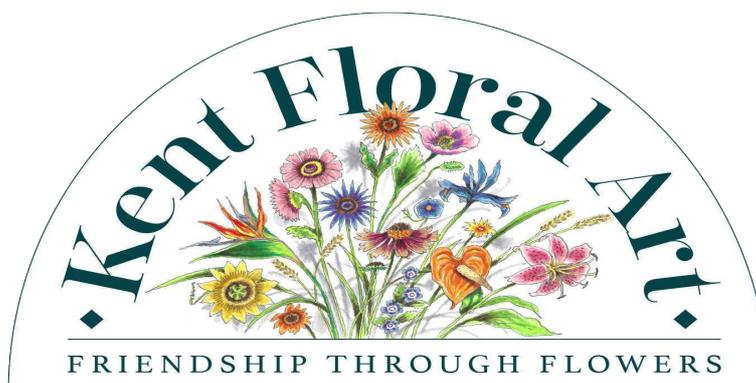


KENT FLORAL ART NEWSLETTER

Autumn /Winter 2021





Dear Members

As the country has opened up, it has been fabulous to join many of you at your clubs, at the Area Workshop, JDSE&P day and other events. It is clear that we could not get wait to get back to the hobby that we love and how pleased we are to see one another again. True “Friendship Through Flowers”.

My surname is Scandinavian in origin. Although it is a name I “acquired” when we married, I do feel a certain affinity with that part of the world, perhaps because my family are from the North East and claim to be descended from Vikings! Anyway, there is a Danish concept of *hygge* which refers to finding comfort, pleasure and warmth in soothing things such as a cosy room, creating something, or the feeling of friendship.

Perhaps a place where you will find *hygge* is at a Christmas demonstration, the fabulous designs, the sparkle, and being with friends. I know the demonstrators are excited about being back “on stage” and are looking forward to sharing their Christmas designs.

We also have the New Year to look forward to so “fingers-crossed” we can have a full year of Club and Kent Floral Art events. I have received a lot of enquiries from people wanting to join clubs so please make them welcome and help spread the word of “Friendship Through Flowers”.

Merry Christmas to each and all

Gill Smaggasgale

Chairman – Kent Floral Art



A Sunny Afternoon at Leeds Castle

On a sunny September afternoon we decided to see the event Sculptures at the Castle, very unusual designs – not all in the floral mode as hoped, my favourite was the pollination of birds and bees by Ruth Moilliet which was 135cms in diameter of Stainless Steel and Anodised Aluminium, it was the most floral of the designs.

All the sculptures were accompanied by apps that could be downloaded to your phones to present the designer.



There were over 40 exhibits.,the Rose by Diane Mc Clean.





WORD LADDER

Change one letter at a time (but not the position of any letter) to make a new word – and move from the word at the top of the ladder to the word at the bottom, using the exact number of rungs provided.

L E A F



T W I G



Margate Flower Club By Val Frewin

Margate flower club had their second live meeting on Tuesday 14th September and we held a practical workshop. The title was an 'all foliage arrangement' in a container of their choice and their design. We had a new member that evening who had not arranged before, she thoroughly enjoyed the evening and her arrangement as a 'newby' was extremely good. I have attached a few samples of the evenings work.

It was a lovely social evening with tea, coffee a raffle and friendship, what more do we need. It has been lovely to meet up again.







Designs by 1} Linda Edwards 2} Jackie Sharp 3} Valerie Dow
4} Sue Cross 5] Tracey Perry.

If anyone wishes to join our friendly group we meet on the second Tuesday at 7.30, more details on the Margate club are on the website- www.kentfloralart.co.uk

Deal & District Coral Anniversary

35 years of Flowers, Friendship and Fun!

Members of the Deal and District Flower Club celebrated their Coral Anniversary in style last week with an afternoon tea at Goodnestone Park Gardens. The club was born in 1986 when two friends who had a love of flowers thought there must be others locally who shared this passion.

They were right - 100 people attended the first meeting! 35 years on the club is thriving with a growing membership where lasting friendships have been made.

The venue was decorated with coral-coloured flowers, the table decorations were designed by committee member Carol Fagg, with other arrangements provided by the venue. Chair of the club Val Swallow thanked members for their loyalty through the last difficult 18 months and for keeping the club alive through Zoom meetings and events in members' gardens!

