



AREA NEWS SPRING EDITION 2025

Edited by Pat Laughton and Pauline Martindale

London and Overseas Area of NAFAS

President: Sheila Tasker

Chairman: Peter Bodnar

From Peter Bodnar, Area Chairman

Spring has definitely arrived! The magnificent Magnolia buds are bursting open, helping to shake off the winter blues. Spring represents the new year and new beginnings. In the garden the laurus and the skimmia are making an early show of flowers and how wonderful it all looks and feels. With the lighter evenings ahead, we can all start thinking about what work needs to be done after winter.

This is a great time to be out and about in the NAFAS world with a 'Day with Flowers' lead by National tutor June Borrowdale theme 'Traditional Geometric Designs' on Saturday the 5th April, 10-4pm Relax. De-stress. Spend the day watching the creation of beautiful flower arrangements – then producing one yourself to take home. The day costs £50 which includes a light lunch and ALL your materials, please contact: www.flowerclub@gmail.com.

We have our Council meeting on Wednesday 30th April 2025

Venue: Time and Talents, Surrey Quays Shopping Centre, Redriff Road, SE16 7LL, 10.30 - 1pm, nearest tube: Overground line: Surrey Quays, Everyone is welcome!!!!

On behalf of the area we wish Sian Tribe all the very best on her final demonstrators test on 5th April 2025

“Spring is sooner recognized by plants than by men” Keats, Season of mist and mellow fruitfulness.





Congratulations to Sian Tribe who is standing by her exhibit in Westminster Abbey just before Christmas.

Glad to see they still have the red aprons as many of you will recognise from past endeavours.

Club round up

SAVE THE DATE.....

Bromley and District Floral Society

On Saturday 26th July, Bromley and District Floral Society will be celebrating its 65th Anniversary with a Flower Arrangement Competition entitled HOME AND AWAY.

The show schedule is in its final stages and will be available shortly.

On the first Tuesday of every month until July, there will be Show Table with entry forms, advice and help with interpreting the schedule – as well as a fundraising sales table for the event. We hope that many of our flower friends will be enticed to enter or visit the show on Saturday 26th July 1-4.30pm.

- For more information contact June Ford: june.ford1@sky.com or m: 07950 553567
*BDFS meets in the Whitfield Hall, United Reformed Church, 20 Widmore Road, Bromley BR1 1RY on the 1st Tuesday of every month

Ealing FC

I hope you all enjoyed the very relaxing demonstration by Eleanor Bracken last month. She produced some lovely designs which were the right size for our homes and even for our cars!

We also had the presentation of the Area Photography Competition certificates and are pleased to see that five members of our club won prizes this year and hope the rest of you will have this experience next year.

Christine, Richard, Sue and Jenni with Peter and Leigh's certificates



Mottingham FAS

Two events that might be of interest:

The Flower and Produce Show at Eltham College on **SATURDAY 23RD AUGUST** at Eltham College is open to all (details TBA). The overall title for the floral arrangement classes will be the 350th Anniversary of the Royal Observatory

The titles will be:

Enjoying Greenwich Park (Full Size)

The Prime Meridian (two arrangements either side of a line)

PETITE : Seeing Stars

NOVICE: The Red Time Ball

Mottingham Horticultural Society

Plant Sale, Saturday 13th September Outside The Methodist Church In Mottingham

Uxbridge and Ickenham FAS

The March meeting was our 68th birthday and we celebrated the event with a special dem and cake, made by member Jo Coldham.



The photo shows the cake being cut by our President Gill Roker and National Demonstrator Emily Broomhead

Dawn Short from Estopona FC writes:

We enjoyed David Ryland's most entertaining demonstration last month. The contemporary workshop he held the following day was innovative and very different, incorporating a little leaf manipulation, covering sticks with felted wool and using just a few flowers with no other foliage than that which had been manipulated.

This month we are delighted to welcome Graham Harmer back to Estepona. Graham is an award-winning NAFAS London and Overseas Area demonstrator from Bromley. He last visited us in February 2020, just before we went into Lockdown. Graham's demonstration is titled '**Miscellany**', which sounds intriguing.

From Canada, Susanne Barker: from the Victoria Floral Artists Guild's 55th sent me this report of their 55th Anniversary Floral Design Show –
Floral Art Passion: Celebrating 55 years of participation in Floral Art.



2024 was the 55th anniversary of the Victoria Floral Artists Guild.

In less than one year we planned and executed a one-day floral design show to celebrate floral design and our anniversary.

Our show was held on October 26th and featured floral demonstrations, a Tea Garden and the sale of vases and floral arrangements.

Bonita Elliott, a past President of the Guild, was Show Chair.

Planning meetings, with 21 committee members, began in March 2024 and were held on a monthly basis until our show.

The thirteen classes of our Show Schedule were selected from our previous show schedules.

Our Guild members entered 83 floral designs.

The reviews from the public were entirely positive:
professionally done; quality of designs amazing; ingenuity and creativity of designs outstanding.

There was marked participation in the People's Choice voting.

The Tea Garden did a roaring business from the moment the doors opened. The variety of treats, especially the scones were such a success. The lovely arrangements on the tables and porcelain teacups set the scene for visiting and relaxing with friends and family.

Many photographs were taken in our Floral Frame. The show was its third appearance at Guild events in 2024. The vase and flower arrangement sales were a major hit. Our 422 visitors had a difficult time deciding which lovely arrangement to purchase. The demonstrations of floral designs were standing room only and the winners of the demonstrated designs were thrilled.

The Show successfully demonstrated our Guild's commitment to communicating our love of floral design. We look forward to more years of doing so.

Dear L & O members,

Spring is around the corner. Nights here in Germany are still on the chilly side but on a sunny day, one can feel the warmth.

