

SURREY AREA NEWSLETTER MAY 2025



Welcome to the May 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:

ASH FLORAL CLUB



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.**

**SOLD OUT – THERE IS NOW A WAITING
LIST**



Ashtead Flower Arrangement Club

On the 2nd April Jennifer Thompson gave us a nostalgic demonstration "Flowers in Rhyme" we enjoyed reminiscing the nursery rhymes of our youth in flowers. This stunning arrangement for wheels on the bus featured Anthurium Zafira and Phoenix Palm. See Photo below:

Ashtead Flower Arrangement Group Wednesday 7th May 2025 Area Demonstrator, National Teacher and Judge Anna Steven will be demonstrating "New Horizons" 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. Further details please contact: Di Stirling 01372 279501

Horley Flower Club's Sparkling Blue Sapphire Anniversary

At the beginning of April, Horley Flower Club celebrated their Blue Sapphire Anniversary. The club originated in 1960 when those with an interest in flower arranging met as part of the Horley Gardener's Association and then Horley Flower Club itself became independent in 1986 when the Gardening Club closed. Today 65 years on, we meet in the Regent Hall, Albert Road, Horley on the first Tuesday evening of each month at 7.30pm.

To mark the anniversary, we held a special event on our April club night. The evening started with a delicious buffet meal that was catered by the committee where we raised a glass to toast the fun and friendship we have had, over the years, coming together to enjoy our shared interest in flowers. The chairman Janet Aslett made a short speech and a celebration cake was cut by our longest standing member, Pam Lee, who had joined the club back in 1974. Keeping with the blue sapphire theme, the evening included a fun "all things blue" quiz and a raffle packed with fabulous blue-wrapped prizes. The energy picked up as a live band treated us to toe-tapping classics from the 1960s, taking many of us on a nostalgic trip down memory lane. We also had a brilliant talk from club member Duncan Ward, who shared the ups and downs of his training journey to become a flower arranging demonstrator—it was both inspiring and entertaining! We add our congratulations to Duncan who has since passed his demonstrator's test on April 5th.

Over the past 65 years, our club has been part of countless wonderful events. From flower festivals in local churches, Surrey Area and National flower arranging competitions, to Horley in Bloom and even flower arranging in Westminster Abbey for Commonwealth Day and at Hampton Court Palace, we've been lucky to share our passion in so many meaningful ways. Coming up on Saturday 5th July this year the club has its own flower show 'Let's Celebrate'. We welcome visitors to the show which will be held at English Martyrs Church Hall, Vicarage Lane, Horley between 1.30 -4.30pm.





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.

We still have a few spaces on the coach left.

This is part of the Cathedral's summer art exhibition, 'Living Water'. The festival's design team is led by the Cathedral's 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 14th 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.

BANSTEAD FLOWER CLUB - Vicki Hollands

Banstead have been more than spoilt this last 3 months. In February Sandra Draper visited the club & her demonstration 'Full Eastern Promise' was a joy to watch. Sandra spoke of her past living & holidaying in China, Japan & India & each arrangement depicted those countries beautifully.

In March Alison Gillott's demonstration 'Sweet Tooth' had many of us drooling, and reminded many of us of confectionery from our childhood. Alison gave a lovely demonstration which was enjoyed by all present. In April we welcomed Mark Entwistle to the club. Mark's presentation for the afternoon was titled 'Botanical Art'. The majority of Mark's arrangements were foam free and an education on how beautiful designs can be achieved without foam. All in all, a colourful, informative and enjoyable afternoon.

We are thrilled to say our competition table is going from strength to strength from just 11 entries in our February, up to 19 entries in March, and a fabulous 21 entries in April!

Below two of the entries from February's competition titled 'Pole to Pole'

1st Snr Adv. Class - Nicola Mathews



2nd Intermediate Class Gill Mead



The title of our In-house Competition for April was Sticks & Stems. It's great to see the variation of arrangements and how people interpret the title differently.

Below 1st Snr Adv. -Linda Milne



1st Adv Class & Judges Choice- Sune Larsen Walsh



Intermediate - 1st Alison Gallant



1st Novice - Lorna Easthope



Godalming Flower Club had a lovely workshop at our last meeting. The very talented Frances Collins showed us how to make this beautiful design. The workshop was very well supported so here are just a few photos from the evening for you to enjoy.





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.

Prize and Invited Guests. Competitors **MUST** claim their tickets from Head Office.

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



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 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

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