Friday 28 - Saturday 29 October
Crowborough Community Centre

National Flower Arranging Day

Friday 6 May 2022

An opportunity to promote your flower club.

Create designs to be displayed in prominent
public places, advertising your Flower Club
include: how to get in touch, when and where
you meet - to encourage new membership.

Let's us know what you are doing, send us some
photos and share what you did.



LONDON AND OVERSEAS AREA OF NAFAS



Floral Art Show Schedule 'Nostalgia'

Ingatstone Hall
Hall Lane, Ingatstone, Essex
CM4 9NR

**Friday, 22 July – Sunday, 24
July 2022**

Open Daily 10.30am-5.00pm

For tickets email:
tickets@flowerarranginglondon.org.uk
Visit our website for more
information
www.flowerarranginglondon.org.uk

Area Beginners' Course



Our photograph says it all. Nineteen members (including one non-member) have started the Beginners' Course with Lyn Constable as their tutor. They very much enjoyed the first day and are looking forward to the weekly classes.

Sussex Kidney Trust

At the Sussex Kidney Trust (SKT) AGM held on Monday 11 April, Jenny Coxhead retired as the Chairman of the Trust.



Anne Lee retiring committee member and Jenny Coxhead retiring Chairman

Jenny has been Chairman for the last 25 years and the Sussex Area of NAFAS owes her huge thanks for all that she has done raising funds for the charity. The Sussex Area of NAFAS is unique within the whole of NAFAS because it is the only Area to have its own charity. Over the last 60 years Sussex Area members have donated over £1,000,000 to the charity which has enabled the Trust to purchase equipment for the renal units in Brighton, Worthing, and Bexhill.

Many Area members have benefited from the money raised both at home with home dialysis and in the renal units using equipment bought and supplied by the SKT.



Moyna Burrows, retiring SKT President

Sussex Area members should be rightly proud of their very own charity and the amazing results it has achieved. The new Chairman Jean Plaskett and committee, look forward to your continuing support over many years to come.

The next fundraising event will be a quiz afternoon on Monday 12 September 2022 at The Henfield Halls from 1pm – 5pm when it is hoped that clubs will field teams to compete against each other to become *Club of the Sussex Area 2022* (no trophy just the accolade!).

Lesley Etherton
Secretary

Sense of Place

Afternoon Tea Launch

Lancing Chapel 18-21 August 2022



Thursday 24 March couldn't have been a better day to launch the Flower festival '*Sense of Place*'. It was a beautiful day very warm for the time of year, the sun shone all day.

Fifty of our flower arrangers arrived at the Town Hall in Haywards Heath to enjoy a lovely afternoon tea provided by the committee. Sue Seath our Committee Chairman provided a celebration cake which most of our members took home with them, as they had already enjoyed sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam and an array of home baked cakes.

Linda Porrett our designer told us how she had come up with the title '*Sense of Place*' and we were all quite in awe as to how much



thinking and planning had gone into the event. Linda together with her co designers Ann Kennedy and Wendy Parsons have already given much time in preparation for the Festival. The launch gave the designers and committee the opportunity to thank all our arrangers for their participation in the festival which will be a wonderful occasion and also give the Sussex Area of NAFAS the opportunity to showcase their skills to a wider audience.

The day ended on a high with friendships



being renewed and new ones made which was lovely to see. We now look forward with renewed enthusiasm and excitement to the forthcoming festival.

The *Sense of Place* Committee: Sue Seath Chairman, Lesley Etherton, Angie Hyde, Tricia Bridgman, Sheila Cheal, Linda Porrett, Ann Kennedy and Wendy Parsons.

Please note if you order 10 tickets or more from Lancing you will get a discount of £2 for each ticket reducing the cost to £13.

Article: Tricia Bridgman
Photos: Shelia Cheal

'Spring Designs From The Woodland'

Following a most enjoyable Area Day at the Windmill Theatre, Littlehampton on Monday 7 March, with presentations by Giles Shenton ('Old Herbaceous') and Sussex's own National Demonstrator Sue Flight. Sue returned the following day to tutor a seasonal floral art workshop entitled '*Spring Designs From The Woodland*'.



necessary to use luxurious components for every design. There is much beauty in simple things, Sue emphasised and she showed workshop attendees how to achieve a range of designs incorporating twigs and driftwood. Tubes were used in some arrangements to remain eco-friendly.



Sue gains much of her creative inspiration for her compositions from walks out and about in the countryside particularly from woodlands. After much inclement weather in recent months, there has been a plethora of fallen treasures from nature to use in design work along with seasonal flowers – bulbs, seed heads, blossom, moss and lichen along with foliage. Sue believes that it is not always





Sussex members then created similar work guided expertly by Sue in a lovely, relaxed atmosphere. Two main designs were selected: one based on a rustic ring to form the basis for a nest-like composition and two, another this time involving a piece of wood or bark lengths.



