



South Midlands Area of NAFAS Newsletter March 2024

Welcome to the March Issue of the South Midlands Area of NAFAS newsletter. I hope you are all enjoying some sunshine and watching the spring flowers and blossom emerging from the Winter gloom.

I'm sure like me you have been enjoying some wonderful demonstrations and workshops. A lot of clubs have now got their 2024 programmes together and they can be found on the South Midlands Website <https://www.southmidlandsnafas.co.uk/> along with a lot of other useful information. You can also follow us on Facebook to get the most up to date information.

Message from the Area Chairman – Lyn Pirrie

Hello Everyone,

A sad way to start my message this month with the closure of Avon Floral Art, after 60 years they closed their doors on Monday 12th February with a demonstration by Leena Patel.

My thanks go out to all the past Chairmen and Committee over the years who have helped to run the club, and to all the Members who supported it. The closure of a club is not a decision taken lightly, and I know it must have given Viv and her Committee many sleepless nights. My very best wishes to you all.

On a happier note, we welcome into our Area, Shrewsbury Flower Club, who have moved across to be with us from Mercia and North Wales Area. Their Chairman, Jane Williams together with the Committee and Members are delighted to be officially part of the South Midlands Area. We look forward to meeting with some of you at various events being held across our Area in the not-too-distant future.

Another high point of the Month was learning that all 14 Students who enrolled in the NAFAS Individual Courses in Floral Art & Design gained their Certificates. Well done to all.

We do have Committee Members Day coming up in April, please enrol your club and come along to what will be a fun and interesting day with something for everyone – I look forward to seeing you!

Look out for news about the Malvern/Chelsea Competition which will be coming out soon.

Look back at February:

On Monday 13th their final Lenna Patel Hot Sun". A lovely one of our newly enjoyed by the many



February Avon held demonstration by "Holidays, Food and demonstration from qualified demonstrators members and visitors.

Huge Congratulations to all the Students and for being the first in the whole of the United Kingdom to pass... Well done all 14 students, and tutors Alison Suffolk and Louisa Rigden. See details below about the next course starting in this month.



Leamington Spa Flower Club hosted Nicola Hill of Gentle Blooms Flower Farm. Nicola spoke passionately about eco, sustainable flower farming and flower arranging, which club members found really inspirational. Nicola also shared her experience of RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2023, her tales of this journey from her application to the final installation were humbling and impressive. 'My Floral Soul' was a worthy Silver-Gilt winner, we all wish her luck for RHS Chelsea 2024.

Affiliated to National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies Charity No 292789



Nicola then demonstrated a bowl display using foliage and flowers she plucked from her garden that day! It was a captivating demonstration that looked natural and organic. Nicola hopes to inspire others to try growing flowers for cutting, to buy British flowers and try sustainable arranging techniques. Leamington Spa Flower Club were all left feeling very inspired. Thank you, Nicola.



Dates for your Diary

March demonstrations at Area Clubs

Monday 4th Alcester Flower Club 7:30 Louisa Rigden Regal Flowers



Tuesday 5th Walsall Flower Arrangement Club Shirley Henderson Take a Piece of Wood

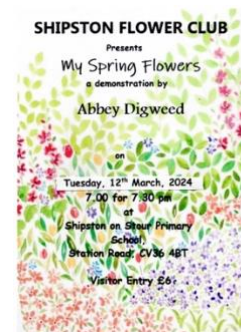
Thursday 7th March 1:30 Kenilworth Flower Club Leena Patel Holiday, Food and the Hot Sun

Thursday 7th March 2:00 The Knowle Flower Club Alison Suffolk Oh So Nautical

Thursday 7th March 2:00 Sutton Coldfield Flower Club Jane Pugh Let's Celebrate

Tuesday 12th Henley-in-Arden Flower Club 7:30 Emma Da Silva Spring has Sprung.

