

ISSUE 39
DECEMBER 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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Horsham's Diamond Anniversary

See page 8 for all the details



Area News

Maureen Gibson RIP

Very sadly, Maureen Gibson a long serving member of Burgess Hill Flower Club passed away recently.

She had served on the committee from 1980 and became Chairman in 1986. She was appointed President in 1990-1992 and again in 1995-1996. She was made Honorary member in 2012.

She worked tirelessly for the club, giving workshops, opening her garden for our Autumn garden party, competing in local competitions and helping raise money in her local community.

Her funeral was held on 3 November at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium.

Judith Alexander, Chairman
Burgess Hill Flower Club

Gill Wells RIP

Gill Wells, Plumpton Flower Club passed away recently. Gill was a stalwart member of Plumpton Flower Club and served for 30 years as Chairman.

She was passionate about flowers and flower arranging and steered our Club through the years with a great sense of pride.

Gill was an accomplished flower arranger, winning most of the prizes at our local Horticultural Shows. She also organised and took part in local flower festivals, especially the yearly Open Day held at Plumpton College in St Michael's Church.

Gill will be missed by all our Club members.

Sue Akers
Plumpton Flower Club



Christmas is Coming!

It's that special time of year
As Christmas Day is drawing near
Lists to be made of where and who
And all those things you have to do

The first decision by the way
Is where to spend Christmas Day
Do you want to come to mine
I'll get the food you bring the wine

Remember in the hectic days to come
That Christmas is for everyone
A time of love and care for all
The sad and lonely deserve a call

Let's hope that those in control
Will think of people not the rule
Make sure the hungry are fed
And that the homeless have a bed

We thank you every volunteer
Who help those in need throughout the year
But especially on Christmas Day
When they make it special in every way

It's only left for me to say
I wish you happiness this Christmas Day
And to you and those that you hold dear
Good health and happiness
this coming year.

Anne Waite
Brighton & Hove Floral Decoration Club

Area News

Area Chairman

What a pleasure it was to see so many clubs represented at our Council meeting and AGM on Monday 13 November. Personally I can't believe a year has gone by since the last AGM when I became Area Chairman. I have enjoyed every minute of it – made all the more enjoyable because of the support I have received from you all.

It was also the '**Yuletide**' competition on Monday 13 November and what a wonderful array of entries. I congratulate all those who participated and particularly the winners. A selection of the competition entries can be viewed on social media and also further on in this newsletter.

Thank you to Barbara Harris for writing the '**Yuletide**' schedule. As well as being a distinguished National judge, Barbara, who is now retiring from the National Judges' list, has made a significant contribution to Sussex Area in consequence of her role as a National Judge and for that contribution we are all very grateful.

It was a particular pleasure to award Jean Plaskett the Sussex Award of Merit at the AGM. Jean has made a considerable contribution to Sussex Area and continues to be an active and committed supporter as well as continuing in her role as Chairman of the Sussex Kidney Trust.

A new year will soon be upon us and with that new year I am looking forward to visiting you all again at your club meetings. A particular thank you for inviting me to your Open meetings and



anniversary celebrations which I always greatly enjoy.

In my role, I am blessed with supportive colleagues and that brings me to say a big thank you to those who have made such a valuable contribution to Area.

We say goodbye to Sue Seath who, in her role as President, has been such a great support to me and to Sussex Area. We shall miss her wise counsel.



Lesley Etherton offered to continue for another year, having already served two terms of office (six years) for which I am truly grateful. I know you will all agree that Lesley has been fabulous as Area Secretary over the last seven years and we will certainly miss her on the Executive.

We also say goodbye and thank you to Sue Oliver, our Media Officer, who is leaving for family reasons. Sue came on board last year with absolutely no





knowledge of Instagram or Facebook, but has fully embraced this role and taken it forward for the benefit of all of us in Sussex Area.



It has been decided not to use the post boxes any longer as the ticket application letters and anything else of interest will be sent out digitally. A big thank you to Paula Richardson from Lindfield Flower Club who has looked after our post boxes over the last four years.

