

Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

Area News



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

from '*For the Fallen*' by Laurence Binyon



See page 9

**Chichester
Flower Festival
2016**



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 December issue by Sunday
20 November 2022

CROWBOROUGH FLOWER CLUB THURSDAY 3rd NOVEMBER

DOORS OPEN 6.45PM

CROWBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE
PINE GROVE, CROWBOROUGH TN6 1FE
MEMBERS ENROLMENT EVENING

WITH
FLOWER DEMONSTRATION

"ROOTS"

WITH
ALISON GILLOTT

Refreshments & Flower Raffle

VISITORS WELCOME £6

MORE DETAILS

01892 654725 / force8gale@icloud.com

Lewes Flower Club

Presents:



'Orient Express'
With Stephen McDonnell

On Thursday 10th November 2022
At Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge BN7 3QG

12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m. start
Tickets: Members £3.00 Visitors £10.00
To include refreshments

Contact Sally Blake
01273 476598 email: sjblake@btinternet.com

Flower raffle



HENFIELD FLOWER CLUB PRESENT

Mark Entwistle's Floral Designs

All I Want For Christmas At The Henfield Hall

Tuesday 8th November 2.00pm for 2.15

TICKETS £12

Contact Angela Toft 01273 933623 for tickets or
email angelaamarytoft@yahoo.com

Refreshments Flower Raffle Stalls & Plants



Hailsham & District Flower Club Open Evening

Presents a Floral Art Demonstration

BY MR ROBIN WHITE

Designer of the year 2019
RHS Chelsea & Hampton Court team Gold Medal winner

'A White Christmas'

Wednesday 16th November 2022

Doors open 6.30 for 7.30pm

Civic Community Hall, Vicarage Lane
Hailsham BN27 2AX

Tickets £8 Members, £10 Guests & Visitors
Including a Goodie Bag
Raffle & Stalls

Tickets & further details
Contact Chris Campbell-Dykes
01323 842222



WEST CHILTINGTON FLORAL CLUB
CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

**FLORAL
 GORGEOUSNESS**

BY

MIG KIMPTON

AT

**WEST CHILTINGTON VILLAGE HALL
 (RH20 2PZ)**

WEDNESDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER 2022
 7.00 for 7.30pm

Festive Raffle

TICKETS £15 (To include Wine)

Tel: 01798 - 813712 / 839188 / 813608

**CROWBOROUGH FLOWER
 CLUB**

THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER

DOORS OPEN 6.45PM

**CROWBOROUGH COMMUNITY
 CENTRE**

**PINE GROVE, CROWBOROUGH
 TN6 1FE**

"SPRINKLED WITH STARS"

WITH

STEPHEN McDONNELL

**SALES TABLE / FLOWER & GENERAL
 RAFFLES**

REFRESHMENTS

TICKETS £12

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

01892 654725

force8gale@icloud.com

Ninfield Flower Group

invites you to

"Jingle all the Way"

with

Jacqui Arnold

Friday 2nd December

7.30pm

at

Ninfield Memorial Hall

TN33 9EE

Tickets: Members £10.00

Guests £12.00

(inc refreshments)

Tickets available from 1st September

Please contact Helen on 07966 659552



RINGMER FLOWER CLUB

You are invited to a demonstration at Ringmer Village Hall

Wednesday

7th December 2022

at 2:00 pm

"Tis the Season"

by Sue Thompson

Visitors welcome



National News

NAFAS AGM

The 63rd Annual General Meeting of The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies was on Wednesday 5 October 2022.

The AGM is available on YouTube and has been viewed 1,256 times, following the AGM there is a virtual demonstration titled '*Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness*' by Jacqui Arnold, National Demonstrator from Kent Floral Art.

The link for this meeting is
https://youtu.be/_j3Wn3fulfw

National Show 2023

The National Show Schedule is now available

Follow the link
<https://www.nafas.org.uk/nafas-national-show-florilegium-a-gathering-of-flowers-schedule/>

Area and Club entry forms must reach the Competitions Officer not before 20 January 2023 and not after 27 January 2023


Individual entry forms must reach the Competitions Officer not before 28 January 2023 and not after 4 February 2023

All staging of exhibits will be between 6.00 am and 12.00 noon on Thursday 11 May 2023



THE NAFAS
NATIONAL SHOW


Florilegium
A gathering of flowers




- Stunning floral designs in this glorious setting
- Competitive flower arranging classes
- Demonstrations and workshops with leading floral designers
- Food, drink and retail therapy

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL
12 & 13 MAY 2023

Tickets www.eventbrite.co.uk



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETIES www.nafas.org.uk



National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies
presents

**PENNO
& PRICE**

The Big Flower Night

*An evening of flowers,
fun and fantastic designs*

Friday 12 May 7.30pm




Gloucester Guildhall
23 Eastgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1NS Tel: 01452 503050 www.gloucesterguildhall.co.uk

Area News

Area Chairman

What can I say? Where have those three years gone?

