

SURREY AREA NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025

Welcome to the October 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.



MONDAY 26th January 2026
FLORAL ART BRIC A BRAC sale
At the Surrey NAFAS council meeting
Book a table for your club
Sell floral art items for your club or a designated charity
See your County Events Officer
Bookings taken at AGM Nov 24th
Please bring your own table cloths
CASH Preferred

NAFAS CERTIFICATED COURSES

FLOWER ARRANGING PART 1

6 class courses of 3 hours per class Total 18 hour

NO WRITTEN WORK OTHER THAN A RECORD OF THE PRACTICAL DESIGNS

COMPLETED AT EACH CLASS

Jane Rickard and Sue Slark are offering the above course to any NAFAS members or non members

Dates of course to be decided, later in the year, when enough students show interest

APPROX COST £153 PER STUDENT FOR THE COURSE (Class of 10)

Classes will be held in BOOKHAM BARN HALL as soon as we have enough students showing interest in the course.

CLASS NUMBER TOPICS COVERED PRACTICAL

Class 1 Demonstration of practical for following class

Health & Safety.

Posy in a leaf covered jam jar

Class 2 Demonstration of practical for following class

Identification and conditioning of plant material

Basic tools and equipment

Line design in a pin-holder

Class 3 Demonstration of practical for following class

Radial stems and recession

Sundries for flower arranging including floral foam, Agra

Wool and Fibre Floral

All round posy arrangement in a container using chicken wire

Class 4 Demonstration of practical for following class

Enhanced focal area, radial stems and proportion

Introduction to Elements of Design

Symmetrical triangle using floral foam, Agra Wool or Fibre Floral

Class 5 Demonstration of practical for following class

Enhanced focal area, radial stems and proportion

Introduction to Principles of Design

Pave design using any medium

Class 6 Recap on previous class content

Emphasis on vertical stems and use of space

Parallel design using any medium emphasising form and contrast

TO REGISTER INTEREST PLEASE CONTACT JANE RICKARD

janer.163@btinternet.com

IMPORTANT:

The Surrey Area Banners and Flags on poles have gone missing from the storage at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall. There were 4 items in black canvas long bags.

We originally had two of each and now there is only one. If you or your club have them tucked away somewhere or know someone who used them this year could you please let our Chairman Margaret Trepant know asap as they are needed.

Many thanks.

Walton and Weybridge Flower Club

Members of our Flower Club joined with Members of St Andrew's URC Church in Walton on Thames for a Flower Festival held on 9th and 10th August this year in St Andrews Church itself, which is a very lovely building. This is the second year we have done this, and it is a great occasion. The theme of the festival was "From the Bookshelf" and our members and the Church members produced between them 28 magnificent designs interpreting book titles which ranged from Wuthering Heights to Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire,

from Agatha Christie's *The Body in the Library* to *The Jungle Book* and much more in between. Once again, we were very lucky to have a lot of visitors, and we received many compliments on our innovative interpretations. We asked the visitors to cast their votes, and over 160 of them did so. The winner of the public vote was Ann Mansfield's interpretation of *The Owl and the Pussycat*, but there were some very close contenders for the title. The Minister of St Andrew's has written a very complimentary note of thanks about our efforts and clearly appreciated the displays. He says in his note "Ladies, you are outstanding – a wonderful flower festival at St Andrew's; with some beautiful and skilful arrangements. Thank you so much for all your hard work. It's all gone so well and given so much pleasure to so many people. A festival to remember for all the right reasons". Here are some pictures of some of the exhibits. This selection features *The Jungle Book*, *The Owl and the Pussycat*, *Sunrise*, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* and *Wuthering Heights*.



Guildford Flower Club go to The Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford.

As a result of Sarah Robinson and Helen Kirkby taking flowers to the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre on National Flower Arranging Day in June, we were invited to do the flowers for their 60th Anniversary Celebration Gala Concert.

Unfortunately Sarah and Helen were on holiday when it took place on 10th September so Shirley Dawe and Cynthia Bromwich did the flowers. They did 7 medium sized arrangements for all of the public areas and two pedestals for the larger areas. The brief was to do something colourful for Autumn so we discussed, reds, oranges and yellow, only to find out that yellow flowers in a theatre is considered bad luck by Actors. The superstition is that yellow flowers cause Actors to forget their lines, so we went with red and orange. The theatre manager then invited us to the Gala Celebration evening which we gratefully accepted. This turned out to be a star studied show which we both thoroughly enjoyed.



