

1st March

Spring

SPOTLIGHT EAST

Newsletter for Members the East of England Area of
NAFAS

Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of our Area magazine – Spring 2025 already! If only the weather was co-operating, because, as flower arrangers, we are “all fired up” for using delicate spring flowers, blossom & unfurling foliage. But first we scroll back for some Christmas highlights which happened too late to be included in the December 1st issue.

Dereham & District’s Seasonal hands-on evening

The Committee organised and guided members during a free hands-on evening at the end of November and what a fabulous night it was. Over 30 members created beautifully festive arrangements such as door wreaths and swags, Christmassy pots and willow stars. The collage of photos shows what creative members we have.



The atmosphere in the hall was lovely with Christmas music playing in the background and moreish seasonal goodies served with hot refreshments throughout the evening. Our ‘prize every time’ tombola was well supported and sold out very quickly.

Helen Evans, Chairman

Loddon Flower Club

At the end of November, we had our Christmas workshop with **Brenda Tubb** where we made a table arrangement with oranges and candles. Norwich Group Chairman Jacquie Aldous and her daughter joined us. At the end of the afternoon the arrangements were all very different and would look nice on any Christmas table.



Back row: Helen Codman (Jacquie's daughter), Tricia Loades, Jacquie Aldous (Norwich Group Chairman), Treasurer - Penny Mills, Jean Madgett & Sharon Swan. Front row: Secretary - Jenny Frosdick, Chairman - Tricia Godfrey & Janet Morgan. **Photo Brenda Tubb**

We had our Open meeting in December when **Linda Kingcott** came along with her demonstration entitled 'It's a sort of magic'. There was a lovely buffet to enjoy that was made up by members and some non-alcoholic punch. We had lots of stalls for visitors to browse, two raffles and 'Guess the Square' where the winner won a Christmas cake and tombola. This year we had the Chet Valley Voices to sing to us before we began the meeting. This got us all into the Christmas spirit. We now look forward to the Spring and the start of our flower arranging demonstrations. For more details of events & meetings, and photos from our meetings take a look at our website at www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk.

Tricia Loades



Linda Kingcott, Loddon Flower Club



Decorating Dereham's St Nicholas' Church

These stunning arrangements were created by some of our talented members who regularly help out with the flower rota and special celebration events in the Church. Whilst some members have been involved for a few years, we have some newer members who are just getting involved in producing larger displays and they're taking to it like ducks to water! **Helen Evans, Chairman**



St Nicholas' Church, Dereham



Every year **Aylsham & District Flower Club** decorate the Old Pump House in Aylsham. The event has certainly been covered in Spotlight recently. But this year the club was featured in their local newspaper “Just Regional” which is based in Norwich and covers many towns across Norfolk. The newspaper describes itself as “A unique news publisher, hand delivered to 57,00 homes in Norwich & Norfolk” What amazing publicity for the club. We are very grateful to Tracey Bagshaw, Group editor at “Just Regional” for allowing us to reprint their story.

“It’s one of the much-loved annual traditions signalling the start of the Christmas period in Aylsham. Once again, members of the Aylsham and District Flower Club descended on the town’s landmark pump to deck it out with festive foliage. Volunteers used a mix of conifer, green holly with berries and variegated holly – all from members’ gardens – to give the pump its traditional Christmas makeover and complement the lights.”

“A club spokesperson said: “On the morning of December 1, 11 members of Aylsham and District Flower Club met with lots of greenery to decorate the town pump. For once it was a nice morning, so we all got to work making the pump look festive for Christmas.”

“First, each post was wired then the green fir was put on followed by holly and wired again. The best bit came next – a hot drink and lovely mince pies before the final touches of beautiful bows.”



Shining Bright: The town's pump lights up the night sky in the town centre.
Picture: Ian Gravenell/Just Regional

"Of course, we had the final photo of us all just as it started to rain! It was good to make another part of Aylsham look ready for Christmas."



Don't forget to send reports & photos of your events to your local newspapers - it's a really good way to attract new members.

After all the hard work preparing for Christmas workshops, demonstrations & often charity fundraising, many clubs hold a relaxing social event for their members

Wroxham Flower Club- Fun, Friendship, Flowers & Food!

Early in January , we enjoyed our fabulous New Year lunch which we have rather than a meeting in January.

The Lodge at Salthouse provided us with several choices and we all had a delicious lunch, and as always the room was full of chatter, laughter and friendship.

