

## Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

# Area News



### God Save the King



*Jilly Griffin*

### The late Queen's Funeral Flowers



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)  
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*The lying in state wreath*



*The funeral wreath*

## Lying in state

The wreath upon our late Queen's coffin contained pine taken from the gardens of her beloved Balmoral estate in Scotland, Lavender from Windsor Castle, along with dahlias, white roses, rosemary for remembrance and pittosporum.

The Imperial State Crown was made in 1937 for the coronation of the Queen's father, King George VI. It weighs 2.3lbs (1.06kg).

The crown sparkles with nearly 3,000 stones - including 2,868 diamonds, 273 pearls, 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds, and five rubies. King Charles III's final words in his address to the nation were for his beloved mother, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

*"May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest"*

## The Funeral

At His Majesty The King's request, the wreath contained flowers and foliage cut from the gardens of Buckingham Palace, Clarence House and Highgrove House.

This included foliage chosen for its symbolism.



Rosemary, for remembrance; Myrtle, the ancient symbol of a happy marriage, and cut from a plant that was grown from a sprig in Her Late Majesty's wedding bouquet in 1947. English oak, which symbolises the strength of love.

Also included were:

Scented Pelargoniums, garden roses, autumnal hydrangeas, sedum, dahlias, and scabious, all in shades of gold, pink and deep burgundy, with touches of white, to reflect the Royal Standard on which it sat.

Again at His Majesty's request, the wreath was made in a totally sustainable way, in a nest of English moss and oak branches, and without the use of floral foam.

In amongst the flowers was a hand-written card which read: *"In loving and devoted memory, Charles R."*

## Floral Tribute

The Poet Laureate Simon Armitage has written a moving tribute '*Floral Tribute*' to the late Queen for her decades of service.

The 18-line poem takes the form of a double acrostic, meaning the first letter of each line in both stanzas spells the name Elizabeth.

## Floral Tribute by Simon Armitage

Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,  
 Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearly in September mist.  
 I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,  
 Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.  
**A** promise made and kept for life - that was your gift -  
**B**ecause of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,  
**E**ach shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.  
**T**he country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,  
**H**ands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.

Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.  
 Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower  
 Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained  
**Z**eal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence  
**A** silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day  
**B**reaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and  
**E**verything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,  
**T**his lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness  
**H**olds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.



Marilyn Marsh &  
 Jean Schofield

## Lily of the Valley



Lily of the Valley was the late Queen's favourite flower and was included in her coronation bouquet in 1953. The woodland plant is grown in the grounds at Buckingham Palace.

Her childhood nickname was Lilibet and *Floral Tribute* refers to lily of the valley as '*a namesake almost*'. The late Queen chose Lily of the Valley when the Royal Family shared their favourite blooms in 2020, after the pandemic forced the Chelsea Flower Show online.

Lily of the Valley has had '*special associations*' for the monarch since her coronation, and the sweet-scented flower also featured in Catherine, Princess of Wales's wedding bouquet.

Lily of the Valley symbolises trustworthiness.



## Rest in Peace, Your Majesty

Wasn't it a shock to learn of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's demise? Despite her increasing frailty and her age, I blocked that out, preferring to assume she would be there, just as she has always been there.

I couldn't sleep that Thursday night so, rather than toss and turn, I got up early to wander over to Buckingham Palace. I'm not sure why, I just needed to, well I'm not sure what I needed to do: pay my respects, go to a place that was so central to her world, or just reflect on her extraordinary duty, service, faith, and willingness to serve.



It's always a wonderful surprise to get a call from the Westminster Abbey Coordinators because I know our talented Sussex flower arrangers will get the chance to arrange flowers in such an exalted place. I was half-expecting this call, however, as Pearl Mason and Sandra Fleming, Little Common Village Flower Club, were due to arrange flowers on 16 September for the RAF Battle of Britain Service the following week, and I suspected that it might be cancelled given the circumstances.

Yet, one should never assume. Marilyn Marsh, one of the Westminster Abbey co-ordinators, was asking me if I would arrange a pedestal for The Queen's funeral service. It didn't sink in. What a privilege! What an honour! What did I reply? *"Let me check my diary."* As if any sane individual would claim a prior engagement! Once the phone call had ended, I have to confess that I was rather emotional and so proud to represent the Sussex Area once again.

Michael Bowyer, NAFAS National President and Katherine Kear, NAFAS National Chairman

arranged the pedestals either side of the High Altar. Given the size of the Abbey, these arrangements tend to be of mammoth scale. Gill Smaggasgale, Chairman of Kent Floral Art, and I arranged the pedestals by the Quire. These are all-round arrangements but still need a triangular shape. I think these are the most difficult to arrange.



