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# Home Counties AREA NEWS

## Autumn 2024

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### A Message from Your Area Chairman Carolyn Cranswick

I have had a busy year visiting Clubs and meeting Members. I have tried to visit as many as I could whilst at the same time giving time to my own clubs, organising two Members' Days and the Area Flower Festival in Hitchin in September. My aim has been to help and support Clubs to attract new members and to encourage the committee members to promote the benefits of being part of the Home Counties Area of NAFAS.

In June we held a Members' Day in Essex with an excellent talk in the morning by Brenda Eyers and a superb demonstration by Lee Berrill. I wanted to give the members of Essex clubs the opportunity to have a special day for members and I know they appreciated it. The Officers also appreciated the problems travelling to and from this part of our Area.

In July three members, including myself, attended the Highland Fling in Glasgow. It was a very well organised event in an ideal location with excellent facilities. I have written a report on this enjoyable occasion that you will find later in this edition of Area News.

On 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September Home Counties held the Area Flower Festival 'Abundant Blessings'. It was an amazing event for our Area and it achieved all our aims and exceeded our expectations. We wanted to showcase our skills, talents and love for flowers in a beautiful location. We wanted to promote NAFAS and our Clubs and to bring our members together. We wanted the public to see what we do and to know about flower arranging. Again look for a full report in the following pages.

In June, at our Council Meeting we held an Elimination Competition for the NAFAS inter Area class at the RHS Malvern Show. There were 6 competitors who all staged designs to the title of 'Shaped by Nature'. The winner was Sylvia Kittle from Thorpe Bay Flower Club and she went to Malvern in September to represent us in the competition. There were many experienced arrangers from 14 other Areas and



*Part of Sylvia's exhibit started as an old Christmas tree that had lost a few branches*

I was delighted when Sylvia was awarded a Highly Commended award. She enjoyed the experience as it was her first National competition and we were very happy to sponsor her entry.

In October we are holding an Education Fun Day to encourage members to enter competitions. There is a focus on foam free designs and mechanics, with Gill McGregor coming to share her techniques. We will be having classes to give our Area Judges experience and an imposed activity for everyone to create a foam free design.

In November we are holding our AGM and demonstration by Margaret Rumens. This will mark the end of my term of office as Area Chairman. I have thoroughly enjoyed the past two years as I have made many new friends in my Area clubs and at our NAC Meetings. I have aimed to make our members and Clubs more involved with NAFAS and to support clubs by giving advice and organising events to educate, entertain and to bring members together.

**Carolyn Cranswick**

## **AREA MEMBERS' DAY RUNNYMEDE HALL, 26th June 2024**

The long-awaited Area Members' Day at Runnymede Hall was finally here.

In the past I tried to organise this to no avail and it was planned when the dreaded covid spoilt a lot of events. I am pleased to say approx 80 members attended the event where they were welcomed with coffee and tea provided by Canvey Floral Art Club and a good selection of stalls to provide extra interest with Jewellery,



Woodcraft, Glass crafts and Benfleet Horticultural stall with a good selection of plants.

Carolyn Cranswick, Anne Mcpherson with guests, Audrey Huzzey and Vera Blanchard made the journey to Essex. Round tables with pretty rose plants decorated the hall.

Carolyn opened the event with a warm welcome to all and introduced Brenda Eyers, National Speaker, who gave us a most interesting and entertaining presentation

“If You Want to Get Ahead” on a variety of headgear, from a Beret to a Top Hat and indeed modelled said items herself.

A buffet lunch was provided which was received favourably on the whole with the bar being opened for refreshments.

In the afternoon we were royally entertained by Lee Berrill, Area Demonstrator, with an outstanding floral demonstration “Summer Haze” with beautiful flowers. Following the theme of hats, Lee surprised us with his attire. He came onto the stage dressed in shorts, casual shirt and sunhat whereas usually he is dressed to the nines in shirt and waistcoat.



Votes of thanks were given by both Anne McPherson, Vice Chair, and Audrey Huzzey, President. Lots of happy faces and favourable comments were made as the members left for the journey home.

