



FOCAL POINTS



Newsletter of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Area of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies
Issue No. 38 Autumn 2018

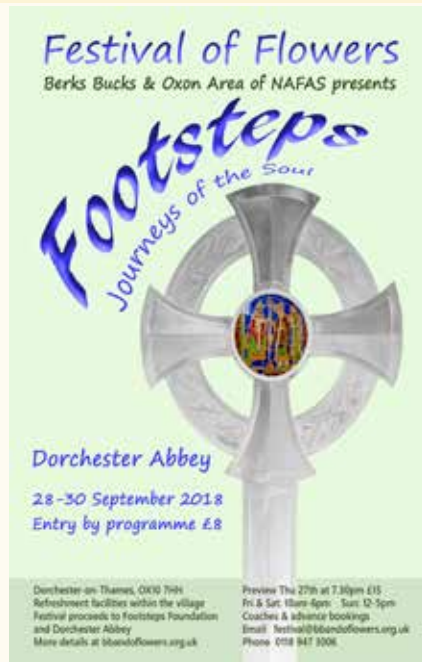


Based in Dorchester the Footsteps Foundation offers specialist physiotherapy for children and young adults affected by neurological disorders. Around one in 400 children born in the UK has a disability with cerebral palsy being the most common.

The intensive three-week sessions at Footsteps are hard work but fun, improving spatial awareness, balance and muscle tone. Small gains like learning to sit, take first steps, or even walk can be momentous for a child with a disability. The ambition of **Footsteps** is to keep funding life-enhancing therapy for all families that need it and to maintain **Footsteps** as a centre of excellence.

We are so grateful to the BB&O Area of NAFAS for supporting us via the Footsteps – Journeys of the Soul - Flower Festival. Children who attend the Footsteps Centre are embarking on a journey which they hope will enable them to take a footstep of their own at some stage in their young lives.

Susan Twitchett
Ambassador for Footsteps



Preview tickets for the Thursday evening can be purchased from Sara Steward (contact details on the back page) priced £15 to include programme, glass of wine, canapes and musical accompaniment as you view the exhibits ahead of the hordes of visitors.



Chairman's Message

This has been another wonderful summer for BB&O with events and successes across the area and beyond. Firstly, I am delighted to pass on the good news that at the July National Advisory Council meeting it was announced that our own **Jane Rowton-Lee** has been voted to receive the **National Associate of Honour Award**. This prestigious award is given for outstanding contribution to NAFAS at both Area and National levels and will be presented to Jane at the National AGM in October.

Our area's **WAF A elimination competition** was held during the June Council meeting. **Jane Haas's exhibit** was selected by the judge and Irene Manson's was runner up. Jane then competed with the winners of the other 20 areas in Leicester on 10th August at the start of the Masquerade weekend. Although Jane's exhibit was not selected it was truly beautiful and was much admired. See the photo.

As was the case last year our BB&O competitors did us proud at **Chelsea** in May with one gold medal, 2 silver gilts, 2 silvers and one bronze. Particular congratulations go to **Shirley Sexton** who was awarded **Best in Show** in the second session. A full list of winners is on page two and photos are on the website.

Once again, the hard-working Blenheim committee organised an excellent show in the marquee at the Blenheim Flower Show in June with competitions, exhibition pieces, mini-dems., and 'hands on' for the public. a huge thank you to the committee, helpers and exhibitors for making this another marquee to be proud of; there were many complimentary comments from the visitors.

In July four of our clubs staged huge exhibits with the theme of the 100th anniversary of the RAF under the portico of St Georges School, Windsor Castle as part of the **Royal Windsor Rose and Horticultural Society's Summer Show**. The exhibits by Royal Windsor, Old Windsor, Phoenix and Riverside clubs were much admired by the public, one even included a lit up runway! A **table design** by Sandie draper of Phoenix and Old Windsor Clubs was selected by the Governor of the Castle to be **taken to the Queen** for her breakfast table the following morning. Staging day was not eased by the arrival of President Trump for tea with the Queen during the afternoon!

The area once again took the media and 'hands on' table to the **Bucks County Show** in August and in September will be at the **Royal County of Berkshire Show** near Newbury and this year will feature a floral photo frame.

The main event of the year is of course the spectacular "**Footsteps**" **Flower Festival** at the end of September at Dorchester Abbey. Eighteen months of meticulous planning has brought us to this point.....we are almost there. **54 floral designs** staged by clubs and individuals, many of whom have generously funded them themselves will await you as you visit the festival. Please do bring your friends and families to the Abbey during the three days of the festival.

Preview tickets for the Thursday evening can be purchased from Sara Steward (contact details on the back page) priced £15 to include programme, glass of wine, canapes and musical accompaniment as you view the exhibits ahead of the hoped for crowds of visitors.