The sandwiches and scones provided were lovely, and Carol 'did the double' by also baking delicious cakes.

The traditional raffle meant that all the flowers found new homes, and it was a wonderful coincidence that founder member Sandie Baker won an arrangement made and donated by our other founder member, Ann Keeley, who was unfortunately unable to be there.

Members were then able to enjoy a stroll round the beautiful gardens at Goodnestone Park:- a perfect way to end a lovely afternoon!



OBITUARY NOTICE FROM ASHFORD FLOWER CLUB



MARY WIGGINS

It is with sadness that we announce the death of our Club chairman, Mary Wiggins.

Mary was a stalwart of Ashford Flower Club and had served two terms of office as Chairman as well as being an efficient Secretary for many years.

No task was too arduous and she was often to be found in the kitchen supervising the refreshments and preparing and clearing the hall for the evenings. She was well acquainted with most of the members and was always concerned for their wellbeing, particularly during the pandemic.

She was a member of St. John's Ambulance for many years and had acted as official first aider at a number of Kent Area functions.

Mary will be remembered as a very good member and friend of the Club and NAFAS, and will be greatly missed.



Westminster Abbey 2021

By Kent Area President Marilyn Marsh.

Liz Hall and I went to Westminster Abbey last Monday to organise the flowers for the Royal British Legion Centenary service on 12th October, we also made two posies to be presented after the service to The Queen & Princess Ann.



Maidstone Flower Club

Maidstone are lucky enough to meet in the usual hall at the same time every second Thursday of the month.

This meeting took the form of an Autumn workshop using fruit and vegetables in flower arranging, taking inspiration from the article in the Autumn edition of the Flower Arranger. Members firstly watched a short demonstration by Pam Hayward the chairman then set about constructing from their own ideas.



The members were given a handout with a few explanations with guidance and tips on completing their designs.

Presented by Pam Hayward.

BONJOUR FROM THE DORDOGNE

Life is full of surprises and No-one could have predicted the virus that has changed our lives completely. We of course had our own challenges, moving to a new country away from family and friends, to a whole new way of life, so this lockdown was not so hard for us. We did not foresee that our friends and neighbours would decide to split up weeks before we moved, so we have already been quite isolated since we moved here.

There are a few English people here and we have made friends. I have joined a club in Bournell where ladies from different cultures and countries meet and enjoy crafts. A lot of chat over tea and biscuits takes place just like the UK, so it is a place to make friends and learn new crafts. I have tried to get them interested in flower arranging, but these things take time, and life is different here.

We live in a very rural setting, our nearest village is Molliers which has 1 bar, the Marie (village Hall), the Church and a pottery. Our nearest town is the picturesque Lalinde, where we cross the Dordogne River, to buy groceries etc. Markets are held every week which are great for fresh produce and local crafts. Medieval villages with wonderful churches and village bars are all around us, where you can soak up the ambiance over a coffee or sample the local vino.

We live in an old cottage, which we had modernised and renovated. The garden is still under construction, where I spend most of the time. My poor plants have been on their own journey, losing some to the scorching heat, heavy clay soil, and wildlife. Being moved several times did not help.

Most have now settled into their new positions, hopefully. I will put more photos on my facebook page.

I feel like Barbara from the good life, (I wish), as I live in wellies and keep chickens. (They roam free)



After 25 years, Bob the builder has revealed himself. Yes, who would have thought it, Barry has built, with a bit of my help, a potager, 8 raised beds, a shed, erected a 20ft poly tunnel, and built a great bench, where I raise my seeds. We were trying to go self-sufficient but the bugs are eating everything as fast as I put them in the ground. This year will be a learning curve as to what we can grow.

Let's celebrate the fact that circumstances have made us spend time to sort out our gardens, and enjoy them too. The spirit of friendship and flowers is so important, now more than ever. Keep bringing the power of flowers to brighten someone's day.



Cheers! Adieu x

Les Saisons Changeantes En Dordogne

There is a nip in the air, the sun is breaking through the morning mist to reveal our heavily laden walnut tree, gently unburdening itself of its load. Better get in quick before the wild boar come to claim their nightly feast. Fresh walnuts have a lovely flavour, and are grown a lot in this area along with chestnuts. The farmer next to us rears thousands of ducks, in the open air, and this area is known as the home of the Canard.

