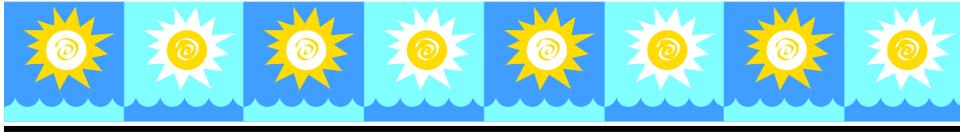


## **SURREY AREA E-NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022**



**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.*

**I thought I would put on a photo taken on an Area Trip out to Wisley in 2019 before the world went crazy; a happy day spent with friends.**



*Left to right: Dee Kelly; Jane Rickard; Pat George; Alison Gillott; Linda Mumford; Jackie Squance; Ann Pannett; Marlene Davis and Sheila Banks.*

**Surrey Area Members Day:** was held at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall on Tuesday 22 March at APMH. The day started at 11am with morning Speaker Katherine Kear "Tales from the Potting Shed" very amusing and informative. This was followed by a Yummy Lunch and then the afternoon Demonstration was by National Demonstrator Emily Broomhead "A Kaleidoscope of Colour" and it certainly was; the stage was filled with gorgeous designs and the colour was explosive. There were lots of stalls selling goodies to buy from and a raffle that had so many wonderful prizes. It really was a very good day and enjoyed by all who came.

I look forward to seeing many of you next year at the 2023 Members Day; which the Area Committee will be organising very soon.

### **Sponsorship for Area Show**

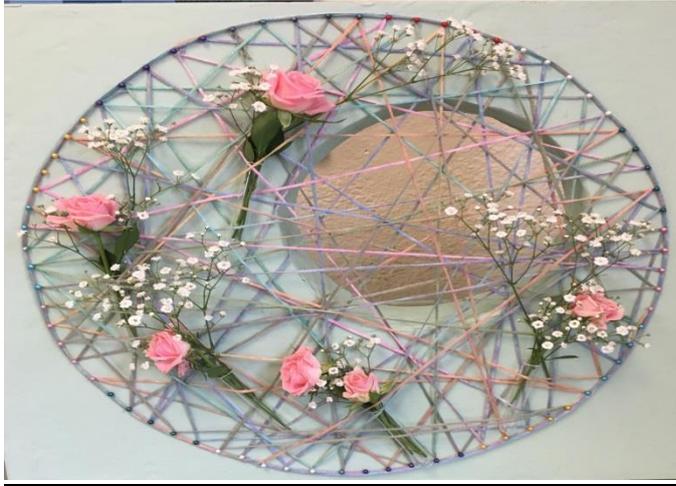
**Many of you will know that there is an Area Show at the end of October and we are asking Clubs to sponsor a class. It has been suggested that £30 is a suitable sum which can be shared between clubs if you wish.**

**To date we have received sponsorship for most of the classes which unfortunately leaves some without a sponsor. The Club will be named in the schedule as well as at the Show so there is still time for Clubs to do this and advertise yourselves. Please contact Jennifer Thompson ([jmathomp@aol.com](mailto:jmathomp@aol.com)) or Brenda Fox ([treasurersurreynafas@gmail.com](mailto:treasurersurreynafas@gmail.com)) as soon as possible if you would like your Club to sponsor a class. It would be so good if all classes had a sponsor.**

