



# Claygate Floral Club

## September 2026 Newsletter

Affiliated to Surrey Area, NAFAS

## CLUB CHAIR



It really has been an incredible Summer and we can only now hope for some cooler temperatures and possibly some rain (please!!)

Well done to everyone that entered the floral competition categories at the Claygate Flower Show. It is so important that the club members continue to enter the competitions. There were some amazing designs and congratulations to everybody who was awarded prizes. This year the prize for People's Choice was awarded to Irene Mallinson, so well done Irene!

## **UPCOMING DEMONSTRATION EVENING ON WEDNESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER – ANGELA WOODLEY “GARDENERS GALORE”**

We are delighted to welcome Angela Woodley, a talented NAFAS Area Demonstrator, to our September meeting.

Angela will be presenting her demonstration, "Gardeners Galore", an inspiring floral display celebrating the colours, textures and beauty of the garden. Known for her creative designs, practical techniques and engaging presentation style, Angela's demonstrations are always entertaining as well as informative, with plenty of ideas to inspire flower arrangers and gardeners alike.

We look forward to an enjoyable evening in Angela's company and hope you will join us for what promises to be a colourful and imaginative demonstration.

### **FLORAL COMPETITION – "ALL NATURAL"**

Our September floral competition is titled "**All Natural**", giving you the opportunity to celebrate the beauty of nature in your own unique way.

Think about using flowers, foliage, grasses, seed heads, bark, branches, berries or other natural plant materials to create your arrangement. You might be inspired by a woodland walk, a country garden, a hedgerow or the changing seasons. Whether your design is simple and elegant or bold and dramatic, let nature be your guide.

As always, the interpretation is entirely yours, so have fun, be creative and enjoy taking part. We look forward to seeing all your wonderful natural-inspired designs.

**AT OUR NEXT DEMONSTRATION EVENING PLEASE BRING YOUR CUPS FOR  
REFRESHMENTS! THANK YOU**

### **THE FLOWER ARRANGER MAGAZINE**

It is that time of year again, when Vivien is being asked by Surrey Area for numbers of members who wish to continue with The Flower Arranger magazine in 2027. The retail price is going to increase but the price to Club Members will remain at £17.00 for 4 Editions (which is really good value at £4.25 per magazine).

Vivien knows all members currently on the list wish to continue but if you don't currently subscribe and would like to, please let Vivien know. The fee is collected with the Club subs in March.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED - WHY NOT JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR MEETINGS

### URGENT VACANCY: CLUB TREASURER



As Vivien Withers approaches the final few months of her time as our Chair, we are delighted to announce that Emma Cope has kindly volunteered to take on the role of Chair.

**This does, however, leave us with one key vacancy to fill: Club Treasurer. If we cannot find someone willing to take on this role, the Club will not be able to continue, so please do have a think about whether you know anyone who might be able to help us.**

The good news is that the role will become easier in 2027, when NAFAS introduces a streamlined national membership fee payment process.

If you would be interested in volunteering for this important role, or know someone who may be willing to take it on, please contact Vivien at [withersv@gmail.com](mailto:withersv@gmail.com) or Emma at [emmelicop@aol.com](mailto:emmelicop@aol.com).

We would also love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved with the Club more generally and help out where they can. You are very welcome to come along to one of our meetings to find out more about what is involved — just contact Emma or Vivien for further information.

**We really do appreciate all the help we can get.** The continued existence and success of the Club relies entirely on volunteers giving their time and taking their turn to contribute.

Thank you to everyone who supports the Club — every bit of help makes a difference!

## OUR SUMMER 2026

### Claygate Village and Flower Show



Very well done to Sue Shackel and all the Claygate Floral Club volunteers who successfully stocked and ran the stand at this year's show. It looked tremendous with its upcycling containers, dried flowers theme and beautiful floral arrangements. It was a scorching day too so a huge thank you to everyone who came along, who saved up and donated containers and foliage. All your efforts paid off and, as well as a visually stunning presence, we made over £400.

Thank you so much to everyone who entered floral exhibits for the Flower Show. Here are a few of the amazing entries this year:



## Social and Workshop

Our summer gathering on August 5<sup>th</sup> was a lovely social evening with wine and nibbles and Vivien showing us how to make floral jewellery and hair slides. Some of us even had a go! Thanks to everyone who brought along food and drinks. It was a really fun evening.



