



## AREA NEWS SUMMER 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

As spring gives way to summer the show season is in full swing, what a fabulous diary of events we have with many clubs hosting Garden Party's and other special events, not to mention the National Show in Gloucester towards the end of September with a spectacular floral event and show titles to dwell upon.

On the Judging, Demonstrators, Speakers and educator's disciplines, (JDS&E) we have four area candidates taking the Area Judges test with East of England on the 30<sup>th</sup> July.

A demonstrator's test is also taking place on July 26<sup>th</sup> with Bidy Lall from our area taking up the gauntlet with the Kent Area. We are all wishing the candidates the very best and good luck!!!

I attended a hands-on workshop in the BB&O Area along with a few area members for a workshop with Shaista Khawar from Pakistan on the 28<sup>th</sup> June where we learnt Ikebana/Floral Art fusions and went home with fabulous floral Art design with Helen Temple wearing one made by the Tutor.

Your area committee members are looking forward to seeing you all at the next

**Area Council Meeting, on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am - 1pm at Surrey Quays**



## Breakthrough Floral Design Group

Our tutor for our May workshop was past Area Chairman Gill McGregor. We practiced manipulating Aspidistra leaves into tubes and roses and used twigs to create an arrangement in a large self coloured vase. As you know Gill has published books on leaf manipulation so get weaving! Don't forget you can come to Breakthrough as a visitor for only £10.

Sian Tribe, the Chairman, has just returned from a recent visit to Marrakech and writes "hotter than here right now) and there were some fabulous gardens to see there. And you think, how can they water everything? but there is a clever irrigation system in place. I wish my tradescantia was as good as the photo!"



## Bromley FC

A club outing was organized by the Bromley club to visit the tulip festival at Arundel Castle in April and in May they celebrated their 65 anniversary.

To mark this milestone, the club held a special afternoon at St Mary's Church in College Road. The afternoon started off with some delicious refreshments served at the back of church. Sue Tausig gave an interesting floral demonstration with four different designs, including a Meadow, Pot au Fleur, a contemporary Hand Tied in black and white and a Rose and Chrysanthemum all-round design.

The Chair of London and Overseas Area of NAFAS, Peter Bodnar, gave a vote of thanks to Sue and drew the raffle.

**Don't forget their flower show "Home and Away", celebrating their 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July - 1.30 until 4.30pm at United Reform Church, 20 Widmore Road, Bromley BR1 1RY**

## Ealing FC

What a great time we had at Salisbury Cathedral in May, Spirit of Water, with no foam used throughout the whole Festival. We followed the 'route' starting with how things would look without water to the wonderful displays full of colour. We had the added delight of watching a Demonstration by Michael Bowyer, Debbie Wadge and a lady whose name escapes me, sorry! Not a word was spoken as this was all accompanied by the piano.



Thank you, Peter, for our Fabulous Abstract workshop in May, if only I could remember the correct word to use for all the different manipulations you taught us. Also helping us with the glue gun, I hope it will encourage us to use this implement again. What a wide variety of arrangements from everyone.



## Estepona FAS

Based in Spain the club does not meet during the summer months but has some great dems lined up for the rest of this year. They include Kathy Stangaard from our Area, and Robin White from the Kent Area. Flower arranging gets you to some great places

## Romford FAS

Romford Floral Art Society invite you to their 65th Anniversary Lunch with demonstration by Lee Berrill 'Back to the Future'

**Tuesday, 30 September 2025 at The New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster RM14 2QH**

Tickets £40 for non-members

To book please call 01708 747831/0776 2055922 (deadline for booking is 22 September)

**Out and about with our members.....**

On April 5<sup>th</sup> the Southern Clubs held a workshop at West Wickham organised by Sheila Tasker and designed to “go back to basics” for members and newcomers to learn the basic shapes of flower arranging. With the help of local clubs, and with materials and lunch provided, a very pleasant day was spent by all.

Along with other ideas National demonstrator June Borrowdale helped those present to create a basic triangle.



On June 28<sup>th</sup> Sheila Tasker organised a social day at West Wickham attended by 18 arrangers whose task was to create a design using just one bunch of supermarket roses. Angela Woodley was our instructor with Eve Johnson and Norma Leslie teaching leaf manipulation. Although rather warm we all enjoyed the day – although I never have learned the craft of plaiting phormium leaves – but that’s for another day!

**Karen Higgs visited the Hylands House exhibition in May that has been organised by one of our past Chairmen Mig Kimpton.**

Last week I went to Hylands House near Chelmsford. It is a National Flower show organised by Mig Kimpton who, as you are aware, was a previous Chairman of L&O area. It was a lovely show and an interesting theme of “safari”. The floral displays were brilliant. One which was catching lots of attention was by Yan Skates, nafas ambassador. It was “ape”, set out so brilliantly you could have selfies with them.



