



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



Christine, Mary, Jane and Adrienne

Peacehaven & Telscombe's Tenth Anniversary



Peacehaven and Telscombe
Flower Club celebrated their
10th Anniversary at their AGM
in March.

*Pictured above the club
committee with Chairman
Christine cutting the cake and a
group photo below.*



National News / Area Dates

Vision Statement
"To improve the lives
of everyone through
flowers."



Mission Statement
"Sharing the creative use
of flowers through
education, to bring joy
and inspiration to all."

Our Values

- *Ensure a friendly welcome for all, that embraces equality and diversity*
- *Ensure open and positive behaviours at all times in delivering our goals*
- *Make full use of the knowledge, energy and commitment of all of our association's members*
- *Seek positive environmental sustainability in all our activities*



NAFAS WEBINAR

Thursday 16 May 2024

6 - 8pm

To promote openness and transparency between Members and the National Chairman, Board of Trustees and the CEO, a NAFAS WEBINAR is planned.

Questions are welcomed and details of how to obtain a link go to www.nafas.org.uk or click the link below to register.

The webinar is open to all members.

No restrictions, no maximum number of attendees and the public can join in. At the link you need to register your name, club and area.

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/d6d42536-b218-46c0-ad0e-6f9da08b5bec@e78ae249-98ce-45ea->



National Flower Arranging Day

Friday May 3 2024

Please send us your photos and stories from the day.

Area Workshops

Tuesday 7 May
 Jane Rickard

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

Council Meeting

10.30am for 11.00am start

Monday 13 May

Plumpton Green Village Hall,
 Plumpton, BN7 3BT



Flower Arranging & Design Sussex

Area Day

Tuesday 18 June 2024

10.15am for 11.00am start

11am – Speaker: Ginny Davis
 'From the Pillory to the Prison Cell'

Ginny is a public speaker, writer, performer and former Barrister

2pm – Demonstrator: David Ragg

'FlorEnergy'

David won UK Florist of the Year in 2000 and has won numerous Gold medals at Chelises.

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

Ticket price: Members £23, Non-Members £26

Tickets available from Carol calathleif@yahoo.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you

Area News



Area Chairman

*First April, she with mellow showers,
Opens the way for early flowers:
Then after her comes smiling May
In a more rich and sweet array*

Robert Herrick

Thanks to all of you who entered last month's caption competition and congratulations to..... Please turn to page 12 to find out who, and the winning caption! You will also find details of this month's caption competition, so do enter for the chance to win a free Area Day ticket.

Our March Club Officers' day was very well received giving an important opportunity for Club Officers to network and share news and views. You can read about it in Tricia's report on page 6.

One result of the Club Officers' day is that a **WhatsApp** group for Club Chairmen is being set up. This will provide a useful tool in furthering club connections.

Tickets are still available to purchase for our next Area Day on Tuesday 18 June at the Shoreham Centre, so please contact Carol calathleiff@yahoo.co.uk for details.

Finally, with better weather on its way - we can but hope! - I have already started this year's 'club crawl'. I hope very much to meeting up with you all as I travel around Sussex to visit everyone.

Best wishes,

Gaenor
x

Spring!

We add an hour every Spring
Which has got me wondering
Where and why and when and who
Thought that it's the thing to do

To find out I used the media
To log on to Wikipedia
The complex history left me confused
Rather than wiser, I was bemused

I can say that 1916 was the year
That we adopted the practice here
In the Second World War the hours became two
To help the farmers and the food they grew

The extra hour means days grow longer
And the rays of the sun get stronger
The joys of summer are quite near
As long as the mist and fog will clear!



Cherry blossom and daffodils
Tulips and leaves on trees
These are sights that bring such pleasure
Raise your spirits beyond measure

It now remains for me to say
Enjoy the seasons come what may
Each brings it's joy without a doubt
Just wait 'til May to shed that clout!

Happy Springtime to you all!

Anne Waite
Brighton & Hove Floral Decoration Club



The last month has been another good fundraising month.

