

Club Presidents Welcome by Sarah Kidney

A very warm welcome to the first Bicester Floral Club meeting of 2024. Since the beginning of January, we have had rain, frost, and high winds but the spring flowers never seem to let us down. Snowdrops and Aconites are already in flower to cheer us on a dismal day. I am looking forward to our meetings throughout the year and hope you and your friends will come and join us.



Membership Fees are due, and our funds are dwindling!

As confirmed at the 2023 AGM the fees for 2024 are remaining at £40 per person. These are now payable please. We accept bank transfers (we can provide the details if you wish to pay via this method), cheques (payable to Bicester Floral Club), and cash.

Of this fee the Club gets to keep £30 to fund its activities with the remaining £10 being passed on to the National Association (NAFAS) and the Area.

Last year our membership had dropped to its lowest level in many years (24) resulting in a net deficit of £429 on the year. Despite reducing the number of demonstrations each year our expenditure was still £3,600. Each demonstration is, on average, now £300 plus and the cost of fuel and flowers continues to increase. The main hall is £58 a meeting and we are considering the lower cost of the Rainbow room for workshops and socials. We have minimal other sources of income including the raffle for the flowers and the 50/50 club. But again, as the attendance dwindles so does the income from those too.

This year will be pivotal in the Club history as we struggle to remain relevant and attract any new members.

Continued.

DIARY DATES 2024

 27th February 2024 7.15pm start

Social Evening with refreshments to start the year – come & meet up with your Floral Club Friends.

 26th March 2024 7.15pm start Doors Open from 6.45pm

Our first demonstration of the year presented by Jackie Page – Area demonstrator and current BB&O Area Chair. Her title is ‘Connections.’

 23rd April 2024 – Spring Workshop details to be advised closer to the day - 7 for 7.15pm

 28th May 2024 – Demonstration by Helen Temple - 7 for 7.15pm

 25th June 2024 – Demonstration by Christine Ramsay - 7 for 7.15pm

 23rd July 2024 – Social Event an outing to a restaurant/pub – ideas welcome!

 23rd August 2024 – Summer Break – No meeting

 24th September 2024 – Demonstration by Fiona Harrison – 7 for 7.15pm

 22nd October 2024 – Autumn Workshop

 28th November 2024 – Christmas Demonstration @ Exeter Hall Details TBC

 4th December 2024 – Annual General Meeting

 Did you know? Quarterly Club Competitions

We have quarterly Club competitions in March, June, September, and December each year with categories for Novices, Intermediates and Advanced members and cups presented to the people with the most points at the end of each year. Sadly, these have also dropped by the wayside since the pandemic. Do you want us to get them going again? Let us know!

Continued.

BICESTER FLORAL CLUB

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All our meetings, unless notified otherwise will be at the Bicester Methodist Hall, Victoria Road, Bicester. We have looked for other venues in the past, but this has proved to be difficult to find with a stage, and parking and much more expensive than our current venue. Visitors are always welcome with a fee payable at the door. The fees will be published before each meeting.

50/50 Results 2023

We took £300 last year with £150 staying with the club and £150 for our winners who were as follows:

£80 Liz Sheppard

£40 Annabelle Elliot

£15 Ann Black

£15 Anne Mansfield

Congratulations to you all and thank you for your support - £150 is the minimum flower bill for one demonstration so it all counts.

BB&O Area Chair

Congratulations to our very own Jackie Page who is now the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Area Chair. A big job and we look forward to supporting you in your new role.

 BB&O Area Events 2024 – full details on the Area website www.bbandoflowers.org.uk

 Friday 26th April 2024 – Strictly Flowers Area Day at Benson 10am – 3.30pm

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