**Karen Davies-James** has also been out and about this Summer visiting events in London and has sent me the following round-ups. I also visited the “Flowers” exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery and thoroughly enjoyed the exhibits, especially flower sculptures created from cutlery! - Ed

Earlier in the year I visited an exhibition at the Saatchi gallery Kings Road near Sloane Square. “Flowers” in all mediums and forms and art. The exhibition has now been extended until 31 August and costs from £10. I spent an hour and a half looking at all the exhibits including paintings, pieces by Mary Quant, a video created by Tom de Houver but the finale is a spectacular piece by Rebecca Louise Law will not disappoint, her dried flower installation is immersive. It is a must go and I might visit it again

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

Also from Karen Davies James

Earlier in June the garden museum in Lambeth celebrated British flowers week with installations from top floral designers with flowers supplied by British flower farmers. It is a lovely venue, super café and tower with stunning views of London. King Charles is Patron of



Earlier in June the garden museum in Lambeth celebrated British flowers week with installations from top floral designers with flowers supplied by British flower farmers. It is a lovely venue, super café and tower with stunning views of London.

King Charles, Patron of the Museum and Camilla visited earlier this week and so did Yan Skates, NAFAS Ambassador. I visited today (it feels like an annual pilgrimage for me) and was swept away by simple but stunning display by Arthur Parkinson (end photo).

Check out their website for future events

<https://gardenmuseum.org.uk/>



**Kent Area Demonstrators Test  
26<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at  
Sutton Valence Village Hall ME17 3HS  
Tickets £12 from [kentfloralarttickets@gmail.com](mailto:kentfloralarttickets@gmail.com)**

**Chelsea week.....**



Thought you might like to see this photo from Chelsea week. As you know the local shops all compete by decorating their shops to coincide with the Chelsea Flower Show. This shop won a silver medal.

**And shops in Belgravia.....**

**Karen Davies James writes**

**Florists just showcasing their amazing skills and ideas and the beautiful shops embracing the power of Chelsea flower show.. If you haven't been around these shops at this time, put it in the diary for 2026, it is on through Chelsea flower show time as an annual event with maps details at Sloane square.**



**A CAUTIONARY TALE** by Christine Pearce, Ealing Flower Club

Because I knew I couldn't lock myself out having had fire doors fitted I felt confident to just give my neighbour my key box number for emergencies if I was away. In the past she always had a spare key.

To reduce weight, I used the key from my key box when I went to Kew Gardens but when I got home the key box wouldn't open. I felt panic rising. A new, very expensive door and no way in.

A neighbour and I had tried the key box number what seemed like a hundred times with no success. One number just was not operating.

One of my fanlight windows was open due to a faulty arm and I knew I could reach a key from there to get into the big window and thus into the flat. At this window my flat is two storeys high.

Having obtained a key for the cellar from a neighbour I knew there were ladders in there I could use but when I tried to lift one there was no chance I could do this by myself. As good fortune would have it another neighbour came home and was eager to help. Between us we manoeuvred the heavy steel ladder out and into position only to find it was too short. Plan B. Get the double length and double weight ladder out. With a lot of effort we did this but just couldn't lift it up to the window.

At this point another neighbour came home and between the three of us we started to get the ladder up the wall in very small increments.

The neighbour who was trying the number on the key box ran back upstairs and miracles of miracles the key box opened.

We got the ladders back into the cellar and me into my flat. I have never felt so pleased to have such good neighbours. I now have a new key box bought from a 'proper shop' and my neighbour has my key.

PS: Christine has supplied me with details of the "proper shop" - so if you are interested, I'll forward them on to you. [pat.laughton@btinternet.com](mailto:pat.laughton@btinternet.com)

**S. Mary's Parish Church: Hayes**  
*where all a place for prayer and worship*

# 60<sup>th</sup> Festival of Flowers

## Theme: The History of Hayes

3<sup>rd</sup> July – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
The church will be open daily from 10am until 6pm  
Admission free

**Fair on the Green**  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July – 11am – 3pm  
Will be opened by the Right Hon John McDonnell MP  
Stalls - Games - Raffle

**Live Saxophone music on Saturday afternoon in the hall**

The place-name Hayes comes from the Old English *hæa*, meaning "hazelwood", suggesting the sort of landscape barefooters before the bulldozers moved in to build a town. The church covers the history of St Mary's Church, the surrounding area, the history of Hayes & District, and the people who live and work in the area. The name and business list are available.

Companies and industries include: Heinz, Perforated Music Company, Hayes Brewery, Brick Production, EMI, Fairy Engineering, Nestlé, Ordnance Factory, HMV.

**Dr Triplett's School Choir Sing live on Church Green**

**Church will be open 10.00am – 6.00pm Closes 3pm on Sunday**

**Come and see the beautiful flower arrangements.**

**Cafe in Church Hall open 10.00am – 4.00pm Closes 3pm on Saturday**

**Voices in Accord will perform a concert Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Songs from the Shows at 7.30pm in the Church**

Entry is free, wine and fruit juice will be provided and there will be a retiring collection for Saint Mary's Church.

Saint Mary's Hayes can also be contacted on:  
\* Facebook: StMarytheVirgin Hayes

**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>