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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



Dear Members

Well, Spring is with us at last. I am looking out over the garden filled with daffodils.

I am looking forward to the next Council Meeting which will be an actual, I think after all this time it is important to have this face to face meeting.

We are moving on with the NAFAS calendar of events. Having just had the Members Day meeting at The Manor at Meriden which unfortunately due to COVID I was unable to attend. Being disappointed doesn't really say how I felt, I was unbelievably upset not to be there.

I know there were a few problems on the day. But Brenda Ayres and the very special Arni did us proud. The feedback from their performance was very good. Many thanks go to Meriden for the beautiful table arrangements and a very special thanks to all the committee who had to step into the unknown the day before the event. How difficult must that be. Nic had to read through copious pages of notes of me trying to think of every eventuality that Elaine and I knew but he didn't.

Recently, JDS&E organised a 'New to Flower Arranging Day' just for fun with I believe 28 people attending. The day led by Louisa was very successful with some lovely work being done by total beginners. Also, JDS&E have held workshops at the NEC Creative Craft Fair over several days and a lot of hard work for the tutors and volunteers, but very successful.

We are shortly to be organising the exhibit for Gardeners World and the 'team' will be meeting soon to discuss the format for the day which will be on the theme of 'Going Green' using all recycled equipment and foliage.

Elaine and I will be entering the Harrogate Spring Flower Show just after Easter I will let you know how we do!!!

The cards for the National Flower arranging day have been very popular this year and I look forward to seeing all your exhibits. Please remember to take photographs of everything you do. We can put on face book and the web site.

I hope to be visiting some of your clubs again very soon. I think that is the best part of being Chairman. Keep safe and well everyone and I hope to see you all soon,

Annette



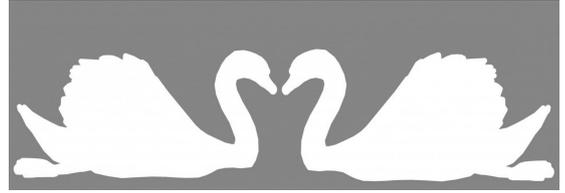
25th March 2022
Area Day at The Manor Hotel Meriden



The Swans were a paddling!

A Footnote to Area Members Day

by Diane Everton



The long awaited recent Members Day at the Manor Hotel Meriden when Annette our Area Chairman could finally meet Area members was a little different to say the least.

The day Annette together with Elaine had been planning for many months took a last minute twist with both testing Covid positive – Elaine earlier in the week and unfortunately Annette the day before! This meant that Nic Caree Area's Vice Chair took over the mantle and everything was sent over to him the afternoon beforehand to digest.

Nic and I arrived at the Hotel at 8am. on the day, neither of us involved in the planning of the event but most importantly Nic had all paperwork with the plans for the day.

As it was to be Nic's first experience in taking a large Area event we made a pact at the start – it was going to be a challenge but we would appear 'Swans on the surface but be paddling away like mad beneath'!!.

Unfortunately, we met quite a few challenges which were dealt with along the way with a few on the spot decisions made with Hotel management – which hopefully didn't detract too much with everyone's enjoyment of the day.

Our Speaker Brenda Eyres was superb, making us reflect with such humour and Arnaud Metairie gave us a wonderful demonstration in the afternoon – when the standing ovation told us how much everyone had enjoyed it.

Thanks must be given to everyone who helped during the day – including Jan who helped Arnaud with his demonstration, but especially Berkswell's Chairman who saved the day returning home midday to collect their Club's head microphone for Arnaud's use.

Special thanks to Lorena and her team from Meriden Club for the superb table arrangements – I understand many hours had been spent making the mechanics.

Final thanks to everyone for their patience and understanding especially during the Lunch when it was realised that the planned timing was going somewhat adrift! I apologise to everyone that our normal protocol wasn't followed but with everyone's agreement and Arnaud's understanding he began his wonderful dem. while the Sweet was served – otherwise it meant a very late finish to the day.

We sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed the day and huge Congratulations must go to Nic for successfully taking our Member's Day.

Good wishes go to Annette and Elaine for a speedy recovery

The next event Annette has planned is the Area's Diamond Anniversary in July (which promises to be something really special) when hopefully she will, at last, be able to meet and greet you all.

As a footnote – the Swans were upright and composed mostly throughout the day but their heads were close to the water a few times !!





Flower Arranger Magazine Queen's Platinum Jubilee Issue

The next issue will be very special - as Jayne Edmonds design will adorn the front cover.

Many, many Congratulations to Jayne for a stunning design - I am beside myself with excitement !

The magazine will shortly be arriving to Clubs but for those members who haven't ordered I will have copies for sale on my stand at the Area's Diamond Anniversary Celebrations in July - the stand will have the new banner as well, so please do look out for it - it is going to be very special !

Diane Everton

Alcester Flower Club

We have recently moved to a new and larger venue for our club meetings and they will now be held at **Our Lady and St. Joseph Catholic Church Hall, Priory Road, (Birmingham Rd.) Alcester B49 5DY .**

Our first meeting at the new venue was a Spring Wreath Workshop with Louisa Rigden which was well attended and enjoyed by everyone especially our new members for whom it was a 'first'.



Our next meeting will be on Monday, 9th May at 7.30pm when we have **Janet James** with her title **'This Colourful World'**

Visitors are most welcome and can pay at the door.

There is plenty of well lit parking.

Floral Education Association (FEA)

Our first meeting of 2022 was to greet everyone on a Saturday in February to enjoy a workshop with Hans Haverkamp. This proved to be a popular first meeting as the hall at Shrewley soon became full with members setting out their materials and flowers ready and keen to begin. Hans had provided details of three designs all using Pussy Willow, a sphere, an apple and a wall hanging. Each design needed quite a considerable amount of construction with the twisting and wiring of the willow ready for the flowers to be inserted, the end result was a beautiful display of the flowers each member had brought encased by the willow frame dotted with the white of the feathery buds. The day flew by incredibly quickly as everyone was so busy. At the end of a very constructive and informative day the next difficulty on the agenda was to move the designs from the hall and try to squeeze them into the cars ready for transport home! This was a very successful workshop and thanks were given to Hans for making it so enjoyable.



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Our next workshop with Annette Smyth of Powertex is to be held on 14th May 2022. All information re FEA workshops can be obtained via email from vivhandy@hotmail.co.uk



Diamond Anniversary Celebration

15th July 2022

Hilton/Marriott Hotel, Warwick (J10 M40)

Lunch & Demonstration

Demonstrations by Margaret Rumens, Janet James, Jo Davis and Michael Monticello

Tickets available soon

Avon Floral Art.

With January over and done with and the nights drawing out slightly the first meeting of our year at Avon Floral Art was to welcome Ann Horsley with her 'Wait and See' title to entertain. What a perfect title, the stage was soon filled with beautiful flowers of all colours especially Ann's favourites, pink and orange, guaranteed to brighten a dull day. Not only were the flowers wonderful but a varied and unusual array of containers, pots and vases complimented the arrangements perfectly. A lovely and very entertaining demonstration to brighten up a winters evening.

Our meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, September through to December and again February through to June at Stratford School, Alcester Road, Stratford CV37 9DH 6.30pm onwards. Our May meeting we will welcome Jo Davis with 'Women Who Changed The World' Visitors £6.00 and all welcome.

As advertised on the poster Avon Floral Art in conjunction with The Friends of The Guild Chapel are holding a Flower Festival. This will run from Friday 29th July to Monday 1st August at the Guild Chapel in Stratford. The Chapel is very near to the town centre and all amenities we therefore hope that you can save the day and visit the festival on the dates shown. More information will be available nearer the time.