Alison Mount, Area Chairman



Congratulations to Shirley Sexton of Caversham & Chiltern FC and Grey's Flora for winning Best in Show (2nd session) at Chelsea and Gold Medal for her exhibit Light and Shadow. Full details on page 2.

Midsummer Madness at the Blenheim Flower Show 2018

What amazing displays that demonstrated how very talented and creative our exhibitors are! Large exhibits depicted interpretations of A Midsummer Night's Dream with incredible detail, even giving us Bottom's ears and of course, many fairies amid all the fabulous plant material. Our judge, Dr Christina Curtis gave the Best in Show award here to the fabulous display created by Margaret Lang & Sue John of Bladon and Woodstock Flower Club. The imposed class, The Garden Party, challenged arrangers with the use of a model head to display the plant material. The public were invited to vote for a People's Choice in this class – and as you will see from the result, there was a rare agreement with the judge! Exhibition pieces showed us how Summertime can mean so many different things and the Show Manager, Mig Kimpton, chose Club 2000's design for his Manager's Award for the contemporary use of colour, British summer flowers and the simple but effective staging. The semi-imposed class On the Beach showed us a great variety of styles and hugely innovative ways of using the material given. For the first time we included an Art in the Environment class for outdoor exhibits and the title Collaboration with Nature gave rise to so much skill and creativity.

Flower shows all over the UK are staged by the many Areas of NAFAS and are all really worth a visit. The Blenheim Show was a fantastic opportunity to spread the word to other flower arrangers and plant lovers about our amazing flower clubs and NAFAS.

Jackie Page

Blenheim Show Chairman for BB&O 2018



People's Choice winner: Garden Party by Pat Dibben



Best in Show at Blenheim: Margaret Lang & Sue John with A Midsummer Night's Dream

2018 Blenheim Palace Show Results

Special Awards

Best in Show: Margaret Lang & Sue John, Bladon & Woodstock Flower Club in Class 3
Runner-up to Best in Show: Shirley Sexton & Jane Haas, Greys Flora in Class 4
Show Manager's Choice: Summertime Exhibition Piece by Lynda Ayris & Rosemary McGowan, Bicester Floral Club, Club 2000

Class 1 (imposed class): The Garden Party

1st – Pat Dibben, Harmondsworth Flower Guild

People's Choice in Class 1

1st – Pat Dibben, Harmondsworth Flower Guild (301 votes)

Class 2 (semi-imposed class): On the Beach

1st – Jenny Langton, Abingdon Flower Club

Class 3 (pedestal class): A Midsummer Night's Dream

1st – Margaret Lang & Sue John, Bladon & Woodstock Flower Club

Class 4: (open art in the environment class): Collaboration with Nature

1st – Shirley Sexton & Jane Haas, Greys Flora

Class 5 (open photography class): Midsummer Madness

1st – Margaret Lloyd, Thame Flower Club

Exhibition: Summertime

Lynda Ayris & Rosemary McGowan, Bicester Floral Club & Club 2000

The Area website bbandoflowers.org has a full list of results

Chelsea Flower Show Results May 2018

SHIRLEY SEXTON from Caversham & Chiltern FC and Greys Flora was awarded Gold in class 'Light and Shadow' and Best in 2nd Session

JANE BELCHER from Oxford FC and BB&O Teachers Association was awarded Silver Gilt in class 'Formation'

FRANCES BUCHAN AND JACKIE NICHOLS from Oxford FC and Greys Flora were awarded Silver Gilt in class 'Tropical Dream'

ANGELA EDMONDS from Oxford FC and Greys Flora was awarded Silver in class 'Tropical Dream'

JACKIE PAGE from Bicester FC and Club 2000 was awarded Silver in class 'Formation'

BARBARA HUNT AND GILLIAN HARRIES from Newbury FC were awarded Bronze in class 'Tropical Dream'



Frances Buchan & Jackie Nichols won a silver gilt medal at Chelsea for their design Tropical Dream

Area Workshops

Saturday 6th October, 9.30-12.00 at Holmer Green Village Hall

Jackie Page with Autumn Parcels
Cost £12 for members, £15 for non-members.

Saturday 6th Dec at Benson

Details to be confirmed

See website for application form and full details



Runner-up design by Irene Manson



Jane Haas: Masquerade, BB&O representative at National eliminations

'Masquerade'

The WAF (World Association of Flower Arranging Societies) will be holding its next competition in 2020 in Jaipur, India. Members of the BB&O Area have already competed for a place in the national elimination competition (See Chairman's Message on front page). Jane Haas went through to this competition which was held at the NAFAS Masquerade weekend on 10th-12th August in Leicester. Sadly Jane will not be going on from there to represent the UK in Jaipur but we all congratulate her on a fabulous exhibit which did huge credit to our Area. Well done to all who took part in this very testing competition.

