

ISSUE 33
JUNE 2023

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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Congratulations!

To all winners and
entrants of the National
Show. See page 3



THE **NAFAS**
NATIONAL SHOW



Registered Charity No: 1101348

Florilegium

A gathering of flowers



Noticeboard



RINGMER FLOWER CLUB

You are invited to a demonstration at Ringmer Village Hall:

**Wednesday
7th June 2023
at 2:00 pm**


'Fabulous Flowers'
by **Lucinda Knapman**

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




Horsham Flower Club
invites you to a floral demonstration

'A DROP OF SUNSHINE'
by
GILL HOMER



at
North Heath Hall, St Marks Lane, Horsham, RH12 5PU
on
Tuesday 13th JUNE 2023
at 2pm
(Doors open at 1.30pm)

Visitors welcome - entry £8, tea/coffee and cake available.

For further details, please contact Nancy Hubbard,
nancy@hubbard3.plus.com or tel. 01403 264482.

Horsham Flower Club is affiliated to the Sussex Area of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies



**Plumpton
Flower Club**

We are pleased to welcome
Gill Homer
doing a
demonstration entitled
'In the Summertime'

**Wednesday, 21st June
start time 7.30pm
Plumpton Village Hall**

**Entrance fee
Members £3.00, visitors £8.00
Refreshments and Raffle
Please bring your friends to this
special evening!**



**Storrington
Flower Club**
welcomes
LINDA BRAYNE
Demonstrating her floral designs,
entitled:
'Shades of Colour'

Wednesday 28th June 2023
Sullington Parish Hall, Thakeham Road,
Storrington RH20 3PP
**** Doors open 2pm for 2.30pm ****

Contact: Chrissy Desmond,
01903 742102 for details

Visitors very welcome: £6 at the door.
Tea and biscuits following the demonstration.
There is a raffle for the chance to
win one of the demonstration arrangements
and our sales table, plant sales
and 2nd hand book sales are
also available.



National News



Congratulations to the winners and all entrants of the National Show, here are the Sussex results.

Class 1 **On the Shoulders of Giants** Area Class **Commended** - Stephen McDonnell-Daly, Sussex

Class 3 **Candles and Canticles** Individual class **Highly Commended** - Sue Flight, Sussex Area

Class 6A **Block and Stone** individual class **Third** - Linda Porrett, New Visions

Class 6B **Block and Stone** individual class **Very Highly Commended** Stephen McDonnell-Daly, Peacehaven & Telscombe

Class 7 **Richly Woven** individual class **First** - Linda Porrett, New Visions
Commended Angela Merryfield, East Grinstead

Class 8 **Rhapsody in Blue** individual class **Second** - Margaret Hayes, New Visions

Class 11A **Quietude** individual craft class **Third** - Barbara Hoy, Lindfield

Best use of Colour Class 1

On the Shoulders of Giants Area Class
Stephen McDonnell-Daly, Sussex



Sue Flight
Class 3 - Highly Commended



Stephen McDonnell-Daly
Class 1 - Commended & Best use of Colour



Sue Flight
Class 6B - Block & Stone



Margaret Hayes
Class 8 - Second



Brenda Bull
Class 3 - Candles & Canticles



Angela Merryfield
Class 7 - Commended



Barbara Hoy
Class 11A - Third

The National Show 2023

As I write this report, you may have already heard that several of our Sussex Area competitors have been 'on tour' competing in the National Show at Gloucester Cathedral.

We were lucky that we had fairly good weather on our journey there and escaped the occasional showers and hailstones before unloading at the cathedral. All was in place for our early start at 6am the following day. We all arrived early and competitors were eager to get started on their designs. We were advised there would only be ambient light and it was quite dark in some areas of the cathedral, which really did create some challenges with the staging of the designs, especially in the Petite class.

The "Reveal" was held in the evening and I'm delighted to say we did very well. Our Sussex team of eight members were Brenda Bull, Jilly Griffin, Maggie Hayes, Barbara Hoy, Sue Flight, Stephen McDonnell-Daly, Angela Merryfield and myself. I am pleased to report that we achieved a total of 8 awards, and one of the special awards for Best Use of Colour.

And, I must also say that all of the entries from Sussex Area team were superb and completed to a very high standard and I know they all put in a huge amount of work into their designs.



Linda Porrett
Class 7 - First



Linda Porrett
Class 6A - Third

You can imagine how delighted I was to gain a first prize for my design in the Petite Class, *Richly Woven*, as this result meant that I would be awarded a **Gold Ribbon**, my second one in six consecutive national shows. More about that award later.

I hope everyone who visited Gloucester enjoyed the show. The cathedral was beautiful and visitors appreciated the delightful displays, with the added bonus of admiring this very beautiful building, and, in particular, the magnificent architecture of the ceiling vaults. Harry Potter fans would have had much to appreciate, as the impressive corridors became the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in many of the films.



