



SURREY AREA OF NAFAS

3 Edgemoor Road
Frimley
Camberley
Surrey
GU16 9QG

1st October 2020

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

Well it's the 1st OCTOBER, where has the time gone?! It seems too, that we will not be free of washing hands, wearing face masks or social distancing for another 6 months! So they say.

Well that is even more reason for us all to keep in touch and do what we can to make our lives 'interesting'.

Our 'Virtual Show' is ongoing and just to let you know that the next two titles are 'Contrast' and 'Apple of my Eye' a design to include apples. Photos of your designs can be sent to photosurreynafas@gmail.com by Sunday 18 October when they can be put on the website and Facebook. Good luck with your entries and many thanks to all those who have taken part so far. The results are wonderful and fascinating.

Thank you to all those who 'attended' our Council meeting via Zoom last month and hopefully we will be able to hold the AGM in the same way. We do still need others to join us on the Area team and I know that Clubs are having similar problems recruiting new committee members. Do remember though that without these willing souls we would not be able to continue. So if you want to continue having fun and making friends with flowers, in whatever way possible at the present, we need YOUR help. Please contact me if you feel you can offer some assistance or know someone that might be able to.

The NAFAS AGM is planned for Tuesday 6 October and the Agenda and link has now been sent to all. Please bear in mind that this will be a new experience for all but everyone is trying their best to make things work as well as they can in these difficult times. We might need to put our 'being patient' mask on!

These times have made it all the more important to 'savour the moment' be it hanging out the washing under a blue sky, hearing the birds sing, or watching the 2 year old granddaughter sitting on her granddad's lap, mesmerised, (for a moment) while he reads a story.

Hope you are all keeping safe and well.

By the way don't forget to book the flu jab – off to get mine later – they are going to do it whilst we are sat in the car – another new experience!

Chris Brown
Chairman
Surrey Area of NAFAS

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Surrey NAFAS



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14th September 2020

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

The agenda for the Council meeting next Monday 21 September is attached and details for joining are:-

Topic: Council Meeting

Time: Sep 21, 2020 10:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83611142248?pwd=TWNpdUp0M2EvajVBUS9Zcm5KWnk5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 836 1114 2248

Passcode: 259589

You will need to have 'Zoom' set up on your computer etc. beforehand but it is an easy process - please let me know if you have difficulties. Every member is welcome to 'attend' but so that we have correct details please let Dee (Secretary) or myself know that you will be joining us.

There may be some discussion about the letter from Walton & Weybridge and it would be helpful, and save time, if you are able to email your comments to me asap so that they can be distributed before the meeting. My email address is below but alternatively my tel. no. is 01276 61740 (five figs.) if you wish to speak to me personally.

As per usual a copy of the minutes from the meeting will be sent to all clubs.

Our 'Virtual Show' is ongoing and just a reminder that the next two titles are 'Harvest' and 'Bark and Berries'. Photos of your designs can be sent to photosurreynafas@gmail.com by Sunday 27 September when they can be put on the website and Facebook. Good luck with your entries.

I am pleased to say that I have had some response to my plea for new Area people, which they are considering, but we still need more support so here is the request again.

As for the AGM we are looking for new people to support the Area. Along with someone as Show Chairman, someone to look after the Chronicles, we also need at least two people to take over the Publications and a new Events Officer. I know that this is not a good time for anyone to be contemplating a new role but we do need support. If you think that you could fulfil a role or would like to share it, or you know of someone who might be able to help please let us know. If you would like more information about what the role may entail then please contact me for further details. Who knows you might be just the person for the job!

Hope you are all keeping safe and well.

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9th September 2020

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

The first point I have to make in this letter is that the proposed Council meeting for Monday 21st September will not now take place at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall. In the light of the new rules issued this morning by the Government it has been decided that the best course of action to protect all our members would be to arrange the meeting via Zoom and not meet at the Hall.

It is perfectly understandable if you are not able to join in this way but it appears that it is the best way we can 'meet' at this time. Details of how you may join the Zoom meeting will be issued later.

Along with this letter are some points that will form part of the discussions and also notifications from NAFAS. Please email me any contributions you may have as soon as possible so that they may be collated and distributed to all before the Zoom meeting. (email below)

As per usual a copy of the minutes from the meeting will be sent to all Clubs.

Many thanks to all those who sent entries in to our 'Virtual Show' they look fantastic and I am always surprised to see the wonderful ideas that are produced. It makes for such an interesting art form if we all see things so differently given the same title.

The next two titles are 'Harvest' and 'Bark and Berries', and photos can be sent to photosurreynafas@gmail.com by Sunday 27 September when they can be put on the website and Facebook. Good luck with your entries.

I have had number of emails asking about Affiliation fees so can I remind everyone that Affiliation fees to NAFAS are being paid by the Area on your Club's behalf and that the Area affiliation fees payable to the Area are also being waived. This does mean that there is considerably less income to the Area but Clubs will save. This course of action was decided, for this year only, by the Officers of the Area to support both NAFAS and Clubs. Affiliation fees would have been due to be paid by Clubs by November 2020. It means that all members and Clubs remain affiliated to the Area and NAFAS until November 2021.

