

## Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

# Area News

## RHS Chelsea Flower Show

**Congratulations to Stephen McDonnell** who was awarded Silver-Gilt Award for his Tablescape - *Think Before We Eat*.

“ My design was to highlight the threat to the Rainforest. Our consumption of palm oil, meat,

soya and even the wood for our dining table is fuelling the clearance of the Rainforest. The design will show some of the beauty and diversity of this precious part of our planet.”

Stephen was interviewed by Arit Anderson who said “ This is stunning ... Stephen tell me how you have managed to keep this staying up?”

Stephen: “Well it’s a lot of mechanics, as you know we are not allowed to use floral foam anymore. So it’s got a metal structure, it even has yoghurt pots, soup cartons, everything that will give you the shape to hold the flower in water.”

Arit was impressed “Well the illusion has worked, it’s brilliant”, she went on to ask where the inspiration came from. Stephen said “ I was in Costa Rica, we decided to go to a rainforest, it was just mind blowing. We just came back and just felt that we had seen something special. Arit asked “What is the key message you want people to go away with?” Stephen said “Lots of people, to just see that this is a snippet of the rain forest. That it is a vast smorgasbord of plant material and animals. This is just to show that if you don’t act now, we will lose it.”

Congratulations Stephen



Newsletter of the Sussex Area of the  
National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies  
Charity No. 292377

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



## Noticeboard

Please send your articles and photographs to the Editor Duncan Ward  
email: [info@boxworthflowers.com](mailto:info@boxworthflowers.com)  
For the August issue by  
Wednesday 20 July 2022

## Area Events 2022

### Council:

**Monday 8 August** at Plumpton Village Hall  
10.30 for 11am

### *Sense of Place*

18 - 21 August at Lancing College Chapel

### Sussex Area Show: *Seasonal Sensations*

Friday 28 - Saturday 29 October  
Crowborough Community Centre

# It's quiz time!



Join in a fun afternoon and help raise funds for



**Monday 12 September 2022**

2pm at The Henfield Halls  
Coopers Way, Henfield BN5 9EQ

£5 per head to include afternoon tea

Maximum of four people per team

Multiple teams per club welcome

Open to Sussex Area members and guests

**Book by 31 August 2022**

Contact Sheila Cheal at [sheilacheal@aol.com](mailto:sheilacheal@aol.com)  
or phone 01903 773017

## National News

**Congratulations to Brenda Bull,**  
Sussex Area Treasurer for her Third Place  
award in the NAFAS National Virtual Show  
June 2022 'Chasing Rainbows' -  
Class 15 , *Summer Sorbet*, a Petite Exhibit.



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**

## SOLD OUT

There is now a waiting list for places

Members £10

Non-members £15

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

Please contact Barbara Email: [barb@batucker.go-plus.net](mailto:barb@batucker.go-plus.net)

## Area News

### Area Chairman

Fun, friendship, and flowers. That's what a lot of us like about the Sussex Area of NAFAS whether it's club night, committee meetings or preparing for a flower festival.

To be specific, I've been helping the *Sense of Place* team. They've been using a local barn for preparatory work but are moving down the road to Lancing Chapel for future prep. Sticking, painting, folding, wrapping, taping, lifting, making cuppas, drilling, cable-tying, fiddling with cocktail sticks. You name it, they're doing it and it's such a blast to be part of it.

If you'd like to join in and you're free on a Tuesday or Thursday in July, contact Linda Porrett, Lead Designer, for more information: [lporet@btinternet.com](mailto:lporet@btinternet.com) If you can't help, do make sure you come and see the festival from 18 to 21 August – it's going to be monumental and magnificent. Don't miss it.

July also sees the hard-working JDS&E putting on an extra workshop. This one is all about competing in readiness for *Seasonal Sensations*, the Area Show in Crowborough at the end of October. The schedule is out and available on our website. Christina Curtis is running a workshop: *Winning Ways with Competitions*. There is a waiting list already but if you can't get on, you can always contact our Competition Mentors who can answer queries, calm nerves and give advice about how to prepare for your entry.

