

SPOTLIGHT EAST

Newsletter for Members of The East of England Area of NAFAS

What a summer it's been – celebratory in so many ways with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the return of the County Shows, getting back together again for club competitions, workshops & outings. We start with (just a few of the many) events staged by East of England members to mark her Majesty's 70 year reign.

Woodbridge Flower Club together with the church flower arranging team, and many local helpers staged a celebration in flowers entitled "The Queen's Canopy" at St Mary's Church, Woodbridge. Visitors entered the church through the porch which was brightly decorated with red, white & blue themed pedestals & topiary trees, to discover the main body of the church draped with "platinum" hangings as they walked through and an avenue of slim silver birch trees towards the altar. The saplings were surplus to requirements at nearby Tunstall Common, and made available by Tunstall Parish Council.



Contributions by members of Woodbridge Flower Club included a glorious exhibit depicting “The Coronation” by Deborah Hutton (past Area Chairman) detail on right of photo, and a light-



hearted arrangement by Lyn Eatwell (Chairman Woodbridge FC) “Racing & Dogs” featuring toy corgi dogs. One of these could be won in the competition to “name the corgi”.

At Ely Cathedral talented local Flower Arrangers were busy creating beautiful floral displays in The Lady Chapel. (titles next page)



Littleport & District Flower Club



Cambridge Flower Club



Caroline Barnes



City of Ely Flower Club

Ely Cathedral (continued)

Littleport & District – “The United Kingdom”

City of Ely – “The Commonwealth”

Cambridge Flower Club – “The Royal Wedding 1947”

Caroline Barnes – “Crown & Orb”

Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club – 6 members took part in St. Michael’s Church Flower Festival (Bishops Stortford) for the Jubilee. The theme was ‘Through the Decades’, featuring significant events that happened during the Queen’s reign.



1962 - Jamaica gains independence- Beverly Moore

1963 - The Beatles release their first LP - Leoni Braz

1978 - The world’s first test tube baby is delivered - Margaret Webb

2012 - HM Queen opens the London 2012 Olympic Games - Margaret Webb

Loddon Flower Club, Tricia Loades writes:

Earlier in the year the Church in Loddon asked our flower club if we would hold a flower festival to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee - not at the usual church of Holy Trinity, but the Methodist Church of St John’s which is smaller. We agreed and came up with the title of ‘The Queen and Commonwealth’, with a list of 54 countries for members to choose to depict.

Held over the weekend of 16th and 17th July members worked hard to make the weekend a success. On the Saturday afternoon we welcomed Lois Gill along with her knitted Queen and her talk entitled ‘An Audience with her Knitted Majesty’



Lois also held a competition where we had to guess how many leaves are on the Queen's train. As she gives talks with the Queen, we were not allowed to know how many, so, we had to write our answer on a piece of paper. Unfortunately, the Sunday was not as good as Saturday, maybe because of the heat of the day.



Framlingham Flower Club, together with the St Michael's Church Flower team, staged a flower festival co-ordinated by Wendy Phelan (who leads the church flower arranging team & is also Co-Chair of Framlingham FC.) The event depicted the wide ranging elements of the Queen's life & reign – from her multicoloured image on postage stamps to her love & involvement with all the nations of the Commonwealth.



A striking exhibit was “Treetops” by Lesley Bennion (photographed by Elsie Leeding) which staged the wildlife retreat in Kenya where the then Princess Elizabeth learnt of her father's death. Another eyecatcher was the “Queen & Prince Phillip” thrones staged by the Rector of St Michael's himself.(see photo. Also “Royal Wedding” by Sheila Winton)



The Royal Jubilee theme has continued right through the summer providing inspiration for many competition classes.

Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club

Beverly Moore writes: "There was A good turnout for our "Royal Celebration" summer show, which we staged in the first week of August. Well done to all who exhibited.

Thank you to Kathy Stangaard for judging and giving so much time with the comment cards. Our members valued these very much. During judging we enjoyed a quiz, catching up with friends over tea/coffee and home-made cake. The smiling faces say it all! "Fun, Friendship & Flowers"



There were some great jubilee inspired class titles:

"Red, White & Blue pedestal;" First Nicky Thompson, second Ann Godfrey. Nicky was awarded Best in Show for her pedestal whilst Pearl Broad received "People's Choice" for hers.

