

SPOTLIGHT EAST

Newsletter for Members of The East of England Area of NAFAS



At the start of our Spring issue we are nearing Christmas.

This is Stella Thornley's beautiful design from a workshop at New Creations Flower Club with National



Anne Bell was the tutor for the last Contemporaries meeting of 2019.

The design set for members and guests was to create a stunning Christmas floral masterpiece by first making our own containers. After some two hours, a few cut and sore fingers, the results were amazing. All very different and comprising of an interesting mix of traditional Christmas type foliage mixed with fresh and artificial flowers embellished with interesting festive touches, especially strings of lights. Members enjoyed the day immensely, especially the delicious lunch.



GREAT BADDOW FLOWER CLUB
1st December 2019

What a busy day we had at Great Baddow Flower Club 'Christmas Naturally' eco-friendly workshop. Yesterday! there were 25 floral enthusiasts making 2 designs! Beautiful wreaths and a stunning table arrangement designed by Terri Potter. Well done to everyone who came.



A lovely bit of Christmassy news from Little Hallingbury with a photograph of their stunning festive sales table.

The scene was set for a very Christmassy evening as our ever popular sales table was resplendent with Christmas arrangements, baubles, decorations, beautiful ribbons and goodies of all sorts. A chance to stock up before the main event of the evening our wonderful Christmas demonstration.

DEMONSTRATION BY LEE BERRILL AND ALAN SMITH AT **LITTLE HALLINGBURY FLOWER CLUB**

What a magical evening we had when we were treated to 'The Magic of Christmas' courtesy of Lee Berrill and Alan Smith. Their flowers and designs were simply stunning, and the witty repartee keep us laughing throughout. Lee and Alan are absolute masters of dressing a stage and the finale was something to behold. Our sincere thanks for such an entertaining and memorable evening, we are now totally enthused with the 'Magic of Christmas'.

Lee and Alan have kindly given permission to post a couple of their beautiful designs.



More news from LITTLE HALLINGBURY FLOWER CLUB- a very active flower club

We held our Christmas Workshop today and once again it was a sell out, with more than 40 eager participants.

Judy took the morning session and demonstrated how to make a delightful Christmas door swag. In the afternoon Sue showed us how to create a beautiful table arrangement using vintage candle holders.

There were so many stunning designs and everyone went home with two seasonal arrangements; it was certainly a productive and festive day. Well done to all those who came along and to everyone who made the day such a success.



Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club gave a warm welcome to members & visitors at their December meeting. A festive sundries sales table, mulled wine & mince pies added to the friendly atmosphere but the highlight of the evening the demonstration by National Demonstrator Pam Lewis entitled 'Christmas Naturally'.



WE HOPE YOU ALL HAD A HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON


AS WE ENTER A NEW YEAR OF 2020 WE SHARE THE SAD NEWS OF THE PASSING OF SOME OF OUR PAST DEMONSTRATORS AND FRIENDS THAT YOU MAY REMEMBER.

RIGHT - GERRY REID

BELOW - REVEREND WILLIAM McMILLAN

REV MAC

Sad News
Our beloved Gerry Reid
passed away this morning.



Gerry had held so many positions in area and nationally including past Area Chairman, Area President, Area Associate of Honour, National Demonstrator, National Speaker, National Demonstrators Adjudicator & Instructor, National Demonstrators Chairman, National Judge, National President & National Associate of Honour. He also held the NAFAS Gold Ribbon. He was much loved and respected in the floral world and will be sorely missed by many.





GIOVANNA ROBERTS



PAT SOUTH

7 January ·

Pat South and Giovanna Roberts were thrilled to be asked to do pedestals at Westminster Abbey.

Wymondham Flower Club

9 January ·

DEMONSTRATOR - JENNI BAKER

Wow Jenni, Thank you for a fabulous evening of entertainment last night. Beautiful flowers, stunning arrangements! We loved having you and of course, hope you'll come back and demonstrate for us again!



BRECKLAND FLOWER & GARDEN CLUB

9 January ·

My Workshop today first meeting of the new year using spring flowers.
50 Ladies enjoyed followed by a well earned cup of tea.