**Janneke Jones**

## **Demonstrators' Symposium**

The National Demonstrators' Committee is organising a Demonstrators' Symposium open to National, Area and Trainee Demonstrators commencing Friday 28th February 2025 finishing on Sunday 2nd March 2025.

The event will be held at the Telford Golf & Spa Hotel, Telford TF7 4DT. To attend the symposium and a demonstration by Dawn Weaver, National Demonstrator, a single room is £399, a twin room is £350 per person.

On Saturday 1st March a workshop will take place open to Demonstrators and Trainee Demonstrators priced at £125 which also includes the afternoon demonstration – limited places available.

For those members wishing to attend the demonstration only on Saturday 1st March at 2pm tickets are priced at £22 per person – limited places available.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Vanessa Keys by emailing [events@nafas.org.uk](mailto:events@nafas.org.uk) to request an event booking form.

*Home Counties Area of NAFAS*



# *AGM, Lunch and Demonstration*

*Wednesday 13th November 2024*

*at Marford Memorial Hall, Marford Road,  
Wheathampstead AL4 8AY*

*(There is easy access and parking)*

*Doors open 10.00am AGM at 11am*

*followed by a delicious buffet lunch*

*There will be a seating plan and we will be seated at decorated tables*



AUTUMN

*Demonstration by Margaret Rumens*

*(National Demonstrator)*



WINTER

## *“Betwixt and Between”*

**Stalls to browse and tea/coffee and drinks available throughout the day**

**Tickets £25 Please apply no later than 31<sup>st</sup> October through your Club**

**or to Celia Thompson our Area Treasurer**

*Congratulations*

## **SOUTH STEVENAGE FLOWER CLUB CELEBRATES 35 YEARS AT A CORAL ANNIVERSARY PARTY**

On Tuesday 17 July, South Stevenage Flower Club celebrated their Coral Anniversary.

Members were really looking forward to celebrating this milestone event with a tea party in the garden of our president, Miriam. However, as was the case for our Coronation Party in May 2023, it turned out to be one of those wet days this



summer and, with concerns it could be slippery underfoot, the Coral Anniversary Tea Party was moved inside to our usual meeting hall.

None of our members were going to let the inclement weather dampen their spirits, and it turned out to be a popular event, with over 30 people enjoying a fun afternoon with laughter, tea and lots of cakes, traditional games and a quiz, and almost everyone went home with a raffle prize. A fitting celebration for a significant anniversary!

### **Christine Speirs**

Linda Nadauld, Dee Hatt and Louise Kamp manage to resist temptation for a few minutes

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## **Highland Fling – National President's Weekend**

In July I attended the Highland Fling in Glasgow accompanied by Brenda London and Ann Swain. We were the Home Counties representatives, joining delegates from all over the country and overseas. It was a

very social weekend meeting friends and making new friends in a super Conference hotel, with excellent facilities, on the banks of the Clyde.



The journey was easy as we flew from Luton early on Friday morning and had Special Assistance due to Brenda's restricted mobility. We were able to bypass the queues and were escorted in a mini-bus across the tarmac to the steps of the plane. That's the way to travel!! When we arrived in Glasgow we dropped our luggage at the hotel and went to explore Glasgow on the Hop on Hop off Big Red Bus. It went all around the main areas of the city and we got off to have lunch in Mackintosh at the Willows. Then, a taxi back to the hotel for the events of the special weekend.

Lilias Hoskins, the National President, had organised an excellent weekend with a full programme of entertainment. The first evening we had dinner followed by entertainment by Simeone Wood, who played the flute, pan pipes and even a NHS walking stick!! He played many well-known tunes and had everyone amused for the rest of the evening.

