

SPOTLIGHT EAST

Newsletter for Members of The East of England Area of NAFAS

Welcome to the Winter edition of our online magazine which starts with a review of our Autumn activities and finishes as Christmas preparations are starting to get underway. It's certainly been a busy few months – such energy, creativity & enthusiasm – that it's impossible to cover everything that's been happening. over the last 3 months.. Here are some highlights starting with the harvest season, always a delight for the flower arranger.

Acorn Village

In September Sandra Price, Pat South and Brenda Evers organised a three-day Harvest Festival at Acorn Village Mistley (the charity that provides residential & supported living facilities, and care & support for adults with learning disabilities.) A large number of members from the East Suffolk and Colchester Groups staged beautiful designs in the walled garden and around the listed house- these were much admired by visitors, staff and residents.



A cream tea afternoon with a demonstration by Pat and Brenda entertained over 60 guests and the final day saw an open-air harvest festival service in the walled garden where a blessing for pets took place accompanied by live music. The event raised over £1,500 for the charity.

Ely Cathedral: Lesley Beeton from the **Wisbech team of the Cathedral Flower Arrangers Guild** told us:

“We created this main aisle design for Harvest Festival. It was very large, so the photo shows only a part of it. The festival celebrates the "Water of Life". Our depiction comes from the 2nd verse of the hymn " We plough the fields and scatter..."”



Main picture: “The winds & waves obey him” Photo top right, l-r: Christine, Veronica, Lesley & Ann

Sylvie Cooper, Feering Flower Club described the club’s October meeting on social media “Mists of Mellow Fruitfulness” certainly filled the air, with the members competition ‘**Autumn Foliage Only**’ - we had a bumper harvest; well done to all.

(photos next page)



St Edmundsbury Cathedral - Vicki Hease's foam free designs using vibrant autumnal colours.



Autumn is a popular time of year for church flower festivals. With garden flowers readily available and fruit & vegetable plentiful, it's an ideal opportunity to create an ambitious display from a modest budget. In early October, members of **Stowmarket & District Flower Club** worked alongside church flower arrangers and members of local organisations to stage the Battsiford Flower Festival in nearby St Mary's Church. The theme was "A Celebration of Community Life" which provided great scope for everyone taking part and showed what a rich and varied life Battsiford residents enjoy.



Photos:

top left – The Village School – Pauline Squirrel

bottom left – High Flyers – Kim Denny

centre – The School Allotment – Ann Ross & Julie Head

top right – Chinese Night at the Village Hall – Kym Denny

bottom right – interior of St. Mary's, Battsiford.

Remembrance Day November 11th

Many of our members are involved every year in providing remembrance flowers in their local churches, often combining "silk" poppies with seasonal foliage, or substituting red Gerberas for the iconic but out of season poppies.

Corinne Steward, President Dereham Flower Club, created this stunning arrangement (photo next page) for the Remembrance Day Service in her church in Scarning, near Dereham. She describes it as 'My tribute to those who gave their lives for us.'

Note the fallen poppies.... so poignant

Corrinne Steward



“My tribute to those who gave their lives for us”



This year a team of eight from **Lodden Flower Club** made six arrangements at Norwich Cathedral for the commemorative service.

It's certainly been a time of important celebrations for many clubs!

One of our smaller but enthusiastic clubs, **Blackwater Flower Club** celebrated their 35th anniversary with a delicious fish and chip supper followed by a fun-filled festive demonstration by Pat South. The evening was a sell-out with lots of support from clubs in the Colchester Group as well as members' friends. Everyone appreciated the very hard work of Club Chairman Diane Leggett and her committee.

Brenda Eyers



Walton on the Naze Flower Club

On Thursday 9th November a large audience of members, visitors and guests including Colchester Group Chairman Diane Leggett and Group Secretary Shirley Macro came together for the final meeting not only of 2023 but to say a fond farewell to Walton on the Naze Flower Club. The Colchester Group are sad to see the club closing and hope that members will perhaps join another club.

The demonstrator for the evening was the wonderful Lee Berrill from Northampton who wowed everyone with not only his amazing Christmas designs, beautiful flowers and unusual foliage but also his intricate and unusual craftwork.

Members enjoyed a festive buffet and admired the club competition.



