

NAFAS NEWS

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETIES

SPRING 2021





From the CEO

How quickly fortunes can change! After a year of great uncertainty, we finally have some positive headlines about a vaccine that hopefully will make 2021 a far more enjoyable year than 2020. The pandemic has reminded us of life's simple pleasures and the importance of kindness. Our members can now look forward to clubs reopening and shows and competitions once again being planned.

The focus currently is very much on the future of the Association and with so much to plan, the Trustees have set up new working parties and welcome those members who have offered their time and expertise to help and advise on the new committees: Finance, Strategy, Articles of Association and Governance. There are over 50 dedicated NAFAS members in various teams and sub-committees supporting the Board.

So how does all this work? The Trustees and Standing Committees are meeting to agree their objectives for the year ahead. These will be costed out under the watchful eye of the Finance Team and added to the Strategy. There will be regular meetings to monitor progress and finance. A comprehensive budget and strategy will be in place for the start of the financial year on 1 April. The Governance team is overseeing a review of the Articles of Association and the Independent

Governance Review, both should be completed in January 2021.

Undoubtedly, the big decision will be on the future of Osborne House, the decision to purchase Osborne House is proving to be a sound investment which will secure the future of the Association at a time when almost half of UK charities expect to run out of reserves within the next 12 months. Discussions will take place in the New Year about the house and, after consultation with Area Chairmen and members, a decision will be made soon after. My thanks go to Sharon Nolan who has done an enormous amount of work talking and surveying members about the requirements of their various committees and collating the information which will help decision-making.

I don't think there is any doubt that the Association will look very different post Covid. 2021 will be a year of decision-making. Overall, there appears to be a general consensus that change is needed and under normal circumstances change may have taken many years to achieve, but Covid has accelerated the process and suddenly it is upon us.

Take care everyone and keep safe.

STEVEN LANE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NAFAS

Know Your NAFAS roles

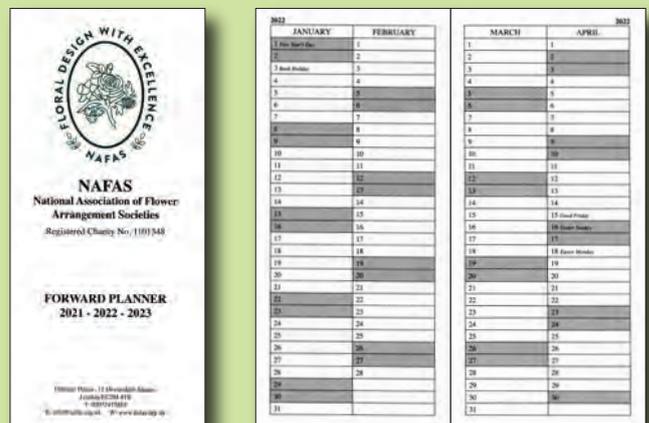
We are extending our popular 'Know your' articles and inviting you to nominate candidates.

Originally, the 'Know your Demonstrator' and 'Know your Speaker' series was designed to introduce readers to some of the fun and worthwhile ways of getting involved in NAFAS while boosting your floral career. Now, we would like to include other important volunteer as well as professional roles.

So, if you know someone inspiring, whether they are a Judge, Speaker, Demonstrator or Tutor, or maybe your Area Treasurer, Flower Arranger Officer or someone else vital to your club or Area, why not drop us a line at news@nafas.org.uk so we can share their story and inspire others.

STILL IN STOCK...

NAFAS Forward Planner 2021, 2022, 2023



Four months to view. **£1.70** plus 41p p&p.
Order from NAFAS using your debit or credit card:
Online at nafas.org.uk **Telephone** 020 7247 5567



From the National Chairman

My grandmother and great aunt were wonderful flower arrangers. I have such fond memories of adventures with Granny. As a vicar's wife she 'did' the flowers in various rural parishes in the West Country and my job was to sit on the altar steps while she asked me where I thought she ought to put each flower. My great aunt preferred her wonderful garden where, as a child, I explored the paths and borders. Her blooms were arranged in a vegetable tureen balanced in a precarious manner on top of a metal stand. It was a cross between Constance Spry and Heath Robinson! I often associate her with spring as the tureen was a mass of yellow daffodils and Granny used to say to her 'I see spring has sprung'. I've still got the tureen and stand, and they are filled with daffodils each year.

