



The Newsletter for members of the Kent Area
Virtual Demo's, Castle's and Gardens visited.
Plus forthcoming Area Events

A look back at Summer 2021



Hello Everyone

As our clubs are starting to open up again, I hope you are all enjoying meeting up in real life and enjoying seeing and using the wonderful plant material. Zoom has been a good stop gap enabling us to keep in contact but there is nothing like being in the same room as each other and with the flowers and being able to enjoy their colours and perfume.

Talking about a new start, you will have noticed that our Kent News is now called the Kent Floral Art News. At a recent Counsel meeting, it was agreed to change the operating name to Kent Floral Art. Our official name is still the Kent Area of NAFAS but we hope you agree that our operating name will be attractive to the general public and will fit with what we hope to be able to do in raising the profile of the Kent clubs.

To go with our new name, we have a new logo. This has been produced by the combined efforts of John and Seb Arnold (husband and son of Jacqui Arnold). I am sure you will agree that they have done a fabulous job – a very talented family. Thank you John and Seb. I think it looks fresh and contemporary whilst also having a touch of traditional too. Something for everyone.

Our logo includes our watchwords “Friendship Through Flowers” and I am sure as we get back to clubs we will enjoy catching up with our flower friends and hopefully making new members welcome.

I look forward to seeing many of you soon. Don't forget that you can catch up with what is happening with Kent Floral Art by checking the website, www.kentfloralart.co.uk, or by visiting our Facebook pages Kent Floral Art or Kent Floral Art Forum.



Best wishes to you all from Gill Smaggasgale Kent Area Chairman

It's been so uplifting to attend actual live club meetings. I realise, that in the end, it's the flowery friendships and chats we've missed so much. Looking forward to seeing many of you at JDSE&P day.

With good wishes to all from Cecilia Sleep – Vice Chairman.

A look back at the Kent Garden Show 2021

It was reasonably attended over the long bank holiday weekend , speaking to Mig Kimpton they were pleased with the turn out although low on the Saturday, the weather was exceptional which was the advantageous. There were many great winning designs all available on the website and face book so I have only chosen some which were my preferences to place in this look back.....by KM



1st Robin White,
Most Innovative Design.



VHC FOR SUSAN SHAW FOR THE 'IN THE PINK'
CATEGORY

My 1st for the 'moonlight 'category the Kent Garden Show.

I set myself two objectives to achieve by taking part in the show;

Artistic ;to create an exhibit that was quiet and slightly eerie, like a wood at night where a shaft of light illuminates the trees .

Personal development: to improve my painting and gluing techniques in order to be able to use tubes and do without oasis.

The log was found on a walk in a very dirty condition. I had to clean it up, treat it with wood hardener and three coats of yachting varnish in order to make the log look like the light was reflecting on the bark.

The flat cane swirls, that represented the movement of the light ,took awhile to perfect .

I found by switching from contact adhesive to UHU glue

I could achieve a much neater finish ,because UHU glue is strong and dries clear and invisible if you make an error.

I experimented with camouflaging the stand with paint, only to find that a smooth finish without paint brush strokes was achieved best with Matt paint and a tiny roller instead of using a paint brush.

The base was covered in brown bark chunks (found in a shop bought Orchid pot.)

The bark chips provided a lovely texture and camouflage to the stand.

The simple flowers used to represent the shaft of light where 3 creamy white Dendrobium Orchids plus a tiny spray of white Gypsophilia.

The dark spots in the shaft of light where created by using bobbles of Dried Craspedia died black ,with a black painted stem.

We had to bring our work ready prepared to the show this lead to me using more dried materials than previously planned. I tried to create the eerie feeling of a wood at night, with some lovely wispy dried grasses called Stipa Panata grouped to look like they were ruffled in the wind. Dried white bleached Ruscus finished off the look of leaves illuminated light.

The moon was hung behind the log ,to prevent it being too dominant and it was made to have a textured Matt finish with blotting paper, paper mache.

The colour scheme was chosen to be minimal, cream, brown and black, as I was told by a very experienced flower arranger last year that; less is more.



Marion Matharu of Ashford Flower Club.

A Vanguard Workshop with Linda Porrett.
March 2021





Vanguard Contemporary Flower Design Group

Vanguard is Kent Area's Contemporary Club. We meet 5 times a year and our meetings are held on Sundays starting promptly at 10.15am at Sutton Valence Village Hall under the expert tutelage of International Designers, NAFAS National and Area Teachers, National Demonstrators, Floral Designers in flower related artistic design.

