



The Kent Floral Art Newsletter 2022 including articles from '21.



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

An Welcome from your Kent Area Chairman

Dear All

It was a real pleasure to see so many of you smiling and laughing at JDSE&P Day.

It really seems like normality is resumed.

As I am writing, I am looking forward to being inundated with your designs for the Kent Floral Art Virtual Daisy Chain. It is about all joining together and celebrating our love of all things floral. If you do not know about it, then do let me know and I will send you details.

Once we have all your designs, they will be posted on the website and our Facebook pages so do take a look and enjoy being part of the family of Kent Floral Art.

Also to look forward to is the newly named Kent Flower Club Day (Members Day), Another chance to meet up and enjoy another day of Friendship Through Flowers.

It is going to be a really wonderful day so do book your tickets early.

The summer also brings us the Area Show and the County Show.

Have you considered competing or stewarding?

Just do it (or come and marvel at the designs).

Some sunshine to go with all of these events would be fabulous but our being with our flowery friends will brighten the day even if the weather is not kind.

Best wishes to you all

Gill Smaggasgale

Chairman - Kent Floral Art

A Big Thank you also from your Editor KM, the following articles cover some news from 2021 as well as lots of information on Club previous events and reminders of events to come from those clubs and also the Area.

Without these being forwarded to me :- kmw598@aol.com this newsletter could not go ahead.

So please keep them coming as there will still be Summer and Autumn News to follow !

Many thanks again to all those clubs who have contributed .

K M Williams

Kent Floral Art Newsletter Editor

Dressed for Christmas

The emphasis tonight is on FUN.

These miniature designs are suitable for anytime of the year and can be used in multiple ways e.g. as a corsage, a tree ornament, to decorate a gift.



You will need for the base, firm thin cardboard such as an Anthurium box or two layers of a tissue box. It needs to be strong enough to support the other items.

To decorate a small amount of wool / twine or similar to wrap around cardboard. Glue. A very few tiny items to decorate top e.g. artificial plant material, beads, wires, feathers or long lasting plant material such as ivy, conifer, sedum, Skimmia, seed heads.

If making a corsage something to attach to your attire e.g. safety pin, corsage magnet or decorative pin.

If hanging from a tree or bottle, matching ribbon, wool or string.

A pencil to shade board which is a similar colour to wool can help mask the base (optional).

A couple of round objects such as lids to draw around to make shape on card (Approx sizes 3-3½" and 1½") and a pen / pencil.

Please also bring table cover, rubbish bag, small scissors e.g. nail scissors to cut out middle and scissors to cut plant material.

I will also bring some cardboard, wool and decorative bits that you can use on night (a donation to hospice appreciated if using these items).

As usual these are just ideas ... anything goes!

Happy gardening & flower arranging

Sue xx

sueshawflowers@btinternet.com

In late November 2021, I was doing some tidying up the garden - clearing leaves etc. from around my contorted Hazel. There is a clump of ornamental grasses just behind the tree, against a fence. I decided that all the dried leaves and dead foliage should be removed so the air could get to the crown of the grasses. I started to rake out the leaves with a small hand rake, when suddenly I was startled by a bird. This beautiful bird was hiding amongst the dried foliage and was as startled as I was and tried frantically to get out of the way. I stopped doing what I had started and gave it some space.

I had never ever seen a bird like that in my garden. It was a mottled brown, about 32cm long - with stunning camouflage.

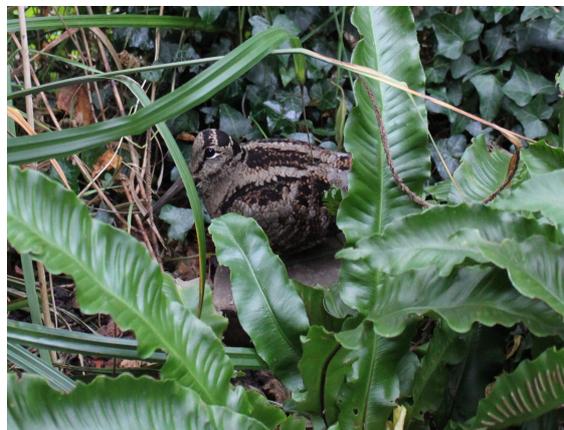
I rushed indoors to get my bird book and after comparing it with the pictures, I saw it was a Woodcock!! They are very rare in my neck of the County, so I felt blessed that it had chosen my garden! It had a long tapering beak and camouflaged to hide in the under/over growth - which is why I didn't see it until I disturbed it. Pictures were taken of it and I left it alone. Checking every so often to see if it was injured. The camouflage was such that it could barely be seen amongst the plant material.