On Saturday the morning began with a talk by Christine Logan, who makes bespoke hats for weddings and Ascot. She was very interesting to listen to whilst she described her craft and then allowed us to try on any of her large collection of designer hats. After a break for coffee and biscuits we went back into the Auditorium to listen to Brian Holmes, a real plantsman who gave an illustrated talk on irises. He had beautiful slides and also a super plant stall with lots of plants for flower arrangers. Unfortunately, we were travelling on an aeroplane so couldn't bring any home.



In the afternoon we had a superb demonstration by Julia Loudon, a newly qualified National Demonstrator, who filled the stage with designs all based on Scottish life. Each design had amazing containers/ accessories that she had made, including a Celtic cross, a Scottish harp made from driftwood, some large thistle heads, some bagpipes and even a Highland cow looking over a fence. And they were just the containers! Her flowers were wonderful and she had us laughing all the afternoon. Again, no raffle tickets as how would you get a large arrangement on an Easyjet plane!

The evening began with drinks on the terrace beside the river with two pipers in full Scottish dress playing for us before the Gala Dinner. Everyone was dressed up for the occasion and it was lovely to see all the very smart NAFAS ladies and gentlemen. After dinner we had entertainment by Mark Findley who sang songs from the 70s and 80s – just our type of music and it got everyone dancing and 'really letting their

hair down'. NAFAS members know how to have a good time and enjoy one another's company.

There was another superb talk on Sunday morning given by Karen Frew, a National speaker and judge from Northern Ireland. Her topic was 'Dior' – the life and work of Christian Dior. On the stage she revealed some Dior style dresses and told us how he was inspired by flowers, especially Lily of the Valley that he always stitched into the hems of his dresses in the 50's and 60's to make his ladies smell sweet. It was fascinating listening to Karen as she loved her subject and she passed on her wide knowledge.

The weekend then finished with thanks to Liliias and her organising Committee and everyone began to disperse to all parts of the UK with lots of happy memories and new friends and contacts.

We all agreed that it had been a lovely weekend and it was a shame that numbers had been limited as I am sure many more from our area would have liked to come. Hopefully, there will be another one in the future – Ann, Brenda and I will be there!!

**Carolyn Cranswick**

## **THE LIMONCELLO CUP**

We had 20 entries for the competition '*with a kitchen utensil*' held at our May club night. That was a fabulous response, given that it was a very wet night and half of the audience had entered the competition - brilliant.

An imaginative use of utensils was on display, which included, amongst others, a colander, whisk, lemon squeezer, teapots, scales, and an egg poacher. Janet Voss was deemed the winner on this occasion with her design on a mincer.

The Limoncello Cup was judged and presented by our demonstrator Doug Howard and our president Miriam Hill. Congratulations Janet!

**Sue Calver**  
**South Stevenage Flower Club**





HOME COUNTIES AREA OF NAFAS  
*Flower Festival*

*18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024*

The weekend was an amazing event for our Area and it achieved all our aims and exceeded our expectations. We wanted to showcase our skills, talents and love for flowers in a beautiful location. We wanted to promote NAFAS and our Clubs and to bring our members together. We wanted the public to see what we do and to know about flower arranging.

St Mary's Church, Hitchin is the largest church in Hertfordshire and we filled it with 44 large exhibits arranged by Clubs and members, both experienced arrangers and some who have never arranged on a large scale before. We know how much thought and planning, travelling and time our members willingly gave and there was a very happy atmosphere throughout the staging and weekend. The Church was filled with floral exhibits in different styles, designs and colours all based on Blessings eg, Family, Knowledge, the Holy Spirit, Joy, Happiness and many to bless the Natural World. We encouraged public participation by placing a flower in to a design to focus on peace throughout the world.



had some left for a future event.

Most Clubs sponsored their flowers and the Area had raised a fund to subsidise and cover all the claims. We worked within our budget and



There was a NAFAS Information Area with exhibits and programmes, posters and information about our Area Clubs. The Flower Arranger Officer was busy promoting the magazine and was giving free back copies that our members had donated. There were stewards there to tell the public about NAFAS and where their local Club meets. Already some Clubs have told me they have had enquiries from people who are interested. Hopefully, we have raised an awareness of NAFAS and we will gain new members.

