



# FLOWER CLUBS OF CHESHIRE

(Affiliated to The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies)

## Members' Newsletter

Issue 16

February 2024



Hello everyone. The lunar new year has commenced and spring is certainly just round the corner now, with clumps of snowdrops and crocus appearing hither and thither and catkins on the trees. Our first workshop of 2024 is now only days away, the 2024 schedule for the 'Theatre of Flowers' at the Royal Cheshire County Show is out (and on our website) and training courses during the year are being finalised for you to sign up to. Also in this issue; our new name, sharing the love of flowers, Stockport Flower Club enjoys the highlife and much more.....

Please send any photos from your Club / designs at the shows during the year / forthcoming events for inclusion in the newsletter, to [treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk).

Happy Reading!

### Our New Name

Our brand new name is **'Flower Clubs of Cheshire'** replacing the previous name of 'Cheshire Area of NAFAS'. Members had felt for some time that our previous name didn't accurately reflect of the purpose of our organisation, particularly having to explain the acronym NAFAS to non-members. Quite simply, it is the name of the umbrella body representing the 35 Flower Clubs in the Cheshire area. We remain affiliated to NAFAS. New publicity materials including banners, flyers, business cards etc are currently being designed, with the launch planned to be showcased in the 'Theatre of Flowers' in June at the Royal Cheshire County Show. It is recognised it will take some time to work through all aspects of our organisation, updating the name where necessary.

[Background: After a post-it note session at the Club Representatives Forum in November, where delegates were invited to think of a potential new name, the analysis subsequently revealed that each suggestion included the word Cheshire and either Flower or Floral. Google research also showed that Flower Clubs of Cheshire had the best online profile. The proposal 'Flower Clubs of Cheshire' as the new name was put to the delegates at the Club Representatives Forum in January and was agreed by a majority vote.]

We will also be using the over-arching title **'Flower School of Cheshire'** to encompass all the Classes (beginners to master class for members and non-members), Workshops, Training and Refreshers for demonstrators, judges and educators, Principles & Elements and Competitor Support that we offer in Cheshire.

(Editors Note: When a member of the public asks in the 'Theatre of Flowers' this year "Where do I go to learn this....?" we will have an answer: 'Flower School of Cheshire').

If you / your Club is running a class or workshop and would like to publicise the details in this newsletter (or on Instagram / FaceBook), please do get in touch.



We now have an Instagram page for Flower Clubs of Cheshire. Type in: [flowerclubsofcheshire](https://www.instagram.com/flowerclubsofcheshire) to find us. Please follow us – ask friends and family too, as we need to increase the number of followers. We would like to help publicise / share information about your Club on our Instagram page – future events, activities, workshops, designs, anything Flower Club related. Please send any photos and a brief description to [treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk)

## Sharing the love.....

....of floral design



Members from Neston Flower Society have been doing a spot of Community Outreach with local lunch clubs. All proud participants took home an arrangement to enjoy.



The Club regularly creates the floral window display at The Blue Bicycle, a family run coffee shop in Neston. Although Neston Flower Society create the displays, they are given a small donation for the society to put towards community floral workshop projects. These have included; posy workshops for a local support group for elderly and disabled residents, buttonhole demonstrations and workshops at the village fair, Christmas floral table decorations and Mother's Day handtied bouquet with local Brownie pack.

The Club invited some of the carers they met at the last community workshop to come along for free to this month's Club demonstration.



Stockport Afternoon Flower Club members have also been sharing some 'floral love' in the community, helping to raise funds for others. Pictured is Brenda Wardle, demonstrating to a packed room, raising money for Willow Wood Hospice.

Well done and thank you everyone!!

## ANNIVERSARY NEWS

Congratulations to the following Clubs who are celebrating special anniversaries this year:

- ❖ Eddisbury & Sandiway Flower Club – 65 Years
- ❖ Neston Flower Society – 65 Years
- ❖ Knutsford Floral Design Club – 55 Years
- ❖ Tunstall & District Flower Club – 55 Years
- ❖ The Bramall Hall Flower Club – 15 Years

Enjoy your special year!



