

1<sup>st</sup> September

Autumn

# SPOTLIGHT EAST

Newsletter for Members of The East of England Area of  
NAFAS

**Welcome to the Autumn 2024 edition of our Area newsletter.** What a summer it's been as we've celebrated our 70th anniversary with an amazing show at Hunstanton, aptly titled "Let's Celebrate"



Looking back we wondered how it all began ? President Sue Brinton explains:

### **Getting an Area Show started.**

It was about May 2023 when I had a phone call from Roger Partridge, Events Coordinator for The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, Roger has specific responsibility for events at Hunstanton.

Roger has a friend who attends a Flower Club in the North of England who had suggested a 'Flower Event' during the summer might work in Hunstanton. Through the Area website Roger contacted the then Area Chairman, Barbara Collins. As Area President and only living 12 miles from Hunstanton, it seemed sensible for Roger to be in touch with me.

I met with Roger early June who, at that time was unsure what was possible! As it is the Area's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary I thought it would be wonderful to hold such an event on the East side of our Area, and Hunstanton seemed the ideal place.



**Sue Brinton with Roger Partridge, Hunstanton Events Coordinator & Chris Durham, Operations Manager, Public Open Spaces**  
photo credit King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council



Roger's idea was for a marquee on The Green adjacent to the promenade, so I went about introducing him to the 'ins' and 'outs' of a Show. I took him along to the Sandringham Flower Show July 2023 and planning started from there.



Roger, as an event organiser for Hunstanton, has an allocation of money to put on events that will highlight and attract the public to the town. After careful financial budgeting Roger was given the go ahead by the Borough Council to hold the Show in a Marquee on The Green, Hunstanton. The Borough Council sponsored the cost of the marquee, tabling, chairs and all publicity.

The situation of the Marquee on The Green was ideal as most folk passed it on their way to the promenade. The Show was an outstanding success with just over 2,000 people visiting the event on the Saturday and Sunday.

**Sue Brinton, Area President**

**“Oh we do love to be beside the seaside...”**

**Class 1 “By the Sea”** really set the mood for the show. Staged on the ground and viewed all round, the brief was to include a deckchair. The winning team, Fakenham Flower Club, staged an immaculate piece worthy of a “lifestyle” magazine. By contrast, Dereham Flower Club’s deckchair had been wrecked by the waves and cast up on an exotic beach. Ellingham Flower Club’s deckchair was about to be washed away by the incoming tide of foamy white hydrangeas & gypsophila (3<sup>rd</sup>) Harleston Flower Club were awarded Very Highly Commended for their deckchair woven from plant material.



**Class 5 – “Planted to Perfection”** was an apt title for the plants & flowers class (used to be called “pot & fleur” back in the day, but the new name evokes a more contemporary approach) Linda Knights was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> & the Kathleen Robinson cup for Best in Show for her stunning arrangement. Moira Neville gained 2nd.



**Class 2 “Age of Elegance”** – an inspiring title for the pedestal class, which was won by Jane Gladwin with her “Twenties” themed design. Jane was also awarded the Joyce Wright Challenge Trophy for Runner up to Best in Show.





**Class 3 “Take Flight”** was a foam free exhibit. Gill Clarke was awarded 1st for her arrangement of white Calla lilies; Jenni Baker gained 2nd with a stark arrangement of Anthuriums, also white. Doreen Robinson’s colourful arrangement was awarded 3rd place & the Margaret Newman Trophy for the Best Use of Garden Plant Material.



**Class 4 “Colours of the Sunset”** A lower height was specified for this class so that the designs would be more horizontal, like the sun setting on the horizon. Christine Austin was awarded 1st and the Beth Alston candlesticks for the Best Use of Colour, for her exhibit which incorporated a painted background. Jill Clarke was 2nd & Jane Lebbell was 3rd.



**Classes 9 & 10 (Junior Classes) “Sealife”** – a picture/plaque This was a craft exhibit which could be brought to the show ready assembled. Each contestant was given a canvas board to work on when they applied. The Pat Whall Junior Challenge Trophies were awarded to Henry Flynn ( under 10) & Sienna High (age 11-17) The trophies were collected by their representatives so we were not able to meet these creative young people with such fertile imaginations



The awards were presented by Vice Chairman, Roger Woolnough & Area President, Sue Brinton. Photos Beverly Moore. Beverly’s photos of all the show classes are available to view on East of England Facebook page . From the Homepage click “photo” on the top line, then “albums”

**Area Vice Chairman, Roger Woolnough** gives us more details of setting up the show

It is Thursday morning and with great anticipation I drive to Hunstanton in my Mini filled to capacity with stands, drapes and boxes of trophies etc. On arriving at the Green to be presented with the marquee containing piles of trestle tables and chairs which had to be put in position which seemed a very daunting task until the arrival of Sue and the rest of the committee and by the end of the day we were all set up!

