

# SPOTLIGHT EAST

Newsletter for Members of The East of England Area of NAFAS

Welcome to the Winter edition of Spotlight East. It has been a joy to edit this time, with so many clubs enthusiastically re-opening, members renewing their friendships along with their subscriptions, and floral events starting to take place again. Flower arranging has at last returned to the wider community, where it has been sadly missed for so long. We enjoy arranging flowers and the general public love to see them in public spaces like in churches & community buildings. We start with a look at flower Festivals that have been able to taken place with the lifting of restrictions. The first was at Coggeshall, right at the end of August, which missed the deadline for the September 1<sup>st</sup> edition, but it would a be a shame not to include it.

**Jayne Lawson, Feering Flower Club** writes:

“Coggeshall’s parish church of St. Peter ad Vincula has held annual flower festivals for well over 30 years. Last year’s was cancelled for obvious reasons and for a while it looked as if one wouldn’t be held this year either. But we got the go ahead just a few weeks beforehand and a truly impressive team of flower arrangers swung into action to create displays depicting **‘Faith through History’**.”

You’ll recognise quite a few names from this list, with our own Sue, Sylvie, Jill and Jayne together with demonstrators Lionel, Sandra and Helen and other friends Alison, Pat, Shirley, Ann L, Christine A from within the Colchester Group of Flower Clubs. No doubt other names will also be familiar to some of you. The festival remained open over the Bank Holiday Weekend and further details can be found here <https://coggeshallflowerfestival.org.uk/>

During the early 15th century the wealthy Coggeshall wool merchants built our present glorious church, one of the magnificent so-called ‘wool churches’, which was dedicated to St Peter ad Vincula (St Peter in chains).

The Wool Trade - The Dyer and The Spinner In medieval Europe purple, violet colours were produced by dyeing wool with woad or indigo in the fleece and then piece dyeing the woven cloth with red dyes, such as the common madder or cochineal. Madder could also produce purples when used with alum. Yellows were produced using turmeric, saffron, onion skin and marigold and greens using indigo, weld and turmeric. Walnut shells and bark were used to produce browns.

The Spinner spun the wool into thread and the weaver wove the thread on a loom into cloth. There would have been many spinners and weavers working in cottages in Coggeshall, employed by the wool merchants, and a replica of one of the large looms can be seen in the Coggeshall Museum.”

Sylvie Cooper & Sue Bunting (Feering Flower Club) depicted the early development of the church & these aspects of the woollen cloth industry that Jane has described.

Coggeshall Flower Festival August 2021



“The Restoration and Re-hallowing of the church: £86,000 was needed to restore this fine church to its former glory after the bombing during World War II. The Rev. Norman-Brown, the then vicar, and Mr Dykes-Bower, the architect, together with many skilled craftsmen and local people worked unceasingly to bring this enormous project to fruition. The Service of Re-hallowing was held in 1956.”

Beverly Moore & Jayne Lawson depicted the skilled craftsmen involved in this restoration, using board panels, mounted on the columns of the nave.



Towards the end of September a flower festival was held at St. Mary's Church, Coddendam to celebrate the life of Dorothy Lay who had died earlier in the year. Dorothy's funeral had been a low key affair, so her friends from both the church and Stowmarket Flower Club came together, as soon as the relaxation of covid regulations made it possible, to give her the "send-off" she deserved. Her daughter, Nyree, and niece Jane also took part in the festival. Margaret Baker, from Coddendam, told us that everyone knew Dorothy because she had been born in the village and lived there most of her life. She was always very involved with the church – with the church flowers and had been a churchwarden for many years. Towards the end of her life, she had moved to the nearby village of Barham, where she was also a churchwarden. Besides flower arranging, Dorothy had many other hobbies – quilting, knitting, gardening, painting, sugar craft, cooking, bell ringing .... and was extremely gifted at everything she turned her hand to .

Coddenham Flower Festival – cooking, gardening & quilting



To quote the festival programme: “her gifts and her faith, as she lived life to the full” were very much the theme of the exhibition. There were pedestals representing gardening, cooking & quilting; window arrangements that included knitting, lacemaking & wickerwork, and many examples of Dorothy’s own craft work were displayed around the church. Tucked away in a corner was an arrangement entitled “Pedestal using left over flowers & greenery Dorothy wouldn’t waste” (by Margaret Baker)

All the designs were superb, with a wonderful selection of seasonal flowers and an interesting variety of arrangement styles. The colours worked well together and were well balanced. According to Margaret this “just happened”, as people had chosen their own positions around the church and decided what aspect they would depict. There must surely have been lots of lists being made to achieve such splendid coordination! The arrangers generously donated their flowers to the festival, which meant the donations from visitors could be used to support the church.