Queen's Garden Party – 1st Betty Deeks; Beverly Moore 2nd (+ Best use of Colour award) new member Naomi Wells 3rd.

Crown Jewels – 1st Naomi Wells + "Best small scale exhibit"

Lorraine Gagen volunteered for the role of competition secretary and assisted Kathy Stangaard with the judging. Lorraine's stylish hat creation won the Platinum Cup which is awarded for the "all foliage" class. Beverly Moore was awarded Best Use of Garden Plant Material for her 2nd placed entry in this class.



Pearl Broad



Naomi Wells

Beverly Moore



Naomi Wells



Betty Deeks



Beverly Moore



Lorraine Gagen



Lorraine with
Kathy Stangaard

The Suffolk Show was held just prior to the Jubilee Bank holiday celebrations, with the staging and showing days earlier in the week to allow for the Thursday Jubilee Bank Holiday. This resulted in a massive turnout from the public to welcome the show back after the pandemic cancellations, but less competitors in the floral marquee as people divided their time between the show bench and preparations for community celebrations.



Stella Thornley. "Jubilee Celebrations"

Disappointingly, the "Club Class" was cancelled as too few clubs applied to participate. But there was no diminution in quality or creativity of the exhibits on show. Stella Thornley, Chairman "New Creations", was awarded the Novice Trophy for her "Jubilee Celebrations" exhibit. She also received a First for her "Posy for the Queen".



Julia Morley
"Bounty of the Earth"

Jenni Baker
"Sumptuous Silks"

Julia Morley, Stowmarket Flower Club, was awarded “Best in Show “ for the outstanding array of fruit, flowers & vegetable which was her “Bounty of the Earth” pedestal. Jenni Baker, Chairman Norwich Group, was runner-up to “Best in Show” with her interpretation of “Sumptuous Silks, whilst Margaret Morton’s “Bounty ...” arrangement won her “Best Use of Garden Plant Material”. The subtle tones of Susan Street’s “Platinum Elegance” won her this year’s “Best Use of Colour” Award.



We're all looking forward to next year and the return of the club class entries!

Words: Lindi Carrington. Photos: Roger Woolnough/Phillip Mills

Royal Norfolk Show June 2022 Floral Art

Gloria Goodley and Jacquie Aldous Floral Art Co-ordinators

None of us likes change but after 2 years absence the Royal Norfolk Show was back with a few changes this year. The Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society and Norwich Group of Flower Clubs get together to put on a show in the Horticultural Marquee. This year the marquee was in a different position and there was some uncertainty as to how exhibitors would access the new area. However, as it turned out, access was excellent and cars were able to remain close to the access gate. Thank you to Stuart Morton and his team for all their help.

Members of the Horticultural Society were at the ready with trolley and wheelbarrows to transport exhibits and flowers etc from the layby to the marquee. Entries were down this year, however those that entered put on a very good show. I believe our new position on the Showground meant we got more footfall through the marquee.

Well done to all who entered the Floral Art Competitions. Lesley Fairman judged the Flower Arranging competitions. The most entries were in the Floristry Class with tutors from Easton College encouraging students to enter. This was judged by Kaye Souter, a Floristry judge from Ipswich. She was very impressed by the level of work produced by the students.



Costessey Flower Club were awarded 1st for their entry in the club class “Commonwealth of Nations”. Dianne Randall, was awarded “Best in Show” for her entry in Class 4 an “Eco- Friendly arrangement for a Banqueting Table” and Jackie Petherick was runner up to Best in Show with her pedestal in “1953 style arrangement depicting the Coronation”



Amanda Seales was very busy over the two days making floral headbands mainly with home grown flowers from her garden. Maybe next year she needs more help and flower donations to repeat this activity, so more people can have headbands. It was lovely to see people walking around the showground wearing such beautiful flowers.



“Inspiring the next generation of Flower Arrangers”

Our next Floral Art Competitions are at the Late Autumn Show. Please take time to look at the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural website for details and submit your entries.

