

SPOTLIGHT EAST

Newsletter for Members of The East of England Area of NAFAS

Welcome to the Winter edition of the newsletter. Who would have believed that between the Autumn & Winter editions we would have had Lockdown Mark 2, which led to many cancellations and changes of plans as far as flower arranging activities were concerned? Nevertheless, so many of you have been busy and amazingly creative this Autumn, no doubt inspired by all the wonderful seasonal colours and inspirational plant material readily available in garden, hedgerows and all those other secret places flower arrangers manage to find.

In early October the results of the NAFAS National Photographic competition were announced: East of England were extremely successful, with 4 members gaining awards:

Class 2 Edible delights 3rd Christine Middleton; HC Sheila Cooper
Class 4 Any Old Iron. 2nd Roger; C Beverly Moore

Christine Middleton, Braintree Flower club, writes:

I have been a member of Nafas flower clubs since my mid 20s - in Surrey, Bedfordshire and Essex - and I have my '50 years in Nafas' certificate.

Photography has always been one of my hobbies and I have had successes in Home Counties Area Shows as well as in East of England Area. I don't enter other photographic competitions.

I used to take slides with a big heavy Pentax SLR camera and gave many talks to WIs and ladies groups while talking about plants, gardens or holidays. When I moved over to digital photography, I chose a 'bridge' camera which is smaller and simpler than SLR but had plenty of features and a substantial body with a handgrip. This suits my rather arthritic fingers.

My current bridge camera is a Fuji Fine Pix SL240. The photo of the red rose was taken in my garden a couple of years ago towards the end of October when there was a heavy autumn dew.

As well as taking the usual photos of the family and holidays etc, I am always looking for flowers, gardens and views that I can capture and use to make greetings cards to sell for the charity Send a Cow. During the last 2 or 3 years I have been taking photographs of gravestones! A friend & I recorded all the inscriptions on the gravestones in her local churchyard and I took the photos.



Christine Middleton

Sheila Cooper, Holbrook Flower Club, writes “I am very much an amateur photographer, but I do enjoy taking macro pictures and entering the N.A.F.A.S. competition



“There is an amusing story attached to my photo. I had a beautiful sunflower growing in the garden and decided it would be the subject for my entry. I spent hours on a still day, getting the light just right or so I thought, taking numerous photos and even including a bee feasting on the nectar. I selected one photo to enter and then scrolled through other photos on the computer. I came across the sweet chestnut photo I took 4 years ago and had entered for the competition that year (I can't remember the title). I wasn't placed then but decided to enter that one again.

I was so pleased to see I had received Highly Commended and couldn't wait to see my photo of the sunflower on Facebook.

Well, you know the end of the story. The judges sent a comment saying they couldn't fault the photo but it would have been enhanced by a black background. That's a tip for next year. The photo was taken on an ordinary Panasonic camera but it does have a Leica lens and takes good macro pictures.

Maybe I'll keep the sunflower for another year!”

Roger Woolnough, Aldeburgh Flower Club, told us that his photograph of fishermen's equipment was taken on a walk along the shoreline at Aldeburgh during the first lockdown. Although enthusiastic to record images that he finds creatively stimulating, he regards himself as very much an amateur photographer. This award-winning shot was captured on his I-pad.





Beverly Moore, Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club, told us that her photo was taken in the Palm House, at Kew. She is a more experienced photographer, having served served on the NAFAS Photographic Committee and was enthusiastic to tell us about her experience:

"It was back in February 2016 that I received a letter from the then Vice Chairman, Chrissie Harten that my name had been put forward as a possible candidate to join the National Photography Committee. I was very flattered & honoured to receive the letter but as my experience as a flower arranger spanned just 10 years and having no technical photographic knowledge, I worried that I would not have sufficient experience to be part of the team.

I did not need to worry as the reply I received was very encouraging

"We aren't looking for professional photographers, just enthusiastic people with a good camera who can take a good photo, and you have already proven that you can do that, if your photos on Facebook are anything to go by. Also, we need someone with good people and organisational skills who doesn't mind getting "stuck in" to help at NAFAS Shows or other NAFAS events if necessary. I think you tick all the boxes!"

