

ISSUE 40
JANUARY 2024

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



A Special Birthday

see page 3



Christmas Sheep

see page 7



Area Dates for the diary

Area Workshops 2024

Tuesday 12 March - Vanessa Wellock
Thakeham Village Hall, Thakeham, RH20 3GW

Tuesday 7 May - Jane Rickard

Thursday 11 July - tbc

Tuesday 24 September - tbc

Tuesday 26 or Thursday 28 November - tbc

Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield BN5 9EQ
9.30am for 10.00am start

Council Meetings 2024

10.30am for 11.00am start

Monday 26 February at Shoreham

Monday 13 May at Plumpton

Monday 19 August at Shoreham

Monday 11 November at Plumpton
followed by AGM

Area Days 2024

10.30am for 11.00am start

Monday 11 March at Plumpton

Speaker: Gary Shipton – ‘*Hold the Front Page*’
Gary is a Deputy Lieutenant, West Sussex. He is Editor in Chief and Regional Director of Sussex World.

National Demonstrator: Vanessa Wellock from Cheshire
‘*A Walk on the Wild Side*’

Tuesday 18 June at Shoreham

Speaker: Ginny Davis - ‘*From the Pillory to the Prison Cell*’. Ginny is a public speaker, writer, performer and former Barrister

Demonstrator: David Ragg - David won the UK Florist of the Year title in 2000. Over the years, he has travelled the world sharing his passion for floral design. He has exhibited at the prestigious RHS Chelsea Flower Show no less than 15 times and under various guises has won 6 Gold Medals.

Monday 7 October at The Windmill Theatre, Littlehampton

Speaker: Bernard Bale – “*You must remember this*”. Bernard is a former Fleet Street journalist.

Demonstrator: Mark Entwistle “*The Secret Life of Colour*”. Otherwise known as “The Floral Enthusiast”, Mark belongs to the Cheshire area of NAFAS. He is also a Chelsea Gold Medal winner.

Chairmen's Forum

10.30am for 11.00am start

Monday 18 March
at Shoreham (Club Officers' Day)

Monday 28 October
at Plumpton (Club Officers' Day)

Venues

Shoreham

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

Plumpton

Plumpton Green Village Hall,
Plumpton, BN7 3BT

Littlehampton

the Windmill Theatre,
Windmill Road,
Littlehampton BN17 5LH

Area News

Area Chairman



No sooner is Christmas over than we find we are suddenly in the first week of January. A new year and with it new year resolutions – if they haven't already been discarded!

Before moving on to the new year, it is my great pleasure to mention José Allen who has recently celebrated her 100th birthday. José has made an enormous contribution to NAFAS and to Sussex Area as the following roll-call of achievements highlight.

- Sussex Area Chairman (1976 -1979),
- National Chairman (1983 -1985),
- Sussex Area President (1985 -1987) and
- Life Vice-President of Sussex Area.

José was a national demonstrator, adjudicator and a national judge. She is a National Associate of Honour and holds the Sussex Award of Merit.

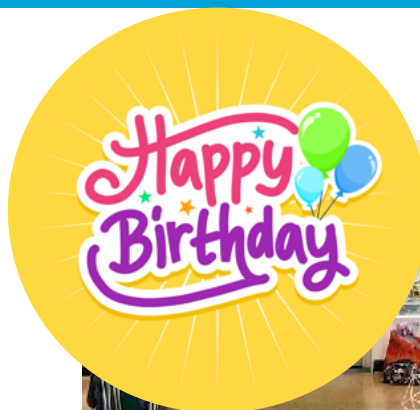
Our congratulations and very best wishes go to José on reaching her century.

Before closing, I would just mention that an idea came to me after having a chat with a new member. She enquired after the respective roles of Area Council and the various committees. So, to help new members, later in this newsletter (see page 5) I have set out a guide to the organisational structure of our Area which I hope new members will find helpful.