RHS Hampton Court Flower Show

In early July, **East of England Flower Arranger Officer, Patricia South** was busy at The RHS Hampton Court Flower Show as part of the team promoting NAFAS and of course “The Flower Arranger Magazine”. It was very hot and hard work, particularly the late night opening until 10.00pm on the Friday – but Pat managed to stay cheerful and look glamorous.



As Pat reminded us at Area Council (see below): “ The Flower Arranger Magazine is a major source of funding for NAFAS. We need to introduce the magazine to new members, not just collect subscription renewals.”

Wednesday 15th June Area Council Meeting at Mildenhall.

There was a strong attendance possibly due to the promise of sandwiches, cakes and clotted cream scones served at the lunch break by our Area Chairman Barbara Collins and the hardworking Executive. The tables each featured a patriotic table arrangement created by Barbara and the welcome pedestal was staged by Gill Shanks, Chairman of the Kings Lynn Group. Gill's hat was carefully included in the pedestal. Members were asked to wear hats for the meeting and we were treated to the sight of many wonderful creations to celebrate slightly late, the Platinum Jubilee.

Our Immediate Past President Jean Crane explained about our service to be held on 15th September 2022 at St Mary's Church, Mildenhall to celebrate and remember our members who have died over recent years and particularly but not solely during lockdown. This will be followed by afternoon tea at the Jubilee Centre.



Pat South gave details of the Flower Arranger Magazine and explained why it was so important that members bought it as it was a very important source of income for NAFAS. Pat encouraged clubs to use past copies to give to new members or visitors as a way of welcoming them to the club and hopefully securing an annual order. The next issue is expected to feature designs from the recent and highly successful Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival.

After the break and refreshments, Brenda Evers entertained the audience with “If you want to get ahead....”.

We are so very fortunate to have such a hard working team and we are delighted that Barbara will continue as our Chairman for a further year.

The next Council meeting will be held at Mildenhall on 19th October, followed by the AGM
 Cambridge Group are organising a plant stall – bring some cash, your gardens are going to need replenishing after this summers’ drought!

Mandy Pryke, Wickham Market Flower Club, reports on the July Area Day

Barbara welcomed members to the meeting saying how nice it was to see everyone. Our first speaker was Maria Pennington whose presentation was "Pearls my Passion". A jeweller and designer from just after leaving school Maria talked to us about both Natural and Cultivated pearls. She told us that natural pearls do still exist they are extremely rare and challenging to find. The way to tell the difference between a natural and cultivated Pearl is to rub the Pearl against your teeth. If it feels smooth the chances are it is a faux gem. A natural or cultured Pearl will feel gritty. Under a magnifier if the texture is eggshell sorted rugged it is an imitation. Maria gave us lots of information on how both natural and cultivated pearls are created and spoke of the different colours and shapes and sizes. She had a stall with some beautiful jewellery examples for sale and many members went home with a beautiful package.



After lunch we were treated to the delights of Lucy Richardson demonstrating Floral Anthology. Lucy created seven or more designs using headings like Medicinal, Toxic, Modified and Wild. Each arrangement was filled with country garden flowers and grasses along with seed heads and wild flowers such as Love in a Mist, Viburnum, Carnations, Rainbow Anthuriums, plaited Phormium leaves and grasses, all relating in some way to the title. The stage was soon filled with many designs and members had been enchanted by not only the materials used but the stories and histories behind many well-known flowers.

Some lucky members won an arrangement in the raffle which could have made for an interesting journey home.

After the vote of thanks we were ready to go home with our purchases and new found knowledge

One of the “lucky members” Mandy mentions in her report contacted East of England Facebook page.

Brenda Graham, Sudbury Flower Club: “We had a lovely time yesterday at Area Day and had a sharing picnic which was great fun. I was lucky and won the last prize in the raffle - flowers being removed from the design and made into a bunch to take home. When I got home I found I had much more, (than expected) as unused flowers had been added. As you can see I have been busy this morning.