Well, what can I say about the Executive team. It's been a super year working with such a great team and I would like to thank you for all your support, hard work and help during the year - Barbara, Brenda, Lesley, Carol, Margaret and Sue. I am so pleased that Carol, our Ticketing Officer, has kindly offered to stay on for another year, having already served six years.

With Christine, our web administrator, and Duncan, Editor of our wonderful newsletter, we have a team that knows how to achieve results when it comes to publicity. Vanessa, our Flower Arranger Officer, and Jenny, our Publications Officer, continue to work very hard to ensure the smooth and effective operation of their roles.



Last, but certainly not least, a very big thank you to all our members who have given support to me personally and to the Area team. For it's team work that enables Sussex Area to achieve all that it can for our clubs and our members.



A big welcome and congratulations to Ruth Collingridge from Crowborough Flower Club, who is our new President of Sussex Area.



As far as the Area secretarial role is concerned, I would like to thank Christina Curtis from Warnham Flower Club for offering to take on the position of Minute Secretary at our four Council meetings and to Alison Hughes from Lindfield Flower Club for offering to take on the role of the signing-in register at our meetings. For the time being, I will be responsible for the other Area secretarial duties.

Before long, we will all be celebrating Christmas and I send on behalf of all of us on the Executive team our best wishes to you all for a very happy Christmas and a healthy and happy 2024.

Gaenor
x

Chairmen's Forum

Our Area Chairman Gaenor Circus greeted everyone as they arrived, on Monday 16 October, immediately everyone felt welcomed.

Then walking into the Plumpton hall decked out with orange table cloths, with a spooky tray of tempting delights on each table and the smell of coffee in the air, a great start. But treats go on, one is handed a raffle ticket by Carol Lathleiff who has organised a splendid raffle table. Jenny Foster Smith has a wonderful selection of Christmas publications. The Executive Christmas Sales Team have been raising money for the Area, they have made an exciting selection of admirable gifts, Christmas decorations, the list goes on. They have all worked so hard to make it look very festive and tempting to part with some pennies.

Many questions were raised and aired: the on-going problem with clubs is the lack of members wishing to commit themselves to committee work, sadly it is not just Flower clubs that are suffering.

Raising of costs is also great concern to many clubs, subscriptions have gone up to meet the many outgoings of demonstrators, flower allowance, travel costs, hiring of halls etc.

Since the Chairmen's Forum was started it has become a very useful event to air the many problems and questions our Chairmen may have and in sharing them with other clubs has been of great help.

Therefore the Executive extended the invitation to non-committee members to give them further knowledge of how the clubs are run, which has helped towards greater attendance on the day.

Ruth Collingridge
Area President



Yuletide

Area Competition 2023

Held on Monday 13 November at
Plumpton Green Village Hall,
Congratulations to all prize winners &
entrants



Best in Show

West Wittering Cup
Stephen McDonnell-Daly,
Peacehaven & Telscombe
Class 1 - A Christmas
Carol



Best Use of Plant Material

Nancy Boobyer
Trophy
Ann Kennedy, New
Visions/Lewes
Class 4 - Yuletide



Runner Up to Best in



Show

Jose Allen Trophy
Linda Porrett, East Preston/
New Visions
Class 3 - Winter Fantasy



Most Innovative Exhibit

Jean Gordon
Salver
Linda Porrett, East
Preston/New
Visions
Class 3 - Winter
Fantasy



Award for Crafts

The Brenda Forrester
Award for Crafts
Annette Quelch, Lancing
Class 5 - A Christmas Gift



Best Use of Colour

Sussex Area Perpetual
Challenge Cup
Linda Porrett, East
Preston/New Visions
Class 3 - Winter
Fantasy





Class 1. A Christmas Carol

1st Prize Stephen McDonnell-Daly (Peacehaven & Telscombe)

2nd Prize Theresa Fennings (Horam & Heathfield)

3rd Prize Carole Down (Horam & Heathfield)

