



FOCAL POINTS



Chairman's Message



This has been a memorable summer for all things floral. Large numbers of the public visited our marquee at Blenheim to view our circus themed competition, to take part in the 'hands on' sessions each day and to watch the hourly mini-demos.

Coachloads of our members enjoyed the fantastic Diamond Anniversary Show at the Design Centre in London. Congratulations must go to Sandie Draper from Old Windsor and Phoenix clubs for her first prize in the class 'Shaped by Nature' - the first time she had entered a national show.

Four of our clubs staged large exhibits at the Royal Windsor Summer Show in July and in August several members manned the hands-on and publicity stand at the Bucks Show. Others will do the same at the Royal Berkshire Show in September.

I would like to thank all those who compete, teach, demonstrate, steward, generally help and visit these events.

Many thanks to Melissa Fletcher for offering her garage as storage for the area staging. Some of you have already taken advantage of the chance to buy some of the items thus reducing the amount we have to store.

Looking forward, next year is a special year for BB&O...our diamond year! Special events are being planned - more about these in November - see page 2.

Allison Mount, Area Chairman

'The Greatest Show' at Blenheim

It was a showcase of little and large at the Blenheim Palace Flower Show this year. Best in Show award went to Alison Mount for her petite exhibit in class 'Illusions', and Judges's Choice went to Jane Belcher for her innovative exhibit in the same class. At the other end of the size spectrum the Runner Up award went to Maidenhead Floral Art Society for their 'Big Top' which stood over 2 metres high.



'Illusions' by Alison Mount - 1st and Best in Show

A petite exhibit is no more than 25cm in width and depth, with a height in proportion. So imagine how small this plant material is.



'Illusions' by Jane Belcher - 2nd



'Sequins and Sparkle' by Frances Buchan - 3rd

Winners of Children's Class
Clowning Around



Matthew Stephenson - Age 5-8



Pippa Mead - Age 5-8



Imogen Bevis - Age 9-12



'Flying Trapeze' by Janet Nelson - 1st



Looking up at 'The Big Top' by Maidenhead Floral Art Society - 1st and Runner-Up to Best in Show



'The Big Top' by Greys Flora - 2nd



In the Spotlight at Blenheim - An Imposed Class



'In the Spotlight' by Lynda Ayris - 1st

I am a keen competitor in local and area shows. However I work full time so my first choice when looking at a show schedule is always an imposed class. Entering this type of class means I can turn up for staging with just my scissors and not worry about anything. No need to be buying and conditioning flowers, working out mechanics beforehand and transporting everything to the venue as this will all be provided by the show organisers. The entry fee is higher, but I would have spent this much anyway on any other type of class and you get to keep the items you are given. On the day all the competitors are provided with the same flowers and accessories and all start staging at the same time.

I try very hard not look at what everyone else is doing! I always discard the immediate, most obvious use of components and try to do something to catch the judge's eye. People say to me 'How do you think of a design on the spot?' but it just evolves as you evaluate what you've been given, and you must still remember all the elements and principles of design and the class title.

At Blenheim we were given a white twig structure and some very shiny baubles which I toned down with the red wool. I was happy with my exhibit so was absolutely delighted to be awarded 1st prize. At the presentations by the Duchess of Marlborough I was also awarded the public vote prize. The general public don't always agree with the judges, so it was a thrill to receive their vote as well. I'll be back for the imposed class next year...WOW!

Lynda Ayris, Club 2000 and Bicester Floral Club

Extra Edition of Focal Points

The BB&O Media Team has worked hard this year doing all the design work on Focal Points instead of using a local print company. The savings mean we are able to produce an extra edition this year which will be distributed at the AGM. It will include more features and photos from the NAFAS Diamond Show, as well as news about events in 2020 to celebrate BB&O's diamond anniversary.

This bonus edition will include a special feature on education, so we would like to hear from clubs what practical sessions, workshops or other educational activities they are (or have been) running, especially for juniors. Education is a key part of what gives NAFAS its charitable status.

The November edition will also list club demonstrations in the first quarter of next year - something we have not previously been able to do. So please send your 2020 club programmes, educational information and any input or views on events to media@bbandoflowers.org.uk by 27th September.