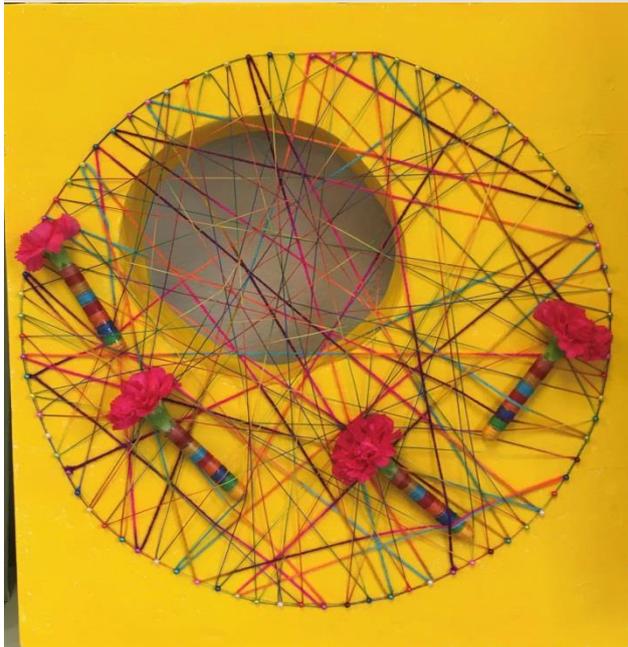
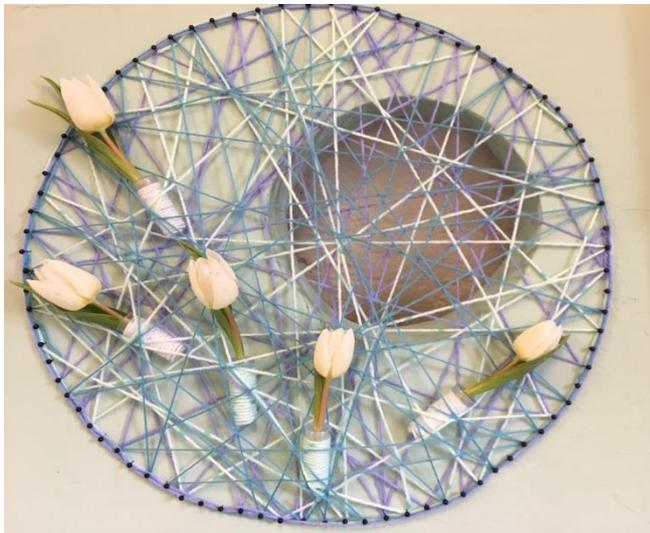
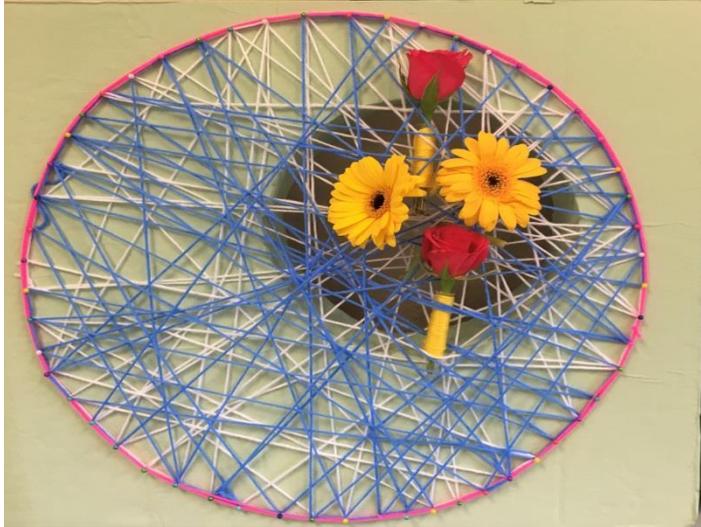
**Members of Reigate Flower Club spent an enjoyable morning creating delightful designs using pins and threads at the Saturday workshop. The designs were made on pieces of insulation board covered and painted ahead of the morning. 4 sessions a term are held in the spring and autumn and we welcome members and non-members to join us.**

**Please see below the photos that were sent in...Thank you.**









**Banstead Flower Club Celebrates 65 Years-** Vicki Hollands (Banstead Flower Club)

On March 23rd Banstead Flower Club celebrated its 65th Anniversary. 54 members; with special guest Chris Brown, Surrey Area Chairman; commenced the afternoon with a wonderful two course lunch and Anniversary Cake, generously donated and expertly cooked by Conor, Kerry and Stafford from Signature at Banstead.

Our Demonstrator for the afternoon was Gaenor Circus, a Sussex Area Demonstrator. And was titled 'Through the Ages' which demonstrated how floral arrangements have changed over the years, and covered the Art Deco and Victorian era amongst others. Gaenor provided us with a very entertaining afternoon, with historical background on some of the arrangements she produced. At the end of the demonstration the stage was an array of colour and decorated with several placements, which were raffled off, leaving some very happy members and guests with their arms full on the way home. Our members, who exceeded all expectations and filled the competition table with their interpretation of the month's, title 'A Moment in Time'.