The nightly sound of the stag, calling for a mate fills the air, so rutting season is in full swing, and a new chapter in the cycle begins. Deer can be unpredictable at this time of year, so we must be prepared on the country lanes.

Another tradition here is the Chasse ! These are a group of locals that hunt the deer and the wild boar. There are signs in the woods that give the Chasse the right to hunt on the land or not as the owners see fit. I have seen them in the field opposite chasing a family of wild boar with their hound dogs, which are frightening themselves.

The local markets hold a special day for selling the edible mushrooms of all kinds, which grow in abundance, a big thing out here, as all locally produce is. Cheeses of all varieties, many I have never seen before are in all the local markets and supermarkets.

Another Tradition is All Saints day (la Toussaint) celebrated here on November 1st, with potted chrysanthemums, silk flowers in their thousands and small mementoes, are taken to the graves of their loved ones.

There are still a few tourists around to enjoy the beautiful scenery, lap up some sunshine, and experience the wonders of nature and all it brings.

Best wishes to all of you in Kent. Miss you guys x Tricia Bashford





PLASTIC BOTTLE CRACKER

YOU WILL NEED

2 identical plastic bottles, smooth sides

Polystyrene balls

7 phormium leaves

3 small sticks

An assortment of stars or similar

Scissors, knife, screwdriver. Glue gun

HOW TO MAKE THIS DESIGN

Start by cutting one of the bottles 6" down from the cap in a straight line with either a hot knife or scissors. (I used a camping stove to heat my knife as we don't have gas here) . See the first picture, fit the cut end onto the base of the whole bottle, this gives you the size of the design. You could use smaller bottles to do this of course.

Put your polystyrene balls into the bottle and balance this by adding a few to the cut end and re-joining them. Now add enough water to the whole bottle for your fresh plant material, this will give it some rigidity, don't overfill at this point.

Lay the bottle on its side and make sure it balances well.

Mark the area that you are going to place your materials in with a marker pen. Heat a knife on the end for a couple of minutes and gently cut through the top of the bottle. I used a large screwdriver to make the hole for the sticks, if it is not large enough get it hot and wiggle it in the hole until it fits your stick.

Place your plant material through the cuts, glue your stars onto the sticks and the base of the bottle, you might need an extra star at the very base if the bottle will not sit straight. Finally decorate the 2 bottle caps as you desire.

There are endless possibilities with this idea, and would love to see how ambitious you all can be, so come on Kent. **SHOW ME**

patriciabashford@hotmail.co.uk



A NOVICE AT THE ABBEY

Towards the end of August, I received a call from Gill Smaggasgale asking if I would be interested in arranging flowers at Westminster Abbey on the 17th September. This would be for a memorial service for the Royal Air Force on Sunday the 19th September. "Are you ok with heights" Gill asked as you will be working at head height and the space is a little confined. I said that I would be fine.

I was, of course delighted and very honoured to be asked. The flowers would be in the colours of red, white and blue. Cecilia Sleaf, who lives very close to me was also going to arrange flowers as well and she was going to drive to the Abbey. I contacted her and asked if I could travel with her. She of course kindly agreed.

We were to take some fill-in foliage and basic tools.

The day arrived and we set off at 7.30am. Two hours should be enough to get us there at 9.30. However, there had been an accident at the Blackwall Tunnel and we had to take a route through the boroughs of South London. I don't think I have ever seen so many buses, and they do tend to command the roads. Hence to say, we arrived a little late for the start.

After reporting to Liz Hall and collecting our maroon Westminster Abbey florist's aprons, we got to work straight away.

The area we had been designated was at the end of the quire, and it was at head height, up four steps, but gave a good view of the alter. The flowers we used were red roses, gerbera and spray chrysanthemums, white gladioli, large headed chrysanthemums and roses, blue agapanthus and gentians, along with a selection of foliage. There was a small team from Kent arranging flowers and we all busied ourselves to the task in hand.

Our working area in the quire was a bit tight and the pedestal difficult to move, so there was a lot of going up and down the stairs to look at the arrangement from afar to see where to put in the next placement, most of which was trying to do the front, from behind, as you needed to lean around from the back.