“Through the Centuries” – A celebration in flowers to mark 1,000 years of the Abbey of St Edmunds, 22nd -26th June

Lindi Carrington, New Creations, Floral Design Club, writes

“And so after 2 years of waiting, the floral exhibition designed & co-ordinated by Vicki Hease and staged in the north aisle of St Edmundsbury Cathedral by arrangers from across the East of England Area, was revealed. Originally it was planned for summer 2020 as part of the “Abbey1000 “ celebrations, when seven ancient manuscripts from the Abbey Scriptorium were to return for the first time in 500 years and be displayed in the Cathedral. The manuscripts were to be exhibited in the cloisters at the same time as “Through the Centuries”, but after the many delays due to covid, the manuscripts were exhibited in May this year, by ticket only. This helped to avoid any congestion and gave viewers a longer and better chance to understand what they were looking at.

The invitations to take part in the floral event had been sent out to team leaders in June 2019 with first viewings in November. Teams of designers gathered with tape measures, notebooks, camera’s to view their allocated spaces and make a start on their designs. And then Covid struck! And like so many events postponed, rescheduled... postponed yet again...

By the time this year's date was finalised, many of the participants had changed and everyone needed to come back to the cathedral to refresh their memories.

For the exhibition, the 8 bays in the North Aisle were cleared of pews and used to depict 10 key aspects of the history & development of the Abbey through to its Cathedral status. From its founding in 1020 to the present day, the institution has had a chequered history – the peace of its herb garden, the conflict & destruction of its buildings; the magnificence of its library and its sacred artifacts; its involvement in power struggles, a place of pilgrimage, remembrance and ultimately celebration. To depict all of this in flowers and plant material alone would be quite a



challenge, but fortunately Mothersole Builders generously sponsored the event, and what's more loaned stones, flints, gravel, shingle, lead panel, stained glass panels, wooden blocks and even a door to enhance the exhibits. On the morning of the first set-up day the cathedral looked more like a builders yard and many regretted not having recruited a builder to their team.

Each team was asked to write a short statement about their exhibit which was displayed at the front. This provided the opportunity to explain the historical moment being depicted; to describe how they had achieved it, identify the plant material they had used and to thank individual sponsors.

Entrance to the exhibition was free, although donations were encouraged to support the youth work of the cathedral and the Kagera Diocese in North-West Tanzania, with whom they have a partnership for more than 20years. . Over 2000 visitors were recorded during the 5 days "Through the Centuries " was open to the public and by early August over £500.00 was raised to be shared between Kagera and the Education Hub."



Vicki Hease continues: "We had so many compliments regarding the celebration in flowers, with the majority saying they preferred this to a full blown flower festival, as they felt it was a more leisurely experience to view all the exhibits, have lunch in the Pilgrims Kitchen and return for a further look at the flower displays. We hope to take that on board for any future flower displays/ exhibits / celebrations.



We are extremely grateful to our sponsors Mothersole builders. They were approached by Sue Cockram, the cathedral flower arrangers leader, and were very supportive, helpful and enthusiastic from the moment they came on board. We were also very grateful to our other sponsors - Wholesale Florists Direct for the Maxi Life wet foam, W&M Smith for the Bio wet foam, and Steve Jones for the loan of the soldier silhouettes. All the team leaders, teams and volunteers worked so hard to produce magnificent exhibits depicting their particular century; once again, my grateful thanks to all concerned for their flair, imagination and expertise”



Photos Vicki Hease/Beverly Moore

Key to photos –

- Mildenhall & District Flower Club - Monastery Herb Garden
- Cathedral Flower Guild -The giant illuminated Bury Bible 1135
- Orwell Flower Club – “Attack on the Abbey by the townsfolk” 1320’s
- Saffron Walden & District Flower Club – “The King’s pilgrimage” (detail)
- Peterborough Floral Decoration Society – “The Dissolution of the Abbey”
- City of Ely Flower Club – “Destruction of Stained glass & monuments” 17thc
- Harleston Flower Club – “Stained glass & world war 1”
- Stowmarket & District – “The new chancel tower” (detail)

The Great & Little Hallingbury Flower Show, organised by a small committee from the two villages, is now in its 84th year. It is an annual event. This year it was Great Hallingbury who hosted the event that celebrates village life with exhibits of cookery, craft, vegetables, flowers, photography, flower arranging, children's craft & writing.



