

SPOTLIGHT EAST

Newsletter for Members of The East of England Area of NAFAS

Welcome to the Spring edition of our Area newsletter, even if the weather isn't always co-operating at the moment. But before we really get immersed in the anticipation of longer days and warmer weather we need to share all the fabulous events and arrangements that were produced for the festive season. Christmas 2021 marks the moment when most clubs at last got into full swing with seasonal workshops, special demonstrations & celebratory club meetings; but of course most did not take place until after the 1st December publication. We start with the Area Virtual Christmas Competition.



This time it was more difficult as no floral foam was allowed, but the competitors came up with ingenious solutions alongside the more traditional mechanics of chicken wire & moss. Some enthusiasts even submitted photos of their mechanics for judge Stephanie Laing's perusal. The response from junior club members was enthusiastic, producing designs to rival those of the adults.



There were even entries from 4 year old's who had worked under the supervision of more experienced family members - supervising a competitor that young in the use of flower scissors & glue gun probably deserves an award too !



After the disappointment of the previous cancelled Christmas, everyone was determined to pull out all the stops for 2021 – it was interesting to see the variety of ways clubs chose to celebrate.

Beverly Moore, Herts & Essex Boundary Club, writes:

“A great evening at Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club on Tuesday 7th December with 43 visitors & members enjoying a festive evening with National demonstrator Jacqui Arnold and her title ‘Christmas Unwrapped’.

Jacqui was assisted on stage by her husband John. Jacqui has kindly given permission for two of her designs to be shared.

The first design was traditional and created in a huge bowl made from pine cones using garden plant material, berries and tones of red and peach flowers.

The second placement was using some of the same plant material but without floral foam in a more contemporary style.

This was made into a hand tie at the end for the raffle.

The second design in 3 sizes. - beautiful arc displays with silver accents and delicate peach tones.

The final stage reveal was wonderful and a great end to 2021. We now look forward to a fun packed programme starting in February next year when we can continue to enjoy flowers and friendships together.

Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club



Designer - Jacqui Arnold

Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club



Designer - Jacqui Arnold

Sue Bunting, Feering Flower Club writes:

"Tuesday's meeting was quite different from the normal Christmas Meeting. This year we decided to have a social evening, where members could chat, making sure we were as safe as possible. Sylvie Overnell had us putting on our thinking caps, to answer the two picture quizzes that she had set. The Feering Singers entertained us with seasonal songs. After many months without having a competition table, we had six entries for "Winter Wonderland", photos below. Members decorated the Centre with arrangements, which were raffled at the close of the meeting. The Tombola, with beautifully wrapped parcels got us chancing our luck"



If you're wondering about the coins in the photos – its members voting for their favourite design. The one with the most coins is the winner, and the coins are donated to charity. It's a lovely idea and one that many clubs use.

Christmas is often a time for home grown talent to take centre stage. **Helen Evans, from Dereham & District Flower Club** writes:

"We celebrated Christmas at the Club last night (November 26th) with four members of the committee demonstrating some seasonal magic...

We had our Treasurer Carol create a delightful Christmas cocktail, our Chairman Corinne a beautiful wreath, Lavinia a stunning white lights arrangement and Helen a lantern table centrepiece

Christmas refreshments were on the menu with lovely bakes provided by other Committee members.

All the exhibits were raffled off as usual".



Many of our members are involved with arranging flowers in their local churches. We were delighted to read this from **Werrington parish Church**:

“The Church Flower Team with help from Werrington and District Flower Club were busy on Friday (15th December) arranging flowers ahead of this weekend’s Carol service.

But it was decided later on Friday that it would be no longer possible for the Carols and Lessons Service, planned for 6pm on Sunday 19th December, to be physically attended to protect our local community as the corona virus cases are rising so steeply again.