It is the first Winter for me in Europe for many years, and now that the days are getting longer, I am enjoying the renewal of nature. All the front gardens show the beautiful Snowdrops, and Narcissus are almost fully out too. Urban flower beds show a riot of colour of winter pansies. I do miss my Asian Flower Club activities but find there are compensations to be found in enjoying the beautiful flowers in nature.

I am also glad for the modern facilities, being able to stay in touch with flower friends and their activities. With their agreement, I would like to take this opportunity to share some of them with you.

In Singapore, the Flower Club had a very successful start to the year with a Chinese New Year exhibition at the home of one of the members. From all accounts it was a resounding success. The workshop in February took place at one of the Nurseries which also includes a flower school. Members created a floral frame for Valentine's Day – “Frame your love” - and also had a wonderful time browsing through the garden centre while also enjoying a delicious lunch. This week they are preparing for the AGM.

Flower Club members who are also Ikebana experts, participated at a large Ikebana exhibition and gave workshops. Angela Kek showed the versatility of typha leaves in floral design. Chua Lee Hong expertly showed how to create beautiful and fun designs including fruit and vegetables.

The HK Flower Club started the year with a very exciting exhibition at the Conservatory in the HK Park. Various members also gave workshops with the theme of 'Panda Garden'. It was a huge success attracting, as Cindy Cannon, the Chairman of the HKFC wrote, 'a whopping 4,400 visitors'.

The HKFC also held its fortnightly workshops with children of the HK Red Cross John F. Kennedy Centre. It is such a worthwhile undertaking. The joy of the children working with flowers, assisted by a helper, is truly palpable.

As I am writing this, my friends are putting together the final touches to their designs at the HK flower Show which opens this Friday. It is only the 4th time in 30 years that I am missing the show and involvement in it one way or another. My mind is definitely in HK in the next few days.

Over the years there have been various exchanges between the HK and the Singapore Flower Clubs. This year it extended to an invitation by Ikebana International Singapore Chapter to former HKFC Chairman Chrisie Cheung. Chrisie did a wonderful demonstration for the CNY event.

In Oman, Madhvi Khimji, President of the Oman Flower Arranging Group, organised the Bloom Oman exhibition in the Qurum National Park. Looking at the full range of photos on Facebook, the exhibits are amazing.

Here are just a few photos. If you are on Facebook, you can see the full range on the FB pages of the various clubs.



A design by Hong Kong Flower Club and below an Ikebana design by Lee Hong



If you do have a special event, it would be nice to share it with me and I will be happy to pass it on to our members. I am sure we would all benefit. Of course many of you share your designs on FB but not all members are accessing that. If you have any questions for the Committee or any suggestions on how we could improve our association, please let us know. As usual, may I ask those of you who are Club representatives to forward this message

For today, flowery greetings. Stay well and enjoy the beauty of nature and in particular of our wonderful floral art. I do wish all of you a happy Spring /Autumn

Christiane Duckworth
L & O Area of NAFAS, Overseas Ambassador

REMINDER

A Day With Flowers Led by National Tutor June Borrowdale

Saturday 5th April 10 am-4 pm www.flowerclub@gmail.com

Traditional Geometric Designs

Relax. De-stress. Spend the day watching the creation of beautiful flower arrangements - then producing one yourself to take home

£50—to include a light lunch and ALL your materials

The Assembly Halls, Gates Green Road, West Wickham. BR4 9JW

Summer FUND RAISING FLORAL ART Demonstration
Thursday 29th May, 11am -3pm

Cuffley Hall, Maynards Place, Cuffley EN6 4JA



We are pleased to announce that after another brilliant demonstration at Christmas, International Floral designer, Tutor and Author, Gill McGregor, will be performing another fund raising Floral Art demonstration showcasing the delights of Summer Flower Arranging.

A total of 17 designs of floral loveliness will be created for

all to behold whilst Gill shares her extensive flower arranging knowledge, hints and tips and fun anecdotes for a day of friendship and flowers, not to be missed.

Tickets are £32.50 to enjoy refreshments, the demonstration and a lovely buffet lunch, plus a chance to win one of Gill's stunning arrangements which can take pride of place in your home. Places are limited and available on a first come, first serve basis.

To order your tickets please visit the Nightingale website re events

<https://www.nightingalesupport.org.uk/>

or phone: [020 8366 4333](tel:02083664333)

or email: fiona@nightingalesupport.org.uk

WORKSHOP: Uxbridge & Ickenham FAS

To be held at Ickenham Village Hall on Thursday 3 April 2025 7.30-9.30pm
Design with a Spring theme in a box, basket or on a posy pad

Cost will be £15

For details please contact Chris Benn at crissiebenn@hotmail.co.uk

**LONDON AND OVERSEAS AREA OF NAFAS
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2025**

This competition is only open to Members of Clubs and Individual members affiliated to the L&O Area of NAFAS

The titles have been inspired by the National Show

Class 1 – Urban Nature

A colour image to interpret the title – this could include flowers and/or non domesticated animals

Class 2 – To Rest Amid the Flowers

A colour image giving a sense of peace and tranquility

Class 3 – Bug Hotel

A black and white image to interpret the title

Class 4 – Nature’s Challenge

An image of an element of nature showing imaginative manipulation – original picture to be included

Class 5 – The Beauty of Nature (Novice Class)

A colour landscape image to interpret the title

For further information and the entry form, follow this link:

<https://www.flowerarranginglondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/AreaCompetitionSchedule2025.pdf>

Next issue:

Watch out for Karen Davies James article on the current exhibition taking place at the Saatchi Gallery:

Flowers – Flora in Contemporary Art & Culture

Strongly recommended

<https://www.saatchigallery.com/exhibition/flowers-flora-in-contemporary-art-amp-culture>