Things have changed since then. I am sure my great aunt would be wary of a flower club today. It would not be as she remembered it, however, the fact her old club still exists must be because it has adapted, developed, rejuvenated and moved with the times and trends. So, never say never, change can reinvigorate and certainly, how we view designs, mechanics and styles has moved forward, particularly in terms of the environment.

At the start of the first lockdown in March I decided to use my Facebook page to keep my students focused. Below, is my first design – a simple spring scene, the birds had eaten all the coconut and it seemed a shame to waste the shells. Who would have thought we would still be posting online rather

than meeting in person all those months later? We are even looking forward to our first virtual national show, 'The Spring... the Happy Time of Singing Birds Is Come'.

What has not changed is our thirst for knowledge. If you haven't visited our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NafasFlowers/) or new website yet (www.nafas.org.uk), why not take a look? You'll find plenty of free and paid for material to inform and inspire you. In particular, resources for download on The Element of Colour, The Element of Texture, Show Work for Beginners and the Basic Teaching Manual. The Elements & Principles of Design handbook is also back in stock, and the Guide to Period Flower Arranging handbook follows hot on its heels.

Going back to my childhood, the closest I got to a flower club was doing my Flower Arranging badge as a Girl Guide. The subject of Junior Clubs is something we need to look at and encourage to grow. A thought to put forward at your next Area council meeting perhaps – there may be someone in your Area who would be the right person to get one off the ground.

There is something about the freshness of a spring garden, below is a design that encapsulates a spring border for your window sill – bringing the outside in. I may add the containers are no indication of my winter lifestyle! Keep arranging and embrace your club when it returns. It will have missed you.

KATHERINE KEAR NAFAS NATIONAL CHAIRMAN



NAFAS flower arrangers honoured to take part in a special service at Westminster Abbey

Liz Hall reports on the Association's role in the service to mark the burial of the Unknown Soldier

For the service on 11 November, 2020, the NAFAS Co-ordinators for Westminster Abbey, Marilyn Marsh and I, both from the Kent Area, were asked to create a laurel surround for the tomb to replace the usual poppies, and granted permission to travel to the Abbey during the lockdown. I went with Kathy Stangaard, from the London & Overseas Area, and set up our work station in the North Transept while the BBC were rigging for the following day's programme. After nearly three hours of cutting laurel the design was completed, with *Pittosporum* used as an infill.

HRH The Prince of Wales placed a wreath of red roses and bay leaves by the tomb, as his great grandfather King George V had done previously.

A posy for HRH The Duchess of Cornwall was made by Kathy and 80 stems of red and white roses and carnations were prepared for the members of the congregation to place on the tomb after the service.

It was an honour and privilege to be involved in this memorable occasion, especially during the current lockdown and we look forward to many more members working in the Abbey in future when normal services resume in the royal church.



Photographs: Chris Hall (tomb), Kathy Stangaard (posy)



WORLD NEWS

Ireland

AOIFA says 'Thank you' to Nancy McKeever

Nancy McKeever, a member of Doddervale Flower Club, Dublin, has ensured the safe delivery of *The Flower Arranger* magazine to AOIFA clubs in Ireland since 1986. She is now passing on the baton after 34 years of uninterrupted, dedicated service.

Nancy, who is Life Vice-President of AOIFA, has been a staunch member of the Association since the 1970s. She served as Chair from 1994 to 1996 and President from 1996 to 1998. During that period, she made many friends travelling throughout the country promoting Education Days. She has also served AOIFA tirelessly as a Teacher and Judge, encouraging students and competitors along the way. She is a NAFAS National Judge.

Nancy was a member of the WAFA Ireland Committee, when the 11th World Flower Show was staged in Dublin in 2014 and was editor of the WAFA Ireland Book, *Duilleoga*.

Now that Nancy is retiring from this job, she will have more time to devote to her online duties as Editor of Doddervale Flower Club Newsletter, the study of Latin and compiling a book on family history.

The Flower Arranger would like to add their sincere thanks to Nancy for her tremendous dedication over so many years. Nancy has always been a pleasure to deal with – cheerful, kind and considerate. We wish her all the very best with her future activities.

The photograph below shows Mary O'Brien, Chair of AOIFA congratulating Nancy on her long commitment to *The Flower Arranger* on the occasion of the AOIFA Sapphire Celebrations.