So our amazing tech team who have been providing online services since March 2020 were busy in church filming today, Saturday, so an on-line service will be available to view from 6pm on Sunday. These are the links to see the service-

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCQ9Gm-z7h7pcwxaZNCVKv-w>

<https://www.facebook.com/werringtonparishchurch/>”

And so all the flower arrangers efforts were not in vain, and parishioners were able to see the flowers in position for the service. It reminds us of how unsure of the covid situation we still were whilst we were making our detailed plans for Christmas.
(photos next page)



Although it's winter **Loddon Flower Club** has been very busy. **Tricia Loades** writes:

"We had two events in December; the first on 7th when Wendy Goodliff came along with her demonstration entitled 'Countdown to Christmas'. Wendy went through all the things we would do up to Christmas including presents, a sleigh arrangement and of course Chocolates. Quality Street to be precise, which are Wendy's favourite, and she very kindly sent a box round for us to enjoy. Two of our members, Anne Baker and Audrey Young, have now been members for 50 years. At our December meeting our President, Diane Blyth, presented Anne Baker with her 50-year certificate from NAFAS. Some of us attend Anne's flower classes that she holds.

Then on 11th December we held a Christmas workshop. Penny Mills, our Treasurer, led the workshop and showed us how to make wreaths out of Virginia Creeper and a wire ring. (photos below)



Most members made their wreaths with an Oasis ring and made them for their doors or as a table arrangement. They were different sizes and two ladies were going to have theirs on a charger for a table centre with candle.

Our Chairman, Tricia Godfrey had brought along some homemade sausage rolls and mince pies that we all enjoyed. It was a shame that we had some cancellations as those that did take part thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon at St John's Lecture Hall, Loddon.

Some members decorated windows in Holy Trinity Church, Loddon and All Saints Church, Chedgrave for Christmas too. One of our members also took part in the Area Christmas Competitions. January saw our New Year lunch which was much enjoyed by members.

Coming up on March 1st we have Vicki Hease with her title of 'A Vintage Affair'. Then on 5th April we have Terry Potter with 'This Way and That' and on 3rd May we have Brenda Tubb with 'Challenges'. We will also look forward to an open garden at our President, Diane Blyth's garden on 23rd April and Flower Arranging Day on 6th May. For more details on these events and more photos from our events during 2021, take a look at our website on www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk.



Great Baddow Flower Club Competition - 'Candle Glow'

Jane B's sparkly, festive floral design for our December 'Design for Charity', raising funds for Sanctus Homeless Charity. She received the most coins and was awarded the Val Williamson Memorial

Wickham Market Flower Club celebrated Christmas towards the end of November, but unfortunately just missed the Winter deadline. **Mandy Pryke writes:**

“Our demonstrator for our Christmas Open Meeting was a man who has visited us many times and hardly needed an introduction, Lee Berrill.

His theme was called “Made for Christmas” and Lee provided us with six arrangements, most with additional twin arrangements and accessories created by himself. The foliage and flowers used were breath-taking in every way and the containers were awe inspiring. A CD rack found near a skip became a wonderful display featuring Christmas baubles and a stunning floral arrangement adorned the top. A box covered with seasonal fabric became a gorgeous arrangement incorporating improvised tubing decorated with braid and wool to depict tall candles. Terracotta pots with gilded parlour Chico palms, deep red Naomi roses, large Blind date Gerbera, red Carnations, Blue Spruce and Box along with accessories depicted a Christmas Tree.

The stage took on a most enchanting appearance whilst we were guided through each of Lee’s designs. Our President Elsie gave the vote of thanks saying that Lee had cheered us all up after the last two years by showing us inspired ways to create different Christmas ideas. A truly enchanted evening in readiness for the Seasonal period. Members then enjoyed non-alcoholic punch and mince pies before the raffle.