Finally, on behalf of the Sussex Area team - Ruth, Barbara, Brenda, Carol, Margaret, Christine, Duncan, Vanessa and Jenny - I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2024 and look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Best wishes,

Gaenor
x



José pictured at
New Visions 25 years celebrations
November 2021

Sussex Area of NAFAS JDS&E

NEXT STEPS

**Traditional and
Contemporary designs and
techniques course**



Five weeks, starting
Thursday 29 February,
7, 14, 21 and 28 March 2024

10.00 - 12.00

at Henfield Hall, Coopers Way,
Henfield BN5 9EQ

£60.00

to book a place **email** -
bcaldecourt@gmail.com

January 2024

Christmas Day has been and gone
I hope enjoyed by everyone
Now we greet a brand New Year
Let's hope it brings us lots to cheer

On resolutions I have pondered
Why we make them I have wondered
We should make a wish or two
You never know one might come true!

My first wish is that those who can
Look out for their fellow man
Make sure the structure is in place
To benefit the human race

My second wish would certainly be
To end all world hostility
Help the oppressed feel free from danger
And find compassion in every stranger

My final wish for all of you
Is that happiness will see you through
The rest of this brand New Year
May every day bring you good cheer

May all your best times be flower club days
And the joy they bring in so many ways
The flowers, the friends, the laughter too
The very happiest New Year to you

Anne Waite
Brighton & Hove Floral Decoration Club



What a wonderful month we have had for donations and of course we do thank everyone for the amazing support.

In the last couple of months we have had donations of £50 from Pearl, Little Common FC, £55 from The Freewheelers (via Barbara, East Preston FC), £250 from Steyning FC plus £45.24 in their collecting box, £155.50 from Warnham FC plus £105.50 from their collecting box and £171 from East Preston FC. Sheila Cheal (our treasurer) has had little plastic bags given to her with odd coppers which we are now going to call '*the penny collection*' so keep saving all those unwanted coins please. Two bags so far - £3.38 and £3.42 - keep saving your odd pennies even a couple is two more than we didn't have yesterday.



The next fundraising event is on Friday 22 March 2024 at Manor Barn, Bexhill - tickets are £30 to include a glass of Mead and will be available from Christine Madeley - there are obviously a limited number of tickets so early booking is advisable - should be a good evening!! More details to follow..



Don't forget - the Kidney Trust AGM is on Wednesday 24 April 2024 at 2pm at Henfield Village Hall and tea, of course, will be provided.

We've had more donations (*and I do get excited when we get them and want to shout it from the roof tops!!*) one for £200 from East Preston FC, another for £100 from Henfield FC, £50 from Stephanie and James Laing, and £5.30 from a Willingdon FC member from the sale of flower arranging mechanics - so another BIG thank you to all concerned and a Happy New Year to everybody.

Jean Plaskett, Chairman
Sussex Kidney Trust

Council Meetings

These meetings are held quarterly – usually in February, May, August and November

The Area Council consists of:

- Area Chairman
- Area Vice Chairman
- Area Secretary
- Area Treasurer
- Programme Administrator
- Ticket Administrator
- Media Administrator
- Chairman JDS&E (Judges, Demonstrators, Speakers and Education) and
- Club Delegates

There are several specialist administrators appointed who report to members of the Executive as appropriate.

Each Member Club appoints a delegate to serve on the Area Council.

A delegate:

- Votes on behalf of their club at Council meetings
- Reports to their club on Area matters
- Cannot be a member of the Executive Committee of the Area
- Normally serves for no more than three consecutive years

If the delegate is unable to attend a meeting, a deputy or proxy can be appointed by the Club to attend with full voting rights. If the deputy or proxy is unable to attend, the Club may register with the Area Secretary for a postal or email vote. This vote must be received by the Area Secretary no later than 48 hours before the Meeting.