If you're going to the Hampton Court Flower Show in the first week of July, do look out for the NAFAS stand (No HC508). There will be demonstrations on the hour from 11am until 4pm. I'll be there on Wednesday 6 July, so do pop by and say hello.

Enjoy your flowers




The *Sense of Place* Design Team of  
Ann Kennedy, Linda Porrett & Wendy Parsons

### Area Day at Peacehaven

The fascinating talk was by Sarah Lavery about *Smock Alley*, sparkling English wine from West Sussex -  
Southlands Valley Wines

Website [www.southlandsvallaywines.com](http://www.southlandsvallaywines.com)

Tel: 07927 521055

Email: [sarah@southlandsvallaywines.com](mailto:sarah@southlandsvallaywines.com)

### Beginners

A 6 week course for beginners was held at Henfield hall just recently and 18 ladies attended.

The course was led by Lyn Constable who introduced the ladies to the very first steps in flower arranging. They had basic designs to try and on the last week they were given a title 'celebrations' and were asked to make a flower arrangement in any style that they had learnt over the previous weeks. The ladies excelled themselves and created some wonderful arrangements to celebrate any number of different occasions.

The ladies are very keen and a follow-up course of 6 weeks is planned for September. There are a few places still available so come and join in the pleasure of flower arranging.

Barbara Hoy

## *Sense of Place*

The Preparation Days for *Sense of Place* at Applesham Farm will finish at the end of June, and future days will be held down at the Chapel in July, in readiness for this most contemporary flower festival. Some of us have learnt a great deal over the last few



months, and I must say “dragging” many of us from traditional flower arranging and enlightening us into modern contemporary design. We have been guided and shown how to interpret and feel the actual sense of the place we find ourselves in, thus evolving Linda Porrett’s vision. Therefore in several weeks time we shall all come together as one Sussex team and put on a display which will definitely be “a never to be missed event.”

This is a great opportunity not only to show the public our skills, but to encourage and publicise this artistic wonderful hobby of ours, advertising this very contemporary festival and making it appeal to all ages. So, why not get together and book 10 or more tickets to get the discounted price of £13 (*you don’t have to travel together, or*



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](http://lancingcollege.co.uk/events)





Friends of Lancing Chapel is a Registered Charity No. 241803  
Sussex Area of NAFAS is a Registered Charity No. 292277

*even go on the same day*), if you purchase from Sheila Cheal our Treasurer. Her email address is [sheilacheal@gmail.com](mailto:sheilacheal@gmail.com) and telephone number 01903 773017 mob 07900815969.

Besides the beautiful flowers, the catering at the College is renown, and the views from the top of the South Downs magnificent.

We really can’t wait to welcome you all.

Sue Seath

*Sense of Place* Chairman





## Sussex Area Show

**Saturday 29 October 2022**

**9.30am - 5.30pm**

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

**Staging:** Friday 28 October 11am to 4.30pm  
The schedule appeared in June 2022 issue of this newsletter. Schedules are available from the Show Secretary Frances Brandon  
Tel: 01892 663702

Email: [membersbox@outlook.com](mailto:membersbox@outlook.com)

**Closing date for entries :**

Thursday 1 September 2022

**For the schedule, entry forms inc photo competition** please speak to your club Chairman or go the Sussex NAFAS website [www.sussexareanafas.org.uk](http://www.sussexareanafas.org.uk)

Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

## Sussex Area of NAFAS Show

**Saturday 29 October 2022**

9.30am - 5.30pm

Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough TN6 1FE



Judges: Pat Dibben and  
Gill Smaggasgale

Presentation of Prizes  
1.45pm in the main hall

£2 to view the show only,  
payable on the door

You can also enjoy  
Selection of Trade Stands and Raffles  
Refreshments - Tea, Coffee, Cake and Light Lunches  
(Cash only please)

## Area Day

Speaker Tony Strange as Henry VIII 11am - 12.15pm  
Demonstration at 2.00pm  
National Demonstrator Dr Christina Curtis  
"ALCHEMY"  
Tickets £20 for the day please contact  
Carol Lathleiff at email: [sussexareashow2022@yahoo.com](mailto:sussexareashow2022@yahoo.com)  
Tel: 01903 817187

## Sussex Kidney Trust

We are going full steam ahead with the tombola for *Sense of Place* at Lancing College but we still need more prizes.

