

SURREY AREA NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025

Welcome to the February Edition of the Surrey Area Newsletter.

I do hope you are all keeping well and wrapping up warmly.

Many thanks to all the Clubs and Individuals that have contributed to this edition; it is very much appreciated.

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

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

Do say 'Yes'.

In July 24, whilst enjoying a lovely summer evening, I received a text. Please would I run a Wreath Making Workshop for a small local primary school. Christmas was a long way off and far from my mind but I asked for a meeting to understand exactly what was required. Several meetings and months later, I was there, running a Wreath Making Workshop for 25 ladies, all drinking prosecco!

Luckily, I had asked for advice from the wonderful Claire Bryant. After visiting the school hall, I was able to complete the Risk Assessment – my biggest worry was that they were going to all be 'Prosecco Fuelled' participants. How many fingers would they lose?

Sue Reynoldson from our club, very kindly agreed to help, two pairs of eyes were definitely useful! We wore our Ashtead Flower Arrangement Group pinnies and 'promoted' the club and NAFAS, and provided Flower Arranger magazines for browsing if anyone finished early.

Great fun was had by all and 25 completely unique wreaths were produced. The gold star must go to the Headteacher who behaved very well and produced a very neat wreath! Only one finger had been cut, phew, an achievement! Sue and I were given a bottle of prosecco and a box of naughty treats each. However, our biggest reward was seeing all those ladies having a fun time making Christmas wreaths, an oasis of time to themselves in their busy lives. They may not join our club now but who knows about the future!

If anyone asks you this July – do say 'Yes'.

Lynis Williams. Ashtead Flower Arrangement Group.

National Show Schedule: 19 / 20 September: Gloucester Cathedral. SHOW DETAILS

Demonstrators in the Chapter House. Speakers in the main Cathedral.

Education in the Lady Chapel. Music throughout the Cathedral

Trading Stands in the Cloisters

Tickets

Early Bird Day Tickets on sale 1st - 28th February @ £25

Preview Evening Tickets on sale 1st March 2025 @ £20

Thursday 18th September, 6.30-8.00pm

Visitors receive a glass of bubbly or soft drink

Ticket does not give access to the prize giving

Trading stands will be open

Day Tickets on sale 1st March 2025 @ £30

Group Tickets on sale 1st March @ £25 (minimum 10)

Two Day Tickets on sale 1st March 2025 @ £50

Prize Giving in the Chapel is Ticket Only. Maximum of 150 people. Only available to Competitors and Invited Guests. Competitors **MUST** claim their tickets from Head Office.

Competition Schedule for this year's Show is now available via the NAFAS website using the following link:-

<https://www.nafas.org.uk/national-show-natures-challenge/>

Competitors applications are to be received between 1st and 15th April 2025 via this website, however any member wishing to use paper format please use the Individual Entry Form.



Gloucester Guildhall Demonstration:

National Demonstrators: Emily Broomhead and Elizabeth Graham
 Friday 19th September 2025
 Tickets on sale 1st March @ £25 available from the Guildhall in March 2025

Ashtead News: Celia Rose.

For our January meeting we had a delicious tea party served by our Committee. Members enjoyed playing games whilst catching up at our first get together of 2025. The raffle in aid of Parkinson's raised a fantastic £178. Thank you to all who attended and help organise a fun start to the new year.



Focus Group 2000: 25th Anniversary Celebratory Lunch. Dee Kelly.

24 members of the Focus Group 2000 met up for a lovely lunch provided by the Focus Committee to celebrate the club's 25th Anniversary.

We were each asked to make an 8inch posy pad filled with cerise and silver flowers and foliage, with a silver candle in the centre, which were placed along the table and around the hall, they were all fabulous.

Brenda Smith made lovely Napkin holders for each member to take home as a memento of the day. Thank you Brenda, a lot of hard work.

The meal was delicious and the caterers were very efficient and very accommodating to any dietary needs. Photos below were sent to me from various members which I would like to thank them for.



Surrey Area Council Meeting 20th January 2025.

There was a very good turnout for the first Council Meeting of 2025, the Officers think that a lot of Surrey members were there to buy some of the wonderful items donated to Staines club by Judith Blacklock (Staines Member). Judith was the Editor of the Flower Arranger for many years and had a Flower School in London which she recently closed, so as you can imagine there were so many items for sale. Bargains galore were snapped up by the members.

The flowers and refreshments were kindly put on by the Winkworth Group and the flowers in front of the Officers table was made by Cynthia Bromwich, a delightful arrangement full of lovely colours. See photo below:



The photos below are as follows: 1. Silver Salver presentation to St Johns and Chobham Flower Club. 2. Christina Curtis being presented with her badge for taking on the role as Publications Representative for the Area. Both were presented by Margaret Trepant (Surrey Area Chairman).



Judges Training:

Come along to the Judges' Refresher Day 21st May, for judges, also anyone interested in training to be a judge. Let Sue Slark know if you are interested.