Medieval Evening at Manor Barn in Bexhill organised by Christine Madeley raised £1,400 – a wonderful amount which we were all thrilled with and a big thank you to Christine for all her hard work. I was invited to a Lent luncheon with members of 4 churches in Billingshurst – St. Mary's, St Gabriel's, United Reform and the Family church, which is all part of churches together; to talk about the Sussex Kidney Trust which had been decided was to be their chosen charity, thanks mainly to Sylvia, a flower arranging friend from Storrington FC. A collection was made after a very enjoyable lunch provided by the church ladies, with bread provided by a local bakery and a donation of £250 resulted. So another very big thank you to Sylvia and the members of Billingshurst churches together. I was also given £27.90 in pennies when I went to Steyning Flower Club, just for night out, little realising that I would be coming home with a heavy bag full of coins.

Thank you so much to everyone we really are making a difference to peoples lives as one of our members told me recently – her husband, who is on home dialysis, is so grateful to have a comfortable SKT chair making his treatment so much easier to cope with.

Tickets are now on sale for our fund raising demonstration by Mathew Spriggs on Saturday 14 September at Henfield Halls. They are available from Sheila Cheal 01903 773017 or at Council on 13 May or Area Day on 18 June.

Stamps for the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)

Keep the stamps rolling in – we have sent loads to the RNIB already and Joyce (Warnham FC) is more than happy, I think, to be cutting the envelopes down to size because she is still recovering from her knee operation and we need to keep her busy!!

Jean Plaskett, Chairman
Sussex Kidney Trust



*Jane Williams from
Hailsham & District Flower Club*

Sustainable Easter Church Flowers



*Clare Mander from
Willington Flower Club
with her daughter
Lauren Mander*

Brenda Dolling RIP

Brenda of Warnham Evening Flower Club sadly passed away on Saturday 2 March.
May she rest in peace.

Area Day, March 2024

'Hold the Front Page'

Speaker: Gary Shipton, is a Deputy Lieutenant, West Sussex. He is Editor in Chief and Regional Director of Sussex World Newspapers



Gary's witty gossip went down well with many witty anecdotes. His introduction included his childhood knowledge of flower arranging, picked up from his mother, and then proceeded to share with his geography teacher, when asked in class "who knows what an Oasis is"? Clearly the teacher was not expecting him to enthusiastically describe it as an absorbent block of green foam!

He amused us with other stories of interviews with past prime ministers and the kindness shown by some when asked if they would allow to be interviewed by very new and young journalists.

He shared his personal early experience as a speaker at a Womens' guild meeting, when he was very strictly ordered to keep the speech short and clean by the chairwoman. Little did he know that a wasp would make its way up the inside of his trousers, and when it could climb no further, it STUNG him, causing him to utter a profanity and drop his trousers, right there on the stage in front of all the women!

Gary concluded by imploring us all to purchase our weekly local papers in order to support the training and employment of journalists.

'A Walk on the Wild Side'

National Demonstrator: Vanessa Wellock

Vanessa lived up to her maiden name of wild, being suitably dressed in denim and fabulous sparkly Doc Marten



bovver boots. Her demonstration was both entertaining and informative – with plenty of advice on how she made her many containers and mechanics –



some of which may have been a trifle difficult to put in a car!

Vanessa's flowers were stunning and the choices of colour combinations impeccable. Using several differing styles, she created over 20 arrangements; these varying from single stems of orchids, surrounded by plaited palms, to several delicately designed hand ties on handmade frames. Other unusual arrangements were in 'carrier bags'



– purpose made for oasis containers but not seen before by most of those present.



Victoria Crawshaw and Christine Purkess
Ninfield Flower Group



Club Officers Forum

It was a chilly and windy day in March as we made our way to Shoreham Community Centre for the Club Officers Forum. However once inside we were given a warm welcome with tea, coffee and home-made cakes courtesy of the Area Executive Committee.



The day started with an ice breaker game of 'Heads or Tails' which was great fun, I was fortunate to be the last person standing although it was not because of vast knowledge but good guesses.

We were seated in groups relevant to our club roles, Chairman/Vice Chairman, Treasurers, Secretaries, Programme Secretaries, Publicity and Flower Arranger Officers.

As always it is interesting and informative working with other club members performing the same role, which makes you realise that you are not alone. I was with the Programme Secretaries, and it was particularly interesting to hear how clubs with declining membership were getting by and using innovative ways of keeping



their clubs going. Some clubs were unable to book demonstrators for every meeting due to rising costs, so they were having workshops, practice days or speakers. The general feeling was that we were short of demonstrators in Sussex but were pleased to hear from Gaenor that three potential demonstrators were in training. I belong to East Preston; we are a large club so not a problem for us to go out of area for demonstrators. Blue forms and postage cost still high on the agenda although we are now able to scan this form and send if you have that facility.