I was concerned that cats or foxes would get it, so kept an eye on it. By late evening it had left - but I will never forget the thrill of having it for just a few hours!!!

Woodcocks are rare as they are hunted for food by humans. What a shame it would be if this beautiful bird would become extinct!!!!

I have attached a photo of it while it was pretending it wasn't there! and as you can see the camouflage is amazing !

Wishing everyone a Very Happy New Year and Very Good Health
Sincerely in Fun Friendship and Flowers



Presented by Linda Clatworthy

Ashford Flower Club Event in November 2021

Ashford Flower Club held a Floral Art Demonstration by Stephen McDonnell. Was lovely seeing everybody back together after many months in lockdown. The evening was full of fun and laughter, a long awaited get together.

We have now moved permanently to Godinton Village Hall, Loudon Way, Ashford.



Presented by Tina Winterbottom

From Anne Prebble of Shadoxhurst Flower Club

Hello Everyone

It was so good to see so many of our members and a number of visitors from Romney Marsh, Folkestone and Ashford clubs to see Gill Smaggasgale (Kent Area Chairman and demonstrator) create some amazing displays (of which I won one!).

Her theme was 'Have You Ever Stopped To Wonder'? Gill started her demonstration with a brilliant poem which she tells us she wrote as a child all about Christmas with its trials and tribulations. She entered it into a Blue Peter competition. She didn't win which was a great surprise as it was brilliantly written especially bearing in mind she was a child at the time. She said she wrote it to music but wasn't prepared to sing it!

The evening started with mince pies, Christmas cake and mulled wine. At the end of the evening once Gill's creations had been drawn, we sang happy birthday to one of our founder members (the club was founded in 1965), Una Knott who on 17th December will be 90 years young we presented her with a card made by Sheila Lonton and a birthday cake. Una rarely misses a meeting or any other event we are holding. She came along to the Shadoxhurst Christmas Fair last week bringing with her a lovely creation for our floral tombola.

We wish Una a lovely day which she will spend with her family.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy and Healthy new year and let's hope its better than the last 2 years. We look forward to seeing you all in February. Please do your best to encourage any friends to come along to any of our meeting

The Birthday Girl 90 Years young December 2021



Ashford Flower Club Workshop December 2021

Ashford Flower Club held a workshop in December creating items for sale to raise funds for the club, it was well attended and a great success for the end of the 2021.



Designs for Xmas detailed by Sue Shaw created by Maidstone Flower Club



Presented by Pam Hayward

Hamstreet Junior Club who have other talents too !

Here are some photographs of one of our Junior Flower arrangers. Jack has been a member of Hamstreet Primary Academy since we started and absolutely loves it. !

He is so keen

However, I didn't realise he was a dancer too?

He took part in the Ballroom Finals at Blackpool Winter Gardens

We are very proud of him as are his family.

I look forward to the return of the Junior classes.

Ann Prebble Junior Liason Officer



Vanguard Club Special Events

Vanguard Contemporary Design Group

Celebrate 25 years of Fleuramour

Departs Friday 23rd September 2022

3 Days
by coach & Eurotunnel
£6319 sharing
£379 sale
occupancy
includes entry to
Fleuramour & Meise
Botanic Garden





Itinerary-

Day 1, Friday 23 September Home/Liege
Early morning pick-up from your local area (times and pick-ups to be advised). Travel to Folkestone to catch a morning shuttle to Calais (departure time pending). Arrive in Calais and proceed through the French border into Belgium to Hardek, where we will make a visit to Thomas Home & Garden Inspiration. Following our visit we make our way to our hotel near Liege Airport, our base for the next two nights, with dinner and breakfast included.