A Night at the Movies!

Our Area Day on 22nd March next year will take you to the world of the silver screen, for our ever-popular combination of flowers, food and fun. Tickets (priced £20) will be available at the November AGM. Don't miss out!

Christmas Carols at the AGM

This year our AGM will be held on **Friday 16th November** at Benson Parish Hall. The AGM will start at 10.30am, to be followed by a two course lunch. We will then be treated to a seasonal demonstration entitled 'Christmas Carols' by the three Carols: Carol Bennett, Carole Dorward and Carol Ferris. Application forms and full details are available on the website and tickets cost £19 for the lunch and £6 for the demonstration. The AGM is of course open to everyone at no charge. It promises to be an informative and enjoyable day!

Get Your News Electronically

Focal Points is a great way of delivering news to our members, but sometimes members miss club meetings so don't get to see this brilliant printed newsletter. So from now on we will post a PDF copy of Focal Points on the website. Go to **Publications/Focal Points** to see it.

However there is still a major limitation with Focal Points – we only have 3 editions a year! To address this problem we will be producing a monthly electronic newsletter for those wishing to receive it. Follow the link on the News page on the website and fill in the form. You only have to supply your name, email address and which club(s) you belong to, if any. These details will be held securely and not passed to any other organisation. You will receive an email asking for confirmation that you wish to subscribe to the electronic newsletter – just click Subscribe. If you wish to amend your details or unsubscribe at any time just click the appropriate button on any of the newsletters.

Let us know what you think by emailing newsletter@bbandoflowers.org.uk

Anne Hyde, Club Publicity Coordinator

60th ANNIVERSARY 1959-2019

Competitions, exhibitions, demonstrations, shopping avenues, crafts, creative floral structures

FLORAL
ART & DESIGN SHOW

COMING TO LONDON
8-10 AUGUST 2019

Tickets available online from 1st August 2018
www.floralartdesignshow.com

Wed 7th Aug 2019, 8.00pm - 10.00pm - PREVIEW
Thu 8th Aug 2019, 9.00am - 9.00pm - SHOW OPENS
Fri 9th Aug 2019, 9.00am - 5.30pm
Sat 10th Aug 2019, 9.00am - 4.00pm

52 UPPER STREET, BILINGTON, LONDON N1 5AH

Business Centre

Patroned travel partner: ECT Travel

Club Demonstrations – September to December 2018

September

18 Beverley Short at Wantage
 18 Melanie Smith at Chieveley
 19 Jane Haas at Earley
 19 Keri Walker at Gerrards Cross
 24 Carol Blighton at Aylesbury
 24 Sue Tausig at Finchampstead
 24 Lorraine Saunders at Chalfont
 24 Stephanie Laing at Thames Valley
 25 Vijay Bhatia at Bicester
 25 Jennifer Thompson at Maidenhead
 26 Lorena Dyer (N) at Thame
 27 Carol Bennett at Four Ends
 27 Stephen McDonnell at Oxford

October

2 Jane Belcher at Brackley
 2 Nadira Burki at Woodley
 2 Kate Thomas at Bourne End
 2 Alex Wall at Royal Windsor
 2 Carol Bennett at Abingdon
 2 Jackie Page at Stony Stratford
 3 John Chennell (N) at Old Windsor (O)
 3 Foscot Wreaths at Cotswold

4 Michael Bowyer MBE at Bramley & Romans
 4 Elizabeth Wait at Harmondsworth
 8 Dawn Keightley at Bladon & Woodstock
 9 Nigel Whyles (N) at Newbury
 10 Lorraine Saunders at Bracknell
 10 Cherie Mendis at Wokingham
 10 Neil Bain at Caversham
 11 Erica Cunningham at Sonning
 16 Chris Pearce at Wantage
 16 Lucy Ellis (N) at Chieveley (O)
 17 Stephanie Cornell at Earley
 17 Carol Bennett at Riverside
 17 Lorraine Saunders at High Wycombe
 19 Nick Grounds(N) at Gerrards Cross
 22 Vijay Bhatia at Finchampstead
 22 Doug Howard at Chalfont
 29 Carol Bennett at Aylesbury
 29 Kathryn Austin

