

Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

Area News



Photo: Jacob King/PA Wire/PA Images

**Congratulations
on
Her Majesty's
Platinum Jubilee**

1952 - 2022



Arranger: Vicky Patterson, Burwash Flower Festival



Newsletter of the Sussex Area of the
National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies
Charity No. 292377
www.sussexareanafas.org.uk
www.facebook.com/SussexAreaNAFAS
twitter: @sussexareanafas instagram: @sussexareanafas



Noticeboard

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

For the July issue by
Monday 20 June 2022



IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE

The Burwash and District Flower Club
invite you to our delayed
DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

60years + 1
with



NATIONAL DEMONSTRATOR



MR MICHAEL BOWYER



Thursday 14th 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

Area Events 2022

Council:

Monday 8 August at Plumpton Village Hall
10.30 for 11am

Area Days:

Wednesday 22 June 11am 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.

Sense of Place

18 - 21 August at Lancing College Chapel

Sussex Area Show: *Seasonal Sensations*

Friday 28 - Saturday 29 October
Crowborough Community Centre

Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

Area Workshop

Thursday 7 July 2022

10.00am to 3pm

Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield BN5 9EQ

Dr Christina Curtis

National Judge

Winning Ways with Competitions

This will be an informal day including assessment of attendees' exhibit 'A Summer Basket' (details to be given later) and covering all aspects of competition work.

This workshop will be principally aimed at those just starting competitions, inexperienced competitors and those novices who want to know more about how to enter a class, aspects of preparation, what to do at the venue and what the judge looks for etc. There will be time for questions throughout the day.



Members £10

Non-members £15

Coffee and tea will be provided. Bring your own lunch.

Please contact Barbara Email: barb@batucker.go-plus.net

London and Overseas Area of NAFAS Presents

"Nostalgia" Festival of Flowers

in the splendour of
Ingatestone Hall

Hall Lane, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9NR

22nd - 24th July 2022
10.30am - 5pm

Tickets £10 Early Bird Ticket £8 before 7th July

To book telephone 07943 329962

or email: tickets@flowerarranginglondon.org.uk

- Ample Parking
- Refreshments Available
- Demonstrations and Trading Stands



Supporting



Special Needs and Parents
Registered Charity No. 1077787



Area Chairman

At May's Council meeting, we had two visitors from NAFAS: Nicky Wylie, National Vice-Chairman, and Steven Lane, CEO. They came ready to answer questions sent in by Club Chairmen, plus, a few more on the day. Delegates and members appreciated the opportunity to meet them both. I'm sure Club Chairmen will be reporting back to clubs.



Left to right: Jilly Griffin, Nicky Wylie, Steven Lane and Gaenor Circus

It was a busy old time at Council as we had the launch of the schedule for our Area Show: **Seasonal Sensations** too. It's on our website and every club has a copy. Do check it out and plan your entry. If you're in two minds – maybe you haven't entered a competition for a while or perhaps you've never done so – the JDS&E are planning a special workshop in July to inspire and give you confidence.



What are you doing for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee? Remember to send in your floral photos. The only platinum you'll find in my

Level 2 students



Some of the successful Level 2 students at the Sussex Area Council Meeting at Haywards Heath Town Hall taken on May 9 2022

household is hair dye! For the weekend's celebrations, my ambition is to make the Lemon Swiss Roll & Amaretti Trifle which won the *Platinum Pudding Competition*. Just reading the ingredients makes me feel like burying my face in the whole dish, slapstick style. *Bon Appetit!* Whatever you're doing, I'm sure we'll all be raising a toast to Queen Elizabeth II and her glorious 70 years. Cheers! Thankfully, Area and Club Committees require much less duty – so do stand up and make a difference.

As we tour the Sussex Area with events near you, we'll be coming to the east and visiting Peacehaven. It's Area Day with a talk on wine (right up my street!) and National Demonstrator Ian Buxton. I hope to see you there for a full house and the abseiling competition down the cliffs (Ha ha!). Non-members can now take part too so please bring along your friends.

Keep smiling!

Club Anniversaries Congratulations

Lewes, 70 years in June

Wadhurst 50 years in June

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

Sense of Place

Applesham farm, owned and lent to us by Mr Christopher Passmore, is nestled high up on the South Downs has been echoing with the sounds of laughter and fun coming from the large grain store where *Sense of Place* hold their "Preparation Days". Many of the volunteer arrangers from all over the County are coming together to form this Sussex team, and making this forthcoming festival a most enjoyable experience for all. More *Preparation* will be held in June. New techniques are being taught by the Design Team and showing how much work goes into organising a flower festival on this scale. We are all learning so much in order to make Linda Porrett's vision become reality. Very exciting!!

