

# **SURREY AREA NEWSLETTER MAY 2024**

## **Welcome to the May edition of the Surrey Area Newsletter.**

Many thanks to all the clubs and individuals that have contributed to this edition; it is greatly appreciated.

The new email address to send any photos and articles to is: **Dee47nafas@gmail.com**

I look forward to receiving them.

## **Ashtead Flower Arranging Group:**

A further update regarding the charity evening we have raised a total of £2,500 for the Alzheimer's Society. We do so appreciate the support of the Surrey flower community.

## **Westminster Cathedral Flowers for Easter:**

Jackie Squance and myself were thrilled to be asked to arrange flowers for the Easter Services at Westminster Abbey on Easter Saturday on behalf of the Surrey Area.

We were even more fortunate to be asked to do the two pedestals either side of the main altar.

Jackie drove us through surprisingly light traffic up to Westminster. We left plenty of time to get there which left us time to enjoy a delicious cup of coffee and Danish pastry in a coffee shop near the Abbey!

Our tarpaulins awaited us filled with large architectural foliage and flowers of the most glorious array of yellows and golds. We could not wait to get started!

Jackie and I managed to match our designs which involved walking very carefully across the front of the altar avoiding the exposed mosaic floor (on the edge of the steps). You need to be pretty nimble to do this!!

We spent an hour and a half placing this gorgeous plant material in such a way to avoid certain things and leaving pathways around our tarpaulins on the ground.

We finally finished and the Westminster Co-ordinators were very pleased that we were so quick and seemed to like our designs. Jilly wrote If there was a Top Gear style Leader Board, you'd be at the top for speed and quality. Nice words indeed.

Sadly, our time was up and we had to leave the Abbey and go home with memories of a very happy day.

If you are very fit and able to work fairly quickly and can do a very large pedestal then put your names forward to go on the list of volunteers to hopefully await your call up!! This is the very best perk of being a member of NAFAS. It is a joy and a privilege to do the flowers in such a wonderful place which despite the masses of visitors still manages to retain its atmosphere and sense of place. Jackie and I can highly recommend it.

Jane Rickard

April 2024

See photos below:



Jane's Pedestal



**Jackie's Pedestal.**

**Ashted Flower Arrangement Group:**

Alison Gillott found this article dated Spring 1987 while looking through old Flower Arranger magazines. We thought it would be fun to recreate the arrangement at our last club meeting, so Rachel Sherwin re-created the design.



**Oxted and Limpsfield Floral Design Club**

"An Easter Planter with Seasonal Plants and Flowers".

We had an excellent workshop on Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup> with member Sue Byrom, Angie Street showed us how to make decoupage eggs to incorporate into the Design, using serviettes and PVA glue.



**Below: The lovely, finished designs.**









**AFDC Club Night Workshop 4<sup>th</sup> April:**

Dee Kelly came up with the title "Handbags" to be made from strong card or paper; wire or anything else the members could think of; the results were superb; Dee used an Easter Egg box (Her husband's; not hers) everyone who took part made a great effort with a lot of thought going onto their designs; no two were the same. Brilliant.









I received this write-up from Valerie Best and thought members might like to read it and maybe include a class in an upcoming Show or Workshop:

### THE STORY OF STEAMPUNK: FACT SHEET

#### BACKGROUND:

Steampunk has its roots in the Victorian Era:

- It is a subgenre of science fiction and science fantasy
- It is inspired by 19<sup>th</sup> Century industrial steam powered machinery and Gothic fashion influences
- It is noticeable and identifiable by use of Metal & Machinery, along with dark colours.

#### DEVELOPMENT:

- Various works are considered seminal to the genre were published in the 1960's and 1970's but the actual word "STEAMPUNK" originated in the 1980's. It was used by the science fiction author K.W. Ketter, who was searching for a collective word to describe the work of various Contemporary authors. All books were set in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (normally Victorian) and imitated the work and genre created by H.G. Wells.
- Steampunk works are often set in an alternative history of the British Victorian era and the American "Wild West", in a fantasy world that maintains the use of steam power.
- Technology and its development are a key aspect of Steampunk style.
- It has developed into a cult style that features on how people in the 19<sup>th</sup> century might have envisioned future technology through the perspectives of fashion, culture, fiction, architecture, and art.
- Major works of fiction, taking as inspiration various machines as portrayed in detail in the works of H.G. Wells, Jules Verne, Mary Shelley, Edward S. Ellis, Mervyn Peake, and recently, the fantasy worlds of Terry Pratchett.
- In the USA, the symbol of an octopus is popular to depict Steampunk, taken from Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues under the Sea".

