

SURREY AREA E-NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022

WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF THE SURREY AREA E-NEWSLETTER.

Many thanks to all the clubs and individuals that have contributed to this edition; it is greatly appreciated.

Apology:

In the photos of Banstead Show: The Judge's Choice winner was Gail Fraser not Angela Norman as stated. Please accept my apologies for this error.

Joan Cooper's Memorial Service:

What a wonderful service; it certainly was a celebration of Joan's life.

The sun shone through the beautiful stained glass windows and the church was packed with family; friends and a lot of flower arrangers. Stunning flower designs both inside and outside the church.

Joan's two sons gave a lovely tribute to their mum and made us all laugh at some of the memories they shared.

It was a short drive to the Royal Automobile Association Club in Epsom for drinks and nibbles, more beautiful flower arrangements greeted us all; there was so much chatter and smiles all round; members from the Area telling tales of their memories of Joan.

A Celebration of the Life of

Joan Margery Cooper



2nd March 1933 – 14th March 2020

ST GILES CHURCH, ASHTEAD
Wednesday 27th July 2022 at 11.00 am



Graham, Neil and all the family would like to thank you for coming to Joan's memorial service and making it such a special day. We know how much this would have meant to her.

Any donations in the memory of Joan can be made at the back of the church for the Princess Alice Hospice.

Thank you.

You are all most welcome to join us for refreshments afterwards at
The RAC Club
Woodcote Park
Wilmerhatch Lane
Epsom
KT18 7EW

At the church; the flowers were organised by Lynette Whitehead who is in charge of the Church Flower Arrangers. Joan was part of the team. Lynette Whitehead and Sue Weeks arranged the Alter flowers. Jan Hardy arranged the high window arrangement and Anna Sparks arranged a low design on the bookcase. Representing Ashted Flower Arrangement Group: Pat George arranged the pedestal outside the entrance door and representing the Surrey Area: Chris Brown (Area Chairman) arranged the pedestal in the front of the church.

In total 12 members of Ashted Flower Arrangement Group were involved in flower arranging in either of the venues. Importantly the flowers were arranged by all who knew and loved Joan.



**Pedestal outside the church entrance
arranged by Pat George (Ashtead)**



Low Design by Anna Sparks.



Windowsill designed by Jan Hardy on behalf of the Church.



Pedestal designed by Chris Brown (Area Chairman) on behalf of the Surrey Area.



Alter vases arranged by Lynette Whitehead Sue Weeks.



RAC Club Stunning Table arrangements made by Barbara Quinlan, Di Stirling and Lynis Williams



RAC Long Table design by Jean Renwick and Gill Northcott.



RAC Club Design by Lynis Williams



RAC Club designed by Penny Anslow.



RAC Club design by Sue Earp.



RAC Club arranged by Lynis Williams.

I am sure you would agree that Joan would have approved of our efforts; a BIG thankyou to everyone who gave up their time to make such wonderful arrangements.

Surrey Young Floral Designers:

Our young designers have been busy as usual.
Below are photographs from the June and July workshops.

June Workshop “Leaf Manipulation”





July Workshop "Tapestry/Pave Designs."



Bookham Flower Club:

Life for Bookham Flower Club has been full, fun and varied over the last few months.

A variety of innovative containers were used by Angela Turner, a National Demonstrator, in her presentation of "Flower, Paper, Scissors" in April, giving us new ideas for reducing our use of floral foam. May brought Patricia Ellis to us with her title, "Tins and Things", and more ideas for containers with which to enhance designs of beautiful plant materials.

Also in May was National Flower Arranging Day which was marked by gifts of flowers to friends, and we had another workshop led by Sue Slark, which has given some more members confidence to enter the monthly club competitions and, hopefully, go even further.

Visitors to Polesden Lacey may have seen a Platinum Jubilee arrangement of a crown created by club member, Sue Marshal.