If you have any prizes to donate, please bring them to the next Council meeting on Monday 8 August at Plumpton Green Village Hall, or we can perhaps make arrangements to pick them up if you let me know. We also have another tombola planned for the Area competition, *Seasonal Sensations*, at Crowborough on Saturday 29 October 2022, so a lot of prizes are needed for both events.

The money raised is desperately needed to buy more equipment for the renal unit. We have recently bought chairs and stethoscopes, but more chairs are needed. Unfortunately we

haven't enough money in the kitty to buy any more at the moment. So please, please, please remember your very own Sussex Area charity if and when you are donating any money to charity. We have been thrilled to receive £1229 from clubs and other sources since our AGM and we do thank clubs and members for their generosity.

My cards are still proving very popular, selling well and raising over £200 so far this year with £300 waiting to be banked. If any clubs would like me to bring them to a club meeting, I'm more than happy to come along. All you have to do is give me a ring – I can even bring along my own table.

Jean Plaskett  
Chairman  
Sussex Kidney Trust

# Area Workshop

## Fun with Himmeli

On 5 May 2022, at Henfield Village Hall Sussex Area members gathered once again for another exciting JDS & E Workshop.

This time, the subject was 'Fun with Himmeli' tutored by Area Demonstrator and Teacher Helen Hare from Gillingham, Kent. Helen, who is also an experienced florist, was inspired to investigate Himmeli by our very own Duncan Ward, she revealed.



endless, and they can be incorporated into all sorts of floral art designs. Many of these forms can be found on YouTube, Pinterest and Tumblr.

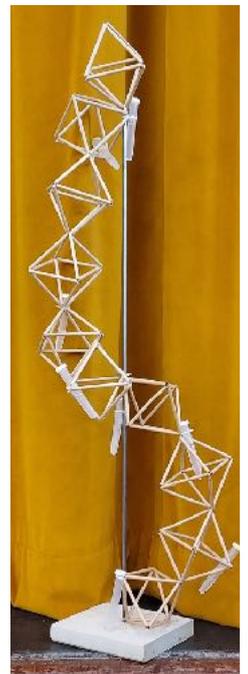
The basic shape is made from 12 pieces (symbolising 12 months of the year according to Wikipedia).



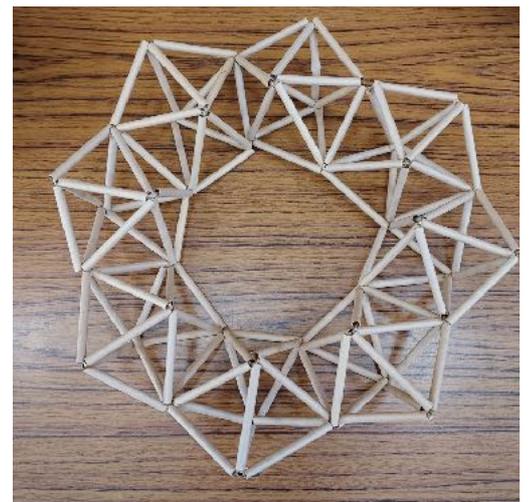
With the aid of some sketches, Helen showed attendees how to put cut drinking straw lengths together with paper covered wire to make this form and

