

ISSUE 34
JULY 2023

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



Fabulous President's Day



See page 8 for the full story



Fun, Friendship and Flowers

Noticeboard



RINGMER FLOWER CLUB

You are invited to a demonstration at Ringmer Village Hall:

Wednesday

5th July 2023

at 2:00 pm

'Say it with Flowers'

by Maggie Hayes

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



CROWBOROUGH FLOWER CLUB

THURSDAY 6th JULY

DOORS OPEN 6.45

**CROWBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE
PINE GROVE, CROWBOROUGH TN6 1FE**

WITH

FLOWER DEMONSTRATION

"FLOWERS TO CHARM & DELIGHT"

WITH

LUCIA DEAN-TAYLOR

VISITORS WELCOME £6

REFRESHMENTS & FLOWER RAFFLE

MORE DETAILS

01892 654725 / force8gale@icloud.com



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Gardens Open For Charity

Bagotts Rath

5 Crescent Drive North,
Woodingdean, BN2 6SP

& The Jungle Garden

Saltdean, Brighton, BN2 8PJ

Saturday 15 July

Sunday 16 July

12 - 5pm

Combined entry £6 Children free



Registered charity No. 1115641

More information at ngs.org.uk



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

Noticeboard



Monday July 17th 2:15 pm – 4:15 pm

Memories of Moyna

Lancing Flower Club Show

St Peter The Holy Apostle Church, Bowness Avenue,
SOMPTING, BN15 9TS

Entrance £3.00 to include tea and cakes

All welcome



Storrington Flower Club

welcomes

MICHELLE KING

Demonstrating her floral designs,
entitled:

'Once Upon a Time'

Wednesday 26th July 2023

Storrington & 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, coffee 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.



Steypning and District Flower Club

Invites you
to an evening with

Graham King

Demonstrating his
Floral Designs entitled

"How Bizarre"

Wednesday

26th July 2023

The Steypning Centre

Steypning BN44 3XZ

7pm for 7.30pm

Non-Members Tickets £6 on the door

Greetings
ISLAND

Next Council Meeting:

Monday 14 August 2023

10.30am for 11am

QEII room, Shoreham Centre,
2 Pond Road, Shoreham by Sea
BN43 5WU

Next Area Workshops:

Thursday 14 September 2023

Margaret Trepant

Thursday 9 November 2023

Graham King

9.30am for 10am start

Henfield Hall, Coopers Way,
Henfield BN5 9EQ

For more information contact Barbara
Email: barb@batucker.go-plus.net

National News

In Memorium

Anne Jennings

NAFAS Associate of Honour

It is with great sadness that the National Speakers Committee announced the passing of Anne Jennings on Monday 22 May 2023.

Anne was on the inaugural NAFAS National Speakers Committee formed in the late 1980's and served a total of three terms, and served later as Speakers Committee Chairman.

She was also a National Judge, having been part of the Judges JET Panel (Judges Education and Training) and was an Adjudicator and Instructor for both Speakers and Judges.

Additionally she was an Assessor for Judges.

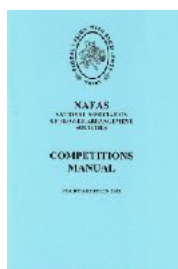
In both disciplines, Anne represented NAFAS at international level, training Speakers and Judges in Ireland, Bermuda and other countries and also judging at WAFA events.

Anne was instrumental in writing guidelines and papers for both Speakers and Judges, many of which are still used today. Her ability to think logically was second to none.

Anne was a member of the Wessex and Jersey Area of NAFAS and a National Associate of Honour. She was a dedicated and active Speaker.

We send our deepest sympathy to her husband Peter, and to the members of the Wessex and Jersey Area.

Area News



The new Competitions Manual
2023
Fourth edition
is now available for £5
Available from Jenny
Sussex Publications Officer

The month of June 2023

The skies are clear and azure blue
The moon is bright and shiny too
The whole thing rhymes with spoon and tune
Of course it is the month of June!

At dawn birds sing, they just can't wait
To win the day, attract a mate
And when she settles in his nest
Well you all know what comes next!

Baby birds are fledging
Learning how to fly
Soon they'll be strong enough
To soar up in the sky

Grass is at it's greenest
Buttercups abound
Sun and gentle breezes
Air filled with summer sound

These things make June so special
It never lets us down
It promises much happiness
It really wears the crown

So enjoy every second
Just fill you hearts with cheer
Rejoice and just enjoy
The best month of the year!

Anne Waite
Brighton and Hove Flower Club



Area News

Area Chairman



I cannot believe that I have now been your Chairman for seven months. Although time has flown, it has been an eventful period for us on the Executive and for our members.