Upon acceptance I received a lovely welcome letter from the then National Chairman Sheila Hadlow giving the requirements & responsibilities of being a National Committee member.

So, from March 2016 I was welcomed onto the Photography Committee and the following May, as it was proving difficult for all members of the committee to be available to travel to Osborne House, a committee meeting was held remotely via email - a first for NAFAS at that time. (Little did we know that in 2020 Conference meetings via zoom would be the norm!)

Meetings are normally held twice a year at HQ so this first committee meeting sitting at my computer at home did feel a little strange but by September I made my first ever visit to Osborne House.

Every 18 months Area Photography representatives are invited to HQ, sadly these meetings were not so well attended in recent times, mainly due to finding a date that was convenient for all of them. Possibly Zoom is the way to go now!

The photography committee is not a large committee Chairman, Vice Chairman & 2 others with a NAFAS director acting as Umbrella for the committee.

In 2017 the National Festive Flower & Food show was held in Blackpool and this was the first time I had fully represented the National Photography Committee; it was a bit daunting but with Chrissie Harten at the Helm our small team of 4 were very organised & prepared.

The placed designs in each class are the ones that are featured on the website and NAFAS archives. We split into two groups ensuring that no award was missed. My fellow member held up the award & name card and I photographed the exhibit ensuring that each image was accredited to the correct person.

This all had to be done in the evening after judging had been completed so we expected it to be a late night at the Winter Gardens but whilst we were in full swing, we were advised that we had to vacate the venue by 10pm!! So, it was an early morning wakeup call the next day to ensure nothing was missed.

The Winter Gardens was a beautiful iconic building but sometimes the highly patterned carpets or poor lighting didn't bode well when trying to take good photographs of the exhibits. In addition to the wonderful floral designs we also had to take photographs in and around the venue as Chrissie was producing a DVD that would be sold after the show.

We had a photography stand set up on the first floor where orders could be placed.

Also, on display were the winning photographs from the photographic competition that year.

The photography Committee are responsible for covering major events such as RHS Chelsea, & other RHS show & Competitive Area shows & events around the country. They also provide images for NAFAS publications & The Flower Arranger Magazine

I visited WAFA in Barbados - a wonderful experience, my very first time as an exhibitor which enabled me to photograph all of the exhibits without the crowds. I was delighted when several of these were featured in The Flower Arranger Magazine.

YouTube videos are regularly shot at Osborne House by Chrissie Harten and helping with the setting up of the equipment is something I really enjoyed. I'm just thankful I was always behind the camera not in front.

In 2019 it was the National Diamond Show

Unlike the previous year at Blackpool there was no designated Photography Committee Stand, it had been decided that producing a DVD had not proved profitable. This meant that the committee could spend their time at the show capturing images in and around the Islington Business Design centre.

Beverly (left) with fellow committee members at the Diamond Show





A YouTube video of the show was created by Chrissie which received many views and I am proud that some of my images are part of the memory.

Another difference in 2019 was that photographing of all the winning designs which unlike the time before at Blackpool had to be taken during the day. The Centre would not allow anyone in the building during the evening.

This was going to prove very difficult as we were only allowed access into each section at given time slots BEFORE judging, so our team of four set to and photographed every single exhibit and there were hundreds!! Each one had to be photographed and then another photograph with the person's name card.

We then had to go back later or the next day to find out which exhibits had received awards so that we had a correct & complete record for the archives.

That was fun, some stewards were very helpful, others not so much!!

The Photography Competition exhibits unfortunately were displayed on the mezzanine area tucked away, which was very disappointing as many people missed this part of the show.

I was fortunate to be Competition Secretary in 2017 & 2019 – back in 2016 was the first time that the competition was set up to receive digital images. This proved popular and so it continues to this day. Exhibitors can still submit hard copies but these are few and far between.

Earlier in the year we had high hopes of featuring Harvest Festival flowers in this edition of Spotlight East, as all the church flower arrangers swung back into action. Sadly, it was not to be. Sylvie Cooper, Feering Flower Club, writes

Oh Dear. That's Another Flower Festival Cancelled – Here's Some We Made Earlier!!