Feel free to contact us for more information at wroxhamflowerclub@gmail.com



Dereham & District Flower Club AGM

Our AGM and lunch took place in January at a local hotel, hosted by our President, Corinne Steward. The formal part of the day included the Chairman's Report which covered highlights of demonstrations, special events, workshops, garden visits, competitions and communications. It also covered some things on the cards for this year - our usual varied programme of events, workshops, outings and garden visits. Helen thanked all Members for their continuing support of the Club, the Committee for their dedication and enthusiasm to keep the club moving forward and the coffee rota and raffle volunteers.

Our Treasurer, Carole Read gave her financial report, saying the Club had an excellent programme in 2024 which had been well supported throughout the year.

Election of the Committee was agreed with Lavinia Pirret taking up the role of Vice-Chairman as well as her Club Secretary role. A nomination had been received for a member, Yvonne Owers, to join the Committee and this was also agreed.

Annual Competition winners and runners-up were announced and presented by our President, those members who were present received their trophies and certificates. Winners of the Open and Novice classes who unfortunately weren't present will receive theirs at our February club night.

The AGM was followed by an ever-popular table quiz, a delicious two-course lunch and a grand raffle.



Amanda Sutherland, a costume designer, entertained us with her talk about her creative journey through film, television and theatrical costume design with an insight into running a successful accessories business. Amanda had been a speaker at the Area Day in Isleham last year and she again gave a fabulous presentation. A gift shop was then open for members to browse a range of jewellery and accessories, which was very popular.

Helen Evans, Chairman

Cambridge Group Day, AGM Demonstration & Luxury Afternoon Tea, 22nd November at Great Chesterford Community Hall

After coffee on arrival, the business meeting began at 11am.

The acting Chairman, Julie Woods expressed her disappointment that only seven Clubs from the Group were represented at the meeting which meant that the AGM only just had a quorum. Only one Club returned the nomination form to the Secretary, despite the papers and invitation being sent out in August. After discussion, it was felt by some members that the AGM should be held in October before the clocks go back so there is more daylight for those travelling a long distance to the meeting

Cambridge Group AGM ratified Julie Woods as the new Chairman of the Group, having been acting chairman for most of the year. Lorraine Gagen was elected as Group Secretary and Alison Woodall as Group Treasurer. Patricia Pratley, Anne Bell and Ann Godfrey were re-elected onto the committee. No one came forward to join the committee but several people from Granta Club offered to help the committee on Group Days.

An Officer's Day was discussed and some members felt that this could be arranged as a zoom meeting.

The Group sadly made a loss on the year; however they have purchased a p.a. system which they will hire out to clubs for a fee. This was welcomed by those present.



After the business meeting we were treated to an excellent demonstration** by three recently qualified demonstrators – Naomi Wells, Rachael Borenkova and Lorraine Gagen. Their title was 'Three Wise Women following Yonder Star'. Their stage at the end looked very festive with stars and lights which set off their arrangements to perfection. It was a really well thought through demonstration which required them to come up with original ideas and liaise together to produce a most entertaining afternoon.

This was followed by the 'Luxury Afternoon Tea' by Barton's Fizz which we all enjoyed. The lemon posset was really special as were the cakes, sandwiches and scones, all freshly made.

Overall attendance was down on previous years which was a shame. The cost for the day (£32) may have played a part but it was a really enjoyable and different occasion showcasing the new talent in our Area

Freda Orgee, Co-Chairman & Secretary, Cambridge Flower Club

** the demonstration was featured in the previous edition of Spotlight East

Norwich Flower Club AGM

We held our AGM on a Monday afternoon in mid-February, which was well attended by our members. We welcomed the lovely and long-standing member Marion Gaskin as our new President. We are fortunate that our former President, Joyce Youngman, is happy to remain on the committee with her wealth of experience.

Afterwards, Julie Smith from Fakenham, gave a slideshow and talked about the flower show which took place at Sandringham Estate in 2023. She explained all that was involved in the planning of the event, as staging anything at the Royal Family's country retreat brings its own unique challenges. The floral design style was to be wild and naturalistic, totally foam free and all flowers to be locally sourced where possible. However, with her team's patience, super organisation and amazing skills, they produced a delightful show for all to enjoy.



This was followed by Perdi Jeffrey creating a beautiful flowing design similar to what was used in the show itself, although the vase used was considerably smaller. The demonstration flowers were all from British sources & using sustainable mechanics - re-creating a June palette in February!