Did you know you can also view Focal Points online under the *Publications/Focal Points* tab on the website? You may find this helpful if you find small print difficult to read.

Why not sign up for the BB&O monthly electronic newsletter - see the *News* tab of the website.

Shirley Sexton, BB&O Media Officer

Fashion in Flowers!



Abingdon Flower Club

60th Anniversary Flower Festival
20th - 22nd September 2019

Rehearsal Room, Abingdon Guildhall, Abbey Close,
Abingdon-on-Thames OX14 3JZ

Open 9.30 to 5.30 each day

Refreshments available Programmes 50p

Time for Tea

Afternoon tea was introduced in Britain in the early 1840s as a mini meal to bridge the gap between lunch and a later evening meal. It is composed traditionally of sandwiches (usually cut delicately into 'fingers'), sweet pastries and cakes. Scones served with clotted cream and jam were not a common feature originally and were only introduced in the twentieth century.

Initially a private social event for ladies, it was only when Queen Victoria engaged in the afternoon tea ritual that it became a formal occasion on a larger scale, known as 'tea receptions'.

Today afternoon tea is enjoying a resurgence in popularity, usually enjoyed as a special treat or to celebrate a special event. In the flower arranging world it has become a popular way of raising funds, either for charity or to support a flower club's activities. Some clubs combine it with a mini flower demonstration or talk. Traditional or contemporary flower designs can decorate the tea tables and these can be raffled or auctioned to guests. Club members who don't want to do flowers are often happy to make the cakes and scones. If a flower club member has a large enough garden and weather permitting, then tea can be served outside - just ask everyone to bring their own chair. Tea could also be themed around events such as anniversaries or festivals such as Halloween, Christmas or Easter. Get baking and have fun!

In July Grey's Flora combined afternoon tea with gin tasting and a mini demonstration, which was very popular, raising £715 for Brain Tumour UK and support for men with breast cancer

Sara Steward, Greys Flora



On the hottest day of the year Old Windsor Flower Club included a glass of prosecco at their afternoon tea event. Our stalwart committee put on a splendid spread of sandwiches, traditional scones with cream & jam and a superb selection of homemade cakes. We had three mini demonstrations by Eunice Stone, Sandie Draper & Alison Mount. A wonderful, very warm afternoon.

Sandie Draper, Old Windsor Flower Club

NAFAS Diamond Anniversary Floral Art & Design Show



'Shaped by Nature' by Sandie Draper - 1st

Not only does Alison Mount, our area chairman, represent us at NAFAS National Advisory Council, but she also represented the area in the Designer of the Year competition at the Diamond Show. With an overall title of 'Timeless Beauty' she had to create a pedestal and hanging design on the first day. With so much emphasis these days on contemporary work it was heartening to see such a fantastic classic pedestal.

On the second day all competitors had to prepare petite and still life exhibits. Sadly Alison did not make it to the final few, so did not have to stage an imposed exhibit on the last day, but she did us proud.



'Timeless Beauty' at the end of Day 1 by Alison Mount



'Suspense' by Jane Belcher - 2nd

Stony Stratford Floral Club had a very enjoyable outing to the fantastic event celebrating NAFAS Diamond Anniversary. If you didn't go you missed a treat. Demonstrations were superb, in a really good auditorium so everyone could see the wonderful variety of flowers and techniques.

It was interesting to see the many different competitors in the Timeless Beauty section. There were so many other exhibits to look at but too many to see in the day. We could have done with more time.

It was a very friendly atmosphere and we would like to congratulate all the BB&O members who took part. We really very much enjoyed the variety of entries.