At the end of the workshop, Sue discussed each member's work and gave helpful comments.

Everyone went away feeling the wonderful joys of spring and with renewed enthusiasm to look more fully at what delights nature has.

Dr. Christina D. Curtis
Sussex Speakers Rep

CLUB News

What have you been up to?

Seventy Years

Burgess Hill Flower Club was joined by Sue Seath, Area President and Jilly Griffin, Area Chairman to



celebrate their 70th Anniversary. Members and visitors were treated to a spectacular demonstration by Stephen McDonnell with 'A trip to the Orient'.



The demonstration ended with refreshments and a piece of celebratory cake, with everybody having had an enjoyable afternoon.

Judith Alexander
Burgess Hill
Flower Club



Club Anniversaries Congratulations

Rustington, 60 years in May

Lewes, 70 years in June

Wadhurst, 50 years in June

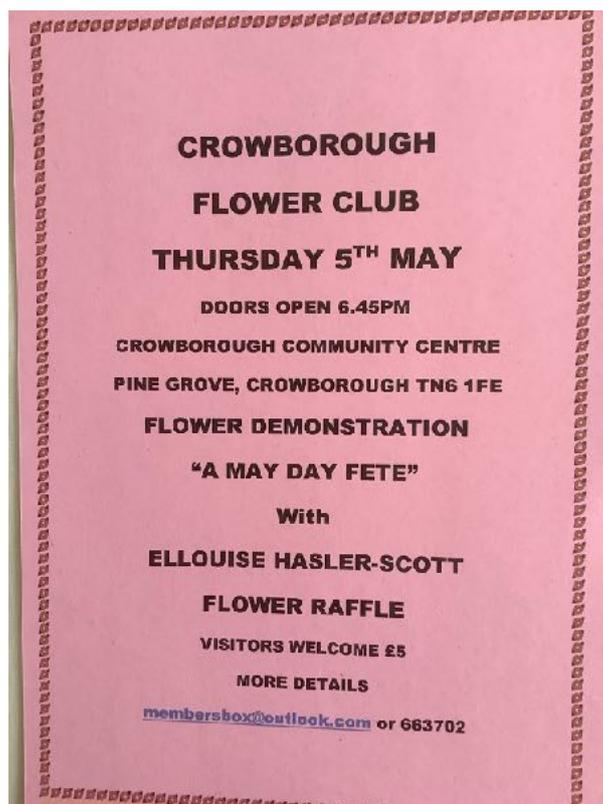
Brighton & Hove, 70 years in July

Horam & Heathfield, 60 years in July

Burgess Hill, 70 years in July

Henfield, 65 years in August

Please share with us your celebrations, it's great to hear what our clubs are doing.



Mary Rose Blair RIP

1 March 1938 - 19 March 2022

Mary was a very active member of **Seaford Evening Flower Club** serving as treasurer for 37 years. She was a lady of many hidden talents who always had a smile to greet you and genuine interest in people.

During lock down Mary was determined to keep the club alive and was a regular participant in the monthly online flower competitions. She kept all the members in touch by sending out club and Area newsletters.

The personal side to Mary few were aware of. She was evacuated to Scotland as a baby and spent several months as a toddler in the isolation hospital with scarlet fever and diphtheria this resulting in her learning to talk with a Scottish accent. She was an avid fan of Tottenham Hotspur football club and a keen and talented cross stitcher. Mary was member and treasurer of South Highton W.I. who appreciated her flower arranging and craft talents.

Helping people was forever at the forefront of Mary's life and despite gaining 'A'- levels in four science subjects in the early 1950s she opted to study Social Sciences at university at a time when only 1% of graduates were



Funeral tribute by club member Barbara Wallis

women. Her working life was spent in Social Services advising on benefits and debt. After retiring she became a Trustee for the Lewes Citizen's Advice Service overseeing the accounts and actively working with people on debt resolution.

Mary's death has left a gaping hole in Seaford Evening Flower Club but she will be fondly remembered by so many for a long long time --- "*Well my dears!*"

Jane Mills
President
Seaford Evening Flower Club



One of Mary's lockdown arrangements

Birth Flower of the month May

Lily

Lilies represent purity and innocence. A stem of lilies show graceful elegance, beauty and serenity.



The star shaped flowers give power to any border or display, a real showstopper. Tall and stately with a strong fragrance. Don't forget to snip out the stamens as the pollen will stain if it

falls or rubs against another surface.

Lilies are highly toxic to cats, causing acute kidney failure if eaten.

Lilies like lots of sun and a slightly acidic soil with good drainage. Watch out for the scarlet lily beetle which can cause serious damage to the stems and leaves.

The Chinese use the lily bulb in stir fries, soups and cold dishes.