Education: Jane Rickard:

We have an Education Day booked for Wednesday 8th October 2025 in Bookham Barn Hall. I hope that each Club will put forward their workshop/ class tutors who are not necessarily qualified teachers to join this day.

Speakers Day:

Speakers' training, online, February 25th in the afternoon. If anyone is interested in doing some speakers training, please contact Bronda Dossett who is the new speakers Chairman. She is very keen to welcome anyone who even might be thinking of doing the training. bronda@talktalk.net

Exciting News:

On Friday 20th June, the Area are holding a special Area Day of Celebration to mark the Area's 65th Anniversary (Blue Sapphire).

There will be 6 demonstrations and cooked lunch as well as many other special items throughout the day.

Ticket price will be £42.00 (Tickets are not on sale yet, so watch this space).

Please let all your members know as it would be great to have a full hall of members.

GET THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARIES.....MORE TO FOLLOW.

RHS Wisley Flower Show:

Wisley Flower Show will be 2nd-7th September (Staging Monday 1st) the title of this year's Show is "Wish You Were Here". Put the dates in your diary. Show Schedule will be available at the March Council Meeting.

If you would like to help any day, please contact the new Chairman of the Wisley Show Alison Honor

alisonhonor@hotmail.co.uk I am sure any offers will be greatly received by the committee.

NOTICE FOR CLUB'S

IN CASE YOU DID NOT KNOW, THERE IS A DIARY OF EVENTS ON THE AREA WEBSITE FOR CLUBS TO ADD ANY SPECIAL DATES. SO, IF YOUR CLUB HAS A SHOW OR OPEN MEETING COMING UP, PLEASE ADD THIS DATE TO THE ONLINE DIARY SO OTHER CLUB'S DO NOT BOOK THE SAME DATE. EMAIL LINDA: mediasurreynafas@gmail.com

Ham House:

Many of our Area Members arrange flowers at Ham House (National Trust), the team are looking to increase their numbers, if you would like to help the flower arranging starts in April on Friday mornings between 10 and 12.and the members arrange until end October. All flowers are from the gardens of this beautiful house. You will only have to arrange 4 or 5 times a year. Please contact Karen Gaunt (Co-ordinator): kmtgaunt@me.com
Your help would gratefully accepted, plus there are many perks for you.....

Winkworth Floral Designers

Our January workshop was an inhouse workshop lead by Cynthia Bromwich and Lynis Williams. Cynthia showed us a fanned hand tied design using wire and long sticks to secure the fan. We all enjoyed experimenting with various ideas.



Variations on a Wreath Ring

Members of Walton and Weybridge Flower Club spent a lovely day on 21st November last enjoying a workshop with Sharon Nolan creating “Variations on a Wreath Ring”. As you can see from the photograph, the interpretations were many and various – from door hangings, to table centres with test tubes of flowers and foliage in between. It was fabulous fun, and everyone enjoyed it – and we were so fortunate to have some non-flower club members join us as well which is always a bonus!



Of course, our hard work was rewarded with lunch of homemade soup and a selection of sandwiches, homemade cakes and fruit and a plentiful supply of coffee and tea.

A great day was had by all. Now we are looking forward to our next workshop on 20th March with Jane Rickard.

St John’s and Chobham Flower Club: had their first monthly workshop of the year led by their Chairman, Kathryn Austin. The workshop was called ‘Texture’ where members and visitors had the chance to play with brown paper to add interest and texture to their arrangements. Brown paper was rolled, folded and scrunched up as well as adding ribbon and wire to make interesting shapes such as doughnuts, spirals, fans to name a few.

A fun time was had by all.





Banstead Flower Club - Vicki Hollands

Our 68th AGM held in January was preceded by a lovely lunch of Chicken in White Sauce, New Potatoes & Mixed Veg followed by a delicious Chocolate Brownie.

During the course of the lunch those present enjoyed taking part in a fun quiz on Trees which kept the conversation lively within the hall. Thanks goes to Trixie Muirhead and Maureen Sutton for their hard work, prepping and cooking the meal which was enjoyed by the 54 members present.

Our in-house competition which is traditionally petite was titled "Simply Beautiful" had 14 entries, all of which portrayed the title perfectly, and along with the table flowers, brightened up the hall.

We were sad to say goodbye to Angela Norman as Chairman, who has stood down after 5 years in office. During that time Angela has done a fantastic job in heading the club. Her hard work, enthusiasm and dedication have been second to none. We are pleased we are not losing her entirely though, as she has taken the role of Vice President alongside Margaret Trepant, who has been promoted to President. We wish Margaret and Angela well in their new roles.

On this note we were extremely pleased to welcome our New Chairman Marilyn Lusson; who we know comes with the same commitment as Angela, and our new Vice Chairman Sune Larsen Walsh. We are confident both Marilyn and Sune will do an incredible job in leading the club and will continue to take it forward.

We also welcome Brenda Pratt and Gill Mead onto the Committee. Brenda will be taking over from Carole Giovanetti, who has done a great job as Competitions Secretary for the past 3 years, and Gill will be shadowing our Programme Secretary, Gail Fraser. We are excited for the coming year and are looking forward to working together.