Members of Feering Flower Club always actively support flower festivals held in our neighbouring villages; especially at Inworth, held in All Saints Inworth church.

This architecturally important Grade 1 listed, late Saxon/Norman church was built Circa the 11th century, and relies upon funds raised through the festivals for the vital upkeep of the church.

Sadly, Inworth's Harvest Flower Festival has had to be cancelled this year – this event is always well attended and visitors come from many surrounding villages and towns; we're famous not only for the floral designs but the cake!!

The Harvest Flower Festival always has a theme; it could be poetry (for example 'God Speed the Plough' or 2019's 'The Moon in Autumn'). We also try and include new techniques we may have picked up via workshops



Hopefully this time next year we will be back arranging in what is such a beautiful setting, not only creating glorious floral designs but appreciating the amazing architecture and how all those centuries ago they managed to build the church without all of today's modern technology – I personally feel privileged to be able to be part of the event. Sylvie Cooper.

Sue Bunting, Feering Flower Club, later wrote to say:

“The church arrangers did decorate for their service this year, but this wasn't a fully advertised, all singing all dancing, open to all event the church normally organises.

We were only allowed a modest Harvest service (no singing) this year, but the church did look lovely.



Harvest time certainly provided inspiration for many members to produce seasonal designs, and for a number of clubs to organise club competitions with autumnal themes. Here are a colourful selection of designs from around our Area, many using pumpkins which is always a popular theme. But many arrangers made full use of all the coloured foliage, berries and seed heads that were available.....



Little Hallingbury "Autumn Palette competition"



Werrington Pumpkin Competition which was won by Maria Gordon



Helen Evans, Dereham Flower Club, contacted Spotlight East tell us how the club has been keeping in touch with its members:

“The Chairman does a regular email newsletter, which the committee contributes to; it has recipes, sometimes a quiz, hints and tips re gardening and flower arranging, links to demonstrations, NGS gardens that were open over the summer. If we know somebody doesn't have email and would like to stay in touch, we print off the newsletter and drop it round to the member's house. We've increased traffic on the Facebook page to include links to demonstrations (Jonathan Moseley is a favourite of the club, as well as Triangle Nurseries), open gardens, outdoor plant fairs etc. The Chairman (Corinne Steward) offers coffee and a chat to any of our members who'd like it. In the absence of meetings, The Flower Arranger magazine is posted on or personally delivered by the Club's committee members for those that subscribed through the Club. Hope this gives you a bit of a flavour of what we do to stay in touch”

Helen shared some of her autumn inspired designs with us... see next page



Dengie Hundred Flower Club showed its members, via their Facebook Page how to create a pumpkin design using garden plant material:



Here are some of the step by step stages from their very talented member, Jane Cowell's series of photographs. Jane has used: Miscanthus, Golden Privet, Fatsia Japonica (large & small), Choisya, Rosemary, Dahlias, Myrtle, Dried Echinops, Autumn Muscari & lastly, Sweet Chestnut Husks for decoration! We hope this guide in pictures helps you to create something similar.



The full series of photos can be seen on <https://www.facebook.com/DHFAS-Dengie-Hundred-Flower-Arrangement-Society-682109075498740>



We noticed Carol Giffen's striking autumnal design on Instagram. Carol Giffen, Chair Cambridge group, writes:

"Lockdown was a time of change for all of us. Back in March when it first came into being my husband and I decided we would go out for a walk every day. Our holiday had been cancelled and we couldn't go anywhere in this country so we decided to see what we had on our doorstep. Our local shops weren't too far away and it was all too easy to just drive there, so we thought not only would we get fitter but it was a way of finding out just what lovely countryside we had not too far away from us.

The usual route, if we walked, took us along a busy road so we decided to explore and see what other options were available and if the route was longer well the objective was to get fit after all (and my husband was carrying the shopping on the way back anyway so I didn't mind!), so off we went on our exploration.



Our favourite route took us through a children's playground with some lovely bushes and trees to one side and then past houses and footpaths either side of which were some very interesting leaves and berries. Past a big green where the children played football, and this was surrounded by more lovely trees, bushes and foliage of all varieties. Over the course of the Summer we met many people, some walking dogs and some with babies in prams. Everyone stopped and talked or smiled as they walked past. It's been lovely to meet new people to talk to, which has been another bonus.

