



NORTH EAST AREA NEWS July 2020 Edition 30



Hello everyone,

We have had some glorious weather over recent weeks but as I type this, the whole of the country is expecting thunderstorms, which we are told 'if we get one, we will know about it!' Let us hope they don't do too much damage as the flowers and shrubs are looking particularly beautiful at the moment. I remember a storm in 1969/70 with huge hailstones that stripped the roses of their leaves and buds!!

Talking about flowers looking their best, Vanessa Wellock showed us how to use British Flowers, during British Flowers week, in all their beauty in her live Facebook demonstration on June 17th. Her next demonstration will be on July 15th at 7.p.m. If you missed either of these demonstrations, you will be able to find the link on the N E Area website. You do not have to be a Facebook subscriber, so please take a look and pass this information on to others who haven't managed to watch either of the live demonstrations.

So far, we have had flower arranging and photographic competitions plus a flower quiz on the Competitions page of the website and these have been really well supported. We will continue to have monthly competitions which I encourage you to take part in and please share this information with your fellow club members, as there are currently no opportunities to compete in our local or Area shows.

There are accounts in this Newsletter of the WFAA show in India earlier this year, which makes very interesting reading. Those of you from the N E Area who visited India must have some wonderful memories of your experience of the show and the country. Hopefully you will in due course be able to share them with us all.

There have been many changes in all our lives over recent months, whether you have been self-isolating or shielding. I am sure we are all aware of businesses struggling, with some fearful of not being able to continue beyond the easing of Lockdown.

NAFAS has had a change of Board personnel and has had to reconsider its financial situation. There

are statements elsewhere on the website detailing what plans are in place to maintain the organisation beyond the current Covid-19 crisis. The Executive Committee continue to meet through 'Zoom' on a monthly basis, and we will keep you informed through the website regarding our decisions about the October Council meeting and the AGM planned for November.

We continue to explore what we hope to organise for our 2021/22 calendar, which as you can appreciate is not as easy as it sounds!

I do hope in the interim that as members of a flower club you are still able to have contact with each other, whether through your own Facebook page or flower club newsletters. This contact is so important for members to still feel part of the club they hope to return to when it is safe to do so. It would be good to hear in time for our next Newsletter how you and your clubs have maintained contact, through this wonderful world of flowers, which we so depend upon and which provides us all with enormous pleasure.

Take care, keep safe, keep smiling and enjoy the beauty that surrounds us.

Janet

July 2020

Scarborough Flower Club celebrated their Diamond Anniversary in October 2019 with two events.

The first was a Demonstration by David Ryland entitled 'Diamonds to Delight & Dazzle'. Members also enjoyed a celebratory drink & cake.

On 24th October members were treated to a Diamond Celebration lunch. We also had the pleasure of the company of Ann Harding, now Area President and newly appointed NAFAS Director, together with The Mayor of Scarborough, Hazel Lynskey, and her son.

Both events were very successful and enjoyable.



Congratulations also to:

35 years – Beverley Flower Club

45 years - De Lacy Flower Club; North Craven Flower Club

55 years – Malton Flower Club; Barwick-in-Elmet Flower Club

60 years – East Riding Flower Club; York Flower Club;

Teesside Flower Club

65 years – The Yorkshire Flower Club

Congratulations to all other clubs who have celebrated a special anniversary: Editor

Presentation by Halifax Flower Club



A cheque for £2,500 was presented by the Chairperson of Halifax Flower Club, Geraldine Carter, to Susan Russell, in support of her charity The Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Members of Halifax Flower Club provided approximately 70 Christmas floral arrangements to decorate Susan and Patrick

Russell's family home at Krumlin, near Stainland. The sale of the flower arrangements, tickets, raffle and tombola stall helped the funding. Whilst presenting the cheque Geraldine thanked Susan for providing the venue, a beautiful family home, and for her co-operation and contribution on the day.

A grand floral affair

A Long long time ago, in a faraway land, there was an event called 'The Grand Floral Affair.'



This was of course the 13th. World Flower Show in Jaipur India.

Loving to travel and having never been to India, I thought that this would be an ideal opportunity to visit the country and go to the show and if I was going to the show, well I might as well look at the schedule! Luckily, they did have a few Imposed classes. This is when all the materials are provided...

They even had a class for 2 people! I knew that my

friend Elaine Bedford was thinking about going to the show and entering an imposed class as well and, as we were both novices at this type of class, nor brave enough to enter any of the other classes with all the problems that involved, we decided to enter the class for 2 people. Entry form and money sent off; we could relax for a few months without any stress of preparing for the show!

