



# FOCAL POINTS



## Chairman's Message



Alison Mount

It seems a long time since our Area AGM in November, when I was delighted to welcome our new treasurer, Alison Vacher. Helen Smith was heartily thanked for her six years as Area Treasurer.

Congratulations went to Jackie Page on her success at the pre-national assessments in October. She can now move on to her national demonstrators test.



Alison Vacher

Read more about the AGM on page two.

We now look forward to this year's Area fun day '**A Night at the Movies**' on 22nd March, which is already a sell out. If you have got a ticket please consider entering one of the competitions - Ice Cream Sundae, or a bouquet *Fit for a Diva*. We want as many entries as possible - just bring your design on the day. Also feel free to dress for the occasion.

**National Flower Arranging Day** is on 3rd May and we hope that in this NAFAS' diamond year many of our clubs will take part. More information will be in the electronic newsletter and on the website.

Schedules for this year's **Area Show at Blenheim** with an exciting Circus theme are now available and we hope to see the marquee full of your exhibits. The standard of the fantastic designs at Dorchester showed that there is a wealth of talent in our Area.

Finally give some thought to the **NAFAS Diamond Events** in London in August: competing, stewarding, a club outing to the show or the Gala Dinner. For more details see page three and the website.

I look forward to seeing many of you at all or some of this year's events.

Alison Mount, Area Chairman

## Fabulous Footsteps

When you hear comments like "Overwhelmed by the stunning display" and "Inspiring - what talent" you realise the huge success that the Dorchester Abbey Flower festival was. Quite apart from the fabulous sum of £17,000 raised it gave members of BB&O the opportunity to come together and enjoy showcasing what they do best - floral art. Flower clubs in the area got together, researched designs, sponsored their own exhibits and produced magnificent work which enthralled visitors to the Abbey over that weekend in September. Yes it was hard work and sometimes there were some problems but the end result was totally worthwhile.

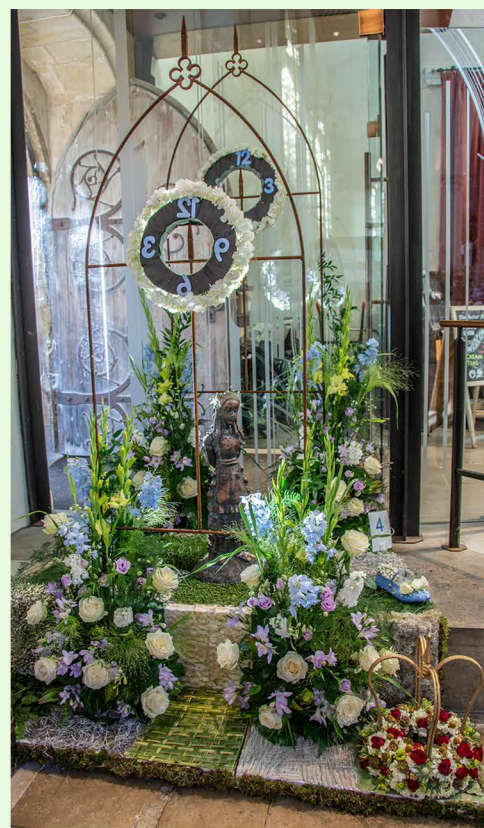
Irene Manson, Festival Designer



Twists and Turns by Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club



Pilgrims Pennies by BB&O Teachers Association



Through the Looking Glass by Wantage Flower Club



Spectrum by Bourne End Flower Arrangement Society





Exodus by Phoenix Design



Nature's Creativity  
by Ninon Linnell



Winner of Age 6-8 Childrens Footprint  
Competition by Rhys Mitchell



Greys Flora staging Prayer Labyrinth



Nature's Joyous Journey  
by Twyford & Ruscombe Flower Club

## Dorchester Cards

Sets of cards, costing £4 are available from the Area Trading Officer. The A6 size sets featuring 6 different designs are blank inside for your own message.

To order phone Irene Richards on 01844 273 755 or email [trading@bbandoflowers.org.uk](mailto:trading@bbandoflowers.org.uk) using ref DORCHESTER-1 for the set below, or keep an eye on the website for details of other sets.