Sandra Price & Lee Berrill

I attended **North Walsham & Bradfield Flower Cub's 65th celebration lunch** with Helen Evans and Jan Lawler today. An excellent, enjoyable day with the national demonstrator Jonathan Moseley who provided amazing and beautiful flower designs. Jacquie Aldous (Chairman Norwich Group) was a great assistant for Jonathan. **Lavinia Pirret, Dereham Flower Club**



Jacqui Aldous with Jonathan Moseley

Lodden Flower Club celebrated their **65th Anniversary** and have had a very busy Autumn

For our September meeting we had Crystal Dyball come along with her demonstration titled 'Floral Cocktail'. It was indeed a floral cocktail of colour as the light colour changed every second. We had a form of disco lights as the Loddon Players had changed the lights for their upcoming performance. Crystal soldiered on with the colour changes admirably.

At this meeting our President, Diane Blyth, presented Roger Outlaw with The Baker Cup for the non-Committee member who has helped the club during the year. Diane also presented Ann Bond with flowers and a garden voucher as she had finally retired from the Committee after her 45-year stint. Ann joined the Club in 1975.



Crystal Dyball - "Floral Cocktail"



Ann Bond & Diane Blyth



Roger Outlaw & Diane Blyth

Also, in September our Vice-Chairman Tricia Loades took part in a flower festival entitled 'Flowers in Royal Splendour' which was at St Ethelbert's Church, Thurton, Norfolk. She created a pedestal for the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

Then also that month we had our **65th Anniversary flower festival** at Holy Trinity Church, Loddon with the title of 'Hobbies and Pastimes'. Most of our members took part in some way and came to support us. Along with the church ladies on the refreshments, we made a considerable amount for the church and our Club, so we can keep going a little while longer!



“Hobbies & Pastimes” – knitting, enjoying a glass of wine, afternoon tea - & celebratory blue sapphire pedestal arrangement.

In October, we had Elizabeth Robertson come along with her title of ‘My Family and Other Animals’. We have not had Elizabeth visit us before and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Elizabeth very kindly judged our competition that evening with the same title.

In November we had Mu Gurbutt and Sheila Cooper from Bungay Flower Club come along with their take on “How Flower Arranging Has Changed.” Mu who is Chairman of Bungay Flower Club took us through the different styles of flower arranging since she was ten, when she first started to arrange flowers. Mu was helped by Sheila who is Secretary of Bungay. We have helped them out with demonstrations in the past and we support our respective flower festivals too. At this meeting our President Diane presented Gillian Balls with a 25-year badge.

For more details of events and meetings and photos from our meetings take a look at our website at www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk.

Tricia Loades, Vice Chairman

Area Council 18th October

Imagine our surprise on arriving at the Jubilee Centre to find a sparkly disco stage setting as the backdrop to our meeting. It was the work of the Bunbury Players for their weekend production of "Disco Inferno – the Devilish 70's Musical"..... and came complete with podiums, large amplifiers and other obstacles. Our hopes of karaoke were dashed as the meeting proceeded with the usual business.... You will no doubt by now have read Sue Cooper's excellent & concise minutes which have been circulated to clubs.

Presentations were made to the 3 students – Naomi Wells, Sue Astell & Rebecca Moss who have successfully completed the Area Foundation Course in Floral Artistry, tutored by Linda Knights. Their stunning portfolios of work were laid out for us to see during the lunch break We were really impressed by the high standard and sheer quantity of their work.



Linda has now become Area Education representative and stands down from her role on the media team as website administrator. The website will now be transferred to a new team led by Lavinia Pirret from Dereham Flower Club. Although they are experienced in working with the media, they will need training and are being supported by a local IT expert. Please bear with us as we go through this transitional stage – the contact email will be the same web.nafaseast@gmail.com but there will be a different person at the other end.

After lunch the AGM was held. West Norfolk was lucky to win the draw for the free RHS ticket for a club visit to one of their gardens – Sue Brinton was delighted as this is her club. We congratulated Cynthia Mills, Costessey Flower Club, as she was awarded the certificate for 50 years NAFAS membership.

Chairman Barbara Collins made an emotional farewell amid flowers, gifts & a standing ovation. As President Sue Brinton aptly put it: "We can't thank you enough for a job well done" . Gloria Goodley was elected as Area Chairman, with Roger Woolnough as Vice Chairman.



After the formal proceedings Sue Brinton announced the exciting news that the Area Show celebrating our 70th Anniversary will be held in Hunstanton on 15th & 16th June 2024. Hunstanton Borough Council have agreed to cover the cost of the show marquee which will be erected on Hunstanton Green, a prominent location with good footfall towards the sea front. It will be a show case for flower arranging as well as a promotional opportunity for local clubs. It will be open to the public free of charge and should attract a wide range of age groups.