As I did not have anyone reply to my plea for new Area people I am sending out the request again. *As for the AGM we are looking for new people to support the Area. Along with someone as Show Chairman, someone to look after the Chronicles, we also need at least two people to take over the Publications and a new Events Officer. I know that this is not a good time for anyone to be contemplating a new role but we do need support. If you think that you could fulfil a role or would to share it, or you know of someone who might be able to help please let me know. If you would like more information about what the role may entail then please contact me for further details. Who knows you might be just the person for the job!*

Hope you are all keeping safe and well.

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2nd September 2020

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

Thank you to all those who replied to my request about the Council meeting at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall. The numbers were very close but we have decided to go ahead and have the meeting there. It will give us all a chance to see how things work out before our AGM in November. The Hall can accommodate 45 people at present with social distancing and with reduced numbers attending we should be well within that limit. There are a number of requirements from the Hall which I will detail in a later letter but it is appropriate at this time to say that social distancing of 2 metres, wearing of face coverings, a one-way system will be observed. I also have to say that no refreshments will be served at the meeting. We will also have to provide a list of those attending for Track and Trace.

I would also like to say thank to those who replied to say that you were not willing to meet at APMH and that your feelings are respected at this difficult time. An Agenda and any relevant information will be sent out to you by email and you will be invited to comment before the meeting. In this way we hope to have all Clubs involved.

We do understand that changes can be made at any time both by you and by the Hall management but I will try and keep you all informed.

As per usual a copy of the minutes from the meeting will be sent to all Clubs.

Just a reminder about our virtual Show and to get your entries in as soon as possible. The next two titles are 'Anything Goes' and 'In the Round', and photos can be sent to photosurreynafas@gmail.com by Sunday 6 September when they can be put on the website and Facebook. Good luck with your entries.

As for the AGM we are looking for new people to support the Area. Along with someone as Show Chairman, someone to look after the Chronicles, we also need at least two people to take over the Publications and a new Events Officer. I know that this is not a good time for anyone to be contemplating a new role but we do need support. If you think that you could fulfil a role or would to share it, or you know of someone who might be able to help please let me know. If you would like more information about what the role may entail then please contact me for further details. Who knows you might be just the person for the job!

Well I must go now and see to the gallons of tomato soup that can be squirrelled away as we have had a glut of these from the allotment, not to mention the apples, carrots, sweetcorn, onions and potatoes. Courgette/marrow anyone?

Hope you are all keeping safe and well.

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24th August 2020

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

Well the weather appears to have reverted to the traditional summer of showers and sun so hopefully the garden will be blooming again.

Just a reminder about our virtual Show and to get your entries in as soon as possible. The next two titles are 'Anything Goes' and 'In the Round', and photos can be sent to photosurreynafas@gmail.com by Sunday 6 September when they can be put on the website and Facebook. Good luck with your entries.

Last week I asked about Club representatives attending a Council meeting in September. To date I have only received a small number of replies and my thanks to those who have done so. However, we do need to know what you are thinking so that we can organise things at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall if necessary. We do need to let the Hall know as soon as possible if we are to hold our meeting. Please would Clubs let me know by the end of the month (Monday 31 August at the latest) if you would be happy to attend. Please email ce.brown@hotmail.co.uk or ring 01276 61740 (five figs) to reply. We will, of course, understand if you feel that this is not possible in the present circumstances and that any decision can be reversed due to changing conditions.

The alternative is to hold a meeting via Zoom or issue a compilation of reports to Clubs at the time.

Have you seen the latest 'Flower Arranger Magazine' – Autumn issue? Mine came the other day as I was lucky enough to win a subscription but there is a whole list of companies that supply fresh flowers to your door with most listed as being grown in Britain. Just the thing if you cannot get to the florist or garden centre. Plus there is an article on WAFA and the techniques used around the world which is so interesting particularly at the present time when it is easy to confine our outlook to the four walls of home. The other article that I found useful, particularly as a judge, was the 'Focus on Still Life' and it is good to see that some Shows are including this style in their schedules. There are lots more articles and suggestions in the magazine, even some for our own virtual Show, so it is well worth ordering from your local club as there is a substantial discount when you do this.

Hope you are all keeping safe and well.

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17th August 2020

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

How nice to have pleasant weather back again – we have had some real rain too (not just the drops – yes literally drops) this morning so hopefully the plants will recover. The hot weather has meant that the allotment has produced a bumper crop of tomatoes, apples and sweetcorn so I should not complain. We now have enough tomato soup to last the winter!

I hope you have managed to get the entries in to Brenda for the virtual Show, where they will be put on the website and Facebook. Well done to everyone. The next two titles are 'Anything Goes' and 'In the Round', and photos can be sent to photossurreynafas@gmail.com by Sunday 6 September. Good luck with your entries.

