

Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

Area News



Newsletter of the
Sussex Area of the
National Association
of Flower
Arrangement
Societies
Charity No. 292377
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Sixty years a member

Pictured: Sally Blake - Lewes Flower Club Chairman, Mac Rae and Gaenor Circus - Area Chairman, celebrating Mac's 60th year of being a member of Lewes Flower Club.

See page 8 for the full story



**Fun,
Friendship
and Flowers**

Noticeboard

CROWBOROUGH FLOWER CLUB

THURSDAY 2ND MARCH

DOORS OPEN 6.45

CROWBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE
PINE GROVE, CROWBOROUGH TN6 1FE

WITH
FLOWER DEMONSTRATION
"TUTTI FRUITTI"

WITH
MICHELLE KING

VISITORS WELCOME £6
REFRESHMENTS AND FLOWER RAFFLE

MORE DETAILS
01892 654725 / force8gale@icloud.com



Plumpton Flower Club



We are pleased to welcome the
outstanding, witty demonstrator

Stephen McDonnell

Renowned 'Chelsea Gold' winner
and many other prestigious awards

Wednesday, 15th March
start time 7.30pm
Plumpton Village Hall

Entrance fee
Members £3.00, visitors £10.00
Refreshments and Raffle
Please bring your friends to this
special evening!!!!

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

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

Steyping and
District Flower Club
Welcomes
Lucia Dean-Taylor
demonstrating her
floral designs entitled
**"March Winds
on Flowers Drift"**
Wednesday
22nd March 2023
The Steyping Centre
Steyping BN44 3XZ
7pm for 7.30 pm
Visitors Welcome
Tickets on the door
£6

Greetings ISLAND

National News

In Memoriam

Diana Kinch: National Associate of Honour passed away on 29 January 2023 at the age of 98.

Caryl Fidler: National Associate of Honour from East of England Area died on Thursday 2 February 2023.

Elizabeth Bacon: National Associate of Honour from Mercia & North Wales Area recently died.

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 2023 (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 May 13 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

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

29 Eastgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1NS Tel: 01452 593450 www.gloucesterguildhall.co.uk

Area News



Area Chairman

I recently came across a very powerful and uplifting line from Victor Hugo, the author of **Les Misérables**, 'The darkest night will pass and the sun will rise'. And around us we can see that after a dark, grim winter the days are getting longer, we are seeing more of the sun and there are those unmistakable early signs that spring is coming.

Meanwhile, I am enjoying visiting clubs to congratulate them on significant anniversaries. A very warm welcome awaited Lesley and me at the **Emerald Anniversary** tea at West Bognor— an event which included a super demonstration by Graham King which added the icing on the cake for such a joyful occasion.

Many congratulations to Willingdon Flower Club who are celebrating their **60th anniversary** this month.

Our individual members have themselves been celebrating major anniversaries too. It was a

pleasure to demonstrate at Lewes Flower Club where Mac was celebrating **60 years** as a club member, and I am delighted that Mac is featured further on in this newsletter.

But it is not all tea and cake. Sue and I have recently met up with Chrissy and her committee at Storrington Flower Club to discuss ideas of promoting the club in the months and years ahead. And that is something I want to do for all our clubs as we deal with any challenges we may face.

Meanwhile, the Dowager Duchess and a host of other well-known characters look forward to welcoming you to 'Downtrodden Abbey', a demonstration followed by a musical matinee performance by violinist Andrew Bernardi and his pianist Maria Marchant.

This will be our first Area Day of 2023 which is taking place at The Windmill Theatre in Littlehampton on Monday 6 March. We have just a few tickets available, so please contact Carol calathleiff@yahoo.co.uk

We are looking forward to you joining us for a fun filled day.

Gaenor
x

Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

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



DOWNTRODDEN ABBEY

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



In Memoriam

Mollie Williams: Sadly passed away on 14 January 2023. Mollie served on the Storrington FC committee as Programme Secretary and Vice-Chairman.