All through the Spring and Summer when the mood took my fancy, I would snip a few bits here and there and bring them home to have a play. My husband got used to us taking two bags with us, one for the shopping and one for my foliage bits.

When the Autumn came. I had a wonderful time, there was such interesting leaves and berries to choose from and that is how this arrangement came into being.

As the Autumn days slip by, I can already see where I am going to pick ivy, holly and berries for my Christmas door wreath. So, as they say - watch this space."

"Season of Mellow Fruitfulness" – It certainly describes this year's superb array of fruits & berries. It was also the title of the October Challenge online competition organised by International Friends of Floral Art & Design. Lindi Carrington was delighted to receive a "Commended"



Lindi Carrington

Terri Potter, Area demonstrator, Great Baddow Flower Club, writes about her recent project:

LEARNING NEW SKILLS: VIDEO CLIPS

It's never too late to learn they say, and what better opportunity some of us 'oldies' have been given recently than all this time to put to good use at home.

Many floral art demonstrators & enthusiasts around the world have kept our spirits up by posting video's online and this inspired me to 'have a go' myself earlier this year. I really hadn't a clue what I was doing and was very much aware that this medium is very different to presenting a demonstration to a live audience. Our club events are social activities and (a large) part of the fun, for me anyway, is the interaction between the audience and demonstrator. This of course is just not possible with a recorded video so several things have to be considered to hold the attention of the viewer and making it interesting to watch.

Almost everyone has a camera phone these days and it's never been easier to take pictures & film; though I have to say I never think to use the video setting as much as I ought to. Depending on the make & model you have the capabilities will vary and it's just a case of experimenting- after all, you can always delete it afterwards!

There is plenty of technical know-how on the internet on how to make brilliant presentations. In fact, it can be a bit over-whelming if like me, you're getting a bit slower on the up-take as the years go by!

I learn by **DOING** so here are the considerations I ran through before attempting to record a short video, remembering that much of it is familiar if you already demonstrate or teach:

I first recorded myself explaining & creating something simple (in fact – I was painting Easter Eggs!!). This was a good 'opener' for me – as it showed how I come across on film and what the lighting/location/sound quality was like. I was very nervous!!

- **Plan:** What you are going to do, and in what order. Check any technical details eg plant names etc. If showing a technique, have pre-prepared stages to show & explain; rather doing it all from scratch.
- **Rehearse:** Practice and run through what is going to be demonstrated and make sure everything is to hand easily. Check that the whole area you are working within is always in the frame*
- **Appearance:** Wear something smart but not too distracting and splash a bit of make up on
- **Get ready:** First make sure the device you are using is fully charged or connected to the mains power.
- **Stability:** If using a phone (I believe modern phones actually have much better film/sound quality than old I pads/tablets??) place it somewhere secure; ideally in a holder /tripod (I've yet to try mine). Work on a firm table.
- **Lighting:** should be on *you* and what *you are doing*; don't film with the light behind you. Natural light is probably best but it really doesn't matter that much.
- **Background:** Think about what is behind you and parts of the room that are in the shot. Clutter is not good – but I personally think something interesting on the wall /shelf etc in the background gives interest without being distracting.
- **Sound:** Ideally film somewhere quiet and where you won't be interrupted by pets, husbands or grandchildren! I locked myself in my garden studio! Remember, on film some sounds may be accentuated e.g. rustling cellophane (best not to use anything like this) dropping scissors & putting equipment /mechanic on table. (Next time I will cover the entire table with a blanket to absorb such noise)

- **Timing:** I find that a quick snappy demo works better than a slow laborious one (10mins max). This may just be a personal thing (perhaps I have a short attention span!!) and when I played back my clip, I was very surprised how long it ran for. I can now see where I could've saved time; and will work on that. I was very nervous doing my first little demo – but hopefully I'll relax into it better the more I do

*If you have someone to do the recording for you then you have an advantage as the camera can zoom in to show details close-up etc.