Gill Smaggasgale

The flowers chosen were white Asiatic Lilies, with some Alstroemeria and Eustoma. Foliage provided consisted of Phormium, Fatsia, Aspidistra elatior, laurel, Danae racemosa (soft ruscus). In addition, Gill Smaggasgale, knowing that I don't have access to garden plant material, kindly brought Quercus (English oak), Betula pendula (weeping birch), Pittosporum, Japanese Acer (OK this isn't indigenous but at least it was grown in her lovely Kentish garden). Michael Bowyer supplied some variegated Pittosporum and Katherine Kear shared some Myrtle. You might recall that since the mid 1800s, Myrtle has featured in all the royal wedding bouquets. It was telling that oak and myrtle went into the beautiful pink wreath atop The Queen's coffin.

We were staging on Friday, 16 September. There was a little concern about the lilies. I'm sure you can understand the angst. Would they come out? Would they still be in tight buds 3 days hence? What about the stamen? Can you imagine the look



The flowers on Friday



on the faces of the Abbey's conservation people if there were ginger stains on their historic and ancient floor? In the event, some came out fully yet others retained that greenish tinge which blended with the foliage.

During our staging, we heard the choir practising. Hearing this choir singing live, with the acoustics of the Abbey, was a spine-tingling moment – so very different from hearing them on TV. The Choir Master was so calm and respectful when speaking to the young boys. A free master class!

The Sussex Area has a proud history of contributing to National Events. Our very own Barbara Harris arranged flowers for the funeral service of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother back in 2002.

It was so humbling to take part



*Barbara Harris*

in this global event. NAFAS gives its members so many opportunities.

Jilly Griffin  
Sussex Area Chairman



*Gill Smaggasgale*



*Michael Bowyer*



*Katherine Kear*



## National News

### NAFAS change of address

The office move from Osborne House is now complete. The new address is:

**1st Floor, 42-44 Bishopsgate,  
London EC2N 4AH.**

The telephone number remains the same, as do email addresses

(first name of employee@nafas.org.uk)

### NAFAS AGM

Notice is hereby given of the 63rd Annual General Meeting of The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies which is to be held virtually **on Wednesday 5 October 2022 at 10.30am**

Due to the nature of this being a Virtual Annual General Meeting, there will only be time for a few questions and our apologies that we cannot accept questions during the meeting.

Immediately following the AGM there will be a virtual demonstration titled '*Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness*' by Jacqui Arnold, National Demonstrator from Kent Floral Art.


Further information and a link for this meeting will be posted on the NAFAS website:  
[www.nafas.org.uk](http://www.nafas.org.uk)

Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

**Area Workshop**

**SOLD OUT**

*Waiting list*



**Looking to the  
Autumn**

**Michael  
Bowyer MBE**

NAFAS National President  
National Judge, Demonstrator, Speaker and Teacher.  
Wessex & Jersey

Further details from Barbara Tucker  
Email: [barb@batucker.go-plus.net](mailto:barb@batucker.go-plus.net)

## Area News

### Area Chairman

I try to look forward to what's coming up in my Chairman's Piece but I have to confess I still feel stuck on 8

September and the period of mourning. The end of an era. What pomp and ceremony we have seen since. So well organised I could swear that the Sussex Area of NAFAS were involved!



I wish the new regime all the very best. On not quite the same scale, change will be afoot next month here in the Sussex Area, so this is my penultimate article. Who knew, when we resurrected the newsletter at the start of lockdown in March 2020, that it would go from strength to strength and is now so widely read.

We do though have one more very exciting event to look forward to in my term of office: **Seasonal Sensations**, our Area Day combining the first Area Show in four years at Crowborough Community Centre on Saturday, 29 October. What's not to love? Classes were filling up nicely last time I checked but the deadline to enter was 1 October (so if this newsletter is sent out early, there might just be time to reserve a space if there's any room). Even if you're too late to enter, do go along as there will be some beautiful designs to look at, and a lot to learn from reading the comment cards from the judges. If you ever spot an "interesting", you know the judge has been flabbergasted and doesn't know what to say! I did get one once, as well as "unbalanced", "dominant base" (been trying to get rid of that for decades), and "top heavy" (that too!).

In addition to some creative and imaginative designs, you will get the chance to see Henry VIII in all his splendour (what a codpiece!), and of course our lovely Christina Curtis and her *Alchemy*. I'm not sure what she'll be cooking up for us but, if I were a betting man, I would gamble on something sparkly and maybe an

orchid or three. But then she might have taken her title seriously and transformed herself into something completely different.