Day 2, Saturday 24 September Full day at the Fleuramour Event
The 25th edition of Fleuramour will take place once more in the grounds of the Alden Biesen Castle in the small village of Rijkhoven and a special birthday celebration is planned. This annual event is an extravaganza of floral fashion and design, from traditional to contemporary, with exhibits of artistic genius from across Belgium and beyond. Feast your eyes on the ingenious displays of colourful creations as you explore this floral treat, besides taking in the impressive surroundings of the Alden Biesen Estate itself. Return to the hotel following the event, with time to relax before dinner.

Day 3, Sunday 25 September Liege/Meise Botanic Garden/Home
Depart hotel after breakfast to commence our journey back to Calais, stopping firstly at the Meise Botanic Garden (entry cost included). Established in 1958, this is one of the largest botanic gardens in the world with an extensive collection of living plants, many of which can be found in the magnificent greenhouse. Refreshments can be taken at the Orangery Restaurant before re-joining the coach for the journey back to Calais where we catch a late afternoon shuttle back to Folkestone. Arrive back at pick-up points in the late evening.

To enquire or request a booking please contact :-
Inesqui Arnold - Tel: 01238 642519
Email: inesquiarnold53@hotmail.com

The Park Inn by Radisson Hotel, Liege Airport
This modern, functional hotel provides good accommodation at a reasonable price and has within easy reach of Alden Biesen and the Fleuramour event.

- 100 modern bedrooms with private facilities, hospitality tray, wi-fi, air conditioning, flat screen TV and hairdryer
- Modern Restaurant and Bar
- Lifts
- Four star rated

What's included:

- ✓ 2 nights' stay with 3 course dinner and hot breakfast
- ✓ Return executive coach travel and Eurotunnel fare between Folkestone and Calais
- ✓ Full day visit to Fleuramour Event and entry to Meise Botanic Garden on Day 3
- ✓ Driver services throughout

*Prices shown based strictly on a maximum of 30 group members. Increases to £318 sharing with 26 to 34 group members.
Sole occupancy supplement £60
Optional insurance: £52 (includes Covid cover)
Deposit £20 per person due 1/9/22
Balance due 28/7/22
Booking conditions apply



Tour details are subject to change and have been arranged in conjunction with just for groups!

The Old Bakery, Queens Road, Norwich NR1 3PN
01603 888740 www.justforgroups.co.uk





VANGUARD CONTEMPORARY CLUB

PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION



Demonstration by
International Floral Designer
World renowned Master Florist

IOACHIM EREMA

Tickets - £23
VANGUARD MEMBERS £18

Ticket includes
A BOXED LUNCH
TEA OR COFFEE
VARIOUS STALLS
BAR OPEN



Ditton Community Hall, Kiln Barn Rd, Ditton. ME20 6AH

Sunday June 5th 2022.

Doors open 12.30pm, Demonstration 2pm



Email — dianacooper@me.com for tickets

Committee Day March 17th 2022

What a fun filled day for our committee members throughout the county!

Over 80 members wended their way, enjoying fabulous weather for mid-March, through the Kent countryside to Hothfield village hall near Ashford. I think everyone agreed it was a beautiful venue with inspirational photos of the surrounding area through the seasons adorning the walls.

Our Kent Floral Art Chairman, Gill Smaggasgale and her team had organised an activity filled day for chairmen, secretaries and treasurers plus other committee members who could attend. I still don't know how they fitted it all in.

Fuelled by a delicious variety of cakes, from the getting to know you exercise; through arranging the single pieces of plant material we had all brought into one arrangement per table (see the photos in the gallery in ww.kentfloralart.co.uk); the informative breakout meetings for each group and the practical workshop run by Jean Hoar we were entertained, occupied and learned a great deal - and this was all in the morning session!

We had chance to catch up with old friends and those we had just made during lunch before Sue Shaw took us through images and experiences of Kent's involvement in the Chelsea Flower Show over the years. It provided wonderful memories for those who have been members for ages and showed more recent recruits what amazing times Kent NAFAS – now Kent Floral Art – had achieved.