Also, there was a camera to avoid and lots of cables on the floor.

The Abbey was open to the general public and many visitors were keen to ask questions about the arrangements and, was there a reason for them. We had a lot of lovely comments and some of the visitors just stood and watched us.

The time flew and 12.30 soon crept up on us and we had to clear the area and pack everything away, but I had enjoyed every minute and felt it a great privilege.

Cecilia and I had time to have a look around the Abbey afterwards.

It was the first time I had been inside it, and was fascinated with all the different areas of the Abbey, including the tombs of various Kings and Queens, the sections where famous poets and actors were buried and the science area which also contains the burial site of Stephen Hawking.

We saw the coronation chamber and where all the Lords perch on very small ledges, and made a point of finding where the NAFAS time capsule is buried in the cloisters.

We left the Abbey about 3.30, and again were caught up in traffic, as it was Friday afternoon everyone wanted to get away for the weekend, so it took us about two and a half hours to get home, but for me, it was well worth the effort. I was the only member of the team who had not arranged flowers at the Abbey before, hence the title of this piece.

If you are ever invited to arrange flowers at the Abbey, go for it.

It is a wonderful experience, a long day, but a very satisfying one.

Thanks to Liz Hall and Marilyn Marsh who are the Westminster Abbey coordinators, who made sure that the flowers and the mechanics were all ready when we arrived, and to Chris Hall who does a mean cleaning up job.

The Kent Team were Cecilia Sleaf, Iris Shaw, Sue Thompson, Pam Hayward and myself.

By Rosina Horton: Kent Area Representative South
Folkestone Flower Arrangers' Club, Chairman



Arrangements created for Westminster Abbey



Picture 1 RAF Chapel by Marilyn Marsh

Picture 2 Nave Pulpit by Iris Shaw



Picture 3 High Alter { right hand side }
by Pam Hayward

Picture 4 { left hand side } by Sue Thompson



Picture 5 Quire by Cecilia Sleaf

Picture 6 Quire by Rosina Horton

Maidstone Flower Club

Arrangements with fruit and vegetables

October Meeting 2021

By Pam Hayward

Creating flower arrangements doesn't mean you have to stick to floral elements. Adding fruit or vegetables to your floral arrangements is a great way to add interest, texture, colour AND helps your floral material go farther!

It's economical too, since part of your arrangement is edible! Unique and bold designs can be easily put together by marrying flowers with edible fruits and vegetables. Bright colours, strong shapes and a variety of texture make edible elements especially sought after. They also can prove cost friendly, especially when paired with expensive stems of flowers.



Using vases and containers

Usually, all we see in flower vases are the stems of bouquets. However, a large clear vase can be a display case for much more. Root vegetable and fruit with hard rind are the best to display in your vases, as the continued exposure to water will not cause them to spoil fast. Fill a vase with bright yellow lemons, or stick freshly scrubbed carrots into a square vase, and use the protruding stems as greenery for a rose arrangement. Limes, celery and radishes all work well underwater. Cranberries submerged in a vase make for a festive holiday arrangement. Make sure to change the water frequently, at least once every two days, to avoid it turning cloudy. You can use a melon as a container flowers will drink up the juice.

The containers to use to show off the fruit and veg to best effect are rustic urns and baskets or low flat dishes which avoid the need for puncturing the fruits or adding stems to fix in place. Here are two examples our members made in 2018 in a 'Still Life' workshop.



General principles

Create faux stems, by securing the fruit with cocktail sticks or bamboo/metal skewers wrapped with green floral tape, floral wire and tape you can create a faux stem that will make arranging produce much easier in an arrangement. Using two sticks will stop the fruit spinning in the arrangement. TIP : If it already has a stem, keep it!

Make large produce your focal point. Bigger/rounder produce like pomegranates, pineapples or artichokes, should be placed in the centre of your arrangement, this will prevent the arrangement from falling over, while creating balance.

Support, Support, Support! Heavier produce will need extra support in an arrangement, the easiest way is to insert two or three barbecue skewers and use oasis, placing the large objects in the arrangement first. You can also use heavy gauge flower wire.

For an airy effect, add vine grown fruits. Grape vines or blackberry branches easily add an effortless flow, movement and height to any arrangement.

