

## Flower Arranging & Design Sussex



# Area News



Newsletter of  
the Sussex  
Area of the  
National  
Association  
of Flower  
Arrangement  
Societies

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*Burgess Hill Flower Club*

## Is Gaining Club Funds And New Members Tiring?

This is the question posed by **Burgess Hill Flower Club**, see page six, for what they and **Horsham Flower Club** have been doing to raise their profile in the local community.



*Horsham Flower Club*

## Fun, Friendship And Flowers



## Noticeboard

### Crowborough Flower Club

**Workshop – entitled 'A Piece of Kitchen Equipment'.**

At Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove TN6 1FE

Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup> Doors open at 6.45 for 7.30 start



Bring any kitchen gadget (not the cooker!), some garden flowers and foliage, scissors/secateurs and get creative with your floral arrangement. There will be members at hand to help those not familiar with flower arranging.

Visitors always welcome £6- come and give it a try.



For more information about this event and the Club  
Contact 01892 654725 / [force8gale@icloud.com](mailto:force8gale@icloud.com)

### West Chiltington — Floral Club —

welcomes

**Michelle King**

with her demonstration

### Tour de France

Tuesday 15th August  
7.00pm for 7.30pm start

West Chiltington Village Hall, Mill Road,  
West Chiltington, RH20 2PZ

- Refreshments - Sales Table - Raffle -

Visitors are most welcome - £5.00

For more information, please contact:

Brenda - 01798 813712

Carol - 01798 813608

[wchiltfloralclub@gmail.com](mailto:wchiltfloralclub@gmail.com)

### BURGESS HILL FLOWER CLUB

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

"Under the Influence"

A Flower Arrangement Demonstration  
by Claire Bryant, Flower Designer

We seek and appreciate wonderful flower arrangements, say "Wow, that's lovely" then we tend to stand back. Claire aims to play with those designs and take them a step further with her own interpretation.



Doors open at 1.45pm for 2pm start. Finish approx. 4pm  
Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8DX  
Visitors - £8 which includes refreshments

Contact Judith for information T: 01444 871886 E: [alexander9@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:alexander9@tiscali.co.uk)  
Affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) [www.nafas.org.uk](http://www.nafas.org.uk)

### Storrington Flower Club

welcomes

**BARBARA  
CALDECOURT**

Demonstrating her floral designs,  
entitled:

**'Snap Shots'**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 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 2<sup>nd</sup> hand book sales are  
also available.



## Noticeboard

### In Memorium

Anne Bull, National Associate of Honour,  
passed away in July at Kings Mill Hospital,  
Sutton in Ashfield, aged 83.  
Anne was a strong supporter of the  
North Midlands Area and NAFAS.

### Next Area Council Meeting:

**Monday 14 August 2023**

10.30am for 11am

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

### July

I can't begin to tell you why  
But I've never really liked July  
It always seemed so very grey  
The same old, same old every day

Then I thought I really should  
Redeem July, if I could  
While thinking so I chanced upon  
The truly lovely Wimbledon!



The Centre Court with grass so green  
Is there a more magic scene  
Are there any players cleverer?  
I so miss the lovely Federer!

Another thought entered my head  
They often do as I prepare for bed  
Schools break up it's their final day  
It must be time for a holiday

Passports found, are they up-to-date?  
Book the hire car, don't be late  
Cases ready to be filled  
Pretty soon I'll feel quite chilled

At the airport, queues are long  
Must be patient, hum a song  
Boarding pass is in my hand  
Now can't wait until we land

Here I am by the pool  
Sunshade up to keep me cool  
Read a book, just have a rest  
I've discovered July's the best!

Happy holidays everyone

Anne Waite  
Brighton and Hove Flower Club

60 HORSHAM FLOWER CLUB 60 year celebration 60

**DIAMONDS are FOREVER**

with

**Dennis van Wonderen**

and

**A Sparkling Cream Tea**

We invite you to join our Open Meeting for this celebration

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023

At 2.30 pm (doors open at 2.00 pm)

North Heath Hall, St Marks Lane  
Horsham, RH12 5PU

Advance booking only.  
Visitors £18 Members £8

For further details and tickets please contact Sue Oliver.  
[sue.oliver19@hotmail.com](mailto:sue.oliver19@hotmail.com) or tel. 01403 255470

PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

## Area News

### Area Chairman

We on the Executive have made a decision. We shall not be going on any television quiz shows following our participation in the Hailsham Flower Club's quiz night. It was a very good evening and if only we could have thought of a few more correct answers it would have been an outstanding evening! Thank you to Christine and your team for putting on such a fun event which we much enjoyed.