**Congratulations to.....**

for



**Stockport Afternoon Flower Club** were delighted to be shortlisted an award from Forever Manchester in the 'Outstanding Community Contribution' category. Christine and Collette donned their glad rags and attended the award celebrations at the Kimpton Clocktower Hotel in Manchester as guests. They didn't win but were delighted to see the award go to 'Salford Food Parcels' who do wonderful and sadly necessary work in the area.

Pictured are Christine and Collette with Captain Manchester. Well done, Ladies!



# Workshop 1 - 2024



The next foam-free workshop will be on Sunday 12th May @ Tarvin Community Centre.

## Great news for New Demonstrators:

It's happening in Cheshire! 'Flower School of Cheshire' is providing training and testing for new demonstrators which will commence on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with Cheshire Area Demonstrator's Tests being held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 at Tarvin Community Centre.

If you are personally interested (there's still time) or feel you know someone who might be interested; perhaps a keen competitor or a good flower arranger, please contact: Beryl Cotton on [berylcotton06@gmail.com](mailto:berylcotton06@gmail.com)

**Please also 'save the date' (1<sup>st</sup> September)** to support our new up and coming demonstrators by coming along to the Cheshire Area Test – your support would be very much appreciated.



Cheshire Area of NAFAS

## Members' Workshop with Alison Cooper

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Owley Wood Recreation Club,  
Barrymore Rd., **Weaverham CW8 3LS**

10.00am - 3.30pm

£25



Alison has some innovative foam free designs to share with members to brighten us all up ready for Spring – a Floral Rainbow and a Kokedama table centre.

Bring your own lunch – tea, coffee and homemade cakes provided.

To find out more and to book your place email Sharon/Pam at

[education@nafascheshire.org.uk](mailto:education@nafascheshire.org.uk)

## PRE NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS & NATIONAL TESTS FOR DEMONSTRATORS

Hosted by Cheshire Area

Frodsham Community Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

More information to follow in the New Year

A great opportunity for Programme Secretaries and Club Members to watch Demonstrators stepping up

**\*\*Stalls to Browse\*\* \*\*Raffle\*\* \*\*Day out with Friends\*\***

# SHOWTIME



1st - Ann Shevlin - Novice's Award

Cheshire Area's 'Theatre of Flowers' will once again be at the Royal Cheshire County Show @ Tabley on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> June. The schedule is out! At the last Club Representative's Forum, club delegates collected paper copies of the schedule to share with their Club members. A pdf version is also available on our website [www.nafascheshire.org.uk](http://www.nafascheshire.org.uk) on the home page (click where it displays 'here'). A copy will also be distributed with this newsletter.

(Pictured left is last year's winning entry in the novice class created by Ann Shevlin 'Diamonds are Forever')

In order to help competitors with their preparations for shows, the Competitors Support Group is, once again, hosting several informative sessions (zoom and face-to-face), the first one being on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

Flower School of Cheshire

## Competitors Support Group

Meeting via Zoom  
March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

A zoom session to talk about everything you need to know to confidently enter an exhibit at a show.

Presented by Louise Jones

We will cover:

Reading the schedule and choosing a class

Preparing for the show

Toolbox essentials

What happens when you get to the show

Q&A session

Expected to finish approx. 8.30pm

Open to all members of affiliated Flower Clubs of Cheshire

To register to attend email your name and flower club to [canonlinevents@gmail.com](mailto:canonlinevents@gmail.com)

A follow on Zoom session will be held in April and will cover the elements and principals of design plus Q&A

A face to face practical session will be arranged in May when you will be able ask questions of experienced competitors and judges and to address any issues or concerns regarding your planned design(s)

Flower Clubs of Cheshire

Flower School of Cheshire

## Introduction to Judging Floral Art

April 7<sup>th</sup> 2024

9.30am for 10.00am start

£25 including lunch

Plumley Village Hall, WA16 0TR

Led by Jackie Charnock and Margaret Rumens, the day will enable you to learn about the Elements and Principles of design as applied to all floral arrangements, and how Area judges are trained to apply these, using practical examples

The day is aimed at anyone interested in learning more about the joy of flowers and is suitable for beginners, competitors, flower arrangers, judges, stewards and Show organisers.

This will be a fun day packed with knowledge and experience not to be missed.

The day will finish at approximately 3.30pm/4.00pm

To reserve your place please email  
[sue.clissold@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.clissold@btinternet.com)

or call Sue on 07879833925

by 23rd March 2024 at the latest.