In terms of technology, it is influenced by:

- Steam engines, steam powered machinery, cannons, airships, submarines, cars, and analogue computers & typewriters etc.
- In Art, Craft and entertainment, it is influenced by:

- Paintings of Remedios Varo, which combine elements of Victorian dress, fantasy, and imagery.
- The television series "The Wild West" (1965 – 1969) which much later, inspired a film.
- Craft work designs and items by Tim Holtz USA, mixing digital media with handmade art forms.
- Star Trek particularly characters from Voyager: "The Borg" who were cybernetic organisms.

It is worth remembering too, that all parts of everyday life in Victorian society was heavily influenced by new machinery from cloth production, bread and cake making to trains, cars, and steel/metal factories. It was the start of mass production as we know it today.

#### STEAMPUNK DESIGN:

- Various modern objects have been modified by enthusiasts into a pseudo-Victorian mechanical "Steampunk" style such as electric guitars, computer keyboards etc.
- This is achieved by designing with and applying appropriate materials such as polished brass, iron, wood, leather, velvet, copper and many other materials and metals consistent with the Victorian era.

- In 2009, The Museum of History of Science Oxford, hosted the first major exhibition of steampunk art, with contributions from 18 steampunk artists internationally.
- Designs are normally dark in colour featuring rich browns, rust, copper, dark red etc. Black features strongly as a base colour in everything, particularly design with gothic influence.

#### STEAMPUNK FASHION:

- There are no set guidelines for steampunk clothes but it tends to blend modern styles with influences from the Victorian era (particularly BLACK wedding dresses) with a touch of Gothic revival.
- Clothes used included military uniforms, corsets, gowns, waistcoats, bustles, petticoats, high button boots, top hats etc. None of them are gender specific and the more exaggerated and sensational, the better.
- All items are heavily decorated with "period" accessories such as parasols, fans, goggles, gas masks, fantasy masks, buckles, pipes, cogs, wheels, watches, keys, locks etc,
- Today, Steampunk fashion includes clothing, hairstyles, jewellery, body modification and make-up.

#### CONCLUSION:

- There is no doubt that the word "Steampunk" started as a bit of a joke but has now developed into a major cult with a huge international following.
- Various societies, particularly in the UK, USA, and New Zealand, hold conventions highlighting every aspect of steampunk style. It has grown into a major industry with eclectic clothing and accessories.

#### CREATING A STEAMPUNK STYLE FLORAL DESIGN:

- Choose any style from the Victorian period onwards including Art Nouveau, Art Deco, 1950's/1960's, Modern/Free Style, Traditional, Contemporary. Ancient Egyptian period can also be used due to its introduction into Art Deco style.
- Accessorise/decorate with cogs, old clocks and watches, keys, padlocks, goggles, masks, spectacles, chains, rusty machine parts, pipes, masks, velvet, lace, gloves etc.
- Bases: wood, pewter, metal, slate, etc.
- Containers: anything to suit selected period style.
- Colours: Red, dark red/maroon, black, brown, orange, yellow, beige. Generally, not pastel shades. Clashing colours were popular in Victorian times.
- Plant material: Ferns, Ivy, Aspidistra, Herbs, Moss, Succulents, Air Plants, Driftwood, glycerines and dried leaves, seedpods, grasses, Paper, Jute. Roses, Carnations, Lilies, Poppies, Gerberas, Sunflowers, any flower with a dark centre that resembles a cog.