Following hard on the heels of **Downtrodden Abbey**, we have recently held a very successful **President's Day**. It was wonderful to see a record number of members, a day made up of a fascinating talk from Gerald about '*Behind the Seams*' at Strictly Come Dancing with Chrissy, Barbara and Martina modelling some of the beautiful dresses. In the afternoon, a wonderful demonstration by National demonstrator Nick Grounds who we were delighted to welcome to Sussex Area again. You can read all about it in Barbara's



article in this newsletter. My thanks to all of you who played a part in the organisation of the day and to all of you who attended.

Moving on, did you know that 65 years ago this month the first parking meters made their appearance? And at Wimbledon, in an all-Australian final, Ashley Cooper won his only singles title against Neale Fraser. And Althea Gibson won the Women's final against Angela Mortimer.

Down in Sussex, a flower club was formed in Hailsham which, 65 years on, is still going strong and is celebrating



this milestone in the club's history. Sussex Area wishes the club the very best on this anniversary and send our good wishes for the club's future success.



As far as Area news is concerned, we are planning a mini-competition at November's Council meeting. The schedule will be coming out soon, so watch this space.

Gaenor
x

Club Chairmen

Please send Christine Purkess your club programmes to go on the Sussex Area of NAFAS website.

Please send in **Word** format, email :
christinepurkess@btinternet.com

Fabulous President's Day

On Wednesday 7 June many of us attended the Area **President's Day** held at the Shoreham Centre. The programme for the Day was an exciting one with a morning presentation of "*Behind the Seams*" featuring costumes from Strictly Come Dancing – destined to appeal to so many of us who enjoy the TV programmes. The demonstration in the afternoon was to be given by Nick Grounds, the very popular and talented National Demonstrator. With such splendid content for the Day it was not surprising that the tickets for this event were quickly all sold out in advance and it was wonderful to have a 'full house' again for an Area Day.

A **President's Day** is held in the Area, once during the term of office of the Area President, when the programme for this day is chosen by the current President - they decide on the theme for the Day and who will be the Speaker and Demonstrator. This year's event was the choice of Sue Seath, our current President, and what a excellent day she chose for us to enjoy!

The Day started with a fascinating glimpse into the world of spectacular dance costumes with a talk given by Gerald, the owner of DSI Costumes based in Croydon, who supply most of the costumes worn by the dancers in the TV programmes. A variety of these dance outfits



were then modelled by our own supermodels – Martina, Barbara and Chrissy - they looked wonderful and we were so envious of

their lovely figures and gorgeous legs! They showed us a selection of costumes with an elegance and poise that would have been so appropriate on the catwalk at any top fashion



show. When they came down from the stage to display the costumes to the audience it was a marvellous opportunity for us to closely admire the detail in the outfits. The workmanship required to make each costume is incredible and Gerald told us of the time and skill that is put into the making of each one.

With the morning session over, it left us feeling excited and ready for the afternoon's flower arranging demonstration, but not before we each received a delicious snack box lunch and a beautifully iced cupcake (*made by Gill Davey of the Lancing Club*). Prior to the start of the Day an individual bottle of water had been placed beside each seat in the hall and this was much appreciated, particularly in the warm weather.

For the afternoon's demonstration "*World of Stems and Stuff*" we were amused and enthralled with the performance by Nick Grounds – his flamboyant and dramatic



personality seized our attention from the start. His designs were arranged with humour and flair using unusual containers and beautiful flowers and it was an inspiring and entertaining afternoon.

Following the drawing of the flower raffle at the end of the afternoon we departed from the Shoreham Centre and thankfully most of us managed to avoid the lengthy traffic diversions which had caused problems at the start of the day.

We left with the feeling that it was a fabulous day with a wonderful ambience and a lovely friendly atmosphere.

Barbara Harris
Little Common Flower Club

'Twigs, Twists and Tenacity'

A fabulous two days with Nick Grounds has been had by all who attended **President's Day** followed by Nick's workshop on Thursday 8 June.

His outgoing personality and sense of humour alongside his passion for nature's bounty and everything that surrounds him shone through all his work, both in his demonstration and his workshop.



I never thought I would enjoy '*foam free*' flower arranging but he has brought a new and exciting concept to the table. He was inspirational to watch as he built his designs around a variety of twigs and branches etc, secured with cable ties, paper covered wire and reel wire to form a stable structure which would give support to plant material. Flowers from the garden and hedgerows were then added in '*random style*' to create a very natural design. Only a few flowers were needed as the beauty of each individual flower drew your eye into the design. Even if it only lasted a day the beauty of each flower was there to be admired and wondered at.



As he said it's all about the plant material used, not the flower arranger, but his somewhat casual approach belied his skill in achieving some wonderful designs.



All his designs had soul and, as he said, it all comes from within, the heart and soul of the arranger and reflects our own individual personalities.