Kenya

Kenya Floral Arrangement Club continued to hold their meetings in September and October with demonstrations on Zoom. Neither of the demonstrations was themed, leaving it to the demonstrators to decide the direction of the designs themselves. In September, the demonstrators were Arti Doshi, Alka Shah, Nimita Shah and Priya Shah. In October, it was the turn of Priya Shah again, and Pravina Shah.



ABOVE Design by Arti Doshi one of the demonstrators at the September meeting

BELOW Pravina Shah with one of her designs created at the October meeting



CLUB NEWS

Brockenhurst Flower Club first post-lockdown demonstration

On Monday 19 October, Bromsgrove Flower Club welcomed back 20 friends and members to the first post-lockdown demonstration staged in the Area. After a huge amount of organisation from the committee and brilliantly guided by the village hall staff, they were able to proceed with a truly beautiful spectacular entitled, 'Autumn Falls' by Area Demonstrator Katie Baxter. Thanks must go to Katie, who set in place stringent procedures to ensure members were safe and also to both the village hall staff and flower club members who observed social distancing, mask wearing, sanitising and a one-way system rule. Was it worth it? Absolutely! Spirits were lifted by the beautiful displays. In total, five pieces were created and delivered with a witty and lively commentary by Katie.



She used a mixture of stunning autumnal colours: corals, russets, and reds mixed with creams and punchy, zesty lime greens – combining beautiful roses, berries, large mophead *Hydrangea*, frilly *Celosia*, *Ornithogalum*, *Dahlia*, *Amaranthus* and large green *Chrysanthemum*. All this plus traditional green foliage with just a touch of black *Heuchera*, golden grasses, dried oak and birch leaves.

Bromsgrove Flower Club comes to the rescue

When Sharon Whatley, member of Llandaff Floral Art Club found herself unexpectedly in lockdown in a holiday cottage in Bromsgrove, it was just two weeks away from her daughter's wedding at Holy Trinity Church, Lickey, and she was due to do the flowers.

Unfortunately, all the foliage she had earmarked for the wedding was 100 miles away in her garden in Cardiff; the wholesaler who was going to supply the flowers was also in Cardiff. Her flower club leader, Heather Mayor, who had been helping her to design the flowers, kindly contacted Bromsgrove Flower Club and Lesley Demozis came to her rescue with buckets of greenery and advice on the best places to buy flowers.

Six arrangements and one bouquet later, the wedding went ahead. There were only 11 guests, but it was a wonderful day. Sharon was so grateful to Lesley and Bromsgrove Flower Club. It made her realise that she was part of a wonderful fellowship of flower arrangers who would be there when needed.



Cambridge Flower Club life member

Beryl Wreford has been a member of Cambridge Flower Club for 60 years. This is a remarkable achievement and the club is very proud to have her as one of their two Life Members. Beryl subscribes to *The Flower Arranger* magazine, has joined in workshops and goes to as many meetings as she can, often accompanied by her daughter. The photograph below shows her cutting the Club's 65th Anniversary cake.



Market Drayton Flower Club update

So, what have we been doing at Market Drayton Flower Club since restrictions came in?

We were all disappointed that we couldn't meet any more but we haven't forgotten about flowers. Our vigilant secretary, Helen Bonsall, has kept us in touch, sharing by email members' photographs of their gardens and flower arrangements (see below).

Recently we have tried our hand at 'video'. As we had to cancel our Christmas Open Evening, a few members who are not qualified demonstrators had a go at demonstrating Christmas arrangements to give members ideas. It has been an interesting learning curve, with quite a lot of editing required and we thank Jane Eardley for all her hard work on this.



Before lockdown we had adopted 'Guide Dogs for the Blind' as our annual charity and we were pleased to be able to present them with a cheque for £100. It can cost around £55,000 to produce, train and maintain a dog over its working life, so they were very pleased to receive our cheque. We would have presented this at one of our monthly meetings with a photographer present but unfortunately, due to the restrictions, this was not possible.

We were very sad to receive the news of our President's death in August. Audrey Bell was Chairman of Market Drayton Flower Club for over 11 years and more recently our President. She was a charming, cheerful and very friendly person with a lovely sense of humour – welcoming to all. She was a special ambassador for NAFAS as well as being supportive of all our adventures with the club. Audrey is greatly missed by us all.