To prevent discoloration, like in apples, pears and bananas, dip them into lemon juice. For stain-prone fruits, like pomegranates and berries, leave them intact and away from light coloured linens.

Keep the arrangement hydrated. Adding water into your vase may be a bit harder with fresh produce, make sure you mist the top to keep them looking vibrant longer.

There's always a con, and flowers may bloom faster. Certain fruits, like apples, speed up the blooming of flowers, so keep that in mind when using delicate flowers, like peonies and tulips.

Be careful not to eat vegetables or fruit that have been in water for long periods of time, especially when exposed to cut stems, as they may have absorbed unhealthy or poisonous sap.

Using floral foam with pumpkins or other large veg

To create a pumpkin vase arrangement, start with wet floral foam. wet foam helps to anchor heavier elements: apples, artichokes and mini pumpkins. You can make a small pumpkin arrangement, adding a piece of wet floral foam on top of your pumpkin, securing with a frog and oasis fix rather than cutting your pumpkin to make a vase for your flowers.

Cut your pumpkin and remove the insides and seeds. It can be rinsed with a weak solution of Milton to slow down bacteria from rotting the pumpkin. Dry thoroughly, overnight somewhere warm, if possible.

Next, line the pumpkin with plastic or florists' film to keep any additional water from the oasis away from the bottom of the pumpkin to keep it a little drier, helping it last longer. If you wedge your foam in tightly, you won't need floral tape to hold the foam in place.

Avoiding floral foam

You can wedge a bowl or plastic container in your pumpkin to hold water and flowers instead. To hold the heavier elements fit a large pin holder with oasis fix (reusable) in the base of the container *before you add the water*. Scrunch chicken wire with large holes and place in the container or place the straight wire mesh over the container and secure with oasis tape - clear tape is available for the best effect. Do all of this before adding water as the elements will only stick if dry. Moist sand will also hold thin stems in place.

You can make your arrangement a couple of days in advance, keeping it out of direct sunlight and cool, to slow down the evaporation process. Misting it with a spray water bottle occasionally will help keep your flowers looking fresh.





STOP PRESS!



ASHFORD FLOWER CLUB

The Christmas demonstration by Stephen McDonnell on Friday, 12th November will take place at –

**St Simon Stock RC Church Hall,
Brookfield Road, Ashford TN23 4EU**

All other details in the previous issue of Kent Floral Art magazine.

Information/tickets from Sue Speed –
sue.speed@me.com
01580 441914



Hartley & District Flower Club Diamond Anniversary **By Christine Jenkins**

We had a great evening lots of fun and laughter and Our Kent Area Chairman Gill Smaggasgale was there to help our President Barbara Russell cut the cake. We had a members Demo as it was our first meeting since the pandemic struck so we were not sure if it would go ahead .



Romney Marsh celebrate a late 60th Anniversary by Anne Luckett

Romney Marsh Flower Arrangers should have celebrated their 60th anniversary in 2020 but as everyone knows 2020 was a non event year.

It was decided to keep the plan of having a National demonstrator as part of our celebrations, but move the event to 2021.

The club has only 30 members so to book a National Demonstrator is a rare event for us. David Thomson was the chosen demonstrator who agreed to the booking in 2019 and even up until June 2021 it was still unsure if we could go ahead and if we did would the members come, plus the cost of flowers and fuel were rising fast.

We were delighted that our first meeting in August had a good attendance of around 75% of the members, and again in September so it was thought that with a few visitors we would have a reasonable audience. We informed David that if we were lucky we would have 30 people and he did not need to over fill the stage with flowers so that flower costs could be kept down. We expected a big loss on the night, even though nearby clubs were told of the event, we have never had a big response, so imagine our surprise when just over 30 visitors arrived.

David was also amazed and felt he should have done a larger show, but each and everyone of his arrangement was of a different colour and large enough to be seen clearly to the back of the hall. He kept us entertained with what he had done or not done during lockdown and certainly educated those new to flower arranging on how to look after their plant material and tips on flower arranging. The winners of the raffle were hard pressed to decide on their favourite arrangement.

This was a very successful event for us as we did not make the expected loss. And what more could we ask for than a lovely afternoon with friends and beautiful flowers. So thank you David and everyone who joined us on Wednesday afternoon for our celebration of 60 + years.