Any affiliated club member is entitled to attend Council meetings but may not vote.
Any affiliated club member is entitled to receive the minutes of Council meetings upon application to the Area Secretary.
All members are very welcome to attend Council meetings.



The Annual General Meeting

Financial year is 1 October to 30 September

- Takes place by 25 November
- Each member club has one vote
- Any affiliated club member of the Sussex Area may attend the AGM but may not vote unless they are the official club delegate.
- The AGM is chaired by the Area President. Serving a three-year term, the President is chosen by the Executive, a member is chosen for the commitment, involvement and support to the Area over the years. The President attends the last Council meeting of the year.
- The Vice President is chosen one year ahead of becoming President.

Area Days

Area Days are one way of sharing fun, friendship and flowers across the Sussex Area membership and to showcase our floral art to members and non-members alike. These are held three times a year – usually in March, June and October.

Chairmen's Forum

These are held twice a year, usually in the Spring and Autumn, giving all clubs an opportunity of discussing matters of mutual interest with their peers as well as the Area Officers.

Club Newswhat have you been up to?

Festive Fun

Seaford Evening Flower Club's December meeting took place on another cold and wet evening, and marked the start of most of the member's Christmas celebrations.



The evening was divided into four parts starting off with a welcome drink of Shloer to help oil the mind's cogs to tackle the flower quiz that proved more difficult than I had anticipated, 14/22 the highest score. The second part of the evening saw us entertained



by Sutton Barn Ukulele Band playing Christmas carols and songs for us all to sing-along to. Many of the ladies were novice players but they sounded fantastic. Christmas hats and jumpers along with the Jingle bells strapped to their ankles and wrists added to the atmosphere. Song sheets kindly typed out by Hilary meant everyone could join in.



After singing along members welcomed the chance for more drinks and to sample the gorgeous

buffet they had all contributed towards. A beautifully decorated tombola stall was run by Maureen A and Maureen S to help raise funds for the club.

They had spent hours wrapping the prizes and decorating them with ribbons. Thanks girls.



A craft session followed giving everyone the opportunity to make a snowman or Christmas bauble from kits put together by the Programme Secretary, Jane.

The evening concluded with the results of the Christmas Competition. There were three classes - President's Cup -- '*All that sparkles*', Anne Mitchell Trophy -- '*Heavenly hosts*' and the Eileen Tucker Cup -- novice class -- '*Christmas Candle*'. Sadly this year there were very few entries many of our older members who usually entered the competitions were unwell and the novices were not brave enough to enter. Our resident judge Duncan Ward did the honours and provided excellent feed back to the entrants. Jane Mills (*left*) won



the President's Cup and the Anne Mitchell Trophy which were presented to her by the Chair Hilary Norsworthy (*right*).

A big thank you to my fellow committee members for all their hard work organising the evening, to Duncan for providing the background seasonal music, to Liz for sorting out the food brought in and washing up and not least for the continued support of the club members. Those who pull together enjoy together especially with the friendships created by a love of flowers.

Jane Mills, President
Seaford Evening Flower Club

Voted Favourite Tree

Pevensey and Westham Flower Club were proud to participate in the local Church's "Christmas Tree Festival" over the weekend 1-3 December.

The theme was "*animals*" and a small team of our mixed-experience ladies came up with some amazing ideas to ensure our tree was truly 'flower-inspired' ...

Sheep were created out of single chrysanthemum heads and laid in the boughs of our real tree, while a wood garland was accessorised with gypsophila. Flower covered oasis cones created our '*shepherds*' and some



fill-your-own clear baubles containing more gypsophila (and a bit of snow!) completed our woolly entry.

With no benefit other than to support St Mary's Church, Westham and perhaps raise a bit of publicity for our Club, our

ladies rose to the challenge and seemingly enjoyed the while experience - working together to achieve our fabulous exhibit.



Unbeknownst to us, visitors to the Church 'voted' for their favourite tree and amazingly we have just been told we "**won**"!!