There are only approximately twelve weeks to go before the opening of the festival at Lancing Chapel and we still need your help, especially with stewarding (*a third of the ticket price refunded to you when when you report for your two hour stint*), plus more arrangers are still needed. (*Please contact Linda Porrett should you be able to help*). Once you have all purchased your tickets either from Lancing College direct, or from Sheila Cheal who is



Wendy Parsons



always at Council meetings or Area Days and you attend the festival, take a look at the "stands" etc., as some may be purchased at very reasonable prices for your own club's use. Why not get a party together as for every 10+ tickets purchased there is a £2 reduction on each ticket, and perhaps combine with a trip to St Mary's at Bramber, which is what some Surrey Clubs are doing.



Wendy Parsons

Let us make this a grand Sussex Flower Festival by supporting this event to the full.

Sue Seath
Sense of Place
Chairman

 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
Backing and information:
lancingcollege.co.uk/events



Friends of Lancing Chapel is a Registered Charity No. 294803
Sussex Area of NAFAS is a Registered Charity No. 292577



Ann Kennedy



Sussex Area Show Schedule

Saturday 29 October 2022

9.30am - 5.30pm

**Crowborough Community Centre
Pine Grove Crowborough TN6 1FE**

Staging Friday 28 October 11am to 4.30pm
All classes in this schedule are to be regarded
as exhibits

Class 1. Trick or Treat - Petite

(small scale design) Space allowed: Width 25cm, depth 25cm, height 37cm, to be staged on tables covered in black fabric against a cream wall.

Class 2. A Bit of this and that - Imposed

Space allowed: Width 76cm, depth 68cm, height optional to be staged on tables covered in black fabric against a cream wall.

The entry fee for this class is £30 where all components will be provided and will become the property of the competitor.

Some of each of the provided components must be used and nothing extra may be added.

A basic tool box only is permitted and no extra decorative items are allowed.

Class 3. Colourful Explosions - Pedestal/floor design

Space allowed: Width 1m, depth 1m, height optional staged on a wooden floor. Competitors to provide their own base or pedestal.

Class 4. Masquerade - Craft Class - A Mask

Space allowed: Width 45cm, depth 30cm, height optional.

To be staged on black fabric.

A mask, plant material to predominate, a head stand will be provided.

Class 5. Nature's Contrasts - Novice

Space allowed: Width 60cm, depth 68cm, height optional.

To be staged on tables covered in black fabric against a cream wall.

(A novice in this class is someone who has not previously won a first prize at NAFAS Area or National Show.)

Class 6. Season's Bounty - Exhibit

Space allowed: Width 76cm, depth 68cm, height optional featuring a pumpkin or pumpkins, which may be hollowed prior to staging. To be staged on tables covered in black fabric against a cream covered wall.

Class 7. Autumn Winds - Contemporary

Space allowed: Width 76cm, depth 68cm, height optional.

Open to NAFAS members from any area.

To be staged on tables covered in black fabric against a cream covered wall.

Sussex Area Show 2022 Photography Competition

Class 1. The Magic of Nature – a colour image, subject unspecified

Class 2. Sunset (or Sunrise)

Class 3. My Favourite Flower – a close-up image

For entry forms please speak to your club Chairman or go the Sussex NAFAS website www.sussexareanafas.org.uk

CLUB News

No foam Joan



The flower arranging team at St Mary's Church Willingdon have been trying to do arrangements without using floral foam. Clearly this is a challenge for us.



Joan Brown, a member of Hailsham & District Flower Club, created this beautiful arrangement without using any foam. We thought it may inspire others.



Half and half

Su Htoon is a member of Willingdon Flower Club and St Mary's Willingdon Church Flower Team. Su used half floral foam together with a container covered with chicken wire.

Marian Williams
Hailsham & District Flower Club

Crowborough Flower Club



To celebrate Flower Arranging Day in the foyer of our Crowborough Community Centre

Wendy Allaway RIP

It is with great sadness that we learnt that Wendy Allaway, former Area Secretary and Programme Administrator has passed away. Wendy worked hard for the Area organising our Members' Days, visits abroad to various flower festivals and masterminding the Area exhibition at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum in October 2017. Wendy's husband, Don, passed away a week before Wendy. She will be much missed.

Jilly Griffin
Area Chairman

I write this with great sadness. I enjoyed working with Wendy and got to know her really well when she worked on the Executive Committee during my Chairmanship. She was efficient and if you left something in her hands you were assured that it would be done well. She was fun and we had a lot of laughs. She was a talented flower arranger competing in many

competitions with great success. Wendy chaired the Parham Show committee and was involved with the Ephemerald Flower Festival, Sackville College, East Grinstead. As Area Programme Secretary she booked some fantastic speakers and demonstrators for Members' Days. There is much more I could say. Wendy's commitment to the Sussex Area was exemplary and she was a pleasure to work with.