Afterwards, June reminded us of future meetings and recommended telephoning a committee member (on you programme card), if you are unsure if any meeting is taking place because of bad weather or COVID. Finally she advised to wrap up particularly warm and maybe bring a blanket to future meetings as we will be having windows open during the meetings to meet health and safety advice”

As we move towards Spring, **Hannah Shine, Little Hallingbury Flower Club** writes:

I want to thank everyone who asked me to make a wreath for them for Christmas. This was my fundraising effort for Grove Cottage and was very successful. The wreaths adorned many doors! I was fortunate that many recipients kindly sent me photos of their wreaths on their door! I made 25-30 wreaths and swags which raised £600 (£750 with gift aid added!) and Grove Cottage collected this just before Christmas. And all the material was from the garden.



We are now still clearing the garden of some of the debris of the winter weather and it is gratifying to see bulbs appearing all over the garden. As a flower arranger, a lot of my shrubs are evergreen so the garden looks colourful all the year round. Some of these are euonymus (many varieties), skimmia, sarcococca, eleagnus, camelia, nandine, eucalyptus, variegated winter box, white heather, rosemary, variegated laurel, phormiums; so there is always something to cut for a vase or table arrangement. I also have a large area where I grow Chinese lanterns and the beautiful orange pods have brightened up many a wreath. Did you know that if a Chinese Lantern has got squashed, you can restore it to its former glory by just blowing into the bottom of the pod. You will need to do this before it dries out. It is nice to grow some plants for their unusual stems too – Tortured hazel – *Corylus avellana contorta*.

Right now, the *arum italicum pictum* is looking spectacular! The foliage is beautiful in an arrangement. I also got a *ceanothus* with variegated foliage last year. It is called Lemon & Lime and makes a perfect foil for the beautiful blue flowers.

You are all welcome to come over anytime if you need some nice foliage for church flowers or indeed for yourself! I also propagate plants for sale. The garden is well stocked now, so it does not take long to walk around admiring what's looking spectacular and doing a small vase without using floral foam. I rarely have flower arrangements indoors as it is too warm and they don't last long. So I tend to put them on a unit in the porch, where they last a very long time, with the water changed often.



I will soon be sowing seeds of *Salvia Turkestanica* (a biennial but quite spectacular), and many varieties of cosmos. These are prolific grown in tubs and deadheaded or picked often, in so many shades of pink, white, frilly edged, picotee with dark pink edges. I save my own seeds and am happy to send some to anyone who would like them. I hope to make some wreaths for Easter. I think wreaths are for every day not just for Christmas!

Happy gardening and flower arranging!
Hannah Shine

If you would like to take up any of Hannah's generous offers contact newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.com and we will pass on your enquiry

In January, the death was announced of the television gardening presenter Peter Seabrook. **Jayne Lawson, Feering Flower Club**, is the administrator of the Facebook page Flower Arrangers & their Gardens, posted this delightful, personal tribute to Peter which several NAFAS members responded to with their own recollections.

"Many of you in the UK and further afield will have been familiar with Peter Seabrook and no doubt remember his time broadcasting on BBC TV's "Gardeners' World" and also as a prolific writer on all sorts of garden topics. My partner's Dad knew him very well as PS worked on the seed trials which were once such a strong business here in Essex. And once my partner joined his Dad in their family seed business it wasn't long before Moles junior was himself learning from Peter. And when Mr Moles senior passed away Peter wrote such a kind letter to the family.

In later years we'd bump into Peter at various trade events and the two chaps would chat happily, even swapping ties one day when Michael admired a sunflower tie Peter was wearing. We once had the pleasure of his and his wife's company on a trip to Switzerland for a Fleuroselect convention one year. He had a very naughty sense of humour and turned a potentially tedious business meeting into a mirthful afternoon. Latterly he instigated the Floral Fantasia at RHS Hyde Hall and that was the last time we met him. Peter was there extolling the virtues of the newly-introduced seed-raised varieties of plants to all the visitors but took time to greet us and chat about the seed trade. RIP Peter, a true gentleman and one who will be much missed."



Jayne Lawson later added to her Facebook post:

"I did my NAFAS course at Capel Manor College and at the year-end open day we had to display our portfolios and coursework in the classroom. I asked Peter if he'd come and have a look at them and he was very complimentary about the NAFAS curriculum, particularly the botany element. Our tutor was thrilled to meet Peter weren't you Kay Ridley?"