### **Coddenham Flower festival – In memory of Dorothy Lay**

Dorothy’s flower festival had a seasonal, early autumnal feel, preparing us for the many Harvest Festival events to come. Harvest time, with its wealth of colourful flowers, foliage & fruits brings out the creativity in flower arrangers; we can really go to town.... And its another opportunity to join with the wider community.

Many delightful Harvest Festival arrangements are to be found in the small rural churches of our region. Where better to view them than on the Church Flower Arrangers Forum Facebook page. There we “chatted” to Fran Annis who lives in the North Norfolk parish of Buxton & Lamas, and arranges at the local church. She has also been involved in planning the local scarecrow festival held in October. Fran told us that she works in the health & social care sector, but has been recovering from Long Covid and only just returned to work fulltime. Before this she trained and worked as a florist. Fran plans to join Aylsham Flower Club soon. (perhaps she already has..)



Arrangements by Fran Annis (font), & parishioners. Photo credits Fran Annis

In the East of England we are blessed by the sheer number of magnificent church buildings in which to work – from the delightful village churches to the magnificence of our cathedrals. Lesley Beeton wrote to tell us about her experience of arranging for the Harvest Festival at Ely Cathedral:

“As a farmer’s daughter, farmer’s wife and farmer’s mother it was a great honour to be invited to arrange at The High Altar . This was 10 ft from floor to bullrush tip. Mostly home grown or local produce and some dark sunflowers I have grown. Foliage all from the garden. Lots of folk being very creative; a wonderful experience.

I used to belong to Peterborough Club but my elderly friend moved and so I took the chance to migrate eastward where I knew more people at Wisbech flower club . Wisbech team normally take 2 turns on the cathedral rota , Candlemas and then October. It’s about 25 miles for us to drive so we don’t normally do any other turns, although we did " do " the WWI memorial at the Ely flower festival in 2018.

.I am not a NAFAS demonstrator but do a few local clubs ( I don’t travel very far out of my circle of

of Fenland ) but I did qualify to teach adult education in 2000 and have been teaching flower arranging ever since. My local class have just resumed. (October) We are not at full capacity yet and only meeting once a month, instead of each week for now; perhaps when we all feel safer things will get better. I did train as a florist at Isle of Ely College but I left commercial floristry behind when I had my family. I have been co designer of Wisbech Rose Fair with my good friend Ann Purt and John Richmond for lots of years now. I do love festivals; lots of chances to play with ideas. I was greatly encouraged by Nick Grounds (National Demonstrator) and we did a great many weddings together in 2000-2010.



Demonstrator & National Teacher, Vicki Hease, regularly arranges at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, and at the village church of Great Finborough. Photos: top row, St Edmunds day, All Saints day, bottom row: Harvest Festival





**Delcie Corbett**

**10 April 1938 – 25 September 2021**

Delcie was an almost founder member of Orwell Flower Club, joining in 1986, and over the years had been Chairman, Secretary and Programme Secretary and also took great pleasure in passing on her skills and knowledge to others by hosting workshops.

Amongst her many floral achievements, Delcie received first prize and best in show for her arrangements at the Suffolk Show in 2003 and 2005.

Delcie was a long serving volunteer and fundraiser at St. Elizabeth's Hospice and had only recently received a 25 year long service award for organizing the rota of Suffolk Flower Clubs each week to display fresh flowers around the hospice and floral arrangements for special events.

One of the interesting facts we learnt at her funeral was that Delcie studied City & Guilds in dressmaking and ladies advanced tailoring and gained a Further Education Certificate in Teaching after which she obtained a teaching appointment at Stowmarket Secondary School and later Northgate High School.

When she retired, Delcie joined several clubs and organizations – W.I., Chatsworth Ladies, Ipswich Flower Club, Orwell Flower Club and also helped Gilbert with his Lodge commitments. She was always armed with plastic cups, tea bags, biscuits, charity boxes and raffle tickets and only relinquished her roles in supporting these ventures when ill health and mobility issues forced her to do so. The Orwell Committee were always pleased when committee meetings were held at her home as we were sure to get her excellent flapjack or shortbread.