Berks Bucks & Oxon Area of NAFAS  
[bbandoflowers.org.uk](http://bbandoflowers.org.uk)  
Footsteps Flower Festival



Dorchester Abbey: September 2018



These cards are blank inside for your own message  
To order sets please email [trading@bbandoflowers.org.uk](mailto:trading@bbandoflowers.org.uk) and quote DORCHESTER-1

## Highlights from the AGM

At the AGM in November various awards were made: the club which raised the most money for charity in 2018 was Maidenhead Flower Club for raising £1336.12. The club which had the largest increase in orders for the Flower Arranger was Sonning Flower Club. The Penelope Everett silver bowl for the BB&O Person of the Year was presented jointly to Melissa Fletcher from Abingdon Flower Club and Jean Barker from Thame Flower Club in recognition of their outstanding work for their respective clubs. The Diane Gill Memorial Trophy for the most innovative contemporary design of the year in any RHS, Area or NAFAS show was awarded to Shirley Sexton for her RHS Chelsea design.

Jean Barker from Thame Flower Club brought Pudsey Bear and raised £278.50 on the day for Children in Need – that's £70 more than last year.

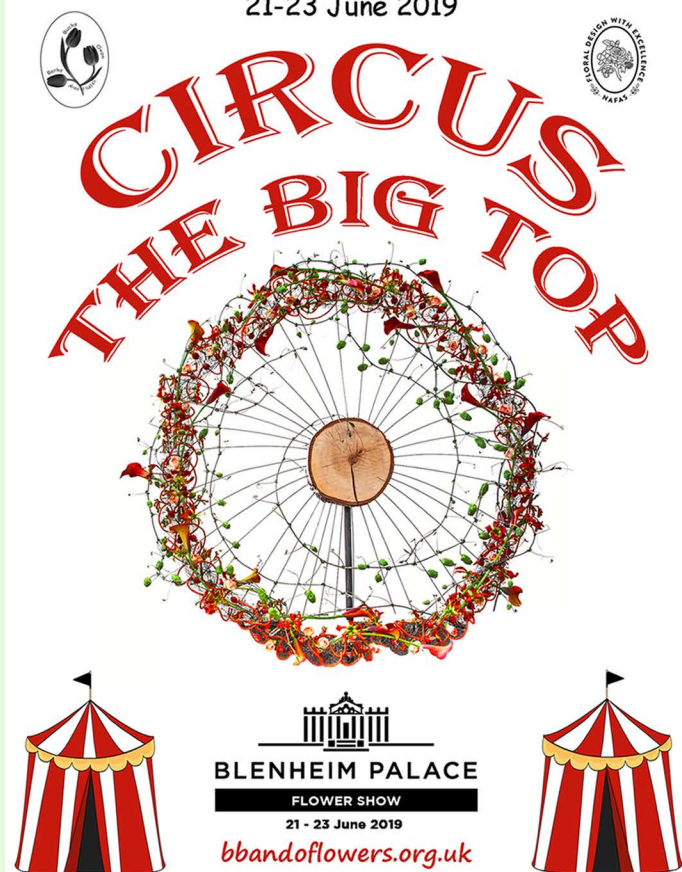
Alison Mount, Area Chairman presented cheques for £7360 each to Susan Twitchett for Footsteps Foundation and Sue Booys, Rector of Dorchester Abbey as a result of money raised at the Footsteps Flower Festival. In addition each charity received specific donations via Gift Aid.

Following the meeting a delicious lunch was served. In the afternoon everyone enjoyed a demonstration entitled 'Christmas Carols' by three Carol(e)s. Carole Dorward demonstrated 'The Holly and the Ivy' (1st photo); Carol Ferris demonstrated 'We Three Kings' (2nd photo); and Carol Bennett demonstrated 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' (3rd and 4th photos). It was a splendid way to finish the day.



# The Circus Comes to Town

Berks Bucks & Oxon Area of NAFAS  
Flower Show at Blenheim Palace  
21-23 June 2019



A spectacular show is coming to the BigTop at Blenheim Palace in June. From Flying Trapeze and Circus Acts to Clowning Around - it's all there in the exciting competitive schedule which can be downloaded from the area website. Entries for the children's class can be brought in on staging day without the need to book in advance

Tickets can be ordered via the Blenheim Palace website.

## BB&O Electronic News Service

To register for the BB&O Electronic News Service go to the **News** tab of the BB&O website at [bbandoflowers.org.uk](http://bbandoflowers.org.uk)

## Opportunity knocks for Stewards

Public events offer great opportunities to publicise NAFAS. As a steward you get to meet people, see what's going on and get a free ticket. Why not give it a try?