Since that memorable evening, I have had the pleasure of being a guest at Littlehampton Flower Club's afternoon tea in celebration of their 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As well as a really delicious tea (in particular, the sausage rolls Linda made which were very moreish) we all enjoyed a lovely demonstration by Gill Homer. Many congratulations from us all in Sussex Area on reaching this milestone anniversary.

What a joy it has been to judge two club competitions recently with such an array of talent on offer. The first was Worthing's annual Rose Bowl competition and the second was Lancing's annual competition which, this year, was dedicated to the memory of Moyna Burrows who passed away last year.

I remember Moyna with affection and I was pleased that Wally, Moyna's widower, was able to join the event and present the trophies.

Judging both Worthing and Lancing Flower Club competitions was not an easy task, with such a high standard of exhibits on show. As I often feel when judging, it is a shame in a way that it is not possible for everyone to win.

The schedules for our mini Area competition, which will take place **on Monday 13 November**, at Plumpton Village Hall, will be available at the August Council meeting. I hope as many of you as possible will participate. There is a lot of talent amongst our membership and we would love to see as much of it on show as possible!

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the next Council meeting at The Shoreham Community Centre on Monday 14 August, 10.30am for 11am start.

Best wishes,

Gaenor  
x



Left to right: Christine Purkess, Brenda Bull, Lesley Etherton, Carol Lathleiff, Gaenor Circus, Vanessa Jeffries





First of all, very many thanks for the support of all Area members over the last 2/3 months.

We raised an amazing £100 on the sales table at the Area Council on the 22 May and an even more amazing amount of £300 on the sale of cards at the President's Day on the 7 June. Do please keep supporting the sales table especially at Council meetings when any Area member can sell unwanted '*treasures*' on an 80-20 basis – 80% to the seller and 20% to the Sussex Kidney Trust but we do always ask that you fill in one of our forms so that we know who has sold what at the end of the day plus you must take away what doesn't sell. We also ask that you price your '*for sale*' items.

**Dates to Remember** - the next Council meeting is Monday 14 August at Shoreham and the Area day is the 2 October at Plumpton and the AGM is on Monday 13 November at Plumpton – all good selling days especially for plants and I do thank Barbara Harris who is our resident plant expert!

During a very enjoyable and successful afternoon at Lancing Flower Club where we all talked and thought about Moyna (*past Sussex Kidney Trust (SKT) President*), the competitions being in her memory, I was given a donation by Pat their club treasurer. All donations are very special to us and I do thank Gill and the members most sincerely for their generosity. I must just add that the tea and cakes were gorgeous!!!



Once upon a time most clubs in Sussex had a collecting box in aid of the SKT and we wondered whether we could reintroduce the idea so that members could make a donation at club meetings no matter how small – 2p – 5p – 10p because that would be 2p / 5p / 10p more than we had yesterday. Do please let us know what you think of the idea.

**Good News** – There have been 2 fund raising event's last month that the The Sussex Kidney Trust will benefit from. The first was a Cream Tea at Patcham Flower Club on the 13 July, and the second was a Cream Tea in the garden of our Area Vice President Ruth Collingridge on the 14 July. (*2 cream teas in 2 days – it's hard being a member of SKT committee!!*)



The final figures are yet to be announced but I suspect they will be good. Both events were good fun and I do thank everyone involved for all of their hard work – the cakes were amazing.

There is to be an evening of '*Motown and Soul*' on the 12 August at The Manor Barn in Bexhill. Even better good news - it's a SELL OUT!

All donations are very special to us and in June we received one from Patcham FC after their Spring Fair which was heart warming because we know how tough fund-raising is for our clubs – so another very big thank you!

At our last committee meeting, I was thrilled to welcome our Area President Sue Seath who has agreed to join the SKT committee – another happy face behind the sales tables!



As always – thank you for your support.

Jean Plaskett,  
Chairman  
Sussex Kidney Trust

## Club News ....what have you been up to?

### Is Gaining Club Funds And New Members Tiring?

**Burgess Hill Flower Club** has recently attended two events, following the Club's decision to actively increase its funds and membership.

The first event was hosted by **Mid-Sussex Older Peoples' Council** who support and advocate for older people and they invited local groups to attend an open morning to showcase the groups' activities with the aim of introducing local social groups to older people. The morning was very amiable with a seated exercise session set to music, buffet lunch and a professional singer for entertainment.