I have had a number of Clubs contact me about their membership and how to maintain contact in these difficult times. If you have email then please do contact others in your club, alternatively make that phone call or write a note. I do know that some who are on their own at this time will very much appreciate hearing a different voice or opening a card. A few words can say so much.

Also please remember that our Clubs cannot survive without your membership subscriptions and I am aware that there have been few meetings this year but we do need to ensure that Clubs are able to balance their books.

Our demonstrators too need our support and some are giving demonstrations or talks online via Zoom to keep us up to date with flowery happenings. Most of these are publicised on Facebook 'Friends of NAFAS' and 'Flower Arrangers' and with a small fee you will be able to join in. It will be a chance to embrace this 'new technology'. Is there a member of your Club that can set this up? Some of our demonstrators are self employed and demonstrating via Zoom is their only income so any input from our Clubs and members will be very much appreciated.

It has not escaped my notice that there is a Council meeting scheduled for next month. However, in the present circumstances it may not be possible to go ahead with this. We have heard that the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall may open but there are conditions to be met such as everyone wearing a face covering, adhering to social distancing and any other Government guidelines applicable at the time. We would like to know if Club representatives would be willing to attend so that the Officers and I can make appropriate plans. Please would Clubs let me know by the end of the month if you would be happy to attend? We will, of course, understand if you feel that this is not possible and that any decision can be reversed due to changing conditions.

The alternative is to hold a meeting via Zoom or issue a compilation of reports to Clubs at the time.

Hope you are all keeping safe and well.

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10th August 2020

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

I hope you are enjoying this lovely warm/hot weather. I am afraid it is not my temperature of choice – apart from the dry garden which needs watering all the time – all three waterbutts now empty – the beige lawn - the legs full of insect bites – they even seem to like the 'Jungle Formula' anti bite stuff I splash on – it is so tiring to do anything. Now 23 degrees is well warm enough, sun all day and it can rain all night – what more could I ask?!

There is not much to report this time so I imagine you are all busy with the flower arranging ideas that were given last time. It has been labelled a 'competition' but as there is no judging, or prizes then I suppose we cannot truly call it that. But it is a SHOW - 'Just for Fun' and you are all invited to take part. It is really to give everyone an opportunity to have a go at flower arranging, to keep up our skills and to give our brains a workout with a bit of creative thought. The next two titles which are due to be completed by Sunday 16 August are 'Rustic Ramble' and 'Capture the Moment'. You do not have to do both, either will be lovely and take a photo to send to photosurreynafas@gmail.com Brenda will be delighted to receive them at any time up till Sunday 16 August.

Recently we heard from someone who is loving being able to enter our 'Show' and it is pleasing to hear of your exploits. The pictures put on our website are fantastic too so please do have a go, they provide the feel good factor we could all do with in our lives at present.

We have heard from NAFAS HQ that they are updating our link (The Surrey Area) on the NAFAS website at present so if you have any thoughts or ideas on what we should include then please let me know.
(ce.brown@hotmail.co.uk)

Do please get in touch, I am very pleased to hear from anyone – be it a grouch or something pleasant – it all helps to keep us informed of what is going on and helps us get things right. It makes a change to the *'thanks for the Waitrose order'*!

Hope you are all keeping safe and well.

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29th July 2020

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

Many thanks and very well done to all who took part in our virtual Show 'Just For Fun' The results are now on the Area website and Facebook. The next competition for the virtual Show 'Just for Fun' will be held on 16th August when the titles will be 'Capture the Moment' or 'Rustic Ramble'. You can prepare your entries anytime before then, photograph it and send the picture to Brenda at photosurreynafas@gmail.com, who will keep them until the closing date and then put them all on the Area website and Facebook. They will NOT be judged so feel free to interpret as you wish. Good Luck!

At the NAC meeting on Friday 24th July the following were announced:-

New Trustees to the Board of Directors - **Nicky Wylie**, at present Chairman of Cheshire Area, **Mala Williams**, past Chairman of Wessex and Jersey Area, and **Peter Mathers**, at present a Trustee and Board member having served 3 years.

Vice-Chairman of NAFAS – **Katherine Kear**, at present Chairman of Three Counties and South Wales Area.

National Associates of Honour – **Margaret Rumens, Alan Beaty, Katherine Kear and Sue Davies**.

All will take up their posts as from the AGM in October.

Our congratulations go to them all.

There has been much discussion recently both amongst Officers, Clubs and on social media about demonstrators and Club subscriptions. It is not for NAFAS and Areas to dictate how Clubs deal with these issues as each Club is autonomous. The advice that we can feel free to give regarding the booking or cancellation of demonstrators is to be aware of the consequences of any actions that are taken on both sides. It is far better to discuss with a demonstrator and come up with a mutually agreeable solution rather than perhaps sticking to the letter of the law (or Code of Conduct in our case). It would be very sad if there were no demonstrators left when we are finally free to meet, as may happen if they have had to find alternative work to provide an income. This may also apply to NAFAS teachers.