June was a very busy month starting just after the Platinum Jubilee weekend with a demonstration by Helen Hare, in the flesh this time (not on a screen), entitled "East to West", illustrating some aspects of the East in flowers. This was followed by a coach trip to the Flower Festival at Chichester Cathedral, where the floral arrangements were beautiful and varied in type from traditional to contemporary. Our stall at Bookham Village Day won the cup for the Best Decorated Indoor Stall and raised a record amount by selling baskets of flowers arranged and donated by our members.

Two of our members, Christine Martin and Gillian Brand, represented the club with an entry in Banstead Flower Club's Show and were awarded Very Highly Commended against strong competition.

Demonstrator Jennifer Thompson's theme "Moments in Time", at our July meeting, was illustrated with beautiful and unusual plant material and the most unusual was the favourite to win in the raffle.

Life seems to have returned to normal (almost!)



Bookham Village Day stalls.



Christine and Giliian Very Highly Commended at Banstead Show.
The 4 Photos below are from the Bookham Workshop:







AFDC Saturday Morning Class “leaf Manipulation” tutored by Val Clark:

How do you keep 13 members of your club quiet and entertained? Have a Leaf Manipulation class; you could have heard a pin drop all morning as they weaved and stapled; pinned and glued. Thankyou Val for a great workshop, many will have learned another string to their bow. Photos below:









“Plant Material in All its Forms”:

I sent this out to everyone and had an email to say why don't you include it in the next edition of our Newsletter....so here it is.

The National Judging Committee has consulted with Judges and Competitors and has issued the following list of products/items that may be considered to be plant material for the purposes of flower arrangement competitions.

Artefacts made of Wood:

Beads, Boards, Bowls, Boxes, Spoons, Buttons, Candlesticks, Carved flowers, fruit, vegetables, fungi, etc. Figurines Flowers made of wood shavings or similar Kyogi Veneer, Wood shavings.

Artefacts made of Cotton:

Balls of cotton yarn, Knitted items – fabrics, clothing, textiles, etc. Paper/Card Ribbon Woven items – fabrics, home textiles, clothing, etc.

Artefacts made of Jute Bags:

Balls, Burlap Canvas Espadrilles, Fabrics, Fishing nets / Netting, Hessian and Scrim. Home Textiles, Macramé, Mats & Carpets, Sacking, String and Rope Yarn.

Artefacts made of Bags Straw / Hay / Grass:

Bird's Nest, Corn Dollies, Paper Spheres, String & Rope Revised September 2018.

Artefacts made of Cork:

Bottle stoppers, Mats / Matting.

Artefacts made of Cane:

Baskets, Mats, Spheres, Paper of fibres from Agave (Agave bagasse paper), Bamboo, Banana, Cotton or cotton rags, Daphne (Lokta paper), Fig (Bark cloth), Flax, Rice, Grass (Chhapri paper), Hemp, Jute, (Gunny paper), Maize, Mango, Mitsumata, Mulberry (Washi/Rakusui and others), Nettle (Ramie paper), Papyrus, Sugar cane (Bagasse paper), Rice, Mixed organic fibres (e.g. coconut, water hyacinth, gampi, mulberry).

Artefacts made of card / paper:

Boxes: Cut, moulded, glued, shredded, woven items, etc. Egg boxes Flowers, leaves, vegetables, fungi, etc. Origami items.

Additional items not mentioned above:

Cereals, Coconut fibre, Hapene, Latex balloon, Loofah, Midelino (Rattan), Pasta, Plant fibres/'tops' such as soya and bamboo Seaweed (Nori, Gim, Wakami, etc.) Sisal Revised September 2018. Takenokawa (bamboo culm sheath), Ting-ting, Waxed fruit and vegetables.

Replies to Article:

Thank you to everyone who sent in thanks for the above document.

Reply from Bunty Stannard:

Thank you for your Helpful Document.

With flowers getting so expensive it is a pity we are not allowed to use silk or polyester flowers, some are so realistic these days especially with fresh foliage.

Just a thought for the future.

Regards,

Bunty.