**RHS Chelsea.** Viewing days 21-25 May or overnight staging sessions Sun 20th and Wed 23rd May. For more details email Jilly Griffin at [jillygdesigns@gmail.com](mailto:jillygdesigns@gmail.com)

**NAFAS Diamond Floral Art and Design Show.** Public days 8-10 August, and staging on 7th August. Download the stewarding form from the **What's On/NAFAS Events** page of [bbandoflowers.org.uk](http://bbandoflowers.org.uk) or email [rosemaryclayton1@btinternet.com](mailto:rosemaryclayton1@btinternet.com)

**BB&O Area Show.** Public days 21-23 June, and staging on 20 June. For more details see the booking form on the **What's On/Area Events** page of [bbandoflowers.org.uk](http://bbandoflowers.org.uk)

At the following area and county shows we run hands-on activities to engage with the public and get them interested in flower arranging. Local clubs benefit most from these events. If you can help please email [media@bbandoflowers.org.uk](mailto:media@bbandoflowers.org.uk) or phone Shirley Sexton on 0118 941 2329.

**Royal Windsor Rose Show:** 20 July    **Bucks Show:** 29 Aug    **Berks Show:** 21-22 Sep

# Diamond Show and Dinner

Rarely does a NAFAS National Show take place anywhere near the BB&O Area but this year it will be at the Business Design Centre in the heart of London. The show schedule is available and tickets for the show and the Diamond Dinner are on sale via the [floralartdesignshow.com](http://floralartdesignshow.com) website.

Why not support NAFAS and give your members a great day out by organising a club outing to the show.

At the show there will be a Wall of Memories, featuring photos and information about NAFAS over the last 60 years. If your club has any interesting archive photos to contribute please contact Alison Mount on 01753 868320 or email [chairman@bbandoflowers.org.uk](mailto:chairman@bbandoflowers.org.uk)



## Area Workshops

There was a lot of fun at the Area workshop in early December with Susie Barwick and Sally Hardy demonstrating two great designs. This is the second workshop open to non NAFAS members and 2 of the 14 attendees were not members of a flower club but really enjoyed the day. For 2019 we are asking clubs to host a workshop. Woodley is the first club to come forward and on Saturday 17th August will be holding a workshop open to all. Irene Manson will be the tutor. More information will be available soon. Please get in touch if your club would like to be involved in this new initiative.

Jackie Page, 07779 396 325

## Club Demonstrations

### March

11 Emily Broomhead at Mortimer  
12 Lorena Dyer (N) at Newbury  
13 Kathryn Goddard at Caversham  
13 Theresa Rodrigues at Wallingford  
13 Jane Belcher at Wokingham  
14 Carol Bennett at Bracknell  
19 Carol Bennett at Chieveley  
19 Stephanie Peniket at Wantage  
20 Carol Blighton at High Wycombe  
20 Elizabeth Wait at Gerrards Cross  
20 Carol Ferris at Earley  
25 Pat Dibben (N) at Chalfont  
25 Gill McGregor at Aylesbury  
25 Siobhan Pilkington at Finchampstead  
25 Carole Stables at Thames Valley  
26 Lynda Stamp at Bicester  
26 Vijay Bhatia at Maidenhead  
27 Jackie Page at Thame  
28 Rekha Naidoo at Oxford  
28 Alison Mount at Four Ends

29 Theresa Rodrigues at Aylesbury  
29 Carol Bennett at Thames Valley  
29 Stephanie Cornell at Chalfont  
30 Kathryn Goddard at Maidenhead

### May

1 Michelle Davies at Old Windsor  
1 Alison Mount at Sandhurst  
2 Jennifer Thompson at Harmondsworth  
2 Christine Evans at Bramley & Romans  
6 Sue Smithson at Banbury  
7 Carol Ferris at Bourne End  
7 Kathryn Goddard at Woodley  
7 Martin Capel at Stony Stratford  
7 Alison Suffolk at Brackley  
7 Carol Bennett at Olney  
8 John Chennell (N) at Gerrards Cross  
8 Jackie Page at Wallingford  
8 Pam Lewis (N) at Wokingham  
8 Jennifer Thompson at Bracknell  
14 Carol Bennett at Newbury  
14 Jennifer Thompson at Twyford  
15 Joyce Fursessedonn at High Wycombe  
15 Sally Hardy at Earley  
20 Cherie Mendis at Chalfont  
20 Kathy Stangaard at Aylesbury  
20 Jeny Clarke at Thames Valley  
21 Jennifer Thompson at Chieveley  
22 Linda Seabrook at Thame  
23 Sue Aston at Four Ends  
23 Lee Berrill at Oxford  
23 Stephanie Cornell at Chipping Norton  
28 Anna Miller at Maidenhead