We worked in partnership with St Mary's Church, Hitchin by using their church and they organised the publicity, refreshments, programmes, stewarding and the wonderful music that entertained the 1,600 visitors throughout the weekend. The church members worked extremely hard for four days to take full advantage of the fundraising opportunity that we gave them. The Church has now informed us that they made a profit of over £16,000, that will help to improve the facilities in their beautiful church. The agreement worked well as we wanted to design, stage and sponsor the cost of the flowers and the Church desperately needs funds.

I really enjoyed the whole week from the start on Tuesday to dismantling on Monday. It gave me great pleasure to talk to so many members and to talk to the visitors about our organisation. The members enjoyed meeting others who shared their love of flowers and friendship.

I really appreciated Ellie Meaking, NAFAS Director joining us at the Preview Evening on the Thursday and felt very proud showing her around the Festival. Kim Wilde also attended to officially open it. We had visitors from a wide area of the country, the photographer from The Flower Arranger, some National demonstrators and the local press, so hopefully the 'Abundant Blessings' will be remembered as a very happy occasion celebrating the skills and talents of the members of Home Counties Area of NAFAS.



*NAFAS AT IT'S BEST*

*Carolyn Cranswick*

*(More pictures to come in the Spring issue)*

## VISIT TO KELMARSH HALL

On 13<sup>th</sup> August a group of 39 members and friends of Welwyn Floral Group visited Kelmarsh Hall and gardens in Northamptonshire.

The weather was perfect, being sunny and not baking hot as the previous day had been. After a smooth trip, with no holdups, we arrived at the Hall to be greeted by one of the staff who gave us a short history of the Hall and explained about the gardens which are designated as Grade 11\*, a garden of national significance.



The group split up, some making their way to the gardens or the house and others to the pleasant café for coffee and homemade cake.



The walled garden has a large variety of flowers and shrubs and is planted to have interest all year round. Nancy Lancaster planted the gardens to complement her English Country House style interiors. This includes a terrace with a wide vista overlooking the lake around which there is a lakeside walk which leads into a woodland walk, so there was plenty of opportunity to explore and admire.

The original house was a Jacobean Manor but that was demolished and replaced with the Palladian Style Hall in the 1730's. The Hall is now run by a trust that was set up by the Lancaster family and it has successfully obtained grants to improve the access to the servants' quarters, which were updated in Victorian times. There is also a room dedicated to the history of the house, together with a video of an interview with Nancy Lancaster.

Everyone eventually made their way back to the coach and it was agreed that the trip had been extremely pleasant and interesting. Our thanks go to Alison for organising it.

**Marilyn Dalglish**

Home Counties Area of NAFAS



# *Education Fun Day*

An informative and action-packed day including competition work, foam-free designs.

**Wednesday 23rd October**

**10am – 4 pm**

**Marford Memorial Hall, Marford Road,  
Wheathampstead AL4 8AY**

(There is easy access and parking)

There will be a variety of activities throughout the day to inform and inspire you and have fun working with others.

Gill McGregor will be giving ideas for Foam- free mechanics



**Tickets £20 – includes all drinks.**

**Please bring a packed lunch, scissors and a mug!**

**All members are very welcome, as well as an opportunity for all Area demonstrators, teachers and judges to refresh their skills.**

Tickets are £20 and may be ordered from Celia Thompson Area Treasurer

## A SCHORCHING HOT DAY

On a scorching hot day towards the end of June, more than 20 members of South Stevenage Flower Club visited the gardens at Hatfield House.

We were met by our guide, Dermot, who offered us a complimentary tour of the old Palace. Dermot was extremely knowledgeable and very entertaining as he gave us a potted history of King Henry VIII, his six wives and their respective children, for whom Hatfield Palace was their childhood home and, indeed, where Elizabeth I found out she was to become Queen of England.