Although flower arranging took over a very large part of her life, Delcie was also a very skilled photographer and became the NAFAS Photography representative for many years.

Delcie's health had deteriorated over the last few years and when she suffered severe mobility problems and Gilbert's dementia worsened, they moved to White Lodge at Felixstowe. Sadly, after 62 years of marriage, Gilbert died on Christmas Eve 2020 and, having lost her purpose in life, Delcie died on 25 September 2021 aged 83 years.

Delcie will be a hard act to follow but Orwell Flower Club will do our best to flourish and grow

Janet Dye Chairman, Orwell Flower Club



Suffolk Show  
28 - 29 May 2003

**Class 9 "Artistic Licence"**

**Charles Rennie Mackintosh**

**1st Prize  
and  
"Best in Show"**

**Delcie Corbett**

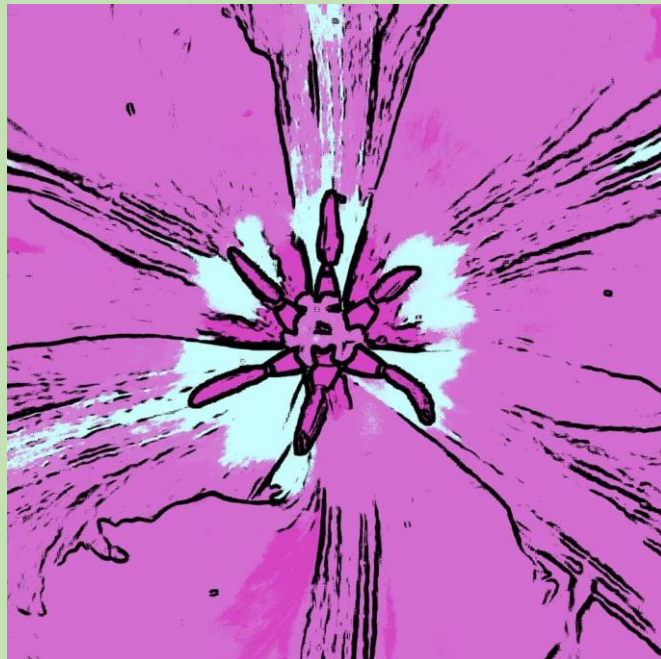


Delcie would have been proud of the recent success of our photographers. Both Beverly Moore & Roger Woolnough were placed in the National photographic Competition, for the second consecutive year.

Roger Woolnough – The Great Outdoors – Very Highly Commended



Beverly Moore – Terrific Textures – Commended



This class involved manipulation of the image; see next page for the original photo

And here is the original image of the tulip



Last year Spotlight interviewed Beverly & Roger to hear the stories behind their photos. As they have been successful again this year, we thought we would concentrate on the winners of the Area Photographic Competition, which were announced at the end of September. We asked the winners in each class to tell us about their photographs.

Class 1 "All the Colours of the Rainbow" – Sharon Phillips (Mildenhall Flower Club)

Sharon describes herself as "absolutely chuffed" to win this class. Her photo was taken whilst at an agricultural show – not on holiday, but for work (as they are farmers) The flowers formed a border around an area which was being used for spraying demonstrations (so much better than a fence!) It was just what she was looking for, so she quickly whipped out her I-phone "A total amateur", but she does recall once having a photo of tractors used in "Farmers Weekly" (Photo next page)

Class 1 Sharon Phillips



Class 2 "Sunrise or Sunset" – Helen Burton (Yaxley Flower Club)

Helen told us that this is a view of Brancaster Staithe harbour, at dusk, looking across the marshes towards the golf club. It was taken on a Samsung phone which has four different lenses. Helen took lots of shots to practice using them. She describes it as a "fluke" – the light suddenly changed as the sun went behind the clouds, but the reflection remained on the water. The inclusion of the boats gave interest in the foreground.



Class 3 "Wonderful Clouds" - Sue Cooper (Spalding & District Flower Club)

Sue told us that she was in her back garden in South Lincolnshire with her daughter, looking for a suitable flower, possibly one of her dahlias, to photograph for Class 5 (One Beautiful Flower) But her daughter suddenly drew her attention to the clouds, which Sue hadn't even noticed. It was a "spur of the moment" photo. Sue says, unlike her husband, she's not really into photography; she's more "point & shoot" with her I-phone.