The Committee and Members of Banstead Flower Club would like to thank Signature Banstead, enormously for their support of the club and helping to make our 65th Anniversary a day to remember. We are now full steam ahead planning our Flower Show, titled 'Floral Gems'. It will be held in conjunction with Banstead Village in Bloom on Saturday 11th June.

Photos below from the Day.



Gaenor's design from the stage.



Chairman Pam Askew and Chris Brown Area Chairman cutting the cake.

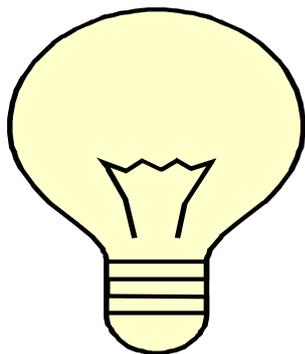
**Surrey Young Floral Designers: Marlene Davis.**

Photos of our March Mother's Day wand and corsage: using an extended tube for a specimen flower, aluminium wire wound six times round the long side of a 15cm ruler, shaped into a flower and attached to the tube, finished off with ribbons and decoration. The corsage was a little introduction to floristry, wiring and taping stems and leaves and decorating with sparkly beads etc.





## Discussion Corner:



Every month we will try and put in an item that will be of concern to us all; the first one appears in this copy.

**The Big Oasis Debate! By Jane Rickard.**

**This article is only made up of my personal thoughts on the matter and I am not writing this as any sort of official statement!**

Our generation has had the luxury of using oasis without giving it a second thought as to the damage it may be doing to the environment. The environment is currently one of the main topics of concern to humanity at this present time.

Oasis is made from a by-product of plastic and is non compostable. However, there is a form of oasis that is semi-biodegradable. This is an improvement from using the original oasis. From the samples that I have tried of alternatives to oasis, all these products have problems when used and the Floral Fibre and Agra Wool are not bio-degradable either and there is a large amount of energy used in the production of them I am led to believe.

We therefore have, I think, to realise that there will not be a degradable alternative to oasis that is as useful to us as floral designers. There are of course other mechanics that we can use such as wire mesh, twigs, grids, wire stem holders, test tubes and pin holders etc. There is a problem with these in that no lovely downward flow of plant material is possible.

We therefore face a challenge. Maybe the days of large flowing designs that we all enjoy both seeing and arranging, will be a thing of the past? Maybe the air miles involved in importing large brightly coloured blooms and foliage will no longer be justifiable? Maybe we should look far more at British grown flowers and the industry will increase hugely? Flowers may go back to having to be a luxury rather than the items in our weekly shop from the supermarket? Maybe if supermarkets sold only British grown flowers this might help? We may go back to just having seasonal flowers to use, possibly not such a bad thing as we can look forward to special blooms at a certain time of the year? Maybe?

What about the future for florists. There will always be special times for flowers. It will be much harder for florists to stop using oasis as it is relatively cheap and keeps their designs intact. They probably use a larger amount of oasis compared to individual use by NAFAS designers.

What about the company Smithies Oasis itself that will be spending a lot of time and money trying their best to produce an alternative to oasis that is environmentally friendly? Smithies Oasis has supported many NAFAS events over the years and I am quite sure that this product creates the bulk of their income.

Not using oasis is a real problem for demonstrators. Their work is larger scale and using oasis results in the raffle winner being able to take home a design rather than a bunch of usually short stemmed materials that the demonstrator has used. How hard it must be to just strip all the stems out of their designs as soon as they have completed them, to hand over to the raffle winner. At least with oasis, a complete design can be taken home and enjoyed by the recipient. The demonstrator has to spend much time using alternative mechanics to provide a water source for their plant material which is not allowed for in their charges. Possibly just one or two designs for a demonstration without oasis would be a step in the right direction.