The flower arranging section is organised by Little Hallingbury Flower Club and is open to all, but it is almost all Nafas members (I think I saw one gentleman's name I didn't recognise this year). It is judged according to Nafas rules by a Nafas judge.



Beverly Moore won two cups – “Best in Show” for her “Supermarket Bunch” (£12 Waitrose) and “Most Points Awarded” for her collection of 1st, 2nd & 3rd's in the flower arranging and photography. There were sideshows, handicrafts, produce, cakes we've concentrated on the floral aspects.

Beverly Moore



Little Hallingbury Flower Club also provided a 'hands-on ' flower arranging taster for the younger visitors to the Hallingbury Show. They all had a beautiful arrangement to take home with them.

London & Overseas Area of NAFAS "Nostalgia" Festival of Flowers 22 - 24 July at Ingatestone Hall, Essex

Hannah Shine. Little Hallingbury Flower Club, writes:

In mid-May I received an email from Lorraine Gagen "Do you fancy doing Class 2 together?"..... She attached the schedule for the Nostalgia Festival of Flowers at Ingatestone Hall –

“Class 2: "Nostalgic Contemplation" An exhibit attached to and/or staged on a garden chair supplied by yourself) Height unlimited.

The garden chair to be staged on the lawn leading up to the main entrance. To be viewed and judged all round. May be staged by a maximum of two persons.”

And so the fun began. A search for a suitable chair! Finally Lorraine's husband found a chair that had seen better days and he used his skills to restore and repaint the

metal chair in white and it looked beautiful. We had regular brainstorming meetings for suitable ideas.... how to depict nostalgia? An old photo album? What if it rained? The exhibit was going to be outside throughout the show..... Lorraine had noticed that I had an extensive collection of succulents in the greenhouse and this inspired her to suggest doing a design on the seat of the chair.....

Her husband once again came to the rescue and made a metal tray to fit exactly on the seat with about 1" depth. We decided to stage the exhibit on a bed of wet sand, to fulfil the requirements that all plant material needed some sort of hydration..... We finally settled on the idea of a Union Jack which was an intricate design. We used succulents, poppy heads, nigella seed pods..... Fortunately we had 3 hours for staging! The weather was HOT, a week after the RED ALERT heatwave.



Lorraine suggested the theme could be the Jubilee and the Queen's 70 year reign. So she found some beautiful postcards depicting the Queen's reign and we put that in an album..... What about a hat? Good idea! We added succulents to the hat so the design tied in - glue gun, no floral foam! We had to also think about the hot weather. Succulents were the perfect solution as temperatures soared!

While we were busy staging the exhibit, a gentleman walked past and said "Good morning, ladies", we responded "Good morning". Now, he definitely did not look like a flower arranger but my curiosity got the better of me and I said "Are you involved with all flower arranging here this weekend" "No, I live here! I am the owner's son!" Ha Ha Ha "Oh, I had no idea! It is SO very kind of you to give up your home to all these flower arrangers!" He beamed as he walked off. It was so funny.

We were delighted to be awarded 2nd place and have attached some photos of how we did it.....

Ingatestone Hall is well worth a visit; have a look at their website as it is open to the public on specified days <https://www.ingatestonehall.com/>

Ingatestone Hall, Hall Lane Ingatestone CM4 9NR

The East Suffolk Group Workshop “Foam Free with Twigs” scheduled to follow on from our June meeting at Wickham Market was not quite as planned. Jenni Baker, who was leading the workshop, had to cancel due to illness at fairly short notice. Fortunately for us Roger Woolnough, Chairman Aldeburgh Flower Club (and Area Demonstrators’ Rep) stepped in and agreed to demonstrate the same design because the workshop materials list had been circulated some time ago.



We assumed Roger had seen Jenni work on this design he arrived with a beautiful example and showed us how to assemble the twigs, tubes, wool, wire & flowers into simple but stylish arrangements. We produced a wonderful array of colourful designs – no two the same. In fact, Roger wasn’t familiar with her design and had made a well-informed guess as to how the items were intended to be used!



We hoped Jenni approved of the results and sent her best wishes for a speedy recovery. We hope to welcome her to a future workshop.
Lindi Carrington.