Flower Arrangers Around the World:

This write up below will resonate with us all; many thanks to **Jane Price (AFDC)** for sending this in, it made me chuckle.

'The Addiction of One Flower Arranger!'

Whilst lying in bed the other night, I overheard a helicopter circling above my house. I then wondered if the police were pointing their thermal imaging cameras at my newly erected shed making the number of sheds I now have as three!

Did the police think that I had a cannabis factory in them or that I was housing illegal immigrants?

The mushrooming sheds had obviously made them suspicious? Fortunately, after about five minutes, they flew off and I was able to go back to sleep knowing that neither is the case!

In fact, much to my husband's consternation, my shed contains ... flower arranging stuff, loads of it!

The thing is, I have never yet met another flower arranger that is not a bit of a hoarder and magpie when it comes to collecting items for flower arranging. You never know when that broken vase from the charity shop or those broken dusty old bulrushes may come in handy?

Trouble is that I am now running out of space in the shed and I have started decanting the odd box and bag into the garage!

Rationally, it is ridiculous and illogical to fill our garages with junk or in a flower arranger's garage... 'Important Stuff' (junk!!) that just "may come in useful"?

Total value about a tenner and yet ironically, an expensive car that cost thousands of pounds has been relegated to sit on the drive because there is no room for it in the garage amongst all those bags of broken and squashed allium heads and bulk boxes of Oasis that have now been rendered redundant!

Whilst sorting out the attic of my late Mother, I discovered three huge boxes of flower arranging memorabilia ranging from a plastic bag of faux poinsettias, a candelabra with plastic Oasis cups stuck in to it, some dried flowers that were probably about twenty years old that had disintegrated to dust together with all sorts of odd and interesting containers dating back to the Seventies when they were used to create a Hogarth curve (they seemed fond of a Hogarth curve in those days?) or a red and gold Christmas arrangement.

My problem is obviously genetic!

The Seventies containers by the way, have now found their way from Kent to shed 3 in Surrey!

When I opened the door of the shed whilst my son was visiting, he stood back and exclaimed "what the hell, why do you need twenty jugs Mum?"

YES, it is an addiction! However, I am probably not the only person in Surrey NAFAS to have this condition?!!

The scale of my collection has only come to light recently as I am about to have building works done to the house and I decided I had to be ruthless and clear out most of the stuff .

I DID clear it all out of the shed, but problem is that after a little dust and a wipe, I then put it all back in again!

I realised that I am not alone in this when recently after a couple of club members sadly passed away, their family kindly said that they would like to donate all their Mothers flower arranging stuff to the club. Our Chairman went to the house to collect their kind

donation. Several trips later, two large tables were groaning with boxes and boxes of plastic ferns, more faux poinsettias, and cherub candle sticks, this list goes on!

When the stuff arrived on club night, the members were like bees round a honey pot, sifting through for more things to add to their own sheds!

On the positive side, the kind donations made some money for the club. On the negative side, was the face of my husband on my return as I got out of the car and he had obviously spotted I had another bulging 'bag for life' being walked to the shed!

Whilst some may accuse flower arrangers of being profligate in our use of plastic flower foam? One thing that flower arrangers cannot be accused of is not recycling! Some of those plastic cherub candle sticks are now being used by a third generation! Last Christmas at a church service, I noticed a pedestal of flowers containing some rather moth eaten gold painted fir cones that were probably older than the church itself?

As we all know, flower arranging containers and equipment goes in trends. We are all now trying to be eco and not use plastic. Out has gone flower foam and in has come dreadful imitations of it, chicken wire and of course, test tubes.

During the pandemic, the media reported that there was a sudden shortage of glass ampoules to use for the vaccines. Made me wonder if it was partly caused by flower arrangers who since it was now deemed unacceptable to use flower foam had been squirrelling away test tubes to use instead?

Flower arrangers probably have more test tubes in their sheds than the all the laboratories of Astra Zeneca?

