

Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

Area News



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](https://twitter.com/sussexareanafas)
instagram:
[@sussexareanafas](https://www.instagram.com/sussexareanafas)



Westminster Abbey Flowers

"It was such an honour and a privilege to represent Sussex Area and Little Common Village Flower Club."

Pearl Mason & Sandra Fleming

See page 7 for the full story

Fun, Friendship and Flowers



Noticeboard



RINGMER FLOWER CLUB

You are invited to a talk at Ringmer Village Hall:

Wednesday
1st February 2023
at 2:00 pm
"Foam Free Ideas"
by Duncan Ward

Visitors welcome £8.00, including refreshments
 Ringmer Village Hall, Lewes Road, Ringmer BN8 5QH





Steyning and District Flower Club
Welcomes

Chelsea RHS Flower Show
 Gold Medalist

Stephen McDonnell
 demonstrating his floral designs
 entitled

'Just in the Moment'

Wednesday
22nd February 2023
The Steyning Centre
Steyning BN44 3XZ
7pm for 7.30pm

Visitors Welcome
 Tickets on the door
 £6

Greetings

CROWBOROUGH FLOWER CLUB

THURSDAY 2nd FEBRUARY

DOORS OPEN 6.45PM

CROWBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

PINE GROVE, CROWBOROUGH TN6 1FE

WITH

FLOWER DEMONSTRATION

"THROUGH THE AGES"

WITH

GAENOR CIRCUS

Refreshments & Flower Raffle

VISITORS WELCOME £6

MORE DETAILS

01892 654725 / force8gale@icloud.com

HORAM & HEATHFIELD FLOWER CLUB

PRESENT AN EVENING WITH

GRAHAM KING

A FLORAL DEMONSTRATION

"How Bizarre"

Thursday 9th March 2023

7.00 for 7.30pm

HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Sheepsetting Lane TN21 0XG

Refreshments-Sales Tables-Raffles

Members competition "Take 3 Flowers"

Visitors welcome- £5

For more information: Tel 01435 863224

National News

National Show 2023

Florilegium

A Gathering Of Flowers

Gloucester Cathedral

Friday 12 May 2023

10am – 7pm

Saturday 13 May 2023

10am – 6pm



Join us for fantastic and innovative competition entries. There will be Demonstrations, Talks and Teaching How - To Sessions plus a mixture of Trading Stands and the company of NAFAS members from far and wide.

Tickets are available via Eventbrite
www.eventbrite.co.uk
 Single Day £28
 Two-Day Pass £45
 Groups of 10+ £22.50 per person

Thursday 11 May 2023 'The Reveal'

An evening of viewing exhibits and prize winner presentations at 7.30pm to 9.30pm
 Tickets are available via Eventbrite
www.eventbrite.co.uk at £12 per person.

Friday 12 May 2023 Demonstration titled
'Penno & Price – The Big Flower Night'
 This demonstration will take place in the Gloucester Guildhall, Eastgate Street GL1 1NS at 7.30pm.
 Tickets are £20 each and available via Gloucester Guildhall 01452 503050
 or www.gloucesterguildhall.co.uk/live-events?category=EVENT

Coach Trips

For anyone organising a coach trip, please contact Peter Mathers email: peter@nafas.org.uk who will be coordinating arrival times.

Please contact Gloucester Tourist Information on 01452 396572 for details on visiting the city.
www.visitgloucester.co.uk/visitor-info

Area News

Beth Hardcastle RIP

Beth Hardcastle died peacefully on 7 January 2023, aged 93. Beth was a former member of Wadhurst Flower Club, a National demonstrator, a past President of Sussex Area, past President of the Sussex Kidney Trust, and a recipient of the Sussex Award of Merit. Although she had not been able to attend Area events for some years, she always sent her apologies and a message of support for the Area. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad time.

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Mary's Church, Ticehurst on Wednesday 1 February at 11am. No flowers please, but donations can be made to the Hospice in the Weald if desired.

She will be sadly missed.

Joan Thornton RIP

Joan Thornton, past Area Secretary, Chairman and holder of the Sussex Area Award of Merit, has passed away at the age of 90.

Joan was a lifetime supporter of NAFAS and the Sussex Area, exhibiting in many of the earlier flower festivals and attending Council regularly until just a few years ago. She was also a keen supporter of the Sussex Kidney Trust.

She will be sadly missed.