Since the Covid 19 restrictions last year, we have been unable to meet, maintaining contact with our members via the internet in various ways. Initially our Committee proposed various challenges each month to encourage participation in creating designs to photograph and share on our Face Book page. More recently we have enjoyed contact via Zoom holding two of our scheduled workshops with designers, Nick Grounds in January and Linda Porrett in March demonstrating new ideas and techniques. We were encouraged to utilise these at home in our own designs which when completed were shown as a collective Album on our Face Book page.

Now that lockdown rules are easing, we are keen to resume our live Workshops, planning to go ahead with Kathy Stangaard as our Tutor and in with International Floral Designer Hans Haverkamp.

Vanguard extends a warm welcome to new members and membership is open to any Kent NAFAS Flower Club member who has some experience in flower arranging and who would like to develop their skills in Contemporary Design. For further details please contact our Secretary Cecelia Slep by email cecelia_slep@hotmail.com

Presented by :

Sheila Whitfield

Hartley & District Flower Club Obituary

It is with great sadness I report the passing of a very special member of our Flower Club, Catherine Ann Griffiths (Ann) who passed away peacefully at home on the 3rd July 2021.

We all knew Catherine as Ann, she joined our club in the seventies and was a dedicated Committee members for many years.

Ann went on to become NAFAS Flower Arranger Officer for many years, while still very involved with our club, doing Flower Festivals and Fetes in our local area.

Ann moved from New Barn to Luddesdowne on the day of the big storm which I am sure you all remember.

Peter (husband) and Ann were very involved with the St Peter and St Paul's Church in Luddesddowne where she organised a number of Flower Festival's.

It was at this church that her funeral was held on Wednesday 11th August . .

Some of our members did the flower flowers in the Church for her Funeral. As you can see elegant flowers for an elegant lady who was loved by all who knew her.



RIP Ann

In Loving Memory



Catherine Ann Griffiths

15th April 1936 - 3rd July 2021



Taken at Leeds Castle Ann is on the left side with Enid Scott in the first and is centre of the group top right.

Sent in By Christine Jenkins Hartley & District Flower Club

Paddock Wood 40th Anniversary Celebrations.

We had a finger buffet, cake, made by our programme secretary, and Prosecco. The cake was cut by Doreen who has been with the club for 25 years. This was followed by a super demonstration by Graham King. We were delighted to welcome specially invited guests, by Vera Rees.



A Garden perfection as featured.....



Deal Town Gardens



Start from any town car park (signs from here). 88 West Street: A non water cottage garden with perennials, shrubs, clematis and roses, shade garden. 4 George Alley: A pretty alley leads to a secret garden with courtyard, leading to a vibrant cottage garden with summer house. 4 Robert Street: A small walled garden divided into four areas. Bedding plants, perennials, shrubs, trees, mature bamboos and water feature. 8 Robert Street: A walled garden with an added bonus of a verge overflowing with colour. 16 St Andrew's Road: A tropical themed walled urban garden with large sun-drenched borders, lawn and family seating area.

Lyn Buller

It was lovely to see so many Flower Club Members at Deal Town open gardens on Sunday 4th July.

We had 435 visitor and raised £2700, this was match funded by Black Rock (one of the other garden owners work for them) so the final total was £5400 for the National Garden Scheme charities. What a wonderful achievement.

Deal & District for the National Gardens Scheme.

I am a member of the Deal & District Flower Arranging Club and also the co-ordinator for the National Garden Scheme, Deal Town Gardens:

This will be our sixth year of opening for the NGS and even last year we managed to raise nearly £2000 in July, with timed, social distanced visits. We usually have 600-700 visitors in a day and to date have raised £21,000 for the NGS charities.

It is always a great day and I always look forward to seeing members of our club who are very supportive. All the garden owners pride themselves on being available all day to talk to our visitors, naming plants, answering questions and on occasions showing people how to prune roses! In 2019 I accidentally sprayed all my nineteen roses with weed killer, they were a sad sight on the day, but provoked much conversation! The following week some people who had visited on the day turned up, they were so upset about the roses and one brought me a replacement rose bush, another a huge bunch of roses from their own garden. The roses survived thanks to the brilliant Uncle Tom's Rose Tonic.