Class 4 "A Colourful garden " – Janet Brittain (King's Lynn Flower Club) As we may well have suspected, Janet's winning image was taken in her own garden, which she has been developing & tending (together with her late husband) since 1973. Not long after that she joined Kings Lynn Flower Club, where she has been Chairman several times and is currently President. The colourful photograph was taken of just a small part of the ¼ acre garden, using her phone, which she prefers to use these days rather than her camera. Like many people, Janet feels that her garden has been a "lifesaver" during the lockdowns.





Class 5 “One Beautiful Flower” – Jenny Shepherd (Wickham Market Flower Club)

The subject of the photo is an iris growing in Jenny’s garden, although she couldn’t remember the name. It was the texture that appealed to her. For this competition she used her phone, but she had been a member of Saxmundham Flower Club some time ago. She recalls that one of her photos of her Chelsea exhibit (with Roger Woolnough) had been used in the NAFAS calendar – probably 2000/2001. Jenny obviously hasn’t lost the knack.



Virtual flower arranging competitions have continued with several members “having a go” . The Area was represented in the Chairman’s Challenge by Yvonne Wagstaff ( Yaxley) who was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> for her “Picnic on the Beach” & Sue Cooper (Spalding) with her arrangement “Here Comes Autumn” – disappointingly not placed.



Yvonne Wagstaff



Sue Cooper

International Friends of Floral Art & Design (IFFAD) Facebook group organized an ambitious virtual competition with the overall title “Design & Discover” to challenge designers to experiment with techniques, materials & presentation. There were 15 classes, each with an intriguingly difficult title, assessed by an international panel of judges. Lindi Carrington (Framlingham/Holbrook) & Beverly Moore (Herts & Essex Boundary) were up for the challenge – photos of their work is on the next page. IFFAD is an amazing forum of designers from around the world. If you are on Facebook and would like to see more of their work, search for the IFFAD page and ask to join – there is a vetting procedure & strict rules for security, but as a member of East of England Area you should be eligible to join. Once you’re on the page, click the “Featured” button just below the header and you will see all the competition albums. You will not necessarily like all of the work but you be amazed at the variety.



"Urban Veneer, Rustic Roots"  
Lindi Carrington



"Minimal & Metallic"  
Lindi Carrington

Awarded Commended



Beverly Moore – "Virid-duo" – an all foliage arrangement

Area Council was held on 20<sup>th</sup> October - we wouldn't normally report on the meeting, but as it was the first face to face meeting since the start of the pandemic we thought we should mark the occasion. It had a special atmosphere about it, for a variety of reasons. First of all it was held in the Mildenhall Social Club rather than the Jubilee Centre which was not available at the time of booking, because of the vaccination programme. We think a number of confused vulnerable people may have joined us, albeit briefly, as they searched for the correct building. Secondly it was chaired by a very relaxed Barbara Collins, who had spent the night in a local hotel rather than have an extremely early start and battle her way through the traffic from Peterborough. And thirdly, we were joined by over 20 members who took advantage of the Zoom facility so expertly set up & managed by Adele Kent (Costessey Flower Club – see photo) Those of us who had overcome the torrential rain and flooding to get there wished we had settled for the Zoom, or even the hotel, option. And finally, tea & coffee were free!



Adele Kent setting up the Zoom link

Following Council and a short lunch break was the AGM at which Lesley Fairman, was at last ratified as Area Treasurer, after a long period as Acting Treasurer. As she was presented with her badge of office she said that it was not a badge she aspired to!

Jean Crane stood down as President. In her address to the meeting she said that it had been a most disappointing term of office; she only attended 3 events, in 2019. She told us that she was just getting going when lockdown struck and had only worn her badge twice. Sue Brinton, who takes over as Area President, was only too happy to allow Jean to wear the badge for the rest of the afternoon. Jean's Presidents Day, which was cancelled during lockdown, will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at Isleham – more details in the New Year. And she will be wearing the badge!



(Photo left) Jean receiving her presentation of flowers. (Photo right) Arrangement for the Council Table by Jenni Baker, Chair Norwich Group, using orchids, grasses & seed pods, but no floral foam.