## Summer Social and Floral Accessories Workshop



## MEMBERS IN THE PRESS! - CONGRATULATIONS TO DANA

Who featured in Historic Palaces summer magazine:



## UPCOMING CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2026- Open Demonstration 'Winter Wonderland' with Alison Penno**

Step into the festive spirit with **Claygate Floral Club's** enchanting Christmas event – **Winter Wonderland!**

Join us on **Friday, 27th November 2026**, at **Claygate Village Hall, Esher**, for a magical evening of seasonal floral artistry with the talented **Alison Penno**.

Alison will delight and inspire us with a beautiful Christmas flower arranging demonstration, sharing her creativity, ideas and expertise to help bring the magic of the festive season to life.

Whether you are a keen flower arranger or simply love Christmas, **Winter Wonderland** promises to be an evening filled with inspiration, creativity and festive elegance – the perfect way to start the Christmas season.

**Doors open at 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start.**

**Tickets: £16**, including light refreshments.

Tickets will be available to purchase at our **September Demonstration**.

**Contactless payment is preferred**, although cheques are also welcome, made payable to '**Claygate Floral Club**'.

We look forward to welcoming you for a wonderful evening of Christmas flowers, creativity and festive cheer with Alison Penno!

***Remember to invite your friends and family too!***



CLAYGATE FLOWER CLUBS 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AFTERNOON TEA

THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2027

LEATHERHEAD GOLF CLUB – 2.30PM TO 5.30PM

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**TUESDAY 1ST – SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER - WISLEY SHOW ‘THAT’S ENTERTAINMENT’**



Celebrate the end of summer in style at the RHS Wisley Flower Show, **1–6 September 2026**. Stroll among breath-taking blooms, shop from top plant nurseries and visit the NAFAS marque to enjoy some beautiful floral arrangements. If you are interested in entering the show please find further information here: [For NAFAS information click here.](#)

**THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> – SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026 STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE FLOWER FESTIVAL**



Following Emma’s July email, on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September some Club members will be going to the Strawberry Hill House Flower Festival. We have booked early entry at 0930.

Should anyone wish to meet there, at the time of publication, there are still a few tickets left at the 0915 and 0930 slots. Tickets cost £30

*Information: The UK’s most sustainable flower festival returns this September transforming Strawberry Hill House & Garden into a spectacular celebration of flowers, creativity, and colour.*

*For four days, over 30 of the UK’s most exciting floral designers will fill the house and gardens with immersive installations, using only British-grown flowers and sustainable techniques.*

Brought to you by [Flowers at the House](#) and co-curated by [Flowers on the Edge](#), this year's festival brings together both established and emerging talent, offering a fresh take on contemporary floral design within one of Britain's most extraordinary historic settings.

Complete your visit with a seasonal picnic in the gardens, crafted by our friends at **Roots & Berries** ([click here to preorder your picnic](#)).

The festival runs for just four days. To protect this Grade I listed building, ticket numbers are limited—advance booking is strongly recommended.

**Adult: £30 | Student: £23 | Child (under 14): £18**

[Ticket information here.](#)

**TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> - SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026**  
**WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL 'WILD' FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS AND NATURE**



**Wild!** Invites visitors to explore breathtaking floral creations, live botanical art, hands-on workshops and unexpected performances throughout this iconic setting. To learn more [click here](#).

## **Surrey Area of NAFAS**

invites it's members to a workshop with

### **Jacqui Arnold**

**National NAFAS Teacher and National NAFAS Demonstrator  
from Kent Floral Art**

### **'Let's Get Christmassy!'**

on

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2026  
10.00 for 10.30am - 3.00pm**