FRIENDS OF THE GUILD CHAPEL

&

AVON FLORAL ART

Present

A Flower Festival

"Shakespeare's World of Flowers"

'To gild refined gold, to paint the lily.' KING JOHN

At

The Guild Chapel
Chapel Lane
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 8TY

On

Friday 29th July 2022

To

Monday 1st August 2022
10.00a.m. - 4.00p.m.

ENTRY £5.00 Children FREE

Children's Flower Trail Competition



Our Area Publications Officer, Sharon Badger has plenty of stock available for purchase and can be contacted by email—sharonbadgerflowers@hotmail.com or by mobile 07907932185



Useful, inexpensive and informative books which I can highly recommend—Carol (editor)



Also available from Sharon

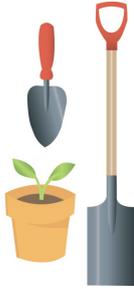
Officer's badges & long membership, 25year, 40 year & 50 year

Plus, other badges are available from HQ. Contact Sharon to order

Blue forms for booking demonstrators

New NAFAS floral notecards also available, information and pictures can be seen in the Spring Flower Arranger magazine. They cost £3.99 per pack of six cards, two designs in each pack. Also two different colour schemes available.

**The South Midlands Area will be at
The Harrogate Show
21st-24th April 2022
We wish Annette Thomas and
Elaine Thomas all the best with
their exhibit the '1940's'**



Come and visit
The South Midlands
stand with the theme
'Going Green'
at **GARDENER'S WORLD**
NEC Birmingham
16th—19th June



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The President Invites: Travels with **Michael Bowyer**
Springtime in Ireland now confirmed
19 - 24 May 2022

In the Chairman's Company:
'Friends, Romans & Countryside'
A floral adventure in Bath with **Katherine Kear**
7 - 9 July 2022

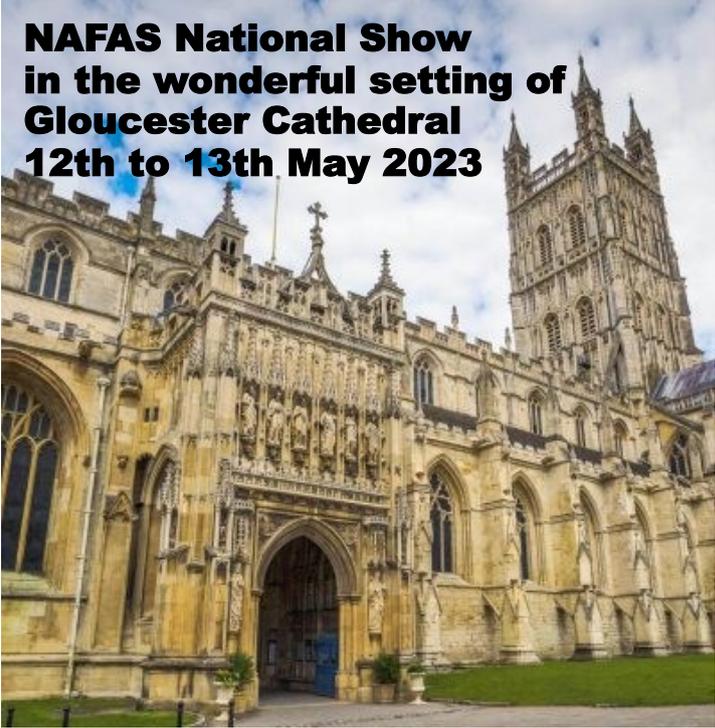


E: sales@ecttravel.com T: 01225 333 747 W: www.ecttravel.com



**National Flower Arranging Day
6th May 2022**

To promote your club and NAFAS why not leave a small posy or arrangement somewhere in your town or village with the 'Take me home' label attached.



**NAFAS National Show
in the wonderful setting of
Gloucester Cathedral
12th to 13th May 2023**

**The South Midlands Area Show
16th/17th September 2022
Wren Hall, Wroxall
Nr. Warwick
More details to follow soon**