If you would like to learn how to make it why not book one of her workshops held on the first Tuesday of the month, in St Margaret South Elmham, near Harleston, Suffolk.

More details: [flowersbyjenni@gmail.com](mailto:flowersbyjenni@gmail.com)

The Cambridge Group AGM was by all accounts a very sociable affair (judging from their Facebook page)....

."What a fantastic AGM the Cambridge Group put on yesterday which was attended by Barbara Collins, Area Chairman, and members of clubs within the Cambridge Group.

The day started with the business of the AGM followed by Brenda Eyres who gave an excellent talk – "If You Want to get Ahead ..."



Brenda with a splendid array of visual aids

Seasonal table arrangements were provided by members of Mildenhall Flower Club

After this was lunch and then Angela Turner gave a wonderful demonstration. (photo next page)

Credit must go to the wonderful teamwork of Carol Giffen (Chairman) & the Cambridge Group committee for staging the day.

Special thanks must also be given to Lesley Fairman and Lionel Clark for judging the competition and Beverly Moore for taking the photos.



East Suffolk Group met for the first time in 2 years on 1st November, for their AGM. It was, of necessity, a low key event mainly to ratify the appointment of committee members who had been in acting roles during the pandemic, but it was good to see everyone in person again. Chairman, Pat Stammers stood down after her 3 year term – sadly 2 of those years were spent mainly at her computer screen, waiting to get back to “normal” after the lockdowns and sending us quizzes to lift our spirits. It was particularly disappointing because she had got off to a flying start, organising 2 very successful workshops, with more events and workshops in the pipeline. Pat is replaced by Lindi Carrington. Sonia Fox (Treasurer) & Jo Harrison (Secretary) had both retired from their roles during the closure, and are now officially replaced by Giovanna Roberts & Mandy Pryke respectively.

Flower Club meetings have on the whole resumed, although social distancing and other considerations have often meant that club competitions, refreshments, trading stalls have had to be suspended, depending on the capacity of the venue.

**Jane Dalton, Secretary Great Ellingham & District Flower Club** writes:

Our October meeting was attended by 45 people – which was wonderful!

The demonstration, Around the World - Customs and Traditions... was by our very own , Pat Barton – and what a stunning display she gave us!

We got to hear about Pat's adventures all over the World and she made 6 fabulous arrangements depicting all the countries she's visited from UK to Africa, Mexico, Sweden, Iceland & Asia – she also brought Halloween into the scene with a decorated pumpkin...



### **Brampton Flower Club, November 2021**

At our AGM Meeting overseen by our President Helen Galer, we said goodbye with our many, many, thanks to our Chair Janet Dobie and two other committee members for their work over the years; also our Magazine distributor. Flowers were given in recognition of all their work for the Club. We then welcomed our new Chair Susan Astle and two new committee members.

After a cup of coffee and biscuits we then welcomed our demonstrator Barbara Collins who is NAFAS East of England Chairman..



She offered us six lovely examples of her skill, spiced with her many entertaining comments which caused much laughter, together with some handy tips for our own flower arrangements.



The Brampton Flower Club send Seasons Greetings, wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year and welcoming you to our Meetings during 2022

**Herts & Essex Boundary** are now back with regular meetings following our social first meet back in August.

In October we welcomed Jean Fordham from North Midlands Area, the title of her demonstration “Button Box”. Jean shared many memories of her grandmother’s button box with lots of other interesting stories about buttons.

The members competition was entitled “Blooms & Buttons” – our members are proactive and do enjoy the regular competitions we hold, this was no exception with some creative designs incorporating buttons.

So maybe it is time to get out those old button boxes you have and see how creative you can be with Blooms & Buttons.

Beverly Moore



Essex Boundary Flower Club  
Hannah Shine (novice class)



Jean Fordham (demonstrator)



Sally Cantes



Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club

Leoni Braz

### **Loddon Flower Club**

Since March 2020, Loddon Flower Club have not held any flower arranging demonstrations. But we kept in touch with members through our Chairman, Tricia Godfrey's, occasional newsletters.

Slowly, but surely, we have been getting back to meeting up again. Members' first event took part in July, when The Church in Loddon held "Lockdown, Unlocked" at Holy Trinity Church. Lockdown Unlocked was for people to show what they had taken up in Lockdown, so even though we didn't take up flower arranging during Lockdown, I am sure plenty of people did. Four members made up some small arrangements that were placed on the font and alms box and each one had a label that had all the details of our Club should they want to join.