Trixy Robinson: Trixy was a past Chairman of Horsham Flower Club and a keen supporter of the Sussex Area regularly attending Council Meetings and Members Days and worked hard for her club and NAFAS.

Area Events this month

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 Chairmen's Forum:

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

Area Advance Notice

Monday 22 May 2023 - Council

Plumpton Village Hall, 1 Westgate,
Plumpton Green, East Sussex BN7 3BQ

Wednesday 7 June 2023 – President's Day

The Shoreham Centre, 2 Pond Road,
Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5WU

11am – Speaker from the costume department
of Strictly Come Dancing entitled
"Behind the Seams."

2pm – Demonstration by Nick Grounds
'World of Stems and Stuff'

Monday 2 October 2023 - Area Day

Plumpton Village Hall, 1 Westgate,
Plumpton Green, East Sussex BN7 3BQ

11am – Speaker: Richard Griffin LVO –
former Royal Protection Officer of the late
Queen and Duke of Edinburgh

2pm – Demonstration: Annette Urquhart –
"The Sound of Rhubarb"

HORAM & HEATHFIELD FLOWER CLUB

INVITE YOU TO AN OPEN EVENING WITH

MIG KIMPTON

for a

A FLORAL ART DEMONSTRATION

"INTO THE WOODS"

THURSDAY 13TH APRIL 2023

Doors open 6.45pm FOR 7.30pm

HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Sheepsetting Lane TN21 0XG

plus-sales table, refreshments & raffle

Tickets available from Mrs Jenny FosterSmith

fsjenny@btinternet.com

Visitors £12.50 Members £8

For more information : 01435 863224

Charity Summer Afternoon Tea Party

On Friday 14th July open from 2.30pm for 3.00pm
In the garden at Conifers, Croft Road Crowborough
All proceeds to go to the

Sussex Kidney Trust

Tickets will be £10, and may be reserved in advance by
contacting Frances at broomhill@hotmail.com

They may be paid for at the door on the day
Ticket numbers will be limited so early reservation is
strongly recommended.

A well as the Afternoon Tea party there will be a table
of Jean's wonderful Cards, a Raffle, a Plant Stall and a
Flower arranging sales table!

In the event of bad weather the tea party will be postponed by one
week until Friday 21st July.

Future Area Workshops

Thursday 8 June - with Nick Grounds
'Twigs, Twists and Tenacity'

Thursday 14 September - tbc

Thursday 9 November - tbc

Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield BN5 9EQ

Sixty years ago..... 1963

1963 will be remembered for two key events -

- the assassination of the President of the United States of America, John F. Kennedy on Friday 22 November in Dealey Plaza, Dallas, Texas



- The long-running BBC TV sci-fi series '*Doctor Who*' premieres.
- It was the year that Alec Douglas-Home succeeded Harold Macmillan as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.



What of the prices at this time:

- Average House Price £2,950
- New Ford Cortina £591
- A gallon of petrol cost 5 shillings (25p)
- The Yearly Inflation Rate 1.8%

Some of the people born this year :

- Graham Norton, talk show host
- Jane McDonald, singer
- Jason Connery, actor
- Jimmy Osmond, singer
- Helen Patricia Sharman, cosmonaut
- Sally Dyvenor, actress
- Rupert Graves, actor
- Tracey Emin, artist
- Mark Kermode, British film critic
- Todd Carty, actor
- Hugh Bonneville, actor
- George Michael, singer



- Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "*I Have a Dream*" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of at least 250,000, during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. At that point, the single largest protest in American history.

Other events are often overshadowed by these, for us in the United Kingdom we remember:

- The Big Freeze of January 1963, with temperatures reaching as low as -16C (3.2F) in places. The ice and snow finally started to thaw in early March.
- It was the year of The Beatles with "*She Loves You*" recorded as the biggest selling single of the year, and Christmas number one '*I Want To Hold Your Hand*'.



- The Great Train Robbery in Buckinghamshire of £2.3 million (£30 million today).
- The 20th Century Fox film '*Cleopatra*' with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.