If the palace was impressive, the gardens certainly did not disappoint either and we had full access to both the public and private gardens, which, in high summer were at their absolute best. Dermot was on hand to answer any questions, but allowed us to take our time and to really enjoy this beautiful setting. Our afternoon concluded with a very welcome cup of tea, cakes and ice creams outside in the stable yard.

**Christine Speirs**  
**South Stevenage Flower Club**



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### *President's Day 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024*



It seemed a good idea at the time! Carolyn and I needed to raise some funds for the Flower Festival we were co-designing at St. Mary's Church in Hitchin, so I suggested having a President's Day and inviting members to purchase tickets for Morning Coffee or Afternoon Tea.

We decided to limit the numbers to 40 for each event, but a month before the event, hardly any tickets had been sold. When we did reach 40 Celia wrote and asked if I would be willing to take a few more, if needed, as some clubs would not meet until late in June. I said

'yes' not realising that within a couple of days the numbers would jump to over sixty for the morning and over seventy for the afternoon!

The garden could take the numbers, but what if it rained? It was a wet week, but thankfully Thursday 4th July dawned bright and sunny and although it was breezy it was dry! Before long seats at the tables were secured, the stalls were busy, raffle tickets were being bought and there was a buzz of excitement as friends got together again.

Plates had been prepared with Vera's Bara-brith, and breakfast pastries and the tea and coffee flowed as Geoff initiated Jim, my new husband, into the joys of serving at a Home Counties Area event. There were table quizzes for those sitting around while



others tried the plant identification on their walk around the garden.

All too soon it was time to draw the raffle, award the prizes and say goodbye to a happy group of ladies. Then it was time for the hard-working helpers to prepare for the afternoon. A big thank-you to the committee and others for their help.

After a very quick and well-deserved lunch-time snack, over seventy scones, which Carolyn had made, were loaded with jam and cream. Again individual plates were prepared with scones and cakes and quickly distributed. A similar format to that of the morning followed and it was wonderful to see members enjoying being together in a very relaxed manner. It was a most enjoyable and happy day and the Flower Festival Fund was boosted by just over £1,200.00. Jim now knows what a delight it is to be involved in a Home Counties Area event!!

He was also roped in to help with some mechanics for the Flower Festival and enjoyed seeing the results of all the months of planning. Our members pulled out all the stops to produce stunning designs. These can be seen in the report about the Festival.

Now we are looking forward to October 23rd and the Area Fun Day which promises to be informative and inspiring as well as good fun! This will be followed by the AGM, lunch and demonstration at Wheathampstead on November 13. If you haven't already booked your tickets for these events I encourage you to do so. Our motto of 'Fun, Friendship and Flowers' truly describes all our Home Counties Events.

This has been evidenced by the way in which Carolyn has led our Area for the past two years, and she deserves our most heartfelt thanks for all her very hard work. Not only has

she delivered the best possible programmes for all of us, she has also visited a number of clubs, has always been available for encouragement and advice and has been a vocal advocate for Club members at National Level.

She will hand over the reins, at the AGM in November, to Anne McPherson our incoming Chairman but I know she will still be a staunch supporter of our Area. I would encourage you to attend the AGM, if you can, and show Carolyn how much you have appreciated all she has done for the Area.

I look forward to seeing you on October 23rd and November 13th. In the meantime, enjoy your flowers and this edition of Area News, brought to you by our Editor Suzanne Boet. Thank you for all you do Suzanne!

As I sign off I should perhaps explain why I am not using my married name of Huzzey at Flower events. This is because it was deemed less confusing for me to retain the name by which I am known at HQ, in the flower world and legally. I am, however, still happily married and known to all my friends as Audrey Huzzey.

**Audrey Balderstone**  
**President, Home Counties Area of NAFAS**

## GARDEN PARTY AT THE HOME OF JOHNE RICE

8<sup>th</sup> August, 2024



For many years John Rice (Area Honorary Member) has opened his interesting garden annually raising monies for “Trust links”. However, since losing his beloved dogs several years ago, John approached the Dog Trust and became a volunteer and

fostered several different pooches, who we have met on various occasions. However after a while, he decided to adopt his current four legged friend, a French Bulldog, and indeed the proceeds of the event will be going to the Dog Trust.