Cynthia Bromwich

Shirley Dawe

Then to our great surprize we were asked if we would like to be introduced to HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh – of course we said yes. At the end of the show we were escorted to back stage to join the line up. We were placed with Dame Patricia Hodge, Abigail Thaw and Dame Penelope Keith and were introduced to the Duke.



(This photo must not be copied or placed on Social Media or the internet in any way)

What a wonderful experience and all thanks to Sarah and Helen placing flowers on National Flower Arranging Day.

Cynthia Bromwich
Guildford Flower Club

St. Margaret's Westminster:

At the beginning of September Alison Gillott and I were contacted by Margaret Trepant, our Surrey Area Chairman, to ask if we would do flowers at Westminster Cathedral for a memorial service for the Earl of Sandwich. Of course; we were both honoured to do so.

The Earl of Sandwich had died in February and the Memorial Service was going to be held at St Margarets, Westminster on 15 September 2025. The NAFAS team at the Cathedral, Jilly and Linda had met with

the Earl's family when they were told exactly what the family wanted; this is very unusual event as normally flowers are arranged for specific events with no consultation!

Alison and I were told to bring up greenery so we liaised and picked up rosemary, grisselinia, choisya, pittosporum etc and with two black bags full we travelled up to Victoria bewildering commuters with our bags! On our arrival at the Abbey; we met Linda and then sorted out the flowers in 3 as Alison and I were doing an arrangement each at the front of the choir stalls, to compliment each other as siblings but not as twins' and Linda was doing an arrangement at the altar. We had some amazing hydrangeas, daliahs, grasses etc all in gorgeous autumnal colours. We then had to transport the flowers/greenery/oasis etc. across to St Margarets and fortunately it wasn't raining!

Neither Alison or I had arranged flowers at St Margarets, but had been fortunate enough to do flowers at the Abbey. St Margarets is a beautiful 12th century church next to the Abbey often and forms part of a single World Heritage Site with the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey.

It was very quiet within St Margarets, whereas at the Abbey with lots of visitors one can get stopped a lot with people chatting to you. However, we had a very interesting conversation with a couple who were very interested in Sir Walter Raleigh who was a distant relative of theirs. We were able to share with them the history of Sir Walter, the fact that the Raleigh School in Horsley is named after him and other historical facts. It was amazing that of all people to ask they chose us!

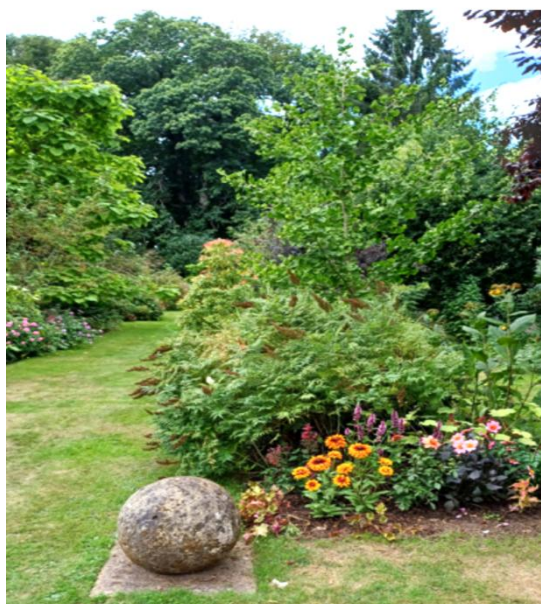
We were not allowed to take photos of our arrangements to share either on social media or even with you.

If you were to get the opportunity to do flowers at the Abbey do say YES; it is great fun and such an honour. Denise Bottomley (See photo below of St.Margaret's)



Banstead Update

Yan Skates kindly opened his beautiful garden for the afternoon in July. Over 30 members & friends of the Club visited and enjoyed a relaxing & sociable afternoon. Tea & Cake was provided by members of the Committee. Yan's generosity raised £120 for the Club's Charity 'The Tuesday Club'.



In July National Demonstrator Lucy Ellis gave an interesting demonstration titled 'Picture This'. The demonstration cleverly portrayed Lucy's love of art in her designs and was a thoroughly enjoyable and thought provoking afternoon.

Seventeen members entered our in-house competition titled 'Summer Holiday' with some very different interpretations of the title. 1st in the Novice Class was Wanda Adach who's exhibit was a Sun Hat & Cocktail, and Brenda Pratt who was awarded 1st in the Intermediate Class with her Sun lounge both exhibits can be seen below.