Class 2. Festive Fun

1st Prize Christine Clark (Lindfield)

2nd Prize Jennifer Noble (New Visions)

3rd Prize Margaret Taylor (Little Common)



Class 3. Winter Fantasy (Petite)

1st Prize Linda Porrett (East Preston/New Visions)

2nd Prize Angela Merryfield (East Grinstead/New Visions)

3rd Prize Paula Richardson (Lindfield)

Class 4. Yuletide

1st Prize Linda Porrett (East Preston/New Visions)

2nd Prize Margaret McSheehy (Lewes)

3rd Prize Ann Kennedy (New Visions/Lewes)



Class 5. A Christmas Gift (Craft)

1st Prize Annette Quelch (Lancing)

2nd Prize Angela Merryfield (East Grinstead/New Visions)

3rd Prize Christine Clark (Lindfield)

Class 6. Eat, Drink and Be Merry

1st Prize Angela Merryfield (East Grinstead/New Visions)

2nd Prize Annette Quelch (Lancing)

3rd Prize Pearl Mason (Little Common)



Class 7. By Candlelight

1st Prize Stephen McDonnell-Daly (Peacehaven & Telscombe)

2nd Prize Christine Ashby (Patcham)

3rd Prize Ann Kennedy (New Visions/Lewes)

Club Newswhat have you been up to?

Diamond Anniversary

Horsham Flower Club celebrated its 60th anniversary with a demonstration from Dennis van Wonderen followed by a delightful cream tea, anniversary cake and sparkling wine.



Steven Lane,
NAFAS Chief Executive

We were delighted to welcome both current and former members, Steven Lane Chief Executive of NAFAS, Councillor David Skipp Chairman of Horsham District Council and



Elsie Chaplin
cutting the cake

Gaenor Circus our Area Chairman. Elsie Chaplin as a founder member cut the cake.

It was lovely to see so many members of other Sussex flower clubs joining with us to help make it such a special occasion.

One our members said that she thought 'the



Left to right: Gaenor Circus, Cllr David Skipp,
Elsie Chaplin, Chris Denne, Steven Lane

anniversary could not have celebrated better, it has to be the best party that has been held since she became a member'.

Chris Denne
Horsham Flower Club



Sapphire Anniversary

Lindfield Flower Club continuing with the club's celebrations for its 65th Sapphire Anniversary with a 'in house activity' was held at our meeting on Tuesday 26 September, arranged by committee members Paula Richardson and Barbara Hoy.

We were asked to bring 'small foliage' and scissors. On our arrival we were welcomed to a decorated hall set up with tables and buckets filled with glorious bunches of freshly picked Alstroemerias.

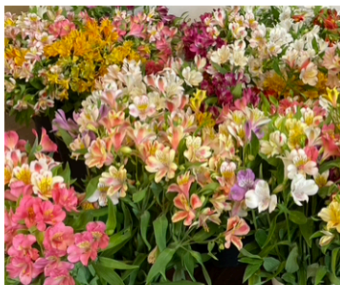
With Paula and Barbara's experience they demonstrated the proposed arrangement.

Then it was our turn to replicate the design choosing a bunch of flowers, coloured ribbon and adding our own foliage. The results were amazing - each resembled the brief but with their own personal touch.

Afterwards a raffle was drawn and finally the event was toasted with a glass of bubbly and cup cakes, beautifully baked by a club member. 42 members participated, others opted to observe - the afternoon was a resounding success.

Maeve Byrne
Lindfield Flower Club

Below are photographs to capture our event.



Challenging Our Creativity!

Burgess Hill Flower Club recently set themselves a challenge to stretch their creative skills by arranging an in-house workshop entitled, "Scenescape". This activity provided an opportunity for members and visitors to create their own miniature scene in a shallow container. Seed trays and baking trays were used, along with imaginative use of base items such as soil, leaves, pebbles, shells and moss.



