From Our President…

Our 45th Anniversary Year has been one we shall well remember for some time to come. Members’ Day in May was very special and we celebrated with an interesting talk about Orchids followed by a tasty lunch, complete with an Anniversary cake. Afterwards, James Burnside did a wonderful demonstration “Through the Garden Gate”.

Later, as August drew to a close and after much planning and preparation, we went into overdrive with our Area Flower Festival, “Jewels of the North” in Durham Cathedral. It proved to be a spectacular event, with an enjoyable preview evening and followed over the next six days, by a tremendous flow of visitors. Afterwards, a very large congregation attended the special NAFAS Songs of Praise service bringing the Festival to a meaningful close.

May I thank everyone who took part in the event whether arranging, essential watering and stewarding, or by support through attendance, often bringing both family and friends.

A final thank you, to our Festival Designers Pauline Lund and Judith Clancy for their inspiration, artistic merit and execution of such a massive project. To repeat the Lord Lieutenant of Durham’s remarks in a recent letter, “NAFAS did it and did it well!”

Best wishes to you all as the festive season fast approaches.

Helena

Bournemouth National Show

Kathleen Dodds  
First in class

Pauline Lund  2nd. in class

Jean Foxcroft  3rd in class

Dreda Forster, Rita Braithwaite and Sally Brass were all commended.

Photography

Anne Maw  gained  
First and second in class.

Elaine Foreman gained 2nd, highly commended and a commended.

Congratulations to ALL who competed on behalf of the Area. See pictures of the designs on the Area website.

Introducing our Area Second Vice Chairman

Pamela Greenhill

Pam joined Rowlands Gill Flower Club in 1972. She has been Treasurer. Programme Secretary, and now is Chairman of the Club.

She started teaching flower arranging in 1978 and retired in 2009.

She passed her Area Demonstrators test in 1992.

She was Area Teachers’ Rep. for 4 years and became Area Archivist in 2010.

She enjoys entering show competitions and was “In house” flower arranger at the Gateshead Shows for many years.

The Teapot Story

read all about it in the ‘News’ section on the Area website.

Sapphire Celebrations May 2013

Pictures from Members’ Day, our special Anniversary event. The pictures show the gathering and cutting of the main cake, each table having their own cake to cut.

STOP PRESS….. Have you seen our new website? All news items including Area Competition results and pictures also a large selection from Durham Cathedral ‘Jewels of the North’ are now to be found at www.flowersnorthumberlandanddurham.co.uk

Stannington Fund Raising Day

An afternoon was arranged to raise funds for Durham Flower Festival towards travel expenses.

A cookery demonstration was followed by a floral demonstration given by three of our members. The individual designs are pictured to the right whilst the ‘Ready, Steady Designs’ are pictured above. The event proved popular, so much so that another is planned for September 24th 2014. Details will be released in the New Year.
National Show Bournemouth, 2013. To enter any competition is exciting and a challenge, but what about representing the many highly talented members of Northumberland and Durham Area, at the National Show at Bournemouth?

Audrey and I were thrilled to accept, but also quite anxious at the challenge ahead of us.

“Fete Champetre” was the title and research came up with lots of alternatives – A French garden party – Festive entertainment out of doors - A gathering, Country Feast, Pastoral Festival, Outdoor entertainment, picnic; our minds were filled with all kinds of ideas. We made a list of materials that were interpretative, Sunflowers, Lavender, Agapanthus, Deep purple roses, burgundy Carnations, peach Avalanche Roses, green Anastasia and Craspedia, the colours were exciting and then we thought about Hay! We had recently enjoyed a workshop and the Hay technique could be adapted to create a group of hay figures, which would definitely enjoy and be at home at an “Outdoor French Garden Party!” The technique involves binding lots of hay very tightly onto a metal spike and so we were grateful for a fine day and our group evolved. They were all different, in height and form. The tip of the spire could be turned and moved and this allowed them to look as if “they were talking to each other”.

