

# SPOTLIGHT EAST

Newsletter for Members of The East of England Area of NAFAS

Welcome to the Summer edition of the newsletter, featuring all the news from our busy, creative members throughout the Area. Our coverage starts with March/April & Easter, which was quite late this year, thus missing the Spring Edition. But it's the time when our gardens are bursting into delicate blossoms and our creative juices really start to flow: we couldn't leave it out!

**East of England Council** – Lindi Carrington writes:

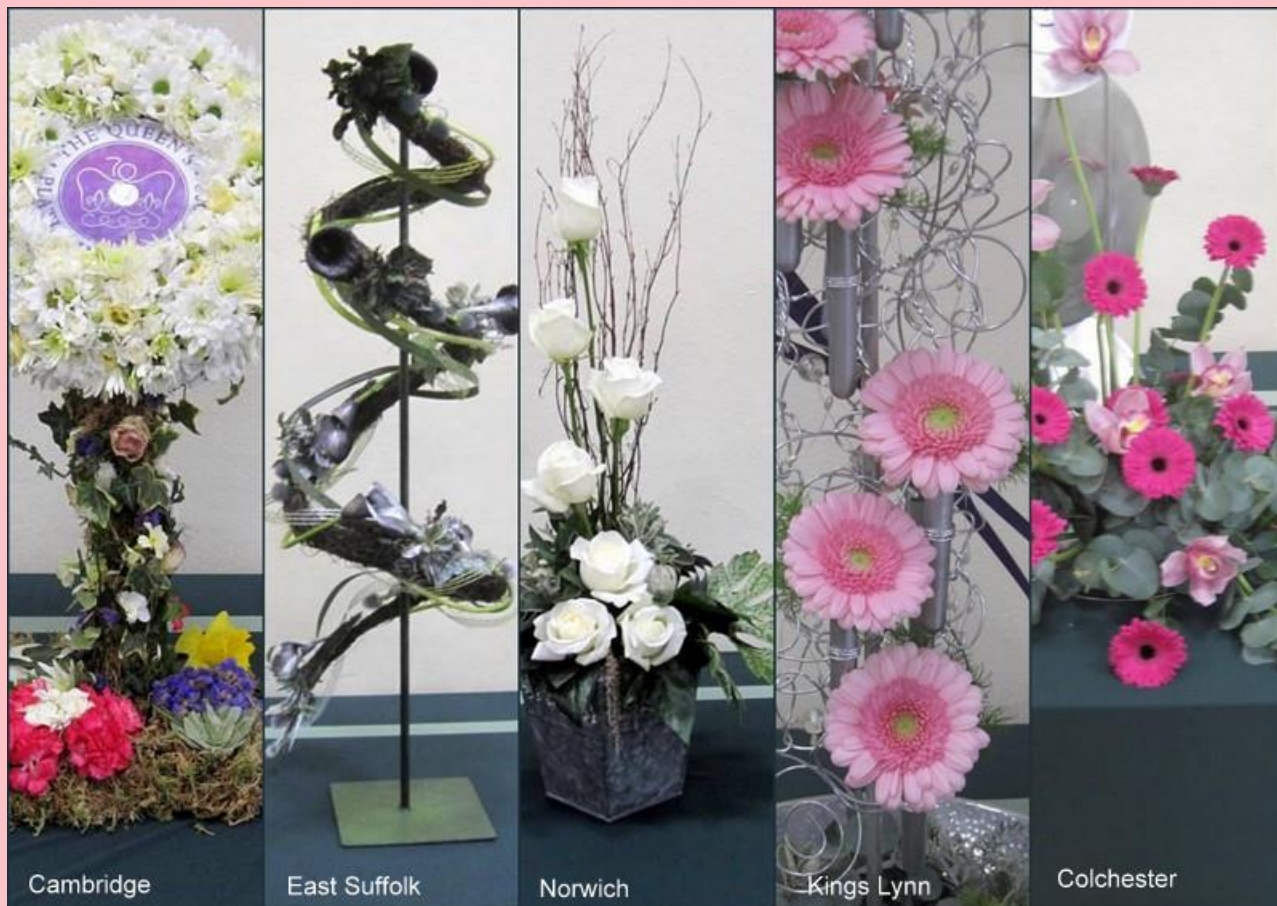
There was a real feeling of Spring for the Area Council meeting yesterday, with a glorious welcome pedestal by David Thomson, Chairman Colchester Group, and all the tables decorated with pots of daffodils. Everyone loved the decorative collar, trimmed with buttons, around the yellow pots. They were very popular as raffle prizes as everyone wanted to investigate (copy!) the mechanics for their own club workshops, raffles etc.



Judy Wynn, NAFAS National Judge kindly judged the Inter-Group Competition and before the exhibitor cards were turned over to reveal the names of the designers, Judy gave an appraisal of each to an enthralled audience. This was very interesting and no doubt very useful for our members who compete.

Judy congratulated Yvonne Wagstaff of the Kings Lynn Group on her excellent design declaring it the overall winner. Yvonne was praised for the contrast of texture, good use of enclosed space, appropriate colouring to reflect the platinum theme, a strong rhythm and for being foam-free. Judy said that Yvonne's design stood out and was in her opinion the obvious winner.

Congratulations we're given to the other four designers and they were all praised for the high standard of work and Judy concluded by saying how much she had enjoyed the task of judging the Inter Group Competition.