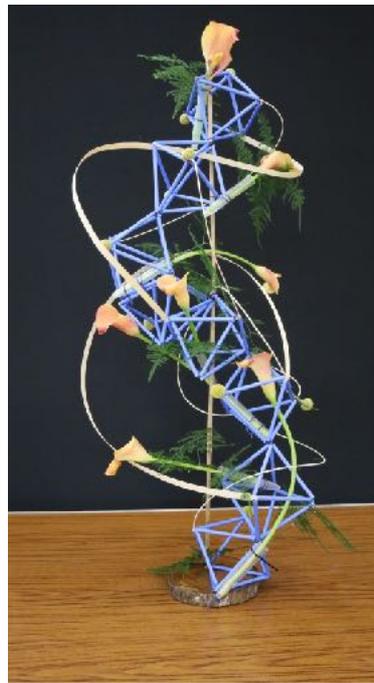


then proceeded to show how the technique could be amended to make other different and more complicated shapes including a wreath. Himmeli look attractive hung individually or in groups.



Helen demonstrated how a length of repeating Himmeli could be applied to a vertical metal stand to produce an attractive contemporary mechanic for use in floral art. Members enjoyed the challenge of creating designs incorporating





Himmeli. Helen was generous with her time and enthusiasm working closely with each workshop attendee to help them as needed.

Everyone went home with fascinating arrangements and were thoroughly inspired to use this technique in a future design.

Dr Christina D. Curtis  
Sussex Area Speakers Representative

I was asked, at the Helen Hare workshop if I could specially mention a very interesting plant that Helen used in one of her designs. It was:  
*Mathiasella bupleuroides*  
'Green Dream'.

This is a very sought after semi-evergreen perennial which flowers April to June. It is originally from Mexico. The genus is named after Mildred Mathias, a Californian plants person who found it in 1954.

Dr Christina D. Curtis



# CLUB News

## What have you been up to?

### Blue Sapphire

**Seaford Afternoon Flower Club** celebrated our **Blue Sapphire Anniversary (65 years)** in April.

We were actually formed two years before NAFAS, so no wonder we had something to celebrate! Members were encouraged to wear

something blue and we spent a very enjoyable afternoon listening to an interesting talk by Colin Whiteman on Seaford Head Flora and Fauna.

This was followed by tea and a slice of delicious celebration fruit cake.

Our President, Tina Bacon, is photographed cutting the cake.



We are proud to say that our current membership has now exceeded the number we had before the pandemic and we are always keen to welcome new visitors in the hope that they will join our friendly club.

Our members are very enthusiastic in entering our monthly competition. We regularly have



around 12 entries. The theme at our anniversary meeting was entitled "A Seascape" and photographed are 3 winning entries in their respective class. As you can see, the blue theme was continued, but we believe this was more by coincidence than design!

We're not that clever!

Sue Ward  
Seaford Afternoon Flower Club

## Ruby Anniversary

On Tuesday, 10 May, **Storrington Flower Club** Members arrived at Tottington Manor Hotel & Restaurant, Edburton, West Sussex, to

celebrate the Club's **40th Ruby Anniversary**.  
Aperitifs were served, and following a photoshoot, we settled down to a delicious luncheon.



Chrissy Desmond, the Chairman, welcomed Club members and was delighted that Dr. Christina Curtis was

able to join us as our honorary guest in celebration of our special Anniversary.

Chrissy recalled our founder member Chairman, June Banks, sadly no longer with us but her memory lives on in the form of the '*June Banks Trug*' which is presented to a club Member each year at our AGM to enjoy for the forthcoming year. It is in recognition for their contribution to the club albeit up-and-coming beginners in the competition class, visits to their gardens, or just their dedication to the club through their support. The Trug was filled with beautiful flowers in memory of June which sat alongside our celebratory Red Velvet cake.



The tables looked wonderful set with red Naomi roses and complementary flowers. Following lunch, we were served a piece of celebratory red velvet cake.