I have taken so much from his workshop, his exciting ideas and his passion for nature and how we can create wonderful arrangements from all the beautiful plant material that surrounds us.

All that is left now is to put it into practice!

Paula Richardson
Lindfield Flower Club

Club Anniversaries Congratulations to

Hailsham & District, 65 years in July

Horsham, 60 years in September

Club Newswhat have you been up to?

Coronation Flowers

This is the **Peacehaven and Telscombe Flower Club** members tribute to the Coronation.

Although the meeting was after the Coronation, the club was happy to do arrangements depicting the event using a crown with red flowers and a treble clef stand to represent the music. A red, white and blue banner and small union flags decorated the table and the colour theme was carried throughout the arrangements.

Christine Webb, Chairman
Peacehaven and Telscombe Flower Club



Annual Club Competition

On Thursday 8 June, **Lewes Flower Club** held their annual Club Competition and tea.

There were three classes –

1. *'June is Bursting out all over',*
2. *'An arrangement in a wine glass'*
3. *'Green fingered'* – to include leaf manipulation

As well as some beautiful arrangements, there was a delicious tea and we all joined in a game, while Barbara Hoy had the hard task of judging all of the sixteen arrangements.



A great day
was had by
all.

Stella
Stephens,
Secretary
Lewes Flower
Club



East Preston Floral Club's Exhibition: "Magic of the Musicals"

Over the weekend of Friday 2 to Sunday 4 June, **East Preston Floral Club** put on a spectacular display of their work as part of the annual East Preston Festival celebrations. In accordance with the overall festival theme this year, the floral exhibition was entitled "*Magic of the Musicals*" and what a magical experience it was!

Twenty fabulous exhibits were on display, depicting some of the top West End musicals from "*The King and I*" (created on stage by Sue Seath and Val Adams), "*Mary Poppins*" to welcome people in to the hall,

"*Kinky Boots*" which provoked some interesting comments(!), "*Cats*", "*Les Miserables*", "*Phantom of the Opera*", "*South Pacific*", "*The Lion King*", "*The Wizard of Oz*", and "*Chitty Chitty Bang*"

Bang"

to name just a few.

Members of the Committee supported by a wonderful team of volunteers worked hard all weekend, serving up home-made cakes and cream teas; there was a tombola



with some fabulous prizes, a table selling Jean Plaskett's popular cards to raise money for The Sussex Kidney Trust and a further table selling a variety of items on behalf of The Sussex Snowdrop Trust, to whom a generous donation will be made. Last but not least, there was an extremely successful plant stall outside the hall, which topped up the profits for the club.



The exhibition was a great success and very well supported.

Many positive comments were received on the innovative floral designs created by such talented members.



Well done East Preston Floral Club!

Linda Coleman
East Preston Floral Club

Desert Island Discs

Our castaway in this issue is
Area Newsletter Editor Duncan Ward

It's never easy choosing music when you have such an eclectic interest in all types of music from Gracie Fields to Tina Turner. There are so many lovely tunes around and each can have a special meaning or from a time in your life. When you hear a track it makes you think of a time, place, or someone special.

My choice of discs for the desert island begin with the top three of my favourite lady singers, there are many more but I am limited in this choice.

My first choice is Cilla Black '*You're my world*', I have heard Cilla sing this live and met her on three occasions. Sadly she is no longer with us and she wanted to be remembered as a singer. I will always think of her as a singer foremost, and this is noted on her gravestone. I recall a funny story Cilla once told when she was in a pantomime '*Jack and the Beanstalk*', and she asked the audience what she should do to scare away the giant, someone from the audience shouted back '*Sing to him*'. At least she could laugh at herself.

My second choice is Shirley Bassey '*This is my Life*'. As I sit on the desert island I will think of my life and all its happy memories. Having had the pleasure of seeing and hearing Shirley in concert many times, my favourite time was at her 60th Birthday concert at Althorp House (ancestral home of Diana, Princess of Wales), and at the Royal Festival Hall in London where she belted out this song with her powerful voice.

My third choice is Jane McDonald '*The Singer of Your Song*', this Jane wrote her self and over the years it has become more upbeat, and stronger as her singing voice has evolved. The best version



of this song, is hearing it sung live, which fortunately I had the pleasure of many times through her concerts.

For a classical choice it is William Walton's '*Crown Imperial*', something that was played during the recent King's Coronation, and written for the Coronation of King George VI in 1937. As a child I recall this as the theme music to the Margaret Lockwood tv series '*Justice*'.



My next choice is Hubert Parry '*I was glad*' another anthem from the Coronation, played at many royal occasions, it is so stirring. Originally written for the Coronation of King Edward VII in 1902 using selected verses from Psalm 122.