David Thomson - Colchester Group , Caroline Barnes - East Suffolk Group  
 Susan Williams - Norwich Group, Yvonne Wagstaff - Kings Lynn Group

**Norwich Group Spring Competition** – Jennie Baker, Chairman Norwich Group writes:

Norwich group organised a spring competition on line. Sadly this was not very well supported, but we did get some lovely designs from those who entered. Anne Bridge kindly judged, and she was especially impressed by the juniors designs.

Results as follows:

Class 1 The Season Awakens

1<sup>st</sup>. Margery Riley Bungay 2<sup>nd</sup> David Baker Harleston 3<sup>rd</sup> Catherine Spurgin Harleston

Class 2 A Woodland Walk in Spring

1<sup>st</sup> Mu Gurbutt Bungay 2<sup>nd</sup> Jackie Petherick Norwich 3<sup>rd</sup> Margery Riley Harleston

Class 3 I Love Paris in the Springtime. 1<sup>st</sup> Mu Gurbutt Bungay 2<sup>nd</sup> Tricia Loades Loddon

Novice Class

1<sup>st</sup> Paula Bailey Harleston 2<sup>nd</sup> Helen Naunton Harleston 3<sup>rd</sup> Catherine Spurgin Harleston



The junior class was a pave' design in a seed tray, arranged in sand.

1<sup>st</sup> Ellie Applegate 1<sup>st</sup> Riley Skeet 2<sup>nd</sup> Mala Wise 2<sup>nd</sup> Maisie Lloyd

3<sup>rd</sup> Tallulah High 3<sup>rd</sup> Sienna High HC Henry Flynn HC Callie McMahon HC Lana McMahon  
HC Lola Skeet C Bebe-Rose Lonergan C Asia Rossi C Luca Vitesse C Poppie Evans C Isla Skeet  
C Daisy Skee C Joseph Vitesse

All the above are members of Bradwell Buds.

### Jenni Baker continues:

I recently went on a visit to see Bradwell Buds in operation. This is the Norwich Groups junior club, held at Bradwell and run by Julia Knights. On the occasion that I visited they were planting up pots of bulbs. Each bulb was planted in a layer, which they had to measure with a ruler. A very good maths activity. Some of the children informed me that they were making a "bulb lasagne!" They were planting them into large pots which they had decorated at a previous club night. It was lovely to see such enthusiasm, with ages ranging between about 4 and 14, and lots of parent helpers.

Well done Julia and your team, these youngsters are the future of NAFAS.



As well as organising competitions, Jenni is a keen competitor herself – she told us about her personal experience of entering this year’s Harrogate Spring Flower Show:

“Bags packed, off we went to Harrogate.

I have been a keen competitor for many years, and have had some degree of success. A few years ago my husband, David, decided that he would like to give it a go, and after competing as a novice he decided to join the “grown-ups”.

Only 8 stems in the wrap of callas, off to the wholesalers to get some more. He needed 10, 8 would not be enough, and they were very small..

Hold up at Sutton Bridge, added another half hour to the journey, also the sun was beating down on those flower boxes!!

Eventually arrived at Harrogate, after travelling through Knaresborough, not a good idea. Decided to go to the hotel first, have a coffee and freshen up before going off to do our designs.

“We have a reservation”, “Could the booking be made in a different name?” Now, why would it? My grandchildren get annoyed because I do not delete emails on my phone very quickly, well for once it paid off. I found the booking email, and the bank statement, so the receptionist would “look into it”. Had we cancelled the booking for any reason, if so why were we sitting there? To cut a long story short, after an hour we were given an upgrade, for our patience. So, who had made a mistake then?

Eventually we got to the showground and began our designs. Both worked away quietly and eventually had a snack and a drink. By about 7 o’clock it starts to get cold, but we carried on, eventually finishing and packing up, to go back to the hotel.

Well, he has done it again! Not only a first prize, but best in show too. Perhaps it is time I hung up my scissors, but I think I enjoy it too much to do that. He had better watch out I might enter the same class as he does, or perhaps that is a bit too risky!!”

David's winning - Double Vision. Design. Jenni was awarded a 3<sup>rd</sup> for her design – Verdant Fusion, but unfortunately we don't have a photo.



The approach of Easter inspired many clubs to organise workshops for members to create designs using both their own garden flowers and commercially grown ones, often those “naughty” tulips that won't stay where you put them!

**Christine Hewson, Secretary Breckland Flower Club** tells us about the her workshop groups:

“I have been running a Wednesday morning workshop of 16 people; many of them have been with me since 2014 and lots of them are members of Brecklands flower club.

I also have started an evening beginner's group - just 6 at the moment which is enough to start with. It gives me the opportunity to spend time going round and helping them. Two of them have now joined a flower club.”

You can see Christine's students designs for Easter using a frame, on the next page. They are foam free and would adapt well to other seasons.



Dengie Hundred Flower Club told us that they had a fantastic workshop in mid-April, thanks to Jane Cowell. They made two placements with a Spring/Easter feel and they all looked lovely. They will aim to hold more workshops this year.





Great Ellingham were very busy too .....using a wide variety of plant material & accessories.