Arriving at Bournemouth it was so good to see familiar faces and the stewards and officials ensured that everyone was made welcome. The car was unloaded of the bodies, which must have looked strange wrapped in old sheets, and we were very relieved to see how well our flowers had travelled. Next morning at 6.30 we started and dressed each ‘body’ differently and the tips were tightly bound to link the fabric and flowers throughout. The flowers were repeated through the design, complementing the hay. Each figure developed its own character and nick names soon became appropriate.

The time went by so quickly. We really appreciated Philida arriving with a drink, and words of encouragement. The competition was very strong and there were some excellent exhibits but unfortunately we were not one of the lucky prize winners. However, we received very positive and encouraging comments from the Judges, which was our reward, and knowing that we had done our best, and not let the Northumberland and Durham Area members down.

Many thanks to everyone who made this possible and for the words of encouragement and praise, it was an amazing experience.

Susan Hall and Audrey Foster.

Area Workshop with James Burnside

His workshop was held on the day after Members’ Day.

The picture shows him working on his two designs. All who attended enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and his teaching skills.

Another workshop is planned for May 2014 following Members’ Day. This will be taken by National Demonstrator John Chennell.

Morpeth Flower Club

placed this Admiral Collingwood design in Morpeth Town Hall. The occasion was the unveiling of the bust of Collingwood.

National Flower Arranging Day

May 2013

Hurworth Club

Tynemouth Club

in the local hospice

in the local hospital

Four members from Gateshead Flower Club attended the “Liverpool Happening” in early September, organised by the North West Area of NAFAS. It was a very happy social gathering of members from many Areas mostly made up of those who regularly attended the annual Assembly. The venue was the Adelphi Hotel which was enormous – we all had single en-suite rooms and the public areas were splendidly elegant although gloriously faded from its heyday. The food was excellent, delicious, hot and varied and we had the opportunity to ferry across the Mersey, go on a Magical Mystery Tour and enjoy the Gala night at the “Captain’s Table”.

Sandy Bailey gave a most breath-taking demonstration, there was entertainment each evening, the opportunity to attend a workshop with Christina Curtis and the week ended with a humorous presentation by Josephine Yates and Gerry Reid.

Liverpool is not perhaps the first choice as a holiday destination but we were amazed by the sights we visited in our free time - two magnificent Cathedrals, the revitalised Docklands and waterfront, the Beatles mementos and of course the Liver Birds. We had such a good time meeting up with old friends and making new ones that I sincerely hope this is not the last opportunity to enjoy a gathering of NAFAS members for fun, friendship and flowers.

Miriam Holmes.
TYNEMOUTH Flower Club
celebrated with a Golden Anniversary Dinner on Wednesday 10th July at the Tynemouth Golf Club.
Our first Chairman, Barbara Walker was a guest together with Pam Greenhill from Northumberland and Durham Area.

PONTELAND FLORAL ART CLUB
On the 7th May 2013 the club celebrates its 50th anniversary at a special lunch attended by (left to right) Pauline Lund President, Mavis Turnbull Life Vice President, Wendy Davis National Chairman, Anne Codd Chairman. In July, we had a wine reception and demonstration by Barry Grey attended by founder member of the club Dorothy Blair and club members.
In November our demonstrator is Tracey Griffin N.D. including a wine reception and in December Ian Buxton N.D is our Demonstrator followed by coffee and mince pies.

WHITLEY BAY FLOWER CLUB
Ethel Harrison was presented with a cake, flowers, cards and balloons to mark her 90th birthday. Everyone at our club enjoyed the special tea, which followed our practical meeting in June. Ethel founded Whitley Bay Flower Club in 1985 and since that time she has held numerous offices on the committee. Ethel retired from her post of vice chair in January 2013. She remains a committed member and has a life times experience with flowers to share with other members. She has devoted so much of her time to our flower club.

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DUNELM Flower Club
The Club held their bi-annual competitions on June 20th.
We had 19 Competitors and 34 exhibits. The Judge, Audrey Foster, was very impressed with the standard of the competition and said she had a difficult job. There were 8 classes and 13 trophies.
Our Area President, Helena Johnson won several Trophies and best in show was won by Angela Burnip.
The evening started with the viewing followed by a buffet, presentation of trophies and entertainment.

LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB A VERY SPECIAL YEAR!!
Celebrating our 40th anniversary!! 89 ladies joined us on Friday 28th June for a very special Open Evening Demonstration in Lanchester Community Centre. The demonstrator was Kathleen Marlor her theme was ‘Celebrations’. Kathleen provided us with a wonderful entertaining and interesting evening her arrangements, which she themed on pages and chapters of books and our lives a very clever way to portray flowers. All flower arrangements were raffled much to the delight of all the winners. Helen Tomlinson the Club Chairperson warmly welcomed the Northumberland & Durham Area President Helena Johnson and Philda Irving Chairperson who came along to join with us in our celebrations.
A lovely supper was served all freshly made sandwiches home cooked scones and of course pink champagne. Derwentside College students, once again helped with our celebrations, providing a wonderful celebration cake, a fruit loaf and sponge cake which were enjoyed by all. There was a lovely home produce stall run by Gillian Harrison and friends. We would like to extend our thanks to them all.

DARLINGTON FLOWER CLUB
The Club have enjoyed the celebrations for the Emerald Anniversary by arranging a lunch for members at Bannantynes Hotel in Darlington. Members had a really delicious lunch, followed by cutting the celebration cake and an enlightening talk by Catherine Hart on hats. The cake was cut by Jane Currie, Chairman and Peggy Sampson, President.
The evening started with the viewing followed by a buffet, presentation of trophies and entertainment.

FROM AROUND THE CLUBS

WANTED information and pictures on your Club events. Please send to the Editor Elaine Foreman 9, Ryelea Longhoughton Alnwick NE66 3DE or e-mail elaine.foreman@btinternet.com. Website information any time. Closing date for the next issue is April 25th 2014.
JEWELS OF THE NORTH

Pauline and Judith would like to thank all members of the Area who contributed in many different ways to making the Durham Cathedral Festival so successful and enjoyable. We were delighted with the outstanding work and the enthusiasm with which it was undertaken. It was a privilege to have such an opportunity and we are most grateful to you all.

The CD of photographs is now available £5.00 from Pauline.

Have you seen the photographs from Durham Cathedral on the website yet?

STOCKSFIELD SOUTH OF TYNE CLUB

Diane Fair
National Demonstrator from Cheshire
“The Magic of Christmas”
Friday December 6th. At 7.30 pm.
Stocksfield Institute Community Centre, Stocksfield
Tickets £8.00 from 0191 4133100

Area Education Day.

Two designs from the recent workshop.

Speakers Residential Course.

This was held at Keele University in August. The aim of this event is to develop speaking skills even further through discussion and lectures. “Fun but hard work”

Area Dates 2014

February 17th  Council Meeting  Gosforth
April 14th  Council Meeting  Gosforth
May 29th Please note THURSDAY
Members’ Day  Lancastrian Suite: Dunston NE11 9JR
May 30th Area Workshop  Plawsworth
June 16th Council Meeting  Gosforth
Other dates….
May 2 National Flower Arranging Day
June 18-22 World Show DUBLIN (WAFA)

Where shall we go tonight?

Club Events link on the Website could provide the answer.
There is a list of events for Open Demonstrations there for you to check.
Yours is missing? Contact your Club Chairman to ask them for yours to be included…free of charge.

CONGRATULATIONS

to our three new Area Demonstrators who passed their tests recently in the N.W Area.

Heather Curry
Sean Murray and
Katie-Jane Pridmore.

NAFAS

National Emerald Anniversary Weekends 2014

Two separate weekends have been planned.
7-9 November Park Hall Hotel Chorley Lancs.
21-23 November The Hilton Hotel Swindon

Details and application forms can be downloaded from the NAFAS National website following the ‘Future Events’ link.

AREA CAPTION COMPETITION

Can you write an apt or witty caption?
To promote the Area website we are asking for a caption for one of the Durham Cathedral photographs. It is the final picture of the Festival link.
Please send your ideas to Newsletter Editor. A small prize will be given. Judges decision final. Closing date January 15th 2014.

Area Archivist

Has anyone any old programmes from Area Festivals, Members’ Day or other area event tickets, photos, Club diaries or albums you are prepared to donate to the area for posterity?
If so please contact Pamela Greenhill 0191 4132366.

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