This is my final Chairman's Piece for you as my term of office concludes on 21 November 2022 at our AGM at Plumpton Village Hall (all members are welcome to come along). *"What's she going to say this time?"* I hear you ask. *"Has she had a glass of wine and gone off on one?"* Well, this time it's a case of soberly reflecting on what we've all achieved recently in the Sussex Area as well as my heartfelt gratitude to you all for your support, enthusiasm and encouragement.

It's been a privilege and an honour to represent the Sussex members of NAFAS. At national level, I have defended your interests and promoted everything we do, if not through our own website and social media, then through *The Flower Arranger* or *Flora* magazine. Please check out the Sussex Area's Christmas photo shoot in the current edition of *The Flower Arranger*. Cascading info from HQ is important so that members know what's going on.

The Sussex Area arranged flowers at Westminster Abbey on four occasions during my term of office. In addition, I was honoured to be invited to arrange a pedestal for our late monarch's state funeral service.

Five of our members represented the National Association at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2021, achieving a gold medal. This show had such broad coverage in print, TV and online that I'm sure the appeal of our art form has been widened.

At Area level, we have achieved so much. Did we let lock-down (or should that be knock-down?) hold us back? A resounding no! We learnt how to Zoom. Who would have thought that in an Area which has approximately 25% of its members without the internet, we would have flourished? Well, flourish we did. With a



buddy system for those who weren't online, clubs ensured that everyone had access to information from HQ, the Area and at club level. Sussex Area Council allowed us to offer Area events to non members which gives us the opportunity to reach out to members of the public to advance awareness and education in the art of flower arranging, helping to fulfil our charitable remit.

We resurrected and produced the Area Newsletter, which during lockdown, was weekly. I re-read a few editions recently and they still make me smile – they're all on the website: <https://www.sussexareanafas.org.uk/resources/resources-cabin-fever-news/> If you've got the November Blues, take another look.

What a stroke of luck for us that the delightful Duncan Ward volunteered to take over as Editor of this newsletter. The plan was a monthly edition moving to a quarterly production as we returned to normal life (*Sssshhh – I think he's forgotten and has stuck to monthly!*). The newsletter goes from strength to strength, and if you haven't seen the recent phenomenal photobook of *Sense of Place*, you absolutely must check it out. Again, it's available on the website. I'm very grateful to Duncan for everything he's done for us.

I'm also grateful to the JDS&E committee in all their configurations. They too rose to the challenge and met virtually. Education



Christmas 2020

continued with the Level 2ers, beginners and follow-on classes, Area workshops, first aid and trainer training workshops.

I'd like to thank the Executive Committee as well who were outstanding in their attempts to keep calm and carry on. We organised Zoom Council meetings, a virtual Club Officer week, Club Chairmen's Forums, as well as virtual Area Days until we could meet again. We started our strategy meetings, which doubled our workload, discussing scenarios for various eventualities, their repercussions, risks and opportunities for the Sussex Area. Behind the scenes, we improved governance by introducing trustee induction packs and a comprehensive set of standing orders underpinning our constitution, which has also been reviewed during my term of office.

Last year we celebrated the Sussex Area's 60th anniversary with an outdoor flower festival **Flower Power** held at Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens. Two years in the planning by the hard-working committee, this show gave our members the opportunity to display their skills in floral art to thousands of members of the general public as well as the social benefit of meeting up with each other for the first time in eighteen months.

This year has seen the delayed **Sense of Place** at Lancing College Chapel. A fantastic, contemporary, flower festival which has received rave reviews. What a feat for Linda Porrett's design team and the committee. This



Flower Power 2021

is also giving the Sussex Area the opportunity to strengthen ties with the Chapel and arrange occasional pedestals.

Not content with that, we've also expanded an Area Day into our Area Show: a competition of seven classes, the charismatic Christina Curtis strutting her stuff, preceded by Henry VIII. Thank you for entering the competition and supporting the Area and thanks too go to the **Seasonal Sensations** committee.

It's amazing what we can achieve together – and yet, despite our other commitments, we're all volunteers. *Fun, flowers and friendship* – that's what it's all about. As I ride off into the sunset, I wish you all a bright, fulfilling, and happy future messing about with flowers

Love

Gilly

Xx



Cheers !