**Sylvie Cooper, Feering Flower Club**, explains how to make her Easter design:

“The container originally held mini eggs, but I kept it “just in case”. I cut into two and bound each segment with a mixture of wool and jute twine, using double sided tape to keep it in place. I then placed a shaped piece of wet foam into bottom half and kebab sticks into foam to rest the top half onto - then used small flowers keeping them in line with outline of the egg shape. The small eggs are styrene shapes bound in the same way. The foil covered eggs are my treat! Give me flowers, wool, twine and double sided tape and I’ll happily play all day”



The ultimate opportunity for flower arrangers at this time has to be the opportunity to arrange seasonal flowers, often the Easter lilies, in a beautiful church which has been without flowers for Lent.

**Adele Kent, Costessey Flower Club** ( & retired Area demonstrator, although we still can’t believe this!) continues to arrange flowers in her local church St Remigius, Hethersett, and encourages the less experienced arrangers on the flower rota – photos next page

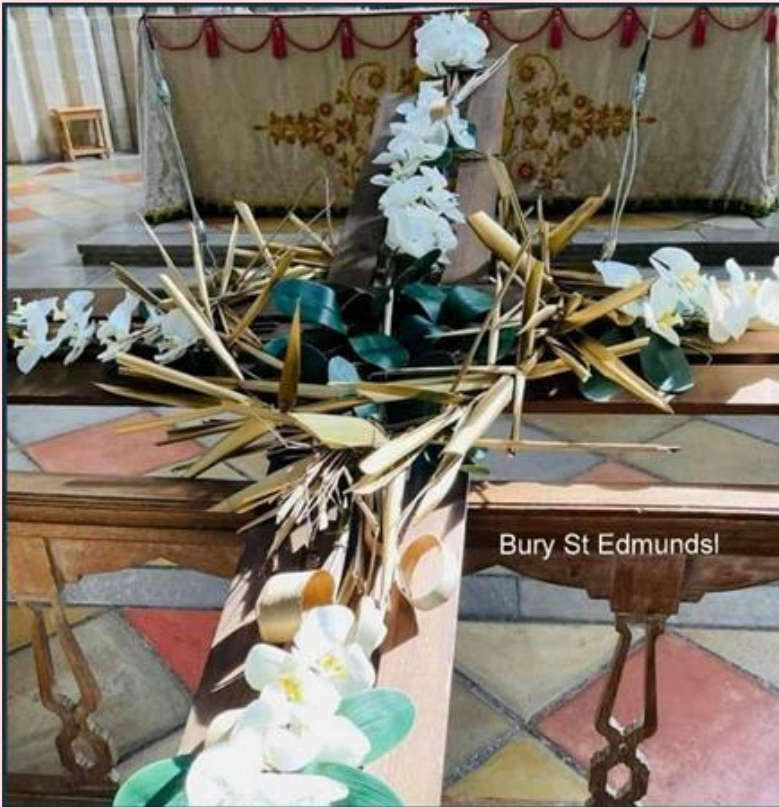




St Remigius, Hethersett



Photos below: Detail of the crown of thorns on the cross at St Edmundsbury, Vicki Hease.  
Lilies at Ely Cathedral, Moira Neville



Bury St Edmunds



Ely Cathedral



Filling a parish church with flowers for all the major festivals in the church calendar is often quite a task for the volunteers on the flower arranging rota. We couldn't imagine what it would be like to fill a cathedral..... so we asked **Judy Wynn, Past Chairman, Ely Cathedral Flower Guild**, to tell us:

"My experience as chairman of the Ely Cathedral Flower Guild began, (and thereby becoming very much a member of the cathedral family) one winter afternoon, when I had a visit from the then Cathedral Canon responsible for looking after the guild. I was aware that this was a great honour and opportunity, and the invitation was initially for three years –which stretched somewhat and I ended up being officially chairman for some 10 years! I lived very locally, 10 minutes from the cathedral, and I encouraged a friend Mary Foister to help, and between us we have enjoyed the challenge and the experience – we are still involved but endeavouring to pull back as I no longer live locally.

So what is involved when each week flowers need to be arranged? Except for the period of Lent and Advent the guild produces several large arrangements each week. We have cut back since the pandemic, partly due to cost, partly due to lack of 'man' power, except when there is a special event, a wedding or a funeral etc.

We used to produce 6-7 large arrangements each week. We now aim for 4, and source the flowers from a local firm based at Upwell, a firm run by a local family who have a market stall every Thursday, and our order is delivered at about 7 am to the South Door. We used to have a large Dutch lorry deliver for weddings but sadly they are no more. The plant material is then conditioned and sorted into their various buckets by a couple of arrangers each week- usually the co-ordinator and one other. The co-ordinator appointed for each week chooses the colour scheme, unless there is a wedding etc. He or she is responsible for working out amounts and contacting her team for that week. Sometimes foliage is bought but usually we the guild members try to provide from our own gardens or from friends.

A rota is prepared at the beginning of the year, with now 3-4 arrangers each normal week – used to be 6 -but of course festivals involve more – usually about 20 volunteers for the Christian festivals, Easter, Harvest and Christmas, plus Candlemas, a smaller festival but obviously a chance to use lots of candles. Members are usually keen to support Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We have just celebrated Easter in full for the first time for 3 years with glorious Longiflorum Lilies, Roses and Lizianthus . We also annually host and decorate for an Open University ceremony, and degree ceremonies for Alconbury and Lakenheath American bases, plus many other special occasions as they arise.