Friday saw the early arrival of the competitors ready to interpret our titles in their own way and transforming the empty marquee I had seen yesterday into an amazing sight ready for the judges.

(continued...)





### **A busy flowery weekend for Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club.**

On Saturday members enjoyed the 65th Anniversary luncheon & demonstration by Lorena Dyer (see later report)

Sunday morning with an 8am start a group of members and friends were looking forward to visiting Hunstanton for the Area anniversary show "Let's Celebrate". A 90-mile journey but well worth the wait. We arrived at the Green Hunstanton, the sun was shining and as we entered the marquee it was great to see so many familiar faces and be wowed by all the amazing exhibits. 10 classes in all and some beautiful work including designs by the talented Juniors. Some of our newer members had never visited a Nafas show and they thoroughly enjoyed the talent and experience.

We enjoyed lunch with options along the promenade or sitting in the sunshine on The Green.

The interactive working zone was well supported by our group with corsages & willow work going home. It was soon time to leave and our coach driver was kind enough to suggest stopping at the Norfolk Lavender Fields where we enjoyed a cuppa whilst overlooking the lavender.

A great day out.

Words Beverly Moore

Photo A stranger (group photo)





**Celebrations continued** across Area as several clubs attained high number anniversaries

### **Cambridge Flower Club**

Coral Gardiner gave an outstanding demonstration of her floral artistry at our 70th anniversary Open Meeting on a warm Thursday evening 15th August.

Freda Orgee, co-chair welcomed over 100 ladies who filled Whittlesford Hall with great support from 8 of our Area Flower Clubs.

The evening began with a delicious home-made finger buffet provided by members, before settling down for a feast of colour and creative skill.

Coral, who is Chair of S. West Area of NAFAS, revealed her wide experience and brilliance of flower arranging by entertaining the audience with vivacious presentations, placing arrangements on a wide variety of pedestals. Her earlier training as a gardener was evident in the superb range of foliage used to set off striking flowers to fulfil her title - 'Put your Garden on a Pedestal'.

We were regaled with amusing anecdotes of shows, especially her Area show held in her farm barn using a hay-wain as a stage and bales for seats. Coral was complemented by NAFAS by being invited to provide a large pedestal at HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's remembrance service at Westminster Abbey and related transporting her extensive foliage by train from her farm near Bath.

The evening proved a memorable one befitting our 70th Anniversary and leaving all uplifted, especially those lucky enough to carry home an arrangement from the raffle.

### **Sian Davies, Assistant Secretary, Cambridge Flower Club**



Coral Gardener,  
Cambridge Flower Club

**Lowestoft Flower Club** celebrated 70 years in June with an Open Meeting at Park Hill Hotel with 100 members, guests, Area Chairman Gloria Goodley and members from Gorleston, Bungay, Loddon and Caister flower clubs. The marquee was decorated in pink and white bunting which was also depicted in the table arrangements. After a 2-course lunch our demonstrator Arnaud Metairie, from French Touch Floristry, gave his demonstration titled "Lets Celebrate". Our long-standing member and past chairman Margaret Crisp cut the celebration cake that was made by committee member Ann Walpole.

**Jackie Dyball, Club secretary**



*Arni Metairie is a popular demonstrator for special occasions and was also booked for Cringleford & Hethersett's celebration. He often shares on social media photos of his own designs at the club events. The collages are a combination of his photos (shared with his consent) and club members photos.*

**Cringleford & Hethersett Flower Club**

July saw us celebrate Cringleford & Hethersett Flower Club's 50 golden years with an open meeting and a wonderful demo by Arnaud Metairie who is an award-winning floral designer from French Touch Floristry in the Cotswolds, along with a celebration cake and bubbly. Over 100 members and guests joined us for a very memorable warm evening during which Arnaud thrilled us with his beautiful designs (15 arrangements were raffled) and amusing stories.