Every year I also do a private opening for Guide Dogs for the Blind, my son is visually impaired and I know how difficult it can be to visit gardens on a usual open day. So I guide people around the garden as a sensory experience, most of them are keen gardeners and they often go home with some plants for their wish list.

We usually open on the last Sunday of June 11-5. We have at least five gardens open every year and they are all within an 8-10 minute walk of each other. Every garden is on the small side and they are all different, so a great way to get ideas for gardening in a small space. Keep an eye out for us the Kent NGS booklet 2022, we will be back!

The NGS link to the Deal Town Gardens, where you can see photos and information about of all the gardens, is:

<https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/33070>

Last year I was contacted by a garden journalist called Nicola Stocken. Nicola had seen our garden on the National Garden Scheme website and arranged to visit in July 2020, during lockdown. She spent ten hours in the garden, we expected a few hours as it is a small garden 45x25 ft, but she kept finding things of interest.

She told us that she could not guarantee the pictures would be used but we got to keep all the photos she had taken, so it was win-win really. She contacted us earlier this year to tell us that there would be an eight-page spread in June's Womans Weekly Gardening magazine. The article is entitled: Pocket sized perfection.



How to Arrange a Demonstration { or not } during 2021.



Deal & District Flower Club had arranged a demonstration with Sophie Leathart on the 15th July as per the programme schedule for 2021. It was decided that it may be wise to plan to hold the demo outside, partly because restrictions were limiting the amount of people that could gather inside, but also because members may be more comfortable to attend if it was performed outside. The club's Treasurer Heather kindly offered her garden as the proposed venue. Thankfully Sophie was very amiable to the situation and plans were put in place to accommodate the proposed demonstration titled "*No Foam Floral Flourishes*" in Heather's garden. However, four days prior to the event sadly Sophie had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances. The options were to cancel the afternoon completely, try and get a replacement demonstrator, or just meet up as planned and make it more of a social tea and cake afternoon. Many phone calls later including one with Mig Kimpton (a member of our club, but was unable to

help due to work commitments) and after a chat with Gill our Area Chairman who advised that it would be extremely difficult to get a demonstrator at such short notice, but suggested contacting Sue Shaw to see if she could perhaps do a talk on a flower related subject. The odds were stacked against us as even Sue was going on holiday that week! Cancelling entirely was not an option, so discussions were had amongst the Committee and one suggestion was to ask members to produce something for the Kent Area Virtual show titled "Summer Holiday". Carol (a committee member) came up with the idea to ask the members attending to bring one thing that reminded them of a summer holiday, it could be a flower, foliage, a fragrance or an item. Two teams of 10 were randomly selected after retrieving either a picture of a rose or a daffodil out of an envelope. Two identical containers were placed on two separate tables and each member took turns in placing their chosen piece into the arrangement and gave a brief discussion on the reason or the associated memory with their choice. It was a very pleasant social afternoon, great fun and the two arrangements were very colourful and unique. Feedback from members that attended was very positive. In fact many commented on how nice it was to meet up, have a bit of fun with some flowers then enjoy a good natter, a cuppa and some delicious homemade cakes!



First photo is team Daffodil, the second photo is of team Rose's arrangement.

Presented by Angela Sheehan.

News from Shadoxhurst Flower Club

We had a lovely August meeting with Patricia Ellis as our demonstrator.

It was so good to be back after 18 months.

Almost all our members attended and said they felt very comfortable with the precautions we had taken, i.e. disinfected the chairs, hand sanitizer on entry, masks worn until seated and the doors were able to be kept open thanks to the lovely weather on that day.

On Wednesday 1st December we will be looking forward to Gill Smaggasgale as our demonstrator. Her theme is 'Have You Ever Stopped to wonder'. So Shadoxhurst Flower Club would like to invite you to our Christmas demonstration :-

We are trying to stagger arrivals so please arrive between 7pm & 7.15pm so we don't have everyone arrive at the same time. Hand sanitizers will be available, chairs will be spaced well apart and disinfected. Please wear your face covering until seated. You may wish to bring a drink as we are not opening the kitchen at the moment.

Tickets for visitors are £8.

So we have an idea of visitor numbers, Please let Gaye Sim know on 01233 732212.

We look forward to seeing you.