Area News



Area Chairman

As I write this, it feels as if we have been through '40 days and 40 nights' of rain and wind adding to the prevailing feeling of doom and gloom. But, today, the sun is shining so it's the right time to be positive and look forward.

In supporting our clubs, I believe communication is vital and I have been 'phoning all Club Chairmen to chat through key issues and see what help the Area team can provide.

I have very much enjoyed speaking with everyone and have gained a great deal of information about our clubs and the challenges we face. But this is only the start as we work to build on the relationship of clubs to the Area – ever mindful that all of us on the team are here to do all we can to strengthen our clubs and to see that we take action or offer support where it

is needed and also act as an effective mouthpiece for all our members in our contacts with NAFAS HQ.

Sue, our new Media Officer, and I are keen to help clubs who would like to promote themselves through advertising, set up Facebook pages etc. and we already have a date to meet up with Chrissy and her committee at Storrington Flower Club which we look forward to.



Barbara and the JDS&E committee have been busy up-dating the discipline list to make things easier for our Programme Secretaries, and the final listings will be with you soon.

Carol is beavering away printing tickets for our first Area Day of the year on Monday 6 March and sales are going very well. Thank you for your support. I know you won't be disappointed. The medley of demonstrators performing will be preparing for a Royal visit at Downtrodden Abbey which promises to be a fun morning of entertainment. Andrew (Bernardi) will be playing his Stradivarius in the afternoon, but will be with us in the morning as he is interested in what we do – he will be in for a surprise!

Finally, many congratulations to West Bognor Flower Club who are celebrating their 55th anniversary this month. I look forward to joining in the celebrations.

Best wishes,

An important date for your diary!

Join us for the



Annual General Meeting

followed by afternoon tea

Wednesday 12 April 2023

2pm at Henfield Hall

Coopers Way, Henfield BN5 9EQ

Club Anniversaries

Congratulations to

West Bognor 55 years in February

New Year, New Area Executive and New Area Media Administrator.....

I'd like to take advantage of the excellent newsletter and introduce myself as the new Area Media Administrator.

I know quite a few of you through various workshops,

Flower Power at Leonardslee and **Sense of Place** and I hope to get to know many more of you over the coming months.



I have been a member of Horsham Flower Club since 2017 and I'm currently their treasurer. I did the Area Beginners course and then enjoyed doing the NAFAS Level 2 course in 2020-2021, even though it was full of challenges presented by the pandemic and various lockdowns. I haven't stood still since!

Back in the autumn I agreed to do a 'little' job for the Area team and thus I find myself as Area Media Administrator. I wasn't entirely sure what the job entailed at the time but I'm usually up for a challenge so was happy to find out.

First fact: it probably isn't a 'small' job

Second fact: it involves social media, my knowledge of which could be written on a postage stamp

Third fact: it is good to learn new things and meet new people, both of which I enjoy

So, what does the role involve?

The main job of the Area Media Administrator is to lead the Area Media Team and promote the Sussex Area of NAFAS to both members and the wider public. We do this by meeting members and the public, staging displays at area events, maintaining our website, producing a regular newsletter, and posting regularly on social media.

We are very fortunate to have two experienced media team members already.

Duncan Ward is the newsletter editor and has been doing an excellent job of producing a monthly edition full of news, photographs and interesting articles representing the activities taking place across the Sussex area and beyond.



Christine Purkess is the website administrator and has been working with our external PR company for several years. She makes sure that information is uploaded and kept up to date. She has a wealth of knowledge of Sussex Area and NAFAS and a great eye for detail.



I look after the social media promotion of our area with regular posts on the Sussex Area Instagram account, which feeds to our Facebook account.



The three of us are working closely together and are here to support you and your clubs across Sussex with promotional activities to increase your visibility and hopefully draw in new members. We can do this by posting photographs of special events, demonstrations and workshops on the website, on social media and on posters. We can upload details of your programme for the year onto the website and advertise them through social media or help you with designing posters for local use. We can provide promotional materials for area and local events that you may be attending.

Please get in touch

(susan.oliver19@hotmail.com) and send us your photographs from your club demonstrations, workshops etc. so that we can let Sussex know what a vibrant area we are.

Do follow us on Instagram and Facebook and your feedback would be most welcome!



Sue Oliver
Area Media Administrator

Club Newswhat you been up to?

Thank You Patricia

Patricia Greening, Co-Chairman of the **West Chiltington Floral Club**, decided to resign from her position after 15 years so that she can spend time following other pursuits and seeing more of her family. We are delighted though that she is going to stay on as a Committee Member of the Club.