A first for Cringleford & Hethersett Flower Club ...he received a standing ovation which was wonderful and well deserved! We plan to invite Arnaud again in the future!

### **Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club - 65th Anniversary Celebration**

Back in 1959 a small group of flower arrangers met at what was the Boar's Head in Windhill, Bishop's Stortford and formed the Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club. 65 years on we are still going strong.

To celebrate this milestone anniversary members and friends enjoyed the opportunity to catch up and chat over a cuppa which was followed by a two-course luncheon; the table arrangements were beautiful blue hydrangeas in glass bowls representing 'Sapphire'.

Members were also asked if they would like to create a 'Sapphire' corsage and these were judged, our newest member Jane had never created a corsage before and was delighted to receive a small award.

Our archives spanning 65 years were on display and enjoyed by the members, some of whom have been members for over 50 years. The archive displays were also of particular interest to our newer members.

The celebration cake was made by our treasurer Ann.

Table arrangements were created by new committee member Linda. Committee members dressed in blue all had tasks to ensure the hall was ready for the members arrival. It was lovely that some members also chose to wear blue in celebration of this Sapphire milestone.



Photo above: Nicky Thompson & Carol Giffen cut the cake; the committee; the members; designs by Lorena Dyer

Following lunch we were in for a treat with National Demonstrator Lorena Dyer. Lorena got everyone "sitting very comfortably" for her demonstration "Are you sitting comfortably?". She created wonderful arrangements and we all enjoyed her stories.

The final stage looked stunning as each of her designs had second placements.

**Words & photos Beverly Moore**

### **Stowmarket & District Flower Club**

We had a fabulous day celebrating the 65th Anniversary of Stowmarket & District Flower Club; many thanks to Petrina & Stephen Miles who hosted this very well organised event. Stephen & Petrina's garden really was a sight to behold. Everything looked beautiful. Some members of the club then added various arrangements around the garden, orchestrated by Petrina Miles, Vicki Hease and Pauline Squirrell. We enjoyed a very interesting talk about hats by Brenda Evers; Club President Pauline Squirrell spoke of the history of Stowmarket Flower Club over 65 years and its many successes. East of England Area Chairman Gloria Goodley gave a toast to the club.

An interesting array of historic memorabilia was on display for guests to admire. Then followed a superb cream tea by Cheryl of Chaplin's catering and a delicious celebration cake by Di Farrow which was beautifully decorated by Denise Shaw.





Well done to everyone involved who made our 65th Anniversary such a memorable occasion and even the weather played its part!



Photo: Some of the many arrangements by the Stowmarket team displayed throughout the gardens

**Words: Julie Head/Brenda Eyers; Photos Julie Head/Vicki Hease**

### **Great Baddow Flower Club**

We had a glorious ending to our Flower Club year on Thursday 18th July. Our brilliant Demonstrator Michael Bowyer MBE, past President NAFAS, wowed the large audience – including our guests the Deputy Mayor and the Mayoress - with his creative and colourful designs on the theme of 'Here Welcome Summer.'



He uses a huge variety of flowers and foliage from his allotment on the floodplain around Salisbury Cathedral and showed us how to do beautiful arrangements without using environmentally unfriendly floral foam. His lively commentary somehow taught his listeners about the Principles of flower arranging, without them realising that they were learning a lot. There was also plenty of information about what to grow and how to grow it.

What a fabulous finale to our 'Celebrating 55 Years' programme!

### **Stanway & District Flower Club**

In June Stanway & District Flower Club were thrilled to have retired National Demonstrator Julia Knights join us for our celebration party as we marked our 45th anniversary.

Her title was “ A Floral Rhapsody in Blue” and each stunning design was accompanied by music which got the audience foot tapping and singing along. Elvis Presley even made an appearance!

A delicious two course lunch saw us toast the club's future and a beautiful cake made by two club members was enjoyed by us all.

**Brenda Evers**





Those faces look familiar!

**July Area Day** at The Beeches, Isleham was certainly a lively occasion. The morning began with such an enthusiastic & action-packed talk from **Amanda Sutherland**, that we felt exhausted just listening. Without notes, and barely pausing for breath, she described her “Creative Journey” from her training in costume design, through her experiences in the wardrobe departments of the Royal Opera House & major West End Shows, with film production companies & long running television series, where she worked alongside so many celebrities. Eventually she struck out on her own with her own highly successful wedding business.