Stephen McDonnell-Daly
Class 6B - Very Highly
Commended



Brenda Bull
Class 7 - Richly Woven



The weather continued to get better and brightened for the first open day, so it was a welcome sight to see the enormous queues of visitors eager to get in to see the show. I have been assured that this show has been very successful, with a very good visitor attendance on all the days it was open. I'm sure that being in the centre of the city helped attract visitors to the cathedral as well as the show.

Linda Porrett

The Gold Ribbon

This award is given to a competitor for gaining a first prize in three consecutive National Shows. Only one first prize is accepted from each show.

My enquiries into the history of the **Gold Ribbon** has found that the award originated as recognition of a competitor who was consistent in achieving a first prize in three consecutive National Competitions.

There are relatively few of us, as it is extremely challenging to keep up this consistency, particularly as you are competing with some of the most talented designers in the country, many pushing the boundaries with their designs.

It is a little more common to reach two firsts and then sadly flounder at the third show.

At this year's event I am advised there were three contenders for a **Gold Ribbon**, so I can really sympathise with their disappointment, having also had that experience in the past.

My enquiries led to a discovery of a list of awardees spanning the years 1966 to 2005. In the first show at Edinburgh in 1966 and entitled '*Flowers, Trends and Traditions*', Jean Taylor was first competitor to be recorded to win the **Gold Ribbon**. In 2005 at Bournemouth, Shirley Monckton from Kent, was awarded a ribbon. In the first 39 years a total of 21 medals had been awarded. Gaining a **Gold Ribbon** did not occur at every National Competition, but in the year 1984, three were awarded, and in years 1985 and 1990, two were awarded.



Linda Porrett
Class 7 - First



The Gold Ribbon

Historically, the National Show was held annually and at some shows there were two competitions in the same week, such was the enthusiasm of the competitors who applied, and all the classes were filled. It was not unknown to have 400 or more entries.

Sussex Area now has three of us with this award.

In 1967 Dorothy Woolley from Ferring Club, Sussex, was awarded a ribbon, and awarded again in 1969. Some eagle eyes amongst you will notice that only 2 years passed between these awards. This was because in the early days NAFAS would accept a first prize in each show, and also when there were two shows in the same week.

Colette Archer has one awarded to her in 1989, and she was 13th on the list at that time.

I first started entering competitions in 1989, at the show in Brighton entitled '*Search for Beauty*'. This was the third time NAFAS had held competitions at the

Brighton Centre and London and Overseas Area hosted that event. This also had two competitions running consecutively, from Tuesday to Saturday. Competitors were allowed to enter both competitions. However by that time only one first prize was accepted towards a **Gold Ribbon**, as it is today.

I hope that I can find out some up to date history of the **Gold Ribbon**, so watch this space.

Linda Porrett

Demonstration in the Guildhall Gloucester by Alison Penno & Delyth Price

Wow! What a fabulous evening we had. We had: an amazing introduction from a friend of theirs, with a performance of hoop work, dancing and dazzling lights.

Well that set the tone for the demonstration, following the theme of theatre shows: from *Swan Lake* to *Mamma Mia* and *the Greatest Showman*.

First we had '*Carmen*', these designs were produced on large freestanding structures with heart shapes cut in them. The flowers, red Gerbera, red Naomi rose, purple Calla and Gloriosa Lillies, were placed in tubes throughout to great effect.

Then we had '*Swan Lake*', three gorgeous designs which included white Antirrhinums, Stocks, Hydrangea, and Phalaenopsis Orchids, not forgetting a swan and ballet dancer. '*Six*' featuring Henry VIII arrived in the form of two huge pedestal designs, (*I certainly wouldn't*

have got either in my car) these contained Rhododendron, Lilac, pink & white Oriental Lillies, Delphinium, pink Antirrhinum, red & pink carnations, Fatsia, soft Ruscus, Blue fern. Then came the six wives, depicted through individual hand-tied designs.

We then hopped on a plane to the Greek island of Skopelos, where we were greeted by Allison dressed in a white sequin jumpsuit for her part in '*Mamma Mia*'. An atmospheric design with pale dyed Asparagus fern cascading down, blue Fern, peach Calla, King Protea, pasta Gerbera, lilac pink & Miss Piggy Roses. '*Midsummer Night's Dream*' was our fifth escape into the Enchanted Forest. Molucella, Solomons Seal, green Eustoma, Carnations, Agapanthus, Ammi, Stocks moss, ferns and Panicum grass, truly set the scene.

Last but by no means least the '*Greatest Showwomen*' arrived, Alison and Delyth entered dressed accordingly in top hat and tails. Two huge hoops were decorated with Palms, soft Ruscus, Eucalyptus, Delphinium, pink Gerbera, Anthurium Previa, Antirrhinum, for the finale a larger hoop of Pampas, Carnations and Gerbera was brought on to frame it all.