Personally, I find these meetings valuable as there is always something new to learn. I understand that the next one will be in East Sussex which will enable more club officers to attend from that part of the county.

Overall, it was an interesting and worthwhile day.

Tricia Bridgman
East Preston Floral Club



Club Newswhat have you been up to?

Pass it on

East Grinstead Flower Club had a fabulous fun workshop recently entitled 'Pass it On'.

Many thanks to Amanda for running this for us. We all brought some flowers, foliage and a container and then passed this onto the person next to us.

It was a challenge for some of us, but we had a very enjoyable evening.

Anne-Marie Newby, Chairman
East Grinstead Flower Club



Ready, Steady, ARRANGE !

Willingdon Flower Club

witnessed something completely different on Friday 4 April when they enjoyed a novel demonstration entitled “ *Ready, Steady, ARRANGE !* “



Normally, two talented sisters present the demonstration but on this occasion one sister was unwell and unable to take part.

Fortunately, Willingdon club has an extremely stalwart chairman who gamely volunteered to complete the duo. How lovely to get such an offer without arm twisting or cajoling.

The brief used for *Ready, Steady, Arrange* follows the same concept as the television programme *Ready, Steady, Cook* which involved fairly frantic cooking with motley ingredients .

Our arrangers faced the same test with flowers and foliage. Each person in the audience held a picture of a **red flower** and a **green leaf** to vote for the arrangement they preferred. The truly crucial part of the venture was to complete each design within 15 minutes and before the alarm went off.



For many of us the time limit alone would be enough to set alarm bells ringing and panic stations to take over. Denise, veteran of *Ready, Steady, Arrange* and Vanessa, new girl on the block, were totally unfazed by the ordeal.

They gave us various tips on arranging, amusing anecdotes and encouraged the audience to join in which made for a relaxed , enjoyable demonstration. To do that and produce 6 lovely designs at the same time was really admirable.

When they had each made 3 designs , the marks were added up and **Red Flowers** narrowly beat **Green Leaves**. This result meant that Vanessa, **Red Flower**, constructed a final pedestal design. Denise, **Green Leaf**, assisted Vanessa in making the design. The pedestal was truly magnificent and much appreciated by the audience .



Although a certain amount of enjoyment in this demo idea is hinged on the fact that there is a competitive element, it all proceeded amicably, no fisticuffs or rude words from the stars of the show or the audience .

Have we always been this well behaved?
I sincerely hope not!!

Wendy Jones, Programme Secretary
Willingdon Flower Club

Spring Blooms

On a rather rainy afternoon in March, members of **Lindfield Flower Club** gathered, their creative juices flowing like a springtime stream. *The challenge?* To create enchanting springtime arrangements that would make even the flowers outside blush with envy!

With size being the only petal on their path, our floral enthusiasts - both budding beginners and blooming experts - set to work. Hyacinths, daffodils, camellias, tulips, and hellebores were woven into creations as vibrant and lively as spring itself.

The table blossomed with an array of colours; it was as if a rainbow had gracefully descended into the room. The air was fragrant with the sweet perfume of success. In this garden of creativity, every participant was a winner in their own right. As tokens of appreciation for their blooming marvellous efforts, each member was presented with a mini Easter egg – because nothing complements the fragrance of fresh flowers like the taste of chocolate!



As we left that day, hearts light and spirits as bright as our colourful creations, one thing was clear: although it may not have felt like Spring outside; it had burst into every corner of our cherished flower club.

Maeve Byrne, Communications Officer
Lindfield Flower Club

Himmeli Spheres

On Thursday 11 April 2024 **Lewes Flower Club** held an 'In House' meeting where members learnt how to make their own Himmeli spheres made from craft straws and wire.

The resulting frames were lovely and any arrangements our members choose to make in the future will look beautiful in these.



Stella Stephens, Secretary
Lewes Flower Club



Easter Sustainable Church Flowers



Su Htoon from
Willingdon Flower Club

WAFA

Bloom Oman

The gala evening what a spectacle! Not only did we have an amazing demonstration and delicious gala meal, there was the stunning fashion show.

Here are some pictures of the fashion show.

Sue Flight, Chairman
New Visions





Spotlight On

Lindfield Flower Club

Where & When We Meet

We meet at King Edward Hall, High Street (opposite the village pond) Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 2HH on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2.30 pm.

We hold 10 meetings a year, but not in August or December.