With Club subscriptions it is a similar story that there may be no clear rules to follow. As Area Chairman I would advise all members to pay their subscriptions in the usual way so that Clubs can have the confidence to plan for the future. I am sure many will say that there have been few Club meetings this year therefore there have been no demonstrations or venues to pay for. However, that may not be the case in every situation – some demonstrators may still have been paid some of their fee, it may be their only source of income, and some venues may have been paid a retainer as part of the booking. Income to Clubs from selling publications and the raffle may also have been lost so Clubs still need our subscriptions even more at this time.

Hope you are all keeping safe and well.

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21st July 2020

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

Have you all taken part in our virtual Show 'Just For Fun'? You have until Sunday 26th July to get your photo's to Brenda, our Photography Officer, at photosurreynafa@gmail.com so that they can be put on the Area website and Facebook. They will not be judged so feel free to interpret the title 'Summertime' as you wish. I look forward to seeing all the entries.

I am sure, like me, you are all looking forward to the time when we can all meet up again and, hopefully, we can soon make plans with a date in mind. Until we are given a date we shall just have to wait and see what the future may bring with all its ups and downs in this situation. We would like to hold the Council meeting in September but as yet there are no official guidelines but we will inform you as soon as possible when we know. We are aware that things will not be the same and, as with all venues, there will be additional rules and guidelines to follow so that everyone is safe. Do make sure that all your members are aware of these too, when you are given the go-ahead to start your meetings again in the future.

There was an NAC meeting on 1st July via Zoom, between the NAFAS Board of Directors and the 21 Area Chairmen. The CEO, Steven Lane made the point in his report that the Feasibility study into Osborne House as our HQ is vital to the organisation to establish if it is fit for our present needs. There was much discussion about NAFAS finances and 4 Areas have still to decide about a loan or affiliation fees, but it does look as if HQ will be able to ride out the situation with many Areas agreeing to pay affiliation fees. The final session gave Area Chairmen the opportunity to say what they were doing during the lockdown to keep members engaged in flower arranging. It was good to hear that there are many positive activities going on in NAFAS at this difficult time and it is realised that to maintain interest in flower arranging we must support each other and try new ways of keeping in touch.

There will be a short NAC meeting on Friday via Zoom where new Trustees of the Board of Directors and a new Vice Chairman of NAFAS will be announced so I will let you know of the results next week. There will quite a few new faces at NAFAS in the future and with our own Dr Christina Curtis as Chairman, NAFAS deserves our full support.

Zoom is a marvellous way to keep in touch, if you can arrange it, particularly with those far away. I am glad that the hairdressers are now open as the unkempt bob look did not suit and I am sure some were thinking 'who is that?' when viewing on the screen. It's much better now my hair is cut back into shape.

I would still like to hear from anyone who has garage space that the Area can use for storage. The email address is below.

Hope you are all keeping safe and well.

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Surrey NAFA



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13th July 2020

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

The first point is to announce our new online virtual Show. Our Officers have been thinking of ways to keep you in that creative mood with flowers and have devised a virtual Show called 'Just For Fun'. Some Clubs and other Areas are doing something similar so we invite you all in the Surrey Area to take part. We will give you a title to work with to create an arrangement that you can photograph and then email it to Brenda Fox, our Photography Officer, at photosurreynafas@gmail.com and these can then be put on the Area website, and facebook for all to admire. They will NOT be judged so feel free to interpret the title as you wish and it will be a good way to encourage newcomers to have a go. This will be an on-going Show and everyone is invited to take part. A new title will be issued every three weeks, so if one title does not appeal perhaps the next one will and you will be able to enter. The first title is 'Summertime'. Please send your entries to Brenda by Sunday 26th July. Please see the Poster with all the details.

I hope you did not find last week's letter about coming out of lockdown too daunting. It must be remembered that at the time of writing the Government guidelines are saying that no more than two households can meet indoors so our club meetings are not possible at present but it may help us plan for the future.

On another point I do hope you are using all our forms of communication to keep in touch with flowery matters. Some other Area websites are awash with various ideas for you to try and there is Facebook, NAFAS - Bringing People and Flowers Together, Friends of NAFAS, Pinterest etc, with articles and images to inspire us. We must not forget our members who do not have access to the internet so please give them a ring or send a note so that they do not feel forgotten. This can still be a lonely time especially for those who are living on their own and with family far away.

At present the Area is paying for a garage to hold all the Area Show staging but we were wondering if any Member has spare garage or other space, or knows of someone who has, that we could use for this storage. Terms would be negotiable but it must be clean and dry and be accessible by a large van. Please let me know if you can help.(email below)

Congratulations to all those Clubs who are celebrating an anniversary this year – it may also be noted that it is the Area's 60th Anniversary too. We have had to put plans on hold for the moment as many of our Clubs have had to do but hope to celebrate in style when we are able.

The allotment and garden keep us busy along with listening to the blackbird that continues to sing along to our endeavours. He must realise that our old cat, who spends most of his time curled up in a sunny spot in the garden, is deaf and doesn't pose a threat.