After many busy years, Amanda & her husband decided to move out of London to develop a business which she could combine with family life. She is now based in Haverhill where she runs her company “Beautiful Accessories”, but there is no diminution of her creativity, or her enthusiasm for hard work. She showed us her latest accessory pieces – embellished vintage inspired hats, jabots & neck wear made from repurposed fabrics: jewellery from recycled materials such as coke cans & plastic milk bottles. These latest designs, which combine her expertise in period clothing & her passion for “eco-friendly” production are sold online to an international clientele. Fortunately for us Amanda had brought a good selection of items with her and was overwhelmed by enthusiastic buyers throughout the lunch break.



There was a good range of other retail therapy available. Pat South was taking orders for the NAFAS calendars & Christmas cards. The sales of Hostas from our favourite supplier was brisk, and not a hole or ragged leaf in sight! Caroline the card lady was selling beautiful prints & greetings cards of her watercolours. We welcomed a new trader this time – Pip Bensley, from Southampton with her collection of vintage vases & pots. There was a good range of vintage mantle vases which have become much in demand again, ikebana dishes, unusual pre-loved vases & glass items. Pip is well known to many members as she is the mastermind behind the Facebook Page “Flower Arrangers - Foam Free” which many East of England members follow and is Area Chairman of Wessex & Jersey Area of NAFAS.

In the afternoon, **Vanessa Wellock**, from Ilkley, amazed us with her demonstration “Walk on the Wild Side” (and her sparkly Doc Martens, for which she is well known) Her designs were wide ranging – from delicately pretty flower filled “carrier bags” & frothy hand ties bursting with butterflies, to rectangular wire & twig constructions woven with anthuriums & wool, & even a stark, angular, modernist construction featuring orange dahlias, supported on a wax base. Despite the striking contrasts of her designs, in terms of concept, style of arranging, proportions, mechanics etc. Vanessa created an incredible harmony throughout her demonstration, through her subtle use of colour and repetition of plant material used in completely different ways.

Evidently she does not really enjoy gardening, delighting us with anecdotes of gathering plant material from other peoples’ gardens – with or without their knowledge. Nevertheless she still managed to produce a good amount of foliage



from her own garden and some stunning blue hydrangeas which she used at the base of a parallel design.



Vanessa was generous in her use of accessories & containers – the designs came complete to the raffle, with nothing removed. She explained that she and her husband were contemplating moving house, possibly to an apartment. She told us that she has nine sheds but has now managed to clear one of them by using the contents in this demonstration. As a result there were many delighted, and possibly surprised raffle winners. No doubt there were many interesting journeys home, especially with the stick construction on the wax base.... And Vanessa drove home with an empty car.

Judy Wynn gave the vote of thanks, and an enthusiastic standing ovation followed. Everyone hoped they would get another opportunity to see Vanessa demonstrate, hopefully before she's finished clearing the other eight sheds.

**Words & photos Lindi Carrington**

## East Suffolk Group Open Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> June

Because it has been several years since East Suffolk held an Open Meeting, there was a great sense of anticipation from all our members as the “big day “ approached. Tickets were sold out and our stalwart team of catering ladies were standing by to fill a seemingly endless number of beautifully decorated “tea boxes” with fancy cakes, scones, strawberries & cream.

Our demonstrator was Rekha Naidoo, an Area Demonstrator in the Home Counties Area of NAFAS, who had travelled from Hertfordshire. We wanted to offer our members a new face, and a demonstration that was a bit different. With her title “Inspirations of India” Rekha did not disappoint. She is of Indian heritage and drew upon her background to weave stories of family life into her arrangements. She started with a design to represent her native cuisine, incorporating ginger lilies & red chillies presented in a silver dish, whilst explaining the history & use of the various spices. Another arrangement incorporated the traditional shapes of the paisley design, whilst others were created in containers that had been enhanced with embroidered shapes and decorated sari borders . Many of the designs included Indian decorative items mounted on sticks – the kind of items that are used for weddings & festivals. One very stunning design, constructed in an adapted water carrier jar, incorporated a range of wedding accessories whilst Rekha described family wedding customs & celebrations, including her own.





The finale was a “Peacock” design to represent Rekha’s memories of her original home in Shimla. From a fan of palms, gilded Strelitzia leaves & an abundance of flamboyant flowers, the bird emerged with its tail displayed, the Strelitzia flower forming its head & beak. A real peacock feather was incorporated “for luck”  
The afternoon was certainly a “kaleidoscope of colour “ as Dulcie Lofting so aptly summed it up in her vote of thanks.