I, personally, would not use the original oasis but would purchase the semi-biodegradable oasis but try and be very mindful of the necessity to use it when I do so. I think that currently there is a place for oasis but we should

all be very aware of our use of it and try and be much more economical with it. It is possible to re-use this product if it is kept damp and wrapped in something that is airtight. Dried out oasis can be used as a base in large pots so as not to need so much compost. The best thing that we can do with oasis for the environment is NOT to soak it in the sink but to do this in a bucket and then pour the left-over water into the garden, NOT down a drain. The drain takes this plastic made product into the water pipes which eventually ends up in water and causes harm.

For flowers in the home, I think we can manage without oasis and be creative in using other water sources. Flowers in a vase in water are a thing of beauty to have at home and if they are British grown flowers then even better!

In conclusion I, myself, will just be very mindful of my use of oasis and I will try and be as creative as I can to avoid using it.

Jane Rickard

Many thanks to Jane for this piece let me have **your** comments on this subject that affects us all as flower arrangers and I will publish them next month.

### **Dates of Interest:**

- **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](mailto:show2022surreynafas@gmail.com).  
**Tickets will be available on the door if you decide to go at the last minute.**
- **3 April: Ash Floral Club** will be holding their Show “A Good Read” at Victoria Hall, Ash, Hill Road, Ash, GU12 5DN: 11am-4pm: Admission £3.00.
- **5 April: Area Show Fundraising Event:** “Gardeners Question Time” at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane, Ashstead, KT21 2BE: Panel: Jim Buttress Chairman; Geoff Peach; Christine & John Clachan. Tickets £10.00 to include tea and cake: Doors open at 2pm. Contact Sue Drinkwater 01252 713112; Email: [show2022surreynafas@gmail.com](mailto:show2022surreynafas@gmail.com).
- **6 April: Ashted Flower Arrangement Group** will be having their Show entitled “Joyful Jubilee” at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall from 2pm-5pm: Admission £3.00.
- **Friday 6 May:** National Flower Arranging Day. (See you Club Chairman for a card to put on your posy).
- **9 - 15 May 2022. Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival “Festival of Flowers”:**

- **19 to 24 May 2022: ECT Tour to Ireland** with Michael Bowyer: details on NAFAS website.
- **11 June: Banstead 65<sup>th</sup> Blue Sapphire Anniversary Flower Show “Floral Gems”**: 1-5pm. Held at Banstead Community Hall, Park Road, Banstead SM7 3AJ Visitors £2.00. Contact Vicki Hollands 07845250308 email [bansteadflowerclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bansteadflowerclub@hotmail.co.uk)
- **8-11 June: Chichester Flower Festival “Festival of Flowers”**: Timed entry tickets £15.
- **17 June: Area Show Fundraising Event**: Graham King Demonstration at APMH: afternoon. More details to follow.
- **Saturday 18th June: Reigate Flower Club** Presents their Show “A Journey through Time” 10.30am-4pm Betchworth War Memorial Hall Station Rd, Betchworth, RH3 7DF. Admission £4.
- **18-22 August: Lancing College Flower Festival “Sense of Place”** Ticket Price £15 10am-5pm.
- **5-11 September: RHS Wisley Show:**
- **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September. NAFAS “Together Again”** Leicester Marriott Hotel. If you are interested contact: Email: [events@nafas.org.uk](mailto: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.
- **29 (Staging Day) and 30 October 2022 Surrey Area Show**: De Vere Horsley Towers East Horsley

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

**The next Area Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022** at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall starting at 10.30am....Any members from the Surrey clubs are welcome to attend.

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

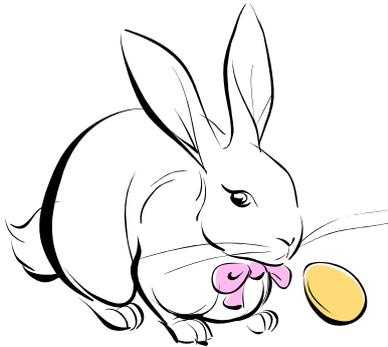
### Looking Ahead to 2023

- **Friday 12<sup>th</sup>- Saturday - 13<sup>th</sup> 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.**

Best wishes for a very Happy Easter.



Dee Kelly  
secretarysurreynafas@gmail.com