Kay Ridley

"Yes remember him well, thanks to you Jayne for introducing him to me, a real gentleman"

Fiona Franklin

"I remember meeting him at the opening of Roger Harvey garden centre near Stevenage. My parents were very good friends of the owner, him and Peter had worked together at the beginning of their careers"

Vicki Hease

He had a very good piece is advise re houseplants. Too wet , you've over watered it, too dry, not enough watering.

In mid-January **Carol Giffen, Chairman of Cambridge Group**, was in touch with Spotlight bursting with excitement:

“Finally the latest edition of the **Flower Arranger Magazine** has been released and what a fantastic edition it is. Am I biased, of course I am - as I am in it. Gosh I can't begin to tell you the sense of pride I had when I saw my arrangement in a glossy magazine for the first time. My husband and I were actually in the car going shopping and shrieked when I first saw the picture.

The photo shoot took place on Good Friday 2021, it was a very cold day and we were all pleased that we were able to work in what had been the old cafe at Hopleys Garden Centre rather than outside. Hopleys had closed a few years previously. The surroundings were ideal and I think when you look at the designs and where they are placed around the grounds you get an idea of just how beautiful the gardens are.

Leoni Braz and Nicky Thompson from Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club and I arrived for the morning session along with Barbara Collins. We all helped Barbara unload her car as she seemed to have brought the entire Dutch flower market with her!! Fortunately Aubrey the owner let us use one of the old trolleys and that proved very useful.

One of the first things I noticed was that Nicky and others had blue irises which I had gone everywhere to try and buy and just couldn't get them. Probably just as well because the tulips I bought as an alternative worked so much better. Leoni had a problem getting bulbs, and bought small flowers instead, but then found she didn't use them anyway!

Well we set to and what was so nice about it was there didn't seem to be any pressure and we all helped one another. As I said in my first article we did overlap with the girls who were there for the afternoon session who were Sue Tonkin and Judy Evans from Little Hallingbury Flower Club, Anne Bell from Saffron Walden Flower Club and Jean Crane. It was lovely to see them and catch up with them and Chloe, the editor, very kindly took a photo of us all.



Left to right: Carol Giffen (Group Chairman) Sue Tonkin, Judy Evans, Leoni Braz, Nicky Thompson, Jean Crane, (Area President) Anne Bell, Barbara Collins (Area Chairman) Photo: Chloe Bryan-Brown



The Team at Work (above) (below) Carol's photo of her arrangement which appears on Page 60 of the magazine.



One of my arrangements which isn't in this edition of the Flower Arranger (I would love to see it in a later issue – fingers crossed) was to be shown on a jetty overlooking some water. Unfortunately, the wind was very strong when I took it outside and it fell over. My fault I hadn't weighted it down, that was a hard lesson to learn, but I quickly put it back together again, although I must admit the end result wasn't as pleasing as it was before the accident.

Chloë did tell us she had many photos from the session, too many for one edition of the magazine so there is every chance that there might still be some of our arrangements going into further issues.

Here is Leoni creating her magnificent basket which appears on Page 40 of the Spring Edition



Photograph credit (right) copyright Oliver Gordon courtesy of The Flower Arranger magazine. The photograph of the basket was also selected to be used on the Flower Arranger promotional banner – see photo at the end of the article.

At one point during the morning Aubrey came in with a bag of hot cross buns from the little local bakers. A highlight as far as I was concerned, they were delicious and had obviously been baked on the premises. Thank you Aubrey.

Altogether it was a fabulous experience, and although I was apprehensive beforehand if I had the chance to do another photo shoot I would grab it with both hands.

I hope you enjoy all the photos of the arrangements we did that day and that you get as much pleasure out of looking at them as we did making them."

Carol Giffen

More photos on next page

Here is Nicky painstakingly working on her hyacinth arrangement featured on Page 27.