To round off the day and emphasise the points made during the morning Gill then gave us a full interactive demonstration based on subject dear to committees' hearts, our role, the financial aspects of our clubs, publicising our events, caring for our demonstrators, speakers and judges, encouraging 'stepping up' and our overarching mission, friendship through flowers.

Throughout the demonstration we were able to suggest ideas that had worked and make comments on our experiences running our clubs. All in all an inspirational day for our hardworking committees, well done to all concerned.



Presented by Pam Hayward

A workshop by Robin White February 24th 2022





Hamstreet Primary Academy after school flower club member, Jack Barrell was asked by a villager if he would be able to create a basket of flowers for a Mother's Day gift. Jack willingly obliged and this is his creation.

Well done Jack, we hope you continue with your creative skills when you move on to Secondary school in September including taking part in our church flower festivals.



Mother's Day 2022



Lyn Buller's Arrangement



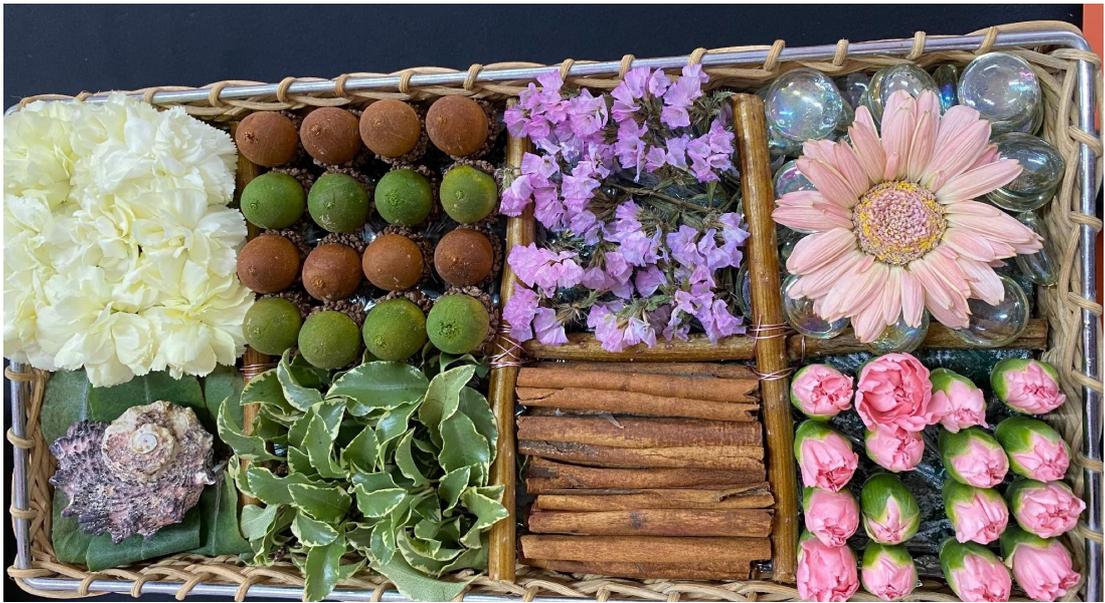
Penny Barnes Arrangement

Beautiful Arrangements from Deal & District.

Something New for Shadoxhurst Club

In May 2020 we were due to celebrate our Emerald (55th) anniversary with Robin White. Of course, due to the pandemic we had to postpone the event but 2 years on we are pleased to say Robin will be our demonstrator for our 57th anniversary at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th May t Shadoxhurst Village Hall. For more information, please contact our Secretary, Gaye Sim on 01233 732212. Everyone will be welcome !!







Dartford Floral Club

On Friday 4th March members of the Dartford Floral Club said a fond farewell to one of its founder and honorary members Lucy Whelpdale. Her funeral was held at St Michael's in Wilmington the village Lucy had lived for all of her 90 years unbelievably in the same house.

The family asked Dartford Club to arrange some flowers for Lucy and Sharon Bridger made a beautiful basket of flowers which was placed at the entrance to the Church.