For weddings we may be asked to provide extra flowers on the screen at the altar and sometimes we have designed arches – one extra-large one over the South Door took four of us all morning to arrange! The brides have a very long walk down the nave to the Presbytery where the ceremony is usually held in front of the beautiful Cathedral High Altar, surrounded by lit candles.

We probably have 30-40 guild members, plus 5 flower clubs and groups.- Littleport, Burwell and City of Ely and Cambridge, as they have no cathedral , and likewise we also welcome a group from Wisbech. I don't know how we would manage without their input and support.

I suppose the most special and treasured memories are from the two Flower Festivals that I was involved with – co-designed with Roger Woolnough. 'In the Beginning' 2013 with the river of water down the nave was a never to be forgotten experience, and the opportunity at the end for Roger and I to paddle down the aisle with the Dean!

Kaleidoscope 2018 still involved water cascading into a pool, surrounded by orchids, with a kaleidoscope of flowers reflecting the Octagon Altar ceiling, plus depictions of the nave ceiling bible stories, all adding up to another memorable colourful occasion.

“ Kaleidoscope of Life”



“River of God”



Looking back there was an enormous amount of organisation involved, and literally hundreds of enthusiastic arrangers from all over East Anglia involved. We couldn't have produced these festivals without the support and encouragement of our Area members.

The first festival used The Creation as its inspiration and the second the colourful stories from the ceiling paintings were depicted, as I believe a festival in a church or cathedral should have a Christian message shining through. I hope that for most of us involved in the cathedral flowers week by week, the flowers and foliage are carefully and lovingly chosen and collected, and as we bring God's creation into the building to enhance this historic cathedral, we do so for the glory of God.

We know that flowers have the power to bring joy, to help to heal, to comfort when people are sad and we hope that we touch the many locals, visitors and worshippers as they experience and enjoy the arrangements we have produced, as we have hopefully used our gifts and talents to bring pleasure to so many."

Judy Wynn.

Clubs are really back in full swing now. Here are a selection of reports from around the Area.

**Loddon Flower Club - Tricia Loades** writes:

"Now that we are all living with Covid-19, our Club has had a busy few months. In March we had Vicki Hease come along with her title of 'A Vintage Affair' when she took us on a journey from the 1920's to the present day with her arrangements. Terri Potter joined us in April, with some fantastic designs with her title of 'This, Way and That' which was all about Alice in Wonderland. May saw Brenda Tubb at our meeting with her title of 'Challenges' and Brenda kept us entertained with stories of her husband! Brenda very kindly judged a competition for members entitled 'A Vintage Affair'.



Vicki & Terri both managed to co-ordinate their own outfits to their demonstration titles!

We had a lovely afternoon in our President, Diane Blyth's garden in April when we raised some funds for our Club. We were also able to make a donation to The Nook which is part of the East Anglian Children's Hospice at Framingham Earl of £45. There was lots of cake and conversation. Many of our members took part in National Flower Arranging Day on 6<sup>th</sup> May when there were 16 arrangements left for people to find in our area. Hopefully we will have some new members as a result of this.

Sadly, in March our Vice-Chairman, Peter Watson passed away and he will be very much missed. Peter had hosted workshops for us and was a big part of our Club and he had a lovely sense of humour. For a time, he ran his own business called Pete's Petals and had trained under Brenda Tubb.

In June we have our Presidents workshop entitled 'Ready, Steady, Arrange' when we will be making an arrangement in a tea cup. We also have a visit planned on 15<sup>th</sup> June to A Place for Plants in Suffolk and Beth Chatto's garden in Essex. To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Anniversary, the Church in Loddon have asked us to host a Flower Festival in St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon where we meet. The title is 'The Queen and Commonwealth' and will be held over the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July. On the Saturday afternoon we have invited Lois Gill to talk about the Queen. Lois was not able to attend our February meeting and she will be bringing her knitted Queen for display.

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)."

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

"It was a super meeting last Tuesday, with Jenni Baker demonstrating 'The Colours of India'. Her talk was very entertaining and her arrangements superb as you can see from the photo attached. I don't want to add them all as I don't want to spoil the pleasure of those who may not yet have seen her demonstration.

We had around 50 attending. Thanks again for the lovely home-made cakes Shirley and Margaret!



Jenni, drawing on her experiences of competing in WFA Jaipur, just before lockdown 2020

## Cambridge Group had a highly successful Spring Meeting on 19 March

Flower Club members from Mildenhall, Newport & District, Herts & Essex Boundary, Clare, Biggleswade, Saffron Walden, Little Hallingbury, Cambridge, Brampton & West Essex enjoyed a wonderful day at Cambridge Group Spring Meeting.

The sun was shining everyone was in good spirits as they were greeted with smiling faces and a beautiful welcome pedestal created by committee member Tricia Pratley. Stalls selling metal and wooden stands & displays, accessories, & greeting cards were well received with everyone enjoying a bit of retail therapy.

The speaker was Jane Malyon from The English Cream Tea Company. Jane was very entertaining and with audience participation on the etiquette of drinking tea and eating scones it was both fun and informative.



Following a delicious salad lunch everyone settled into their seats to be entertained by Stephen McDonnell - 9 times Gold Medal Chelsea winner.