Well done ladies!!

Lisa Symmonds, Chairlady
Pevensey & Westham Flower Club



Warnham Flower Club

Are collecting stamps for the RNIB please save all stamps, especially the Christmas ones.

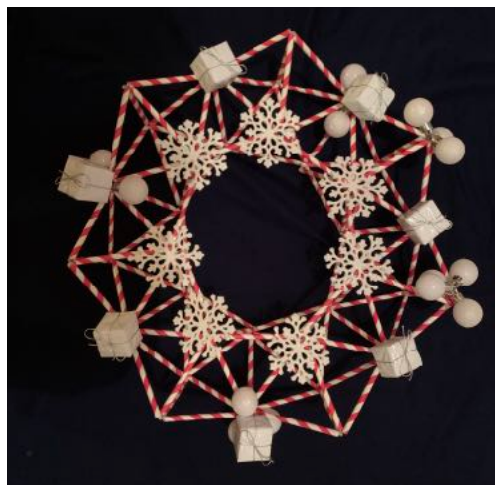
Please hand them to Jean Plaskett at the next Council meeting.

Himmeli Workshop

East Grinstead Flower Club held its first ever Himmeli workshop given by Amanda Pinder, Programme Secretary and assisted by club members Steve and Angela Merryfield.

A fun evening was had by all!

Anne-Marie Newby
Chairman
East Grinstead
Flower Club



A good idea....

Christine Campbell-Dykes, Chairlady of **Hailsham & District Flower Club** shares a good idea to promote your club.

"Cards with details of the club are left on the chairs at meetings, members are encouraged to take them and keep them in their pockets or handbags.

Then hand them to interested persons - this could be starting a conversation with someone buying flowers in the supermarket, and encouraging them to come along to a meeting."



Do you have a good idea you could share with others, if so please email them in.

Wadhurst's workshop

Wadhurst Flower Club had to cancel their November meeting so Chairman Debbie Farmer did a workshop in her home.

It was great fun!



Fun with Flowers

Willingdon Flower Club's Christmas Meeting was a bit different.

Our Christmas Meeting was held on Friday 1 December. Our Demonstrator for the afternoon was Kevin Loveland. Kevin is a Florist (*having had*



the Posy Bowl shop in Hailsham, and now has a shop in Pevensey Bay). He also used to demonstrate to groups and at the Pavilion Theatre in Hailsham. After the shop in Hailsham he reinvented himself as a Gardener and is now the Head Gardener at the local Hospice, leading a large team of Volunteers.

As a Club we had a guided visit to the Hospice Garden in August and persuaded Kevin to come out of retirement and do a demonstration for us.

So the meeting was somewhat different. He showed us arrangements that could be given as presents, how to make wreaths, hand tied bunches, as well as traditional arrangements. He is



passionate about only using bio degradable materials and not using Oasis. All of his foliage came from the Hospice garden and he had a fantastic variety of greenery including



Willingdon's new arranger

some wonderful pine and firs from their coniferous garden.

At one stage during the demonstration he asked for audience participation and picked out David (*the husband of Willingdon's Chairman*) to help him. To everybody's amazement David agreed and was helped and encouraged to

make an arrangement where the flowers were round the container rather than in it. As you can imagine this caused a great deal of merriment for all the ladies in the audience.

The afternoon concluded with tea, minced pies and Christmas cake and of course the raffle.

The afternoon certainly lived up to its title of 'Fun with Flowers'.



Vanessa Jefferies, Chairman
Willingdon Flower Club

Do you remember this?



Photo: Debbie Dann

An Area Workshop - at least 15 years ago?
Please email info@boxworthflowers.com with details



Spotlight On

Littlehampton and District Flower Club

When & Where We Meet

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, apart from January, at 2.30pm in

Parkside Evangelical Church Hall
1 St Flora's Road
Littlehampton West Sussex BN17 6BD

Our Club Officers

President... Pam Bryant
Chairman... Linda O'Connell
Secretary... Linda Francis
Treasurer... Penny Woodley
Programme Secretary...
Angela Jackson
Our Membership 57



Littlehampton and District Flower Club was started in May 1958, last year was our 65th anniversary, which we celebrated with a party and special demonstrations and competitions.