July also saw our first get together when we had a garden party in the garden of our Treasurer, Penny Mills. There was plenty of tea and cake and lots of chatter and catching up. We had a glorious day for it too.

September, we held our first indoor meeting when we held our Annual General Meeting. All the committee were happy to stand again and we were all excited to think that hopefully next month we would have our first flower arranging demonstration in over 18 months. Also, in September some members took part in a Flower Festival at All Saint's Church, Chedgrave where one of our members was organising it. The theme was 'Norfolk Icons'. We have also been to Holy Trinity to arrange flowers for a wedding in September.

For our October demonstration we had Stephanie Laing come along with her title of 'A Wood Affair' and in November we had Area Chairman, Barbara Collins come along with her title of 'Floral Moments'. Barbara very kindly judged a competition for members with the same title. We were happy that so many members made a return to the Club after such a long absence.



Stephanie Laing



Barbara Collins



November a group of us went to Norwich Cathedral to arrange the poppies for Remembrance Day. We arrange two pedestals and two wall arrangements. Since we were last there for the poppies the Cathedral has now gone 'Oasis free' and instead of using a big piece of the green stuff, they had stuck some plastic bottles to the bottom of the bowl and then covered the top with chicken wire. But it wasn't as bad as we first thought and I think we did our best under the circumstances. We even had to arrange during a power cut!



We now have a Christmas workshop to enjoy, a New Year lunch and in February we have the Queen coming to visit us. But this Queen is knitted and was part of the Petal and Purl in Caston, Norfolk which some of us visited in 2019. We will also look forward to an open garden at our President, Diane Blyth's garden in April. For more details on these events and more photos from our events during 2021, take a look at our website on [www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk](http://www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk)

## Mandy Pryke reports from **Wickham Market Flower Club**

Chairman, June Allum, enthusiastically opened the meeting saying how lovely it was to see everyone. There were 35 members and 2 new members. She remarked that Jenny Sheppard had won a first prize for her photograph of an Iris in the recent Area competition. Well done Jenny, it was beautiful.

Geraldine interrupted the meeting to present June with a gift from the Flower Club Committee on the occasion of her and Len's Golden Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October.



June then introduced our demonstrator for the evening, Barbara Collins. During the evening Barbara created six stunning arrangements in a variety of baskets, pots and trays etc. She used flowers such as Kangaroo Paw, Carnations, Chrysanthemums, Orchids, Asters and Alstroemeria along with fabulous foliage of Rhamnus, Laurel and Griselinia. Barbara talked us through each arrangement along with tales of broken cookers leading to a new kitchen, bathroom total re-wiring and a new cooker. A most interesting story.



It was totally amazing after all the time in lockdown to see beautiful flowers being arranged again. How we had all missed this. Val Green gave the vote of thanks to Barbara for giving us such a wonderful evening. Some Members were lucky enough to win one of these arrangements in the raffle.

We start 2022 on 27<sup>th</sup> January with Terri Potter whose title is "This Way and That". Doors open at 6.30pm for 7pm start. If you like the idea of joining our club, the first meeting is Free. Why not come along and bring a friend in the New year.

In early November Tiptree & District were delighted to welcome Brenda Evers for her demonstration "Winter Time" It was a lovely evening with Brenda producing a series of arrangements in subtle colour schemes and even had time for a quick class on making bows and roses. Brenda has become Chair of the National Speakers Committee, and consequently has handed over the running of the Area Facebook page to Beverly Moore, who had been assisting her for several months.



Gill Shanks, Chairman Kings Lynn Group writes:

"Finally, at last a Facebook page especially for members of NAFAS clubs in the Kings Lynn Group. My intention is to be able to share some fun events, educational workshops and information about things we are involved in and things to look forward to. Do share your news too.

We share our love of flowers through friendship and fun. We want to promote the art of flower arranging throughout this part of the East of England area of NAFAS via the clubs in our group"

Chairman Jan Dobie writes about  
**Brampton Flower Club 45th Anniversary 2021**  
Sapphire Celebrations

What a wonderful celebratory evening we all had on Wednesday 6th October. Over 140 members and their guests enjoyed a truly entertaining evening, starting as they arrived at the Priory Hall with a glass of wine and celebratory piece of cake, with time to peruse the various stalls before we all sat down to watch our guest demonstrator, Jonathan Moseley, create his arrangements. Jonathan as always gave us a truly wonderful evening - with his beautiful floral arrangements plus his equally engaging talk, also urging us to use the many UK flower growers. It was a joy to be there.

