



EAST OF ENGLAND AREA OF NAFAS

Chairman's Chat



The first Chat of 2026. Happy New Year to you all. Hope you had a good Christmas and are ready for what will be happening during the year within the Area. Your JDS&E team are busy organising coach trips, workshops and visits to gardens, including Chatsworth; you'll see the details about this on the Area Website, as well as Speakers Training information.

First on the 2026 calendar is my trip to Leamington Spa in January for the NAC meeting, when the organisation will be discussed, and what the future holds; the outcome of the meeting I will share with you at the March Council Meeting

January, a month that bridges Winter into Spring, with days stretching a little longer. With it comes one of the earliest and most beloved messengers of Spring: the snowdrop.

Nature begins quietly beneath the surface, long before anyone can see it. That's why the snowdrop is such a fitting symbol for this season.

As we move towards **February** and March, we'll begin to see these small white flowers pushing through the frost.

April arrives and we're celebrating Easter, a special springtime celebration when many people remember a story about hope, love, and new beginnings. It's a

happy holiday filled with bright colours, beautiful spring flowers, and fun traditions.

A few weeks later Area Day, our usual fun filled all day entertainment being held at Mildenhall.

Finally, a little story for you

The Legend of the Snowdrop

According to an old legend, when Winter first blanketed the world in snow, everything was white, cold, and silent. Flowers had not yet bloomed, and the earth seemed lifeless.

Feeling compassion for the shivering world, an angel approached the snow and breathed warmth into it. As the snow melted, tiny white flowers emerged — delicate, brave, and full of hope. These were the first snowdrops, gifted to remind the world that even in the coldest times, Spring would always return.

This leaves me to wish you all a very Happy Easter, however you choose to spend it.



Looking forward to seeing you all in March.

Best Wishes

Gloria

“How far we travel in life, matters far less than those we meet along the way”