Photograph credit (right) copyright Oliver Gordon courtesy of The Flower Arranger magazine.

Enjoy the rest of the team's designs in the current Spring Issue of the magazine. We still have some copies available at Area. Contact Pat South flowerarranger.nafaseast@gmail.com) It's not too late to subscribe online and back copies, actual & virtual are available - <https://www.nafas.org.uk/the-flower-arranger-magazine>.

Many thanks to editor Chloë Bryan-Brown for allowing us to use photos from the magazine.



There has been a great deal to celebrate since the beginning of the year. Candlemas is a Christian holiday celebrated annually on February 2, 40 days after Christmas. It celebrates three occasions according to Christian belief: the presentation of the child Jesus; Jesus' first entry into the temple; the Virgin Mary's purification after childbirth.

While it is customary for Christians in some countries to remove their Christmas decorations on Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve) those in other Christian countries historically remove them after Candlemas. On Candlemas, many Christians (especially Anglicans, Methodists, Lutherans, Eastern Orthodox Christians, and Roman Catholics) also bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year

Lesley Beeton, Wisbech team of flower arrangers writes:

"In February, it was our turn on The Ely Cathedral Flower Guild rota. This coincided with The Candlemas service. Our team of five consisted of (see photo left to right) Ann Purt, Christine Austin, John Richmond; and (sitting in photo, Ann's sister) Veronica Marsden and me, Lesley Beeton. Ann, John and I are Wisbech Flower Club; Christine attends Kings Lynn Flower Club. We are all long-time friends. All the foliage came from our gardens and all 6 arrangements included candles. There is a large shelf attached to the pillar for 2 of the arrangements. The other 4 designs are on plinths. There are lots of other teams who take their turn throughout the year and create beautiful designs in the magnificent Cathedral."



The blessing of candles at the Purification is deeply rooted in Church History; since the 7th century, beeswax candles have been blessed on Candlemas. Candles made with beeswax are the only ones that should be blessed, because of the symbolism of wax, bees and their connection to virginity.

Candlemas was the day when some cultures predicted weather patterns. An old English song goes: "If Candlemas be fair and bright, Come winter, have another flight. If Candlemas bring clouds and rain, Go winter, and come not again". So if the sun cast a shadow on Candlemas day, more winter was on the way; if there was no shadow, winter was thought to be ending soon.

Celebration at St Ives Flower Club:

We send warmest congratulations to St Ives Flower Club on achieving their 60th anniversary in 2020. Unfortunately due to the pandemic the actual party was delayed until 9th December 2021. On a bleak afternoon the members had a wonderful afternoon with Area President Sue Brinton (far left) and Speaker Brenda Eyers (far right) featuring lots of fun and laughter.....



And the most amazing cake!



Beverly Moore writes about the latest celebration at her club:

Pat Bryceson a member of Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club celebrated two milestones recently. Her 100th Birthday & 50 years a member of the Flower Club. Back in 1972 during lunch breaks at her workplace, Pat started to attend flower arranging classes and that is where she heard about Nafas & their Flower Clubs.

In those days Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club met at Great Havers J.M.I. School in Bishop's Stortford & Pat recalls fondly how the chairs were those that the children used and were quite small and low for many who attended.

1976 Pat joined the Committee, in 1977 she was Honorary Secretary until 1985. Pat then continued as a valuable member of the Committee until 1992 and was elected and served her 3 year term as President from 1993-1995, becoming an Honorary Life Member in 1997. During that time she was a keen exhibitor at many Flower Shows and proud to have received Best Exhibit in Open Individual Classes for the Essex show (at Peterborough) in 1984, she boasted the Challenge Cup in her sitting room for a year. Jean Crane was responsible for urging members to try their hands at competitive work, no fewer than two entries. Pat went on to gain many awards over the years. A regular & supportive attendee at Area & Group events, the Club's monthly meetings & events & often hosting garden parties which everyone enjoyed.