**Words Lindi Carrington/photos Julie Head**

### **Brampton Open Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> June – The Great Showman Returns**



What a fabulous evening we had at the Priory Centre last night with **Mig Kimpton**  
Lots of fun and chatter and fascinating stories from Mig.

Mig's title was a Summer Floral Dream so we had the seaside, sunshine, ice cream, Pirates of Penzance and bright Summer blooms in a basket  
Lots of happy members and guests about 100 , as we had visitors on the door  
We even sang Happy Birthday to Mig for today  
One of our visitors was very chuffed to win a beautiful ice cream arrangement as it is also her birthday today.

Thanks also to the Scandi and Chic, Tropic and Flamingo Card ladies who joined us too and of course our very own President Jan , who manned her sales table despite a 4 am holiday flight today!  
Also big thanks to the helpful staff at the Priory Centre

**Area Education Representative, Linda Knights** sent us an update on all the amazing educational opportunities currently available to members

Following on from the “**Education Get Together**” at Mildenhall and the Area Anniversary Show and Competition at Hunstanton we have gathered many names of potential students

**September 14th and 21st will be Basic Teachers Training** days for those wanting to teach. This qualification, together with recognised Flower Arranging/Floristry qualification or approved skills, will enable the 14 people taking this test to be on the area Supplementary List. Some if not all will go on to teach short Leisure courses and eventually the Area Certificated Course.

We have three qualified teachers who will be delivering the Area Certificated Course

**“Foundation in Floral Artistry”.**

Commencing September 28th, 2024, at Jubilee Centre, Mildenhall.

Commencing September 19th, 2024, at Tilney All Saints

Commencing January 2025 at South Elmham

Posters and details are now on the Area website [nafas-east.com](http://nafas-east.com)

Two other courses and other venues are in the pipeline.

Anyone interested in learning Flower Arranging can register their interest by emailing

[education.nafaseast@gmail.com](mailto:education.nafaseast@gmail.com)

**Please note: numbers are limited on each of the courses and you cannot join once the course has started. So register NOW even if the course is not starting just yet.**

**We often comment on the geographical size of the East of England Area** which means we have long distances to travel to events. But members living in “far flung “ towns & villages do have the advantage of being able to “pop over the border” to neighbouring Nafas Area events. **Lesley Beeton, Kings Lynn Group of Flower Clubs**, publicised the flower Festival at Gedney St Mary’s Church, Lincolnshire (in which she was participating) sending the poster to our Area Facebook Group. The title was “Music in Bloom”

Lesley later reported “the festival has been a resounding success with so many talented arrangers taking part. This was my version of “ Singing in the rain”. Luckily the sun shone on the event and Gene Kelly did not appear. A big thank you for all the support given by Kings Lynn group”





Our Facebook administrator, Beverly Moore, can't resist a good flower festival, and set off, camera in hand, for an adventure to Lincolnshire.

**Photos Beverly Moore/Lesley Beeton**

**We plan to feature the many flower festivals that members have been involved with over the Summer & Autumn in the next edition of Spotlight.**

**Brenda Eyers, National Speaker**, was delighted to be asked by the Home Counties Area to give her presentation "If you want to get ahead, get a ....." at their Members Day on Wednesday 26th June.

After lunch, **demonstrator Lee Berrill** decided to join in the fun by abandoning his smart suit and giving his entire demonstration wearing a straw hat, beach shirt and Bermuda shorts.

Both Brenda and Lee thank the members of Home Counties for their warm welcome and applause.

(photo next page)



**Club fundraising** – some interesting ideas & events have been reported recently

In the spring **Bradwell Flower Club** held a social evening for their members and guests. An ABBA tribute band had everyone on their feet dancing, from the beginning to end of the evening. Many members entered into the spirit by dressing up in 1970's outfits. Two club members provided a delicious buffet and we are delighted to report that the event made a profit for club funds.





## **Dereham & District Flower Club - Who said you can't judge a book by its cover**

I'm pleased to say that Dereham's recent fund-raising efforts with a slot on the local Tesco's store book sales table was very successful.