A variety of landscape scenes were created, including ponds with pebbles, gardens with plants and wood features, beaches with sand, fields with grass and even a Jurassic rock-face. Dried and fresh flowers, twigs, leaves and pasta shapes were also imaginatively used in the *scenescape* designs. To enhance the scenes, miniature humans, animals, birds and dinosaurs were added to some of the arrangements.

Although we did not plan the workshop as a competition, there was no doubt in our minds, that we all came first!

Laura King
Burgess Hill
Flower Club



Graham King's Workshop

Sussex Area members enjoyed another fantastic workshop organised by the JDS&E, this time tutored by craft expert Graham King. His creative mechanics always fascinate audiences in his demonstrations. Graham showed some useful techniques which could be incorporated into contemporary design work.

1. Using watercolour paper

Gloves were needed for this technique.

Torn pieces of good quality watercolour paper were soaked and then dabbed with water diluted acrylic paint. Graham emphasised that acrylics were preferred to watercolour paint as the former could be rewetted if necessary to adjust the paint effects. More than one colour of acrylic paint was selected. The paper was crumpled by hand to spread the paint and mix it. Wrinkling in different directions gave the texture of chammy leather. Pieces were allowed to dry. Highlights could be made with glitter glue.



2. Manipulating metal wreath ring frames

Various sizes of metal rings were taken in turn and cut leaving a cross piece in place at one end. The remainder of the wreath ring was cut so that two lengths of wire were left with no crosspiece. They were pushed together to create a point which was then secured with a length of pot tape. A bead was added to the point with bullion wire to neaten it. Each ring piece was carefully manipulated so that the crosspiece end and pointed end were no longer on the same plane. The rings were covered with gaffer or duct tape and an outer layer of double-sided tape. Various yarns, fabrics (2.5cm widths) or ribbon lengths



were used to cover the tape as desired. A minimum of 4 ring pieces were needed to create a design for the table. More covered rings would be required to produce a hanging sculpture. Graham showed an example of what could be achieved.

3. Polystyrene spheres

Different size polystyrene spheres and half spheres were selected and variously covered. Graham said the idea here was to produce surfaces with a mixture of textures. PVA glue or UHU was best to stick fabric etc., onto the spheres. UHU, often favoured for craft work, was not suitable for use as it melts polystyrene. Care would need to be exercised with PVA as sometimes it can bleed through fabric. Graham encouraged attendees to cut fabric into shapes, ovals or rounds to cover their spheres. Random shapes could also be made he said. He demonstrated how covered spheres could be further decorated with a random application of metallic threads, yarns and wire. It was suggested that the spheres colours should tone with the palette selected for the rings and the watercolour paper pieces for harmonious design to be achieved.

Attendees were then shown how to make an aesthetically pleasing 3-D sculpture. After gently manipulating the ring pieces it was necessary to secure them where they touched with wire or a little hot glue before inserting the spheres and the crumpled watercolour paper. One or more focal areas were needed Graham emphasised and plenty of movement. Any excess glue could be covered with the paper pieces. Plant material could be put into tubes or clear glass baubles for Christmas.

Graham was most generous throughout with his time and expertise. His 'National Collections' of acrylic paint and fabric were so helpful. This workshop enthralled all of those who attended and everyone was anxious to know when Graham would be tutoring another day. Well done Graham!

Dr. Christina Curtis
Area Demonstrators' and Speakers'
Representative

Desert Island Discs

Our castaway in this issue is
Area Judges' Representative
Linda Porrett



An email arrived from Duncan with a request to write an article for Desert Island Discs. My first reaction was a long *Umm*. How do you choose just six music pieces, one book and one luxury article?another longer ummm.

So where to begin with my list ...I'm *umming* again, but with much hesitation I agreed to give it a go, although it did feel a bit like '*bearing your soul*'(more of that later), so here it is.

It was the early 60's when, together with a friend, we listened to Radio Luxembourg. Do you remember it kept fading in and out as the reception was pretty '*hit and miss*'. Wasn't there a TV programme with David Jacobs with that sort of title? Yes....*Juke Box Jury*, which started in 1959. It was the time of Elvis...sadly missed....Cliff Richard....still going strong! ***Living Doll*** came out in 1959 which was probably the start of my journey into modern music, and a time when Radiograms were very popular. Dad acquired a second hand one and bought '***Telstar***' by the Tornadoes. Fond memories, but will these feature in my top six?