We have booked some great demonstrators for the next couple of years, and there will be "in house" demonstrations, our social events are still at the planning stage. The competitions are very well supported.

We hold at least two workshops each year, and a variety of social events, such as, Silent Auction, Quizzes, Ploughman's Suppers, Talks and Afternoon Teas.

Littlehampton

is located on the coast by the River Arun. Littlehampton developed from a fishing community to a holiday resort from the late 18th Century. Trade has now altered to boat building and water sports.

Anita Roddick founder of The Body Shop was born in Littlehampton and established the Body Shop headquarters in the town.



The ages of our members range from several in the 90's the oldest being 95, to those in their 60's.

Our membership is increasing through word of mouth, social events, and articles in local magazines. We are pleased to have welcomed twenty new members since reopening after Covid.

We do not use social media at present, but are looking to set up a web site in the near future.

We are a busy friendly club, which is very popular in the local community. We always support the Littlehampton Town Show and a local charity.



Spotlight On

Wadhurst & District Flower Club

When & Where We Meet

We meet on the first Thursday of each month, except January & August, at 2pm in Stonegate Village Hall, Forge Field, Stonegate, East Sussex TN5 7ED

Wadhurst and District Flower Club

was started in June 1972, we celebrated our 50th anniversary in 2022. In that 50 years we have moved halls, five times!

The ages of our members range from three members in their 90's, the oldest being 93, to our youngest member who is 24.

We have a Facebook page **Wadhurst Flower Club** with 404 followers, so why not follow us!

We helped to do the toadstools at Leonardslee in 2021 with the fabulous Stef Maynard.



We are a friendly club.



Christmas lunch setting up
Carol Jenman and her sister
Marilyn Luck in the kitchen cooking
Beef bourguignon and vegetables.

Wadhurst

Wadhurst is situated on the Kent/Sussex border seven miles east of Crowborough and about seven miles south of Royal Tunbridge Wells. Three miles south from Wadhurst is the small village of Stonegate, where we meet.



Christmas demo December 7 2023

Left to right: Joy Smith (*President*), Tracey Griffin (*National demonstrator*), and Debbie Farmer (*Chairman*).

Our Club Officers

President... Joy Smith
Chairman... Debbie Farmer
Secretary... Sonia Hobbs
Programme Secretary... Tania Williams
Our Membership 46

Programme 2024

February 1
March 7

April 4

May 9

June 6

July 4

September 5

October 3

November 7

December 5

AGM and Afternoon Tea

Stephen McDonnell

"Just in the Moment"

Barbara Caldecourt

"Calendar moments"

Workshop

Michael Bowyer

"Just Because it's June"

Michelle King

"Tour De France"

Members Afternoon

Susan Shaw

"Chasing Rainbows"

Mig Kimpton

"In Floral Panto land"

Nick Grounds

"The Appletree"

What do you do when you go on holiday?

Do you look for a sandy beach, the cocktail bar, local eateries or just some where to rest and read?

When I go away I like to plan what and where we may go, on the look out for a garden to visit or a flower festival. By good fortune, ten minutes from where we were overnighting in



Dublin, Ireland for our holiday back in the summer, was a flower festival!

'The Good News in Flowers' Flower Festival

at St Andrews Church, Malahide, on the outskirts of North Dublin. The festival designer was none other than Christopher White, NAFAS demonstrator and Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal winner.



Flower Festival were going toward the cost of a new organ in the parish church.