OBITUARY

JEAN HILL MBE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATE
OF HONOUR
(NORTH MIDLANDS)

Jean Hill
died on 31 August 2020

Jean's passion for plants and flowers was the foundation for many years devoted to teaching floral design. She started flower arranging in 1960 and in 1963, after participating in the first Flower Arranging Teachers' Course in the North Midlands, began a long career as a teacher as well as demonstrator, judge and speaker. In 1972, Jean and her husband Alan started flower arranging professionally and many members will remember attending her demonstrations and workshops. She also taught in schools and community colleges, encouraging new members to flower clubs.

In recognition of what she did for NAFAS, she became a National Associate of Honour in 1990 and in 1995 was awarded an MBE in recognition of, not only her outstanding services to NAFAS but also the community in general.

It was a true reward for the more than 120 flower festivals she had organised in venues both small and large, raising well in excess of £250,000 for charity.

However, Jean's most memorable festival was the 'Tapestry of Flowers' in her own parish church of St Lukes, Gaddesby in 1991.

Jean's funeral was in September in Loughborough.

The National Officers, Board of Directors and North Midlands Area extend their deepest condolences to Jean's family and friends.

LEFT (TOP INSET) Design by Jane Eardley

LEFT Design by Carolyn Martin

Share your club news, events and ideas for getting back to flower arranging at news@nafas.org.uk

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to all the NAFAS Clubs and Areas on reaching these milestone anniversaries

20 YEARS (China)

Presteigne & Borders Floral Art Club
(Mercia & North Wales)

25 YEARS (Silver)

Swallowfield Horticultural Society
(Berks, Bucks & Oxon)

Vanguard Contemporary Design
Group (Kent)

30 YEARS (Pearl)

Dover Beck Flower Club (North
Midlands)

Innovations (South West)

Kent Heights Flower Club (London &
Overseas)

Northampton Rose of the Shire
(South Midlands)

Southern Demonstrators Group
(Surrey)

35 YEARS (Coral)

Deal & District Flower Club (Kent)

Wellesbourne Flower Club
(South Midlands)

40 YEARS (Ruby)

Cuckfield Evening Flower Club
(Sussex)

Winterslow Flower Club (Wessex &
Jersey)

45 YEARS (Sapphire)

Barrhead Flower Group (SAFAS)
Stock Flower Club (East of England)
Workington Flower Club
(North West)

50 YEARS (Gold)

Alesford Flower Club (Wessex &
Jersey)

Bispham and Blackpool Flower Club
(North West)

Colehill Floral Arrangement Club
(Dorset & Guernsey)

Fleet Flower Club (Wessex & Jersey)

Lydny & Severnside Flower Club
(Three Counties & South Wales)

Manx Floral Art Luncheon Club
(North West)

Old Windsor Flower Club (Berks,
Bucks & Oxon)

Radcliffe Floral Art Group (North
West)

55 YEARS (Emerald)

Denbigh Floral Art Club (Mercia &
North Wales)

Ilfracombe Floral Art Club (Devon &
Cornwall)

Totteridge Floral Art Club (London &
Overseas)

60 YEARS (Diamond)

Birstall Flower Club (North Midlands)
Burwash & District Flower
Arrangement Club (Sussex)

Crieff & District Flower Club (SAFAS)

Epworth & District Flower Club
(North Midlands)

Faversham Flower Club (Kent)

Island Flower Club (Ryde) (Wessex &
Jersey)

Saltford & Kenysham Floral Club
(South West)

Spalding District Flower Club
(East of England)

Thornton Cleveleys Flower Club
(North West)

Warnham Evening Flower Club
(Sussex)

65 YEARS (Blue Sapphire)

Rugby Floral Society (South Midlands)

Stourport Floral Art Club (Three
Counties & South Wales)

Tunbridge Wells Flower Club (Sussex)

Uxbridge & Ickenham Floral Society
(London & Overseas)

70 YEARS (Platinum)

Liphook Floral Decoration Society
(Wessex & Jersey)

West Dorset Flower Club (Dorset &
Guernsey)

Winchester Floral Design Society
(Wessex & Jersey)



After a disappointing year owing to the coronavirus pandemic, **Guernsey Flower Arrangement Society** (Dorset & Guernsey) managed to belatedly celebrate their Diamond Anniversary with a demonstration by Isle of Man Area Demonstrator Eileen Gill. This was only possible because of an airbridge between the two islands in September. The club sends best wishes to all NAFAS flower clubs for the future.