Valerie Best

June 2021

#### Ashtead Flower Arrangement Group (Sent in by Celia Rose).

At our April meeting we had Robin White share his reflections from the last 40 years. In his demonstration "Looking back", we were treated to stunning designs inspired by the White Gardens at Sissinghurst, to the heat from the flames in Bambi to the tranquillity of Sleeping Beauty. (See photos below):



**Surrey Young Floral Designers:**

The 'cardboard boats' with tubes we did for our March workshop. The papercraft rolls design was with Di Henderson (torn paper from a paperback book, rolled and glued to a spice jar, flowers inserted in water). See Photos below:



## BANSTEAD FLOWER CLUB

Our April Club Day was a busy one to say least. Graham Harmer treated the members of Banstead to a wonderful Demonstration resulting with a stage full of colour and perfume exuding from the exhibits expertly put together, and an amazing amount of designs to raffle off at the end of the afternoon.



Prior to Graham's demonstration two workshops were held at the club. Margaret Trepant kindly guided nine of our ladies attending the Beginner's class on how to design a low table arrangement, again resulting in some beautiful arrangements a few are shown below.





Our new Development Skills Class which ran alongside the Beginner's class was taken by Anna Sparkes. Anna talked the group through the varying stages of 'How to Enter a Show' This included the basics from applying to enter through to 'Class Title Interpretation' and 'What a Judge is Looking For'. This Class has been set up to encourage more of our members to have the confidence to enter competitions, and all attending found this to be a worthwhile and informative session.

The In-house competition for April titled 'Spiralling Out of Control' was almost full to bursting with great range of different designs and it's fabulous to see so many of our members taking part each month.



Above First in Advanced Class 'Spiralling out of Control' by Linda Milne

For our next demonstration on the 22nd May, we are thrilled and excited to be welcoming Dr Solomon Leong, International Floral Designer from Hong Kong, who is coming along to demonstrate for us. If you are interested in coming along to see Dr Solomon; please note entry is by **Advanced Ticket Sale Only**. For more information contact Sarah Mewett 07979325754

or email [bansteadflowerclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bansteadflowerclub@hotmail.co.uk).

**Area (Surrey and Other Area's) and National News:**

**Dates for your Diaries:**

- **3 May National Flower Arranging Day- Lonely Bouquet**
- **3-5 May BBC Gardeners World Spring Show – Beaulieu**
- **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, NAFAS** will be holding an Open Meeting on Zoom for members to put questions to the Board of Directors; the time is 6-8pm. **See Link Below:**

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/d6d42536-b218-46c0-ad0e-6f9da08b5bec@e78ae249-98ce-45ea-aa87-540e830aee0d>

For any other details see the NAFAS website.

- **5-8 June Festival of Flowers, Chichester Cathedral**
  - **Surrey Area** Presents the Surrey Area Show 2024: **"GREEN PLANET"** 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> July at **The Dell Centre**, Park Lane, Ashted, KT21 1EJ. **Staging** 12.7.24, 8am–12noon, **Preview evening** 12.7.24, 7-9pm: **£12.00. Show Open** 13.7.24, 10am–4pm. Entrance Price: **£5.00**. Tickets now available.  
Show Schedule can be downloaded from the Surrey NAFAS website [Surreynafas.com](http://Surreynafas.com)  
There is an amendment for the Show Schedule: all drapes stated as pale grey are in fact pale green.  
There will be a Cake and Plant stall at the Show and the Area would like your contributions to both stalls please.  
They also need helpers to Steward on the day, if you can help that would be lovely.  
(See separate Poster below).
  - **30 & 31 July-1 August: New Forest Show**
  - **Wisley Show:** This year's Show dates are 3–8 September (Staging Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>). The title of the Show will be "Thank You for the Music."
  - **15 October NAFAS National AGM – Online**
  - **7-9 November W&J Area Show "Winter Wonders"** Broughton Village Hall, High Street, Broughton Stockbridge SO20 8AX
  - **The Next Surrey Area Workshop will be on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** and this will be tutored by Richard Twistleton and will be a Christmas themed day. Booking will open in June. (See separate Poster) below).
- 2025**
- **13-18 May 2025** Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival, "The Spirit of Water"

**Aldershot Floral Design Club  
Are Celebrating their Club's Platinum (70 Years) Anniversary  
With Sandy Bailey Demonstrating  
"Let's Celebrate"  
Sandy will be using fabulous flowers in her demonstration.  
Venue: Normandy Village Hall, Glaziers Lane GU3 2DT  
Date: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
Doors open at 2.00 pm  
Afternoon Cream Tea with a Glass of fizz!  
Tickets £25.00**

Email: [jane.randell55@gmail.com](mailto:jane.randell55@gmail.com) for information and to apply for a ticket.