Kent Workshop October 2021

We're back! We held a lovely workshop in October with Helen Hare at Hollingbourne. Members created different designs using flat cane, Helen is an excellent teacher and very inspirational. The day was well attended and enjoyed by all, at the end of the day Gill Smaggasgale Area Chairman presented Helen with certificates for her Teaching Qualification which she studied for during lockdown.

Next workshop 29th November 2021 with Kathy Stangaard at the Ashford Rd Community Centre, Thanington Road, Canterbury.

By Cicely Finnis Educational Rep



Workshop pictures from Cicely Finnis







**FOLKESTONE FLOWER
ARRANGERS' CLUB
CHRISTMAS DEMONSTRATION**

TRUDI EASTON

A BERRY MERRY CHRISTMAS

AT

HAWKINGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

HERON FORSTAL AVENUE

HAWKINGE CT18 7FP

ON

WEDNESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2021

AT

3.00PM - DOORS OPEN AT 2.30PM

TICKETS £10 - INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS

AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

FLOWER AND CHARITY RAFFLES

**SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MASKS REQUIRED
AS PER GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES**

WORD LADDER

ANSWERS

One solution -

LEAF – LEAD – BEAD – BEAM –

SEAM – SWAM – SWIM – SWIG

- **TWIG**

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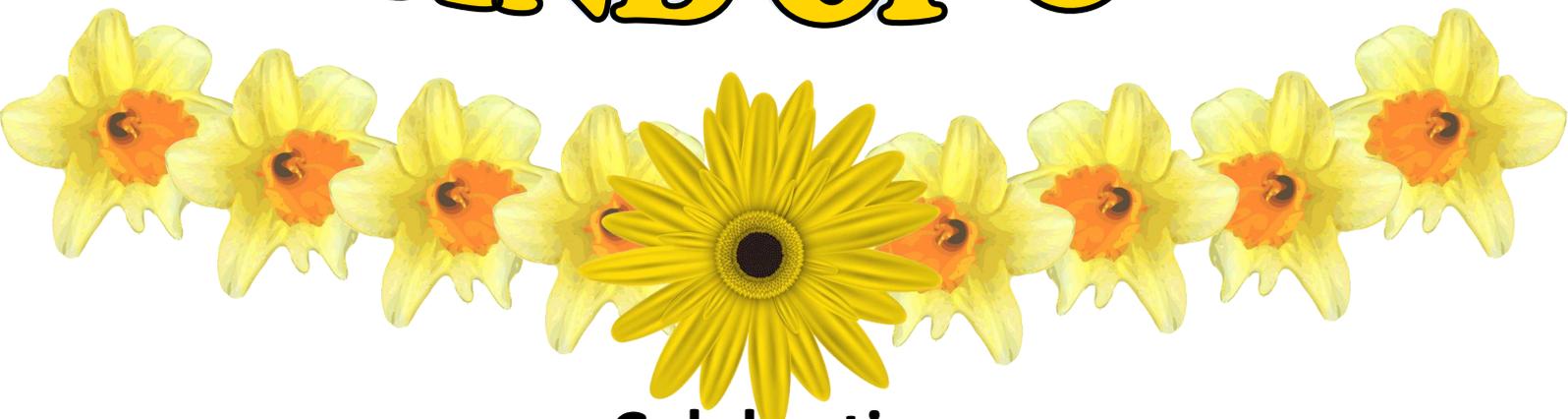
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A BAND OF GOLD



Celebrating

Herne Bay Flower Club's

50th ANNIVERSARY

With Demonstrators

ALAN SMITH & LEE BERRILL

**Join us from 7pm for refreshments and raffles
at All Saints Hall, Church St, Whitstable, CT5 1PG
Doors Open 7pm.**

THURSDAY 17th MARCH 2022



**Tickets £10 per person
Contact: Anna 07824376878**





This back page is to thank all those members who took the time to send in the content for this issue covering Autumn and showcasing exciting events leading up to Xmas 2021.

Many thanks from your editor KM - kmw598@aol.com



Kent Floral Art is the operating name of the Kent Area of Nafas which is affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies- Charity Number 1101348

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year