What was in the NAFAS news?

In February the death of Sir Alexander Seton was sadly announced, after his short marriage to Lady Seton (Miss Julia Clements) they had married seven months earlier in July 1962.

In May, the Fifth Annual Exhibition '*Flowers and Costume*' was held at the Bath Assembly Rooms in Bath, opened by HRH Princess Marina.

In Sussex there were 26 clubs, under the Area Chairmanship of Mr E G Dixson from Eastbourne, the Secretary was Mr JP Compton from Winchelsea.

The [Brighton & Hove Floral Decoration Club](#) held an exhibition in the Brighton Pavilion. There were record numbers, including the Mayor and Mayoress, attending the [Bexhill Floral Group](#)'s annual exhibition in June entitled '*Carnival of Flowers*'. Amongst the displays were '*The Fortune Teller*', '*Fancy Dress Parade*', and '*The Merry go Round*'. [Felpham and West Sussex Flower Club](#) arranged flowers for the Gala Performance at Chichester Festival Theatre attended by HRH Princess Margaret and Lord Snowden.

Members of Sussex Flower Clubs from [Battle](#), [Brighton & Hove](#), [Seaford](#), [Hailsham](#) and St Andrews Altar Flower Guild decorated St Andrews church in Alfriston, '*The Cathedral of the Downs*', in July for the '*Festival of Flowers*'. In total there were 63 arrangements, of white & gold, and white & blue colour schemes.

In August, the Sussex Area Show took place in the Cumberland Hotel, Eastbourne, the Challenge Cup was being offered for an inter club competition '*Holiday Memories*', [Littlehampton and District Flower Club](#) staged the winning entry. [Worthing Flower Club](#) held an exhibition '*Flowers, Furniture and Fashion*'. The year ended sadly when the [Warninglid Flower Club](#) closed, after being very successful with demonstrations over the years from Miss Julia Clements, Mrs Cecil Pope, and two exhibitions opened by Constance Spry. The club was started by Mrs D Tuffin and Mrs Wigan.



Amsterdam Tulip Festival
starts on Thursday 23 March 2023
to Sunday 14 May 2023.

Tulips

There are many different types of tulip - single, double, peony, parrot, lily and frilly.

The older the flower, the higher it will be above the leaves. As a tulip matures it lengthens and changes shape, twisting and turning. They are phototropic, so put them where light is all round, otherwise they go towards the light. If using them in floral foam they will continue to grow.

In many colours and combinations - single, striped and bi-coloured. In a vase of water they will last 5 to 10 days, change the water every couple of days as they are thirsty.

Tulips were introduced into Europe in the sixteenth century. It's name comes from the Arabic '*dulband*', or turban. Tulips were commonly tucked into a turban in Persia.

The flower meaning is Fame.

The colours of the tulips matter too, they signify -

- White tulips - forgiveness and purity,
- Yellow tulips - happiness and cheerfulness,
- Red tulips - eternal love and passion,
- Pink tulips - caring, affection and good wishes
- Purple tulips - royalty and elegance

They are the Eleventh wedding anniversary flower.

Tulip petals are edible, and can replace onions in some recipes.

Tulips are easy to grow in the garden.



Club Newswhat you been up to?

60 Years with Lewes Flower Club

It is an amazing achievement for anyone to belong to a club for 60 years but **Mrs Mac Rea** has reached this milestone. Mac joined the club in 1963 when it had been running for 11 years. The club was very well attended with up to 90 members over the early years.



Following the celebration held at Lewes Flower Club's monthly meeting on Thursday 9 February, on behalf of the Sussex Area of NAFAS Gaenor Circus arranged for some flowers to be sent. Sally Blake, Chairman and Stella Stephens, Secretary of Lewes Flower Club delivered these to Mac Rea at home.

A great achievement, congratulations to Mac.

During her membership Mac took on several roles within the club and was active in fundraising. Until recently she regularly held coffee mornings in her cottage garden which she kept in an immaculate condition.