Our Club Officers

Chairman (& Minute Secretary) Jo Hartless
 Treasurer Alison Hughes
 Programme Secretary... Diane Abbott
 Our Membership 68



Lindfield Flower Club was established in 1958. We have old programmes going back to 1983 when we celebrated our 25th Anniversary, and our yearly subscriptions were £3.50!

Our oldest member (*and probably our longest serving member*) is Muriel who will be 92 this May. She is very active, taking part in competitions, and at every meeting is our raffle ticket 'folder'.

We are fortunate to have many ladies in Lindfield who are interested in almost anything to do with flowers.

Each month we usually have a demonstrator to our club who makes beautiful flower arrangements which we raffle afterwards. This March however we had a very interesting lady Jacqueline Aviolet who gave a talk on roses, how to plant, and when to prune etc. and we have previously invited Ben Cross to give a talk about his Alstroemeria flowers. We also organise occasional outings, notably last year to Parham House and Gardens, and in June this year to Wisley Gardens, and very excitingly, in 2008, a trip to Highgrove, King Charles's residence. Only a limited number of 25 were permitted. We still have 5 members at our club who went on that trip.

We also love to play an active role, and to learn and apply new skills, and our members enjoy attending our in-house workshops. We have at least one a year, and are lucky to have some talented members who take the stage to demonstrate and help us to make something to take home.

We celebrated our **65th Anniversary** last year with a workshop, homemade cakes and bubbly. We have just started to have one or two fairly informal 'competitions', and are very pleased that a number of our members feel confident enough to take part. During our March meeting, our competition theme was '*Spring Time*', and we had a very colourful table of arrangements of spring flowers. In February we ran a '*Re-Gifting*' (bring and buy) sales table of unwanted Christmas gifts. There was quite a selection of odd items, and many were sold to other members who appreciated them.

We are a friendly group of ladies, mostly retired, who luckily are united in wishing to enjoy and develop our club, whilst importantly still retaining our rather informal but happy and mutually supportive atmosphere.

Caption Competition

Please use your skill and judgement to produce an original and amusing caption to the photograph.

- Entries will be judged by Ruth, our Area President, whose decision will be final.
- Please send your entry to Ruth at roelfinac@gmail.com or by telephone to Gaenor on 01798 812719 by Monday 13th May 2024.

The winner will be notified using the contact details given and the result, including the winning member's name and club, will be published in the next Area newsletter.

There is a prize of a voucher for one free Area Day ticket which can be used for any Area Day booking in the 12 months following the competition. This prize will not apply to any tickets already purchased.

May Caption Competition



What's your caption?

April Caption Competition Winning Entry



Ruth says It has been a great pleasure to read the captions as they have come in and very good they all are. As a result it has been very difficult to judge and everyone should be a winner. I have chosen **the winning April caption:** *"These Talented Hands Create Flower Power"*

Christine Ashby from Patcham Flower Club

Well done Christine!

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

For the June issue by
Monday 20 May 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.

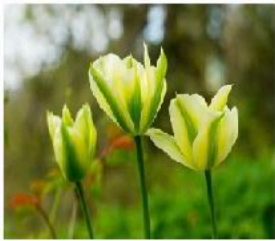
Have a great summer!

Duncan

Noticeboard

BURGESS HILL FLOWER CLUB

Wednesday 1st May 2024



“GREEN INSPIRATION”

Demonstrations of floral arrangements by
NINA TUCKNOTT

Nina is a qualified NAFAS Demonstrator and Teacher and is the Editor of “Flora” Magazine. She will take us on a journey exploring various facts relating to the word “green”.

Raffle to win one of Nina’s floral arrangements
Sales Table – with a variety of floral items and books
Visitors £8 - which includes refreshments

Meeting: 1.45pm for 2pm start, Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8DX

Contact Judith for more information T: 01444 871886 E: alexander9@tiscali.co.uk
Affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS)
(Supported by Burgess Hill Town Council)

POSTER: 1st May 2024 Green Inspiration Nina Tucknott



East Grinstead Flower Club

An evening with

Nicola Wright

Demonstrating her floral designs entitled

“Summer Madness”

Wednesday 1st May 2024

St Johns Church Hall
The Glebe, Felbridge, East Grinstead,
West Sussex, RH19 2QT.