CLASSIC BLUE FOR 2020

The colour of the year for 2020 as chosen by American colour company Pantone is the "universal favourite" Classic Blue, or Pantone 19-4052. It is described by Pantone as "a reassuring presence instilling calm, confidence and connection".

If you want to be on-trend, this colour can feel somewhat restrictive in terms of flower colours.

Do you have a favourite/ any other suggestions, or even examples of arrangements which you may have already created using this colour?

Excerpt from The Flower Arranger Magazine





Once upon a time flower arranging was the preserve of the 1950s housewife accessorising the kitchen table, perhaps with help from doughty members of the Women's Institute. Now, floristry is attracting a younger, cooler crowd out to impress their [Instagram](#) followers.

The owners of [Sage](#), a flower shop in Peckham, south London, that hosts monthly bouquet and vase arranging classes, have seen a huge increase in interest from young people since they opened. "It's young people in their mid-20s to mid-30s that are coming. It's super popular and they're fully booked," says the 25-year-old co-founder, Iona Mathieson.

Others agree. "It's definitely becoming more popular, especially with younger people," says Helena Willcocks, 31, founder of [The Allotment Florist](#), whose flower arranging workshops in West Yorkshire and London, cost about £60 for an hour and a half. "In the last year we have seen a 30% increase in the number of people coming. It's a trendy thing to do. It's obvious by who is booking them."

What's behind the surge in popularity? Some say it's an extension of the recent trend for house plants, the sense of pride in being a "plant parent" and the homemade movement. Others, less idealistically, attribute it to Instagram. "Flower arranging is so colourful and immediate and that's how we're seeing life these days, in these bright coloured squares," says Emma Weaver, 30, founder of [Palais](#) in Shoreditch, east London.

Willcocks agrees. "Is Instagram a factor? Oh yeah, 100%, depressingly. People want to photograph their work, in fact they want to photograph the whole way through," she says. "I try to encourage them to not be on their phones but be surrounded by flowers."

The new wave of floristry has become more artistic. Mathieson says people are bored with traditional bouquets. "This is art through the medium of flowers, as opposed to the old grandma thing," she said. Many are incorporating different materials. "It's very sculptural. We use anything from melted plastics to bespoke metal frames and do a lot of carpentry alongside more traditional flower arranging," says Weaver. "We are putting the two together and making it more of an art form."

George Plumtre, chief executive of the [National Garden Scheme](#), thinks young people appreciate the benefits of connecting with the natural world. "Flower arranging can be hugely therapeutic and creative. It provides a wonderful sense of wellbeing," he says.

Amy Montague, 33 from Nottingham, who has attended flower arranging workshops, agrees. "It's a creative outlet from my work in online consultancy and it's relaxing," she says

BULLETIN FROM THE CHAIRMAN LESLEY FAIRMAN. 1.3.20

Sitting here on a sunny spring morning, I suddenly realised that with everything going on, that I hadn't done the Spring Bulletin.

We are in difficult times at the moment, but looking out of the window I realise how much beauty there is around in our gardens. The late daffodils, hellebores, primulas, grape hyacinth, cyclamen still in flower. The hostas are just starting to peep through the earth, skimmia just about to burst into bloom. All of it a wonder.

There is not much in the way of news at the moment, apart from the Coronavirus situation. So much has been cancelled and we do not know how long the isolation will continue.

I am hopeful for the June Council and the July Area Day. As soon as I have definite news on both, I will be back in contact with all the Clubs in the East of England Area.

What I can share with you, for those who may not know, are the Wafa Award Winners from the East of England Area. They are:

Julie Woods, Highly Commended in "Music for the Senses"

Jenni Baker, 3rd in "Layer by Layer".

Julia Knights & Kim Plane, 3rd in "Palaces and Peacocks".

Terri Potter, Commended in "Lets Spin".

In the Children's classes,

Daisy Skeet, 1st in "Weaving Spell", also runner up for Best Exhibit in the Children's Classes.

Poppy Evans & Lola Skeet, Highly Commended in "Weaving Spell".

Poppy French Shepherd, Maisie Lloyd & Charlie Pell, Commended In

"Weaving Spell".

We do have so much talent in our Area.

I sincerely hope that you are all keeping safe and well. I am sure that none of us can wait to get back to our "Flowery World".

Until that time I wish you all the very best. Stay safe.

Lesley