Judy Parker, Stony Stratford Flower Club

Congratulations to the BB&O award winners:

- Sandie Draper: 'Shaped by Nature' - 1st
- Jane Belcher: 'Suspense' - 2nd
- Shirley Sexton: 'Frills and Spills' - Very Highly Commended
- Jane Haas: 'Suspense' - Highly Commended
- Phoenix Design: 'Arabesque' - Commended
- Pera Dean: 'European Master' - Commended
- Jayne King: 'Diamond Dazzler' - Commended



'European Master' by Pera Dean - Commended

Club Demonstrations

| Sep | Nov |
|---|---|
| 23 Gill McGregor at Chalfont | 4 Gill McGregor at Banbury (O) |
| 24 Christine Pearce at Bicester | 5 Glenis Smith at Abingdon |
| 24 Stephanie Cornell at Maidenhead | 5 Stephen McDonnell at Bourne End |
| 25 Jane Haas at Thame | 5 Claire Bryant at Harmondsworth |
| 26 Lynda Stamp at Chipping Norton | 5 Martin Crossley at Royal Windsor |
| 26 Kyoko Regan at Four Ends | 6 John Paul at Old Windsor |
| 26 Carol Bennett at Oxford | 6 Lorraine Saunders at Sandhurst & Crowthorne |
| 30 Vijay Bhatia at Aylesbury | 7 Jennifer Thompson at Bramley & Romans |
| 30 Margaret Heal at Thames Valley | 11 Beverly Short at Bladon & Woodstock |
| | 11 Julia Russett at Mortimer |
| Oct | 11 * Mig Kimpton at Bracknell (O) |
| 1 Lorraine Saunders at Woodley | 12 * Arnaud Metairie at Newbury (O) |
| 1 Jane Belcher at Bourne End | 12 * Tracey Griffin (N) at Twyford & Ruscombe (O) |
| 1 Tony Brown (N) at Stony Stratford | 13 Tan Strong (N) at Caversham (O) |
| 1 Lucy Allan at Olney | 13 Kathy Stangaard at Wallingford (O) |
| 1 Sally Hardy at Abingdon | 14 Jane Haas at Sonning |
| 1 Jennifer Thompson at Royal Windsor | 15 Susan Smithson at Cotswold (O) |
| 2 Margaret Walker at Cotswold | 19 Jackie Page at Bicester |
| 2 Lucy Ellis (N) at Old Windsor (O) | 19 * Katherine Kear (N) at Brackley (O) |
| 3 Jackie Watson at Harmondsworth | 19 Carol Ferris at Chieveley |
| 7 Ruriko Kojima at Booker | 19 Hans Haverkamp at Wantage |
| 7 Louise Rigden at Banbury | 20 Doug Howard (N) at Ley Hill |
| 7 Sally Hardy at Mortimer | 20 Coral Gardiner (N) at Gerrards Cross |
| 8 Lucy Allan at Brackley | 20 Pam Lewis (N) at Earley |
| 8 Sue Tausig at Newbury | 22 * Tracey Griffin (N) at Finchampstead |
| 9 Jane Belcher at Bracknell | 22 * Coral Gardiner (N) at Woodley |
| 9 Lorraine Saunders at Caversham | 25 Cathryn Brown at Aylesbury |
| 9 Stephanie Peniket at Wallingford | 25 Nigel Whytes (N) at Thames Valley |
| 9 Kate Thomas at Wokingham | 26 Coral Gardiner (N) at Stony Stratford |
| 10 Jennifer Thompson at Sonning | 26 * Nick Grounds (N) at Olney (O) |
| 14 Bridgette Manton at Bladon & Woodstock | 26 * Jonathan Moseley (N) at Maidenhead (O) |
| 15 Annette Urquhart (N) at Chieveley | 27 * Lucy Ellis (N) at Bicester (O) |
| 15 Anna Steven at Wantage | 27 Mark Entwistle at Thame |
| 16 Sharon Badger at Gerrards Cross | 28 Stephanie Cornell at Four Ends |
| 16 Jackie Page at Riverside | 28 Jackie Page at Chipping Norton |
| 16 Melanie Smith at Earley | 28 Lorena Dyer (N) at Oxford |
| 17 * Tan Strong (N) at Sandhurst & Crowthorne | |
| 22 Stephanie Cornell at Chalgrove | Dec |
| 23 Jane Pugh at Thame | 2 Alison Mount at Booker |
| 28 Jo Bromwich at Aylesbury | 3 Sandy Bailey (N) at Bourne End |
| 28 Lesley Sturdy at Thames Valley | 3 John Chennell (N) at Abingdon |
| 28 Ann Anson at Chalfont | 3 Coral Gardiner (N) at Royal Windsor |
| 28 Sue Aston at Finchampstead | 4 Claire Bryant at Old Windsor |
| 29 Melanie Smith at Maidenhead | 4 Graham King at Riverside |
| | 4 Sally Hardy at Sandhurst & Crowthorne |
| | 4 Carole Stables at Bramley & Romans |
| | 5 Claire Bryant at Harmondsworth |
| | 9 Tracey Griffin (N) at Mortimer |
| | 10 Theresa Rodrigues at Chieveley |
| | 12 Gill McGregor at Four Ends |