November

6 Carol Bennett at Bourne End
 6 Nick Grounds (N) at Royal Windsor
 6 Lynda Stamp at Olney
 6 Ann Anson at Abingdon

7 Carol Blighton at Old Windsor
 7 Coral Gardiner (N) at Earley
 8 Stephanie Cornell at Sonning
 9 Jane Haas at Woodley (O)
 12 Nigel Whyles (N) at Bracknell (O) *
 12 Sharon Badger at Bladon & Woodstock
 13 Theresa Rodrigues at Twyford (O) *
 13 Lucy Ellis (N) at Newbury (O) *
 14 Annette Urquart at Wokingham
 14 Ian Lloyd (N) at Wallingford (O) *
 14 Gill McGregor at Caversham (O)
 16 Kathryn Austin at Finchampstead (O) *
 16 Sally Taylor at Cotswold (O)
 20 Andrew Grisewood at Wantage
 20 Jane Haas at Brackley (O) *
 20 Jackie Page at Chieveley
 21 Gill McGregor at High Wycombe
 21 Tony Brown (N) at Bladon & Woodstock (O) *
 21 Elizabeth Pelley at Gerrards Cross
 22 Graham King at Four Ends
 22 David Martin (N) at Chipping Norton (O)
 22 Angela Turner (N) at Oxford
 26 Neil Gurney (N) at Aylesbury
 26 Carol Bennett at Chalfont

26 Katherine Kear (N) at Thames Valley
 27 Gill McGregor at Bicester
 28 Jonathan Moseley (N) at Stony Stratford (O) *
 28 Coral Gardiner (N) at Thame

December

4 Kate Thomas at Woodley
 4 Pam Lewis (N) at Bourne End
 4 Eleanor Dean at Royal Windsor
 4 Lee Berrill at Abingdon *
 5 Carol Bennett at Old Windsor
 5 Jackie Page at Sandhurst & Crowthorne
 5 Sue Tausig at Ley Hill
 5 Yvonne Tan at Riverside
 6 Jennifer Thompson at Bramley & Romans
 6 Pat Dibben at Harmondsworth
 10 John Chennell (N) at Mortimer(O)
 11 Patricia Bashford (N) at Newbury
 11 Nicky Heal at Chieveley
 13 Jennifer Thompson at Four Ends

(O) indicates an Open Meeting, * indicates meeting held at a different venue

MAIDENHEAD FLORAL ART SOCIETY

“ THIS MAGICAL TIME OF YEAR “ with Graham King
 Tuesday 27th November 2018 at 7.30pm
 (Doors open at 6.30pm)
 At Desborough Suite, Town Hall,
 Maidenhead SL6 1RF
 Tickets Members £12 / Visitors £15
 (including glass of wine and mince pie)
 SALES TABLE / RAFFLE / TOMBOLA
 Tickets available from Pat Tripp
 Tel. No. 01628 623798



Joan Flaxman

We are sad to report the death of Joan Flaxman in July this year. Joan was a past Area Chairman from 2001 to 2003 and past President 2008 to 2010. She was a member of Brackley and Bicester Flower Clubs.

Disclaimer

The editorial team is not responsible for the accuracy of contributions in this newsletter or the views expressed within.

Next issue

The next issue of Focal Points will be available on Monday 4th March 2019. We welcome contributions from all clubs and individuals - but please no later than Mon 21st January 2019.

Focal Points Editorial Committee

Sara Steward 0118 9473006
 sarasteward@btconnect.com
 Anne Rogers 0118 9693615
 (treasurer) anne.frogers@talktalk.net
 Mary Ferguson 01189700603
 (photos) maryef66@icloud.com
 Anne Hyde 01494 786770
 (adverts/diary dates) media@bbando.org.uk
 Jane Belcher 01865 391799
 kevjanebelcher@aol.com

CAVERSHAM AND CHILTERN FLOWER CLUB

‘Christmas Sparkle’ with Gill McGregor
 Wednesday 14th November at 7.30pm
 (doors open 6.30pm)
 Caversham Heights Methodist Church,
 Highmoor Rd, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7BG
 Tickets (including light refreshments)
 £15 on the door or £12 in advance.
 Contact 0118 947 6811 / 0118 947 5683

GERRARDS CROSS FLOWER CLUB

‘The Apple Tree’
 By National Demonstrator Nick Grounds
 Friday, October 19th 2018 at 6.45 for 7.30 pm
 The Colston Hall, The Memorial Centre,
 Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD.
 Wine available on arrival.
 Tickets £18 from Paula Thomas ctpdtd@dsl.pipex.com
 or 01753 883056.

What's Coming up

15/16th Sep Berks County Show in Newbury
 28-30th Sep **Footsteps** - Flower Festival at Dorchester Abbey
 Sat 6th Oct Area workshop at Holmer Green Village Hall
 29/30th Oct NAFAS National and Pre-National Tests in Bristol
 Fri 16th Nov Area AGM at Benson
 Sat 6th Dec Area workshop at Benson
 Fri 22nd March 2019 Area Day at Benson ‘A Night at the Movies’
 8-10th Aug 2019 NAFAS Diamond Floral Art and Design Show in London
 Fri 9th Aug 2019 NAFAS Dazzling Diamond Dinner in London

Full details of all these events can be found in the **What's On** section of bbandoflowers.org.uk