

## SURREY AREA NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025



Welcome to the April 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. 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.

### Exciting News: Surrey Area Blue Sapphire Event:



Surrey Area of NAFAS will be celebrating 65 years at a special event to be held on Friday June 20th at Ashstead Peace Memorial Hall.

The day will include Floral Art demonstrations and a lunch

Doors open at 10.30 and the event will end by 4pm

Tickets are available to purchase at the March Area meeting ( Cash or Card) or online with BACS payment to Surrey Area NAFAS  
Sort code 60-09-40 Account 79691978  
Reference BS & Your name

Email request to Di Henderson  
Surrey NAFAS Events Officer  
merlinscrafttime@gmail.com

Stating NAME ..CLUB...Dietary Requirements

**IF PAYING BY BACS PLEASE  
REMEMBER TO EMAIL DI AFTER YOU  
HAVE PAID WITH YOUR NAME, CLUB  
AND ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS.**

### Ashtead Flower Arrangement Group

Wednesday 2nd April 2025 Jennifer Thompson NAFAS National Demonstrator, and Teacher will be demonstrating 'Flowers in Rhyme' Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall KT21 2BE 2.00 pm (doors open 1.30 pm)  
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

Jennifer Thompson's 'Living Picture' Workshop Come and Join Us! Use your imagination, create a Living Picture using fresh flowers, dried plant material, decorative materials, test tubes and some Bling!  
Wednesday 2nd April 2025 10:00am - 12:00noon Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane, Ashted  
Members £15 Visitors £20 Contact: Susan Eddleston 07803 038216 Email: [afagclasses@outlook.com](mailto:afagclasses@outlook.com)

**Over the next three months we are hosting Beginner's Floral Art workshop classes.**

An Introduction to Floral Design. Each session you will be making one or two designs to take home. Success guaranteed! We will be providing the majority of items you will need.

Session 1 – 'Take Five'. This will be an arrangement using floral foam. What do I need to bring? --- A bunch of roses. Choose your favourite colour, supermarket flowers are perfectly acceptable. ---your favourite scissors you use for cutting flowers. Everything else is being provided. Date - Wednesday 16th April 2025 Time - 10 am – 12 noon (doors open 9.45) Place - The Marshall Room, Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, KT21 2BE Tutor - Lynis - Tel 01372 813852 Cost - £15 members, £20 non-members.

Session 2 - 'Inspired by Mondrian' – an arrangement using natural mechanics Saturday 24th May 2025 am

Session 3 'And Now for Something Completely Different' – an arrangement using test tubes Saturday 14th June 2025 am TO BOOK – Contact - Susan Eddleston 07803 038216 [afagclasses@outlook.com](mailto:afagclasses@outlook.com)

**Coach to Salisbury Cathedral:**

Ashted Flower Arranging Group are organising a coach to go to the Flower Festival "The Spirit of Water" being held in the magnificent Salisbury Cathedral. This is part of the Cathedral's summer art exhibition, 'Living Water'. The festivals design team is led by the Cathedrals Creative Director of Flowers Michael Bowyer MBE, an RHS judge and the president of the South West area of the NAFAS. Michael is joined by the talented floral designer Debbie Wadge a NAFAS Judge,

Date: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May: Coach departs 9.30am from Ashted Peace Memorial Hall Car Park KB21 2BE and will return between 5.30-6pm.

Price for Coach and entry ticket is £40.00.

Please contact: Di Stirling on 01372 279501.

**March Area Workshop: Alison Gillott**

I think everyone will agree with me that the Surrey Area workshop with Morgan Douglas Nuth was fabulous.

Who would have thought a cat scratcher could become a flower arranging mechanic?





Using the new Oshun pouches was exciting. When the black pouch is soaked in water it becomes a stable base into which flowers and foliage can be inserted. It is available online.

Oshun Pouch offers an environmentally friendly alternative to single use plastic foam for floral arrangements. Each pouch is made from 100% natural components.

Our next Christmas themed workshop with National NAFAS teacher Christine Picton is on Wednesday November 12th in Bookham. Save the date. Full details will be on the Area website in due course.

**Surrey Area Council Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> March.**



Pamela Askew receiving a bouquet from Margaret on the occasion of her retirement from being Chair of the Wisley Show Committee for almost 20 years. Pamela was also awarded the Surrey Area Associate of Honor. Well deserved.

Alison Honor being congratulated by Dee Kelly, Area President on receiving her badge proclaiming her our new Chair of the Wisley Show Committee.



Jane Rickard presented certificates to Dee Mears, Pat Crawford and Celia Rose. Anne Langley was unable to attend.

### **Surrey Area Booking Form:**

The Surrey Area of NAFAS JDS&E Committee are happy to announce that the Online Booking Form has been updated so that more detail can be included when booking a Judge, Demonstrator, Teacher, or Speaker. The guidelines to help you use the form has also been updated. Please see Surrey Area website.

This form is only for Surrey Area Clubs engaging in Surrey Area Judges, Demonstrators, Teachers, or Speakers and does not replace the National Blue Form for other areas. Surrey clubs can continue to use the Blue Forms if they want too.

### **Anna Sparks**

Anna celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday earlier in March with style. Her first event was with the committee of Asstead Flower Arrangement Group with flowers, tea, cake and of course some fizz.



It was a lovely occasion. The love of chocolate.



cake was especially made to reflect Anna's



Happy Birthday Anna, may you enjoy many more years of Fun, Friendship, Flowers and Chocolate!

Lynis Williams

### **Spring Has Sprung Workshop – 20 March 2025**

Members of Walton and Weybridge Flower Club thoroughly enjoyed celebrating the coming of spring this afternoon with our "Spring has Sprung" workshop led by Jane Rickard. We created two lovely designs on the day.

The first was reminiscent of a cake based on a posy pad, with twigs or sticks – or in some cases lolly sticks – round the edge, and beautiful flowers in the middle.



And the second was a “cushion” design in a basket (or in one case, the dog’s bowl!) and again using wonderful colour combinations of flowers.

The designs were all very different from one another, and really creative.

We even found time for a soup and sandwich lunchin between our creative efforts – and a delicious simnel cake kindly brought along by one of our members.

**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:

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 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.

**Area:**

**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.

**RHS Wisley Flower Show:**

Wisley Flower Show will be 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> September (Staging Monday 1<sup>st</sup>) 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](mailto: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](mailto:mediasurreynafas@gmail.com)**

### **Focus Group Workshop**

What an interesting day we had at Focus, the very talented Vanessa Wellock came to tutor us for the day. 3 options were offered and resulted in wonderful designs made by the members of the group. Below are a few photos of what we had to choose from all made by Vanessa.



### **Dates for your Diaries:**

#### **2025**

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

**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 Day.

**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.

I hope you all enjoy the lighter and hopefully warmer days.

Dee: [Dee47nafas@gmail.com](mailto:Dee47nafas@gmail.com)