

Surrey NEWS LETTER



We have today received a letter from

Nancy Murphy, FASNZ, WAFA NZ President and
Marion Shaw Secretary/VP, WAFA NZ advising:-

“The WAFA NZ Committee regretfully

informs all WAFA members that the WAFA NZ
World Show has been postponed until 2024. This
follows lengthy discussions between the Floral Art
Society of New Zealand (FASNZ), WAFA NZ
Committee and WAFA Ltd.

Due to the Covid-19 uncertainty around the world,
the very sad affects on people's lives and no doubt
WAFA members too, plus the travel restrictions, it
was felt that it would be very disappointing if a much
lower number of members would be able to attend
in 2023.

It was not an easy decision to make, but one we feel
is in the best interest of all involved and means the
WAFA NZ Committee can concentrate on producing
a great WAFA NZ World Show in 2024 that can be
enjoyed by all.

The Board for WAFA Ltd have approved extending
the FASNZ and WAFA NZ tenure to 2024 and the
World Show be held in 2024.”

Hello Everyone,

Here we go again still doing
Zoom committee meetings,
virtual shows and demonstrations
to keep us entertained.

What would we do without that?

Thank goodness we have some very talented people
willing to share in our Surrey Area.



Fortunately there is light at the end of our tunnel and
with the vaccine we will - in time - all be able to enjoy
each other's company again. Clubs are beginning to
plan ahead and I got very excited to receive an invitation
to Aldershot's Show later in the year.

It is a great shame that our Members' Day had to be
postponed but it will be worth the wait.

In the meantime we can all admire the designs posted on
the Surrey Area website. They are all impressive -
creative, beautiful, clever - and I know the time and
work involved would have been considerable

I am really anticipating some spectacular designs when
the virtual National Show opens to viewings. The
show's title is, “The Happy Time of Singing Birds is
Come”, which is intriguing and we will all look forward
to Monday 26th April when the many interpretations of
that theme will be revealed.

Best wishes for your 2nd vaccination and a healthy and
enjoyable summer.

Linda Travis

**Surrey Area
of NAFAS**



www.surreynafas.org.uk

NATIONAL FLOWER ARRANGING DAY

FRIDAY 7TH MAY 2021

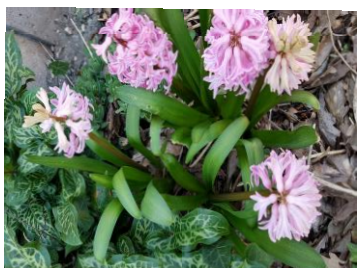
Will be going ahead this year with changes necessary to fit in with current policies nationwide. Please encourage all members you come in contact with to join in. We are using our homes to firstly mark the day but maybe more importantly to give a little cheer and sign of hope, maybe remembering the saying: "If you hold a flower close to your heart you will see only beauty and hope".

The task is to put 'something floral' on a front door, front gate, front fence.... you will get the picture. Use whatever there is in your home that can be seen from the road and path.



We cannot have people picking up posies left in public places so this is our best option. You can make of it what you choose, a single bloom and bow, posy on a gate, basket on a gate post, swag on a fence or a wicker ring on the front door. The latter proved so popular when we did our 'Rings of Hope' last summer for the NHS. Some clubs told their local newspapers so the same could be done this time. Have fun creating and please share your creations with us.

Katherine Kear
National Chairman



HINTS ON USING AGRA WOOL

With a ban from the RHS on using floral foam (Oasis) in their shows added to a real desire to help the environment, we have a few hints for members on how to use Agra Wool. There is an article in the Spring 2021 issue of the Flower Arranger by Hans Haverkamp which is also very informative. Here are a few ideas which might help when using Agra Wool for the first time. Pat George has investigated the use of this product and with ideas from Pip Bensley and Jonathon Moseley has written the following.