Getting to know your area demonstrator

Michelle King



As a demonstrator, I'm often asked about how I get my inspiration. Although this is a fairly straightforward question, it's far from a simple answer as any number of things

may inspire me. But, let me take you back to the beginning of my love affair with flowers when I was all of ten years old.

The year was 1968. In Britain, the first episode of *Gardener's World* was broadcast on BBC 1 with Percy Thrower as host, London Bridge was sold to an American entrepreneur who rebuilt it in Arizona and a British man called Wally Herbert became the first person to reach the North Pole on foot. Oh, and July saw some of the most severe Sahara dust storms it had ever experienced. These are just some of the dramatic events that inspired my floral loving Junior School Form Teacher, Miss Flowers (yes, that really was her name) to invite pupils from, what are now known as, Years 8 and 9 to put their names forward to take part in the flower arranging event at that Autumn's County Show where there was a Junior Novice Class with the theme of '*Events of the Year 1968*'.

Well, I was one of the first few in the queue. I'd like to say that this was because I was already a budding (*sorry*) flower arranger but, truth be told, it was as much to do with my general love of flowers as my adoration of Miss Flowers – the kindest, most fun-loving and, to my mind, best teacher in the school. For the next seven weeks of the Summer Term,

twelve of us stayed behind after school one day a week to learn the basic techniques of flower arranging and work on our entries. My chosen design was based on the polar expedition that Wally Herbert led where he set off in Alaska to lead the British Trans-Arctic Expedition (BTAE) with dog-sleds.

Miss Flowers suggested that I might like to begin by writing down and, possibly drawing, all the objects and colours that I could think of to do with the event before whittling it down to what I thought best represented it. I initially decided on a dog sled with white and blue as my colours. Next came the design itself.

Influenced by my choice of accessory i.e. the dog sled, I wanted to make an inverted curve. However, we soon hit a problem as sourcing a model of a dog sled and one of the right scale, proved to be impossible. These were, after all, the days before the internet. Just as I was beginning to lose heart, the ever-resourceful Miss Flowers had a word with Mr Harolds, the Form Teacher in the classroom next door, who, it turned out, was a skilled metal worker in his spare time. A week later, between them, they came up with the cutest pair of metal ski blades, expertly fashioned in just the right size. Looking at how I might incorporate the ski blades now suggested a left-sided triangular shape for my design and, after mapping this out in a rough sketch on paper, I was at last ready for the bit that, secretly, I'd most been looking forward to: choosing what flowers to include.

With Miss Flowers help, I wanted to use blue Delphinium, white Roses, white spray Carnation and Gypsophila. Hard Ruscus, Eucalyptus, Rosemary and Hosta were amongst the foliage that we thought would best harmonise with the flowers. Before the big day itself, we could



afford only one trial run and, even then, it was just a skeleton arrangement with only a few flowers and some alternative foliage, just to test the concept.

Then it was just a matter of waiting for a few weeks for the staging day.



The day dawned bright and sunny but not too hot – a kindness especially given that we were working with Delphiniums and, suddenly all those weeks of preparation were behind us and I

was going back into the marquee to find out the results.

To my utter amazement and delight, I had received a *Highly Commended* – the only person from our school group to get an award – and I had achieved fourth place out of a total of 31 youngsters who had entered the category.

So, that was how my passion for flower arranging was ignited. What a summer that was.

And the icing on the cake?
Miss Flowers got married that Autumn and became Mrs Rose. Yes, I kid you not. With heartfelt thanks to a truly inspirational teacher.

Michelle King

And finally

Thank you to all contributors of articles and photographs. Don't forget to contribute your Coronation memories or the day you met The Queen, along with any photos.

Keep well and stay safe.

Duncan

In February this year, Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a **Platinum Jubilee**, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.



To celebrate this exceptional anniversary, there is a four day bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June.

Thursday 2 June

The Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour) will take place, the traditional Parade to mark The Queen's official birthday.

The lighting of beacons, with the principal beacon being lit in a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Friday 3 June

Service of Thanksgiving for The Queen's reign at St. Paul's Cathedral.

Saturday 4 June

The Derby at Epsom Racecourse. Later the BBC will be staging and broadcasting *The Platinum Party* at The Palace. This unique concert will bring together a wide variety of the biggest stars.

Sunday 5 June

The Big Jubilee Lunch will take place to celebrate with their community, neighbours, friends and family in the spirit of fun and friendship street party, everyone is invited to have fun and get to know one another a little better.

The Platinum Jubilee Pageant will take place with performers, military personnel, volunteers and key workers uniting to tell the story of Her Majesty's 70 year reign in a jubilant festival of creativity.

For more details of activities taking place over the Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend, visit: www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend

Please send us your memories of the Coronation, past Jubilees, if you have met the Queen, or created a special floral tribute; for the special Jubilee editions of *Sussex Area News* in June & July 2022. Articles and pictures by 20 May for the June edition, and 20 June for the July 2022.