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6 July

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

What a week – hopefully the leaking sink, George's computer giving up the ghost and the front door refusing to close will be enough for now. Minor problems for some at this time and we must remember those who have really suffered by losing income, freedom or loved ones. We are not out of the woods yet even though things are changing so we must 'keep alert'.

Many Clubs have been in contact asking about re-opening for meetings and how to conduct AGM's. The 'Coming out of Lockdown' guidelines were issued by NAFAS recently and gave very good advice. As all Clubs are autonomous and are able to make their own decisions the Area and the Officers cannot dictate when and how this can be done. However, we would advise the following:-

1. The **safety of members** should be paramount in any decision that is made. Given the age group of many of our members this is most important, but hard to decide. If members are asked about returning they may well want to get back to a more sociable life particularly if they have been isolated or had a lack of meeting up with others. Talking on the phone or emailing is not quite the same as having real company.
2. Follow any guidelines issued from the Government and at the time of writing these have not been given specifically for club meetings. These guidelines can change rapidly especially if there is a 'local' lockdown imposed.
3. Follow any guidelines issued by the venue where your Club usually meets. Although some halls are officially 'open' it may still not be possible for Club meetings to take place according to Government guidelines, and some requirements imposed by the hall's amended rental agreement may be impossible to carry out. Those Clubs that use school halls may also find it impossible to meet there in the future so may have to find a new venue.
4. Contact the demonstrator, speaker or teacher to discuss and possibly re-negotiate if and how they want to proceed. They may not be happy with what the Club is planning. Refer to the Blue Form and the Code of Practice for guidance, particularly for Open meetings which may be taking place for the Festive period. A copy of the Code of Practice is on the NAFAS website, but do email me at ce.brown@hotmail.co.uk if you are having problems with that site and want a copy.
5. Discuss with the Club committee what best suits your Club with the **safety of your members** at the forefront of any decisions made.

AGM

- A. The similar points apply to clubs holding their AGM. The **safety of members** is paramount.
- B. Check the Club's constitution to see what is the 'official' rule is on how and when an AGM can be held. Do be aware that your constitution will have been written without any reference to our present situation and may well need to be amended in the future.
- C. Take advantage of 'modern technology' by using email, ZOOM, and the internet to communicate with members, or postal voting can be arranged for members who do not have access to the internet. There are ways and means that we can use to overcome some of our difficulties in these unprecedented times.
- D. To some who have contacted me about their AGM I have said that I do not believe that 'the sky will fall in' if an AGM is not held at the same time and in the same way as it has always been. This is not being flippant but facing reality as these are unprecedented times and circumstances we find ourselves in. Provided we are doing our best for our members that is all we can do.
- E. Do make sure that any changes to the usual way an AGM is conducted are minuted or recorded in some way. This is for future reference and will form part of your Club's records.

I hope that these points are helpful when your Club is making decisions about the future and wish everyone well when doing so.

NAFAS held an NAC meeting via ZOOM recently with all Area Chairmen and Board of Directors taking part. It was good to hear that in all Areas, newsletters, demonstration videos, quizzes, virtual shows and competitions had been organised either as an Area or Club activity.

In the Surrey Area I will continue to issue a newsletter each week and hopefully we can have some more flower arranging activities arranged for you now that the new website is up and running. Please see www.surreynafas.com for this. Our thanks go to Linda Mumford, our Media Officer, who has taken the lion's share of this work in setting it up.

On a final note of good cheer you may (or may not) be interested to hear that we had our first tomato from the greenhouse on the allotment yesterday. It came off in my hand so had to try it as it was a new variety that we had not grown before called 'Sungold'. It was delicious!

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SURREY AREA OF NAFAS

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25 June

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

On the hottest day of the year so far – can it get any hotter? – I am writing to you all once again. Hopefully, after the issues at NAFAS appear to have subsided for the moment, it will be good to get back to keeping up with Area matters.

The immediate news is that our Area website will be changing next week. We are changing our host and having to rebuild the website. Our media Officer, Linda Mumford will be doing this for us and we are most grateful for her expertise, time and effort that she is spending on this. It is no mean feat and we will inform all of any new website details as soon as possible but please just be aware that these changes are taking place if it is difficult to contact us online.

If anyone has difficulties then please ring me on 01276 61740 (5figs) if you need a speedy reply.

Our JDS&E Officer, Jackie Squance, has also been busy too with making sure our Judges, Demonstrators, Speakers and Teachers have been kept up to date with Statements from NAFAS. Some of our members booked to attend the workshop with Tracey Griffin which was to have taken place in April that was then cancelled, with the monies paid being held over for a workshop with Katherine Kear in November. Unfortunately we have now had to cancel this and so all those who had paid will receive their money back.

At this point I am sure you would all like to congratulate Jane Rickard, our Education Representative, on her appointment to the NAFAS Education Committee and wish her every success when she takes up her post at the AGM in October.

All our Officers have been working hard on your behalf during these months and although we may not have been able to meet physically I am delighted to know that Clubs and Committees have met 'virtually' and even some AGM's have taken place this way. Technology has been very much at the forefront of our lives during this time and it is good that it can be used for everyone's benefit. Some of us may take a little longer to learn how to use it with confidence but we must make use of it while we can.

