

SURREY AREA NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

Welcome to the January Edition of the Surrey Area Newsletter. This is the first Newsletter of 2026.

On behalf of myself and all the Officers of the Surrey Area may I wish you all a very Happy New Year, let's hope we are all able to enjoy our new flowery year with our friends.

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.

I am sorry this edition is later than normal, but I have had trouble with the new Area Computer, which is adding to the grey hairs on my head.....haha.



The next Area Council Meeting is a humdinger for all our members.

Officers decided to set up tables for Clubs to sell unwanted items for flower arranging, the date is 26th Jan and it will be in the Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall.

We are delighted to be able to offer this to our clubs in the Area. Please let all your members know about many bargains that you will be able to purchase from the different tables, CASH only.

Come along to this Area meeting not only to pick up a new flowery gift for yourself but to see just what goes on in your Area.

Meeting starts at 10.30am so please do join us. Tea, Coffee and Biscuits await you.....haha.

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 Ashtead 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.

Reigate Flower Club:

The members of Reigate Flower Club Saturday workshop created a variety of designs for their festive tables during the morning, ranging from low circular arrangements to extravagant red and gold offerings. After a pause for lunch we continued our creative day by making traditional door wreaths with seasonal materials. We all had an enjoyable and relaxing day to start our Christmas season.



Message from our New Area Chairman Lynis Williams:

Dear Fellow Flower Arrangers

On behalf of the Area Officers I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy, healthy and of course, flowery New Year. We hope you had a happy festive period.

I keep hearing about the churches in Surrey which were ablaze with flowers over the festive season designed by our very own members. Many communities are thankful for you all sharing your skills. I am thinking especially of all those wreath-making workshops.

As I am writing about sharing skills, Margaret Trepant, our Past Chairman, had asked Chris Brown, Wendy Jolley, Dallas Taylor and me to go up to Westminster Abbey on 23rd December to arrange pedestals there. All four of us felt it was such an honour to do that for the Christmas services.

The coordinators at Westminster Abbey had chosen the blooms (80 per pedestal) and we arranged them. Imagine our surprise when we were expecting to arrange red, gold and green colours, they turned out to be mainly white and yellow!



From left: Dallas Taylor, Wendy Jolley, Lynis Williams (New Area Chairman), Chris Brown.

My husband and I were lucky enough to be able to get tickets for that service. Partway through the lights were dimmed and we held lighted candles. At this point I understood - the white and yellow colours were the only colours that could be seen.

Surrey Area is asked to do this from time to time so if you are an experienced pedestal arranger and would like to have an opportunity to arrange at Westminster Abbey do let me know.

We welcome Richard Abraham who is the new CEO of NAFAS. Richard is known for turning organisations around.

His last job was with Portsmouth Cathedral where he helped change it to be a profitable organisation. Some of us have already met him, however he is anxious to meet as many of us as possible and to answer any questions we may have about the direction of NAFAS. I have invited him to our Area Meeting on March 23 rd . Please do come and share what you are concerned about, this is your opportunity.

As this is the first day of 2026, I am glad to be able to tell you that the Area has insured all the clubs again. An insurance certificate will be sent out shortly. We have had to go with a new underwriter. You all need to understand that this insurance is not valid if your club does not have a current Health and Safety Policy, and a Risk Assessment. It is desirable to have a Safeguarding Policy too. Details are all on the Surrey Website to help you with this. If there are any problems do get in touch.

There will be many events happening through the year within our clubs which are advertised on the Surrey Area website. We also look forward to our Wisley Show in September and our own Area Show at the end of November.

Please do come and buy items at our next Area Meeting on 26th January when several clubs have booked free tables to sell off their surplus requirements for their funds. Di Henderson, our Events Officer, has told me that she may be able to squeeze in one or two tables more if you contact her – see Surrey NAFAS Website.

With best wishes

Lynis

Lynis Williams

Chair, Surrey Area of NAFAS

chairmansurreynafas@gmail.com

A short and sweet Newsletter this time, but I am sure the Clubs and Members will send in lots more 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.

Dee: **Dee47nafas@gmail.com**