I hope these few guidelines will inspire & encourage you to 'have a go' yourselves – just do it for yourself for a bit of fun- you might be surprised!

This is Terri's design - an Autumn Pave' - that she was working on in her video



When making a video Terri suggests it's useful to have a stand to hold your phone steady. Demonstrators from other Areas have recommended a type of stand which has lights attached. Below is a link to one on Amazon, but there seem to be a variety of stands available

https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B083TN75DJ/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o02_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1&fbclid=IwAR2XvfIK7sgpad0jba1MX0-1UPCSebQM3APe4uir7vZkQaSDhlsbM2yR4MY

Sheila Pigrim, also from Great Baddow, was inspired to create autumn pave' designs



Linda Knights, Education Officer, writes

“The East of England Area Certificated Course of Floral Artistry continues with distance learning and everyone is looking forward to the days when we can get together in the classroom. As we are coming to the end of the first year, we can look back at some of the designs that our Year One students have achieved. Well done to all of them in these challenging times.”



Year One Students
Floral Artistry Course



Year One Students,
Floral Artistry Course



Great Ellingham & District Flower Club, shared 2 designs for Remembrance Day wreaths created by Maureen (Mo) Dorking, on the club Facebook page. They utilise a combination of fresh, dried & colour sprayed silk materials. The symbolism of the red poppies is well understood, but the use of purple poppies was less familiar. Mo told us that they celebrate the contribution made by animals (horses, donkeys, dogs, even pigeons) during war time.



These animals are considered victims rather than heroes, as they were often badly treated and abandoned afterwards. She went on to say that the public have been made more aware of this by animal charities over the last few years, and wreaths are often laid at the horse memorials at Ascot & Hyde Park. The Household Cavalry have made wreaths from discarded horseshoes dedicated to individual horses. Mo's wreaths proved very popular with many people ordering them from her.

Vicki Hease, Area demonstrator, (Stowmarket Flower Club), shared her design for a more contemporary Remembrance wreath, which incorporates threading, rolling, wiring, weaving & bundling techniques. * Vicki created the roses from fabric scraps and has also re-used some she made for the VE day wreath earlier in the year.



*If you don't understand what this means, it's time to refer to page 12 of the NAFAS Competitions Manual third edition 2015 (the one with the **green** cover!)

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the very sudden death of Area Demonstrator, Linda Harman. Pat Stammers, Chairman East Suffolk Group, writes of her long-lasting friendship with Linda:

LINDA HARMAN (11.11.45 - 16.10.20)

I first met Linda at a flower arranging class way back in the late 1980s. Our paths crossed again when I took early retirement at the beginning of 1993 and decided to sign up for the City & Guilds Course in Flower Arranging and Creative Design at Otley College. This was the start of our continuous friendship and we both became members of Holbrook & District Flower Club.

When Linda decided to become an Area Demonstrator she asked if I would accompany her on demonstrations. I became her navigator because in those days we did not have sat navs. She often remarked on how I used to take her on some short cuts off the normal route, along single-track roads. If she had any doubts that we would ever arrive she did not show it, but we always got to our destination! When husband Victor retired, he took over and became her driver, so she was able to sit and relax!

We competed together in most competitive shows, such as representing the Area at a National Show, our Club at Group Shows and in many other shows as individuals. Westminster Abbey was another experience we did together, with the help of our two husbands to do the fetching and carrying.

I don't think I know of anyone so laid back as Linda - nothing ever seemed to ruffle her. It was almost impossible to 'hurry' Linda. Everything was done at her pace. I remember an occasion when the four of us were in London walking along the embankment. We needed to be somewhere by a certain time. Three of us were putting a spurt on, when looking back we realised Linda was way behind strolling along in her usual unhurried way. That was Linda, time did not seem to matter.

She did have her moments, though, when something or someone upset her and then I would get a telephone call. I am sure there were times when I irritated her, presumably someone else got a telephone call!

Linda became a very talented flower arranger as well as craftwork and there were not many craft ideas she could not do. I accompanied her on many workshops that she did early in her demonstrating career and one particular one always amused her. It was making figurines with sheeting and PVA glue because she knew I hated getting my hands messy.

