



SURREY AREA NEWSLETTER DECEMBER

Welcome to the December Edition of the Surrey Area Newsletter.

Many thanks to all the Clubs and Individuals that have contributed to this edition; it is very much appreciated.

The email address to send any photos and articles to is: **Dee47nafas@gmail.com**
I look forward to receiving them and thank you in advance.

**On behalf of all the Surrey Area Officers may I wish you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and A Happy, Healthy New Year.
Here's to fun, friendship, and flowers in 2025.**



Surrey Area AGM.

The Council and AGM for our Area took place on Monday 25th November. We were so lucky with the weather after a very wet and windy weekend.

Many clubs turned up and the hall was warm and welcoming and the flowers arranged by Pat George were stunning at the front of the stage.

Ashtead offered to make the tea and coffee for all those attending and at lunchtime we had a long table with chairs put up so we could all eat our lunch together, which was lovely, lots of chatter and laughter. We had plates of lovely cakes put on the tables to help ourselves too and boy did we tuck in.

The sad news was that 3 of the clubs in Surrey are closing this year, Surbiton closed in the summer and Horsley and Whitton will be closing at the end of the year. We as remaining members must do all we can to support our clubs, I know lots are struggling with finding new members, Demonstrators are becoming harder and harder to find and if available; the cost of petrol and flowers (which are so expensive now; as the cost has gone through the roof). This poses a real headache for clubs. Remember you can negotiate with the demonstrator about the number of designs you would like as this could put the cost down a little; but also; please remember that they are also trying their best to give your value for money; many are out of pocket after all they must do to put on a good demonstration for your members.

More sad news is that Marlene Davies will be closing the Surrey Young Flower Arrangers down at the end of the year as well, this club has been running for 35 years and as with all clubs the numbers have dropped with many youngsters now not interested in joining a club, they cannot get away from the hand-held devices long enough.....

Surrey Area Committee 2025

New President: Dee Kelly

I was speechless when Margaret Trepant (Area Chairman) phoned me last week to let me know that I had been voted by the members to be the new President of the Area, I am not often lost for words but on this occasion I was.

At the AGM yesterday, I was officially voted in and was given my badge by Alison Gillott (Retiring President) and I was so thrilled.

Please invite me to any events or gatherings you are having and I will be sure to turn up with a smile on my face to meet all your members.

Thank you to the members who voted for me, it means the world.

Dee

Another new appointment to the Committee was **Di Henderson** who will become Events Chairman, I am sure Di will have lots of lovely ideas up her sleeve, so watch this space and check the Area Website often to find out what is going on in our Area.

The remaining Officers were voted in on bloc:

Chairman: Margaret Trepant.

Vice Chairman: Lynis Williams.

Secretary: (This role is vacant and Margaret is trying very hard to do both roles, so if you would like to join our happy band, please let any Committee member know as we would be delighted to have you join us).

Treasurer: Brenda Fox (Brenda would like to retire at the AGM next November 2025, so once again, if you know of anyone who would like to take on this role, even a partner of husband who is good with money issues, we would love to hear from you).

JDSE Chairman: Kathryn Austin.

Media Chairman: Linda Mumford.

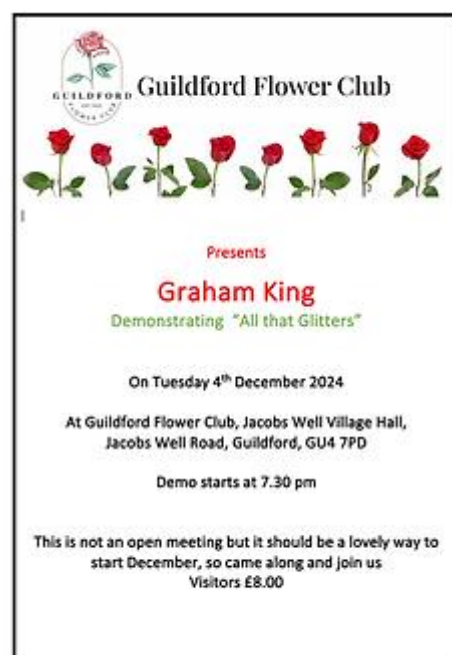
New Surrey Associate of Honour: Jane Rickard.

Dallas Taylor gave a wonderful speech of all there about the many varied roles Jane has had over the years, there were so many events Jane has been a part of and so many accolades Jane has received, too many to mention. Alison presented a very surprised Jane with her badge. Congratulations Jane; very well deserved.

A Council meeting not to miss:

Di Henderson mentioned that Judith Blacklock who used to be the Editor of the Flower Arranger is a member of her club (Staines), Judith has just closed her flower school in London and has donated quite a few boxes of her flower arranging items to the club. These will be sold at the Council meeting on Monday 20th January.

This will be a CASH only sale, so come early to pick up a bargain, Di said that there are some special items just waiting for you to buy.



ASHTEAD FLOWER ARRANGEMENT GROUP

**"Contemporary Christmas Wreath"
Floral Design Workshop**

**With NAFAS National Judge & Teacher
Jane Rickard**



**Create a wreath for your front door or festive
table that will last beyond Christmas!**

4th December 2024

10.00 – 12.00 am (doors open 9.30)

Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall KT21 2BE

**Ashtead
Member
For
Di**



Dates for your Diaries:

2025 (Please add all the year).

20 January; 17 March; 16 November: Area Council

12th March & 12th
Area Workshops.

13-18 May 2025 Salisbury
"The Spirit of Water"

20th June: Surrey Area

Ashtead Flower Arrangement Group

NAFAS National Demonstrator, Floral Designer,
Commissioned for "A Royal Wedding" & Britt Awards
RHS Chelsea Gold Medalist
Founder of Simply Flowers

Jacqui Arnold

will be demonstrating **"Strictly Christmas"**



Wednesday 4th December 2024
2.00 pm doors open 1.30 pm

Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall KT21 2BE
Members Free - Visitors welcome £10 on the door

Tea & biscuits included
All arrangements will be entered into the raffle
For further details please contact:
Di Stirling 01372 279501

dates to your diary for next

June; 22 September; 24
Meetings.

November 2025: Surrey

Cathedral Flower Festival,

Members Day.

19-20th September 2025: National Show “Natures Challenge” to be held at the Gloucester Cathedral.

16th October: NAFAS AGM

Sorry; this is short and sweet this month but I can only put in what has been sent in, so let us make 2025 a bumper year for photos and articles for our members. As this is your Area Newsletter, please forward to me anything of interest that is happening in your club for inclusion so that other club members can read all about it. Just drop me a short resume and photographs if you have taken any of the event to the email address below.....over to you all.

Wishing you all A Very Merry Christmas and A Healthy and Happy 2025.

Dee

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: Dee47nafas@gmail.com