As we understood it all we had to do was turn up with our scissors, which was great as we were both spending another month after the show, travelling around the country. We did not want to have to lug a tool box as well. However, a few weeks before the show, we received an email with a huge long list of various items that we were also allowed to take, including, wires, staples, staplers, cable ties.... not what we wanted to hear! We are both guilty of taking things 'Just in case', easy if you have the car and just going to Harrogate, not so easy when you are flying. You just know that you would never have the right colour, size or amount

of whatever. It was decided to take a few things between us and minimum tools that could be left behind if necessary. (We had an internal flight with 15kg allowance!!)

We had our title 'Broken Lines' and size of our space. Height unlimited, all we could do was guess at what they were going to give us.

It was an 8am start and had 4 hours, under what felt like exam conditions. No one was allowed to walk through our section and come for a chat! A very large box of different materials including wires!! cable ties!! string and various dried decorative spheres to name a few, a bucket of fresh plant material. The rules state that not every item has to be used...luckily! I had been worried about looking at what everyone else was doing and being thought to copy...but to be honest we didn't have time to look around.

Fortunately, we were in a nice corner and so had a bit more space to spread out and by the door. Those 4 hours sped by and everyone had to rush to finish, clear up and get out in time. It was a little strange being in a strange place but actually knowing quite a few of the other competitors.

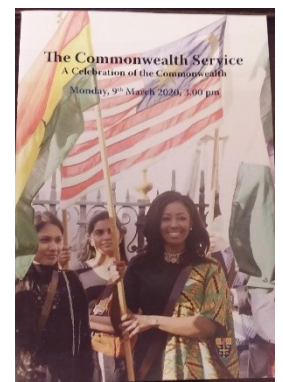
The venue was great, in the gardens mostly, of the Diggi Palace Hotel (Faded Grandeur) plenty of space to walk around, plenty of shopping opportunities and food options. We were delighted to receive a commended out of a class of 14. All the prize winners received beautiful handmade rosettes.

After a week in Jaipur we said goodbye to Elaine and her husband and we all went our separate ways, David and I to explore Rajasthan and Southern India and Elaine and Kevin were looking for Snow Leopards in the Himalayas....well that was the plan ...and that is another Very long story!

Carys Harrison

Flowers for the commonwealth service march 2020

To go or not to go, that was the question I asked myself the week before I was due to travel from Yorkshire to London for the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey on 9th March. The Coronavirus was beginning to take hold of the country, with London becoming a hotspot. I fully expected an email to pop up in my inbox to say the service had been cancelled, but no, it was to go ahead. On



arrival at the Abbey, the nine arrangers had to wait until a memorial service to William Wordsworth ended in Poets Corner, before we could access the flowers which were waiting in the area below the Queen's

Gallery because the BBC had commandeered Michael's Chapel for storing their equipment. So, after a delay we eventually made a start on our arrangements, mine being the left side of the High Altar, with a warning not to step on the 13th century Cosmati Pavement. Interestingly, what I hadn't realised was that there are two strips of carpeting, cleverly matching the Pavement in design and colour, either side of it.

The completed High Altar pedestal arrangements were huge, standing some 9ft in height, arranged in a traditional asymmetrical style, the shorter side being nearest the Altar but not touching. As we worked, rehearsals were taking place for the procession of the

Commonwealth flags, the music (how the spine-tingling steel band sound reverberated around the Abbey) and of course the BBC testing their sound, lighting and cameras.

Having arranged flowers in Westminster Abbey before, the highlight of the weekend for me was being part of the team to make the posies to be presented to HM The Queen, their Royal Highnesses the Duchesses of Cornwall, Cambridge and Sussex and the Countess of Wessex as they left the Abbey after the service. Sue Brinton, Peter Mathers and I took the flowers from the Abbey back to Osborne House by taxi, carefully taking them from the flower boxes, re-cutting the stem ends and standing them in buckets of water overnight. Next morning Marilyn Marsh and Liz Hall (NAFAS Westminster Abbey Co-ordinators) arrived, the flowers were laid out on the kitchen table and following Sue Brinton's lead the posies were constructed. The flowers used were deep pink spray roses, small red roses, white freesias, blue muscari, yellow ranunculas, blue anemones, euphorbia and pittisporum. The posies were left overnight in shallow water, so as not to wet the string and then on the morning of the service, gold organza ribbon was added to finish them off. Back into a flower box the posies were packed and Sue and I left for the Abbey by taxi with our precious cargo.