Another symptom of this addiction, common to most flower arrangers is that we all just love a bargain!

If the garden centre has a clearance sale of reels of lurid yellow ribbon, we just HAVE to have it!

You just never know when you may need a 50metre reel of lurid yellow ribbon?

My only justification for my addiction is the old saying 'what goes around, comes around'!

So, that old Constance Spry style mantle vase containing some rusty chicken wire which belonged to my Grandmother has been brought out of the shed as it is now back in fashion!

I rest my case.

FAHA
(Flower Arranging Hoarders Anonymous)
The mantra of FAHA 'it may come in useful'!

New Forest Show (Incorporating the Wessex and Jersey Show).

Two of our members from Aldershot Floral Design Club entered this Show:

Janet Arm was awarded a **Second** in the Class "Nature's Bounty", congratulations Janet a beautiful design. (see photo below):



"Nature's Bounty" Second: Janet Arm.

Jacqui Arm entered 3 classes and was awarded: VHC, and 2 First's plus "Best in Show". WOW what an achievement, Congratulations. (See photos below).



"Cascade" VHC: Jacqui Arm



“Sprit in the Woods” Petite First: Jacquie Arm.



“Something in the Air” First and “Best in Show”: Jacquie Arm.

Club News:

3rd November: AFDC has a very Special Demonstration by our girls entitled “Christmas at Home” this is a one off and should be worth a visit. Visitors: £5.00 at Normandy Village Hall. As it will be after the Club’s AGM; the start time should be around a 7.45pm.

26-27 November: AFDC Annual Show: Normandy Village Hall. £5.00: payable on the door. Tombola; tea and cakes for sale.

Has your club an Event; Show or Open Meeting coming up? Send me the details and I will add it to the Area Newsletter.

Area News:

Does your Club need new drapes?

One of our members has 10 drapes, all in pale blue easy care, ranging from 249 cm to 457 cm. If any club is interested in changing their drapes; contact me and I will pass onto you the name of the contact who is hoping to dispose of them.

Flower Arranger Magazine.

Another of our Members has emailed to ask if anyone is interested in nearly complete set of Flower Arranger magazines? These can be collected from Ewell. If you are; please contact me and I will pass on your details.

Dates of Interest for your diaries: Area and National Events:

- **18-22 August: Lancing College Flower Festival "Sense of Place"** Ticket Price £15 10am-5pm.
- **5-11 September: RHS Wisley Show:** (Staging Day 5th, Open to the Public 6-11).
- **Friday 9th – Sunday 11th September. NAFAS "Together Again"** Leicester Marriott Hotel. If you are interested contact: Email: events@nafas.org.uk Tel: 020 7247 5567
 - **24 September: Area Show Fundraising Event:** Rotating Workshop; morning and afternoon; at East Horsley Hall; where members will be able to attend 2 out of a possible 4 workshops – one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The cost will be £35.
- **29 (Staging Day) and 30 October 2022 Surrey Area Show:** De Vere Horsley Towers East Horsley. Show Entries between Friday 26th August and Saturday 10th September. Schedule and Entry Forms on Surrey Area Website.

The next Area Council Meeting on 19th September 2022 (Please note change of Date) at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall starting at 10.30am. Any members from the Surrey clubs are welcome to attend.

The other date for your diary: 28 November 10.30am and AGM at 13.30pm.

Looking Ahead to 2023

- **Friday 12th- Saturday - 13th May 2023:** The NAFAS National Show is to be held at Gloucester Cathedral; entitled "Florilegium, a Gathering of Flowers". Keep an eye out on the NAFAS website.

If you have never visited the Surrey Area website, go on and have look; lots of interesting pages to browse through with up to date information of the Area and National News and lots of photos to look at from events already held. Well worth a couple of minutes of your time.

As this is your Area Newsletter please forward to me anything of interest that is happening in your club for inclusion so that other club members can read all about it. Just drop me a short resume and photographs if you have taken any of the event to the email address below.....Over to you all.

Dee Kelly
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