Unknown to members, Chrissy introduced Christina who did a mini Demonstration for us which was a surprise for everyone. Christina is a special friend of our Club; and for those who have seen Christina's demonstrations, she is famed for her signature orchids, her designs did not disappoint! They looked fabulous!

We all had a truly enjoyable afternoon, delicious lunch, and excellent company rounded off by a wonderful demonstration.

What more could we have asked for!

Chrissy Desmond,  
Chairman  
Storrington Flower Club



## Golden Celebration

Stunning, Spectacular, Sumptuous and Splendid are some of the adjectives used to describe the **Golden Celebration** held by **Wadhurst and District Flower Club** on Thursday 2 June!

The Club was founded in 1972 to inspire, educate and entertain through the joy of flower arranging and continues to provide a varied programme of workshops, inspiration and demonstrations throughout the year to a local and growing membership.

Stonegate Village Hall was the venue for a buffet lunch attended by 50 members and guests on June 2. This was followed by an entertaining and inspiring demonstration by Nick Grounds entitled "A Gentle Plea for Chaos". The designs created varied from contemporary minimalist to Constance Spry abundance, all accompanied by eloquent description and amusing anecdotes.

The afternoon concluded after the cake had been cut and the raffle drawn. The winners of which took home the glorious flowers they had seen arranged that afternoon.

A true celebration of 50 remarkable years.

Sonia Hobbs  
Secretary  
Wadhurst and District Flower Club



*Golden Celebration.  
Design by Debbie Farmer, cake by Carol Jenman*



*The President Joy Smith, Treasurer Carol Jenman and  
Chairman Debbie Farmer cutting the cake*



## Getting to know your area demonstrator..... Barbara Caldecourt



### *How long have you been a demonstrator?*

I completed my demonstrator training in Surrey Area in 2015

### *What made you become a demonstrator?*

Having been a member at my club Chobham, Surrey, for over 22 years, fellow committee members urged

me to undergo the training. I had been a Floristry and floral art teacher at Merrist Wood College near Guildford and in adult education for 19 years at the time and enjoyed the different approach demonstrating gave.

### *Where do you get your inspiration from for your demonstrations?*

My background, history, training and general love of flowers.



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

Only recently I demonstrated a new title to a large club in Surrey and was really relieved with the response from the very experienced members there.

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

Once forgetting a crucial part of a design but remembering on route and having to search for a store that sells root Ginger!

### *What do you enjoy about demonstrating?*

Meeting other like minded folk and seeing the expression on the face when a member is thrilled to take the design "they had their eye on" home at the end of the meeting.



## Platinum Celebration

As well as Her Majesty the Queen celebrating her **Platinum Jubilee** in June 2022, there was also another **Platinum**

**Jubilee**, happening near Lewes.



On Thursday 9 June, 2022 **Lewes Flower Club** celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at

Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge. We welcomed members to a lovely tea party and were joined by Christina Curtis, our Area Speakers Rep who spoke to us about the work of Dale Chihuly, a phenomenal glass artist. She also provided several floral arrangements depicting Dale's styles, which she kindly donated for the raffle. We also welcomed Gaenor Circus who is Vice Chairman of the Area.



Our longest serving member of 59 years, Mrs Mac Rea cut the cake with Chairman Sally Blake. Mrs Pat Elliott who has been a member for 58 years was unable to attend the party, but she donated a specially designed mug for every member to take home along with a piece of our celebration cake.

A short history of the club was given by the Chairman and our glasses were lifted in tribute to both Her Majesty the Queen and to the club. A lovely time was had



by all and the afternoon closed with a special raffle which was well supported by our members.

Sally Blake  
Chairman  
Lewes Flower Club

## And finally ....

Thank you to all contributors of articles and photographs. Once again I have received so many articles and photos - thank you!

To do justice to them, they are held over for future editions. I am sorry if this disappoints I want to assure you they will be included. It reflects that we are now all getting busy and back to normal, which is great !

Please keep sending in your designs, photos and articles.

Enjoy the summer!

*Duncan*