Stephen used quite an interesting selection of mechanics for his demonstration, which included a bedstead, hat stand and part of a temporary dance floor! So many amusing stories as each of his designs were created with amazing blooms of all shapes and sizes. (photo next page) East of England Area President Sue Brinton gave the Vote of Thanks.

*Editors note: We were delighted to learn that Stephen was awarded a Silver Gilt medal at the Chelsea Flower Show, for his tablescape which he had been telling us about as he demonstrated.*



**Mildenhall Flower Club** had an excellent evening at their recent open meeting with 98 ladies attending when demonstrator David Wright royally entertained them all. David spoke of his love of wild life and cycling, and showed us some of the chicken wire animals he makes and sells.



The committee produced a fabulous buffet and club members also made the table centres in the theme of a rainbow. The foyer flowers were made by club member Linda Allen. Guests included Barbara Collins, East of England Area Chairman and Carol Giffen, Cambridge Group



**Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club – April meeting with Lee Berrill “Wonderful World”**

Lee Berrill is always a delight to watch and last night was no exception. He started by mentioning that when he created this demonstration and title who would have known how in recent weeks the world showed that it was not always so wonderful! Lee has kindly given permission to share some his designs. Lee’s first design was ‘Sunshine’ - All the beautiful yellow flowers definitely brought the sunshine feel, the added structure was made by Lee and was the first of his designs with handmade mechanics.

The 2nd design was about having photographic memories, it was amusing as he spoke about modern phone technology when he brought out onto the stage a black box camera/ tripod. The white lilies of this design smelt divine.

Lee admitted he is a hoarder of driftwood and just one of his pieces created a beautiful mechanic for another of his designs.  
(Photos next page)





Further designs depicted the wonderful world of travel taking us to Egypt and Asia and the wonderful world of foliage and flowers. An excellent evening.

**“Celebrations” Stowmarket Flower Club**



There have been so many celebratory events recently, that Stowmarket & District Flower Club kicked off their summer season with the aptly named in-house demonstration “Celebrations” Julie Head demonstrated “Weddings”, Lorna Scott presented “40th and 50th Wedding Anniversaries” and Vicki Hease did “Party!” All the designers used an environmentally friendly method of arranging flowers such as: hand-ties with a binding wire construction, aluminium wire in a charity shop Pyrex dish. It was an enjoyable afternoon and was well attended by members and guests.

### **President’s Day**

It was a triumphant return to “The Beeches” at Isleham to celebrate Jean Crane’s President’s Day on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April. Strictly speaking Jean’s term of office ended last October, before it had really begun, due to the pandemic. But as she said “We’re tough old birds”, and back together again, to give Jean her moment of glory and a proper chance to wear the President’s badge. The morning started with speaker Linda Scoles and her lively description of her “Journey to Citizenship.” And what a journey! From the foothills of the Cascade Mountains in Washington State to the small Suffolk village of Great Barton, Linda told us “I’m as British as Y’all”. In fact she’s probably more so, as she passed her citizenship exam on the British way of life at first attempt – 90% of people fail the first time. She rounded off her talk by putting put through some of the exam questions; as a group, we failed abysmally!



After lunch and the opportunity of some retail therapy from the wonderful variety of stallholders, we were delighted by Beryl Cotton’s demonstration “Unexpected Blessings”. Beryl is a member of the National Flower Arranging Committee, and lives in Hollywell, in Flintshire where she runs her floral business. As she related many delightful stories about her customers over the years, she quickly filled the stage with an amazing variety of designs.



Linda Scholes



Beryl Cotton

There was formal structure with leaf manipulation; soft flowing foliage; containers of all shapes and sizes - some rustic textured, some sleek & shiny; and all full of sensational blooms. Most designs were presented alongside variations on the same theme which Linda had prepared earlier. By the end of the demonstration the stage was filled with a mass of flowers, the contrasting designs, shapes & textures all working together through a well- chosen colour palette of soft delicate pastels with highlights of stronger oranges & purples. It was a splendid culmination of Jean's term of office.

**Ruby, sapphire, emerald, gold, diamond, platinum – we've had the crown jewels of club anniversaries this year.**

**Breckland Flower & Garden Club** celebrated 40 years - Christine Hewson writes:

What a day !!!! A fabulous lunch and a fantastic demonstration by Brenda Tubb to make us laugh and give us fun with flowers. We presented a cheque for £400 to the prostate cancer charity as Ursula Jackson, one of our committee members, lost her husband to this illness during lockdown.

Photos next page – President & founder member Joy Tunmore & Chairman Christine Hewson with the committee ; the cheque is presented to the charity by Joy Tunmore Ursula Jackson.



**Sandy Flower Clubs 45th Sapphire Anniversary** celebration Monday 11th April 2022  
 Sandy Flower Club should have celebrated their 45th Sapphire Anniversary last year in 2021, but due to restrictions it wasn't possible, so twenty-five club members celebrated this year.

Sapphires come in varying colours, so we decided to go for blue and yellow for the evening. The tables were dressed in blue table clothes. Rosemary Blain made the yellow floral table decorations. We asked members to take part in a floral competition titled "Easter" and bring their arrangements with them on the evening. Everyone took part and we had a wonderful array of exhibits. The judging was conducted by all the members by placing a coin next to their favourite arrangement. They were all beautiful, but Marian Atfield gained 1st prize with a basket arrangement and Gloria James gained 2nd prize with a dainty arrangement.