The beautiful church was filled with stunning floral displays and the gorgeous smell of fresh flowers. In the back ground live music was provided

by a young man playing some beautiful Irish tunes on a harp. As we wandered around the festival there was one display that caught my eye, none other than Sussex's very own - Stephen McDonnell - Daly's beautiful display in the entrance hall.



Over the three day period, many people from near and far visited the church, to view the excellent floral displays and partake in the refreshments in the Parish Centre.



Entry to the flower festival included a commemorative colour brochure detailing the thirty plus flower arrangements on display – all of which have been generously donated by parishioners of St Andrew's in memory of loved ones, arranged by many AOIFA (Association of Irish Floral Artists) arrangers. The proceeds from the

The event was an outstanding success, not just in the amount of funds raised in excess of €17,000 (£14,520) for the organ project, but in terms of the numbers of people from the church congregation who were involved in it.

It really was a wonderful festival, and a lovely treat to start a holiday!

Duncan Ward
Editor



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

For the February issue by
Saturday 20 January 2024

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 New Year. *Duncan*

Noticeboard



Don't forget

Please send your club programmes for 2024 as a word document.

No names or contact details just the programmes.

Email to Christine Purkess to add to the website

christinepurkess@btinternet.com

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETIES

NAFAS Teachers Conference

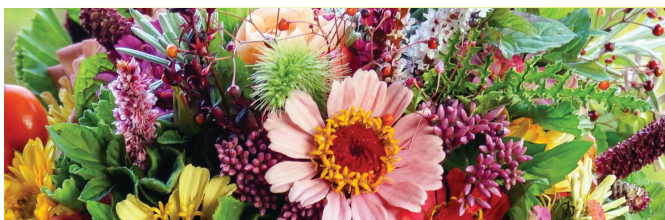
Where innovation meets inspiration

5-7th July 2024

Woodland Grange, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 6RN



Registered Charity No. 1101348



If you have a passion for teaching, this conference is your gateway to a world of inspiration and professional growth. Secure your spot today and embark on a journey of teaching excellence!

WHY ATTEND?

- Explore transformative teaching techniques
- Learn about plant identification
- Network with like-minded educators
- Understand how to assess learners work
- Elevate your classroom strategies
- Enjoy a presentation on wiring techniques
- Collaborate and share best practices
- Introduction to teaching & teacher training

COST

£350 per person based on two people sharing a twin room. £399 for a single room. Full board.

BOOKING ENQUIRIES

Contact Layla Hill
 at NAFAS Head Office
 Email: layla@nafas.org.uk
 Tel: 020 7247 5567



The NAFAS National Education Committee are looking forward to welcoming Area and National Teachers for this very special weekend.

www.nafas.org.uk

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETIES



**Residential weekend event
 for NAFAS members**

Highland Fling

**Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel,
 Clydebank, Glasgow
 Friday 26th – Sunday 28th July 2024**

- Arrive Friday afternoon
- Traders/retail therapy
- Tambola & raffle
- Friday evening – three-course meal and entertainment
- Saturday breakfast & lunch
- Speakers
- Superb demonstration
- Saturday Gala Dinner and entertainment
- Sunday morning – breakfast and Speaker
- Close of Conference by NAFAS National Chairman

**Enjoy a weekend
 of fun, friendship
 and flowers**

Cost £350 for a single room
 or £300 per person based
 on two people sharing

**To register your interest
 and reserve places**

Please provide your name,
 contact details and
 number of places to
 Email: events@nafas.org.uk
 Tel: 020 7247 5567

A FUNDRAISING EVENT IN AID OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETIES
 Registered Charity No. 1101348

2024 Dates for the diary

RHS Malvern Spring Festival	9 - 12 May
RHS Chelsea Flower Show	21 - 25 May
Chichester Cathedral Festival of Flowers	8 - 12 June
RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival	2 - 7 July
RHS Flower Show Tatton Park	17 - 21 July
RHS Wisley Garden Show	3 - 8 September
Malvern Autumn Show	27 - 29 September