In the photos at our Emerald Anniversary celebration Pat was proud to be with other honorary Presidents and in our Diamond year she can be seen enjoying looking back through the club's archives at our 60th anniversary Coffee Morning.





Pat is a very knowledgeable & keen plants-woman and still enjoys pottering in her garden whenever she is able to.

Boundary Club members enjoy taking part in competitions and members are always proud when they receive the silver plate donated by Pat for "Best Use of Garden Plant Material", as you will see from the photo.

The internet is perhaps something that may not come easy to some centenarians but not for our Pat, she keeps up to date with what is happening in the Nafas world online & on YouTube and enjoys the regular information that is shared on the club's website.

From all her Nafas friends we wish her A Very Happy 100th Birthday and Happy 50th Anniversary as a member of Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club.

Many clubs are celebrating special anniversaries in 2022. Don't forget to post the details beforehand on our website, and to tell Spotlight all about it, including some gorgeous photos of you all.

No matter how much effort goes into the planning of club meetings, things don't always work out as planned. It's every programme secretary's worse fear that the demonstrator will be delayed on the A14 or suddenly be taken ill. We received a further report from **Lodden Flower Club** telling us how they survived this tricky situation. **Tricia Loades explains:**

"For our February meeting we had invited the Queen to attend. The Queen is knitted, but unfortunately, she was unable to attend. However, she did send Prince Charles in her place! So, our President, Diane Blyth and Committee member Tricia Loades were asked to step into the breach.

Tricia started off proceedings with her arrangement (she hadn't done any flower arranging demonstrations for the Club before). Members guessed that the arrangement was for Charles when the Pampas grasses went in! Charles was also knitted. Diane then demonstrated four lots of arrangements that included one without floral foam and pot-et-fleur. Members were impressed with both Diane and Tricia and they were both glad that they could step in at the last minute."



It seems it always pays to have something or someone on standby. (Often it's a quiz!) Does your club have anecdotes about last minute cancellations and quickly organising an unusual replacement activity? We'd love to hear about it.

It's now high season for Spring workshops. **Jane Dalton, secretary of Great Ellingham & District Flower Club** writes:

"What a great workshop we had on Tuesday 25th January, such a super design using luxury flowers and one that can be used again and again - all ready for Valentine's if you keep the Oasis wet.

Our thanks, as ever, go to Brenda Tubb and Sue Saini for their hard work - it is no mean task to organise all that for so many – we had 47 taking part. No wonder we only do it once a year!



Our next meeting is on February 22nd and by then (unless things change) there will be no need to wear a mask – although, of course it will be entirely up to you.. Our demonstrator is Christine Hewson, an old friend of the club and brilliant demonstrator – so one to look forward to. The title is 'Spring has Sprung'. I certainly hope so ... I have just a few Snowdrops and Hellebore out but there's buds appearing everywhere along with the daffs "

We hear there was a hive of activity at Breckland's recent workshop when 58 people attended. **Christine Hewson, Secretary Breckland Flower Club** writes:

The workshop at Breckland is held once a year at different times. We have well over 60 members, but we can only seat 60 - so gets a bit full when they all want to take part. The Committee help distributing items, foliage etc....with a well-earned cup of tea at the end..

Joy Tunmore, present Chairman and myself take it in turns to come up with a design, then we shop for a container, provide a piece of foam & accessories. They bring flowers, but this time Joy and I provided all the foliage as well .. making them look similar..



Breckland Flower & Garden Club

As we noted earlier with Christmas activities, every club has its own personal format for its AGM- whether it's the brisk formalities before the demonstrator takes the stage, or a stand-alone event with refreshments and entertainment, or every combination in-between.