Tuesday 12th Shipston on Stour Flower Club Abbey Digweed My Spring Flowers



Wednesday 13th The Flower Club of Market Harborough 7:30 Tony Brown My Floral Fiesta

Monday 18th Meriden Floral Society 7:30 Jane Fox Highland Glory

Monday 18th Stratford Upon Avon Flower Club 2pm Jo Davies Women Who Changed the World

Tuesday 19th Dorridge Flower Club 7:30 Alison Suffolk Oh So Nautical

Tuesday 19th Lois Weedon Flower Club 2:00 Jackie Paige Flights of Fancy

Wednesday 20th Nuneaton Flower Guild 7:30 Jo Davies Women Who Changed the World

Wednesday 20th Wellingborough Flower Club 7:30 Barbara Collins (Peterborough) Brighter Days are Coming.

Thursday 21st Bloxham Flower Clun 7:30 Jane Fox Highland Glory

Thursday 21st Leamington Spa Flower Club 7:15 Linda Seabrook Seasons Greetings

Thursday 21st Rugby Floral Society 2pm Ruth Mahon Inspired by Music

Saturday 23rd Meriden Floral Society 12:30 – 15:30 Spring into Easter, includes demonstrations by members

Monday 25th Bugbrooke and District Flower Society 7:45 Elaine Stoner Flowers on Vocation

Wednesday 27th Whittingham Flower Arranging Club Sarah Fenton Floral Dance

Thursday 28th 7:30 St Nicholas Flower Guild, Little Bowden Stephanie Laing Influenced by

Thursday 28th Shrewsbury Flower Club 7:15 Margaret Rumens (National) Anything Goes



Area Events

Spaces are available on the March, April and June leisure courses being held at Shrewley Village Hall, please contact Barbara Collins at Barbaracollins@me.com for more information.

NAFAS Certificated course
Next course starting Saturday 2nd March 2024
Costing £100 plus registration fee £65
Please contact Louisa Rigden for more details,
louisa.rigden@gmail.com

These classes are open to all (including non-NAFAS) and require you to produce assessed designs and a portfolio.

Committee Members Day

Saturday 13th April Committee Members Day (formally Club Officers Day) St Peters Hall Balsall Common, see poster below, booking forms have been emailed to club secretaries.

Malvern Spring Show 9th – 12th May

All Discipline refreshers day at Willoughby Village Hall, more details to follow. Friday 17th May, cost will be £25, please contact Louisa Rigden for more information.

Gardeners World NEC 13th – 16th June

Chairmans Fundraising Day 6th July, more details to follow.

Area Show at Bugbrooke 21st-22nd September

National Show 2025 Venue: Gloucester Cathedral
Date: Friday 19th & Saturday 20th September 2025

If you want to contribute to future newsletters, please send information to Ruthmahon@hotmail.com by 15th of the Month.

South Midlands Area of NAFAS
Individual Courses in Floral Art and Design

PLANT MATERIAL INSPIRED FLORAL DESIGN

We will cover
Horizontal design
Cascade design
Parallel design
Fountains
All foliage design

Who is this course for
Open to anyone with an interest in flower arranging

All abilities welcome no experience necessary

What do you get
20hrs structured, guided workshops with a qualified instructor
Certificate of qualification on completion of the course
Tea and coffee provided
Sales table for any goodies

What is required from you
2hrs of private study outside of the classroom
Basic equipment of notebook, pen, floristry scissors or knife
You will need to complete a simple portfolio of your designs

When: 2024
Saturday 10am to 2pm
2nd & 16th March
9th & 27th April
10th May

Contact
All enquiries welcome please contact:
Louisa Rigden
Phone: 01966178985
Email: louisa.rigden@gmail.com

Shrewley Village Hall
Shrewley, Warwickshire
CV34 5EA

South Midlands Area Of NAFAS
Committee Members Day

Saturday 13th April 2024
St Peter's Church Hall, Balsall Common CV7 7EA
9.30 for a 10.00 start

Day to include:

- advice on giving a vote of thanks
- fundraising ideas
- how to increase club membership
- club finances
- social media for clubs
- Q&A session
- short demonstration by 2 of our new demonstrators

Tea and Coffee provided,
please bring a packed lunch
Free to club committee members (upto 4 per club)