Security was very tight around Westminster Abbey, with roads blocked off and barriers guiding guests to police officers waiting to see identification. Imagine our explanation to the police of why we were carrying a big box and then showing him the precious contents! Fortunately, Marilyn appeared on the scene and the box was duly handed over the barriers.

As an association we are very privileged to arrange the flowers on such special National occasions and then to attend the services. We were seated in the South Transept behind and to the right of the Royal Family. We had to watch most of the service on a monitor which disappointingly was turned off before we saw the posies presented at the West



Door and had to wait until we returned home to see the whole proceedings on catch up TV!

Ann Harding

Next Edition

Edition 31 of the Area News will be available in November. Please send articles, advertisements etc. to joyceharrow@yahoo.co.uk

Keeping in touch

At New Earswick Flower Club our Chairperson came up with the idea of a monthly e-newsletter and, although I had no experience of producing such a publication, I offered to have a go at putting together a simple, single sheet monthly newsletter. Something to do during lockdown I thought.

Having decided on a three column Word document with images., together with putting in a good number of PowerPoint presentations on gardens, I discovered I had a few basic skills, like putting images into a document. Initially I asked a member if she would give an update on her allotment, which has become a monthly feature.

Other members responded, some with a single picture of their garden and a plant with just a single line of text, others sent short articles. We also have a plant of the month and a 'From our Archives'.

We are a small club with about twenty members (well we did at the last AGM!!) and the response has been enough to move from a monthly newsletter to twice monthly of two or three pages. Two of our members were awarded places in the recent Area photography competition so, of course, the winning photos went in the last newsletter!! Our Area Chairman asked how clubs are keeping in touch during this period of uncertainty and she asked me to pass this on. I hope you are all keeping sane and safe. **Tony Cleaver**

date for your diary

9th June 2021

Area Lunch, Parsonage Hotel, Escrick, York

Wafa world show India 2020



Who would have thought that by helping Sheila Rodgers and Joyce Hearnshaw at Pocklington Flower Festival in September 2018, I would find myself saying yes to a trip to India, to visit the World Association of Floral Artists (WAFA)?

At a nearby exhibit, Liz Bishop was talking about a trip she was organising to

see the Wafa show. I was intrigued. It was not a country that I would have visited but as Liz and I chatted, I realised what an amazing opportunity it would be, combining both my love of flowers and the chance to see the Taj Mahal.

On the 21st February 2020, thirteen of us met up at Heathrow Airport and flew into Delhi where we stayed overnight. Imagine after a long flight what a joy to be greeted by very friendly staff and displays of orchids galore in the hotel entrance. An added bonus that evening in the hotel, we were witness to a wedding, with guests in beautiful Indian dresses and in one of the rooms downstairs an amazing display of flowers and garlands.

Next morning, we travelled onto Agra by coach taking in other sights on the way. The countryside was farmland, which was green and lush, growing produce. There were also dried cow pats mixed with grass and were drying in mounds along the edges of the road. We were told these are used as fuel for cooking.

When we arrived, we visited a flower market, travelling in a TucTuc (a motorised rickshaw). What an experience! Between feeling terrified and excited in equal measures, the noise of horns from all the vehicles is something I don't think I will ever forget. Garlands either of jasmine or marigolds were purchased. The scent produced by the flowers and the warmth of the morning was wonderful. That afternoon we went to the Taj Mahal. It seemed unreal. Here I was thousands of miles from home in this magnificent building and gardens. The atmosphere was wonderful. We waited until the evening for the sun to set, so we could see the Taj Mahal by moonlight which changed the building, so it became hazy to see. It was quite incredible!

Lastly, we travelled to Jaipur, viewing the countryside, seeing the farmlands and people growing their produce. Here cows looked a lot healthier than they did in the cities! On arriving in Jaipur, we passed through the red gate into the pink city.

The Wafa flower show was held in Jaipur, where we stayed for a further seven days. First an afternoon preview visit and then back in the evening for the official opening. At the entrance was a large exhibit lit by candles where we were entertained by Indian music and dancers.

The flower show was amazing, a very high standard with lots of different categories. I think I took a photograph of every exhibit in the end. It was wonderful to recognise names of members in our area who had received awards, as well as talking to people from all over the world. One hall was non-competitive with exhibits of those arts and crafts from different areas of India, such as Kashmiri shawls, paper and jute. During our visit to the Show I attended a workshop to create a door hanging, and a demonstration, very different from what we expected.