Words/photos Gill Allen



Julie Smith told us that the presentation was about how **The Fakenham Flower Club** dressed Sandringham House for 'Sandringham in Bloom.' I was ably assisted by Perdi Jeffrey who re-created smaller versions of her splendid arrangements for the Ballroom Entrance in Sandringham. In keeping with His Majesty, King Charles preferences, it was in keeping with seasonal, sustainable & 'local' (not imported). This version was with fabulous British Springtime flowers from Cornwall, Lincolnshire & my Norfolk Garden. No floral foam & upcycled cut glass vases from The Bircham Centre, Reepham.

Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club AGM

Following reports from our President, Chairman & Treasurer we welcomed our new Chairman Rosemary Green. Cups were awarded to the members who had gained the most points for the four competitions we hold throughout the year. Novice - Milena, intermediate - Lorraine & Advanced Naomi.



Nicky Thompson welcomes incoming Chairman Rosemary Green.(centre)

Nicky with Lorraine (top left) Milena (bottom left) & Naomi(bottom right)
Presentation to Nicky by Carol Giffen (top right)

It was then time to sit back and enjoy demonstrations by members from the committee. The brief was “**Love is in the Air**” using red flowers.

Sally was first, explaining each placement of the flowers in her basket design, Sally included some red beaded accessories which she had made.

Next was Carol, as she created her crescent design we heard about the love she had for the vase she used which was passed down to her from her paternal grandmother.

Rosemary was next, creating her design using lilies as the focal point - The curved container was one of her favourites that she loved.

Last it was Beverly's turn, she created a parallel design with foliage from her garden, the polystyrene heart had been decouped with a serviette. Beverly told us when & why she joined the club back in 2006 and her love for the club ever since.

All of the designs were raffled along with the table design from the AGM that had been created by Nicky.
It was a lovely relaxing evening which everyone enjoyed..



Words/photos Beverly Moore photo of Beverly by Nicky Thompson
More "Love in the Air" on Page 22

Peterborough Floral Decoration Society "70 Years of Fun, Friendship and Flowers"

Back in February 1955 the Inaugural Meeting of "Peterborough Floral Decoration Society" took place. Now here we are celebrating our 70th year of the Society, with our AGM. Moira Beattie OBE our Chairman, welcomed 32 members to the 70th AGM. The meeting ran smoothly with sadly no volunteers to come on the Committee, however members are willing to help with jobs setting up for meetings and helping to clear up afterwards. Our Committee of 5 are willing to "Keep, Calm and Carry on".

After refreshments I demonstrated "70 years of Fun, Friendship and Flowers". My time at Peterborough Floral Decoration Society began in 1996 with a visit to a Flower Festival in the town and an invitation to come and join the club. Since then I have been on the Committee for many years and Chairman twice. There have been many members over those years and at that time we had a much larger membership. It has been a delight to take part in Flower Festivals, Flower Arranging Competitions, Chelsea Flower Show and our own Annual Flower Arranging Competitions. Flowers bring such joy to people in so many ways and working on projects with friends. Here are two designs from the demonstration.



A Spring trough with assorted garden foliage, naturally “Pink Cushion” Pussy Willow and Polianthes Tuberosa “Epic Eva” to give height. “Atlantic” Blue Hyacinths, “Yellow Valery” Tulips and “Mount Fuji” Ornithogalum to complete the design.

The second design was all round, featuring Pussy Willow, Liatrus, “Dubium Sunshine” Orange Ornithogalum, “Hermitage” Orange Tulips. In the textured base, Ivy leaves, variegated Pittosporum, Senecio, Kiwi Mellow Green Dianthus and “Aladdin” Orange Ranunculus. Two small succulents were also placed in the base

Being a member of “Peterborough Floral Decoration Society” has led to many opportunities in the flower arranging world. So why not become a member of a NAFAS Flower Club and enjoy years of beautiful flowers.

Barbara Collins
(photo next page)



A version of this design was featured in the Spring edition of the “Flower Arranger” Magazine, from a Photo Shoot in May 2024. (See page 23)

EAST OF ENGLAND AREA OF NAFAS

Flower arranging at its best

Have you seen the **Area News Bulletin** yet?

These bulletins will be sent out regularly by email throughout the year to keep Clubs updated on the latest National, Area and Industry news and any key points from Council meetings or Area Days. It's not intended to replace any existing communications like Chairman's Chat, Latest News on the website or Facebook, but to give you a round-up of news regularly so you don't miss anything.

