



Area News Bulletin

Welcome to the latest news round-up bulletin from the East of England Area of NAFAS' Media Team, a bit of a bumper issue this quarter. These bulletins are sent out regularly throughout the year to keep Clubs updated on the latest National and Area news together with any key points from Council and AGM meetings. **These bulletins are designed to be shared with Club Officers and members, so if you've received this, please pass this onto them, particularly your Club Chair so they can be kept up-to-date.** Links will be provided where possible to make additional information easier to access.

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National News

- **Richard Abraham, NAFAS CEO** has been attending all Area Council meetings across the country as part of his commitment to engage with clubs and members. He visited the East of England Area of NAFAS on 11th March. Part of Richard's presentation included information about the proposed Renewal Programme for NAFAS and he shared a copy of a leaflet with the Council attendees. This leaflet is also available on this Latest News item in pdf document form. All the Area Chairmen agreed to the Programme by a show of hands at the last NAC meeting in February and will be sharing their written sign-off before the 28th March.
- **National Show 2027** - Save the date for next year's diary – 9th and 10th July 2027 – Lincolnshire Showground
- **Speakers Rendezvous** – 18th May 2026 - The Studio Theatre, Salisbury. An inspiring day designed to boost confidence and stage presence. To book, contact: Lisa@nafas.org.uk.
- **Pre-National Assessment & National Demonstrators Test** - 11th & 12th April 2026 - The Shirley Centre, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands. Tickets £15 per person, per day. Apply by calling Vanessa on 0207 247 5567 or email events@nafas.org.uk.
- **The National President's Northern Ireland 3-day fundraising Event** - 18th-20th August 2026 - Armagh City Hotel, Armagh, Northern Ireland. Day and full event packages are available, with booking via events@nafas.org.uk or 020 7247 5567.
- **Summer edition of the Flower Arranger magazine** - The summer issue will be available shortly - the distribution dates are between 8th-15th April.
- **National newsletter** – this was published earlier in the month and a copy of this can be found on the [Area website](#). If you'd like to have the newsletter sent direct to your inbox, please subscribe on the [National website](#).

Area News

- Gloria Goodley's latest **Chairman's Chat** can be viewed on the [Area Website](#).
- **Spring Area Day - Saturday 25th April** – Jubilee Centre, Mildenhall. Doors open 10.00am for 11.00am with stalls and raffle. Speaker is Martyn Davies – title 'Edible flowers' and Demonstrator is Jo Purdy, a national demonstrator – title 'Botanical Gallery'.
- Could all Club contacts please ensure the **JDS&E list and the Area Address List** are passed onto the appropriate Officers in their Clubs. Often, the JDS&E list is not passed onto the Programme Secretary.
- **Spotlight East Spring edition** – will be published on 1st May 2026. If you and your Club have anything you'd like to contribute to this edition, please email Lindi Carrington, the Editor, at 'newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.com' before 23rd April, the copy deadline date.
- **Key dates document** - The latest version of the Area Noticeboard with the [Area's key dates for 2026](#) is now available on the website.
- Show schedules for the **Suffolk and Norfolk Shows** can be found under '[Latest News](#)' on the Area website.
- The inaugural meeting of a **UK-wide Media collaboration group** with Elizabeth Simpson, the new Digital Communications & Marketing Manager was held in February sharing brand guidelines and a social media toolkit with Media Officers and Secretaries. These documents have since been circulated to all Clubs in the Area.
- The **Area website and Facebook page** both continue to be well read with record engagement on each so far this year.
- **Colchester Group of Flower Clubs** - David Thomson has taken over as Chairman. David's been a member of Hatfield Peverel Flower club for over 30 years and has served on the committee for much of that time in various roles including Chairman and is currently Club President. He served as Colchester Group Chairman during Covid and has once again taken on that post.
- In our Area, **National Flower Arranging Day** will be celebrated at the **Royal Norfolk Show on 24th/25th June**. Visit the Floral Marquee to make your own floral headband or small arrangement to take home. Fun, free hands-on activities for all ages, hosted by the Norwich Group of Flower Clubs. Smithers-Oasis UK and Flowervision Norwich are kindly sponsoring the Floral Art section.
- There's quite a few **Club Anniversaries** in the first half of the year – Stock was in January 50 years, Maldon 60 years, Spalding February 65 years, Over & District 35 years and Sandy 50 years in April, Dereham & District 50 years and Lakenheath 40 years in May, Deben 45 years in July.
- **WAFA Show 2027** – so far we have seven members taking part in the Area elimination competition to represent the East of England. This will take place at the Area Day on 25th April. The winner will go forward to the National elimination competition later in the year.

- **Ely Cathedral Homes and Garden event & flower festival.** The Homes and Garden event will be on 19th & 20th June. The flower festival will run from 19th to 24th June. Tickets available on [their website](#).
- **Suffolk Show** – takes place on 27th and 28th May - Trinity Park, Ipswich.

JDS&E News

- **A Demonstrators Refresher Day** was held on 7th March. To view a short report on the day [click here](#).
- **Upcoming Speakers Course** – JDS&E are pleased to be offering the Area Speakers Course in the near future... with an introductory day to be held beforehand. If you're interested in taking part please speak to Rachael Borenkova.
- **Education Representative needed** – The Area is in need of an Education representative. If anyone is interested in joining the JDS&E Committee, please do not hesitate to speak to Rachael Borenkova.
- **WILD! Flower and Nature Festival - Winchester Cathedral** –15th & 16th September – JDS&E organised visit will include RHS Wisley on day 1 and the Festival on day 2. National Demonstrator Angela Turner is the creative director for the festival. To view details and booking form, please see the [JDS&E section](#) of the Area website.
- **All JDS&E queries, further information and bookings** – please speak to Rachael Borenkova, JDS&E Chairman, on rjbarnard80@gmail.com.

The next Area News bulletin is planned for June 2026. Any queries relating to the Bulletins can be emailed to me at ['media.nafaseast.he@gmail.com'](mailto:media.nafaseast.he@gmail.com).

Helen Evans

Area Media Representative

East of England Area of NAFAS