Mac remembers going on many coach holidays to different areas of the country visiting gardens and places of interest. These were well attended and enjoyed by all.

Flower arranging has been an important part of Mac's life and she has been a keen participant in the club competitions and taken part in several flower festivals. She now encourages her carers to do arrangements with her.



We celebrated at our February meeting by having a cake which Mac cut and Gaenor Circus, who was our demonstrator, presented her with an arrangement.

May she have many more years enjoying her flowers.

Sally Blake, Chairman
Lewes Flower Club

Tell us
about
what you
have
been
doing,

share with other members ideas
for club evenings.



Did your club do this?

Over twenty years ago a small advertisement was spotted in *The Flower Arranger* from **Floral Art Society of New Zealand** giving UK flower clubs the opportunity of twinning with New Zealand clubs.

East Preston Floral Club

applied, and on 29 August 2001 we were put in touch with **Kumeu District Floral Art Club** and needless to say, the twinning has flourished over the years.



We initially exchanged correspondence by "snailmail" and eventually by email, and have copies of letters, photos and reports over all those years. We have sent to them, *The Flower Arranger* plus photos of East Preston, Sussex Area and national events, and in turn received their Floral Focus, all their club and New Zealand news and festivals held there.

Over the years we have formed a friendly closeness and there have been occasions e.g. World shows etc where participants and members alike have been in contact, the last being in India.

Recently, the President of Kumeu flower club, Lois Gerrard, was visiting Europe and joined us

for a day where a few committee members wined and dined her and showed her around East Preston village, especially our meeting hall (which she was keen to see) and the surrounding area. This visit made our association even more personal. We are expecting another visitor from Kumeu in the summer and are assured any of our members visiting New Zealand will always be made most welcome.

The term "*Fun, friendship and flowers*" has certainly worked for our club - friends and ideas from across the other side of the world - did any of you do the same?

Sue Seath
East Preston Floral Club



Club Anniversaries

Congratulations to

Willingdon Flower Club,
60 years in March

Littlehampton & District Flower Club,
65 years in May

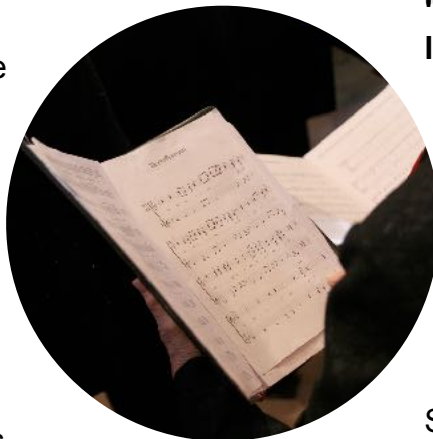
Desert Island Discs

Our castaway in this issue is **Barbara Caldecourt** - Chairman of JDS&E and Vice Chair of Sussex Area.



I am starting with first choice - **Georg Friedrich Handel 1741 - Messiah**, complete, but if I am only allowed part, it would have to be the Hallelujah chorus. I sang this with my church choir and with other choirs, I vividly remember learning and practicing it, but most importantly the wonderful feeling you experience when singing it with many other voices.

Second choice - Still in the religious vein I have chosen **The 23rd Psalm, The Lord is my Shepherd**, with music by **Franz Schubert 1820**. As a choir girl we would sing three or four different musical arrangements but the one I liked the best was Franz Schubert's. I was lucky to have my fellow choristers sing it at my wedding many moons ago.



Third choice - Keeping in the classical vein next is **"Concierto de Aranjuez" (full) Joaquin Rodrigo 1939** more commonly known as

Rodrigo's guitar concerto. It was a beautiful classical Spanish piece to choreograph a dance to as an interlude in a Girl Guide Gang Show in 1976!

Fourth choice - Now a bit more light hearted is **"Walking on Sunshine", Katrina and The Waves 1983** uplifting and fun, reminds me of precious moments when my children were really small.