The photo show committee members Pauline Workman, Abbey Duncan, Janet Lowe, Jackie Brehaut, Lynne Skillett (Chair), Renee Le Cheminant, Susan Banfield and Michaela Guilмото with their celebration cake.

DIARY DATES

2021

JULY

23–25 London & Overseas Area Show, 'Festival of Flowers' Ingatestone Hall, Hall Lane, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9NR 10.30am–5pm.
Enquires: Diane Brown 01707 873485.

STOP PRESS Please be aware of the coronavirus (Covid-19) situation and check events are running before you set out.

Advance Notice

NAFAS AGM 2021

The 62nd Annual General Meeting will take place online on Tuesday, 5 October 2021.

Every NAFAS member will have access to the online meeting which will include time for questions and answers.

Tickets are not required to attend the AGM.



Birdlife

Maggi Murray explains how she made her design for the Cotehele Daffodil Festival with fantasy birds

My brief was to produce a design featuring birds to reflect the National Trust's wildlife policy.

I decided to make a fantasy tree with a larger-than-life nest, an owl and some robins.

The base for the tree was a large square frame that I pegged into the grass and weighted with stones against the weather. I covered this with banana bark and heavily textured silver birch bark and cable-tied on some very large tree branches. The daffodils were arranged in my hand and carefully placed into water containers made out of plastic milk bottles.

For the nest, I covered an old half-sphere frame with pieces of banana bark and silver birch bark and added lichen branches and twigs and large containers to hold water for the daffodils. Moss, bark and twig spheres were added for interest and texture.

I made the robins from a polystyrene egg with a small sphere on top onto which I needle felted coloured wool and felt, shaping the wings, tail and beak before gluing on the eyes. The owl was also made out of polystyrene, an old T-shirt, two colours of layered mulberry bark paper and a needle felted face.

Arranger: Maggi Murray

See The Flower Arranger for a full report on the Daffodil Festival



SPECIAL FEATURE

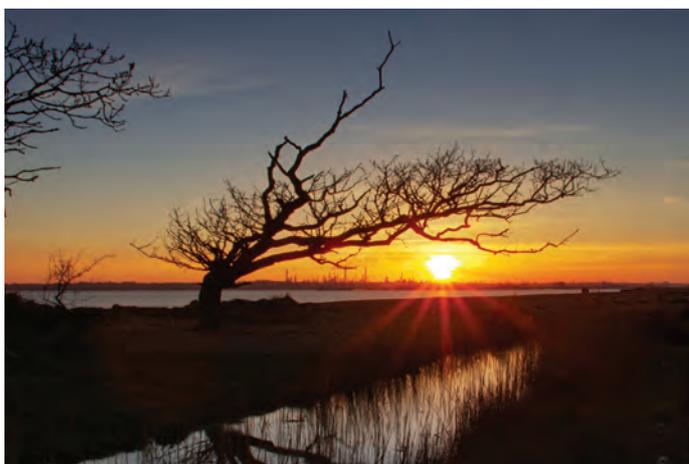
NAFAS National Photography Competition 2020

NAFAS members once again embraced the NAFAS National Photography Competition with 548 entries from more than 80 competitors, all showing considerable photography skills



ABOVE
Class 1 – 'Seasonal Beauty'
Award: 1st
Photographer: Norma Leslie

BELOW
Class 1 – 'Seasonal Beauty'
Award: 2nd
Photographer: Karen Foulkes



Our judge, professional photographer Tony Banks, had a testing task to choose the winners in five of the six classes (sadly, once again we had no entries in Class 6, the junior class). Tony said "I have a very tough job on my hands this year! There are some amazing entries, and it will be more difficult than usual to choose the winners. All credit to your members." Tony *did* manage to choose the class winners, and Anne Lindsay of Steeton Flower Club, North East Area, was awarded Best in Show with her entry in Class 5 (Novice Class), "Something Beginning With A", a stunning image of aircraft in flight formation.