School years began with familiar hymns and tunes such as ***Greensleeves***, ***Jerusalem***, Holst's ***The Planet's Suite***, as well as pop. I learnt to play the recorder. ***Frère Jacques***. Um.... The clarinet, Acker Bilk's ***Stranger on the Shore*** and the piano, ***Für Elise***, Beethoven. They all evoke happy memories.

PJ Proby sang ***Somewhere*** in 1964, the first record I bought. It's still a tune I love to hear, so is this a record to include?

My teenage years were influenced by pop records, the Stones and the Beatles, fashion, Mary Quant, Biba, and television.



Top of the Pops started in 1964....***Ready Steady Go*** began the year before. The Mods and Rockers were already established, and it's no surprise that my leanings were towards the Mods. I remember Reefer jackets and trouser suits of this era... bicoloured mohair suits for the boys, and scooters, accessorised with lights and fur trimmed Parkas.

In 1965 The Who released ***My Generation***, one of my many favourite bands, along with the Small Faces, the Kinks '***Waterloo Sunset***', the Beach Boys, Mamas and Papas singing ***California Dreaming*** and the Byrds. Later on there was Blondie, Rod Stewart, Elton John, and Queen with Freddie Mercury, but which ones to choose.

Memories of Art College is where I must mention Soul, Motown and Reggae music. Otis Redding singing ***Sitting on the Dock of the Bay***, released in 1967 was the start of my love of these genres, and Marvin Gaye's ***I Heard it through the Grapevine***, a favourite, along with Bob Marley's ***One Love***, and UB40 with ***Red, Red, Wine***. Nowadays trips to the Caribbean remind me of these vibes. All of these songs could make the list.

A career as a fashion designer in London followed and trips to the Marquee Club in Soho's Wardour Street, which featured many upcoming bands, bring happy but sometimes hazy memories!

A little later the cool Bryan Ferry came on the scene. **Love is the Drug** and **Jealous Guy** are still tunes I love to hear. But do they qualify for the list. *Umm.*

West End Girls by the Pet Shop Boys, and **Blue Savanna** by Erasure, remind me of happy holidays in our caravan and the journeys there and back listening on cassette tapes and CD's.

You may have noticed that not much classical music has been mentioned but once again how to choose? Well I won't, but a violinist came to my attention somehow, so anything played by the hip David Garrett would suffice. Classical to rock and pop!
Umm. Happy days.



So here's the issue, there are just too many songs and too many memories, but how to fine tune this list!

Maybe the book will be easier. A mystery or biography paperback would be easy to pack, but my collection of the biennial International Floral Art books may not fit in the case. A magazine then?

Ummm. I have a plan.....**Hallelujah**(another one for the list), my luxury item may solve the dilemma. It would have to be an iPad, solar powered and fully connected of course, which would have all the songs I have loved over the years. The internet and *Pinterest* would take care of the flower content.

So there we have it, but as I write, my musical journey has come full circle with the release of The Beatles last record **Now and Then**, reflecting the poignant notes of the 60's. And I am reminded once again of all those musical memories.



Thank you to Linda and everyone who have shared their Desert Island Discs this year.



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

For the January issue by
Wednesday 20 December 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.

Happy Christmas.

Duncan

Ninfield Flower Group
invites you to
"Snowflakes"
with
Tracey Griffin
Friday 1st December
7.30pm
at
Ninfield Memorial Hall
TN33 9EE
Tickets: Members £10.00
Guests £12.00
(inc refreshments)
Tickets available from 4th September
Please contact Helen on 07966 659552

BURGESS HILL FLOWER CLUB

Wednesday 6th December 2023

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

**A Flower Arrangement Demonstration
By Barbara Caldecourt**

In the run-up to Christmas, Barbara will create several seasonal flower arrangements to get all of us in the mood for the festive season.