Lindi Carrington

Barbara's stunning Autumn Glory

Just after passing over her East of England Chairman's badge to Gloria Goodley in October, we were thrilled to have Barbara Collins demonstrating at Dereham's club night. Her theme was 'Autumn Glory' and Barbara created lots of stunning arrangements to delight our audience of members and visitors. From exhibits in copper pots (only ever gets used this time of year apparently!) to ones in baskets, a big and beautiful hand-tie, two-tiered arrangements and lots more besides. Barbara ensured we also had additional raffle prizes of a decorated ring and some plants. There were some very happy members leaving the hall at the end of the evening with the exhibits they'd won.



Barbara regaled us with stories of her years of demonstrating and her most recent time with her family. She kept the audience engaged all evening and thoroughly entertained us all.

Our Open and Novice competitions were judged by Barbara and our members really appreciated the encouraging comments she added to their cards. What a fabulous night, we can't wait to invite her back again.

Helen Evans, Chairman Dereham & District Flower Club

Area Day Saturday 7th October – this was the second of the new format “Social Days”, building on the popularity of the first one held in April this year. For the first part of the morning, as before, we explored the “techniques” tables – watching & learning how to do amazing things with plant material which could provide alternative mechanics or eye-catching components in a design. Rachael Barankova (trainee demonstrator) was kept very busy teaching us the secret of plaiting palms, whilst demonstrator Jenni Baker showed us how the “tatami” technique could be incorporated into floral designs. Roger Woolnough (former National Demonstrator) showed us some beautiful “decoupage” work; Area Chairman, Barbara Collins was busy making decorative structures for hand-tie arrangements; Elizabeth Robinson showed us how to make miniature Christmas trees. There were several sales stalls selling all our favourite things like jewellery, handknits, cards, ribbons ... Former demonstrator, Jennifer Walters, was promoting a group called “Craftwise” which meets in Norwich United Reform Church for tutored sessions in paper based & sewing crafts. More details craftwisenorwich@gmail.com



On the other side of the hall was the show bench for **“You Be the Judge”** which followed the lines of the feature in The Flower Arranger Magazine. Seven volunteers had entered the competition which was entitled “Autumn Splendour” and had set up their exhibits prior to the start of the event. Everyone was invited to judge the designs and award 1st, 2nd & 3rd place on the score cards that were handed out. The bench was a riot of Autumnal colours, the styles of design were very varied and the standard of workmanship very high, so it was quite a challenge. Later in the morning Area Judge Pat Scot shared her results in a critique of the designs, so that we could see if we were on the same wavelength - many of us were! More detail about what the judge was looking for is included in the next section of Spotlight East.

After lunch, we sat back to be entertained by a no less than six demonstrators! Barbara Collins started the proceedings by showing us how to incorporate her decorated wire structures into some splendid hand tied bouquets.

Next trainee demonstrator Diane Leggett (Colchester Group Chairman) demonstrated a seasonal parallel design. Diane is an experienced florist but confessed that simultaneously “doing & talking” is something she is really working on at the moment.

Rachael Barankova is also on the Area training course , although many may have already seen her at their clubs as she has been demonstrating for a while. Jenni baker showed us the tatami work from the morning session incorporated into a palisade of irregular sticks – you probably already know that she has a “thing” about sticks.

Newly qualified demonstrator Elizabeth Robertson created Tolkien’s Middle Earth before our eyes; a twig structure on two levels – autumnal reds on the top with an inner core of magical white & silver.

Finally, Roger Woolnough went “foam free” for a great bamboo urn filled with contorted willow, Cotinus grasses and coffee coloured anthuriums. As a finale the team of demonstrators, one by one added cones of coral roses to complete the design.



Photos Julie Head

“You Be the Judge” – “Autumn Splendour”

For some years The Flower Arranger magazine has been running a very popular feature in which readers are challenged to “put on their judges’ hats” to assess and rank the entries from recent NAFAS shows. The actual judges’ results are revealed towards the end of the magazine. It’s fun, but there is also a more serious purpose – the more you understand what judges are looking for and the better you are at recognising the strengths of winning designs, the more aware you become of weaknesses in your own designs. You can become a better competitor and have the potential to win more awards.

Our show bench & schedule was organised by the Area Judges Representative, Stephanie Laing and featured designs from 7 volunteers. We were all given cards to record our choices; there was plenty of time to make up our minds, discuss it amongst ourselves and so on. Then we gathered before the lunch break to hear the official results and critique. Our judge for the event was Pat Scot, from Norfolk, who has many years’ experience in judging both NAFAS and local horticultural shows.