My final choice is Aled Jones '*Be still in the presence of the Lord*'. This is my favourite hymn, full of reverence and praise for the Lord. It is such a peaceful hymn. I love this when we sing it in church, it's so special as you feel the spirit of the Lord moving all around.

My choice of book is more difficult. I don't read fiction which a lot of people find hard to understand, I much prefer autobiographies, biographies and factual books. I love it when an autobiography speaks to you and you can hear the author tell their story. One autobiography I have read many times is of course, my first lady of song, Cilla Black '*What's it all about*' so that is the book I would be happy to reread and have on the desert island.

My luxury item, would have to be my iPad, so long as I had a supply of electricity to keep it charged and a strong Wi-Fi signal, forgive me that's three items!

Would you like to choose your six favourite songs, book and luxury item?

If so please send them in with 200/300 words of explanation.

Where to promote your club

We know you will have given thought to promoting your club over the years, but we have put together few suggestions in the hope that some may find them useful.

Create a **'Welcome pack'**, of what you do, who you are, meetings, workshops, competitions, the social side. A leaflet on NAFAS, a copy the Area newsletter, a welcome letter from the Club Chairman, a back copy of The Flower Arranger, and may be a voucher to cover two people to attend a club meeting with an expiry date. Use promotional banners, posters, flyers when holding events, consider other marketing materials.

'Bring a friend night', 'half price entry', 'free night', 'open meetings' to bring in some one not connected to the club, perhaps a neighbour, work colleague, someone looking for a new hobby, who might be interested.

'Keep in contact' - have you contacted people that no longer come, is there a reason? Could they be assisted? Get feedback and fix any issues.

'Your local area' - think about what is about in your location - Local libraries, community centres, information points, local churches, village halls, town notice boards, town council offices, health and social centres, garden centres, florists, local shops, a hobby or craft shop, supermarkets. Will they take a poster, have some leaflets, let you have a stand or flower display to promote your club.

Most areas seem to have a free monthly **local booklet** delivered to homes, in which you could promote your programme, write an article or ask to be listed in the community

section. Include some photos to illustrate what you do.

Is there a **local groups event, or a mindfulness / activities event**, promoting local activities, your club might be able to have a stall, or even have a stall to sell, or show how to flower arrange. Don't forget your leaflets to hand out.



The Area 'hobby' poster

'Local community days, summer fetes', might have stalls to hire, be practical with leaflets to hand out to know who you are, where you meet and when. Capture people's attention by doing - show how to do something e.g an arrangement, wreath, buttonhole. Standing in front of the stall works well as you hand a leaflet and chat to members of the public, standing behind a table can seem like a barrier. Sue Oliver can be contacted for a loan of the media banner.

'Local newspapers / local radio' may have a community or parish news columns or discussions. Make contact and see if they will include your activities on a regular basis.

'Make contact / Talk to a local group' - gardening group, horticultural society, allotment group, Brownies/Guides/WI/ Townswomen's Guild/ Mothers Union, church groups, other local groups and clubs, go and give a talk or do a 'how to do', give some leaflets and information sheets.

'Social media' -

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, websites are some of the ways you can interact and promote your group with regular posts. Having a social media presence is essential today for the growth of your club. It's the easiest and most cost-effective way to reach potential members, engage with your community and advertise your activities.



Facebook has 'Groups' or 'Pages' it does depend on the local area, you may belong to a local group, like a page, either something such as a chat or social group, search your locations name in Facebook to see what comes up. Some groups post more than others, it depends on group rules on advertising, they either block it, allow it or have restrictions. Check out the group rules.

If in doubt, check it out..... it might lead to something good.

Let us know what works for you...

65th Anniversary Celebrations

As part of **Lindfield Flower Club's** 65th anniversary celebrations the committee organised a visit to Parham House and Gardens, Storrington on 24 May 2023. This idea was well supported by members and the bus set off at 11am on a glorious day filled with sunshine.



The walled gardens were a delight filled with the aromas of late spring/early summer flowers in the wide herbaceous borders, the rose and cut



flower garden, as well as the vegetable garden.

The visit also included access to the fine Elizabethan house with three floors of rooms filled with a varied collection of historic paintings, furniture, textiles and clocks. Guides in each room were on hand to answer any questions.



Lovely flower arrangements were present on all floors - supplied directly from the garden. An excellent day was had by all!

Maeve Byrne
Communications Officer
Lindfield Flower Club

Please send your articles and photographs to the Editor Duncan Ward
email: info@boxworthflowers.com
For the August issue by Thursday 20 July 2023

And finally

Thank you to all contributors of articles and photographs. Don't forget to contribute your designs and articles, even if you think it's not news. If you need help writing an article please let me know, happy to help.

Duncan