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

The demonstrator's floral arrangements will be today's raffle prizes.
Sales Table offering flower arrangement items, books, magazines, sundries.

Contact Judith for information T: 01444 871886 E: alexander9@tiscali.co.uk

Poster December 2023 Countdown to Christmas



an evening with
Lucie Mason
demonstrating her floral designs entitled
'Tis the Season'



Wednesday 6th December 2023

St John's Church Hall
The Glebe, Felbridge, East Grinstead,
West Sussex, RH19 2QT.

7.30pm

Complimentary refreshments available beforehand.

Raffle with the chance to win one of the demonstration arrangements.

Sales table with plants and floral items.

Visitors £10 at the door

Further details on our website <https://www.eastgrinsteadflowerclub.co.uk>
or contact Anne-Marie Newby on 07960 025459

ENJOY FLOWERS? COME AND BE ENTERTAINED



FELPHAM FLOWER CLUB

FLORAL DEMONSTRATIONS



CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL
WITH MICHELLE KING



THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2023

DOORS OPEN 1.30 FOR 2pm


FELPHAM MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL
17-19 VICARAGE LANE, FELPHAM, PO22 7DZ

VISITORS WELCOME £5
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION £35

FURTHER INFO:
SANDRA DEAN
TEL: 01243 542684

WEBSITE:
www.sussexareanufas.org.uk




WEST CHILTINGTON FLORAL CLUB
 CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

STRICTLY
CHRISTMAS

 BY


JACQUI ARNOLD

 AT

WEST CHILTINGTON VILLAGE HALL
(RH20 2PZ)

THURSDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 2023
 7.00 for 7.30pm

 Festive Raffle

 TICKETS £15 (to include a Glass of Wine)
 Tel: 01798 - 813712 / 839188 / 813608


HENFIELD FLOWER CLUB

Tuesday 12th December 2023

It's Nearly Christmas

A floral Demonstration by

Lucinda Knapman



At The Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, BN5 9EQ

Doors open at 1.45 for a 2.15 start

Visitors - £10 which include refreshments


There will be a gift raffle and a flower raffle

Contact Angela Toft for more information 01273 933623

Or email angelamarytoft@yahoo.co

Horsham Flower Club
 invites you to a floral demonstration





"CHRISTMAS
CAROUSEL"
 by
Michelle King




At:
 North Heath Hall, St Marks Lane, Horsham, RH12 5PU,
 on Tuesday 12th DECEMBER 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 invite you to join us for a fun
evening

"Make your own Christmas Wreath"

(Help will be available. Bring
your own greenery, wreath ring etc)
on

Wednesday 13th December

At the Village Hall

Commencing at 7.00pm

£5.00

Please bring a plate of food to share
Refreshments will be available



Tunbridge Wells Flower Club

Invites you to our Christmas demonstration by

Stephen McDonnell
'Just in the moment'

Thursday 14th December 2023
Doors open at 2pm

Frant Village Hall
TN3 9DR

Visitors welcome: £10
To include refreshments



HORAM & HEATHFIELD FLOWER CLUB

INVITE YOU TO A DEMONSTRATION
OF FLORAL ART
BY

CLAIRE BRYANT

"BRING OUT THE BLING"

THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2023

Heathfield Community Centre
Sheepsetting Lane, TN21 0XG

7.30pm – doors open 7pm

Refreshments, sales table, raffle
Member's competition- "Blingtastic"
Visitors welcome

For more details contact
Phyllis Stevens – 01435 863224



**PEACEHAVEN AND TELSCOMBE
FLOWER CLUB**

Telscombe Civic Centre, 360 South Coast Road, Telscombe Cliffs BN10 7ES

LADY CRABTREE

**TALK: "WHATEVER HAPPENED TO
CHRISTMAS"**

20th December 2023

Visitors welcome £8.00
to include Refreshments

Doors Open: 1:45pm

Commences: 2.15pm

Affiliated to NAFAS Registered Charity No. 292377