Don't forget to bring some cash with you as there will be raffles, refreshments, and trade stands. Friends and family are welcome. I look forward to seeing you there for a great day out.

Best wishes

*Gilly*



*Moyna Burrows RIP*

## Moyna Burrows RIP

It is with great sadness that we learnt that Moyna Burrows had passed away on 24 August following a short illness after a diagnosis of cancer. Our deepest sympathy goes to her husband Wally, her children and grandchildren. Her funeral is to take place on 6 October at 12 noon at the Worthing Crematorium.

Moyna had many years of experience in flower arranging. She had been part of a team at Chelsea, created exhibits at Worth



Abbey, Chichester, and Nymans to name but a few. She was a long term member of the Sussex Kidney Trust team acting as treasurer and lately retired as their President. She was a member of Lancing and Worthing Flower Clubs and knew a great deal about competition work. Always ready to help with advice she gave her time freely.

She will be greatly missed by the members of Lancing Flower Club where we had only recently celebrated her 40 year membership. She had been Chairman, vice chairman and secretary over that period and was instrumental in setting up and running our very valuable practice class. The members of the class respected her expertise and flourished under the sensitivity she showed when helping with arrangements that were not quite as they should be! As a result our competitions and show were very well supported and we regularly had

about 10 exhibits in our competitions. Moyna's last visit to the club was for our 60+1 anniversary meeting where the committee demonstrators dressed up

following Moyna's past experience where she and others would dress up and demonstrate as pantomime performers.



What wonderful memories we have of a truly kind, valued and supportive member.

Annette Quelch, Vice Chair  
Lancing Flower Club



# Sense of Place

How happy am I to send in this report of the *Sense of Place* festival that I first designed such a long time ago now and finally came to fruition in August. Ann, Wendy and myself are delighted with the responses we have had from so many of you who helped us arrange or came to visit the festival. I do hope you were able to attend this beautiful chapel to see the wonderful results of our and our members hard work for yourselves and if not, I have included some pictures for you to enjoy. I know Duncan has many more up his sleeve, and the area website will be posted with some too.

Along with my two amazing co-designers, we really appreciated the help of our marvellous arrangers, all of whom stepped up to the mark with this different and contemporary way of producing a festival. I know that despite all this work, our established and newer arrangers gained so much experience and enjoyed decorating this exceptional building. At first sight Lancing Chapel and the College can appear very foreboding, but once inside many of you found this to be such a friendly and welcoming chapel, and this did so much to contribute to the atmosphere of the festival.



I'm sure I was not the only one to make many new friends as we came together during our preparation and set up days. Most of our larger teams consisted of arrangers from more than one club and everyone who came to the prep days worked so well together, not only on their allocated areas, but they also contributed to other designs as well, which meant that they were able to make friends with other Sussex



members. I do hope these friendships will continue long after the summer and when we get together again for future events. After all that has gone on in the world over the past few years the festival has done so much to bring together our members from all over Sussex and whether they were arrangers or visitors the positivity and enjoyment was overwhelmingly apparent.

Of course we could not have done all this without our wonderful husbands, families and team of willing helpers, including Andrew the Verger, who provided other much needed skills and strengths to support us. Lifting and carrying, driving, drilling and cutting and sheer brute force were much in evidence with no complaints and we are so grateful for this additional help.



The design team seem to have spent the summer 'in the dungeons' and missed the gorgeous weather, but our lovely Chris Wolfe from South East Flowers, with Mig Kimpton assisting, did an amazing job of bringing all the flowers over to us during that exceptional heatwave. With well over 8500 stems ordered there were, in comparison, very few casualties, so our congratulations to her are heartfelt: it must have been a real worry.

On a bright note, and considering the vastly increasing costs for everything this year, I am so pleased that we came within our allotted budget. I hope that we have achieved our aims of teaching new skills to our arrangers, encouraged our beginners and let our experienced arrangers help tell the story of *Sense of Place*. Above all Ann, Wendy and myself are pleased to know that all their hard work has paid off and they have enjoyed playing with flowers and being part of this fantastic festival.

Linda Porrett

*Sense of Place* Festival Designer



## CLUB News

### *What have you been up to?*

## Flowers go Pop

**Ninfield Flower Group** has been celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Festival entitled 'Flowers go Pop'. With arrangements based on popular songs varying from 'Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside', 'Singing in the Rain', through to 'Let's twist again', 'Mamma Mia' and on to rather more recent songs 'Happy' and 'Wired for Sound'. A wide range of titles for a group of many talents and experience.