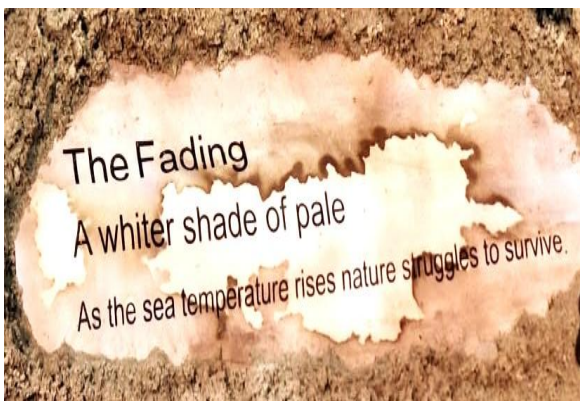
In August the Club held a bring & buy sale which raised £94 for the clubs Charity. Congratulations goes to Angela Norman, who entered the Oswestry Flower Show along with her sister Jean who were awarded 1st for their design 'Carnival'. Angela also gained a first at the show in a class titled Artist's Palette. Well done to them both. Photo below.



Graham Harmer was our demonstrator in September, Graham has visited the clubs several times before, and true to form provided us with a colourful & enjoyable afternoon. The stage looked truly wonderful with an abundance of designs and beautiful blooms. The In-house competition 'Wild n Free' was entered by 18 Members again with some lovely interpretations of the title. Below Elaine Schumann's entry in the Advanced Class, which depicted the title beautifully and was awarded VHC.



National Competition: Gloucester Cathedral: Surrey Area Exhibit by Claire Bryant ably assisted by Christina Curtis: 2nd place. Well done to you both, a magnificent design.





The Legal Side of the Raffle

You might think raffling off a floral design is just a bit of fun — but the law says otherwise. Under the Gambling Act 2005, that glorious design of roses is not just a centrepiece, it is a lottery prize. The good news is our raffles count as an ‘incidental lottery’ — that is legal jargon for: “a raffle held as part of a non-commercial event where everyone is really there for something else.” Since the main ‘draw’ is the demonstration itself, the raffle is the ‘floral’ cherry on top.

Here a guide to keep you the right side of the law:

- Tickets must only be sold during the event — no advance bookings, and no hawking them in Tesco and for an incidental lottery even under-16s can have a flutter.
- The prizes must be given out before everyone heads home.
- The order of the draw does not matter. They can be drawn in order created, out of order, by the winner choosing or save the “WOW” arrangement for last to keep the tension high — it is your club’s call, as long as the tickets are pulled fairly at random. A notice on your raffle sales table stating how the prizes will be drawn is recommended.
- Strips vs singles: If you have sold a stripe of tickets for £1 in lieu of a single ticket for a £1, then in the eyes of the law you have sold 5 tickets at 20p each. Every ticket is a chance. You cannot pull out a stripe and discard the attached 4 tickets, these remaining tickets must be returned for the next draw.
- In the name of fairness, please do not whisper to the demonstrator “pick out a particular colour of ticket next.” That is not how fairness works.

Further details can be found at:

<https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/public-and-players/guide/page/how-to-run-a-fundraiser-with-lotteries-or-raffles-at-events>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Bookham Flower Club: Floral Design Show: “Autumn Glory”

The Old Barn Hall

Church Road, Bookham, KT23 3PQ

Saturday October 25th 2025

1.00pm—5.30pm Prize giving 5.00pm. Admission £5.00. Children under 12 Free

Refreshments in the Harrison Room

Surrey Area of NAFAS

invites its members to a workshop with

Christine Picton

Experienced flower arranger from the East of England Area of NAFAS,
National Teacher and Judge, member of the National Education Committee

CHRISTMAS THEMED WORKSHOP

on

Wednesday 12th November 2025

10.00 for 10.30am – 3.00pm

The Old Barn Hall

Great Bookham

KT23 3PQ

Booking for this workshop costing £40 will open on 1st September 2025 when
a form with full information (including on line payment details) will be
available on the Surrey Area of NAFAS website

