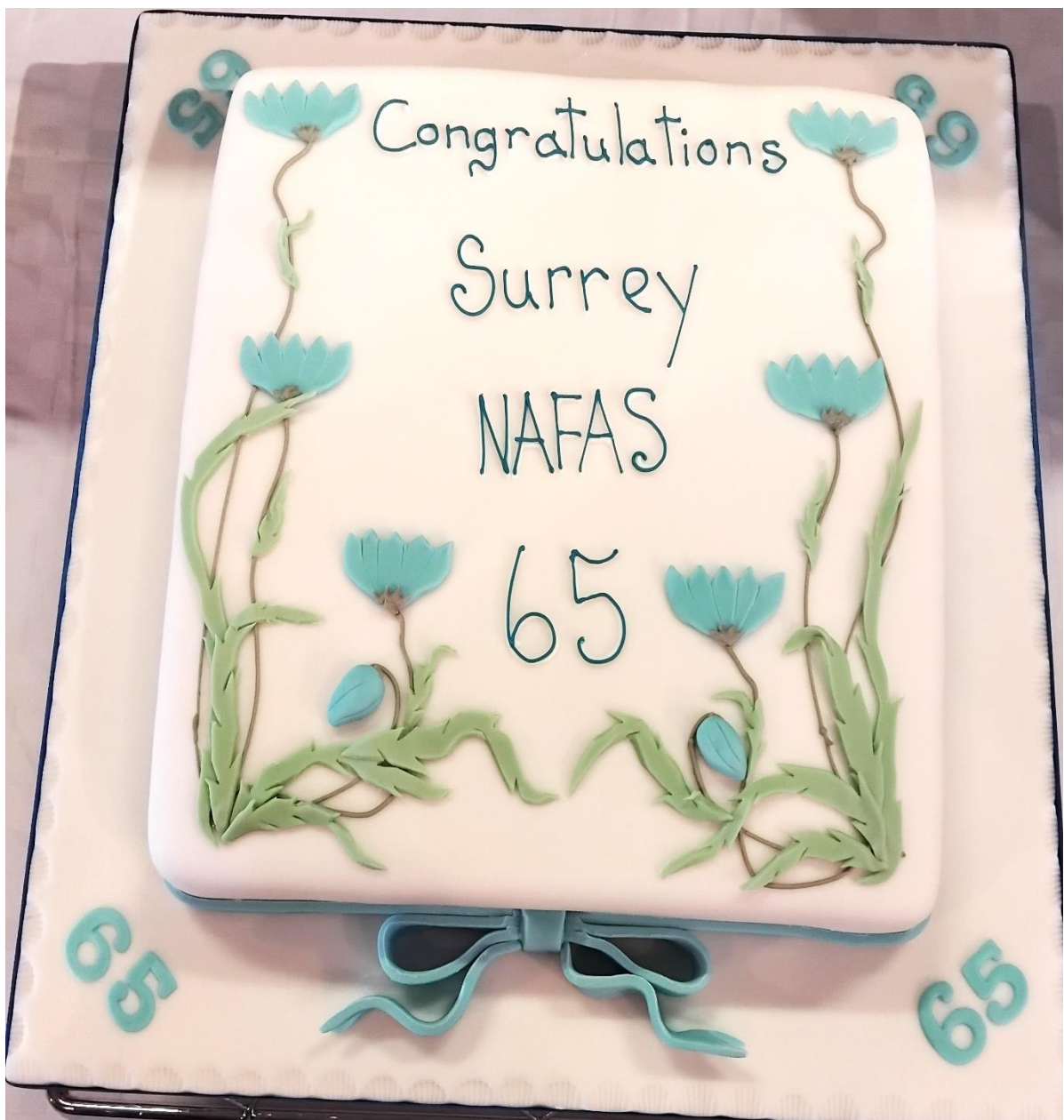


SURREY AREA 65TH BLUE
SAPPHIRE ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

FRIDAY 20TH JUNE 2025



Surrey Area celebrated their 65th Anniversary in style, even the weather celebrated with us although it did get a little too warm in the afternoon and the poor demonstrators really suffered with the bright stage lights beaming down on them. They were all squashed behind the curtains in a tiny space in darkness.

All the Committee worked so hard organising this event for its members, special mention to Di Henderson who is the Events Co-ordinator and put the whole event together, many sleepless nights and lots of phone calls, but thank you Di it went like a dream.

More thanks also go to Lynis Williams (Vice-Charman) who helped Di and organised many items for the day.

Margaret Trepant (Chairman) went very early to collect the NAFAS President James Burnside who flew into Gatwick airport to help us celebrate, a lovely man and we think he really enjoyed himself, chatting away to all the members throughout the day. Margaret also had to drive back to Gatwick after the finish, poor lady.

Brenda Fox (Treasurer) and Linda Mumford (Media) were running around taking photos to capture the atmosphere of the day.

Dee Kelly (Area President) organised the Raffle with the help of her friends, Chris Brown, Sally Russell, Dot Towner and Nina Eglington from Aldershot Floral Design Club, the tickets sold so well and thanks to all the members who bought them.

The day went as follows:

Members arrived around 9.30am and helped themselves to tea, coffee, and biscuits from the hatch. A table Plan was on show to guide all the members to their seats after buying raffle tickets.

There was a display of arrangements through the decade's inspiration taken from the Flower Arranger magazine article which members had reinvented using different flowers to those shown.

1960; 1970; 1980; 1990; 2000; modern day.





The day started with safety briefing by our chairman and then she introduced the first demonstrator of the Day: Kathryn Austin depicting the 1960's.