Helen Evans, Media Officer at Dereham & District Flower Club writes:

Dereham held their AGM and Members' lunch back in January. As well as covering the formal AGM items, the Chairman Corinne Steward also presented the annual competition awards for Open and Novice classes. Competitions are held on the majority of club nights with some inspiring (and occasionally head-scratching) titles. Entries are judged by the Demonstrator that evening and awarded marks out of 10. These are then totalled for the year, with prizes for the Winners and Runners-up for both classes. The Club also awards the 'Beryl Flatt Trophy' for the best use of garden material, which is presented in July. The Chairman also presented Jane Harding with her 40 years membership badge and Jacquie Aldous, our President, her 25 years badge, although Jacquie wasn't able to be there on the day. There are many long-standing Members who've received badges over the years



Our Chairman, Corinne Steward, presenting the trophies to: (centre) Lavinia Pirrett - Open Class plate, five-times winner; (bottom left) Jan Lawler, Novice class crystal bowl . (top left) Sandra Carman - Novice Runner up silver shield. (right) Jane Harding - 40 years special member badge.

Members were then treated to a very entertaining afternoon with Jane Hoggar, a former Bluebell Girl who sang, danced and told stories about her life and all about the world-famous dance troupe. A very popular entertainer with the audience; with many keen to purchase one of Jane's books afterwards.



Lindi Carrington, Chairman East Suffolk Group writes:

"It was home grown talent at Framlingham Flower Club's recent AGM. After the brisk & business-like AGM formalities, Past Chairman Lesley Bennion presented her demonstration "Back to Basics" - although a lot of members thought it far from basic and learned a lot from watching her. As a talented and experienced arranger, Lesley has no formal training as a demonstrator. She didn't want to rush her designs, or fill the gaps with silly stories, but appreciated that her audience might feel they were "watching paint dry". So she encouraged us to discuss her work as it progressed. Because we're a small club and we all knew her well, we ended up sharing club reminiscences: of past workshops we'd held, of flower festivals we'd taken part in, of much loved members who are no longer with us. It was the most amazing afternoon in which we had a real opportunity to bond, after such a long period of not seeing each other. And so much better than the usual AGM quiz.



After a lovely chat and lots of laughs, the table was full of beautiful arrangements. Everyone had received a free raffle ticket & the lucky winners were allowed to keep the charity shop containers (or donate them to the sales table at the next meeting) I don't know how Lesley could part with her bargains. I would have happily paid for a raffle ticket!

Framlingham Flower Club meets on the 4th Tuesday afternoon of the month (except August & December) at Framlingham Sports club. Further details on club website:
<http://framlinghamflowerclub.onesuffolk.net/>



The final word on AGM's comes from **Jayne Lawson Feering, Flower Club** who writes:

"Somewhere along the way our planning for flower club's February meeting and AGM went slightly awry.

No, not the fact that it was our first AGM for 2 years because after almost 60 years of existence we've rather got the running of an AGM down to a fine art.

Nor indeed that our two in-house demonstrators might have been feeling apprehensive before taking to the stage but their planning and practice sessions had paid off handsomely and we were treated to a splendid show which also incorporated a rather marvellous impersonation of some chickens.

Or, perish the thought, that we might not have enough refreshments to offer to members and visitors; that would have been awful

No, it was the fact that our AGM and first meeting for months and months with a members' competition was taking place the day after St. Valentine's Day and the effect that event has on the price and availability of flowers was more noticeable than ever. Still we were undaunted and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Thanks to all who came along this evening and helped us make a good start to our 60th anniversary year."

We look forward to hearing AGM reports from more clubs as the year progresses.

And so all that remains is to wish you all a joyful Spring, full of glorious flower arranging opportunities Mothering Sunday, Easter, May Day, National Flower Arranging Day.....

The next Spotlight East will be online June 1st with a deadline of May 21st. We hope to report more competition successes; to hear about your favourite demonstrations, your special anniversaries or just how your garden is growing these days. Our contact details are: newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.com & facebook.nafaseast@gmail.com where we can also promote your upcoming activities via Facebook & Instagram

Don't forget to attach good quality photos in JPEG format, and please try not to include the rubbish bin and the fire extinguisher in the background to your flowers!

Also a reminder to send the details of future Open Meetings, events etc. to web.nafaseast@gmail.com for inclusion on the website.

Best wishes,
Lindi