Doreen Nuttall
Past Area Chairman

Wendy was a member of our club and was always willing to give advice and constructive criticism to help others with their designs having achieved the highest NAFAS diploma herself. She will be sadly missed, but will always be remembered for her laugh and her enthusiasm and love of flowers.

Christine Webb
Chairman
Peacehaven & Telscombe Flower Club

St. Bartholomew's Church, Burwash Flower Festival

God's creation for the Beauty of the Earth

The Flower Festival held between the 29 April and 2 May was a great success. It was very well supported and gave so many people so much pleasure, which we hoped for, after the difficult two years we have all been through.



with music, wine and another delicious buffet supper. A Choral Evensong was also held at the close of play on the *Sunday*.

A big '*thank you*' to all who helped in any way including all who came along to support the occasion - including our Editor, Duncan.

An Open Evening was held on the *Friday night* with background music, wine and a delicious buffet supper. The Festival was well attended for the three days when entry was free (*thank you to one and all for all the generous donations received*) and the music concert on the *Saturday night* was, again, well attended,

Diana Workman
Ladies Church Flower Guild Leader

Maureen Jenner
President of Burwash Flower Club



Your Memories of HM The Queen

40th Accession Flower Festival

I was invited to take part in the flower festival at Saint George's chapel in Windsor to celebrate the Queen's 40th accession anniversary in 1992.

All the Commonwealth countries sent their indigenous flowers. I was asked to arrange the orchids from Singapore.

Her Majesty came to view the festival on Saturday 9 May (*which happened to be my birthday*). I was presented to the Queen, as were all the other arrangers. She was charming and admired the display.

Then Princess Margaret came along. She asked where the flowers were from. I replied "*From Singapore ma'am.*" She then saw the quite large sign with Singapore written on it, and with a laugh she said "*What a stupid question.*"



It was yet another lovely event experienced over many years of flower arranging.

Barbara Garnell
East Preston Floral Club

Coronation



My mother was proud to be the first Girl Guide in Broadwater, Worthing and she still supported them many years later. So it was inevitable that I became a guide. (*Long before the flower arranging badge existed.*)

I was one of two guides chosen from Sussex to go to a thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey two days after the Queen's coronation, along with many other representatives from all different counties and organisations. We all assembled in Birdcage Walk behind Buckingham Palace and marched (or rather walked) to Trafalgar Square and then down Whitehall to the Abbey, which was still dressed in all its coronation splendour.

I sat in the nave on one of the iconic blue velvet chairs. Which people who had attended the coronation were able to purchase later.

The service was uplifting and very moving. After the long walk back to Birdcage Walk (*not a good idea in new shoes*) we were provided with a cup of tea and a biscuit. Then it was back to Victoria Station and the train home. A very memorable day out.

Barbara Garnell
East Preston Floral Club

Golden Jubilee Tour

I accompanied my son Ben who was presented to the Queen (accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh) on Friday 7 June 2002 when she visited the South of England Show at Ardingly Showground as part of her Golden Jubilee tour celebrations.



Ben (who is wheelchair bound) was nominated by West Sussex County Council for services to disabled sport for the time when he was a student at The Angmering School and raising the profile of disabled sport.

I was rather cheeky and said to my son to put his hand out and much to our surprise she shook it, smiled and said "Where do you come from?". She was very interested in what we had to say and gave us a lovely smile. The Duke of Edinburgh also asked me "Are you his pusher?" and said "No, I am his mother!"

And as a mother, it was such a proud day, and the day my son and I will never forget.

Lesley Locke
East Preston Floral Club

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

  

Getting to know your area demonstrator

Nina Tucknott



How long have you been a demonstrator?

I qualified in January 2018.

What made you become a demonstrator?

I was initially approached by Doreen Nuttall and as I have always enjoyed interacting with an audience, I felt that perhaps this could be a 'job' for me. Whilst the exam was a rather terrifying experience, passing was brilliantly euphoric!

Where do you get your inspiration from for your demonstrations?

Being a fact-oholic I try to base my demonstrations around themes which enable me to pepper my sessions with not just flowers and foliage but with interesting facts too. I change themes yearly to keep things fresh and have so far covered 'Come Fly With Me', 'Wood U Believe It', 'Colour Me Beautiful', 'When Art Met Flowers' and 'A Floral Smorgasbord'. I also have two festive themes; 'My Scandinavian Yule' and 'Winter Wonderland'.

