

Claygate Floral Club

April 2025 Newsletter

Affiliated to Surrey Area, NAFAS



WELCOME TO THE APRIL EDITION OF YOUR NEWSLETTER



Hi everyone - Spring has officially arrived with the Spring Equinox and now that the clocks are about to 'spring' forward, we will have so much more daylight in the evenings. Now all we need is some sustained warm sunshine!

I am sorry that I was demonstrating at our first Club meeting of the year but I would love to thank the Committee for covering for me; helping the evening to run so smoothly and dealing with the payment of Membership fees/Flower Arranger subs.

Please could you make sure that any outstanding payments are settled this month - many thanks.

I spoke to Kathryn, (March's Demonstrator) at the Surrey Area Meeting on Monday and she was delighted that her demonstration was so well received by our Club. She confirmed that it is always great to hear positive feedback from a club.

Vivien

WEDNESDAY 2nd APRIL CLUB NIGHT



This month we have the pleasure of welcoming Jackie Page as our demonstrator on Wednesday 2nd April and her floral presentation will be "The Flower Arranger".

Jackie is an experienced florist, has been a member of NAFAS since her early twenties and competing for nearly as long. She became a demonstrator in 2012 and then a tutor a few years later.

Jackie's work has taken her all over the UK, France and Germany. She loves to use a variety of styles and colour in her designs and enjoys being a part of the NAFAS community.

CLUB COMPETITION

This month's competition title is "**Fantastic Foliage**" - **An arrangement without foam.** Remember alternatives to foam include chicken wire, bamboo or wooden stick grids, flower frogs in ceramic or metal. Or why not take inspiration from Sally's March demonstration and incorporate alternatives like curlers, beads and knicker elastic!



INTRODUCING A NEW POINTS SYSTEM FOR OUR CLUB COMPETITION

This month we are changing the way in which the club competition is judged. Instead of awarding places for each section, i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd - a points system will be used.

Arrangements will be awarded 1 to 10 points on merit. This should be a fairer system as all arrangements entered will get points. At the end of the competition year, the totals will be calculated and the annual prizes awarded in each section to the members with the most points.

As we are starting in April and we have already had one competition, we will translate the March results into points, to be fair.

MAY PLANT SWAP TABLE



In May we thought it would be fun to have a plant swap table. The idea is you can just bring along any excess plants from your garden that you think others may like, to share with the rest of the club. No money to change hands and if your plants are left at the end of the evening, please take them home with you. We will trial this for one month in May, to see how well it works!

Note From Our Wonderful Refreshments Team:

Please would all members who would like a hot drink in the Interval bring their mug and place it in the tea, coffee or hot water area (i.e. cup already contains herbal teabag) before the meeting starts.

Or request black coffee/black tea (decaf options available) from Steve or Sue, and the mug can be collected from the hot water area.

Thank you



THANK YOU TO KATHRYN AUSTIN

Our first demonstration of 2025 was a wonderful evening.

Kathryn entertained us all with her fabulous floral creations. The quality of her designs and experience really shone through. Following the evening Kathryn wrote a 'thank you' note to the Committee where she commented how impressed she had been by the members competition and that she'd love to come back!

So a huge thanks to all of you who entered the competition in March and to everyone for always being so welcoming to new members and demonstrators. It's what makes our club so special.



MEMBERSHIP FEES

If you have not done so already, please remember your membership fees are due. They can be paid by bank transfer: Claygate Floral Club 30-19- 22 00392987 or by cheque made payable to 'Claygate Floral Club'. Please use your first and last name as a reference.

If paying by cheque please send your cheque to our Club Secretary Emma Cope **as soon as possible** and before our April club night. Emma's address is:

Mrs E Cope
Claygate Floral Club Secretary
1 Telegraph Lane
Claygate, KT10 0DT

Club programmes will be distributed to all those who have paid at the April club night. If for any reason you are not intending to renew your membership, please let us know.

FLOWER ARRANGING LESSONS

I would love to run some more flower arranging lessons this year, for anyone who is interested. They are held at my home studio in Weybridge. The sessions are relaxed, sociable and fun. We enjoy exchanging ideas and being creative.

I am running 2 sessions initially on 8th April and 6th May. Ideas for sessions include – Fresh creations with Spring flowers, Working to a theme and Contemporary designs. If you have any particular ideas that you would like sessions on then please let me know.

The price is £32 for 2 x 2hrs sessions (7pm – 9pm). I will send full instructions with details of the flowers and sundries you will require, before each session.

I am also happy to run some basic beginners' sessions, if anyone is interested. Please email me to reserve a place or request more details - withersv@gmail.com

Vivien



SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY 12TH JULY 2025 - CLAYGATE FLOWER SHOW - CLAYGATE RECREATION GROUND

This has traditionally been a big event for the Claygate Floral Club and we would love as many members as possible to submit floral exhibits to the show. We will let you have further details once we have them.

THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST 2025 – CLAYGATE FLORAL CLUB'S SUMMER TRIP

We are planning our 2025 trip to Parham House and Gardens and Sussex Priore Gardens. So save the date and all will be revealed next month!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 11th April – Monday 5th May 2025: Hampton Court Tulip Festival

[Click here to learn more](#)

Tuesday 13th – Sunday 18th May 2025: Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival “The Spirit of Water”

[Click here to learn more](#)

Friday 20th June 2025: Area Day of Celebration

To mark the Area’s 65th Anniversary (Blue Sapphire). There will be 6 demonstrations and cooked lunch as well as many other special items throughout the day. Ticket price will be £42.00



**SURREY AREA of NAFAS
BLUE SAPPHIRE
CELEBRATION
DAY**

65 **65**

Ashstead Peace Memorial Hall
Ashstead KT21 2BE

FRIDAY JUNE 20th 2025
Time 10.30am - 4pm

Cost £42pp

Surrey Area of NAFAS will be celebrating 65 years at a special event to be held on Friday June 20th at Ashstead Peace Memorial hall .
The day will include Floral Art demonstrations and a lunch
Doors open at 10.30 and the event will end by 4pm

Tickets are available to purchase at the March Area meeting (Cash or Card) or online with BACS payment to Surrey Area NAFAS
Sort code 60-09-40 Account 79691978
Reference BS & Your name

Email request to Di Henderson
Surrey NAFAS Events Officer
merlinscrafttime@gmail.com
Stating NAME ..CLUB...Dietary Requirements

Tuesday 2nd – Sunday 7th September 2025 (Staging Monday 1st): RHS Wisley Flower Show “Wish You Were Here”

If you would like to help any day, please contact the new Chairman of the Wisley Show Alison

Honor alisonhonor@hotmail.co.uk

We would love to have some Members from the club enter the Show competition in the Floral Marquee. If anyone is interested, Vivien has some copies of this year's schedule with all the exhibit details and this year's titles. You can obtain one of these from her on April club night.

Friday 19th- Saturday 20th September 2025: National Show “Natures Challenge”

To be held at the Gloucester Cathedral. [Click here to learn more](#)



Wednesday 12th November 2025: Surrey Area Workshops

November's workshop will be with Christine Picton (details to follow)

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

MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD

Ham House:

Many of our Area Members arrange flowers at Ham House (National Trust), the team are looking to increase their numbers, if you would like to help the flower arranging starts in April on Friday mornings between 10 and 12. and the members arrange until end October. All flowers are from the gardens of this beautiful house. You will only have to arrange 4 or 5 times a year. Please contact Karen Gaunt (Co-ordinator): kmtgaunt@me.com

Your help would be gratefully accepted, plus there are many perks for you.....