They're designed to be shared so if you've received one, please pass it on so everyone knows what's going on.

Helen Evans, Media Representative .

Home Grown Talent – at this time of year, when flowers are expensive and adverse weather conditions make long distance travel unpredictable for demonstrators, many clubs call upon their members to fill the Winter slots. And what talent there is out there, often hiding it's light "under a bushel" as the saying goes.

Past Chairman, **Lesley Bennion**, demonstrated at **Framlingham Flower Club's** January meeting using the all-encompassing title "Turning over a New Leaf". Although an experienced flower arranger, Lesley has not trained as a demonstrator and so works fairly slowly, to produce well executed designs. This provided a good opportunity for people to ask questions, which was ideal as we had several visitors and some new members. They were very satisfied with her basic advice about using foam, instructions for conditioning etc. whilst the more experienced members in the audience were impressed by her manipulation of palm leaves & phormium which she used to great effect.



Words/photos Lindi Carrington

Gorleston Flower Club had its Annual General Meeting on January 20th, 2025, and it was well attended. In her report Chairman, Miriam Marone said that on the whole it had been a good year. We had some excellent demonstrations from familiar faces as well as new names. The two Social Events, fish and chips and games and an Afternoon Tea were very popular. Having attended the demonstrators Test Day, we look forward to welcoming yet more new faces in 2025.

The Treasurer, Susan Sparkes, explained the accounts had not yet been audited due to illness, but these will be brought to the February meeting. It was decided to keep the subscription at £35 and guests £5, probably the cheapest in Norfolk!

At each of our Club meetings, as well as a raffle for the arrangements, we have a separate one for two hampers filled with contributions from the committee, beautifully wrapped and be-ribboned by Miriam. We have a different theme each month, February is Everything Red. Income from these raffles help to defray the cost of the demonstrations.

Following the re-election of Club Officers and Committee, two new committee members were introduced, the business part was concluded, tea and biscuits were served. We then enjoyed watching our programme secretary, **Lesley Smith** do a traditional arrangement and club member **Marilyn Knox** do a modern arrangement, using identical flowers and foliage.



Gorleston Flower Club
Marilyn Knox

Lesley Smith

Margaret Coleman, Secretary
Photos Nina Torvell (new committee member)

Stowmarket & District Flower Club

What a wonderful way to start the year! Lots of our members gathered for a lunchtime pave workshop demonstrated by member **Caroline Barnes** (Area Judge) Caroline outlined the principles of a pavé or tapestry arrangement as specified in the Competitions Manual Fourth Edition available on the NAFAS website shop. She demonstrated a group design and also showed us a contemporary design which she had created earlier.



Stowmarket Flower Club

We were also treated to a delicious bowl of soup and a roll; many thanks to Di Balaam and Margaret Baker for serving and to all the ladies who provided the soups.

Words/ photos Julie Head

February Club Meeting – Stowmarket & District Flower Club

We had a lovely evening walking ‘Down the garden Path’ with three of our talented members who put on a beautiful display for us. Maureen Johnson began with a view into one of her borders. A continental design with a trellis background.



Maureen Johnson, Stowmarket & District Flower Club

Pauline Squirrell took a more traditional approach using a statue of a gardening boy taking flowers to his mistress for her to arrange, and another design using wooden crates.



Lastly Vicki Hease took us on a walk to the orchard using lots of lovely foliage from her garden with foam free designs. Two using scrunched up chicken wire and one hand tied foliage arrangement.



Di Balaam did an excellent job as compère for the evening, asking questions and keeping us amused.

Words & photos Julie Head

There are a number of seasonal festivals in the early part of the year that can be used as inspiration for designs, themes for demonstrations & competition titles. Area Facebook administrator Beverly Moore invited members to share their seasonal designs on Facebook - here are a selection from the posts.

“The Saturday Flower Group”- an informal group of friends in the Mildenhall Area, some of whom are NAFAS members - meets on Saturdays (as the name suggests) to share their enthusiasm for flower arranging, whilst catching up on news, drinking coffee and so on. Earlier, in January, they were inspired to produce these Burns’ Night designs which they shared on social media.



Framlingham Flower Club have certainly ticked a number of boxes as far as **Spotlight East** is concerned – “Home Grown Talent ”section , early Spring AGM, but we decided to include their February meeting in our “Burns’ Night “ roundup of designs.