Lucy was such a huge part of Dartford Club attending the demonstrations, workshops, and competitions. Her arranging style was delicate and traditional just as Lucy herself was. Lucy was always to be found at the registration table, taking charge of the raffle. It is anybody's guess how many thousands of tickets she must have sold and folded in more than half a century with the club.

It was wonderful that last year the club were able to celebrate Lucy's 90th birthday along with its two other honorary nonagenarians. Dartford Club has indeed lost a very treasured member.

Lucy (in the centre), with Betty Taylor (left) and Barbara Ripley (right) at 90th celebration





Romney Marsh Flower Arrangers **Diamond Anniversary plus one.**



November's demonstration by Chelsea award winning Elouise Hasler-Stott, showed us more natural environmentally friendly ways to arrange flowers. Using many different varieties of foliage and berries to enhance the flowers, this resulted in arrangements that could be achieved by the members. She entertained us with her stories about her business providing flowers for weddings, corporate functions and shop fronts/windows.

The afternoon finished with a 60th plus one anniversary cake and bubbly, a good end to the year.



Left to right: Elaine Maughan Treasurer, Anne Lockett Secretary, Jean Allan past chairman and Gill Singfield Chairman

Deal & District are entertained by Helen Hare

After 18 months of getting by on Zooms, garden get together:s and the like, it was so nice to finally meet up as normal in the Cleary Hall on our normal Club night on the third Thursday in the month.

At first we were a little unsure if anyone would come along, but we were delighted to see 23 members arrive for Helen Hares demonstration tilted " *Happy Times* "

Good weather allowed us to keep the back door open in the hall which allowed good ventilation, and we encouraged members to wear a mask but most choose not to.

The chairs were spaced out and hand sanitiser was available. No beverages were offered.

A new norm / future meeting procedure may be?

Helen entertained us with sharing her personal memories of happy times and linked those memories into her beautiful floral arrangements which were so colourful, varied and the use of unusual foliage and flowers was remarked upon.

A raffle was held at the end and Helens arrangements were won by a lucky few to be enjoyed at home.

It was wonderful to hear laughter, see beautiful floral designs emerge, a thoroughly enjoyable evening spent, leaving us wanting more !!

We look forward to to more fun and entertainment in 2022 so Happy New Year to all.





Presented by Angels Sheehan of Deal & District Flower Club.

Hythe Flower Club



Our April Meeting was organised by our Lady President **Gill Trice** the theme **Recycling**.

Gill Demonstrated how you can use almost anything and everything to produce Eye-catching and delightful displays.

Our members rose to the challenge with alacrity, producing some fantastic arrangements in containers ranging from

Empty egg boxes, dog food containers, tin cans ,ice-cream cartons, washing up and bleach bottles.

Everyone set to the task with relish and did not disappoint, as I hope you can see from the photos of the evening.

Presented by Freda Cardwell

Sue Shaw's Show Tips & Tricks, Beginners and Improvers, although in retrospect she thought a better title was
A Crash Course in Show Work!

It would be true to say that Penny and I set off to Thannington Without, with a little bit of trepidation! We arrived with our foliage and a sketchy idea of what was expected of us. Sue was very welcoming and relaxed and explained that her two passions were teaching the basic skills of flower arranging and helping people to speak publically. I think you will agree that I need a lot of help with the former but none with the later!!!!

There were people from the following flower clubs: Tonbridge, Herne Bay, Gravesend, Canterbury, Ashford, Faversham and of course Deal.

Sue explained about interpreting the title and suggested Google and a Thesaurus to really get this right. She explained that it was quite common to lose points if an arrangement did not reflect the title adequately, so it was important to get it right. This was probably why Penny and I cowardly decided to interpret 'Mother's Day'!

She felt that on balance it was best to go with your original idea rather than keep changing your mind!

Sue said to consider the use of accessories e.g. if they were taken out does the arrangement still interpret the title? Does the container help to interpret the title? Always consider how plant material meets the brief e.g. tulips in spring and chrysanthemums in autumn. When considering a base to put your arrangement on, it is best not to use something square, as this draws the eye to the corners. Curved bases are better and the colour should complement the arrangement. Natural materials are preferred. Plant material is better than fabric.