- 1 Cut to shape when dry and use a sharp knife. Do not chamfer the edges of the block.
- 2 When inserting stems, they will move more in the layered sides of the block rather than the top, thus making it feel more unstable.
- 3 For softer stems, use a kebab stick to make holes first. Constant pushing in will weaken the area. Lots of stems inserted into a small area of the block will weaken it.
- 4 Larger exhibits will need support - e.g., Wrap twine around the block, making a grid which will support it. Chicken wire is excellent. Some form of structure to attach large plant material to. It may be helpful to pack the blocks of Agra Wool tightly into your container.
- 5 The block takes up water very well and quickly, releasing it to the flowers effectively. The flowers will last as long as in Oasis. It is suggested that you do not over soak, as the block could get too soggy and less easy to insert stems. The best way is to pour water over the block rather than put it into water as we would have done with Oasis.
- 6 Plant material will need to be conditioned well for it to last.
- 7 Flowers of heavy headed blooms or tall stems (over 40cms/16") may need more support. If you want to insert a flower at an angle in your design, insert it in a slightly more upright angle because it will relax and move down.

Pat George



Flowers for Ham House

Come and join us for a totally stress-free couple of hours.

Volunteers wanted to arrange flowers for Ham House during the summer. The arrangements are done on Friday mornings from 9.30am every week throughout the summer, up until the end of September. All flowers are conditioned ready for use, we just don't know what we have to work with until we get there.

We usually work in groups of 3 people and it takes us around 1 1/2 hours, although 2 in a group is fine, it just takes more time. All arrangements are done in the basement workshop and consist of 2 large vases and 1 urn for fireplaces and 4 to 6 smaller containers, no Oasis. Ham House staff place the arrangements in situ.

At the moment each group can expect to do arrangements every 3 weeks, however if we have more volunteers it will be less frequent. Parking is in the car park of the small park opposite the main driveway and is free. The main entrance to the House is a short walk down the drive. You will also get free coffee and a chance to stroll around the gardens afterwards.

For more information contact Anne Hart preferably by emailing atthearts28@gmail.com or telephone: 01932 564835.

Ann Hart

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!

Ham House is going to be featured in the BBC's Antiques Road Show this year, which should be really interesting. We may spot some of our flower arranging friends in the audience. Let's hope they go inside for a few moments and we can see their flower arrangements in the background.



Flowers
For Ham House

WISLEY UPDATE

How delighted I am to tell you that the Wisley Show is scheduled to take place from the 7th - 12th September. 2021 with staging on the 6th September. The schedule and all details can be downloaded from the Surrey Area website from the 26th April. The show title this year is 'On the Crest of a Wave'.

We are creating a safe one-way system in the marquee and would welcome entries from all NAFAS Areas and also from children related to members to take part in the children's class.

The RHS are banning future use of floral foam in all their shows and Surrey Area will be running classes on alternative procedures in the next few months, either in person or on Zoom. Please do support us in what has been a difficult year for us all, I'm sure you are bursting with inspiration and get-up-and-go after such a long hibernation.

Pam Askew

TO ZOOM OR NOT TO ZOOM?

Last year when Covid-19 came along, Malden and Coombe, like all other clubs were unable to meet. Then in the summer we thought that maybe by Christmas we would all meet again, but no. Our committee decided that as we didn't know when things would get back to normal or if members would be comfortable being in a hall with other people straight away, we would look into using Zoom. The first couple of committee meetings and our first club meeting in January we held using the free version but as you only get 40 minutes at a time and then have to start a new meeting, we found that this was really disruptive. We bought the professional version (£144 for 12 months) and this is really good so you don't have to stop and start.

The members have really enjoyed it. They can do an arrangement and then we talk about it or they watch You Tube videos that we suggest on a subject and discuss what they like and dislike. It's nice to see everyone again and we are getting more of an opportunity to get to know our members which can't always be done at club night. The new members seem more confident to ask questions of the more experienced arrangers.

It hasn't always gone smoothly especially when no one joins the meeting and I realise I've sent the wrong joining details to everyone. It's a learning curve but it has been worth doing and we will hold our first demonstration on Zoom in the middle of March.

Alison Honor

Easter
Parade