Some clubs have also had demonstrations via video and some Areas are also providing videos for us to view – please see Wessex & Jersey website each Saturday. If anyone in the Surrey Area wants to provide a video or has ideas which can be used to keep us all in flower arranging mode please let me know.

Finally, I must thank everyone who has emailed or rung me and our Officers over the recent weeks with your views on the Area and NAFAS. The time and trouble you have taken to reply have been much appreciated even if it was not what we wanted to hear. We are now much better informed about how our Members feel and this information will be of use to the Area and NAFAS in the future. We very much depend on you, our Members, for the future of our organisation and it is important that your voices are heard, listened to and understood.

Chris Brown
Chairman
Surrey Area of NAFAS
chairmansurreynafas@gmail.com



SURREY AREA OF NAFAS

3 Edgemoor Road
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4 June 2020

Message to Clubs and Members

Hello Everyone

Thank you to all members and clubs who responded to the Statement of Support issued by NAFAS and my letter about the loan from Surrey Area to NAFAS.

I received over 60 emails and phone calls and in particular want to thank club officers for collecting and collating the responses from their members as well as those who gave very detailed replies. The time and effort involved in doing this is recognised and appreciated.

The majority of responses were in favour of the Area supporting NAFAS in this way. However, there were a number that advised the Area to proceed with caution and to obtain legal advice before any detailed agreement is made. This could prove costly.

There were also a significant number of responses which highlighted the financial pressures that clubs in Surrey Area are facing with a reduced and ageing membership, particularly in the future with the impact of the pandemic and lockdown. This has been noted by myself and the Area Officers.

Having discussed the loan issue with a number of other Area Chairmen it is now clear that a loan is not the only option. Some Areas are contributing the affiliation fees on behalf of their members instead of a loan. This option and your replies have been discussed with Surrey Area Officers at a recent Zoom meeting.

It was suggested that the Surrey Area could pay the affiliation fees from Area funds to NAFAS in September 2020 for 2021 at the 2020 rate – just over £10,000 – on behalf of the members of our clubs. It would be a one-off payment for 2021.

There would also be NO requirement for members or clubs to pay ANY affiliation fees to the Surrey Area in 2020 for 2021 and this includes the Area affiliation fees.

(Clubs have normally paid Area in October and Area have paid HQ in December for the following year)

The advantages of this would be:-

- a) There would be no costs involved to the Surrey Area or NAFAS in setting up a loan, and no future issues about repayment.
- b) It would relieve Clubs in the Surrey Area of some of the financial pressures in paying the affiliation fees in 2020, with all the uncertainties involved, particularly with renewals and collecting subscriptions.
- c) Members and Clubs would still be affiliated to NAFAS.
- d) It would provide support to NAFAS at a difficult time and give some confidence in the future.
- e) It would be an 'appropriate' use of Area funds in this situation. The Officers have looked at the Surrey Area finances and concluded that it would be affordable considering our reduced outgoings.

The Officers hope you will regard this alternative favourably and I look forward to any responses you may have. Please email me at chairman@surreynafas.org.uk.

It was also agreed that it is for clubs to decide for themselves, as they do at present, what they charge their members as subscriptions.

Many thanks.

Chris Brown
Chairman
Surrey Area of NAFAS
chairman@surreynafas.org.uk
01276 61740 (5 figs)

PS. A number of your responses involved the subject of Osborne House as our HQ and the planned feasibility study into its future. A summary of your comments from your responses will be passed on to Steven Lane the CEO to share with the Board of Directors at NAFAS.



SURREY AREA OF NAFAS

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26 May 2020

Message to Clubs and Members about Loan to NAFAS

Hello everyone

I hope you are all safe and well, and enjoying this glorious weather.

Most of you have now had time to consider the Statement of Support issued by NAFAS HQ. Please let me know if you have not received it and I will email it to you.

As you may be aware the Coronavirus lockdown has pushed the financial situation for NAFAS head office from an embarrassment to a crisis. After consulting with Area Chairmen earlier this month at an NAC meeting via Zoom it was suggested, by an Area, not the Directors, that Areas consider the option of a loan to NAFAS HQ to see them through the difficult cash-flow crisis.

An amount of £10,000 has been suggested that our Area loan to NAFAS. Osborne House would be used as security for the loan and if it were to be sold the Area would receive its money back so we would never lose any money. At present there is no time specified for the repayment of the loan which we, as an Area, would like to be given in more detail. Individual legal contracts with each Area would be set up covering all aspects of the loan.

Having read the Statement of Support from NAFAS it is quite clear what their position is in dealing with the difficulties of the pandemic and how it proposes to move forward in the future. It has been noted by Area Chairmen that as an organisation NAFAS has become more open with regard to its decision making and is much more prepared to listen, incorporate change, downsize and streamline, and increase its use of technology (as has been evident in the use of Zoom for Board, NAC and committee meetings). As Areas, Clubs and Members we can show our loyalty and support for NAFAS at this difficult time when it needs our help.