Kathryn gave us a talk about the arranging in the 60's dressed in a twin set and pearls and wearing a hat, she certainly looked the part. A big flowing "Constance Spry" arrangement arranged in chicken wire flowed over a shiny silver metal footed urn, peonies, roses and

delphiniums made for a very summery arrangement. All accompanied by the song "An English Country Garden"

Secondly; Alison Gillott came on stage dressed in a spacesuit much to the delight of the audience. Alison had made a space rocket out of board which was painted the colours of the first USA rockets to the moon. Instead of NASA Alison had Painted NAFAS on the rocket. Alison quizzed the members with dates from the 70's which involved us all thinking and calling out the answers, such fun and brought back lots of good memories. When Alison had finished her colourful design using bright yellow and orange flowers, Annette



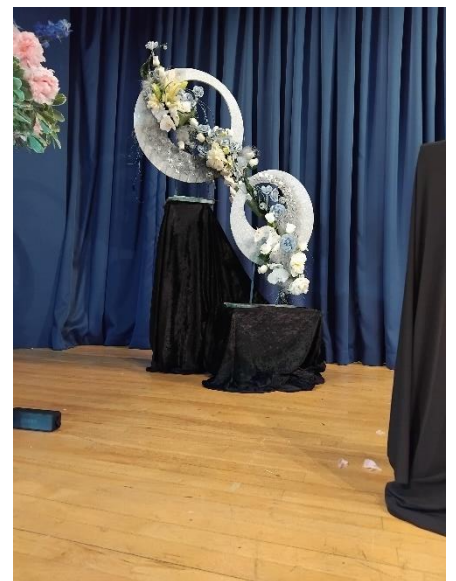
came on to the stage to help her set up, in front of the rocket was a platform, everyone thought that the placement was going to sit on this, but NO, Alison and Annette turned it upside down and placed it on that way, another arrangement was bought on and placed on top, this made the flowers look like the burst of flames from the bottom of the rocket, very clever. Space Music played at the end.



Last of the morning demonstrators was Graham King who burst onto the stage dressed as Adam Ant to the music of "Stand and Deliver," talking about 1980 in between eating the feathers from his plaits...ha-ha.



Grahams designs were white and silver with silver glitter balls reminding us all the disco's we went too, many years ago. All arranged on two round stands, the roses; orchids and lilies were perfect.



After a short comfort break, we were served a tasty lunch which consisted of cold salmon, new potatoes, coleslaw and salad, a creamy



cheesecake was our dessert, followed by tea and coffee with mints. On the tables printed copies of a quiz printed out by Di, which were all towns in Surrey, was greatly enjoyed by members all day, you could see them scribbling down the answers; many were a complete riddle, which caused us to scratch our heads as some were quite tricky, the answers were given at the end of the day and prizes were awarded to the members with the highest points.

A beautiful cake made and decorated by Alison Honor (Wisley Chairman) was cut and handed around to all the members to enjoy. It was delicious. Thank you, Alison. James Burnside gave a congratulatory speech wishing our Area many more years of flowers and friendship to come.



The afternoon's entertainment started with a bang, Annette Urquhart came dancing on stage to the Spice Girls music "Light up your Life" dressed as Gerry Halliwell, a glittery Union Jack dress, ginger wig and high boots, reflected the time we all remember, great fun, Annette was taking us through the 1990's and her design was reminiscence of the period, including Bells of Ireland as a nod to Our NAFAS President James, At the end, the stage was set with four more designs, each depicting one of the band members, even a small pink arrangement that was baby spice.



Next on was Claire Bryant dressed in a silver sparkly dress and black glittery boots as a nod to one of our new demonstrators who has taken the country by storm, can you guess who that is?

Claire talked about the influence from the overseas demonstrators who introduced the

handtied bouquets to us here in the UK. Using a very open construction Claire weaved flowers through to handtied bouquet. At the end another on to complete her staging, long of wood were put along the entire length at the front of the stage and the two designs were put in containers full of water.



make a loose one was brought twisted lengths



Our final demonstrator was Christina Curtis dressed up as a Steam Punk person, including top hat goggles and lots of dark clothing, even a purple wig!!! Tina talked about the latest edition to the Competition Manual entitled Steam Punk which is also a Class in the next National Show in Gloucester Cathedral, interesting. Lots of tiny gears were woven amongst sprayed bronze plaited leaves and flowers were woven through. Some even dyed

blue!! At the end the curtains were drawn back to show lots of Steam Punk ideas all created by Tina.



The final curtain and stage revealed in all its glory and a standing ovation



The six demonstrators came on to the stage to a very well-deserved applause and standing ovation from the members, they looked exhausted and we know how hot it was in the hall, so they must have been roasting.





Dallas Taylor gave a heartwarming thank you to the demonstrators on behalf of us all, reminding members of members long gone but not forgotten.

Margaret and Dee called out the lucky raffle prize winners, we had 31 prizes for the winners.

There was a lucky number under one of the seats to win the delightful table arrangements made by Di.

All in all, a very memorable day which will be spoke about for many years to come.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE ORGANISING AND HELP WITH THIS DAY, SPECIAL THANKS TO THE DEMONSTRATORS FOR SHOWING OUR MEMBERS WHAT A GREAT BUNCH OF DEMONSTRATORS WE HAVE IN OUR AREA

THANKS TO THE CATERERS FOR A LUNCH THAT WE ALL ENJOYED.

THANKS TO THE MEMBERS WHO CAME AND BOUGHT RAFFLE TICKETS WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE DAY AS MUCH AS WE DID. IF YOU DID NOT COME THIS TIME, MAYBE NEXT TIME YOU WILL!!

Dee Kelly (Area President)