John's garden has evolved over many years and has lots of different areas of interest with not a blade of grass to be seen. Quite frankly I don't know how he manages to create such a variety of lovely plants and flowers in this beautiful garden, not getting any younger like us all!

You enter the garden by the side gate and at the entrance is a colourful mosaic on the path and a mini stumpery. On the decking a mass of colourful pots of begonias welcomes you with an overview of the garden surrounded by a variety of tall trees and paths leading you to different areas of the garden.



Most of the plants are meticulously labelled, and hedges and steps lead you to different groups of planting, colourful dahlias, huge mop head hydrangeas, succulents, roses just to name a few and through a hedge even a bench on a cockleshell beach area backed by a large summerhouse/workshop.

John told me he had removed the greenhouse at the end of the garden and made a water feature there. Regrettably I didn't get that far as amongst all the flower beds were welcome groupings of tables and chairs to just sit and enjoy the garden from different angles with afternoon tea of sandwiches and scones, strawberries and cream with welcome cups of tea.

John's dog tried to eat acorns that dropped from the tree and of course if you were seen with food he was there on the dot! A raffle was held to add to the funds for the Dog Trust. We all sat and chatted and of course put the world to rights. All in all a very pleasant way to pass an afternoon. Thank you John for welcoming us to your lovely garden.

**Janneke Jones**

## 60 VERY HAPPY LADIES

South Stevenage Flower Club Treasurer, Anne Bowes-Wight, was asked by her WI committee members if she would lead a flower arranging event at their June WI meeting.



Flowers were purchased from the supermarket and several members of South Stevenage Flower Club volunteered foliage from their beautiful and well-stocked gardens, which Anne collected with fellow club member, Dee Hatt, the evening before the meeting.

Six buckets of flowers and lots of greenery, together with 48 small posy bowls and enough wet floral foam for everyone were transported to the WI meeting.

Anne started by demonstrating how to choose, prepare and place the foliage and then to select, cut and place the flowers.

At the end of the evening, there were 48 very different table decorations and 60 very happy WI ladies eating cake.

Anne has asked me to mention fellow club members who assisted with this event: Dee Hatt, Louise Kamp, Jayne Hale and Angela Little.

**Christine Speirs**  
**South Stevenage Flower Club**

### **THE HOME COUNTIES AREA OF NAFAS NEEDS YOU!**

**Would you consider becoming our new  
AREA DEMONSTRATORS' REPRESENTATIVE or  
AREA JUDGES' REPRESENTATIVE?**

**Both these roles are interesting and rewarding**

**If you would like to know more please get in touch with Anne  
McPherson for further information [anne.mcpherson@ntlworld.com](mailto:anne.mcpherson@ntlworld.com)**