Engaging conversations, music and singing throughout their performance made it a thoroughly enjoyable evening, which was greeted by a standing ovation from the audience.

Maggie Hayes



Area News



Area Chairman

A Crowning Achievement

What a magnificent event and one to make us feel proud – for Sussex Area!

Of course, the Coronation was a never to be forgotten spectacle in the life of the nation – a spectacle that some of our members last saw on a 9" bakelite television back in 1953. But as well as the Coronation, here in Sussex our Area team of competitors sallied forth to the National Show in Gloucester Cathedral and had their efforts crowned with distinction.

In particular, Linda Porrett won not just a First place in her class, but because she has achieved three Firsts consecutively at a National show she also received the coveted Gold Ribbon. This is her second Gold Ribbon. In fact, she has won SIX consecutive FIRSTs at a National Show. An outstanding achievement, and we are all very proud of you Linda. Many congratulations.

And Stephen McDonnell-Daly, representing Sussex in the Area Class 'On the shoulders of giants', also won a highly coveted award for the Best use of Colour. Many congratulations Stephen.

Many congratulations also go to Maggie (Hayes), Barbara (Hoy), Angela (Merryfield) and Sue (Flight) who received awards for their wonderful work too which are featured in this newsletter. All the designs have been depicted in icing in the stunningly beautiful cake made by Gill (Davey) from Lancing Flower Club which took hours of work to create. A very fitting tribute to all our worthy competitors.

All those who entered from our Area brought great credit to Sussex and it was such a pleasure for so many of us to be at Gloucester giving support to 'our team'.

Next Council Meeting:

Monday 14 August 2023

10.30am for 11am
QEII room, Shoreham Centre,
2 Pond Road, Shoreham by Sea



All in all, a successful and very enjoyable event for all of you who supported the event whether as competitors or visitors.

Best wishes,

Gaenor
x

Club Newswhat have you been up to?

Easter Workshop

For our April meeting **Crowborough Flower Club** held an Easter Workshop. Members were asked to choose an arrangement from either *Flora* or *Flower Arranger* magazines or a favourite book and reproduce this at the club evening! bringing their own flowers and components.

Three members also produced, in advance, "*Easter Bonnets*" which other members voted for and they were judged and commented on by Rosemary Leary, a retired Area Judge. Both Rosemary and members agreed on the winner!

We also recently celebrated Rosemary Leary's 90th birthday with a presentation of champagne and flowers! Rosemary was one of the founder members of the Crowborough Evening Flower Club which was started 43 years ago. Pictured either side of Rosemary are Jennie Thomas and Angela Leaver who were the other founder members. Over the years we have all benefitted from the Club in many ways.

Our thanks to these ladies for taking on such a brave venture.

Marjorie Gale
Crowborough Evening Flower Club



Left to right: Jennie Thomas,
Rosemary Leary and
Angela Leaver



Sixty Years

Area Chairman
Gaenor Circus
cut the 60th
Anniversary
cake at a
Lunch held by
**Willingdon
Flower Club**
on Thursday 4
May, assisted
by Club
President Anne
Bathard-Smith
(left) and Chairman Vanessa Jeffries (right).



The Lunch was held in the Kings Restaurant at East Sussex College, Eastbourne Campus. So we were cooked and served by the trainee students. Members were welcomed with a glass of Prosecco before sitting down to lunch.

I welcomed the Members adding that it was a wonderful achievement for the Club to have reached the age of 60. Followed by Gaenor who thanked the Club for allowing her to share in their celebration. Table decorations were provided by the Committee and raffled off after the meal. In all just a very nice meal with nice people.

Vanessa Jeffries, Chairman
Willingdon Flower Club

Coronation Flowers

Lindfield Flower Club met at King Edward Hall on Tuesday 25 April, to be entertained by demonstrator Clare Bryant. We had previously asked our members if any were interested in bringing their own floral designs to celebrate King Charles's forthcoming Coronation.

So we were pleased when our members arrived to see a significant number were bringing in their red, blue and white floral designs and these were all placed on two tables at the back of the hall so everyone could see them. The tables were covered in a royal purple cloth dotted with bunting. There were cups and saucers used, a flower pot, vases, a teapot and a crown with a royal invitation. This was not a competition and everyone was a winner and all received a chocolate.

Our demonstrator Clare stated she was very impressed by the individuality of the designs, and by the numbers who had taken part. Then we all settled down to watch Clare as she constructed her beautiful designs and regaled us with anecdotes about her trip to India to take part in a WAFA competition, spending a short holiday there and her adventures and wonderful places she visited.

Jo Hartless, Chairman
Lindfield Flower Club



Club Anniversaries Congratulations to

Hailsham & District,
65 years in July

Horsham,
60 years in September

Desert Island Discs

Our castaway in this issue is Area Programme Secretary
Margaret Moores



Choosing just six discs has been so hard, as there are so many I love.