Pat Scott, our judge for "Autumn Splendour"

She started by outlining what a judge looks for:

- good design interpretation of the class title
- balance – visual & actual (does it look as though it's falling over)
- scale – the relationship between the plant material, the container, the accessories
- colour – combination, harmonies

She warned us that containers & bases can really let you down because of poor condition (e.g. not clean) or wrong choice.(e.g. artificial turf is not allowed) The quality of plant material is important (no damaged bits) and must be well-conditioned. Accessories should complement the composition not distract from it.

Pat then outlined the comments she would make on the competitors cards. A summary of her comments is included alongside the photos of the exhibits on the following pages. The results are on page 28

Report & Photos Lindi Carrington (*I hope I have not misrepresented Pat's comments, as I have paraphrased her actual words*)



- A. A beautiful seasonal design with excellent flow through the design. Well-chosen container. The interpretation lacks the colour & splendour of the title
- B. Unusual & effective use of autumn colour. The design lacks a focal point



- C A lovely design but the unusual container is too dominant.
- D An unusual seasonal design. The schedule states that the design is to be viewed from the front but the diagonal/side view is much stronger.
- E Excellent interpretation. Harmonious colour and good contrasts between the flowers & berries used

The season of mists & mellow fruitfulness & AGM's

In mid-October the **Cambridge Group held their AGM**, hosted by Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club at the Manuden Community Centre. We said farewell to Carol Giffen, Linda Allen, Leoni Braz, Jean Cornell and Nicky Thompson who have been on the committee for many years. Two new members joined the committee Lorraine Gagen and Ann Godfrey.

A special presentation was made to Tricia Pratley who has been a member of Nafas for 50 years. Our special guest was Lesley Fairman, Area Treasurer.



During the morning the speaker, Kerry Austin from Rochford Roses gave a talk on how to care for roses, which was well received and there were many questions afterwards.

After a delicious lunch **Jacqui Arnold**, National Demonstrator gave a fabulous demonstration, entitled "Sippin' on Cider" . (photo next page)

Altogether a super day, apart from the awful weather!

Photos Beverly Moore /Words Carol Giffen



Designs Jacquie Arnold

Norwich Group AGM

Despite the dreadful weather we had a great workshop with Roger Woolnough after the Norwich Group meeting in Wroxham. Many thanks Roger. Congratulations to Jacquie Aldous for becoming the new Chairman of the Norwich Group.



Jenni Baker & Jacquie Aldous
Norwich Group AGM

East Suffolk Group held their AGM yesterday at Tuddenham St Martin Village Hall at the end of October – it was a day full of challenges which started with actually finding our new venue despite floods, the road closure and sat-navs with minds of their own. The next challenge was to get through a full agenda of business before embarking on the AGM itself – the latter accomplished in a record breaking 14 minutes in which we revised our constitution & elected new officers. Or rather we shuffled roles: Lindi Carrington stood down as Chairman and became Treasurer, whilst Giovanna Roberts stood down as Treasurer to become Chairman. We thanked our Secretary, Mandy Pryke, who retired from the committee, but unfortunately we still have a vacancy for this position.

And then the part we were really looking forward to: **Roger Woolnough's "Autumn Plaque" workshop.**



As ever, Roger made it look so deceptively simple, as he showed us how to wrap our prepared hardboard with interesting textures & use the space to display combinations of autumn leaves, bark, seed heads & seasonal flowers in decorated orchid tubes. It was a great opportunity to experiment, especially as Roger had brought along lots of interesting "goodies" for us to use (in case we hadn't brought sufficient "stuff" of our own) We came up with an amazing variety of designs and lots of ideas of how we could develop the idea into a Christmas design (or perhaps there will be a "plaque" class in next year's Suffolk Show!)

Lindi Carrington

Stowmarket & District workshop

The very talented David Wright presented a brilliant workshop on making a wire dragonfly. It was great fun and I think we were all happy with the results. Some dragonflies destined for the garden were mounted on support wires and some more decorative for displaying in the house. Thanks to all the ladies who kept us going with coffee and cakes. A most enjoyable day.



Words & pictures - Julie Head

Herts & Essex Boundary Flower club hold an annual coffee morning in a members garden and in July. Beverly Moore & husband David hosted this year's event with a little bit of plant manipulation thrown in.