at

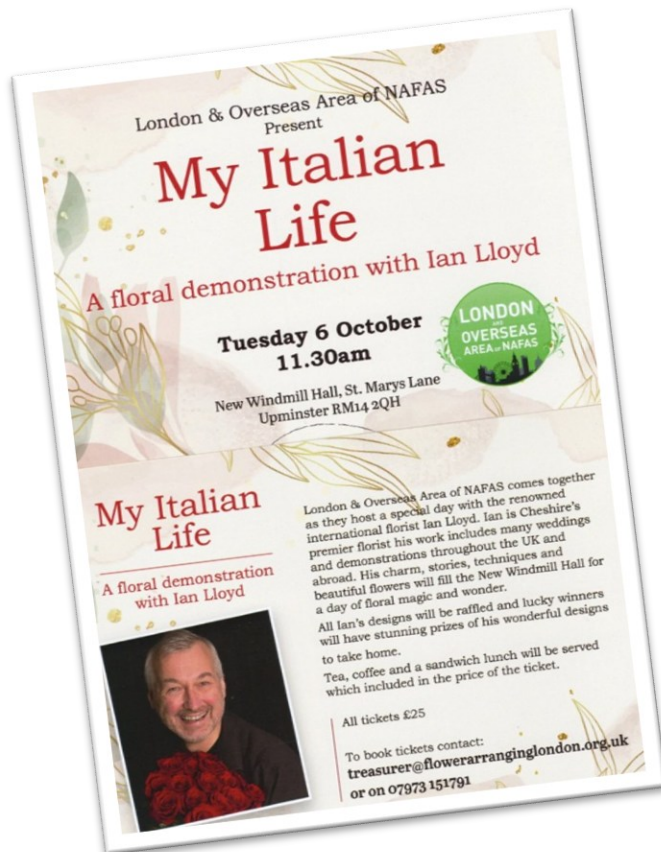
**The Old Barn Hall  
Great Bookham  
KT23 3PQ**

**Cost £40**

**Booking for this workshop will open on September 1st 2026 when a  
form with full information (including on line payment details) will be available on  
the Surrey Area of NAFAS website**

**Enquires to  
[aegillott@gmail.com](mailto:aegillott@gmail.com)  
07811 088949**

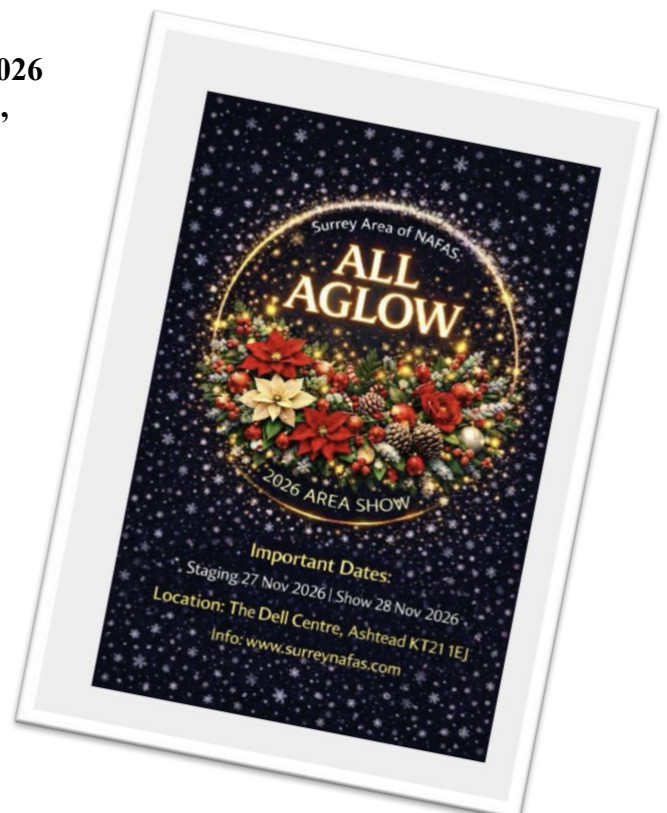
**TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2026, MY ITALIAN LIFE – FLORAL DEMONSTRATION WITH IAN LLOYD NEW WINDMILL HALL, UPMINSTER**



Emma will be driving to this event and leaving Claygate at 0930 on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October. She can take 4 people. Please email Emma if you would like to join her or if you could drive and take others too.

**Email: [emmelicop@aol.com](mailto:emmelicop@aol.com)**

**FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> – SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2026  
SURREY AREA SHOW AT THE DELL CENTRE,  
ASHTEAD.**



**SURREY NAFAS NEWS** [Click Here](#) to catch up on the latest news from Surrey NAFAS.

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