Jane Willis, Chairman Great Baddow Flower Club wrote to tell us about their Summer Workshop

“The old ones are sometimes the best ones - I'm not talking about our members, but about the Parallel design used at our Workshop on 28 June. Inspired by a design shown in the Platinum edition of the Flower Arranger, our member and Area Demonstrator Terri Potter took us through the techniques for producing a Parallel design using abundant June garden foliage plus some roses and alstroemeria. Participants ranged from complete beginner to very experienced Cathedral arrangers, but everyone was delighted with the result.



As people brought their own flowers, you can see from the pictures that there was a huge variation in colour and forms.”

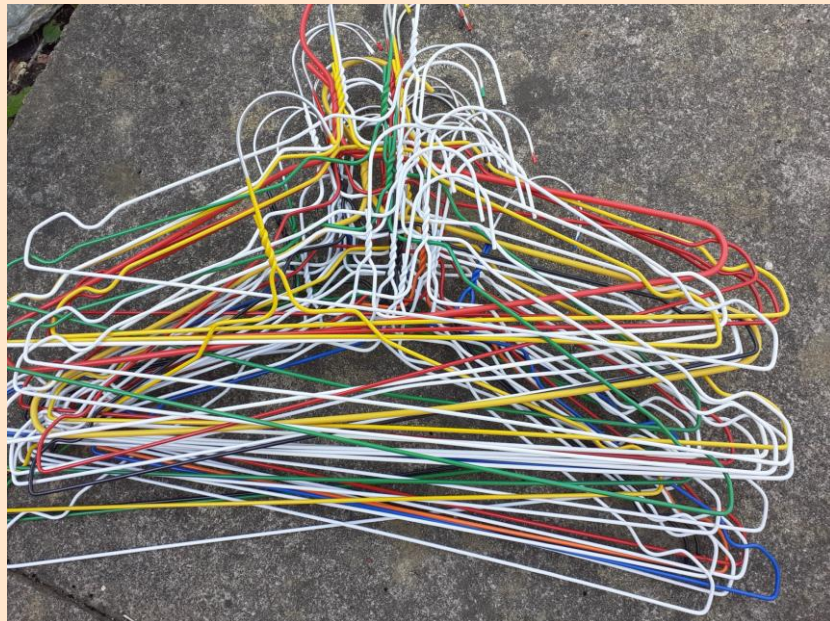
Janet Phillimore, Chairman Ipswich Flower told us about their recent workshop to create long, low designs suitable for a mantelpiece or sideboard:

“The workshop was led by Anne Marjoram, a member of the club. For many of those attending this was the first arrangement they had made as they were newly recruited members of the club - which is encouraging. We didn't open it to the public this time, although several people did express an interest.”

(photo next page)



Yaxley Flower Club shared a photo of coloured wire coat hangers on the East of England Facebook page with details of their workshop – intriguing!



All was later revealed – see next page:

They had a lovely evening making a Dreamcatcher, inspired by The Flower Arranger Summer 2022 issue. There was a great atmosphere and everyone went home with a colourful arrangement, having learnt a new skill!



Dereham & District Flower Club are a busy, energetic club and this summer was no exception. Spotlight was delighted to receive 2 enthusiastic reports from their press officer for this edition.

Our colourful Commonwealth entry

After a break of two years because of the COVID pandemic, it was nice to hear that the Norfolk Show was being scheduled for this year. We volunteered to represent Dereham & District Flower Club in the Club Class at the Flower Show and got straight into planning mode to depict “The Commonwealth of Nations” with our exhibit. After much brainstorming we decided to feature both the Commonwealth flag and flowers from some of those countries on and around a tall blue column.

On the set-up day we arrived raring to go and went straight to it. It took us five hours to create the two main elements, with lots of conditioning, kneeling, up and down a step-ladder and carefully placing the flowers. We were rather pleased with our exhibit and cue lots of photo-taking. Our cascade on the top of the column featured bright, exotic and beautiful flowers, topped with a platinum crown to represent Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the current Head of the association. At the base was a representation of the flag with 34 spears radiating from yellow roses, forming the letter ‘C’ for Commonwealth.