**Canvey Floral  
Art Club  
Flower Festival &  
Floral Art Competition**

**"Wonderful World of  
Flowers"  
Where Flowers Bloom  
so does Hope.....**

**Programme entry £3.00**

**Saturday 2nd November  
10-5pm &**

**Sunday 3rd November  
12-4pm**

**Preview evening:  
Cheese&Wine**

**Friday 1st November  
7-9.30pm Ticket only-  
£5**

**St Nicholas Church Long Road  
Canvey Island SS8 0JR**



**West Herts Flower Club  
Open Evening**

***Arnaud Mètairie  
'Festive Floral Fantasy'***

**Friday 1st November 2024  
7.00pm for 7.30pm**

**Leverstock Green Village Hall  
Village Centre  
Leverstock Green  
HP3 8QG**

**Tickets £15**

**includes Drink & Mince Pie**

**Raffle Tombola**



**Invite you to a  
Special Floral Demonstration**



**By National Demonstrator  
Nick Grounds  
'Jingle a Partridge with Tinsel'**



**Date: Thursday 21st November**

**Time: Doors open 6.30pm**

**Place: Katherine Warrington School, Lower Luton Road,  
AL5 5FH**

**Tickets £16 admission on the evening  
or in advance on the telephone number below**

**All arrangements made will be raffled**

**Fizz, Soft Drinks and Nibbles included**

**Jewellery & Accessories Sales Table**



**For our latest news**



**www.facebook.com/harpendeneveningfloralgroup**

## “Thank you for the Music”

### Flower Festival at St Mary’s, Benfleet, Essex 7 – 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2024

It was 5 years since the last festival at St. Mary’s, Benfleet. Terry Babbage asked members from Canvey, Benfleet, the church arrangers and Eastwood to take part in the festival and could choose whatever music we would wish to interpret, whether it be Classical, Popular, a Musical of our choice.

The date came around very quickly and it would be one of the hottest weeks of the summer! Everyone ordered their own flowers and received reimbursement. Terry was lucky to have been sponsored by some local florists and Stibbards Undertakers for the event.



The designs were all very varied and colourful. The Entrance was adorned by a huge amount of “Paper Roses”, created by Maz Morgan and Judy Bonham.

The High Altar and Choir was “Moonlight

Sonata” by Tracy Beaumont, the Opera “Madam Butterfly” by Irene Bowkett and “Moulin Rouge” and Phantom of the Opera” by a lady from Benfleet church. “Pennies from Heaven” by Judy Bonham.





Hazel Cade interpreted “Bring me Sunshine” and “I Do Like to be Beside the Seaside”.



“Here Comes Summer” a lovely pedestal by Penny Hyde “Lady in Red” and “Rhapsody in Blue” were created on window sills by Tricia Luker and Anne Nevin

Irene also did a lovely design “Putting on the Ritz”, as well as several other pedestals with musical instruments and Pat Bolton created “Kinky Boots” and a beautiful Harp music design.



Another lady from Benfleet created “Rock around the Clock”. Shirley Perkins interpreted “Girls and Boys Come Out to Play” on the Font. Terry undertook “Josef and his Technicolour Dreamcoat”, a James Last music design and a high Window behind the Altar. I, myself created “Swan Lake”. Florists brought pedestal arrangements ready done and one made a wonderful “Elton John”! There was also a display of drawings by local school children.

The weekend entertainment was enhanced by a Swing Band on Saturday evening followed by Hymns with Pimms on Sunday. There were plants for sale, a bottle tombola and light refreshments throughout the weekend. Terry was pleased with the results, total proceeds in aid of the church funds were approximately £1,500.

**Janneke Jones**

## OUT AND ABOUT WITH SOUTH STEVENAGE FLOWER CLUB



On Tuesday 20 August, 24 members of Stevenage Flower Club visited St Peter's Church in Tewin.

First, we were given a talk about the churchyard and the various graves, then we went into the church to see the splendid tapestry kneelers that have been featured in the Sunday Times magazine!

We continued with a walk down to Tewinbury Hotel, passing, various animals, and the Chalk River Mimram..

On arrival, we were taken round the lovely barn and rooms at Tewinbury and then enjoyed a delicious lunch.

In the afternoon we visited Tewin Greens Market Garden for an interesting talk and tour of where they grow the vegetables and fruit for the veg boxes they sell.



*Left: Organiser Dee Hatt takes the wheel*

We were very lucky with the weather, and everyone seemed to enjoy the day.