Please tell us about a demonstration that went really well and why

In February 2019, I flew to Estepona Flower Club and whilst I was very excited to be hitting the international scene, I had been worrying about the demonstration for a good few weeks. I like to feel in control and picking your containers from photos in an email is not the easiest... and being told that flower buying will be a bit hit and miss in the one and only flower kiosk is a bit scary too! But it was an absolutely brilliant few days with this friendly club and prepping on a sunny patio wasn't bad either... and I am so looking forward to going back to them all in May 2023.



feel composed for a test. But hey, my knee was OK and I did pass!

What do you enjoy about demonstrating?

Mixing with likeminded floral folk is the best feeling in the world and when people come up at the end and say they've had such a brilliant time, the glow that this leaves lasts for a very long time indeed and certainly makes up for all the hard work involved in being an area demonstrator.

And in the tradition of 'it's all right on the night', something that didn't go as planned

The one session that most certainly didn't go as planned was the one for my actual test. Having prepared my flower boxes, I put them next to my car in the driveway. I then went to get two dried Allium seed heads and on returning promptly tripped on one of my boxes. With three knee operations behind me, I tried to save myself from doing too much damage but this resulted in my falling on top of my Allium seed heads! These had been sprayed blue to go with one of the designs and yes, you've guessed it, I had no more... No choice but to leave the flattened bits behind... I damaged my coccyx in the mele and was battered and bruised on both arms and elbows so it was not ideal to try and



NAFAS Demonstrators' Symposium

21 - 24 April 2022

Led by three skilful and enthusiastic National Demonstrators (Carola Kean, Pam Lewis and Nigel Whyles), **Day One** saw us learning new, and refreshing familiar, techniques ranging from willow-weaving and grass plaiting to repurposing empty tin cans by covering them with wool, material and even shells. This linked seamlessly to demonstrations on **Day Two** by three talented



National Demonstrators (Carola Kean, Lucy Ellis and Vanessa Wellock) sharing their ideas for re-using everyday household items including how to make woven containers from strips of material torn from old clothing and hand tied posy frames made from hay and wire to creating display structures from wooden pallets.

Later, eager with anticipation, we awaited a demonstration by National Demonstrator Angela Turner. Entitled 'The Sound of Colour', Angela did not disappoint as she delighted us with her interpretations. Starting with flowers and foliage in shades of blue and green, we were gently led



through a peaceful woodland scene. This was in dramatic contrast to the final placement where Angela chose bright yellow and orange flowers to create a joyous party mood. Also open to paying non-delegate NAFAS Members, the room was packed and the demonstration ended with a well-deserved standing ovation.



All these elements made the Symposium informative and enjoyable. But, just as valuable were the informal chats with other delegates during the breaks. Here we chatted about the pros and cons of alternatives to standard floral foam including floral fibre blocks and guppies, and how we all forget to remind club treasurers that our flower allowance also needs to cover the cost of mechanics. Inevitably, the increase in the cost of flowers and petrol came up, which we recognised was challenging for demonstrators and clubs alike. We also spoke about all the hard work that goes into each



(L to R: Nigel Whyles; Beryl Cotton; Pam Lewis; Jacqui Arnold; Elizabeth Graham; James Burnside)

demonstration: often more than a day's worth of preparations by the time foliage and flowers have been gathered/collected and conditioned before being packed into boxes as well as the loading up of the car and not to mention the unloading once back home, often late at night. Given all of that, we all admitted that we sometimes wondered why we continued to do it. Then, we agreed that, all it takes, to make us feel that it's all worthwhile, is for just one person, at the end of the demo, to



say how much they have enjoyed it and feel re-inspired by all the new ideas they've picked up.

Coincidentally, those were the very sentiments that I fed back to the organisers at the end of this Demonstrators' Symposium.

Michelle King
Area Demonstrator



ELIZABETH REGINA II

What a wonderful woman she has been -
Elizabeth, our majestic Queen.

For seventy years our country she's lead,
Walking the path most fear to tread,
An inspiration to one and all,
Head held high, standing so tall.

The pride of the nation, emotions felt true,
Flying the flag of red, white and blue.
70 years on the countries throne,
Reigning so quietly all on her own

Let's sing Rule Britannia and ride with the
waves,
She's the pride of the nation in so many ways,
And as she grows older, her body in pain,
Let us all pray together she continues to reign.

This COUNTRY stands proud, not willing to fall,
We take pride in the fact she's the QUEEN OF
IT ALL.

Poem by Phyllis Stevens
Chairman
Horam and Heathfield Flower Club

And finally

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

Wishing you a very happy Jubilee bank holiday,
God Save the Queen.

Duncan