One event where Linda will be missed is the annual Holbrook Village Fete each June. Through Linda's talent of making and collecting soft toys this stall became a favourite with the children. Even if they did not always win a toy, they received a lollipop.

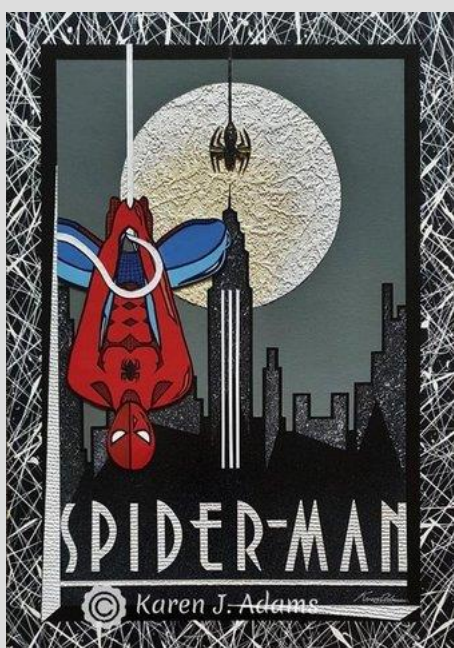
Although Linda was very talented in everything she took on, flower arranging, cake making/icing, craft work, making costumes for pantomimes, knitting, crocheting and painting there was one thing that she did not enjoy and that was written work. When asked to stand for Club Chairman on a couple of occasions she said she would if I helped her. So, I ended up doing most of her reports and vetting anything she did.

Linda was particularly good with children and became involved with the East Suffolk Juniors. She had a great deal of patience and I know there are several young children, as well as adults, within the East Suffolk Group and beyond, who have benefitted from her help and guidance. Some names have appeared in the competitive classes at various local Shows. Witnessing Linda's patience for teaching I cannot say I ever heard her get frustrated with anyone. Well, unless she kept it well hidden!!

It was a sad day when we learned of the very sudden death of Linda because she will certainly leave a big hole in the flower world. She very rarely said 'no' to anything she was asked to do. And everything was done in her usual cheerful, relaxed manner. I am sure she will be looking down on us all and watching over our workshops as and when we can get back to some kind of normality.



Beverly Moore, Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club, entered the November Challenge (virtual competition) of Facebook Group “International Friends of Floral Art & Design” and has been awarded a COMMENDED. The brief was to interpret the work of contemporary artist Karen J. Adams. Beverly chose to interpret the art piece “Spider-Man.”



The plant material used in the design consists of :
Anthurium Evita, Germini Spider Vulcano, Betula, Soft Ruscus, Cordyline Black Tie,
Fatsia Spiders Web & Viburnum Tinus.
Moon - Asarakusui ('Ogura Lace') Hemp Roll Skyline - Corrugated cardboard

Aylsham Flower Club recently announced, via their Facebook Page, that they needed volunteers to decorate the Aylsham Pump** with Christmas greenery. We were intrigued to know more....

Club Chairman, Crystal Dybal writes: "We turn up early on the 1st Sunday in December with reels of wire and heaps of greenery. We attach it to the posts and finish off with ribbon bows - finishing the morning off with coffee and mince pies. It used to be sherry but we all have to drive, so we have dropped the sherry. We have been decorating the pump all the time I have been a member -that's 30 + years.



Photo from a previous occasion; this year they will be social distancing, of course!

** The John Soame Memorial Pump, Aylsham, Norfolk.

Before the event of a public water supply in 1938, water had to be drawn from private wells. After John Soame's death in 1911, a public well was given to the town by his uncle. The artesian well is 52 metres (170 ft) deep and its roof is thatched with Norfolk reed

Inevitably, our thoughts are turning to Christmas. Wreath making workshops, Christmas Fairs and Christmas Demonstrations are likely to be virtual events, if they happen at all this year. Here are some design ideas to keep you busy and creative over the festive season. The first design is an outdoor wall or door hanging by Barbara Collins, Area Demonstrator and Acting Area Chairman.