Members enjoying lunch.



'Simply Beautiful' - 1st Advanced Class
- Carole Giovanetti.



Some of the in-house competition.

Forefront 1st in Snr Adv. & Judges Choice - Angela Norman



News: Smithers-Oasis Launches Plant-Based Floral Foam

Smithers-Oasis, a worldwide leader in the floriculture and floral design industry, has launched a new plant-based floral foam - OASIS® Renewal™ Floral Foam. Its renewable biomass materials led to the achievement of OK biobased certification from TÜV Austria with a 4-star rating, the highest available for OK biobased certifications.

“Smithers-Oasis is extremely excited about this product,” said Robin Kilbride, President and CEO of Smithers-Oasis. “Our global Research team has been pursuing this project for many, many years. Simply being a plant-based product wasn’t enough. We needed this to deliver the look, feel, and performance that florists have come to trust in our petroleum-based OASIS® Floral Foams. At last, we have achieved it!”

“Smithers-Oasis invented floral foam in 1954, and we have felt a responsibility to reinvent floral foam as new raw materials have become readily available and the marketplace is clamouring for a more sustainable floral foam,” continued Kilbride. “Regulations are constantly shifting and, as a global company, we are balancing the expectations of a wide range of markets. Being plant-based was our paramount goal, and achieving OK biobased certification goes along with that. And we were extremely pleased when we received the final carbon footprint analysis. OASIS® Renewal™ Floral Foam has a carbon footprint that is 56% lower than our petroleum-based OASIS® Floral Foams!”

In addition, OASIS® Renewal™ Floral Foam is free of dyes and colorants. Its appearance is a grey/green colour when dry, but once saturated it becomes a deep rich black colour. Smithers-Oasis has long been a proponent of black floral foam, as it allows florists to achieve the same appearance of design coverage with 25% fewer stems - reducing their cost. That also results in less labour and costs for designing and a lighter weight of finished designs, which are then easier to transport.

“This product ticks all the boxes on our list and more. One of the attributes florists have had the greatest response to is the density of the foam. We like to say ‘One Foam Fits All’ because this product will work with any type of stem - from the most delicate or hollow to woody or thick, tropical stems. Florists don’t have to buy different flavours or densities of floral foam to have on hand. This one product works for everything and has a fantastic grip that will keep those stems in place.”

OASIS® Renewal™ Floral Foam is initially launching in the United States, Canada, Europe, UK, Australia, Republic of Korea, and Japan with a free sample program so floral designers can try the product for themselves. The product will be available for purchase later this year and launches in other markets will be announced throughout 2025.

Surrey Area of NAFAS: invites members to a workshop with



Morgan Douglas Nuth: Award winning International Floral Designer
Wednesday 12th March 2025: 10.00 for 10.30am – 3.00pm
The Old Barn Hall Great Bookham KT23 3PQ
Cost £40

Booking for this workshop is now open - Numbers limited

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 MDN as a reference

Workshop recipe with materials needed will be sent on receipt of payment. Refunds can only be given if a replacement can be found. aegillott@gmail.com 07811 088949

Area Workshop : Alison Gillott:

JDS&E are looking forward to Wednesday March 12th as we welcome Morgan Douglas-Nuth to be our tutor for the day. There is an article about him in the Spring 2025 Flower Arranger magazine and his work can also be viewed on You Tube - search for Flower Circus where you can watch his recent demonstration. Full details on the Area website. The workshop is already half full so do encourage your members to sign up quickly if they wish to take advantage of a workshop led by this experienced tutor. These workshops are for all our members - please pass on this information.

Ashtead Flower Arrangement Group: Wednesday 5th February 2025

2.00 pm: Doors open 1.30 pm. **Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall KT21 2BE**

Popular Area Demonstrator, RHS Silver Gilt Medallist, Florist and Gardener

Claire Bryant will be demonstrating “**And Now For Something Completely Different**”

Members Free -Visitors welcome £10 on the door

Tea & biscuits included. All arrangements will be entered into the raffle

For further details please contact: Di Stirling 01372 279501

Dates for your Diaries:

2025

17 March; 16 June; 22 September; 24 November: Area Council Meetings.

12th March: Surrey Area Workshops.

15th May: Webinar for members to have direct contact with the NAFAS Board: 6-7.30pm. (As usual you will be able to register interest and get the link from the NAFAS website).

13-18 May: Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival, “The Spirit of Water”

20th June: Surrey Area Blue Sapphire Celebration.

20th June: National Flower Arranging Day will co-inside with British Flowers Week.

19-20th September: National Show “Natures Challenge” to be held at the Gloucester Cathedral.

15th October: NAFAS AGM.

12th November: Surrey Area Workshop: Christine Picton.

2026:

Area Council Meetings: 19 January, 23 March, 22 June, 21 September and 23 November with the AGM at 1.30

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.

Dee: Dee47nafas@gmail.com