The cake was cut by Marian Atfield (Far right) (one of the founder members of the club) & Sue Alexander, current Chairman. During the evening, the Chairman presented Val Bickerdyke with her 25-year membership certificate..

For more information on being a part of our floral art group, please contact:  
 Sue Alexander, Chairman on 01767 699729 Visitors always welcome to our demonstrations

## All about the Cake and Prosecco for Dereham this year

Dereham & District Flower Club has been reflecting on their thriving club that's been going for over 45 years and their Sapphire Celebration in April.

We've had a successful Club ever since its beginnings back in the Seventies. Members were proudly involved in preparing floral arrangements for the visit of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother for the opening of the Queen Mother's Garden in Dereham in 1983. The Club has been represented at numerous flower shows, locally and nationally, including RHS Chelsea and closer to home, the Royal Norfolk Show. Always keen to share their love of flowers, our members often take part in flower festivals in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.



Photos: clockwise from top left: Cake, made by Angela; Lavinia Pirit & Sylvia Preston; Lavinia with Jan Lawlet; Sue Brinton, Chairman Corinne Steward & the committee.

The Club's enthusiastic committee, who have over 240 years' combined flower arranging experience between them, devote a lot of their personal time to arranging an annual programme of events as well as the monthly club nights. Our full programme also includes garden visits, outings, hands-on workshops and in-house flower arranging classes. Last year saw the club reach its 45th (Sapphire) Anniversary but because of COVID the celebrations had to be postponed to this year. In April a large group of members and visitors celebrated with Prosecco and Cake, whilst watching demonstrator Arnaud Arni Métairie create a stunning set of floral arrangements – he was duly rewarded with a standing ovation!

We were joined by Sue Brinton, our East of England Area President who thanked the Committee for their work and presented Corinne Steward our Chairman with a bouquet in recognition of her dedication and leadership of the Club. The traditional photo of the cutting of the cake with Committee members and Sue Brinton was taken for NAFAS News.

Members and visitors welcomed the opportunity to commemorate the special anniversary and we look forward to many more years of having fun with friends and flowers.

### **WICKHAM Market Flower Club- Emerald Celebration Meeting Thursday 28th April 2022**

Demonstrator Nick Grounds – “Valse des Fleurs” Secretary Mandy Pryke writes:

“When this appeared on our programme information, I, for one, had no idea what this meant and what the implications might be. I didn’t have long to wait, unlike the celebration of our Emerald Anniversary, which should have happened last year. No, we didn’t forget, it’s just that COVID got in the way.

Our Chairman June welcomed Gloria Goodley, our Area Vice Chairman, members from Woodbridge, Aldeburgh and Framlingham, our own Wickham Market club members, guests and friends to the meeting. It was lovely to see the hall fill up with expectant happy faces. She also welcomed our 1st Responder, Mike who was in attendance for the evening.

June then introduced us to our demonstrator for the evening, Nick Grounds, who with the typical auctioneers voice we know him for, loudly wished us all a Happy Birthday.

And so the absolute magic began. With his incredible love, joy and passion for all natural beauty Nick started to create an explosion on the stage. “Valse des Fleurs” Or as we were to learn “ The Waltz of the Flowers”.



With each of the arrangements Nick created, we were drawn into his world of natural beauty. All things from a small un-interesting milk bottle to a Mrs. Patmore style Soup Terrine , (Minus the lid of course), Elder wood stumps were filled with a variety of foliage and glorious flowers as we were told stories of his Grandmother Twanky and his usage of the new ecological Floral Foam. We learned about his “Scary Shed”, the 25 year old wedding bouquet of his sisters firmly ensconced in the downstairs loo on the window ledge , even surviving a move when it maybe would have been better lost. Interesting thoughts about people who own horses that spend hours driving them around, holding up the traffic. Surely better to ride them so no holdups for anyone. Plus the story is of a child’s “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang car raising a large unexpected amount at an auction.

The chat was interrupted with frequent gasps of delight and wonder as he found yet another delightful exhibit in his boxes of flowers. Nick delighted us with the beautiful colours of Gerbera, Roses, Orange Tulips, Alliums, Carnations, Freesia's, Ranunculus, Viburnum, Chrysanthemum and Lilies. Foliage of huge variety, contrast and colours. The stage was truly a Valse des Fleurs – Waltz of the Flowers. A Phenomenal tribute to the man who says “Love it because you Love it” and “What matters never changes”



Chairman June Allum cutting the cake with President Elsie Leeding, as the committee look on.

### **Sylvie Cooper writes about Feering Flower Clubs Diamond celebration**

“What a super 60th celebration we had today, with a fab lunch overlooking the glorious Colne Valley golf course. Demonstrator Robin White amused and entertained us (I've not laughed so much in a long time ) whilst creating an amazing array of designs depicting 'Anniversaries ' - culminating of course with Diamond. I was very lucky to be drawn 1st in the raffle; hard decision, but I chose 'Copper' - what a stunner

Our Chair Sue created the beautiful Diamond Dazzler designs in reception. Thank you to Committee for their hard work in putting together a most enjoyable day - here's to the next 60!

Robin White posted photos on social media, saying how much he had enjoyed the event at Feering. Photos next page.