7.00pm for 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

HORAM & HEATHFIELD FLOWER CLUB

INVITE YOU TO AN **OPEN EVENING** WITH

JACQUI ARNOLD

A FLORAL ART DEMONSTRATION

“HELLO SUNSHINE”

THURSDAY 9TH MAY 2024

Doors open 6.45pm FOR 7.30pm
HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE
Sheepsetting Lane TN21 0XG

sales tables, refreshments & raffle

Tickets available from Mrs Jenny FosterSmith

fsjenny@btinternet.com

Visitors £12.50 Members £8

For more information : 01435 863224

Cuckfield Evening Flower Club Demonstration

Friday 10th May
7.15 for 7.30pm

The Methodist Church
Perrymount Road
Haywards Heath

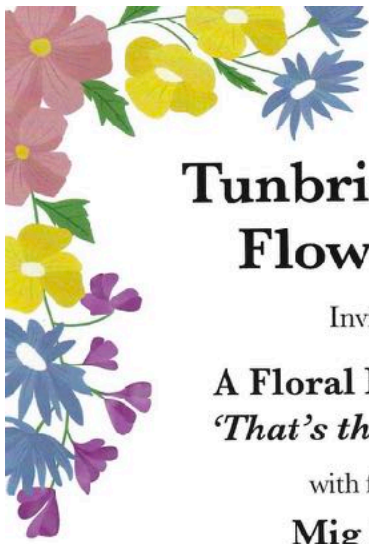
‘A Good Read’
by Jennifer Thompson

Non members £8

Refreshments available, and also a chance to win one of the arrangements in our raffle.

For more information call Sue on
01444 831602, or email
sue_spooner@btinternet.com.

Facebook
[@Cuckfieldeveningflowerclub](https://www.facebook.com/Cuckfieldeveningflowerclub)



Tunbridge Wells Flower Club

Invites you to

A Floral Extravaganza
'That's the way to do it'

with floral wizard

Mig Kimpton

At Crowborough Community Centre,
Pine Grove, Crowborough, TN6 1FE on

Tuesday 14th May at 2pm
(doors open at 1.30pm)

Tickets £15
Refreshments included

Send a cheque made payable to
Tunbridge Wells Flower Club
together with a stamped addressed envelope to

Sue Holland, 16 Linden Gardens,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5QT



HENFIELD FLOWER CLUB

Tuesday 14th May 2024

Floral Cocktail

A floral Demonstration by

Susie Tausig



At The Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, BN5 9EQ

Doors open at 2.00 for a 2.15 start

Visitors - £7

There will be a flower raffle

Contact Angela Toft for more information 01273 933623

Or email angelaMarytoft@yahoo.com

Plumpton Flower Club

We are very pleased to welcome

Ben Cross

Who will be giving a talk
entitled

“British Flowers Rock!”

(Alstroemerias and the British Flower Industry)