At the end of the evening, with the raffle being drawn, various members or guests were lucky to take away some of these truly large and magnificent arrangements to enjoy in their own homes. Thank you to everyone for joining the Brampton Flower Club 45 years celebrations - long may Brampton Village enjoy the monthly activities of the Club.





**Great Baddow Flower Club welcomed Graham King**, with his demonstration “Pure Fantasy” to their October meeting

Graham is a popular, innovative Surrey Area NAFAS Tutor and Demonstrator of crafts and floral designs, and has been very busy teaching and entertaining for over 25 years in the south of England showing creative floral displays and an array of spectacular craftwork to excite and inspire.

As well as demonstrating and teaching to clubs and societies all over the southern counties, he runs monthly creative craft workshops, where many subjects are explored. He says:

'The best way to learn new subjects and techniques is to experiment, play and above all have fun.....'



Graham King

".....When demonstrating I like to arrange designs that are all very different from each other by using different styles and methods. The containers that I use are all created by me, completely homemade, nothing off the peg. It's great fun making designs experimenting with different colour combinations, materials and textures."

A memorial service was held in early November for Linda Harman, Area Demonstrator, who died in October 2020, during lockdown. Friends & family came together at All Hallows Church, Ipswich The occasion was well attended and described by her many friends at Holbrook Flower Club as very moving. There were many beautiful floral tributes to Linda, for whom flowers had been such an important part of her life. (photos next page)



A service to commemorate the life of Ann Knight, who died during the lockdown Spring 2020 will be held at Gayton Church (Kings Lynn) on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Ann's husband, John will make more details available through Area in the New Year.

Many clubs have started to organize workshop sessions again, as an alternative to a demonstration or as an additional event in the club calendar.

**Brampton Flower Club** had a foam free workshop, led by Vicki Hease (Demonstrator & Teacher) to produce all round arrangements using chicken wire. Everyone did very well and enjoyed themselves. They thought the arrangements seem bigger and even more impressive in real life, with such an array of beautiful flowers and colours. (Photos next page)

At **Tiptree & District flower Club**, administrator Loraine Smith asked members to bring to their workshop a variety of foliage, some flowers, berries & ivy trails, whilst the club provided the trays & foam. Lots of very attractive designs were produced (Photos next page)



Brampton's September Workshop with Vicki Hease



Tiptree's ivy basket workshop

**New Creations Floral Design Group** is a club that meets 4 times a year for hands-on workshops. During the summer members worked on Zoom workshops, sharing their finished designs with each other on their own Facebook page. Now they are back to meeting at Woolpit village hall for real life sessions. The first of these was led by Linda Knights (Area Education Officer) to produce a modern vertical design incorporating decorative techniques of binding, wrapping & manipulation. This produced lots of ideas & experiments for use in future sessions. The second workshop was led by committee members Naomi Wells & Sue Astle and involved mincepies & mulled "wine" to invoke an early Christmas atmosphere. The brief was to develop an S-shaped table arrangement from a design in the latest Flora Magazine, using a polystyrene based wreath ring ( or possibly recycling one) The second design was to make & decorate a pine cone sphere.



Roger Woolnough writes: Members and visitors at **Aldeburgh and District Flower Club** created some Christmas magic at their November meeting transforming a potato into a welcoming door swag.

The workshop led by Roger involved the age old method, but now very eco-friendly, using a potato as a base for this long lasting design.

It was good to get together again and enjoy an inspiring afternoon and we now look forward to a bonus Christmas demonstration in December.



And so the race towards Christmas accelerates...

**Hannah Shine** is working very hard at the moment, as she explains:

“My husband Michael and I have been fund raising for Grove Cottage charity (affiliated to MENCAP) and based in Bishops Stortford. We have been opening our garden each year at the end of May to raise much needed funds.

Sadly, we had to cancel our Open Garden Event last year and this; so I decided to continue the fund raising by making autumn wreaths, Christmas wreaths and swags for a donation. All the plant material is from the garden which desperately needs pruning as our flower Clubs had also closed during the lock down.