Anne Prebble

Sevenoaks Flower Club

We were inspired by our four demonstrations on Zoom earlier in the year but returned to holding meetings at our newly re-furbished Otford Memorial Hall in June when Covid restrictions eased. (*Photo 1 – Complying with Social Distancing*)





(Photo 2 - Socialising in August) 46 Members and guests enjoyed a Tea Party in August; a special event organised by our wonderful Committee, to celebrate the next phase of 'returning to normal'. Denise Thompson, Designer Florist, entertained us and shared her 'Ideas for a Garden Party', followed by a delicious cream tea and of course, the raffle.

Photo 3 - Kent Area Chairman, Gill Smaggasgale. (in yellow)

Photo 4 - Shirley Monkton, Denise Barrett, Margaret Smith and Eileen Boer
We were inspired by our four demonstrations on Zoom earlier in the year but returned to holding meetings at our newly re-furbished Otford Memorial Hall in June when Covid restrictions eased. *(Photo 1 – Complying with Social Distancing)*

Sent in by Gillian Hogg of Sevenoaks Flower Club

Walmer Castle and Garden July 2021

by KM

The Castle was the home of the Queen Mother as the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, (the 5 ports of the south coast } it is a cosy small rooms castle more like a large manor house than a castle
the first eye catcher was the Kitchen garden, very much a cottage garden with flowers and fruit and veg. Escalier Pears, figs ,cucumbers, and an apple orchard.
The cloud pruning surrounding is lovely too.



The Broadwalk was spectacular from both ends of the displays, again cottage in style with verbena, sedums, foxgloves and standard roses with lots of colour, later influenced in the style of Gertrude Jekyll.

I was intrigued by the original moat by William Pitt now a relaxing grassed surround with plants, fuchsias and trees planted by Wellington when he was resident, a fig and a Grandiflora Magnolia. All set against the magnificent backdrop of the castle wall



The Queen Mothers Garden as seen from both ends of the Islamic pond with fish and water Lilies surrounded by box hedge trees and floral borders



The Gardens change with the seasons and I recommend an afternoon visit, the cream tea was lovely to and the staff friendly and guides very informative explaining far too much for me to include !





A visit to Highclere Castle / Downton Abbey by KM

The Hydrangea Border outside the restaurant



There were many borders with immaculate grass and plenty of seating, allowing rest and lovely views.



Above the White border and the colourful border to the side of the greenhouse

A glorious landscaped garden and castle you must visit.

On a sunny Sunday in August we ventured to :-

Downton Abbey or should I say Highclere Castle

The Castle looked glorious as we parked up and joined the queue entertained by a policeman on stilts, joking and answering history questions, once inside we were greeted formally by the Countess who likes to meet everyone who visits which added extra charm to the start of the tour.

No photography was allowed inside but each room was elegant, some of them have photographs from scenes of Downton on easels with helpful guides to answer questions allocated to each room.

Briefly the entrance hall has high columns flanked with marble circular columns, the Music Room was floor to ceiling tapestry behind glass { which could not be used on the set of the drama because of reflections}.

This room also has a baroque ceiling, like Michaelangelo's.

Napoleons's desk made by Jacob Frere resided here too.

This room also previously held the Egyptian Collection.

The pale green drawing room had many family portraits and elegant 'meissen' china, the Morning Room was a ladies room with rose chintz furnishings and cream walls adorned with 'Langlois' Parisian furniture & small bowls of flowers.

The red staircase held portraits from 1877 to modern ones of the Carnarvon Family Dynasty.

The most impressive was the gallery both from upstairs looking down and downstairs looking up with marbled arches and various family shields and tapestries.

The upstairs bedrooms were all different with pictures depicting which room was used by which character from the Fictitious Downton Abbey Family.

The Oak staircase -[which was used the most when filming] was built by Sir Charles Barry around 1842.

The Egyptian Exhibition holds copies of various artifacts such as Tutankhamun (the boy pharaoh) joining together Egyptologist Howard Carter and the 5th Earl of Carnarvon who spent 16 years working and financing the archeological sites finally discovering unimaginable treasures in 1922.

Highclere has a fascinating collection to admire- the beautiful chair and the gold casket surrounded by wall art with fine Egyptians in gold and turquoise.

We were reminded of our holiday in Egypt back in 2019.

