

## SURREY AREA NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

A very warm welcome to the March Edition of the Surrey Area Newsletter.

Many thanks to all the Clubs and Individuals that have contributed to this edition; it is very much appreciated, there would not be a Newsletter without your help.

The email address to send any photos and articles to is: **Dee47nafas@gmail.com**

**Could I please ask that any photos be sent separately as I have trouble downloading them with any text. Thank you.**

I look forward to receiving them and thank you in advance.

**AREA TREASURER NEEDED URGENTLY:**  
**IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP; LET US KNOW; PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD.....**

### **IMPORTANT:**

The Surrey Area Banners and Flags on poles have gone missing from the storage at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall. There were 4 items in long black canvas bags.

We originally had two of each and now there is only two, one has returned. If you or your club have them tucked away somewhere or know someone who used them this year could you please let a member of the Area Committee know asap as they are needed. Many thanks.

### **JDS&E Booking Instructions for the Helen Hare Area Workshop in April**

**Surrey Area of NAFAS**  
invites members to a workshop with

**Helen Hare**  
Teacher and Demonstrator from Kent Floral Art

**SPRING THEMED WORKSHOP**  
on  
Wednesday 22nd April 2026  
10.00 for 10.30am - 3.00pm  
at  
The Old Barn Hall  
Great Bookham  
KT23 3PQ

Cost £40  
Booking for this workshop opens on January 31st 2026  
Numbers limited so book early.  
Please email Alison Gillott with a request to attend the workshop giving your name,  
club name and full contact details. Pay on line at the same time.  
Account Name: Surrey Area of NAFAS  
Sort Code: 60-09-40  
Account No.: 79691986  
your name and HH as a reference.

Workshop recipe with materials needed will be sent nearer the time.  
Refunds can only be given if a replacement can be found

[aegillott@gmail.com](mailto:aegillott@gmail.com)  
07811 088949

**Message from Lynis Williams Surrey Area Chairman.**

I am writing this as I travel from the February NAC meeting (National Advisory Council).

The meeting was very interesting and indeed hard work, however I came away feeling very positive about the future of NAFAS.

We worked together on many plans including a new NAFAS Website - apparently this takes at least 9 months to put in place. Many of us get frustrated with the present NAFAS website so this is welcome news. You will see a few changes in the next few months to our present website before our new one is in place. [nafas.org.uk](http://nafas.org.uk) We will continue to keep our Surrey Website, [surreynafas.com](http://surreynafas.com) until the new NAFAS website is in place. We then may make some changes ourselves. Do visit them both for inspiration and information.

To be prudent with our club funds, please do not have many items printed as NAFAS plans to look at rebranding.

Thank you to everyone who zoomed in last week to meet with our new CEO, Richard Abraham. There were some excellent questions. It was a tricky meeting for Susan to minute, you will agree she did a wonderful job. I did appreciate the indication of how you all felt about the NAFAS Renewal Programme at the end of the meeting. Thank you for all those subsequent questions that you emailed to me.

Finally I would like welcome you all to our next Area meeting at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall. We will have our Area Business meeting, a short coffee break and we will then meet our new CEO in person. Richard will give a presentation about the Renewal Programme and then hold a Question and Answer session. Please note we will be starting the meeting early at **10am**. At the end of the session I hope you will go away feeling change we need is in safe hands, I do.

**Aldershot Floral Design Club:**

A still Life workshop entitled "Hobbies" was held with Jane Rickard (Surrey Area Teacher) tutoring at the beginning of February.

Below are a few of the photos kindly taken by members of the club.



**Banstead Flower Club - Vicki Hollands**

Banstead members have an exciting year ahead. We have some great Demonstrators visiting the club as well as workshops and an outing planned. We are of course always happy to welcome members and visitors from other clubs along to our Demonstrations and will keep Surrey members informed of planned events nearer the time.

In March we are looking forward to welcoming National Demonstrator, Nick Grounds, to the Club once again. Nick has visited Banstead on many occasions and we know will provide us as always, with an enjoyable and interesting afternoon. Nick's demonstration on Wednesday 25th March commences at 2pm, doors open at 1pm. Visitors £12.