President's Weekend

You might recall that once during the Area President's term of office, we organise a President's Day. The same happens at national level, except it's a weekend not a day.

In September, we all congregated at the Leicester Marriott hotel ready to have fun at **Together Again**, masterminded by Michael Bowyer, the then National President. We all arrived during Friday afternoon – although the weather and traffic was so bad that it was verging on the evening by the time I made it.

Apparently, it's traditional for the Area Chairman of each area to host room parties. As the only member from the Sussex Area, I hadn't made any plans. However, our kindly neighbours from Kent adopted me and I holed up with them for pre-drinks. Luckily, I had brought a rather fine chianti with me so at least I wasn't empty-handed!

After paying tribute to our dear late Queen, with quotations and a minute's silence, Friday evening gave us a buffet dinner and an after-dinner speech by Katherine Kear, our National Chairman. It later transpired that we were the largest group the hotel had catered for since lockdown. The staff were friendly and coped admirably.

We had been given a choice of workshops for the Saturday morning. My first one was with Louisa Rigden, during which we made a placename for the evening meal. This consisted of an embroidery ring glued on to a small wooden slice. We then made squiggles out of Vilene, wire, tape, and wool. Some plant material finished off the design. Once clever lady made a seascape.



The second workshop was with our friend Lesley Sturdy, who came to the Sussex Area back in February. We made a brooch or corsage out of bullion wire and some beads.



After lunch, Lucy Richardson gave us an extensive demonstration, using no floral foam whatsoever.



A colourful display which certainly gave food for thought.

There were trade stands which included Gill McGregor's books. It was her lovely husband Ian who manned the stand as Gill was kitten-sitting! Now there's a tale!

That evening, there were more pre-drinks at Kent HQ, so much so that we nearly missed our aperitif with the other 150 NAFAS members. A delicious dinner was followed by a band. Any excuse for a bit of Dad-dancing, and there we were on the dance floor until chucking out time.

The theme of the weekend, **Together Again**, was so apt. It was a pleasure to meet up with friends of long standing as well as make new ones. People you know or know of who were there are Michael Bowyer, Katherine Kear and the other NAFAS Board members; Pam Lewis –

yes, she does still receive groups at her home in Wiltshire for a tour of her garden and refreshments; National Speaker Tony Cleaver; several Area Chairmen; Lesley Sturdy National Judge and Teacher whom I have already mentioned; National Associate of Honour Janet Sarchet from London & Overseas who recently organised the flower festival at Ingatestone Hall; Gill Smaggasgale, Chairman of Kent Floral Art who, I know, has demonstrated at many Sussex clubs and will be one of the judges at our Area Show **Seasonal Sensations**.



Sunday morning saw some of us feeling livelier than we deserved and, after a fine breakfast, off we toddled back home to spread the news of what a fun weekend we had enjoyed.

Jilly Griffin
Chairman

Sense of Place

OUT NOW

The *Sense of Place* Photo Book is now available to download at

www.sussexareanafas.org.uk/latest-news/sense-of-place-photo-book/

Relive the stunning festival !



The Flower Arranger

Back in February 2022 the newsletter featured an article that Jilly wrote about the magazine photo shoot for the Winter edition.

Sussex designers were invited to provide inspirational exhibits and/or make some step-by-steps. Chloe, editor of *The Flower Arranger* and Ollie, the photographer, took photos of the designs by Ann Kennedy, Gaenor Circus, Linda Porrett, Margaret McSheehy, Stephen McDonnell, Sue Flight and Wendy Parsons.

Pick up your copy now of *The Flower Arranger* to see the designs created on the day.



Chichester Flower Festival 2016

Members of **East Preston Floral Club** have helped at Chichester Cathedral Flower Festival for over 20 years, however in 2016 the overall title of the festival title was “*Artistic Palette*” and we were asked to interpret “**Remembrance**” in St. Georges Chapel which is the memorial chapel for the Royal Sussex Regiment.



colour representing the “*poppies*”, and their shape depicting the hearts of the lost heroic soldiers.

We covered the columns throughout the Chapel with split carpet tubes covered in gold sprayed leaves with individual anthuriums placed on them. At ground floor level we painted flower box lids black with wet floral foam underneath, then stood the red anthurium soldiers in rows as if on parade.

Three plaques were made in dried plant material and placed around the Chapel, one showing the Royal Sussex Regimental badge, another depicting the Royal British Legion and the last written in gold, the John McCrae poem “*In Flanders Fields*”, (our local church now has these for exhibiting in November on Remembrance Day).