At the recent Annual General Meeting and Social Evening she was presented with a beautiful Cymbidium Orchid Plant as a thank you for all her work, support and friendship; Patricia was absolutely thrilled.

Carol Nash
West Chiltington Floral Club

Golden Anniversary

On Tuesday 21 November **Pevensey and Westham Flower Club** opened their door to celebrate their 50th – **GOLDEN** – anniversary.



We were overwhelmed by the support from members, visitors and local Clubs – seeing a turn-out of over 90 people, filling our hall!

The fabulous Committee

helped host a superb Evening Tea, which was very well received – and a jewellery and glassware table added to the interest on the night.

Of course the main event did not disappoint! ... an amazingly entertaining demonstration by the very talented Mig Kimpton, whose design and selection of flowers gave us quite a display!



President - Jean Sheppard



The brief for '*something golden*' as his closing arrangement was taken very literally and was won by one of our very loyal and long-standing members – which seemed perfectly apt.

I have been so proud to lead the Club from just ahead of its 45th anniversary, when it was close to closure, through to this most latest milestone and remain dedicated to its continuation ... roll on 55 years!

Lisa Symmonds Chairlady
Pevensey & Westerham Flower Club

Our Day At Westminster Abbey

After the disappointment with the cancellation of the RAF Battle of Britain Service due to our beloved Queen's funeral we finally received the call to arrange on Friday 23 December for the special Carol Service being held that evening.

Earlier in the week time was spent cutting, washing and conditioning the filler foliage we were required to take and our thanks go to friend Jennifer Collett for giving us a free run of her garden.

On the morning of 23 December after a pretty restless night we got up at ridiculous o'clock ready to leave home at 6am. It was pitch dark with torrential rain all the way. Thankfully Sandra's husband offered to drive us there but any idea of us relaxing and maybe catching a bit of shuteye in the back was soon thwarted by the adrenalin running in our veins. We arrived in good time at 8.30am so enough time for a comfort stop and welcome cup of the coffee that we had brought with us.

At 9am after a trek around the Abbey Cloisters trying to find the right place, we met Liz and Marilyn, the Abbey CoOrdinators, who were already there waiting for us in St. Michael's Chapel. Heaven knows what time they arrived as all the flowers were already sorted into bundles for the 4 arrangements to be done. Apart from the very large foliage, there were 80 very tall flowers consisting of yellow & white chrysanthus, white lilies, large white & smaller

yellow roses, pale peach carnations plus filler flowers for each arrangement. All this to fit in a half jumbo block of foam!

We were kitted out with our NAFAS Aprons which left much to be desired. Clearly made for a 6ft person and



Sandra and I being 5'2" we had a lot of adjusting to do!

All the Abbey Staff were very pleasant and welcoming and we were assisted with transporting our flowers and buckets of foliage to the High Altar area, making sure we didn't step on the mosaics on the way. After sorting and spreading the flowers & foliage onto the tarpaulins provided to protect the floor, we began work on our arrangements. The nerves settled down once getting on with the task in hand and we finished in good time for the staff to change the Altar Cloths ready for the Carol Service. Thankfully they were very pleased with the results of our efforts and we subsequently received a very nice email from them.



The whole experience was very enjoyable, the Abbey was busy being Christmas and there was a very nice atmosphere along with the organist tuning up; so long as you didn't look round too often to see the hundreds of pairs of eyes and flashing cameras on you from the visiting public then it wasn't too nerve wracking.

We would like to thank Jilly and Gaenor for giving us the opportunity of a lifetime to arrange at Westminster Abbey, it was such an honour and a privilege to represent Sussex Area and Little Common Village Flower Club.

Pearl Mason & Sandra Fleming
Little Common Village Flower Club

Area Events 2023

Council:

Monday 27 February - at The Shoreham Centre,
2 Pond Road, Shoreham by Sea BN43 5WU
10.30am for 11.00am start

Area Day:

Monday 6 March - at the Windmill Theatre,
Windmill Road, Littlehampton BN17 5LH
10.15am for 11.00am start

Workshop:

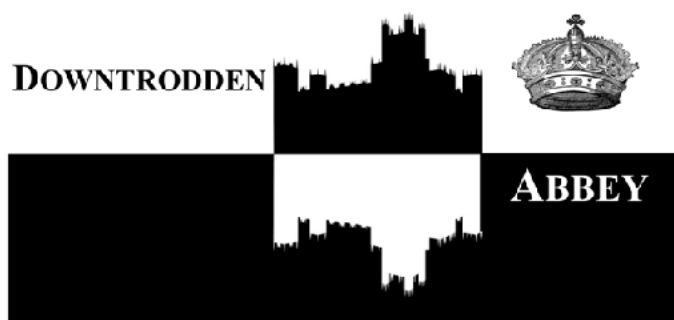
Thursday 2 March - 'All tied up'
with Barbara Caldecourt
Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield BN5 9EQ
9.30am for 10.00am start

Club Chairman's Forum:

Monday 13 March - at The Shoreham Centre,
2 Pond Road, Shoreham by Sea BN43 5WU

Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

Come and join us for *a bit of a do* at



Where we shall be preparing for a Royal visit

Monday 6 March 2023

Doors open at 10.15am for 11.00am start

The Windmill Theatre, Windmill Rd, Littlehampton BN17 5LH

Ticket price: Members £20, Non-Members £22

Demonstration at 11am
Musical matinee performance at 2pm
Andrew Bernardi
and the many strings to his bow



Tickets available from Carol calathleiff@yahoo.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you

Snowdrops

Snowdrops (*Galanthus*) symbolise new beginnings, hope, rebirth and the ability to overcome challenges. The flower to beat the January blues. Flowering can be from late December to March/April depending on the weather and where you are in the UK. The first flowers of Spring.



Tricky to establish, they prefer a partly-shaded position in a moist, but well-drained soil with leafmould or garden compost incorporated. If you have planted them "*in the green*", they should flower in their second year. Established snowdrops will subdivide and the new bulbs will not be big enough to flower for a few years.

The flower has a long association with the celebration of Candlemas and was often used to decorate churches, an alternative name was given to them - *Candlemas Bells*. Candlemas is celebrated on 2 February (forty days after Christmas) and marks the return of light, a symbol of protection and prosperity. This Christian festival commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple of Jerusalem, referring to him as the light of the people of Israel.

Snowdrops were used to treat headaches and as a painkiller, although the bulbs are poisonous. In modern medicine, a compound in the bulb has been used to develop a dementia treatment. A new snowdrop, *Galanthus plicatus* 'Golden Tears', sold for a record-busting £1,850 at auction last year. Is there no limit to the prices galanthophiles (snowdrop lovers) will pay for these diminutive flower bulbs?

Desert Island Discs

Our castaway in this issue is
Sussex Area President **Sue Seath**



When I was asked to select six "discs" - pieces of music, I certainly thought it would be easy, but as I like many varieties of music it is more difficult than I imagined.

Music and song evokes all sorts of emotions such as love, happiness, sorrow, sadness and special occasions or events in one's life, and they are all important. However, as I have such an eclectic taste, and many types of music (over the long period of my life - from Frank Sinatra to operas) it became difficult to make choices.



However, my **First Choice** is for "*Au fond du Temple Saint*" or generally known as "*The Pearl Fishers Duet*" - such a powerful duet by Bizet, which has been sung by many tenors over the years, but my preference is an older version by Jussi Bjorling and Robert Merrill.

My **Second Choice** is "*Bring Him Home*", from "*Les Miserables*" sung by another wonderful tenor Alfie Boe and it brings back memories of exciting visits to musical theatre.

By comparison my **Third choice** is "*Fields of Gold*" by Eva Cassidy - she had such a beautiful voice, and with the wonderful melody and words it will keep the memory of her alive.



The next selection **Fourth Choice** is totally different - "*I will Survive*" by Gloria Gaynor (occasionally heard being massacred in my shower) - this song would certainly be an essential song to have on a desert island.

Then going on to my **Fifth Choice** it is from the musical "*Cats*" and the song is "*Memory*" by Elaine Page - thought provoking and simply beautiful.

My final **Sixth Choice** is "*Nessun Dorma*" by Giacomo Puccini from the opera *Turandot*, and I really like the version by "The Platin Tenors", just so powerful and beautiful.

I must now pick a **luxury item**, and on a desert island I feel the *largest pot of moisturising cream* would feel the most luxurious, (*that is vanity for you!!!*), and together with the **book** I can take - which would be "*Pride and Prejudice*" by Jane Austin - one that I have read many times and can always find something more interesting as I read.

I shall now settle down and wait for rescue.

Thank you for having me on Desert Island Disc as it has made me realise and relisten to my favourite choices.