Enquires to - aegillott@gmail.com 07811 088949



CLAYGATE FLORAL CLUB PRESENTS

Classical Christmas

SO PLEASE JOIN US AND

RICHARD TWISTLETON

FRIDAY | 28 | NOV 2025

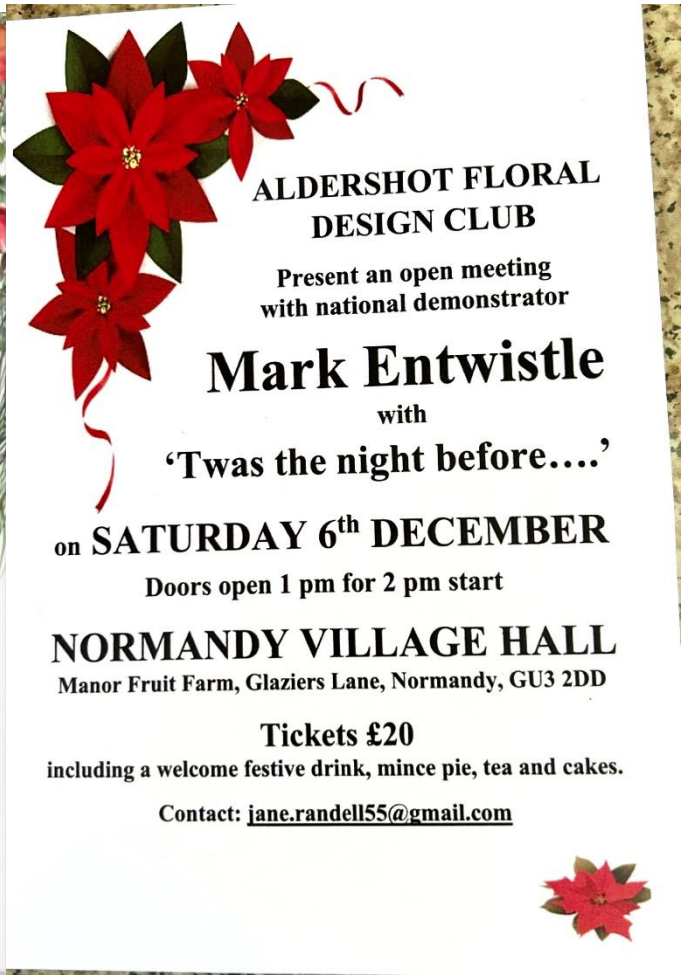
7PM FOR 7.30PM START

CLAYGATE VILLAGE HALL
CHURCH ROAD, CLAYGATE, ESHER, KT10 0JP

TICKETS £16, TO PURCHASE EMAIL:
CFCOPEND@GMAIL.COM

Everyone Welcome

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED
TICKETS NON-REFUNDABLE



**ALDERSHOT FLORAL
DESIGN CLUB**

Present an open meeting
with national demonstrator

Mark Entwistle

with
'Twas the night before....'

on **SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER**


Doors open 1 pm for 2 pm start

NORMANDY VILLAGE HALL

Manor Fruit Farm, Glaziers Lane, Normandy, GU3 2DD

Tickets £20
including a welcome festive drink, mince pie, tea and cakes.

Contact: jane.randell55@gmail.com




Christmas Wreath Workshop



**Saturday 29 November 2025
10am – 1pm**

Guildford Flower Club will teach you how to make your very own festive wreath to take home and adorn your front door this Christmas.

Your ticket includes all the materials you need to make your wreath including dried fruits, fresh foliage, decorations and ribbons.

Mulled wine and a mince pie will be served.

£40 Guildford Flower Club members
£45 Non-members

Emmanuel Church, Shepherds Lane, Guildford GU2 9SJ

To book your place email guildfordflowerclub@gmail.com

*Please bring an apron, scissors and secateurs.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES: SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAIL
2025**

24 November: Area Council Meetings. AGM after November meeting. **Start time has moved to 10am.**

8th October: Education Day open to all teachers.

15th October: NAFAS AGM.

25th October: Bookham Show "Autumn Glory" See page above.

12th November: Surrey Area Workshop: Christine Picton.

28th November: Claygate: "Classical Christmas" Richard Twistleton. £16.00. 7.30pm.
Claygate Village Hall, Church Road, KT10 0JP. (See Above)

29th November: Guildford Flower Club: Wreath Making Workshop. 10am-1pm.
£40 Members £45 Visitors (See Above)

6th December: 2pm. AFDC Christmas Open Meeting. "Twas the Night Before...." Mark Entwistle. 2pm start. £20. Normandy Village Hall, GU3 2DD. (See Poster Above)

2026: Area Council Meetings: 26 January (Change of Date), 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.

Dee: Dee47nafas@gmail.com