Disqualification is most common because there is too much non-plant material and size. Points are taken off most commonly, for not interpreting the title and a lack of balance, including top heavy, proportion and colour.

To keep your arrangement the right size, she suggested cutting the dimensions out of a piece of card, so that you can keep checking as you do your arrangement.

It was then time to start arranging. Everyone else had competed at least once and set too with confidence. By this point Penny and I had lost whatever confidence we had managed to conjure up and stood like rabbits in headlights for at least five minutes! Eventually we realised that this was getting us nowhere and finally got going. All I can say is that Penny and I were so lucky to have each other; we took it in turn to bemoan our fate and the fact that Penny had coerced me into taking part, swear at our arrangements and generally wonder why we were there! However we also encouraged and supported each other and managed to have a laugh. The important thing being that Penny was moving house next day and our little foray into the world of competitive flower arranging hopefully managed to give her a little respite!

The three 'judges' wondered up and down behind us and an hour or so later time was up. We had a quick peek at the other entries and with trepidation went and sat outside in the sun for lunch, commiserations and a good gossip!

Then judgement hour! One of the first things Sue said was that only two people had put the title on their arrangement and this was a very good idea. Hurrah, that was me and Penny and there was much nudging of elbows going on between us! Sue started at one end and was so positive and supportive that we began to feel a little easier but by the time she got to us, the last but two, we were ready to bolt.

But surprise, surprise, she was very complimentary and even said she was moved by my interpretation of my Mum's button box, the only thing I have of Mums'. She gave helpful advice

such as taking off the petals of the gerberas to create button shapes and raising the arrangement so that the tin itself was more visible. Penny's was also well received, a beautiful spring time wreath to celebrate both Mothers day and her Mum's birthday which often coincided. Sue suggested not using cellophane as it detracted from the plant material and moving the mother's day card to the inside of the wreath. Phew we did OK and boy, were we relieved!

In all, a really good day with excellent company and companionship, advice, praise and lunch and all for £20!



Lyn's Mother's Day



Penny's Mother's Day



We are proud to be NAFAS' exclusive travel partner
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Unique Tours for NAFAS Members & Supporters of NAFAS

LAST CALL - don't miss out joining!

Friends, Romans & Countryside, a floral adventure with
NAFAS Chair Katherine Kear, in beautiful city of Bath
7-9 July 2022

Look forward & plan ahead

NAFAS National Show at Gloucester Cathedral
12-14th May 2023

As experts in floral travel, ECT also offers a fabulous range of holidays for flower lovers and garden enthusiasts everywhere!

Come with us and discover unmissable events such as Keukenhof Gardens, Fleur Amour Alden Biesen, and a series of inspiring hands-on workshops with some of the world's leading floral designers. We also have some wonderful garden and floral related visits on our tours to India, Singapore and the Caribbean.

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STOP PRESS CHANGE OF VENUE

Member's Day has moved to Elham Village Hall

and renamed – Kent Flower Club Day

Mindful of the ticket price for this year it was decided to change the venue to somewhere allowing packed lunches.

Resulting in a ticket price of just :-

£15

Excellent value for topflight entertainment with **Tricia Stewart**, instigator of the alternative WI Calendar, whose story was made into a film and played by Helen Mirren.

Picnic lunch (on the terrace if weather permits)
followed by

Delyth Price

National Demonstrator and twice Chelsea Gold Medal Winner !
Will be wowing us with an extravagant flower demonstration.

So, invite a daughter, grandchild, a lonely neighbour or friends to join us for a fabulous day in Elham, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Bar, pre-loved stall, Kent Trading, Arthur's Stands, Raffle

Saturday 16th July 2022

Tickets from your club chairman or genista.spencer@gmail.com



Kent Floral Art invite you to
'Kent Flower Club Day'

**Original
'Calendar Girl'
Tricia Stewart &**

16th July 2022
open from
10.00am

**Delyth Price
National
Demonstrator**

Elham Village Hall
High St
CT4 6SX

bring a packed lunch

Tickets
£15
from

genista.spencer@gmail.com