At the Gala Dinner we were asked to wear outfits as if we were going to an Indian wedding, experiencing what a royal Indian wedding would be like, from the engagement party, to the wedding procession and the actual wedding ceremony with garlands of flowers and costumes depicting different types of weddings. The music and dancing had a feeling of Bollywood. This was followed afterwards by an Indian buffet in a beautiful building. It was amazing and very different. I am really glad I said yes to Liz Bishop's offer as I have wonderful memories of the experiences and places along the journey, shared in the company of likeminded people.

Sheila Drybrough

Demonstration via Facebook livestream
On Wednesday 17th June I had over 80 people

watching an online demonstration from my workshop through Facebook live streaming. I had previously gauged interest for this event through holding one for my local flower club: Ilkley Flower Club which went down very well; as this was my first-time using Facebook livestream, I used it as a test run.

This demonstration for the North East Area of NAFAS went down a treat, and since then the video has had 7.3k views with people watching from all over including: New Zealand, Canada and Pakistan.

Due to the current circumstances, I have been very aware of the lack of engagement in the Floral community and this has been a way to keep the community alive, hopefully encouraging people to return to their clubs when they can. The comment section on the video allows viewers to interact with each other and creates an area for



conversation helping to create this online floral community.

I discovered that you have to be an admin or editor of a Facebook page to livestream on their behalf so once I had, I started to promote the demonstration online and get the word out. I set up a black backdrop and a phone tripod with a built-in light, which ensured everything was clearly visible. After my trial run, I found out that due to Facebook's software, you have to have your phone portrait when filming. My daughter then read out any comments during the livestream to create a sense of interaction which was amplified by a live audience of 3 (in keeping with the 2-meter social distancing rules). I made sure that I did arrangements that could be easily replicated at home, for example, one used old pots, which I rejuvenated with melted wax and tissue paper. Due to the success of the online demonstration, we are planning on holding them every two weeks with the next on Wednesday 15th July at 7pm. Keep an eye on our Facebook to be in with the opportunity of being in the physical audience.

Vanessa Wellock

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We need your help

My thanks to all clubs who have taken time to send in articles and photographs.



I hope you have been able to access and enjoy the virtual demonstrations that are taking place

fortnightly, on a Wednesday evening. Clubs would be really interested to know how other clubs are communicating with members during this Pandemic.

Design by Jayne Belle 2020

For instance, are you corresponding, meeting virtually, or encouraging members to create designs and send photos of their work? Please let me know.

Individuals are also welcome to send in their designs, articles etc.

Advertisements regarding Open meetings, Special Club events and flower workshops can be included in the Area News.

Please send articles, photographs etc to me by email to joyceharrow@yahoo.co.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Joyce

Yorkshire flower club – beginners' classes

It all started at a committee meeting. I mentioned my idea about starting a flower class for beginners. We had new members at the club, who had informed me they hadn't a clue how to flower arrange. I asked if they would like to learn? They said they were interested, but there were no courses available. An idea was formed. Pat Daley, Pam Kitchen and Gerry Sayers offered to help teach.

We applied and received a grant from the Area and as well as members from the flower club, we also had outside interest. Three of the learners eventually joined the club.

A six-week course was planned, with each tutor taking a session. Designs were discussed and decided on, including traditional and continental designs. The course would be called 'Starting from Scratch'. We agreed a fee and venue and arranged for the classes to commence in October 2019. The tutors did not charge for their time.

Classes were advertised to club members by email. Posters were displayed in local garden centres and supermarkets. Advertising was also displayed at the Harrogate Autumn Show as well as local flower clubs.

At the time of writing, we have twenty learners who are enjoying the art of flower arranging. Throughout the course, we reiterate the elements and principles of design and the importance of good mechanics etc. The atmosphere is electric. We hope to be able to continue these sessions and encourage the learners to enter local shows and hopefully the Harrogate Spring Show in the future!

Sandra Harder

Note: This article was written before 'lockdown'. Let's hope the classes continue to thrive when things are back to 'normal'; Editor

Rings of hope

Several Flower Clubs in the NE Area have created a Ring of Hope, honouring the NHS and key workers throughout this pandemic. Here are a few. Others can be found on the Area website 'North East Area of NAFAS' and also on their Facebook page



Barbara Anderson Malton

Tracey Wilson (Haxby & Wiggington)



Janet Beadle (Malton)

Sandy Evans (Malton)



Jenny Harrison
(Knaresborough)

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