Sue Seath
President Sussex Area of NAFAS

Spotlights (Available)

Due to our moving halls, our 2 spotlights (with tall tripods) are no longer required. If any club or organisation could make use of them, we would love them to go to a new home. A donation to the Sussex Kidney Trust would secure your purchase.

Enquiries to Sally Blake Chairman of Lewes Flower Club. 01273 476598 or sjp.blake@btinternet.com

Fancy a Short Break?

Little Common & Ninfield Flower clubs

still have a few places remaining on their short break to the NAFAS National Show at Gloucester Cathedral.

Organised through "Simply Groups", with whom we have enjoyed several successful holidays, our coach leaves Bexhill on Tuesday 9 May (*times to be confirmed*) & a further pick-up en route can be arranged. We will be visiting Bowood House (*guided tour included*) and garden on our outward journey.

Our hotel is the 4* Holiday Inn Gloucester-Cheltenham, breakfast & dinner included.

Over the next 2 days we will visit Highgrove gardens, Tetbury, Chipping Camden, Hidcote Manor Gardens, and Broadway "The Jewell of the Cotswolds".

Day 4 we visit Gloucester and the NAFAS National Show in the Cathedral. On our homeward journey on Saturday 13 May we will visit Lydiard House and Park including a tour of the state rooms before arriving back in Sussex.

So, no driving - everything arranged for you. Just enjoy!

For more information please contact our organiser from Ninfield Flower Group, Stuart Wood. Telephone Bexhill: 01424 218711

'A Bit of This and That'

At the Sussex Area Show **Seasonal Sensations** in October last year, Class 2 - the Imposed Class - caught both competitors and visitors attention.

Many visitors were intrigued as to what was involved, and by the different interpretations competitors created using the given items. Rhona Green from East Grinstead Flower Club shared her experience of entering this class in the December 2022 issue, here we take a closer look at the imposed class and what it's all about.

In accordance with **NAFAS Competitions Manual Third Edition 2015**, states an imposed class as:

- A class in which all components are provided by the organisers of the Show
- Only tools nominated in the schedule may be bought into that staging area
- Exhibitors may use all or some of the components unless otherwise stated in the schedule
- It is not permitted to add any further components
- All exhibitors must commence work at a time specified
- Judges should be given a list of the components

The **show schedule** stated for this imposed class:

- 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.

The plant material provided:

- 10 large mauve carnations
- 5 Milva roses
- 3 stems of Phormiums
- 10 stems of Snake Grass

All the competitors worked hard on their designs in the given time.



The provided items



First Prize - Barbara Hoy



Second Prize
Jennifer Collett



Third Prize
Barbara Caldecourt



Very Highly Commended
Carole Down



Highly Commended
Theresa Fennings



Ela Cashman



Amanda Pinder



Anne Marie Newbury



Rhona Green

Well done to all who participated in this class, some bold and eye catching designs.

Have you done an imposed class? Why not try it at a club night and let us know how you get on.

The Colour Is Red

The brilliant red between orange and purple on the colour wheel.



Red is a vibrant colour which is full of energy, it causes many people to react - it attracts attention. It is a code for danger, a visual alarm signal. It is the colour of warmth, love, passion, but also of revolution and of course spilt blood. We can all think of the '*red rag to a bull*' rubbing people up the wrong way, red heightens the beat of the heart. It is the colour used most on national flags, the Canadian maple leaf flag, the Union Jack, the French tricolour. In Asia red is the colour of good luck and happiness.

There are many red variations:

Scarlet - a brilliant red which inclines to orange

Vermillion - a bright scarlet

Crimson - a strong bright red tinged with purple

Magenta - a brilliant crimson

Maroon - a brownish crimson

The Pantone colour of 2023 is *Viva Magenta*, thus a variation of red.

There are many names for red from the fashionable names that last a season to the ones that never change. Think of the decorators chart for some of the names given - signal red, flame red, post box red, tomato, berry, monarch etc.

The rose, many peoples favourite flower, comes in many shades and hues of red - from the delicate baby pink to the royal maroons. It's a colour that can cover all ages. It is the colour of jewels - the ruby a precious stone and used to celebrate 40th wedding anniversaries, it's the colour of a good wine - Malbec, Shiraz, Bordeaux etc

Red has a strong character which is favoured by many flower arrangers in designs for romance - Valentines, Christmas and beyond, whether in traditional or contemporary displays. It is eye catching and bold!



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

For the March issue by
Monday 20 February 2023



And finally

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

Please send in your Easter designs and articles.

Duncan