

SURREY AREA E-NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022

Welcome to the latest edition of the Surrey Area Newsletter. I hope you are all well and looking to the future when things start to get back to normal. Many thanks to all the clubs that have contributed to this edition; it is greatly appreciated.



The days have started to draw out and soon we will have flowers popping up everywhere and cheering us all up, Snowdrops; Daffodils; Tulips; Hellebores to name a few not forgetting the early flowery shrubs some giving off a wonderful perfume. Something for us all to look forward too.

THANK YOU TO BERYL GREEN WHO SENT IN THIS POEM FROM ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF HORSLEY FLORAL DECORATION GROUP:

*"God rest you merry gardeners,
Let nothing ye dismay,
For spring is soon to come again,
The Sun will warm the soil once more,
And send Jack Frost away.
Oh tidings of composting and joy!
Compost and joy!*

Oh tidings of composting and joy!"

IT MADE ME SMILE; I HOPE IT MADE YOU SMILE TOO.

Surrey Young Floral Designers run by Marlene Davis have sent in photos (See below) of one of their workshops:

'Autumn Ring with floating Chrysanthemum' these are flowers and foliage's in foam on a large charger plate, encircling a bowl containing a little water and a couple of Chrysanthemum flowers.

Didn't they do well; little stars of the future. Thank you to Marlene for sending these photos in; you and your team are doing a great job with these youngsters.



ASHTEAD FLOWER ARRANGEMENT GROUP:

A couple of years to remember, or are they best forgotten?

Sadly, just before lockdown, in March 2020, our club, together with many flower arrangers near and far were shocked by the untimely loss of our most prestigious member Joan Cooper. Surrey members may like to know that we have installed a new bench outside the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, in her memory. It has since been well used by those resting from taking 'good for you' walks and then buying refreshments from the local café! Please do remember to "test it" next time you are in Ashted.



So, what has AFAG been doing since then? Well like the Windmill "we never closed" apart from simply corresponding by email for a couple of weeks until we began Zooming. Once we had got to grips with Zoom there was no stopping us! We kept up appearances by wearing hats to the first committee meeting – to the amazement of our Chairman, Lynis Williams who then found a hat of her own!



Club meetings were then zoomed, touring member's gardens and featuring members who produced a huge variety of new ideas and arrangements using garden material, even some without Oasis! Our September AGM marked the inauspicious beginning of our 65th year, and then November 2020 was a "first", both for us, and our scheduled demonstrator, who zoomed from her own home using "whacky containers"! Most of our members appeared in Christmas headgear to cheer us at our December meeting.

As 2021 was a significant year for us – our Blue Sapphire Anniversary! On the afternoon of our January meeting, 56 members, many of whom dressed in blue for the occasion, celebrated at a Zoomed virtual tea party, with DIY tea and cakes. Our members were spared a chorus line of high kicking bluebell girls due to the distancing regulations, and much to the relief of our committee members! We all had a very jolly afternoon "kicking off" with some fascinating recollections recorded in the summer in Dorothy Simcock's garden. She has been an Ashted member since 1962, onetime Treasurer for WAFA, a Surrey and NAFAS Associate of Honour; still a great AFAG supporter and a regular at our meetings.



This was followed by some silly games relating to 1955 - great fun! Scheduled demonstrations using zoom kept us going until July when our own Alison Gillott demonstrated to some 38 members "in person" at the APMH - a red letter day!

Since then, all our meetings have featured our demonstrators live, ventilated, spaced and attended by gradually increasing numbers. (By November our "paid-up" membership had risen again to nearly 130). We all enjoyed a splendid Christmas Demonstration and, as has been our custom for many years, our members contributed 90 beautifully decorated parcels for distribution by a local charity. Everything was going well; we were gradually returning to "normal" and planning for a happy Christmas when sadly our President, Enid Light, (See the lovely photo below) tragically lost her battle with cancer. Enid, who was also well known in Surrey Area, as their Ticker Officer, was an elegant and beautiful lady with an infectious smile. (She also features in our committee Zoom picture wearing a pale grey hat with a pale pink rose).



We are now looking forward to more freedom in 2022 and hope to see many of our Surrey Area friends in Ashted, at our Club Show, on the afternoon of April 6th; a truly joyous occasion as we celebrate our gracious Queen's Platinum year and are able to share our enjoyment of flower arranging again at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall. Many thanks to Gill Northcott Ashted) for sending this great Club Report in for us all to enjoy.

Surrey Area Members Day: is being held at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall on Tuesday 22 March at APMH; Arrival time from 9.45am; Coffee and Tea on arrival until 10.45am and the day will start at 11am with morning Speaker Katherine Kear; A Yummy Lunch and then Afternoon Demonstration by National Demonstrator Emily Broomhead; lots of stalls selling goodies for you to buy from. It really should be a very good day.

I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Barbara Newell Workshops:

Many years ago one of our older members left a large sum of money to the Surrey Area and the then Area Committee decided to use the money to help beginners enter Shows as Barbara was so keen to help with advice and encouragement. It was decided to ask the JDS&E Committee to hold workshops and encourage new members to gain experience and enter the Area Show; many years later the Area are still helping new members and beginners in the Area.

There will be two workshops; to be held in July and August; dates to be announced; run by the JDS&E Committee with qualified judges before the Area Show; two members from each Surrey Area club can go along. The object of these workshops are to encourage members who have never entered an Area Show before or are nervous about competing for the 1st time to come and get an idea of what to expect. Once the members have attended these workshops they will be expected to enter the special class dedicated to Barbara Newell in the next Surrey Area Show: 29-30 October: De Vere Horsley Towers East Horsley.

Please contact your newest members in your club and ask them if they wish to join in the workshops; once the dates are announced Jackie Squance (JDS&E Chairman) will be sending out an email via me to all clubs for the names and club.

Many of our members have done this and have really enjoyed the workshops and made new friends throughout the Area.

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.

Dates of Interest for you all:

1 April: Area Show Fundraising Event: Graham King Demonstration "Floral Fantasy" at Normandy Village Hall: Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Ticket price: £12. Contact Sue Drinkwater 01252 713112 Email: show2022surreynafas@gmail.com .

5 April: Area Show Fundraising Event: Gardeners Question Time at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall: afternoon. More details to follow.

Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival "Festival of Flowers: 9 to 15 May 2022.

ECT Tour to Ireland with Michael Bowyer: 19 to 24 May 2022 details on NAFAS website.

Chichester Flower Festival “Festival of Flowers”: 8-11 June: Timed entry tickets £15.

17 June: Area Show Fundraising Event: Graham King Demonstration at APMH: afternoon. More details to follow.

Lancing College Flower Festival “Sense of Place” 18-22 August. Ticket Price £15 10am-5pm.

RHS Wisley Show: 5-11 September.

NAFAS “Together Again” Leicester Marriott Hotel, Friday 9th – Sunday 11th September. If you are interested contact: Email:

events@nafas.org.uk Tel: 020 7247 5567

24 September: Area Show Fundraising Event: Rotating Workshop again, at APMH: morning and afternoon. More details to follow.

Surrey Area Show: 29 and 30 October 2022 – De Vere Horsley Towers East Horsley

So lot’s more to look forward to in 2022 in our flowery world.

The next Area Council meeting on 14th March 2022 at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall starting at 10.30am....All members from any Surrey club are welcome to attend.

The other dates throughout the year are: 13 June; 26 September; 28 November 10.30am and AGM at 13.30pm.

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 of the event to the email address below.

Dee Kelly
secretarysurreynafas@gmail.com