**Christine Speirs**

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### ***SAVE THE DATE***

**16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**NATIONAL FLOWER SHOW**

**Hylands House, Chelmsford CM2 8WQ**

**19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**NAFAS NATIONAL SHOW**

**Gloucester Cathedral**

***"Nature's Challenge"***

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 2024/25**

**(N) = National Demonstrator**  
**FB = Facebook Page**  
**WS = Website. I = Instagram**

- 16<sup>th</sup> October** Hitchin Floral Art Group 7 for 7.30 pm **FB**  
**Lorraine Saunders: Flowers Through the Ages**  
Church House, Hitchin SG5 1HP  
Enquiries: [www.facebook.com/hitchinflowerclub](http://www.facebook.com/hitchinflowerclub)
- 15<sup>th</sup> October** South Stevenage Flower Club. 7 for 7.30 pm **WS**  
**Gill McGregor: Flowers with Style and Passion.** Stevenage  
Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, Stevenage SG1 1XN.  
Enquiries: [southstevenageflowerclub@yahoo.com](mailto:southstevenageflowerclub@yahoo.com)  
<https://southstevenageflowerclub.org/>
- 24<sup>th</sup> October** Hertford Flower Club. 2 for 2.15  
**Gill McGregor: Autumn Flair and Fun** Hertford Heath Village  
Hall, 121 London Rd, Hertford Heath, Hertford SG13 7RH  
Enquiries: [franwallis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:franwallis@hotmail.co.uk)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> November** Designer 3 Group. **Workshop with Jackie Page**  
Leverstock Green Village Hall, HP3 8QG just off M1, J8  
9.30 for 10 am start to 3.30 pm  
Enquiries: email [daphne.grant20@gmail.com](mailto:daphne.grant20@gmail.com) Visitors £35
- 6<sup>th</sup> November** Hatch End Flower Arrangement Group. 7.30 pm **FB WS**  
**Helen Hare: Starry Nights .** Pinner Village Hall,  
Chapel Lane, Pinner HA5 1AA Enquiries: [info@hefag.uk](mailto:info@hefag.uk)
- 6<sup>th</sup> November** Welwyn Floral Group 2 pm. **Anna Steven: New Expressions**  
Welwyn Civic Centre, Prospect Place, Welwyn AL6 9ER  
Enquiries: [joycefurssedonn7@virginmedia.com](mailto:joycefurssedonn7@virginmedia.com)
- 8<sup>th</sup> November** Thorpe Bay Floral Arrangement Group 2.30 for 3 pm  
**Elizabeth Robertson: Rich and Decadent.** St Augustine's  
Church Hall, Johnson Road, Thorpe Bay, Essex SS1 3HX  
Enquiries: [thorpebayflowers@gmail.com](mailto:thorpebayflowers@gmail.com)  
Visitors £5. Refreshments included
- 19<sup>th</sup> November** South Stevenage FC. Details as October  
**Rekha Naidoo: Jingle all the Way**
- 27<sup>th</sup> November** Hitchin FAG. Details as October. OPEN DEMONSTRATION  
**Lee Berill: All that Glitters .....**
- 28<sup>th</sup> November** Hertford FC. Details as October  
**Elizabeth Robertson: Festive Floral Feast**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> December** Bedford Floral Art Society. 7 for 7.30 pm **FB WS**  
**Beverley Artis: Christmas at Tiffanys.** Visitors £8  
 Addison Centre, Kempston MK42 8PN.  
[www.bedfordfloralartsociety.co.uk](http://www.bedfordfloralartsociety.co.uk)
- 4<sup>th</sup> December** Hatch End FAG. Details as November.  
**Tracey Griffin (N): Snowflakes**
- 5<sup>th</sup> December** Inbetweeners. **Christmas Workshop**  
 The Pavilion, Flamstead AL3 8DE near J.9 of the M1.  
 10.15 for 10.30 to 3 pm £20 with light lunch.  
 Contact [daphne.grant20@gmail.com](mailto:daphne.grant20@gmail.com) or  
[suzanne.boet@ntlworld.com](mailto:suzanne.boet@ntlworld.com)
- 13<sup>th</sup> December** Thorpe Bay FAG. Details as November  
**Morag Bennett: It's Christmas**
- 2025**
- 18<sup>th</sup> February** South Stevenage FC. Details as October  
**Fiona Harrison: A French Affair**
- 10<sup>th</sup> March** **Area Council Meeting** 11 am at the Pavilion, Ottway Walk,  
 Welwyn AL6 9AS
- 18<sup>th</sup> March** South Stevenage FC. Details as October  
**Peter Bodnar and Stefan Carolan: Spring into Spring**