### April

1 Carol Bennett at Booker  
2 Julia Russett at Abingdon  
2 Carol Bennett at Woodley  
2 Gill McGregor at Stony Stratford  
2 Carol Ferris at Royal Windsor  
2 John Chennell (N) at Bourne End  
2 Jackie Page at Olney  
3 Eleanor Stonor at Cotswold  
3 Christina Payne at Old Windsor  
3 Pat Dibben (N) at Sandhurst  
4 Jennifer Thompson at Holyport  
8 Sandra Snell at Bladon & Woodstock  
8 Kathryn Stangaard at Finchampstead  
9 Michael Bowyer (N) at Newbury  
9 Vijay Bhatia at Twyford & Ruscombe  
10 Gill McGregor at Ley Hill  
10 Arnaud Metairie at Wallingford  
10 Carol Bennett at Wokingham  
16 Lee Berrill at Wantage  
17 Josef Norton at High Wycombe  
17 Kathryn Austin at Gerrards Cross  
17 Christina Payne at Earley  
23 Stephanie Cornell at Bicester  
24 Pat Dibben (N) at Thame  
25 Doug Howard at Oxford  
25 Claire Foy at Chipping Norton  
25 Kathryn Austin at Four Ends

### June

3 Stephanie Cornell at Booker  
3 Gill Mills at Banbury  
4 Kyoko Regan at Bourne End  
4 Graham King at Woodley  
4 Gill Mills at Stony Stratford  
4 Sharon Badger at Olney  
5 Morgan Douglas at Sandhurst  
6 Carol Bennett at Bramley & Romans  
6 Melanie Smith at Harmondsworth  
6 Jackie Page at Holyport  
10 Gill McGregor at Bladon & Woodstock  
11 Katherine Kear at Newbury  
12 Sharon Badger at Caversham  
12 Claire Bryant at Bracknell  
12 Graham King at Wokingham

## What's Coming Up

March 22 Area Day: A Night at the Movies - Benson  
May 3 National Flower Arranging Day  
June 3 Area Council Meeting - Benson  
June 21-23 Area Show - Blenheim Palace  
Aug 8-10 NAFAS Floral Art & Design Show - London  
Aug 9 NAFAS Dazzling Diamond Dinner - London  
Aug 29 Bucks County Show  
Sep 2 Area Council Meeting - Benson  
Sep 21-22 Berks County Show - Newbury  
Nov 15 Area AGM - Benson  
Full details under **What's On** tab of [bbandoflowers.org.uk](http://bbandoflowers.org.uk)

### Bicester Floral Club - Open meeting

Demonstration 'Chasing Rainbows' with Lynda Stamp

Tuesday 26th March 2019, 6.30pm for 7.15pm  
Methodist Hall, Victoria Rd Bicester OX26 6QJ

Tickets: £8.00 Contact 07868 246882 or email [bicesterfloralclub@gmail.com](mailto:bicesterfloralclub@gmail.com)

### Wokingham Flower Club

Demonstration: 'The World Awakes to the Sound of Spring'  
by National Demonstrator Pam Lewis

Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 7.30pm (doors open at 6.45pm)  
Wokingham Methodist Centre, Rose Street, Wokingham RG40 1XS

Tickets: £8 members; £12 visitors. Includes light refreshments  
Contact: Anne Miles 0118 9894024 or  
Pat Rutherford 0118 9732265

## Stony Stratford Diamond Year

Stony Stratford Floral Club rounded off their diamond anniversary year with "Berries, Blooms and Baubles" - a demonstration by Jonathan Moseley at Stantonbury Theatre where 200 members and friends had a most enjoyable evening.

Our final meeting of this special year was a members social evening with quizzes, table arrangements, competition and craft activities. Members provided a wonderful buffet and we celebrated with wine and a special cake.

Judy Parker



## Swallowfield puts on a Show

With fewer than ten members the Floral Art Section of Swallowfield Horticultural Society, on the outer borders of Berkshire, is our smallest club. Yet four times a year they manage to stage a competitive show with 10-15 exhibits across 3-5 classes. I have judged there a number of times over recent years and am always impressed by what is achieved there. How do they do it?

Margaret Finch teaches monthly classes in the run up to their spring, summer and autumn shows and their two day August Bank Holiday Show. In a relaxed environment she encourages novices and intermediate designers to enter these friendly shows and create pleasing designs for the home. Well done to all.

Shirley Sexton, BB&O Area Judge



For more information phone Margaret on 0118 976 2544 or email [tony.finch7@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.finch7@btinternet.com)

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### Future Issues

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