Our in-house competition went from strength to strength last year with a record breaking 20 entries in October, so it was lovely to see enthusiasm hadn't waned over the Xmas period. 15 members competed in the Jan competition titled 'Left Overs'. It was a petite design measuring 25cm, and as you can see there was a real variation of entries.





### **Bookham Flower Club: Carolyn Trott.**

As is well known, January is a difficult month to plan for a meeting, but Bookham Flower Club was lucky this year to have two members who offered to organise a DIY afternoon. Jayne Ellis and Anne Webb gave the members a fun and busy meeting alongside the usual January Bring and Buy stall.

Jayne and Anne provided everyone with a jam jar and there was a kit of a wooden tray (made expertly to order by Jayne's husband), a box of goodies including wool, marbles, pebbles, cones, nuts, dried flowers and double-sided sticky tape, and two bunches of flowers per group of three or four people. A good selection of greenery had been donated. The task was to decorate the jam jar and arrange some flowers and foliage in it. The jars were then placed on the tray, and this was decorated around the jars. Hence the title 'More than Jam'.

The afternoon proved a great success as everyone had a chance to join in and there was a lot of chatter after the initial quiet of concentration during the decorating of the jars. For most of us there was little time left to answer the questions in the two quizzes given as well!

The bring and Buy Stall raised just over £100 to be donated to the Chairman's nominated local children's charity, Cherry Trees.



**Reigate Flower Club: Wendy Jolley:**

Reigate's February meeting. We held a workshop and had 16 members creating the designs. See below a few photos from the evening.



**Ashted Club: Charity Money Raising Event.**

Angela Turner will present "YOLO –You Only Live Once!" Wednesday 18th March 2026 Ashted Peace Memorial Hall KT21 2BE 7.00 pm (doors open 6.30 pm) Tickets £25 (including a glass of wine & canapes). All arrangements will be entered into the raffle For further details please contact: Diane Melton 01372 801899

## Dates for your Diaries:

### 2026

Area Council Meetings: 23 March: **after the Council meeting Richard Abraham (The New CEO Of NAFAS) will be in attendance to answer any questions from our members; reminder this meeting will start at the earlier time of 10am**, 22 June, 21 September, 23 November.

22 April: Area Workshop: Helen Hare "Spring Themed Workshop" See Surrey website under JDS&E for details.

4th June: Walton & Weybridge Club – Open Meeting at Whiteley Village Hall. Kathy Stangaard presents "Going with the Flow".

20<sup>th</sup> June: AFDC Annual Show "A Midsummer Show" Normandy Village Hall, 11am-4pm. Admission £5.00.  
**CASH ONLY EVENT.**

26<sup>th</sup> June: 10-6pm; 27<sup>th</sup> June: 9-4pm. Wessex and Jersey Area Show: Crosfield Hall, Broadwater Road, Romsey. SO51 8GL. Admission £4,00.

18 -20 August: NAFAS HQ President's Event in Armagh City Hotel. £399 - full board - Format is - arrive Tuesday evening, 2 Demonstrations on Wednesday and a Speaker on Thursday.

15-19 September: Wessex and Jersey Area: Flower Festival at Winchester Cathedral. "Wild! A Festival of Flowers and Nature".

9-11 October: NAFAS organised Judges Symposium in Tiverton - focussing on displacement and meadow styles.

11 November: Surrey Area Workshop: Jacqui Arnold will be tutoring a Christmas themed workshop. More details to follow later in the year.

11 November: Oxted & Limpsfield: Open Meeting "Harvest Hues Beats the Winter Blues" a Demonstration by Morgan Douglas Nuth.

27/28 November The Surrey Area Show "All Aglow" to be held at The Dell Centre, Ashted. Further details will be available soon.

### 2027:

**17 -23 March: Wafa - World Show "World of Contrasts" – Australia.**

25 June: Surrey Area Members Day at APMH. The fabulous Vanessa Wellock will be our afternoon demonstrator. Morning Speaker is yet to be booked.

9/10 July: The NAFAS National Show to be held at the Lincolnshire showground.

I hope our Clubs and Members will send in lots more for you all to see and read in the year ahead.

Please send me articles and photos of what your club is up to for the Newsletter, then other clubs can see what a thriving Area we are. It does not have to include flower arrangements, it is nice to see photos of our members enjoying themselves as well.

**Dee:**

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