Tony Banks Images – www.tonybanksimages.co.uk



ABOVE
Class 2 – 'Edible Delights'
Award: 1st
Photographer: Jayne Merriman

BELOW
Class 2 – 'Edible Delights'
Award: 2nd
Photographer: Chloë Munday





TOP LEFT
 Class 3 – 'From Any Angle'
 Award: 1st
 Photographer: Louise Brown

TOP RIGHT
 Class 3 – 'From Any Angle'
 Award: 2nd
 Photographer: Ann Belcher



LEFT
 Class 4 – 'Any Old Iron'
 Award: 1st
 Photographer: Linda O'Toole

BELOW
 Class 4 – 'Any Old Iron'
 Award: 2nd
 Photographer: Roger Woolnough



LEFT
 Class 5 – 'Something Beginning with A'
 Award: 1st and Best in Show
 Photographer: Anne Lindsay

BELOW
 Class 5 – 'Something Beginning with A'
 Award: 2nd
 Photographer: Jayne Merriman



Demonstrators

Chairman: Elizabeth Graham

The National Demonstrators Committee remains optimistic and hopeful that we will be able to hold the National Tests this year though, if needs demand, we may have to provisionally adjust the current guidelines. There are 12 enthusiastic and very capable candidates who hopefully will enhance the National Demonstrators List in the future.

The Tests are on **Wednesday 21 April** and **Thursday 22 April**, 10am to 4.30pm at Northwich Memorial Court, Northwich CW9 5QJ. Tickets £12 per person per day are available from Vanessa Keys at headquarters, vanessa@nafas.org.uk. Cheques are payable to NAFAS – please include an SAE. Card payment can be made by calling headquarters on 020 7247 5567. Digital tickets will be issued.

The Area Representatives Day is on Tuesday 26 January at headquarters. The meeting will be held via Zoom in the event that we cannot meet face-to-face.

Another event that we look forward to enjoying is the Virtual National Show 2021, which will include short demonstrations given by three National Demonstrators.

As I write this, I have been asked for advice on cancellation of demonstrations and it is virtually impossible to answer this since we cannot give positive clarity in times of legislative uncertainty. However, I would hope that we pull together to help clubs and demonstrating survive. The following quote is by the American botanist and horticulturalist Luther Burbank: *"Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the soul"*.

Let's hope it's 'Demonstrate On' for the future!

Education

Chairman: Susie Barwick

This is my first report as Chair of the Education Committee and I feel very fortunate to be at the helm in these exciting times for Education.

We have introduced a Basic Teaching Course alongside our manual for Basic Teaching, which we hope has been, or will be, delivered in your Area at some point this year. The aim is to provide a standardised certificate covering good teaching practice for all flower club committee members who run workshops; for demonstrators holding workshops and for teachers of informal leisure classes, and anyone else involved in teaching. The course is only for two days – one theory, using the manual, and one practical. Successful completion of the course carries a NAFAS certificate.

We are also working hard on the new certificated courses which will replace the OCN/Credit4Learning ones. We plan to launch the full set of floral design courses in September this year, but hope that we can deliver some of the modules a bit earlier to get students and tutors started. These courses are broken down into modules which each carry a value that counts towards certification. More details on the modules and certification will be on the NAFAS website under Education as they are launched.

We had a very productive meeting with the Junior Leaders in October 2020 and are working now to help them make sure we are considering all our young flower arrangers in everything we do.

All the latest news will be on the NAFAS website and do keep a lookout on Instagram #nafaseducation for posts. If you have something of an educational nature to share send it by email to nafaseducation@gmail.com

Thank you, Dr Christina Curtis

The Editor of *The Flower Arranger* magazine and Editorial Committee would like to say thank you to Dr Christina Curtis who stepped down as the magazine's botanical consultant in October 2020. Over the years, Christina also created many designs and wrote authoritative and interesting articles for the magazine and was always on hand to offer her expertise and advice. We shall miss her and wish her well for the future.



Judges

Chairman: Joan Magee

By the time you receive your copy of *NAFAS News* and *The Flower Arranger*, I hope you are starting to enjoy the wonderful spring flowers beginning to appear in the garden. They are such a welcome sight. It has been a very difficult time since last March. Hopefully we will get more opportunities to judge and visit shows this year. It's hard to believe this time last year I was packing my case to judge at WAFI India. While it was an amazing opportunity and experience, it now just seems like a distant dream.

If you have been following the NAFAS Judges Facebook page and NAFAS Judging Committee's Instagram, you will have seen that the Committee, together with other National Judges, has been posting information that they feel would be beneficial to prospective trainee judges and competitors, while keeping those already qualified refreshed. It's all too easy to become stale, and it is of utmost importance to keep up to date with ever evolving techniques.