They didn't totally escape the drizzle but as flower arrangers a little light rain didn't put anyone off. The sun did eventually pop its head out from the clouds.

Beverly had created welcome flowers, and the back garden was full of colour, all the hard work of David.

There were plenty of delicious cakes to enjoy over a cuppa and everyone was looking forward to getting creative with foliage.

Beverly demonstrated 2 ways to manipulate Phormium leaves, Aspidistra folding, and textural spheres using Stacyhs leaves from her garden.

26 members/guests all had the opportunity to get creative & as you can see from their faces great fun was had.



With plenty of raffle prizes and donations for refreshments this proved to be a profitable event and a most enjoyable couple of hours learning new techniques and enjoying social time together.



Words & pictures Beverly Moore

Norwich Group – Jenni Baker writes:

Another highly successful afternoon at Harleston Flower Club, despite the weather. 20 members arrived amidst the storm and created wonderful pre-Christmas designs. A bit better than last year when we had to go ahead, even though we had no power, and no lights. Picture shows the winner of the members choice, Hilary Hadingham.



The East Suffolk Junior Flower Club celebrates its 25th anniversary in December 2023. The Club met for many years in Wickham Market before moving in 2017 to Ipswich. Sadly Covid and the loss of Linda Harman has meant that the club has struggled to find an affordable and new permanent home.

We are delighted to report that we now have both a new home and a new name – **Little Acorns** will now offer workshops for children from 5 years upwards at Acorn Village, Mistley where we have been offered a room at no cost. Brenda Eyers will be joined by Sandra Price and Pat South to tutor the members.

Our first meeting at our new venue was held on a Saturday 28th October when we held a morning and afternoon sessions, and we welcomed over 30 excited children, adults and carers. Several mothers and grandmothers had never heard of NAFAS, and we hope we can persuade them to visit a club. Flower filled pumpkins were the project. Some wonderful designs were produced.

Photo next page



Our next meeting will be in December when the children will be making a Christmas table decoration.

Brenda Evers

Colneis Open Meeting with Nick Grounds (National Demonstrator)

The title of Nick's demonstration was "The Materialist" which he interpreted in a variety of idiosyncratic and hilarious ways. Amongst other themes, it included a lighthearted (but informative) explanation of "sustainability", an insider's view of the auctioneer's business model and a brief history of the development of floral foam.

"Space" he told us "Is the key word" ... and certainly his designs were light & airy, with enough room to enjoy the beauty of individual blooms. He summed up his demonstration by asking "Is the era of the perfect triangle over... or did the era of the perfect triangle ever begin?"...

Still following his train of thought? If not, don't worry; just enjoy the photos of his wonderful designs (on the next page) which he generously gave us permission to include. And make sure you see him next time he's in your neighbourhood..



Words & pictures Lindi Carrington

Nick has been busy demonstrating in several clubs in our Area – here he is again at **Herts & Essex Boundary Open Meeting**

NAFAS National Demonstrator Nick Grounds visited our club recently. We welcomed over 30 visitors from neighbouring Flower Clubs, WI's and members friends. 3 members from Feering Flower Club (Colchester Group) also made the journey to Manuden. Thank you all for visiting us.

Savoury nibbles & Prosecco were enjoyed on arrival. Christmas Sundries were selling well and the atmosphere in the hall was buzzing.

From the start Nick entertained us with his humorous stories & auctioneer tales whilst creating beautiful floral designs. Several of his designs used clever recycling materials, giving some very interesting mechanics.

It was a fun filled fabulous evening amongst friends.

Nick has kindly given permission to share a couple of designs from his "Stems & Stuff" demonstration. (next page)



One of the visitors, **Jayne Lawson, from Feering Flower Club** commented on social media::

“Sue Bunting, Susan Allen and myself travelled over to Manuden last night to be thoroughly entertained by Nick Grounds.

Having allowed loads of time to get to Manuden via all the roadworks at the M11 intersection, we arrived really early. Poor Nick though had had a horribly delayed journey. Our journey back wasn't without its challenges as the overnight closures of the A120 disaster were in place. I'm so glad the others were with me as they were clued up as to the back route back to Kelvedon.

Unfortunately no luck in the raffle for any of us but an evening to remember.”

(Yes, we've all been suffering from the interminable roadworks in the Area, Jayne)

Footnote: Herts & Essex are pleased to announce that they now have a QR code for their website, lots of archives including our Chelsea successes.