As many of you may know, some Tesco's stores often have book tables selling books to help charity and local community organisations to raise money. Groups can apply which we did towards the end of last year and our Club's 'slot' was booked for the month of June. It gave our members the excuse to have a good clear out of all sorts of books, not just ones on flower arranging. Recipe books were especially popular and we raised £539 for our Club, which will help fund our annual programme and activities.

It's well worth enquiring at your local Tesco's to see if they do something similar. I believe Morrisons Supermarkets are now doing this for community groups too.

**Helen Evans, Chairman Dereham & District Flower Club**



## **President's Day - Norwich Flower Club**

Our wonderful President, Joyce Youngman, organised a super afternoon with terrific entertainment, followed by a delicious afternoon tea.

Jane Hoggar had us all captivated with the amazing story of how she became a Bluebell Girl, dancing at the Lido de Paris on the Champs Élysées.

Her bubbly sense of humour, and driven personality were certainly the key to her success. She had us 'in stitches' at her hilarious stories but saddened by the tough times she endured to fulfil her dreams. Jane also had a gorgeous rich and mellow voice, which perfectly suited songs from The Carpenters and many others.



**Jayne Haggar teaching Joyce Youngman a Bluebell Girl routine. You can see video clips of the live performance on Norwich Group Facebook page**

Joyce chose LILAC as our charity to support and Gaye Youngman, (Chair and Co-Founder of Lilac) explained all the incredible fundraising events and ideas they organise. The funds are then used to provide vital, and sometimes cutting-edge equipment. They also provide much needed support to cancer sufferers and their families too, including recently the Jenny Lind ward at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, for children with cancer.

Thank you Joyce for a truly wonderful afternoon - we hope you enjoyed your special day x.

**Words & photos Gillian Allen**



**Many clubs don't meet in August** because of members' holidays, but organise informal social events with "in-house" demonstrators & tutors for members to keep in touch whilst on "staycation"

Towards the end of July, Jennie Carter, Co-Chairman **Framlingham Flower Club**, held a "get-together" in her garden for a limited number of club members. There was a small charge to boost club funds, but I when I booked my ticket I wasn't quite sure what the format was going to be – perhaps I missed the meeting where it was all explained. When I arrived I was delighted to find Brigitte Girling (former event florist, and a great friend of the club) inviting us to walk around Jennie's garden with her whilst she selected plant material for her arrangement. At this point I should explain that Brigitte is an incredibly laid-back person. Flower arranging for her is like a meditation in which she communicates with the flowers. She looks decades younger than her years and is impossibly slim -there is an elfin quality to her.

She showed us what would be suitable (and what wouldn't work), explained where, how & when to cut it; as well as how to condition it. She drew our attention to some unusual wildflowers (weeds!) which she also selected. It was a great opportunity for the newer & less experienced members who came along, but still things to learn & discuss for long standing members. We thought Jennie was very trusting to let Brigitte loose with her secateurs in her precious garden; but Brigitte has a minimalistic approach and treasures every bloom. She had also brought with her a bucket of plant material from her Norfolk garden.

And then there was the delightful experience of sitting in the shade, watching Brigitte painstakingly create a delightful table arrangement, in water, while we ate homemade cake. It was unbelievably relaxing.....



**Lindi Carrington**

## Summer's bursting out all over

**Dereham & District Flower Club** have just finished their season of successful Saturday workshops. Five two-hour workshops covering 'Designs with plastic bottles', a Basket design, a foam-free design out of the Flower Arranger, a modern pedestal and finally a two-tiered arrangement.

The workshops are designed to give our Members a chance to upskill on various designs and techniques to add to their experience of flower arranging. It has certainly been successful, with some very beautiful and creative arrangements making their way home with the Members. The workshops are hosted by the Committee in lovely garden surroundings and Committee members' homes. Of course, there's always the usual delicious cakes and drinks on hand. Whilst attendees bring their own flowers and foliage, we do ask for a small charge for the workshops and this has been a nice little boost to our Club funds too.

We hope you enjoy the selection of photos from the sessions. We know our Members' love workshops, so hopefully we will be doing these again next year along with various others.