The Committee and I are very excited about the forthcoming Virtual National Show with the overall title, 'The Spring... the Happy Time of Singing Birds is Come' (John Clare). There are some very thought-provoking classes and no excuses this time regarding travel as you can do it in your own home. I therefore expect to see every class full to capacity. Please keep watching our Social Media and other NAFAS channels for information about the schedule. I would like to thank Katherine Kear, National Chairman, for having the initiative and foresight to introduce this event.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to those near and far who have been doing so much on Social Media to keep us motivated during these unprecedented times. It has been very good for our wellbeing, especially those who have been shielding and isolating. Until the next issue, please take care, stay safe and don't become complacent.

Photography

Chairman: Chrissie Harten

The NAFAS National Photography Competition 2020 was very well supported, with a total of 548 entries. This was slightly down on 2019, but given the circumstances, still an excellent result. The overall winner was Anne Lindsay for her entry in Class 5, 'Something Beginning with A' – a wonderful image of aeroplanes in flight formation. The full results and winning entries are posted on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/NafasPhotography/, and also on the NAFAS website, so do have a look. This year's competition has now launched so we hope you will be inspired to have a go! The schedule can be downloaded from the NAFAS website and is also on our Facebook page.

We have been very lucky to have videos sent to us by several NAFAS demonstrators who have kindly donated their time and expertise to keep us all entertained with recordings of demonstrations they have done from home over the past few months. Do have a look at our YouTube channel as we are adding videos regularly. You can find it at <https://www.youtube.com/c/NAFASFlowers>. Subscribe to the channel to be informed as soon as we upload another video – it's free to subscribe!

Speakers

Chairman: Philida Irving

Throughout the pandemic, our committee meetings have been held using Zoom. We shall continue with this form for the foreseeable future.

At our last meeting in September 2020, we said goodbye to Kathryn Stangaard and Alan Beatty. They had served for three years working to advance the aims of NAFAS Speakers. We thank them for all they have done.

We welcomed in October two new members to the committee, Rita Braithwaite and Simone Squire.

During what was a very different autumn and winter last year, to help clubs through that difficult time, the Speakers Committee compiled a list of both National and Area Speakers who can provide virtual presentations. Please contact either the Committee Chairman or Vice Chairman for their details.

NAFAS YOUNG MEMBERS

A letter to young flower arrangers

At the October AGM, Ruby and Grace Pearson from East Suffolk Junior Flower Club posed the question, "Can you please tell us what plans NAFAS has to encourage younger members to join?" Here is what the Chairman of the Education Committee, Susie Barwick said:

Dear Ruby and Grace

Thank you for your excellent and timely question at the AGM. NAFAS absolutely wants to encourage more young members – you are our future after all – and we have already made a good start on the requests you made at the AGM.

The National Education Committee held a meeting with our Junior Leaders and representatives from Areas wishing to set up Junior Clubs. Several ideas for restructuring what NAFAS currently offers younger members will be considered further and presented to the Board of Directors for their input and approval. We also spoke to *NAFAS News* to discuss ways of representing young arrangers in

our membership publication and also, when appropriate, *The Flower Arranger*. In the meantime, NAFAS has a Facebook page @NafasFlowers which welcomes posts from all arrangers, young and old. The National Education Committee also has an Instagram account #nafaseducation, and you can send photographs to nafaseducation@gmail.com for inclusion on this.

I promise we will continue to work with all the Areas of the Association to make sure the maximum amount of encouragement is given to all our younger members.

Yours sincerely,
Susie Barwick



ABOVE This design consisted of a posy pad cut in half. The hard outer sides of each half were covered and concealed with moss. With the floral foam part of the posy pad facing in, flowers and foliage were inserted. Two or three of these designs look very pleasing down the centre of a table for a celebration or special meal.
Arranger: Charlotte Eve (Surrey)

RIGHT Arranger Annabel Woolcock Class 'My Great Hobby', National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs Floral Art competition, 2021



ABOVE A beautifully seasonal design featuring a bunch of tulips inserted into a mesh of decorated twigs to brighten up a spring table.
Arrangers: Surrey Junior Flower Arrangers



LEFT This design was created by Ruby Wigg – a talented young person, fairly new to arranging. Instructions for what was needed were given along with ideas for the method using an old lamp stand, twigs, wires and test tubes covered with stem tape into which flowers were inserted.