Notes

(N) National Demonstrator

(O) Open Meeting

* See club pages on website for venue

What's Coming Up

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Sep 14 | Area Workshop - Stony Stratford |
| Sep 21-22 | Berks County Show - Newbury |
| Oct 19 | Teacher training starts - see below |
| Nov 15 | Area AGM - A Load of Old Chairs - Benson |
| Dec 5 | Area Workshop - Benson |
| 2020 | |
| Feb 24-Mar 1 | WAFAs, Jaipur, India |
| Mar 27 | Area Day - A Passage to India - Benson |
| Aug 7-10 | NAFAS Residential Weekend |

Full details under **What's On** tab of bbandoflowers.org.uk

Places are still available on the NAFAS/OCN teacher training course which starts 19th October at Crowmarsh Gifford near Benson. For more information phone Irene Manson on 0118 947 0737 or email irene.manson3@btinternet.com

A sparkling charity evening of flowers and bubbly

Greys Flora

Silver Stars

Floral Presentations by

Alison Mount and Jane Haas

Plus a Presentation by Irene Manson

Friday 11th October 2019
7.30pm (doors open 6.30pm)

Shiplake Memorial Hall, Memorial Ave, Shiplake Cross RG9 4DN

Ticket price: £15 to include a glass of bubbly and canapes
Send cheque payable to Greys Flora and SAE to:
Jane Haas 10 Swanston Field Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HP

Proceeds to Brain Tumour UK and support for men with breast cancer

Area AGM - A Load of Old Chairs

Friday 15th November at Benson Parish Hall

Tickets £15 for lunch, £5 for demonstration

For more information see website or email

treasurer@bbandoflowers.org.uk

Sandhurst & Crowthorne Flower Club

'A Time for Giving' by National Demonstrator Tan Strong

Thursday 17th Oct at 7.30pm (doors open 7pm) at Whitty Theatre, Wokingham, RG40 3EU

Tickets £15. Email Alison Vacher at apmvacher@gmail.com or phone 07914 304 980

or email Jenny Rumsey at jenandwill@btinternet.com or phone 01344 776563

Bracknell Flower Club

'A Country Christmas' by Mig Kimpton

Monday 11th Nov 2019 at 7.45pm at Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park, Bracknell, RG12 7PA

Tickets £17. Email Maureen Coles at family_coles03@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01344 642465

Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club

'Christmas is Coming' by National Demonstrator Tan Strong

Wednesday 13th Nov at 7.30pm (doors open 6.30pm)

Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7BG

Tickets (including refreshments) £15

Email Irene Manson at irene.manson3@btinternet.com or phone 0118 9470737

Stony Stratford Floral Club

'Seasonal Sparkle' by National Demonstrator Coral Gardiner

Tuesday 26th Nov at 7.30pm (doors open 6.45pm)

Stantonbury Theatre, Rowle Close, Milton Keynes, MK14 6BN

Admission by ticket only - £10. Phone 01908 549429, 01908 564453 or 0750 778 0316

Maidenhead Floral Art Society

'Let's Get Creative for Christmas' by National Demonstrator Jonathan Moseley

Tuesday 26th Nov at 7.30pm (doors open 6.45pm)

Desborough Suite, Maidenhead Town Hall, SL6 1RE

Tickets (including glass of wine and mince pie) - £15 for members, £18 for non-members

Phone Pat Tripp on 01628 623798

AN EVENING TO ENJOY...

DEMONSTRATING

See if you want to become a NAFAS demonstrator

16th September, 7.30-9.30pm

Cecil Ince Hall, West Clandon, GU4 7TD

£10. For more details phone Annette

Urquhart on 01344 779731

or email william_urquhart@talktalk.net



Future Issues

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