The Framlingham Committee decided to extend the Burns theme to the whole AGM, setting out tables decorated with tartan & Highland inspired table arrangements. After the formal business, refreshments were served. The tea & cakes were so delicious we didn’t miss the whisky (or the haggis!) Committee member **Kathryn Cook**, then demonstrated a selection of designs which could be used at a Burns’ Night celebration, including an embellished “haggis”.



Kathryn was dressed for the occasion in her family Stewart tartan (which perfectly coordinated with her dark green sequined top for an updated Highland look)) and explained that she was a longstanding member of a local Scottish dancing group.

As she worked she told us about her floristry training in London where she did a great deal of Interflora work. Later in her career she worked for many years with her father in the floristry business he decided to set up. This was a complete career change for him, as until then he had been a builder. Despite the sudden career change, by all accounts it wasn't long before he could produce an excellent bouquet!

Words & photos Lindi Carrington

The **Feast of Candlemas** is celebrated in the Church calendar on the 1st February, traditionally using white flowers & many candles. Demonstrator, Vicki Hease shared photos of her foam free designs for the return stalls in St. Edmundsbury Cathedral ready for the Sunday service. It was special celebration as the Cathedral said farewell to Bishop Martin with his last services before his retirement later in the month. At the end of the 3.30 pm service, the Bishop was presented with the Bishop's Standard in token of the duration of his Episcopacy.

(photos next page)



Photos Vicki Hease (flowers) Keith Mindham (Bishop 's presentation)

Valentines Day 14th February – a busy time for flowers arrangers & florists

Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, was a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on February 14th and commonly associated with lovers, happy marriages & young people.

Although not much of St. Valentine's life is reliably known, and whether or not the stories involve two different saints by the same name is also not officially decided, it is highly agreed that St. Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome.

Whoever he was, Valentine did really exist, because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St. Valentine.

On the following page is a selection of members' designs which show that there are no limits to the colours, type of flowers or design styles that can be used for the occasion.



Top – left Elaine Boobier; right Beverly Moore.
 Below – left Beverly Moore; right Elaine Boobier



Vicki Hease's design showing her use of pormium leaves as a sustainable mechanic.

It was a wonderful surprise to see designs by our East of England team on the pages of the latest **Flower Arranger Magazine (Spring 2025)** Surely not more designs produced at the famous Covid “lockdown” photoshoot, under socially distanced conditions? No! Editor, Chloe” Bryan-Brown, confirms in her editorial this was the East of England “Reunion” photoshoot. Team Member **Carol Giffen, Herts & Essex Boundary Club**, told us “Chloe wanted us to have a second chance because it had been tough working under Covid regulations. This time we met in someone’s garden and worked in the garage because it was pouring with rain, although you can’t tell that from the photos! It was wonderful to get together again.”

If you haven’t done so already, search the credits of the Spring edition for our members designs – beautiful baskets from **Leoni Baz & Judy Evans**; an architectural design from **Sue Tonkin**, door decorations from **Anne Bell & Carol Giffen**, culinary inspired designs from **Barbara Collins**, an intriguing structure using bamboo straws from **Nicky Thompson** & much more besides.



Anne Bell's delightful foam-free design for spring features a Betula (birch) stem nest atop a metal stand. Spring moss conceals small water tubes holding Viburnum opulus (guelder rose), blowsy peonies and trails of delicate Clematis. **Photo Sam Roberts/The Flower Arranger.**

New Creations Floral Design Club

What a fabulous day we had at the New Creations workshop lead by Roger Woolnough. Roger demonstrated a wall hanging design decorated with wire, test tubes and tulips. A simple but remarkably effective design.

Following this Roger showed us a lovely natural woodland type design which could be adapted for many different occasions. We all had a wonderful time socialising with old friends and a few new ones. It was a bit noisy at times whilst we were hammering in the tacks on the hanging arrangement!



Words/photos Julie Head

Burnham on Crouch Flower Club

The theme for this month was a linear arrangement. An illustration of the design, with a copy of the worksheet was available in advance to give an idea of the size & style of plant material to be used. It seems to have been a successful meeting, but as one member commented "Well done ladies, we didn't manage to follow the instructions, but think they came out well"



Lesley Beeton, Wisbech Flower Club

In all of my flower life I did not expect this. We watch a local auction house (on Facebook) who do house clearances. This vase was shown in a mixed box of "stuff." As my husband planned to go I asked him to bid £ 2.00 . I was a bit put out when he bought the box home and said he had paid £8.00 ! Then I looked inside the vase, I had not guessed it would have the wire frame and also a pin holder. I have lined the vase with cellophane (the other bane of our flower world) as there are tiny cracks in the glaze. Then placed the wire frame in before filling with water for the locally grown Tulips. The best part is I have taken the mixed box of "stuff " back and resold it ! I am feeling very lucky.



