

# Pot Pourri

The South Midlands Area of NAFAS Newsletter  
Winter 2021



## *Chairman's Chat*



So - 2021 starts with another lockdown. We are getting more used to these incidents and at least now we have organised many different ways of contacting friends and family.

The Zoom meetings are working really well, and I know so many of you logged on to Emma demonstrating before Christmas we had 100 of you on line, it was fun to scroll through and see you all sitting there with your glass of wine or even eating dinner.

But now we must move on with the New Year I know its hard to get motivated, but its so important to keep in touch whether its by facebook , website or zoom.

We have many things planned for the coming months of course I can not give the certainty or dates as obviously we have to wait, but things will improve and even if we still have to do some social distancing we will all be able to at least meet up.

Malvern Show are advertising for the 5<sup>th</sup> of May and the schedule is out there for you to look at.

There will be the very first Virtual National Show, you should have had all the details of this from your club chairman, there will be "How To" sessions with National Teachers, demonstrations from our National Demonstrators, and entertaining presentations from our National Speakers, one being our very own Simone Squire. All this will be viewable on the National Web site, Youtube and facebook throughout April.

We are very keen to have a members day, and I would like to organise other events in the summer, as we missed out on so much during last year.

If any of you have ideas that you would like to put forward for events, demonstrations, speakers or workshops please let me know and we will do our utmost to put organise them.

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year, and I really do look forward to seeing you all very soon.

With my best wishes to you all

Annette Thomas

# Dates for the diary!

## NAFAS Virtual Show April 2021

The Spring.... The Happy Time of Singing Birds is Come. This is our first Virtual Show, and it will have everything you would expect. Each week for the first three weeks of April there will be a demonstration, talk and 'how to' session viewable on all our various media platforms including the new website. These will be provided by our National Demonstrators, Speakers and Teachers. The full list of these platforms will follow nearer the time. During the last week of April all the judged competition entries will be on view. The Schedule 'Springtime' created by our National Judges Committee has a wonderful variety of twelve classes.

APPLICATIONS - Forward completed Application Forms (available on the NAFAS website) to [nafas\\_judges@outlook.com](mailto:nafas_judges@outlook.com) between 10th-17th January 2021.

Entries will be accepted in order of receipt.

Download schedule from NAFAS website.

Looking forward to seeing The South Midlands Area entries.

### RHS Malvern Spring Festival

5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 May 2021

Three Counties, Malvern,  
WR13 6NW

Floral Art Schedule

Closing date: 29th March 2021

BOOK NOW [rhsmalvern.co.uk](http://rhsmalvern.co.uk) 01684 584924

## Gardener's World 17th June

**Members Day**

**Planning for end of June**

**More details in next newsletter**

## Area Show

**17th/18th September**

**Wren Hall,**

**Shrewley**

**More details to follow in  
next newsletter**

### Keeping in Touch!

Please share this newsletter with your friends and club members.

Photographs and news items for the Spring newsletter can be sent to editor Carol Farmer

[Potpourri2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Potpourri2@hotmail.co.uk)

also

Check out our Facebook page.

Visit our webpage, search for South Midlands Area of NAFAS

Amanda Punter would like to keep your online information up to date  
Email

[amandapunter@hotmail.com](mailto:amandapunter@hotmail.com)

For members who didn't manage to see the Advent Calendar designs on Facebook in December, here is a taste of what we were treated to. Thank you to all the South Midlands designers who brightened up the dark days of December for us and to Amanda who uploaded the twenty four designs onto our Facebook page every day.



## OBITUARY

**MARY SHIRVILLE ( NEWNES)** 25<sup>TH</sup> December 2020 sadly passed away.

A lady of many talents: Mary was a founder member of Solihull Flower Club (before the creation of NAFAS) becoming President and subsequently Life Member.

Mary was also The founder member of Knowle Flower Club in 1964 becoming Chairman and President and Associate of Honour. She was Chairman and represented the Midland Area in 1961 before the areas divided into North and South. She was the first Chairman of the South Midlands Area of NAFAS in 1962 .

She was elected National Chairman in 1963, and served as National President from 1983-1985 after which she became a National Associate of Honour in recognition of her service to NAFAS.

Mary had enthusiasm for NAFAS and the RHS with a gentle character but with strong opinion when it came to the right thing for NAFAS and wise counsel in times of division and trouble.

Mary was Editor of the Flower Arranger, National Judge and adjudicator, RHS Council Member, and Chair of the Flower Arrangement Judging Committee. She encouraged the training and careers of many Area and National Judges

She was a wonderful flower arranger and instrumental in the staging of many festivals and exhibitions always promoting NAFAS.

A keen and knowledgeable gardener particularly regarding snowdrops, her many roles for the RHS are too numerous to mention, but just a few – Mary was a member of the Floral Arrangement Panel from 1986 – 2005 and served as Chairman from 1990 – 2001. In the mid 1980 she was a member of the Ridley Review Committee looking into the structure and activities of the RHS and became a Member of Council in 1988 retiring in 1995 She received her Victoria Medal of Honour from the RHS in 1993 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to that organisation.

Mary was a very charming and multi-talented lady who will be sadly missed but always fondly remembered.

Annette Thomas  
Area Chairman