As Members of Clubs affiliated to NAFAS the benefits are extremely valuable to us and cannot be disregarded and if NAFAS ceases to exist many of our activities would not be able to continue. All our events concerning demonstrations, workshops, shows etc. would have no guidelines, rules or regulations as demonstrators, teachers, speakers and judges would no longer belong to an organisation. Insurance for events, meetings etc. could also become an issue. As an Area, the Surrey Area of NAFAS would no longer be of any relevance.

At present the Area is in a healthy financial position with assets of around £70,000, and therefore we are in a good position to be able to make the loan of £10,000. However, we are aware that not all Clubs in our Area are in similar circumstances. These uncertain times make these situations even more difficult for everyone and you can be assured that the Area will not commit to anything which will put it in a vulnerable situation.

I hope all the above details help and that you and your Club will be able to support Surrey Area loaning NAFAS HQ the money required to keep it going.

To date no decision has been made by the Surrey Area about the loan and we would value any responses from you by **Wednesday June 3rd** so that as Officers we have time to consider these and make our decision to all concerned by June 5th as requested.

My thanks go to those who have already responded to Area Officers about your concerns which are understood and considered.

It is important to make sure that each Member receives this letter and the Statement of Support so that everyone is fully aware of the situation so I am asking all Club Chairmen to pass this on to you as Members.

Please send your comments to myself or another Area Officer by email or phone as soon as possible as we value all your opinions. These can be from individual Members or as a Club. My email address and phone number are given below.

Before I end I do want to thank everyone – the Area Officers and supporting people, the Club Officers and committees, and all Members for your continued efforts and support in these difficult times.

Many thanks.

Chris Brown
Chairman
Surrey Area of NAFAS
chairman@surreynafas.org.uk
01276 61740 (5 figs)



SURREY AREA OF NAFAS

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15th May

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

My apologies as this newsletter is late this week. Even with the lockdown it seems that so many things are happening.

I am sure that you would all like to know that I have at last got on to the Waitrose website to place an order for delivery – only taken 8 weeks! The only trouble is I have had to order stuff to be delivered next Wednesday – hope I have got it right.

Anyway enough of my problems – how is everyone? Please do let me know. I am sure like me you are feeling a bit fed up not being able to see family and friends but as some lockdown measures have been eased I hope these will help. Our granddaughter will be two in July and we miss her so much along with the rest of the family. I do understand your concerns for family when some are furloughed or have lost their jobs – it is not an easy time for anyone.

NAFAS have conducted some meetings with Area Chairmen via Zoom this week. Unfortunately my laptop cannot do Zoom and so Margaret Trepant our Area Vice- Chairman has stood in for me. When all the meetings have taken place – NAFAS are conducting 3 meetings with 7 Area Chairmen at a time, and minutes of the meetings have been issued we can let you all know what NAFAS are contemplating for the future. One of the issues that are being discussed is affiliation fees. If you have any thoughts on these please let me know as it is important we get an idea of what the membership are thinking. All comments will be treated in the strictest confidence so you will not be quoted on anything.

I know that some clubs would have had an AGM at some time during this lockdown and this too has had implications for membership. Again if you would like to let me know your thoughts I will be pleased to hear them. As Area Chairman I do miss the opportunity to speak to members face to face and welcome any communication with you whether positive or negative – I need to know.

But we do have some good news – both the tip and garden centres are open, that is if we don't mind queuing to get in. I think that is one of the features of this pandemic – the queues for everything. I hope you have all been out in the good weather we have been having, whether for the daily exercise or in the garden if you have one, as it is good to see things beginning to flower, (some roses opened this week) and hear the birds singing, are they much louder this year? The friendly blackbird seems to be singing all day in our back garden – not that I am complaining – does he know our cat is deaf so ignores him?!

The Surrey Area website address is www.surreynafas.org.uk so please take time to click on and have a look to see what is going on and let those without the internet know what we are doing too. Please keep safe and well and keep flower arranging.

Chris Brown
Chairman
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chairman@surreynafas.org.uk



SURREY AREA OF NAFAS

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6 May

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

Many thanks to Margaret for the inspiring 'how to' on the website. Thanks too to all the contributions to our weekly website activity. I hope you all have found them useful. Our special thanks go to Linda Mumford, our Media Officer who has kept the website up to date and full of interesting stuff only a click away.

This letter is being sent to all Chairmen of our clubs and I am asking them to send it on to their members via email if they can. It helps us all keep in touch when we can't meet as usual and I thank all those who are doing this. Some clubs are managing to 'meet'; but virtually; via Zoom or some other technological magic. Please see what Bookham club and others are doing and let us know what you are doing as a club too.

The Surrey Area website address is www.surreynfas.org.uk so please take time to click on and have a look to see what is going on and let those without the internet know what we are doing too.