**70 years of Norwich Flower Club & HM Queen's Jubilee - A joint celebration  
by Jennifer Salman, Vice Chairman**

While I look back at the old archives it is with amazement at how far we have come as a floral club. It was after the Second World War when various ladies travelled to America and saw how the garden club movement welcomed flower arranging as something to be linked with plant growing.

My grandmother was a marvellous flower arranger and I have such fond memories, but things have changed so I'm even more delighted to be here at this Platinum celebration luncheon for the Queen's Jubilee and Norwich Flower Club's 70th birthday at Sprowston Manor Hotel. As Vice Chairman, I look around the room at all the smiling faces I know it has been a delight. We enjoyed a two-course meal and a superb raffle. The Norwich Flower Club is a friendly zone, so anyone with a floral interest, please come and join us. We meet at the Assembly House every 3rd Monday at 1.45pm and a big smile awaits as well as oozing design.

Seventy years on and the fact that the club still exists must be because it has adapted, developed, rejuvenated and moved with the times and trends. So, never say never. Modification can reinvigorate and certainly, how we view designs, mechanics and eco awareness has changed as we move forward with strong views on sustainability.

I would like to thank Christine Silvester who organised ticketing and for proposing the Loyal toast to our sovereign, to Gloria Goodley, Area Vice Chairman, who proposed a toast to Norwich Flower Club and to our loyal and wonderful committee who band together to make our club so special.



Vice Chairman, Jennifer Salman (middle) with members of the committee



Chairman, Joyce Youngman (left) with members of the committee



And lastly a celebration of a different kind – the ceremony to commemorate the life of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The service took place on Tuesday 29th March 2022 at Westminster Abbey and was conducted by the Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster and sung by the Choirs of Westminster Abbey and Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, St James's Palace. NAFAS received a privileged invitation to arrange the flowers – the East of England was represented by David Thomson, National Demonstrator and Sue Brinton, Past National President & Chairman. Photos next page.

David Thomson writes: "Had a great day at Westminster Abbey as part of the team doing the flowers for the Duke of Edinburgh's thanksgiving service. Watched the broadcast but no sight of my flowers because they were hidden behind the line- up of clergy at the west door. A couple of photo to prove I actually did something! "



Many more clubs are organising hands-on workshops: sometimes as an alternative to a demonstration, but often as an additional activity to the published programme, ensuring that their members feel they are getting great value for money from their subscription.

**Jane Willis, Chairman Great Baddow Flower Club writes:**

"These are designs produced at our Spring Workshop on 29 March. A wide range of abilities and experience took part; the workshop was taught by a member who is a retired local education floristry tutor. Everyone was pleased with the results, but probably even more pleased that we could get together to be creative in a friendly and co-operative atmosphere.

It is always intriguing to see the variety that results from a 'standard' design.

(photos on next page)



### **New Creations Floral Design Group**

Lindi Carrington writes:

“We had a busy exciting workshop at the end of March, led by Barbara Collins. The day started with her demonstration of the traditional Hogarth Curve and two variations on it, as table arrangements. The Group had requested this topic as it is quite specialised and not often demonstrated. As the morning progressed we found out why this was so, as we struggled to match Barbara’s amazing designs.

In the past we would share a communal table for our packed lunches, but we are still maintaining social distancing ; and we were also enthusiastic to complete our “curves”. So we had a working lunch, at our tables before Barbara demonstrated some foam free mechanics using cornus and pussy willow, sometimes incorporating decorative wire.

These included grids, support structures for hand-ties and a “church window” mechanic. We were then encourage to experiment for the rest of the session. We gathered round to view everyone's work, whilst Barbara gave useful, positive critique. And then the raffle..... everyone hoping to win one of the demonstration pieces, although the chocolates, pansies & daffodils were all very desirable too. “

Photos next page



We're a hard-working, friendly club, delighted to welcome new members. Come and join us at Woolpit Village Hall just off the A14. IP30 9QX All the details are on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/406734070384450/>

Our East of England demonstrators are working even harder these days, travelling long distances and often covering at short notice for colleagues who have succumbed to covid. It was good to see several familiar faces at the recent Demonstrators Symposium – refreshing their skills, revitalising & socialising.

**Jacqui Arnold, Symposium Co-ordinator writes:**

The long awaited Demonstrators Symposium was held on 21-24 April 2022 at the Telford Hotel & Golf resort .After the many, many months of planning, organisation and preparations leading up to our event, I was so very proud and pleased with the amazing responses received from our Delegates. They enjoyed meeting up again, sharing a few days with likeminded flowery friends and left feeling refreshed and inspired. Thank you all who attended and Team National Demonstrators Committee.

**Angela Turner, National Demonstrator** has allowed us to share some candid comments & photos from her Instagram account.

“Such an honour to be invited to give a presentation at the NAFAS National Demonstrators’ Symposium. Demonstrating to your peers from around the UK has to be one of the scariest gigs; lockdown delays only prolonged the anxiety but keep calm and carry on became the mantra.

“Note to self - as a performer nervousness is an asset - you need to turn the adrenaline into energy to get you through and raise you to where you need to be. Why did I worry? I had the best audience who embraced the #foamfree ideas and ‘Sound of Colour’, soaked up my light and shade and totally rocked my suggestion of shaking their maracas and having a boogie to the tropical finale: the spontaneous conga even surpassed my wildest expectations ”



The spontaneous Conga – how many familiar faces can you spot?