We would love you all to join us for a special afternoon's celebration; you will be made most welcome.

Ashtead Flower Arrangement Group  
Competitive Flower Show

# Floral Symphony



Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall  
2pm - 5pm Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Prize giving: 4:30pm

Admission: £5    Members: Free

Judge: Debbie Wadge

Refreshments/ Raffle/ Sales Tables

## Ashtead Flower Arrangement Group

Area Demonstrator, NAFAS Tutor, freelance Writer &  
Editor of Flora Magazine

### Nina Tucknott

will be demonstrating **“Green Inspirations”**



**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024**  
2.00 pm doors open 1.30 pm

**Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall KT21 2BE**  
Members Free - Visitors welcome £10

Tea & biscuits included  
All arrangements will be entered into the raffle



**BANSTEAD FLOWER CLUB PRESENT**

**International Floral Designer**

**DR SOLOMON LEONG**

Demonstrating

**'Exploring Forms in Floral Design'**

Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Doors Open 1.15 for 2pm Banstead Community Hall

Visitors £15 Park Road SM7 3AJ

contact: bansteadflowerclub@hotmail.co.uk or Vicki Hollands 07845250308

\*\*\*  
**WALTON & WEYBRIDGE FLOWER CLUB**  
INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM AT AN  
OPEN MEETING  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**ALISON PENNO PRESENTS**  
**'FLORAL IDOLS'**  
THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 2024.  
DOORS OPEN 12.45PM FOR 2.00 START.  
**WHITELEY VILLAGE HALL, 3A OCTAGON RD,  
HERSHAM, KT12 4EG**  
REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED WITH TICKET. STALLS SELLING  
JEWELLERY AND ACCESSORIES.  
ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY - PLEASE PURCHASE IN ADVANCE.  
CLUB MEMBER £12 VISITOR £16  
Tickets available from Valerie Saint 07908 778223;  
Anna Crawford 01932 244466;  
or email valerie.saint@btinternet.com

## Area Show July 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Green Planet**

**This month .....**

**Entries** are due in between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May

Purchase your tickets for the **Preview Evening** and meet up with the judges if you like.

Save and pot up divided **plants** and seedlings for the plant sale.

Bring along a cake for the Cake Table (Please include ingredients on a slip of paper).

Contact us to **volunteer** to help on the show day; on one of the stalls, selling raffle tickets or on the entrance table [Surreyshow2024@gmail.com](mailto:Surreyshow2024@gmail.com)

Any questions or queries contact the show team on [Surreyshow2024@gmail.com](mailto:Surreyshow2024@gmail.com)



# Surrey Area of NAFAS

invites members to a workshop with

## Richard Twistleton

Experienced flower arranger, retired National Demonstrator, member of Southern Demonstrators Group and Midlands Area of NAFAS  
Very successful competitor at the Wisley Floral Art competitions.

## CHRISTMAS THEMED WORKSHOP

on

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
10.00 for 10.30am - 3.00pm

at

The Old Barn Hall  
Great Bookham  
KT23 3PQ

Cost £40

Booking for this workshop will open on June 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 when a form with full information (including on line payment details) will be available on the Surrey Area of NAFAS website

Enquires to  
[aegillott@gmail.com](mailto:aegillott@gmail.com)  
07811 088949

# Nature's Challenge

The UK's most prestigious Flower Arranging Experience

**Fri 19th & Sat 20th September 2025  
at Gloucester Cathedral**



**Demonstrations,  
workshops & talks**

Competitive flower  
arranging classes

**Stunning floral  
exhibits**

Food, drink  
& retail

**Music**

Tickets available from  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)



[www.nafas.org.uk](http://www.nafas.org.uk)  
The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies  
Charity Registration No. 1101348

Tickets will be available later in  
the year.

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.

Have fun with your arranging.

Dee Kelly,

**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:** [Dee47nafas@gmail.com](mailto:Dee47nafas@gmail.com)