Club members decorated our table with flower bunting, several artificial and fresh arrangements were on show, along with free gifts of flower-imaged book-marks made with recycled card, with the Flower Club's contact details on the reverse side. Our Flower Club banner was prominently displayed and we encouraged visitors to take a past copy of the Flower Arranger magazine, to enhance their awareness of different styles of flower arrangements.

The Club Members attending the event spoke with numerous visitors and other social group representatives and handed out 58 leaflets including documents describing the Club Meeting Programme for the remainder of 2023, the Benefits of Membership of the Flower Club and NAFAS and details about the next Club Meeting demonstration.

We have had several telephone contacts following the event, so we are hopeful that we will receive visitors to our next Club Meeting.

Not willing to let the grass grow under our feet, we attended the annual outdoor **Burgess Hill Town Council's Summer Fayre**, three days later. This event had over 40 stalls with a variety of community groups, charities and local enterprises in attendance. There was a model railway, an assault course and a performance area for local talented groups.



This event offered a different aim for our Club, of selling items to increase our funding. We sold anything that had an association with a flower – artificial flower arrangements, baskets, vases, flower puzzles, fresh flowers and many other items.

Our gazebo (see front page) was decorated with colourful bunting and as an advertising gimmick, we invited parents and carers to take a photo of their child on our "Take your own Floral Photo" seat, which had a flower-decorated frame as a backdrop. We also engaged the public when a club member made a fresh flower arrangement.

Our stand was well-supported by our Members with over half of them attending to help. They spoke with many visitors, gave out 48 documents about our Club and we gained a new member. After the four-hour event in the blazing sun, we were somewhat dehydrated and exhausted!

#### *Was it worth it?*

Don't know – we would have to compare our day's income with the attending ice-cream van which had long queues all day and maybe we should venture into producing flower-flavoured ice-creams next year!!

Laura King  
Burgess Hill Flower Club



## Flowers In The Supermarket

In looking for ways to attract more members **Horsham Flower Club** approached **Waitrose** and **John Lewis** who were willing to provide us with space in the atrium for members to design and make arrangements using some of the flowers sold within the store.

Customers were drawn to look at what we were doing and asked whether they would enjoy a visit to our club. The photograph (above) shows the range of what we managed to produce during the day.

Members thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we hope that we will be able to welcome some new visitors.

Hoping too that Waitrose sold more flowers as a result!

Chris Denne  
Horsham Flower Club



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



## Rose Bowl Competition 2023

Each July, **Worthing Flower Club** holds its Rose bowl Competition. The rules are straightforward. There are two classes – one just for the novices and the other for the three other levels, intermediate, advanced and diamond. The participants have an hour to create their design in which roses must predominate, although other flowers and foliage may be used. The competition is held under NAFAS rules and the finished design must occupy a space no larger than 75cm by 75cm with height being optional. The only other stipulation is that novices must create their designs using a basket for a container, and if the basket has handles these should be able to be used without disturbing the design.



Margaret Bishop  
Novice - First place

At the Barn, English Martyrs Church there were 14 **competitors** set to be creative, 5 in the novice class and 9 in the mixed class.

The timer was started and suddenly the room became quiet as everyone started to do their arrangements. Some worked quite quickly and finished their entry, others took longer, but by the time the hour was up everyone had a completed design, had cleared away their tools and rubbish and had filled their competitor cards as requested.



Wilma Smith  
First Place



Gaenor Circus presenting the candelabra to  
Margaret Bishop

This year we had asked the Gaenor Circus, our Sussex Area Chairman if she would like to judge the competition for us and she was happy to do so.

Gaenor arrived at 8.30pm as instructed and whilst everyone else had a cup of tea or coffee she walked along the line of entries and examined them in detail. After deliberating and deciding which designs, she felt were winning ones, she proceeded to give a critique on each arrangement before announcing the result. Her comments were most encouraging, and she pointed out where improvements may be made.



Wilma Smith receives the Silver Rose Bowl from  
Gaenor Circus

Many of our members are inexperienced in competition and are always very appreciative of





Jane Black receives the Crystal Rose Bowl from Gaenor Circus

constructive criticism and guidance as to how they might improve their designs.

In the novice class Gaenor awarded the first prize to Margaret Bishop for her design, and duly presented her with the candelabra

In the other classes, Gaenor awarded Wilma Smith the first place and Jane Black second place. Wilma was presented with the silver Rose Bowl trophy which was given to the club in 1965. Jane was presented with the crystal rose bowl.



Jane Black Crystal Rose Bowl

Gaenor was very complimentary about the standard of the entries and encouraged all members to enter future competitions both at club level and area level. Everyone agreed the evening was a great success.