St George's Day

Sue Sewell's St George's design was inspired by an amazing dragon-shaped piece of wood which she offset with red and white flowers to evoke the English patron saint's flag

Plant material

- 10 red roses
- 10 white roses
- some *Danae racemosa* (soft ruscus)
- a small amount of *Buxus sempervirens* (box)

Mechanics and sundries

- a piece of driftwood as close in shape to a dragon as possible
- floral foam with a dish
- pot tape
- red and white organza fabric

Method

- 1** Soak your floral foam and secure into the dish with pot tape.
- 2** Use the soft ruscus to form a crescent. I chose foliage with a wonderful natural curve but if yours isn't like that, you can bind it with wire to create the desired shape.
- 3** Follow the line of the crescent with lines of red and white roses and then fill in the base with the box.
- 4** Once in position, drape the red and white organza fabric loosely around the base of the design.

Variations

- Carnations or *Gerbera* could be used instead of roses.
- If you can't find a suitable piece of wood, manipulated *Phormium* or *Philodendron* could be used to depict the dragon.
- A 'St George's shield' could be cut from dry floral foam covered with white wool with a red wool or ribbon cross. Insert into the design using kebab sticks.



Pre-National Assessment & National Demonstrators Test

to be held at

**Northwich Memorial Court
Northwich CW9 5QJ**

Wednesday 21 April 2021

Thursday 22 April 2021

10.00am to 4.30pm (doors open at 9.30am)

TICKETS £12 PER PERSON, PER DAY

available from Vanessa Keys at NAFAS Headquarters
vanessa@nafas.org.uk (Digital tickets will be issued)

Cheques payable to NAFAS (please include SAE)

Card payments ring NAFAS on 020 7247 5567

Tea & coffee available

Test held by kind permission of the Cheshire Area of NAFAS

Information for contributors

NAFAS Area and Club Diary Dates, Celebrations, Anniversaries and Good Causes

For inclusion **only** by Areas and Clubs affiliated to NAFAS. All text and photographs should be supplied to **Sylvia Loader by email** to arrive by the dates below. If your entry refers to a Club – please include the Area of NAFAS to which your Club belongs.

Email: **news@nafas.org.uk** (please state name of Club in the subject line of email message)

Postal address: Sylvia Loader, NAFAS News, Osborne House, 12 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4TE.

Deadlines:

3 November for the Spring issue

3 February for the Summer issue

3 May for the Autumn issue

3 August for the Winter issue

Entries received after the deadline will run in the following issue

Payment

- A 'Diary Date' entry costs **£10** (inclusive of VAT) for a **maximum of 25 words**. Please make cheques payable to NAFAS Enterprises Ltd. If a receipt is required, please include a stamped addressed envelope or, alternatively, provide an email address to which a receipt acknowledgment can be sent.
- Entries for Celebrations, Anniversaries and Good Causes – no charge.

Please remember when sending larger or heavier envelopes to add the correct amount of postage.

Events organised by individual NAFAS members on behalf of other organisations, such as local churches, must use the Classified Advertisements section of *The Flower Arranger* (see Non-NAFAS events below).

Non-NAFAS events

If your entry is not for a NAFAS-affiliated Club or Area event, please contact our Advertising Manager Georgina Humphrey to feature your event in *The Flower Arranger*.

Email: georgina@nafas.org.uk Tel: 07956 639714

Send all other information for *The Flower Arranger* to Chloë Bryan-Brown, Editor at editor@nafas.org.uk

Submitting articles for NAFAS News

If you have something of interest to NAFAS members that you would like featured, please send a suitable image and text (not exceeding 500 words) to Sylvia Loader (NAFAS News Co-ordinator): news@nafas.org.uk

Photographs

Please supply all photos digitally via email or memory stick. Photos must be high-resolution jpegs, 1MB or larger to be good enough for print. Please check the size before sending.



Front cover Design for St George's Day, also featured on page 15 with step-by-step instructions

Arranger Sue Sewell

Photograph Sam Roberts

NAFAS News is published quarterly by NAFAS Enterprises Ltd.

Osborne House, 12 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4TE

Tel: 020 7247 5567

Web: www.nafas.org.uk Email: info@nafas.org.uk

NAFAS NEWS Co-ordinator Sylvia Loader

Email: news@nafas.org.uk

Editorial Team

Sylvia Loader (Distribution Officer),

Linda Lyons, Christine Saunders

NAFAS National Chairman Katherine Kear

Design Amanda Hawkes

Printer Warners, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincs, PE10 9PH

© NAFAS 2021



Registered charity no. 1101348

Photographing or copying any pages of NAFAS News is strictly forbidden without the express permission of the Editor.