Outdoor Door or Wall Hanging Tree

Step 1. Use 3 layers of wire mesh, Bamboo canes and Cable ties (or wire) to make frame

Step 2. Attach hanger and tubes if required, you can also wire tubes in later if you wish to change your design

Step 3. Add rows of Blue Spruce to cover frame and mark tube positions

Step 4. Cover top of tree with Spruce upwards and then work Spruce in to cover the whole frame

Once the frame is complete decorate, you can change your design as many times as you like. Happy Christmas



Don't forget there are lots of design ideas and technique tutorials available on You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaotURg29Wo> (Sharon Dower from Floral Innovations – Back to Basics series)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ndh8toKi1pU> (North Midlands Area of Nafas)

<https://www.britishfloristassociation.org/fleurex-2020-demonstration-hall/>
(florists Laura Leong & Sabine Darrall at the virtual Fleurex 2020)

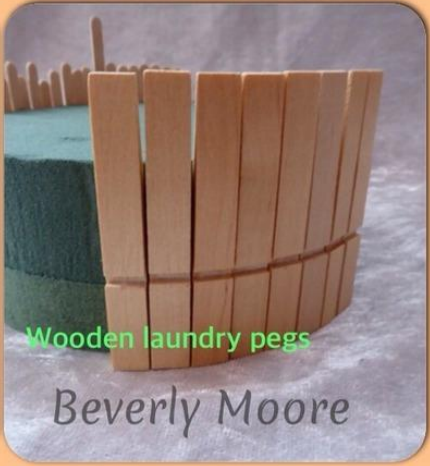
Here are some "Quick Ideas for Christmas" from Beverly Moore, which need no explanation



Alternative to cinnamon sticks



Coffee stirrers



Wooden laundry pegs

Beverly Moore



Beverly Moore

..... but you'll need a good stock of ordinary household items



Some more interesting Christmas ideas from You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rP2CjpPNHI&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1VIFbS3-skizXetyXuS7GspoTbzjFnqjW6lfDCtGoRX8jOmpQ-tm8J37g>

This is the first in a new series from Wessex & Jersey Area of NAFAS with Emily Broomhead and lots of gorgeous flowers

<https://www.facebook.com/AOIFA.Ireland/videos/706691179969929>

Christopher White decorates a mantelpiece

Area Demonstrator, Adele Kent, Costessey Flower Club, explains how to make a brilliantly simple decoration for the Christmas table.

Jam Jar Frame - You will need:

Sticks to make the frame – you could use flat cane, Garden canes, Cornus, Medolino (Maybe wire three together for strength) or green garden sticks. 3 the length of your design plus 6 or 8 small pieces to go across to make a grid. This is ideal to go down the middle of the Christmas table

Glue or wire to attach your sticks to make the grid.

4 or 6 jam jars all of a similar size to sit your frame on.

Ribbon to put around jam jars and in the design,

A few pieces of twisted Hazel or Willow to add to the frame

Baubles, cones, oranges slices, cinnamon, ribbon, wire – anything you have in your box to enhance the design.

A small amount of Christmas foliage- Christmas tree, holly, Ivy, to go in the jam jars.



To Make the Frame

Lay your 3 longest pieces on the table and lay your 5 or 6 shorter pieces on top to make a grid, put your jam jars in the spaces you are going to have them, underneath the frame when finished so that they fit and the frame doesn't fall through. Stick or wire your cross members to make the grid secure. Leave to dry. You may like to spray your grid gold, silver or leave more rustic



Stick ribbon round the outside of the Jam Jars. Leave to dry.
 To the top of the frame add any enhancements you like- wire on some twisted hazel, willow for movement, making sure you can still sit the frame on top of the jam jars. Then glue or wire baubles, cones etc onto the top, and loop ribbon through to add interest.
 Put water into Jam Jars and add Christmas foliage and flowers.
 Enjoy on your Christmas table!

The Media Team would like to thank all the contributors to this edition of Spotlight East. We're always delighted to hear about club activities (virtual or real) to enjoy your designs and to share in your success. Contact us on newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.com Please email words & photographs separately, rather than displaying visuals within the text, as its easier to format the pages in this way. The closing date for the March edition is no later than 14th February.
 Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you all; Take Care & Stay Safe.

Lindi Carrington, Editor