Sue Richardson  
Worthing Flower Club

## Using Alternatives ..... Agra Wool

Agra wool can be used for fresh, dried and silk flowers, and uses existing floral foam containers so there is no need to purchase new.

Agra wool is made of 97% basalt mineral rock fibres, powdered basalt rock is spun into fibres at high heat and then bound with a patented cane/beet starch binding agent. Compressed into sheets, it forms compression ridges on two sides of the brick. Agra wool absorbs water very quickly, and easily to shape with a serrated knife. To insert stems use a kebab stick to perforate a hole as the ribbed side is the firmest and the water stays best in the material this way. Using very small and delicate stems, you might consider using the block on its side. Then you can insert the flowers between the 'layers'. You can stick the flower in the same hole, if you

need to shorten it. Taller or larger stems may need some additional support, e.g, chicken wire or a binding of wire or sisal.

It can be reused, so it's very eco- friendly. As the binding agent biodegrades it turns to rock dust, so it can be composted in small quantities. Broken down it can be used as a potting soil substitute, an ideal medium for plants to thrive. It's a sustainable alternative to floral foam, but may not be suitable for all arrangements. As water can drain quickly it may not be suitable for vertical hangings.

It is non toxic, however it is recommended that you wash your hands after using and handling. Slightly more at around £1.82p a block, if purchased in bulk, compared to around £0.80 for traditional floral foam.

Have you tried it?  
Please share your experience of using it.



## A look back to..... 'Flowers & Fantasy' at Nymans

In September 2011 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Sussex Area, a flower festival was held at Nymans with Stephen McDonnell as Festival Designer.

The house, history and gardens of Nymans provided a wonderful backdrop and source of inspiration. With arrangements and designs in the house, in the grounds, and the ruins.

Photos: Debbie Dann



Sussex Area Chairman Jean Plaskett and President Barbara Harris at Nymans



Cuckfield Evening Flower Club



Nymans Ruins



The Cube  
Battle Flower Club



Ice Fantasy  
Christina and Ron Curtis



Sleeping Beauty  
Colette Archer



Grow your Own  
Willingdon Flower Club



In a Spin  
Linda Porrett



Floor Design  
Seaford Evening Flower Club



Jack Frost  
Seaford Afternoon Flower Club





Devils Diamonds - Rottingdean Flower Club



A Maids Work  
Preston (Brighton)  
Flower Arrangement Society



Over the Rainbow - Horsham Flower Club



Messel Magic - Balcombe Flower Club



Flights of Fancy - Ninfield Flower Group



A Grand Entrance - East Grinstead Flower Club



## Desert Island Discs

Our castaway in this issue is  
Area Flower Arranger Officer  
**Vanessa Jeffries**



Not an easy task...but here goes.

My pin up as a teenager was Cliff Richard so my first choice is *'The Young Ones'*. It reminds me of my youth club days and my treasured red Dansette record player.

Moving to Horsham, my Husband joined HOADS. His first performance was in *'Fiddler on the Roof'* and he did a lot of practicing at home. The kids became word perfect in the songs and could do a mean bottle dance! My favourite song from this musical is *'Tradition'*.



Returning to Eastbourne, we took up sailing as a family. After sailing dinghies for years, we purchased a yacht, which in 2000, we took it



through France via the rivers and canals to the Mediterranean. So *'We are Sailing'* by Rod Stewart fits nicely on my list.

Whilst we had our house in the South of France, Husband who loves organ music 'introduced!' me to more organs and organ concerts than I care to remember. However, this one piece *'Sortie in E Flat'* by Lefebure-Wely, whenever it's played at Church I get a mental image of Choir, Verger and Vicar all dancing down the aisle - Naughty!

I will never forget the first time I saw *'Aida'* in Verona – three 1/2 hours of pure magic. The production was outstanding and *'The Triumphal March'* just so over the top.

Finally, when doing flowers in Church this anthem goes through my head – *'The Lord bless you and keep you'* by John Rutter. It brings back so many memories of happy and sad occasions in Church when I have had the privilege of doing special flowers.

Not a book but a big, fat, glossy travel brochure. Then I can reminisce and dream away to my heart's content.



My luxury item – a bottle of expensive perfume.

Please send your articles and photographs  
to the Editor Duncan Ward  
email: [info@boxworthflowers.com](mailto:info@boxworthflowers.com)

For the September issue by  
Sunday 20 August 2023

## And finally ....

Thank you to all contributors of articles and photographs. Next issue will cover Autumn/ Harvest.

Enjoy the summer

*Duncan*