Flower Clubs of Cheshire

If you've ever been to see a competition and wondered how the judgements were made, this is your chance to get inside the mind of the judges and find out what they are looking for and how they make their decisions. Could you be a judge? How do we work with judges in organising competitions? How can we bring more knowledge when stewarding and speaking to members of the public at events such as the Royal Cheshire County Show in our Theatre of Flowers?

Before you think 'oh well, I'm not a judge', this event could well be of interest to a much wider audience, even to beginners setting out on their flower journey. Our tutors will be covering a lot of the basics such as Principles and Elements of Design which underpin a great arrangement. It will be a practical session too and definitely a fun way to learn 'hands on' amongst friends.

Booking details are on the poster.

### **ARE YOUR CLUB DETAILS UP TO DATE ON OUR AREA WEBSITE?**

It's a new calendar year, Club AGMs are taking place and you have your 2024 Club programme in place. Would you please ensure it is published and your Club details are kept up to date on our Area website. Check at [www.nafascheshire.co.uk](http://www.nafascheshire.co.uk) or scan our new QR code which will take you straight to the website.



Mike, our website manager can help you [webmaster@nafascheshire.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@nafascheshire.org.uk)



## Website 'How To.....?'

Can you help us please? We are looking to update our website with some new 'How To' designs. If you would be willing to create a design (funding is available) would you please contact [education@nafascheshire.org.uk](mailto:education@nafascheshire.org.uk). We would like to feature 6 new designs which will be photographed by Pam M (so no need to worry about that bit!) and we will provide a venue for you to be creative in. We have so much floral design talent in Cheshire, would you share some please....?



### Flower Arranger Magazine 2024

Price for 2024 is £16 for 4 issues

Spring issue is out now!

To order additional copies and for more information contact Catherine on [flower.arranger@nafascheshire.org.uk](mailto:flower.arranger@nafascheshire.org.uk)

Order and Delivery Dates for 2024 are:

	Order by	Delivery
Summer	17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr
Autumn	18 <sup>th</sup> May	11 <sup>th</sup> Jul
Winter	22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	10 <sup>th</sup> Oct

## NEWS FROM NATIONAL

**Cheshire Photoshoot:** We have advised Chloe at The Flower Arranger of our 'interesting venues' in Cheshire to stage a potential photoshoot for the Flower Arranger magazine. We will keep you informed as soon as we have further information.

**National Show 2025:** This will be held at Gloucester Cathedral on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**National Show 2027:** The intention is to hold this event 'up north'. All suggestions for suitable venues are welcome. Please let us know.

**NAFAS Webinar:** It's your chance to ask the CEO and National Chairman a question. All members are eligible to attend. **Save the date - 16<sup>th</sup> May 6pm - 8pm.** Details will be circulated when they become available.

**New National Lists:** The 2024-25 book of Accredited Judges, Demonstrators and Speakers of NAFAS, Qualified Teachers of NAFAS and Qualified Teachers of Ikebana is now available priced at £2.75 from HQ. [Note: All Cheshire Clubs received one free copy at the Club Representatives Forum on 30<sup>th</sup> January at Frodsham Community Centre]

## Looking Ahead.....

### National Flower Arranging Day – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024. What will you create?

Each Club supporting the event will receive £25 from Area. Simply send photos of your design(s) to [treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk)