The Norfolk & Norwich Late Autumn Horticultural Show was held in The St Faiths Community Centre on 12th November. There were 2 Flower Arranging Classes:

F1 "All I Want for Christmas" & F2 "A Woodland Christmas," with 5 entries in F1 and 6 entries in F2

The event was judged by local area demonstrator Crystall Dyball. It was great to see club members returning to the Show bench and to welcome two new trainee demonstrators to the competition.



Jill Clarke was 1st in F1 and also awarded The Mackney Vase for Best in Show
2nd Sue Mace
3rd Jane Lebbell

Class F2 (photos on following page)

1st Violeta Veikniene
2nd Helen Evans
3rd Rachael Borenkova

Gloria Goodley & Jacque Aldous Floral Art Co-ordinators



1st Violeta Veikniene

2nd Helen Evans

3rd Rachel Borenkova



Helen Evans

Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society Autumn Show

Congratulations to **Wroxham Flower Club** who cleaned up in the class entitled 'All I want for Christmas'; they were placed First, Best in Show, Second & Third. The club is obviously on a "roll" at the moment, having recently celebrated their Emerald (55th) Anniversary. (see next page)

Wroxham Flower Club (continued)

"We had a fabulous evening celebrating our Emerald Anniversary last night! 30 members entered an arrangement which had to include a wine glass- didn't we do well?! And delicious cakes baked by the committee- and to finish with, a really interesting talk from Sarah Hammond from English Peonies.



You be the Judge Results

Do bear in mind that there a difference between what you see on the bench and the photographic image.- lighting, camera angle etc.

- E Stephanie Laing 1st
- A Roger Woolnough 2nd
- B Naomi Wells 3rd
- C Lorraine Gagen
- D Terri Potter
- F Anne Bell
- G Sue Cooper

Do you have what it takes to train as a Judge? JDS&E would love to hear from you.

As we approached the copy deadline the first reports of Club' Christmas Celebrations were beginning to be shared –

Spreading lots of Christmas magic

What a fabulous Christmas-themed club night **Dereham & District Flower Club** had on 23rd November.

Klara Arabadzhieva, a talented club member and one of the Area's new trainee demonstrators stood in for Jacquie Aldous who unfortunately recently had a fall and broke her arm. Klara agreed to stand in at relatively short notice and what a great job she did, spreading lots of Christmas magic with her beautiful exhibits. Klara will take her demonstrators exam next May and we all wish her lots of luck.

A Chairman's Charity Stall for Dereham Cancer Care raised £50 on the night with seasonal arrangements donated by Club Committee members. The remaining wreaths and arrangements will be sold at another charity fund-raising event on 1st December.

The usual Club Competitions had seasonal titles with both the Open and Novice classes displaying stunning arrangements.

Helen Evans
Chairman Dereham & District Flower Club





Lavinia Pirret



Dereham Flower Club
Lisa Turner

There's still time for some last-minute floral creativity:

Quick Ideas for Christmas

Hannah Shine (Little Hallingbury Flower Club) says: "How about swags for a last-minute Christmas idea?"

They are quick and I can make one in 10 minutes or so!"

For the swags you will need:

A long spray of spruce, holly and conifer (or eucalyptus) (depending on how long you want the swag)

Tie these together at the top with paper covered wire. Make a hook for hanging the swag.

Then start to attach pine cones and decoration to each of the foliage branches (cones can be plain or sprayed), flowers (I used artificial flowers to last longer), lotus seed heads, baubles and any other decorations.

Ring the changes: red and gold, natural, spray pine cones silver, etc.

Then tie a large bow to the top. You will need a generous 3 metres to make a nice bow.

Spray with water occasionally to keep it fresh.



Also pictured is a wreath using plant material from the garden - so vibrant and beautiful. I use Oasis wreath rings for the wreaths. These can also be used as a table decoration with a gold charger plate underneath and a large candle (which remains unlit for safety reasons)
The swags last AGES!

And here's another quick idea from **Stanway Flower Club**

The meeting on Friday 10th November was a foam-free design and the challenge was for the members to create a table centre on the charger provided. Some 50 members joined in, and the results were absolutely stunning.



Many clubs will not be celebrating Christmas until well into December, so we look forward to hearing all about your clubs' festivities in the next edition of Spotlight East - March 1st; copy deadline February 21st but do send your news as early as possible. Email your report to newsletter.nafaseast@gmail.co.uk as a Word document with photographs in JPEG format as attachments (i.e. not embedded in the text)

We're particularly looking forward to reports of those rumoured sightings of demonstrator David Wright in his kilt!

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year from us all on the Media Team.
Lindi Carrington