*'Always look on the bright side of life'*

For the last few festivals, visitors have been invited to vote for their favourite

arrangement in 'The People's Choice'. Part of a 'cunning plan', the Group have found it encourages visitors to take a closer look at the details of all the arrangements before making their final choice. Votes have now been counted and this year's winner was 'Fields of Gold' arranged by Pearl Mason and Sandra Fleming. Second equal was 'Pretty Flamingo' by Helen Bridger and 'Oh, I do like to be beside the Seaside' arranged by Hazel and Stuart Wood. Ninfield has always believed in giving money to local charities with close links to its members.

Money is raised through jumble sales before festivals to enable most of the income to



*'Fields of Gold'*



*'Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside'*

charity. This year was no different and £1,000 is being donated to each of the three chosen charities: Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance, Care for the Carers and Target Ovarian Cancer.



*'Mamma Mia'*



*'Pretty Flamingo'*



*'Candle in the Wind'*

The Group was grateful for the expertise offered by Chris Wolfe and her team at South East Flowers. Chris has provided beautiful flowers for many of NFG's festivals.

Helen Cunliffe,  
Chairman  
Ninfield Flower Group

## Diamond Jubilee

**Burwash and District Flower Arrangement Club** finally celebrated our Diamond Jubilee Anniversary on July 14 2022 (*only a year late*) and what an evening we had. A beautiful green and white floral display created by Maureen Jenner and Di Workman welcomed about 70



members and guests into the village hall. Each guest was given a favour, a fairy for the Christmas tree, by which to remember the evening.

We started with 'supper-in-a-box' including celebration cake made by Marion Tibbs,



accompanied by suitable liquid refreshments. This was enjoyed by all (a bonus being that we could take home in the box any food we hadn't eaten!). Once we had eaten and had a good

catch up on village news, we had a wonderful demonstration by Michael Bowyer entitled '*Summer Delight*' and we were delighted.

We could see why Michael is National President of NAFAS by his level of skill and relaxed presentation. The final reward was the raffle of all the flowers Michael had used in his demonstration, enhanced, by the extra 'cloned' arrangements he had made earlier – I lost count but there were about 12 floral prizes. Many of the audience staggered home under their prize displays. (*The staggering was not due to the liquid refreshments but the mass of flowers!*) There were compensations for 6 others who won prizes in the general raffle.

To complete the evening the welcoming flower display was moved to St Bartholomew's church so our love of flowers can be shared further.

Claudette Neville  
Burwash and District Flower Arrangement Club

### 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



## Noticeboard

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



### HENFIELD FLOWER CLUB PRESENT

### Mark Entwistle's Floral Designs

### *All I Want For Christmas*

### At The Henfield Hall

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2.00pm for 2.15

**TICKETS £12**

Contact Angela Toft 01273 933623 for tickets or  
email [anglamarytoft@yahoo.com](mailto:anglamarytoft@yahoo.com)

**Refreshments Flower Raffle Stalls & Plants**



### Lewes Flower Club

**Presents:**



### 'Orient Express' With Stephen McDonnell

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> 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: [sjbblake@btinternet.com](mailto:sjbblake@btinternet.com)

**Flower raffle**



### 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



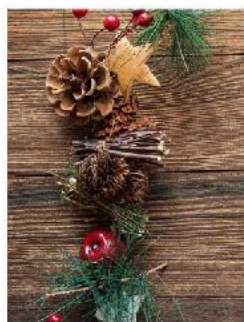
Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

### 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](mailto:barb@batucker.go-plus.net)

**WEST CHILTINGTON FLORAL CLUB**  
CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

**FLORAL  
GORGEOUSNESS**

BY

**MIG KIMPTON**

AT

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

**WEDNESDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

7.00 for 7.30pm

Festive Raffle

TICKETS £15 (To include Wine)

Tel: 01798 - 813712 / 839188 / 813608

**CROWBOROUGH FLOWER  
CLUB**

**THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

7.30pm

at

**Ninfield Memorial Hall**

TN33 9EE

Tickets: Members £10.00

Guests £12.00

(inc refreshments)

Tickets available from 1<sup>st</sup> September

Please contact Helen on 07966 659552

**What's On**

**Chairmen's Forum** – Monday 17 October  
2022, Haywards Heath Town Hall

**Seasonal Sensations and Area Day** -  
Saturday 29 October 2022, Crowborough

**Area Council Meeting** -  
Monday 21 November 2022 11.15am, at  
Plumpton Village Hall  
Followed by **AGM** at 1.30pm

**And finally ....**

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

God save the King!

*Duncan*