I belong to two Flower Clubs: Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club and Little Hallingbury Flower Club, both of which I thoroughly enjoy.

By way of background Grove Cottage is a local charity affiliated to MENCAP. Grove Cottage is a registered charity in Bishop's Stortford that provides social and educational activities for people of all ages with learning disabilities to develop their potential, encourage friendships and provide vital respite for their families.

Facebook: Grove Cottage Bishop's Stortford Mencap

The photos show a few images of the wreaths and swags Hannah was making in October & November. If you would like a seasonal wreath you can order by emailing her direct at

[hannah.shine@btinternet.com](mailto:hannah.shine@btinternet.com)

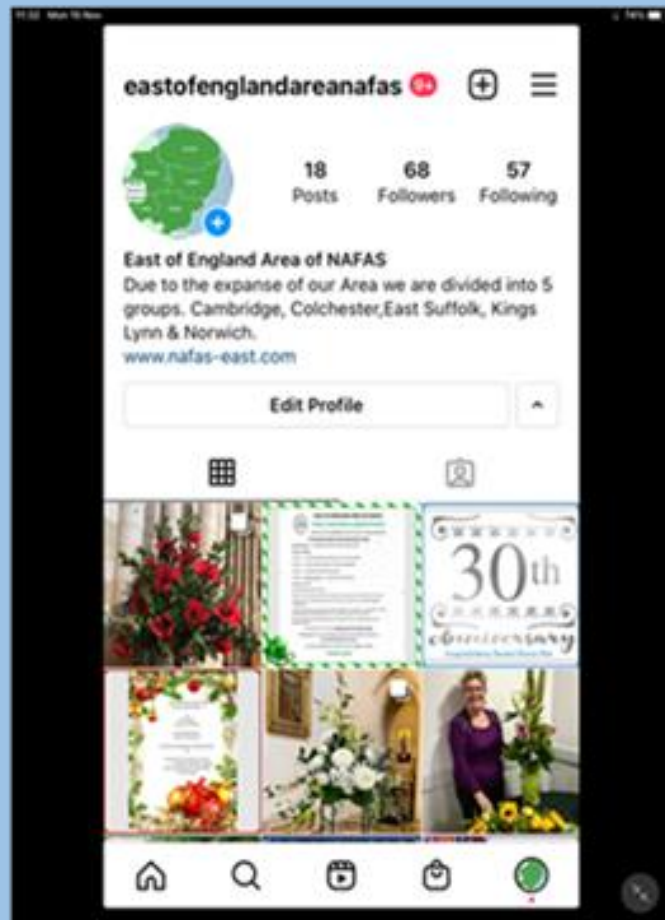
Suggested donation £20 - £25. Collection only from Hatfield Heath please.

Here are a selection of Hannah's beautiful wreaths – If you are reading this newsletter as soon as it goes online, (1st December) you will probably still have time to place an order. Perhaps Hannah can be persuaded to carry on fundraising and make Spring wreaths to cheer us all up in the early part of the New Year.



Nafas-East (The East of England Area of NAFAS) has increased its presence on social media by creating an account on Instagram. It is masterminded by media team member Beverly Moore, who has, as previously mentioned, taken over the administration of the Facebook account. It is hoped that an Instagram presence will help us to target a different audience, possibly younger, but certainly people who may not be aware of NAFAS or be current members of flower clubs. If you already have an Instagram account search for us & follow @eastofenglandareanafas On the following page you will see “screenshots” (photos) of our profile picture (left) and our profile screen (right) with part of

our “grid” of photos showing – the grid shows all the posts that we have put on Instagram, so it is very easy to scroll back through past posts. Photos & text should be sent to Beverly at [facebook.nafaseast@gmail.com](mailto:facebook.nafaseast@gmail.com) who will post it on Facebook and/or Instagram.



And just to remind you – items for the website should be sent to [web.nafaseast@gmail.com](mailto:web.nafaseast@gmail.com)

And items for Spotlight East to [newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.com) but we work as a team, often sharing the information you make available and placing it on more than one platform.

We are now approaching one of the busiest times in the flower arrangers calendar - Christmas! Do let us know all about your floral events, your Christmassy workshops and share your wonderful designs. By the New Year you may feel it's all in the past, but your shared experiences are so useful to other clubs when planning for Christmas 2022 – and it will be here before you know it!

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas from us all at the Media Team.

Lindi Carrington