This has been a trip down memory lane for me, so though not my favourite I have to have **“Daisy Bell”**. Better known as Daisy Daisy, or A bicycle built for two. It's one of my first memories of my father, he used to sing this to me at bedtime when I must have been about 3 or 4 years old. I think he only knew the chorus.



Nabucco's ‘Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves’ is another memory where I sang it in the school choir.

As I grew up, of course the Beatles and The Beach Boys. There are so many great groups of the sixties and seventies. **Queen's ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’**. In the seventies we had managed to get tickets to see them in concert in Brighton. My ears rang for 3 days afterwards, but a concert I'll never forget.

My love for Italian opera began when I went to see Verdi's Aida in London, what a spectacle. So many lovely times going to see live opera and ballet performances with my husband who was reluctant at first until his eyes were opened. **Delibes, ‘The Flower Duet’** from the opera Lakmé is beautiful and now recognisable from British Airways advertisement.

La Traviata, Addio del Passatomy, we saw it at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton. On this occasion I sat next to two gentlemen, all four of us ended up crying, no sobbing! Reviewing my choices, it would appear I'm quite a romantic: who would have thought it? Not me!

I must finish with **Nat King Cole “Smile”** for the 50 years of happy marriage we spent together.

I thought really hard about my luxury and being practical I thought a mosquito net but then I thought an endless supply of **champagne** might be better, then one would not have to worry about the mosquitos!

My book has to be **“Pride and Prejudice” by Jane Austen**, I never get tired of reading this book, so I must be a romantic after all !!



Paula Richardson's Coronation crown at All Saints Church, Lindfield.

Celebrating National Flower Arranging Day

This eye catching arrangement was made by **Steyning & District member**, Monique Cummings and was placed near the Church. Although the idea was for a bouquet to be taken to make someone's day, this one was for Ukraine so it remained in place for all who passed by to enjoy.



Wendy Horton, Secretary
Steyning and District Flower Club



Arrangements by
Victoria Cunliffe and Pauline Putland from
Ninfield Flower Group,
in Blacksmiths Lane, Catsfield.



To celebrate National Flower Arranging Day, **Seaford Evening Flower Club** placed an arrangement in The Downs Leisure Centre reception in Seaford (next to where the club meets). The arrangement was prepared by club member Duncan. The feedback from centre staff said lots of people made favourable comments and picked up our leaflets.

Hilary Norsworthy,
Chairman
Seaford Evening Flower Club



On a bench in
Peacehaven



To celebrate and to promote this national day **Horsham Flower Club** used the Area display boards with additional materials, to set up a stand and a free draw within Horsham Library.

Members of the committee engaged with library users to explain that within Horsham we have two local clubs. Horsham that meets on a Tuesday afternoon and Warnham which is an evening club. At the end of the afternoon the lucky winner was contacted and had her arrangement delivered to her door.

We will look for other opportunities to take ourselves out into the community to try and attract new members.

Chris Deanne, Chair
Horsham Flower Club

CROWBOROUGH FLOWER CLUB**THURSDAY 1ST JUNE****DOORS OPEN 6.45****CROWBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE****PINE GROVE, CROWBOROUGH TN6 1FE****WITH****FLOWER DEMONSTRATION****"FABULOUS FLOWERS"****WITH****SUE FLIGHT****VISITORS WELCOME £6****REFRESHMENTS & FLOWER RAFFLE****MORE DETAILS**

01892 654725 / force8gale@icloud.com

**WEST BOGNOR FLOWER CLUB**

You are invited to a demonstration at
Pagham Village Hall, Pagham Road, PO21 4NJ

on Monday 17th July at 2.15pm

SUMMER IS A'COMING

by

Michael Bowyer, MBE,
Former National President of NAFAS

A special event not to be missed.
Usual visitor fee of £8.00 including refreshments

westbognorflowerclub@gmail.com

The month of May

May's a month that aims to please
In fact I think it's the knees of bees!
With bright blue skies and warming sun
It feels like summer's just begun!

The streets take on a new demeanour
With bright green trees and hedges greener
The clothes we wear are getting lighter
In fact the whole world seems much brighter

My heart just leaps
when I see
Brand new
blossom on a lilac
tree
It makes life seem
so worthwhile
Lifts the spirits,
brings a smile



Now I would just like to say
I'm always happy on our Club day
To see my friends and have some fun
I hope it's the same for everyone

June will soon be on it's way
And we'll enjoy each summer's day
Flowers will bloom and birds will sing
So we can enjoy just everything!

Anne Waite
Brighton & Hove Flower Club

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

For the July issue by
Tuesday 20 June 2023



Coronation Rose

And finally

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

Enjoy the summer!

Duncan