The Committee

**Dereham & District Flower Club**



Two tier arrangements, modern pedestal, & designing with plastic bottles



## Norwich Group.

As the Area Council meeting was cancelled and Norwich Group had already paid for the hall for the July meeting, the committee decided to go ahead with a change of format. It is true to say that we have had difficulty attracting club members to come along to Group meetings. We decided to offer free hands-on mini workshops

Brenda Tubb showed us how to make a grid to put onto a container for foam free arrangements. Penny Howes was helping members make phormium leaf roses. Rachael Borenkova was in demand as she assisted members to plait leaves and produce corsages. Tricia Weeks was cutting and curling paper which resulted in paper roses and lavender stems. Ann Hammond was roped-in on the day to assist with the headbands which were made with all foliage. I helped people turn midellino sticks into heart shaped decorations. It was really lovely to hear everyone chatting and laughing whilst taking part in the activities.

At our last Group meeting we had very few attendees. Today there were over 30 people there. Hopefully they will spread the word and we will continue to attract more members to our Group meetings.

## Group Chairman - Jacquie Aldous



## Wroxham Flower Club

On Wednesday evening we had such fun with Jill Clarke & Brenda Tubb who presented to us 'Blasts from the Past' they were a brilliant double act! So much laughter filled the hall as we were enthralled with tales from the early days of being a NAFAS demonstrator and some hilarious anecdotes of dresses slipping off hangers into buckets of water and feeding chickens spaghetti! A fabulous evening all about fun, friendship, and stunning flowers too.

Brenda Tubb is known to most of us as an Area Demonstrator (retired). Jill Clarke is Wroxham Flower Club's Programme Secretary and often leads workshops for her club. She was awarded Best in Show at the Suffolk Show earlier this year.



**Aldeburgh and District Flower Club** decorated the Moot Hall, Aldeburgh for the Carnival weekend which this year has an 80s theme.

**Roger Woolnough, Club Chairman**

*The Moot Hall was built during the first half of the 16th Century, in the centre of the town. It is now considerably nearer the sea but its prominent position during the carnival is good publicity for Aldeburgh Flower Club.*

photo next page





It was with great sadness that the death of **Christine Makings** was announced on 21<sup>st</sup> August. Christine was Chairman of Stock Flower Club, a retired Area Demonstrator for Home Counties and East of England, teacher and judge. She was a great supporter of NAFAS, a friend to many and will be greatly missed by her many friends far and wide.



## Lodden Flower Club

**Vice Chairman Tricia Loades** tells us "It's been a very busy few months for members - for our June meeting Stephanie Laing came along with her demonstration entitled 'Influenced by'. Stephanie had some lovely arrangements which were influenced by her garden, containers and pieces of wood she had collected over the years. Also, in June we had a coach trip to the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the East of England Area at Hunstanton, where we saw some lovely competition work and some members took part in workshops by Barbara Collins and Rachel Borrenkova. At our meeting in July, we began with a slide show of our 65<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival from last year followed by our President Diane and Treasurer Penny with their demonstration entitled 'Globe Trotting'.

Still in July some members took part in the Norwich Group's workshop where we could choose from six items we could make. We came away with four of them that we managed to complete.

In August our Vice-Chairman Tricia took part in a flower festival at Carleton St Peter Church in Norfolk entitled 'Musicals and Operas' and she depicted Peter Grimes the Opera.

Also, in August we held our Annual General Meeting where we presented the winners of the competitions with trophies. The winner of the Novice Class was Jenny Frosdick, Intermediate Class, Jean Madgett and Advanced Class Tricia Loades. We also present a trophy to a member of the Club who has helped out over the year and this year the Baker Cup was presented to Angela Moroney. So well done to them.

Clockwise from top left- Tricia Godfrey with Ann Baker, Jean Madgett, Tricia Loades & Jenny Frosdick





We look ahead to the next few meetings when we have some new demonstrators and a Christmas workshop with Brenda Tubb to look forward to.

For more details of events and meetings and photos from our meetings take a look at our website at [www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk](http://www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk).

## Recycling

Here at **Loddon Flower Club**, we have also been recycling. Our Flower Festival in 2023 for our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary had the title of 'Hobbies and Pastimes'. One of the hobbies that our Chairman Tricia Godfrey depicted was cycling. She had been given a cycle wheel rim by our Vice-Chairman Tricia Loades which was going to be thrown out. Tricia G's husband then added a piece of wood to the wheel which made it stand up. This was then used by Tricia L at the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society Spring Show in April for an Olympic sport.

Back to our Flower Festival and Tricia L made a pedestal arrangement for the hobby of Photography. Her husband made a stand out of an old camera tripod. Someone had put this out as the legs no longer extended, but it was just what she wanted!