The park and the gardens were also enjoyable, the Hydrangea glorious as a wall border with a white garden, and many wide floral borders and an impressive Lavender Rill was also lovely set against the arched wall.

The gardens are set out as by the great landscape designer's Sir Capability Brown whose bust is under a tree to the side of the Castle, there are also many other buildings;-

The temple of Diana, The Etrusian temple & Heaven's Gate.



A postcard picture of the lovely Gallery



Avril's Workshop by Cicely Finnis

We eventually managed to complete the Show Work Course with Avril which started in February 2020, after having to close we eventually reconvened on 19th July 2021 for the final 3 sessions

Unfortunately some who started the course were not able to complete the last three weeks and we had one participant join for the last 3 weeks! It was frustrating for both Avril and the students but we got there in the end! Students went through preparation for a show, interpretation, producing show quality exhibits each week from full table top designs, pedestals, parallel, petites, still life, and many more.

Bapchild village hall proved to be a good base, as with all village halls – busy! [Cake by Nicola Prior}

1st design by Marina Thorne



Pink Pedastal by Dee Hickman



Paper Still life by David Williams



Design on cloth by Diana Cooper



Designed by Sheila Brown



Designed by Marion Martharu

Below design by Jean Hoar



All white by Kay Harris



Design by Liz Topwala of Wateringbury



below Design by Janet Henley





Nicola Prior with her pink pedastal

Article and Pictures

from Cicely Finnis Education representative

TALES FROM RURAL FRANCE

On Monday 14th June 2021, Ashford Flower Club were delighted to be entertained (via Zoom) by Tricia Bashford, who had been a member of Ashford F.C. before leaving Kent in May 2019 to take up residence in rural France.



As many members of Kent Area will know, Tricia and her husband Barry had purchased an extremely old tumbledown cottage, with walls that were either collapsing or being held together by the Ivy growing through them, and eight acres of land which consisted of very little other than heavy clay soil with large rocks and neglected trees and weeds. Their mission was to turn this into a beautiful home with productive and attractive gardens. Yes, we at Ashford also thought they were crazy!

Two years later, accompanied by almost 100 photographs, Tricia returned to show us that the tumbledown cottage has now been transformed into a very attractive and comfortable home with all mod cons including solar panels along one side of the roof.



We saw the raised beds being constructed, which included massive amounts of donkey manure, polytunnels being erected and even saw the results of their first harvest, which was huge. We saw animals that frequent their eight acresand so much more.

Tricia also took us on a look around the area, and showed pictures of several popular villages including Beaumont-du-Perigord holding its regular village fair, Moliens, a very popular village with the tourists, especially English tourists, Beynac which has a castle high above the village, and Lalinde which is a 15 minute drive from Tricia. We saw lovely sights of the beautiful Dordogne River, which also runs close to Tricia's new home.



There is still a massive amount of work for Tricia and Barry to do, and we are hoping that in another two years, or maybe less, Tricia will return with another 100 photographs and the next installment. Meanwhile, we are pleased they have settled in so well and we wish them many more years of happiness and enjoyment in rural France.



Ashford Flower Club



ASHFORD FLOWER CLUB

INVITES YOU TO

**PAINT THE SKY
WITH STARS'**

a seasonal floral art demonstration

by

Stephen McDonnell

**Friday, 12th November
2021**

**(ASHFORD VENUE TO BE
CONFIRMED)**

Tickets - £10

Contact – Sue Speed 01580 441914

sue.speed@me.com

**This event could be subject to any Covid
regulations, which may prevail at the time**

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A floral adventure in Bath with **Katherine Kear**
7 - 9 July 2022

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Speaker's Test

Come and Support our Candidates

30th October 2021

Sutton Valence Village Hall ME17 3HS

**Tickets £5 available from Genny Spencer
genista.spencer@gmail.com 01227 732008**

Doors open at 9.30 to be seated by 9.50

Bring a packed lunch



This thank you page is to all the members who contributed to this newsletter looking back on the Summer of this year, with thanks for all the content received.

Please be advised the next issue should be available to read by the November AGM therefore please forward any articles to me by October 14th.

I really hope we can be presenting a printed magazine in 2022 as it would be nice to have a physical copy in our hands hoping that the clubs have been able to resume meetings, demonstrations, and other Floral Events !!!

Many thanks to all.

KM

kmw598@aol.com

Kent Floral Art News

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