We were thrilled to be awarded Second Prize with the Area Judges commenting: "Gorgeous flowers beautifully arranged. A clever use of the crown at the top. Unfortunately the blue column is too dominant." A little disappointed we didn't win but a fabulous experience and we can't wait to enter again in 2023. We were buoyed by the visitors' comments over the two days of the show and apparently might have received the 'people's choice' if indeed there had been one!

Penny Howes, Lavinia Pirret and Helen Evans
Dereham & District Flower Club



Fun in the Sun

For six weeks over the Summer, we shared our experience with those members who wanted to learn the skill of flower arranging and to encourage newcomers to have the confidence to enter the Club competitions.

The classes have been a great success with lots of positive feedback from members. The sessions were purposely kept small (4-6 members) to allow lots of 1:1 assistance as well as general group teaching. Members brought their own materials and sometimes their own containers. Refreshments including home-made cakes were provided at all sessions. The six week schedule covered the following categories:-

- Arrangement using a pin-holder plus Interpretation
- Parallel arrangement
- Modern arrangement (no foam)
- Table centre piece
- Pedestal arrangement
- Competition practice



It was the most enjoyable six weeks and attendees showed such determination, style and flare. The classes certainly helped instil confidence - the first Club competition after the classes started was delightful with new members having a go and some getting high scores for their entries!

Offering beginners flower arranging classes will become part and parcel of our annual programme now. It might be worth other clubs considering offering classes as a way of enticing new members – as these newcomers will help ensure our clubs continue to thrive.



Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club enjoyed a lovely day out in Newark visiting **Floral Media** for a private group visit.

An early start for 21 members/friends but it was a good journey North. What a lovely welcome on arrival, where we met our hosts Steven & Paula Routledge, proprietors of Floral Media.

Tea, Coffee & biscuits were beautifully served & we knew we were in for a treat.

Steve gave a very informative talk explaining the history of how, from meeting at horticultural college, the journey he and Paula had been on over the years developing various horticultural businesses to where they are now.

We enjoyed a guided tour of the gardens which have been developed over the past 19 years and are still developing: Herbaceous Borders, Cutting Gardens, Gravel Garden, Vegetable plots and a Cottage garden. Floral Media is set in 5 acres; about an acre is cultivated into gardens. The rest is a beautiful open meadow & amazing cutting flower beds all set in beautiful countryside in the heart of Nottinghamshire. A new addition to the property is the jungle room, what an amazing houseplant selection Paula is collecting and she was very generous with so many useful tips to ensure houseplants survive.



After the garden tour we headed back inside for a floral demonstration by Paula, a Nafas Demonstrator and keen exhibitor in Flower Shows around the country. We enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared and cooked by Steven - fresh locally sourced food some of which were grown in the gardens.

After lunch we were free to revisit the gardens, visit the Floral Media workshop where all things floristry occurs. An opportunity for some retail therapy too.

Some were happy to sit on the veranda and enjoy the ambience before our journey back home
Words & photos Beverly Moore

This edition of Spotlight has featured many floral events to celebrate the royal jubilee, but it's not just Her Majesty who is celebrating a 70th Anniversary...

Early in July, **West Essex Flower Club** held their annual Summer luncheon to celebrate their Platinum anniversary. In attendance was Michael Bowyer, NAFAS National President, Sue Brinton, East of England Area President and Carol Giffen, Cambridge Group Chairman. It was an excellent afternoon, Lorena Dyer, the demonstrator, was superb but requested that no photographs of her designs be published on social media. Instead we have photos of the table centres, anniversary cake and Michael & Ruth (Club President) cutting the cake.



We hope to feature more anniversary celebrations in the next edition of Spotlight East, together with reports of Open meetings, Special demonstrations & Area Day. Don't forget to tell the media team about your club events – workshops, fundraisers, outings etc. to inspire and encourage other clubs. Perhaps some of our gardening members would like to share their despair about how their cutting gardens have suffered from the heat & drought, and how they are repairing the damage./replanning for next year.

The copy deadline for the Winter edition is 22nd November, to be ready online by 1st December. Please email contributions to newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.com

The written part should be a Word document with the photos attached to the email in JPEG format. Please ensure the photos can be easily identified and give photo credits where possible.