



## *Home Counties Area of NAFAS*



### **WINTER NEWSLETTER 2025**

*Dear Club Chairmen, Committee Members and Members*

There has been a number of activities in recent months, detailed below for members to learn, share experience and to enjoy FUN, FRIENDSHIP and FLOWERS.

**AREA CLUB DAY Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** on '**Building Resilience**' enabled clubs to identify common issues and concerns as well as sharing different ways of running their club that has been successful. Information from the day has been circulated to all clubs in the Area to give ideas on alternative ways of doing things that could make a difference.

**Joyful Reflections Flower Festival 3-5 October** at Stanborough Park Church, Watford was supported by Home Counties members in a variety of ways. Such as attending the Presidents Day hosted by Audrey Balderstone in July to help raise money towards funding the event. Input from members by arranging some of the exhibits and those who attended and enjoyed the Flower Festival. Along with all the various activities organised by the Church, £14,500 was raised for Rennie Grove Peace Hospice, which is an outstanding achievement.

**EDUCATION FUN DAY Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 'Fun with Foliage'** was much appreciated by those attending being able to learn and attempt different forms of leaf manipulation techniques under the expert tutelage of Gill McGregor. It included an opportunity to attempt judging the interesting exhibits interpreting the title 'Fun with Foliage'. Using garden material of foliage and bracts resulted in an amazing display of over 30 different designs from attendees working in pairs. Foliage as the only material demonstrated just how much imagination, talent and ability there is in the Home Counties Area.

**AREA AGM AND DEMONSTRATION 16<sup>th</sup> November** was an opportunity to provide an update overview from the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November at Leamington Spa to consider the proposals regarding restructuring the whole organisation. At that point no official written report was available and the proposal to increase the NAFAS element of the Affiliation Fee to £10 was still on hold. This has now been confirmed as £10 per member being the amount due in November 2026.

The Leamington Spa Meeting Report has now been received and circulated to all the clubs. Further meetings at Leamington Spa are planned to carry the initial conversation forward over the early months of 2026. Next year is significant for the future of NAFAS and how the organisation functions for the benefit of the members in the years ahead.

Thank you for all the feedback and support. It has been much appreciated.

With my very best wishes for *A Very Happy and Heathy New Year to you all.*

*Anne McPherson, Chairman Home Counties Area.*