National Flower Arranging Day, May 6<sup>th</sup>, is a great opportunity to promote for clubs to promote themselves locally and make people aware of the fun & friendship that awaits them at their local flower club. To keep the costs down simple hand-ties & jam jar arrangements, often using garden flowers were often used, with the NAFAS “Take me Home “ label attached.



**Marilyn Pearce, North Walsham Flower Club** commented:

“I now know every bench in North Walsham & it's situation with the sun. Finally found 8 benches in the shade. I hope I've made someone's day.”

Working in the community, getting involved with local events, fund raising for local charities are all good ways of raising your clubs' profile and meeting potential members.

On Tuesday 20th April **Sandra Price (Area Demonstrator & Chairman of Walton on the Naze Flower Club)** and her friends organised a wonderful tea party at the delightful and quaint St George's Hall, Walton on the Naze when around 50 members mainly from Holland on Sea, Clacton and Walton Flower clubs were joined by others from farther afield.

The sunny, warm weather added to what was a wonderful afternoon with designs by Sandra and Pat South to inspire us to "have a go", using and recycling old pots, baskets and casserole dishes. Everyone was keen to win one of the lovely designs and of course one of the many other raffle prizes.



All profits from the afternoon will be given to Acorn Villages, a charity providing residential care and support for people with learning disabilities. Sandra and the guests were pleased to welcome Michelle Cooke the CEO of the charity to the tea party and thrilled to raise £535 for Acorn Villages. The even better news is that with gift aid this sum will increase by a further 25%.



### **Wickham Flower Club Fashion Show – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May.**

Every year Our Chairman ,June Allum chooses a local charity for us to raise money for. This year it is Wickham Market 1<sup>st</sup> Responders. At every flower club meeting we have a 1<sup>st</sup> Responder with us “Just in case”. To show them how much this 1<sup>st</sup> Aid cover is appreciated, any specific fundraising this year will help them towards the cost of equipment etc.

We decided that along with our Local “Inspirations” shop we would hold a Fashion Show in the village hall. The date we decided was Unlucky for some, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May. After lots of planning, advertising, printing posters and tickets, requesting Raffle prizes and arranging seven outfits for each the six models, the evening of the event came round.

While the village hall slowly filled up, us anxious models were waiting with some trepidation in the back room. We were given instructions on how to flaunt the outfits, choose matching footwear, jewellery and handbags and the route to take down the catwalk. We did enjoy a glass of wine while we were waiting to start. Purely to calm the nerves you understand.

Soon we were ready to begin. One by one we posed, walked, turned and showed off our garments to our audience. Our Compere for the evening went through each item we were wearing, giving out details of the make, sizing, colours available and cost. The audience showed their appreciation by clapping as we returned to the back room for the next outfit. Thank goodness for all the help we had getting changed. Each new set of items had been laid out ready for us, and the lovely ladies helping us, made sure we had labels tucked in and no glaring combination errors.



Summer 2022 Fashion at Wickham Market



The variety of models, accessories and clothing was brilliant. All six of us thoroughly enjoyed the whole evening and it went by so fast. Our last time on the catwalk we all went together, and you can see from our happy faces that we had all had a great time. Such Fun.

The audience had also enjoyed the show and many new outfits were purchased at a discount from the stall holders from "Inspirations" as well as purchasing loads of tickets for the huge Raffle. All the wonderful raffle prizes had been donated by local businesses for which the Flower Club is extremely grateful. The support we received was amazing and very much appreciated. As the evening drew to a close, many happy people went home with either a new outfit, pair of shoes or handbag or maybe a draw prize, or one of each.



The Models

In total we raised £576.30 at this event. Isn't that just amazing. This will be presented to the Wickham Market 1<sup>st</sup> Responders at a later date.

Thank you so much to everyone who worked so hard putting this event together. The ladies from "Inspirations" were brilliant, the audience was brilliant, the support was brilliant, and the Flower Club was brilliant, we all made a great Team.

Thinking about the next one for Autumn.....

Mandy Pryke

As this edition of Spotlight East is being finalised, everyone is busy preparing for the Platinum Jubilee. We'll report all your jubilee celebrations – flower festivals, special demonstrations, flowery events – in the next edition, online from 1<sup>st</sup> September. Meanwhile, here's a report about **Little Hallingbury Flower Club's** May meeting, which included a Jubilee themed competition.

Stunning arrangements from the very talented Gill McGregor at our May club meeting! Gill's enthusiasm for flower arranging was plain to see and the enjoyment infectious. It was wonderful to

welcome Gill back and learn about the techniques used. All her arrangements had the WOW factor and were inspirational; we all learned so much!



We are grateful for her permission to post photos of two of the fabulous arrangements demonstrated. The competition title was “Platinum Jubilee” which members found quite challenging.



Two of the competition entries: Hannah’s crown is made entirely of plant material. Beverly’s crown is foam free, with a photo to explain the mechanics.

So it's good bye from the Media Team. We look forward to covering all your Jubilee events, flower arranging competitions at the Suffolk & Norfolk shows, flower festivals, club celebrations and any other floral news you'd like to share with us. The deadline for reports is 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

Please submit your contribution as a Word document, with your photos in Jpeg format attached to the email to [newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.com)

Enjoy the summer,  
Lindi Carrington