## Diary Dates

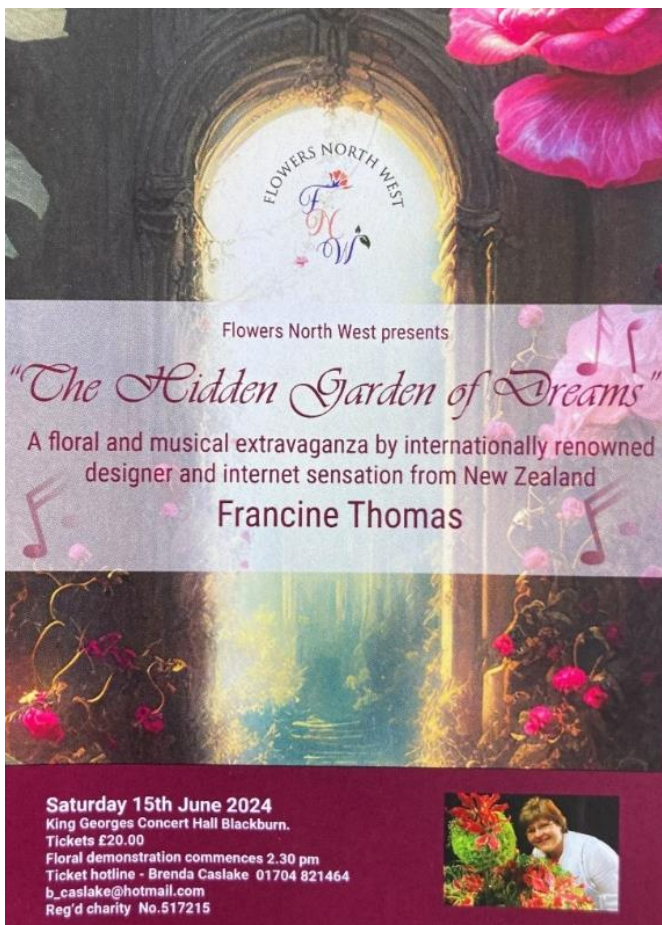
All our Diary Dates for 2024 are on our website, but here's a selection of show dates & events:

18 – 21 April	RHS Urban Show (Manchester)
25 – 28 April	Harrogate Spring Show
3 May	National Flower Arranging Day
9- 12 May	RHS Malvern Spring Festival
21 – 25 May	RHS Chelsea
18 – 19 June	Area Show @ Royal Cheshire County Show
2 – 7 July	RHS Hampton Court
17 – 21 July	RHS Tatton
31 July	Nantwich Show
9 – 10 August	Shrewsbury Flower Show
15 – 18 August	Southport Flower Show
27 – 29 September	RHS Malvern Autumn Show
3 October	Cheshire Area AGM – Save the Date. A 'Double Demonstration' is being planned!
16 October	National AGM



Terrariums, pub gardens and plant geekery!





**ROMILEY FLOWER CLUB**

Open Demonstration  
 Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024  
 'Out of the Orient'  
 By Julia Loudon  
 At The Carver Theatre, Marple  
 Tickets £15  
 Contact David Mason, chairman Romiley Flower Club  
[david55mason@gmail.com](mailto:david55mason@gmail.com) or 077480 73117



If you are organising an event and would like to publicise it here, please let us know.

**Finally, for all you gardeners, 'Shrubs for Winter Interest' (extract from the National Demonstrators' Committee Newsletter) kindly provided by James Burnside.**

As a keen gardener and flower arranger, I like to have interest all the year round and especially in the winter and very early spring when the days are dark, frosty and gloomy. The following are shrubs that I cherish at this time of the year.



**Hamamelis**

- Commonly known as witch hazel
- It has spicy fragrant spidery flowers in shades of yellow, orange and red
- It brings colour and scent to the winter garden
- It enjoys a well-drained neutral to acid soil in sun or light shade
- Hamamelis don't need regular pruning, just remove any dead, damaged, congested, crossing or weak stems.

**Aucuba japonica**

- Common name spotted or Japanese laurel
- An evergreen shrub
- Will grow in most soils in partial to full shade, can also do well in sun
- Good for hedging in shade
- Female plants need a male pollinator to produce berries
- Can be propagated from semi-ripe cutting in late summer or using the method of layering
- A number of different varieties available –Aucuba japonica "Variegata", "Crotonifolia", "Golden Spangles", "Picturata" .....





### **Garrya elliptica**

- Common name silk tassel or tassel bush
- Evergreen shrub
- Native to Mexico
- Can be grown as a shrub in the garden or grown against a wall or as a windbreaker in coastal areas
- The “James” Roof” variety is a male form and has the longest catkins and more

### **Sarcococca “Confusa”**

- Common name sweet box
- This shrub is known for its sweetly scented winter flowers and glossy evergreen foliage, followed by black, purple or red berries
- It likes full or partial shade and happy in dry conditions once established
- Can be grown in borders or containers
- Easy to propagate by suckers
- A must for early scent in the garden



**Best Wishes**

**From All of Us**

**@**

**Flower Clubs of Cheshire**

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