Fifth choice - Back to a more reflective and poignant song, **"These are the days of our lives" by Queen 1991**. I love all the Hits from Queen, they were all such great musicians and had such diversity in their pop music, losing Freddie Mercury so tragically young is summed up in this song which was the penultimate one he sang.

Sixth choice and final choice is **"Leave Right Now," Will Young 2003**. I just get lost in the melody and the orchestral arrangement.

Others I wanted too were "Elton John's Greatest Hits", and Madness album "Absolutely" 1980 too. Back in the day, ironing to Madness got it done a hell of a lot quicker and I do still hate ironing!

For my book I have chosen a big heavy one, **"Botanica The illustrated A - Z of over 190000 Garden plants"** published 1991. It's just an amazing book of floral from all over the world, who knows, I may be able to identify some on my desert island.

Lastly for my luxury - A **cashmere cardigan** for when it is cold at night and when I get back home.



Mothering Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Lent, or three weeks before Easter. This year **Mothering Sunday** falls on Sunday 19 March 2023.

Traditionally a day off from the fasting of the Penitential season of Lent, '*Refreshment Sunday*' or '*Rose Sunday*', visiting the church where one was baptised and honouring one's



mother. Priests can wear rose coloured vestments instead of the purple vestments worn throughout the rest of Lent.

This is a day when we rush out and buy tokens of our appreciation and love for our mothers. Millions of pounds are spent every year on gifts to give mother on this special day, with bouquets of flowers being the most popular present by far.

It is worth remembering that the custom of holding a flower festival to honour motherhood dates back to the ancient Greeks, they held a three day festival to honour Cybele, the Mother of their gods. Pope Innocent III in 1216 introduced a special flower day known as *Laetare* or *Golden Rose Sunday* during Lent. An emblem of gold, the Golden Rose would be carried by Popes.



Traditions began, after attending church the whole family would share a special dinner. Gifts of flowers, mostly roses, were given to mothers as presents.

Today, Mothers Day is now a well established and popular festival in many countries. An occasion where children show their affection for their mothers with gifts of carefully chosen flowers.

Many spring flowers have suitable meanings - so the saying goes '*say it with flowers*'

Pansies '*you are always in my thoughts*'

Irises indicates '*a message*'

Daffodils signify '*regard*'

Bluebells denote '*constancy*'

Ranunculus '*you radiate charm*'

But you need to be careful with Hyacinths, depending on their colour - blue and white are safe as they proclaim '*constancy and loveliness*', where as purple signifies '*sorrow*'. The primrose tells of '*sadness*', the anemone implies '*sickness*', and the narcissus should only be given to the '*self centred*'.

In America, Mothers Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May, since 1908, as a result of Anna Jarvis following on her mother's work, to have an official day recognising mothers and motherhood.



A lovely foam free design from Christine Campbell-Dykes, Chairman of Hailsham & District Flower Club, used on the head table at the AGM in February.

Top Tips With Chicken Wire

As we use other mechanics other than floral foam here are some tips for using chicken wire :

- Use wire that has holes at least one inch across
- Carefully scrunch the wire into a round or oblong depending on the shape of your container
- Have at least three/ four layers of wire within the shape
- Ensure all cut ends are bent over into the shape, so that there are no sharp ends
- Make sure the chicken wire is secured with transparent tape to the container

If using a favourite vase or container consider lining with cardboard, paper or plastic (reuse) to prevent damage to the container.

Once you have finished using the container, remove and wash your wire and the vase/container. You don't want rust marks in your favourite vase/ container.

Have you used chicken wire?

send us in your thoughts and a picture of your design.

Do you have any top tips if so please send them in.

Using alternatives?

With the desire to move away from floral foam, what alternatives have you used? What is your experience? Have you used either

Fibre floral v Agra wool

Let us have your opinion of them?

Send us your comments or views and pictures of your designs.

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

For the April issue by Monday 20 March 2023

And finally

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

April edition will celebrate Easter. 🐣

Duncan