**Tricia Loades, Loddon Flower Club**

**The Royal Norfolk Show** was very well supported considering it followed so closely after the Hunstanton Event. A change of layout in the marquee saw the club classes and pedestal exhibits taking pride of place near the entrance. This worked very well tempting many members of the public to enter and comment on the displays.



**Class F1 Club Class 'Natural Beauty at its Finest'** 1st Bradwell Flower Club, who also won Jocelyn Steward Trophy and NNHS Anita Bridge Memorial Salver. 2nd Breckland Flower Club, who also won Doris Waymark Award for best use of garden plant material. 3rd Aylsham Flower Club





**Previous page F2 Pedestal Class 'Flowers and Fashion' 1st Diane Randell who also won Norwich Group Trophy for Best in Show, Joyce Wright Trophy NNHS award for Best in Show and Linda Knights Award for the most innovative exhibit. 2nd Jane Gladwin and 3rd Helen Evans**



**F3 Floristry Class 'A Wristband to be worn at a Gala Ball for Sports Celebrities' 1st Violetta Veikniene, 2nd Klara Arabadzhieva and 3rd Amy Emons.**



**F4 'Swinging 60's Eco Friendly 1st Rachael Borenkova who also won the Pat Whall Trophy Runner up to Best in Show 2nd Moira Neville & 3rd Naomi Wells**

We share the marquee with the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society and due to adverse weather conditions this year their entries were down. So it was lovely to have the space to display our exhibits. Especially, the wonderful plaques exhibited by junior members.

**F5'A Fusion of Blooms and Buds' Novice Class** 1st Christine Hardman who won the Norwich Group Novice Trophy. 2nd Naomi Wells and 3rd Kim Hartwell.

**F6a Junior Class under 12's Sealife Picture/Plaque** 1<sup>st</sup> Tia Bush, 2<sup>ND</sup> Henry Flynn and 3<sup>rd</sup> Theo Goodacre

**F6b Over 12's** 1<sup>st</sup> Sienna High, 2<sup>nd</sup> Isla Skeet and 3<sup>rd</sup> Poppy French-Shepherd

We had a gazebo at the front of the tent where our volunteers spent 2 days helping members of the public make floral headbands. Thank you to all our Stewards and everyone who entered the competitions. Hopefully we will have your support again next year.

**Gloria Goodley & Jacquie Aldous, Floral Art Co-ordinators for Norwich Group and NNHS**

**"Sandringham Flower Show 31st July 2024.**

**Lavinia Pirrett (Dereham Flower Club/Area Media Team)** judged the Floral Art classes

"My goodness what a hot summer's day for all who attended and visited. It was unfortunate no Royal family was able to attend the 141st show, but the "show must go on" and it certainly did.

The competition exhibits in all categories, which included Vegetables and Fruit; Floral Art; Flowers other than Floral Art; Bakery and Preserves and Estate Gardens, received entries of high quality, imaginative, and tasteful entries. A joy for the public to view.

Throughout the day there was entertainment in the arena; a varied selection of plants and flowers in the marquees and stalls; the infamous carousel ride for children and adults to enjoy; and a wide selection of international food.

In Floral Art there were some superb competition entries; my assistant, Corinne Steward, and I had some difficult decisions to make due to the high quality of the designs in the use of flowers and plant material.

Sandringham Flower Show, an annual event, is a must do for families and people to attend and enjoy. "





**Lavinia (right) & Corinne looking cool despite the heat.**

Summer 2024 has certainly been action packed and the creativity continued through the August Bank Holiday weekend – just a little too late for our Spotlight deadline. Next time we'll be reporting on all those late Summer activities, through to Harvest, Halloween and the approach of the Christmas season.

The deadline for the December 1<sup>st</sup> edition will be **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November..** Please email your contribution to [newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.com) as a Word document with the photographs attached in JPEG format. (not embedded in the text) Please include photo credits (i.e. tell us who took the photos & who is in them) You should make sure that you have the demonstrators' permission to share photos of their work on our website/Facebook page. Many demonstrators enthusiastically share photos of their own work when they have visited clubs, but some may ask you to only show 2 designs, or not to show the whole final stage – we must respect that. A photograph of the demonstrator standing with an arrangement, or details of the flowers are very acceptable illustrations to your report.

Enjoy the coming season & its flowers,  
**Best wishes on behalf of the Media Team,**  
**Lindi Carrington**