Spotlight East would love to hear about your floral bargains – vintage vases, pre-loved mechanics etc. email newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.com

Newly Qualified Demonstrators

In the December edition we announced that two further demonstrators had now qualified , having continued their training in another NAFAS Area. That should have read "three" We sincerely apologise to **Angelikka Hill (Mead)** who was omitted from our list. We hope to feature her news & recent designs in the Summer edition of Spotlight East.

Racheal Borenkova, who qualified last Summer goes from strength to strength, with many enthusiastic accounts of her demonstrations appearing both on social media & in the local newspapers. A couple of these reports are on the following pages.

Wickham Market January Meeting.

What a superb turnout, on such a miserable evening, for our first meeting of 2025. Our demonstrator for the evening was **Rachael Borenkova's** "Let's go to the Flower Shop"

Starting with a good-sized hand tied arrangement using Hazel, Honesty, Leatherleaf, Aspidistra variegated yew and Pistachio foliage and large bright yellow Chrysanthemums. Rachael gave us details of how she became a demonstrator. A long journey from a beauty consultant, Florist shop owner to passing her Demonstrators test in May last year.

Her second arrangement was in a basket in an asymmetrical design where she showed us examples of leaf manipulation. Rachael made it look incredibly easy with fast agile fingers. Several different containers including one long log with cut out sections for five arrangements, made by her husband. Chatting about her marriage to a Latvian man and the arrival in quick succession of three children. Some of the customs and traditions of Latvia were very interesting. This is a very busy energetic lady with loads of drive and ambition. She is undertaking a judging course this year as well as everything else. Her arrangements were absolutely delightful. Bright and cheerful, using wonderful foliage. Great textures and colours all made quickly and with secondary arrangements.

Words & photo Mandy Pryke



Cringleford & Hethersett Flower Club

For our first meeting of the New Year, we managed to be at our normal venue, Hethersett Village Hall, which was great as we had the use of the stage. Recently qualified demonstrator Rachael Borenkova was superb with "Let's Go to The Flower Shop" which we all found a wonderful trip.

Rachael worked quickly but skilfully with precise arrangements and attention to detail. She had plaited and woven leaves which she showed us how to do (definitely will book her for a workshop for us all to try)
A great local demonstrator and many members made the comment on how much they enjoyed the evening. **Lynn Rawlings, Chairman.**

East of England Area Judges Training January 2025

Last year there was a taster day for anyone considering becoming a qualified judge with NAFAS. This led to 14 trainee judges attending the first session at Mildenhall. Candidates were from 4 areas of NAFAS and included a number of our recently qualified demonstrators.

The training day was led by the very experienced Valerie Best, National Judge, Adjudicator & Instructor. Her enthusiasm for judging was apparent. Her knowledge amazing. Valerie has offered to set up a WhatsApp group for candidates so that they can ask questions at any time and the answers may help other group members. It is obvious that the candidates need to put some study time aside to complete the course. Valerie will do all she can to help candidates to achieve the judge's qualification.

Each candidate was asked to bring along a design with the title 'Sequence'. It had to include some dried plant material. Anne Bridge and Pat Dibben were on hand to judge the exhibits, before the candidates were asked to judge. They had to select a first, second and third. They then went into pairs to discuss their decisions.



Everyone was then given 3 cards to place on their final 1st, 2nd and 3rd exhibits. Valerie, Anne and Pat then discussed the arrangements from a judge's point of view. Then to the comment cards which should include a compliment and then a helpful comment. Each candidate wrote one and these were reviewed by Valerie with guidance on how to word appropriately.



Each candidate received a certificate of attendance. The next session is in February with candidates again bringing an arrangement to be judged

Words Jacquie Aldous, JDS&E committee member/photos Lavinia Pirret

The copy deadline for the June edition is 21st May. We look forward to hearing about your Spring events, including Easter right through to the early Summer Flower Shows. Do share your designs for seasonal celebrations such as Mothering Sunday, May Day & any others that inspire you. Email your contribution to newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.com ideally with the written part as a Word document & the photos attached in JPEG format. The media page on our website www.nafas-east.com gives more detailed advice if you are unsure.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable & much anticipated Spring
From us all at the Media Team,

Lindi Carrington, Editor