on

Wednesday 15th May

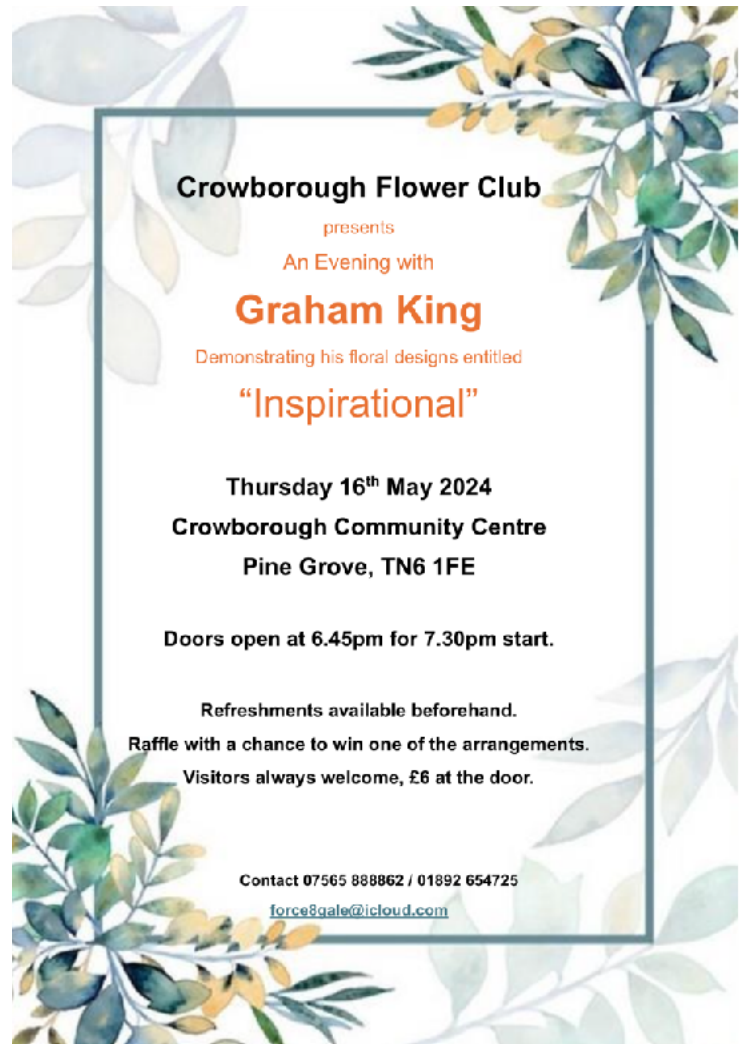
Commencing at 7.30pm

At Plumpton Village Hall

Members £3, Visitors £8

Including refreshments.

There will be a raffle at the end of the evening and
Ben will have alstroemerias for you to purchase!



Crowborough Flower Club

presents

An Evening with

Graham King

Demonstrating his floral designs entitled

“Inspirational”

Thursday 16th May 2024

Crowborough Community Centre

Pine Grove, TN6 1FE

Doors open at 6.45pm for 7.30pm start.

Refreshments available beforehand.

Raffle with a chance to win one of the arrangements.

Visitors always welcome, £6 at the door.

Contact 07565 88862 / 01892 654725

force8gale@icloud.com

WEST CHILTINGTON FLORAL CLUB

Please join us at our

May Workshop

with

BARBARA HOY

on

Tuesday 21st May,
7.00pm for 7.30pm start

at

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

Visitors are most welcome - £5.00

(Visitors must please book in advance and contact Carol or Brenda for the worksheet regarding the materials for the Workshop)

For more information, please contact:

Carol on 01798 813608 or

Brenda on 01798 813712

Email: wchiltfloralclub@gmail.com

Storrington Flower Club

Invites you to a floral demonstration

‘Celebrations’

by

Kathryn Austin

at

Storrington & Sullington Parish Hall,
Storrington RH20 3PP

on

Wednesday 22nd May 2024

at

2.30pm (doors open 2pm)

Visitors welcome- entry £6. Tea, coffee and biscuits available. Raffle of demonstration arrangements. Plants, flower arranging and 2nd hand book sales tables also available

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

Steyning and District Flower Club

Invites you to an evening with

Barbara Caldecourt

Demonstrating her Floral Designs entitled

"Snapshots"

Wednesday 22nd May 2024

The Steyning Centre
Steyning BN44 3XZ
7pm for 7.30pm

Non-Member Tickets
£7 on the door



Lindfield Flower Club

VISITOR
TICKET
£5

JOIN US FOR A
FLORAL DEMONSTRATION BY
HELEN HARE

“EAST TO WEST”

28 MAY 2024 AT 2:30 PM
KING EDWARD HALL, HIGH ST
LINDFIELD.RH16 2HH

WIN ONE OF THE DEMONSTRATOR'S ARRANGEMENTS BY
ENTERING OUR MONTHLY RAFFLE.



In Festival Week
EAST PRESTON FLORAL CLUB
proudly present their fabulous Exhibition

"FLORAL FANTA-SEA"



Sunday 2nd June

10am - 5pm

£1 Entrance (children under 16 free)

Come along and see our stunning floral designs!
Refreshments, stalls and tombola!

Donations to The Sussex Kidney Trust

Registered Charity Number: 254265

The Conservative Hall

Sea Road, East Preston, BN16 1JN

www.epfloralclub.co.uk



Nature's Challenge

The UK's most prestigious Flower Arranging Experience

Fri 19th & Sat 20th September 2025
at Gloucester Cathedral



Demonstrations,
workshops & talks

Competitive flower
arranging classes

Stunning floral
exhibits

Food, drink
& retail

Music

Tickets available from
www.eventbrite.co.uk



www.nafas.org.uk

The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies

Charity Registration No. 101348

Dates for the diary

RHS Malvern Spring Festival	9 - 12 May
RHS Chelsea Flower Show	21 - 25 May
Chichester Cathedral Festival of Flowers	4 - 8 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