The artists we were depicting were Tom Piper and Paul Cummins noted for their design of the poppies - “*Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red*” at the Tower of London.

As poppies are a short lived cut flower, and to achieve the best representation, we selected to use “*Tropical*” anthuriums - their scarlet



The main display was managed by manipulating a vast amount of chicken wire around one whole side of the Chapel, then fixing it to the decorative ironwork. It was then manually pushed around to form undulations around columns etc., in order to represent the formation of artists' design in the moat at the Tower.

An enormous amount of anthuriums were then all put individually into tubes of water and hung through the chicken wire thus giving the overall effect the waves of red poppies imitating the design in London.

"Remembrance - We will remember them."

Sue Seath
East Preston Flower Club



Elsie's Design

I luffed and aaahed about sending you the photo (*left*) as I imagine you likely to have been overwhelmed with *Sense of Place* pictures.

However, the attached design assembled by Horsham Flower Club's ex-President Elsie Chaplin, I thought particularly attractive. The design was in the north aisle. Elsie asked for a photo knowing I was going to steward on the Thursday morning, though it was actually taken by Jacqui Clayton another Horsham member. We stewarded by the Sanctuary and had a fantastic view of the nave and got to meet many visitors. Taking the photo was a challenge as the light was terrible until the sun came out, but then, as you can see it was possible to see the design in a whole new light, including some interesting shadows.

Kindly visitors refrained from passing until Jacqui had finished taking her photos.

Nancy Hubbard
Horsham Flower Club

Autumn Workshop at Henfield

The Area workshop '**Looking to the Autumn**' started as they all do; traipsing to and from the car, meeting and greeting, finding your own table, admiring each other's flowers. And then the most welcome of treats; a sit down and coffee.

From the very start Michael Bowyer MBE captivated us with his lively, witty delivery, and outstanding seasonal designs. The attendees were placated immediately having felt that they had brought the wrong thing with his witty and calming reassurance. His steady supportive



Just when we thought we had finished, Michael ended the session with a brilliant finale. Autumnal swags people made during the day at odd moments using hydrangeas, crab-apples, nuts and miscellaneous autumnal goodies were arranged into different containers and the quality of their effect discussed. So many achievable extras were learnt that day and I've been wiring up ever since!



From the moment thirty ladies started banging nails into their pieces of wood, I knew the day was going to be a blast.



teaching and suggestions enabled everyone to achieve some brilliant work. Further illustrative feedback raised many designs to a higher level.



Returning my buckets to the car at the end of the day I breathed a huge sigh of relief. I had produced a contemporary design that I really liked (I am looking at it now) and had the most wonderful and stimulating day.

A huge thank you to Michael for a truly inspirational day. My sincere thanks also to Gaenor and the committee for all the extras they provided. Their warmth, welcome and encouragement was much appreciated.



THANK YOU.

Angela Toft
Henfield
Flower
Club

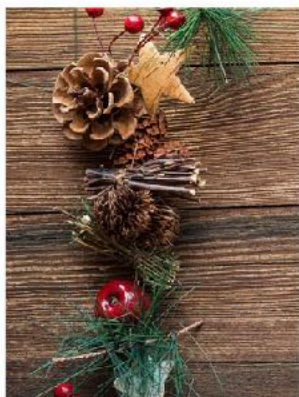
Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

Area Workshop

Thursday 10 November 2022

10.00am to 4pm

Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield BN5 9EQ



Dr Christina Curtis

National Judge

Creating for Christmas

Members £25
Non-members £30
Coffee and tea will be provided.
Bring your own lunch.

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

Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

JDS&E

Wreath Making Workshop

Tuesday 29 November 2022

SOLD OUT
Waiting List



All materials will be supplied which will include cones, baubles, ribbon, mossed ring, a variety of foliage such as spruce.

You won't need to get your hands dirty as we will be mossing the rings in advance for you!

Please register your interest for this festive workshop to Barbara, barb@batucker.go-plus.net

We look forward to welcoming you.

What's On

Area Council Meeting

Monday 21 November 2022

11.15am, at
Plumpton Village Hall

Followed by **AGM** at 1.30pm

Tunbridge Wells Flower Club Thursday 8 December at 2.20 p.m

Mig Kimpton with his demonstration
'Country Christmas'

Visitors welcome £7.00
Frant Memorial Hall, The Green, Frant,
Nr Tunbridge Wells, TN3 9DR
For further information contact
Janet Moxon - 07941 183887



And finally

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

Next month is December, so any festive articles, designs etc please send in.

Duncan