The Officers and I set up a virtual meeting earlier this week to sort some issues that had been concerning us. It was good to catch up and one of the issues was the Members Day refunds. As we cannot meet in June at the Council meeting where refunds could have been given out, it was suggested that they should be given out at the next Council meeting, whenever that may be held, if it is acceptable with you, our members. This will avoid Brenda Fox, our Treasurer, having to send out cheques to the Chairman of each club who then in turn will have to reimburse their members. Many of the cheques may remain unbanked for some time if we cannot get to a bank, even if it is open. I hope you find this acceptable but if not then please let Brenda know.

Another point that was discussed at our virtual meeting was The Flower Arranger magazine and that some clubs had received numbers not matching their order. It was up to individual clubs how the magazines were distributed and I know that some clubs had people delivering or posting them personally. My thanks to you all for doing that. To club Flower Arranger Officers the message is that if you had too many the Area will help decide what to do with them when we all meet up again if the club cannot use them but to hang on to them for the time being. If you were short of copies presumably by now you will have contacted Carol Ream, our Area Flower Arranger Officer and received any shortfall. The Area and Clubs will only be charged for the issues that were ordered so please be assured that you won't be charged extra.

Another point that was raised was that there are a number of companies that we would have used at the Members Day who are still in business and can help our members at this difficult time. One of them is Lavender Catering, who are providing meals for the NHS, and can deliver meals and other food to members, and also Flowers for Florists who can still deliver flowers and sundries. So if you need any of their services please contact them (Google their websites) but please be aware that this is not advertising and other catering services and florists are available.

It seems that on Sunday Boris will tell us all how we are to move forward, if at all for us over 70 and it will be good to start planning for the future if we can.

Friday is VE Day so I hope you have all dug out the Union Jack flags to wave. I think George (husband) is planning to have the old Austin suitably draped with a flag (from the Olympics!) on the drive. Well it will be something to celebrate and may bring us all hope for the future as it did then. They had five years of hardship and we have had weeks so we should be grateful for that. I do not expect that many of us have had experiences of WW2 but I can remember my Mum relating the time she went to work only to find the factory no longer there, it having been bombed overnight, and my Dad travelling on the train with dripping potato peelings in the suitcase – they kept chickens! They lived in the East End of London at the time so things were difficult.

Well, enough of my ramblings – let's look forward to a brighter summer with colour and new growth. Have just heard a blackbird singing his heart out. Next door's Rhododendron is still blooming so all is well!

Please keep safe and well and keep flower arranging.

Chris Brown
Chairman
Surrey Area of NAFAS
chairman@surreynafas.org.uk



SURREY AREA OF NAFAS

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29th April

Message to Clubs

Hello everyone

Well the change in the weather shows things in a different light – it does seem that there are more cars on the road – but we did have time to mend the shed when the weather was fine!

Just a quick reminder about Friday 1st May which would have been National Flower Arranging Day. I am suggesting that we do an arrangement with some sort of blue in it with whatever we have available to recognise the work of the NHS and all those looking after us. It will be interesting to see what you can come up with so please send photos of your designs to Linda Mumford at media@surreynafas.org.uk and some can be put on the website for all to see.

Please keep checking in to the Surrey Area website www.surreynafas.org.uk and inform those without the internet of any news. Also please check in with friends so that we can all keep safe and well in these difficult times. Along with this letter there will be a statement issued by NAFAS about Affiliation fees so please take time to read it.

It is becoming clear that 'social distancing' may be with us for some time – even if the official lockdown is lifted in some ways. This will have major implications for our club meetings, given the age group of many of our members, and we may not be able to meet as we always have done in order to keep everyone safe. If you have any ideas – brilliant or otherwise! – about how we should proceed please let me know so that we can be thinking about our future.

The Officers and I will be setting up a 'virtual' meeting soon so if there is anything you would like us to discuss then please let us know. It is your Area and we are here for you.

On a brighter note it does seem that the natural world has moved on at its normal pace whereas everything else in life seems to have stood still during the last few weeks. It was good to see next door's Rhododendron out in flower, large pink blooms, and this morning while putting the rubbish in the bin I noticed the Choisya in bloom, frothy white heads it's not had before. Hostas are beginning to emerge too which means a night time slug and snail hunt – I might wait until it is a bit warmer!

Hopefully the weather will turn fine again soon when we can get out and enjoy it, even in a limited way as all the puzzles have been done once over now.

Please keep safe and well and keep flower arranging.

Chris Brown
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SURREY AREA OF NAFAS

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22 April

Message to Clubs

Hello Everyone

I was just thinking there was not much to report this week but how wrong could I be. Firstly, about next week's National Flower Arranging Day on 1st May. NAFAS have decided not to promote it this year and as an Area we were leaving it up to individual clubs to decide what to do. I suggest that as it is not appropriate for us to buy flowers, make them into posies etc. this year that we do something different. Perhaps we can use what is in the garden, or veg. compartment, to make a design to thank our NHS. Pictures can be sent to Linda (our Media Officer) or myself which can then be put on our website for all to see.

You will no doubt be aware of the guarded comments from those in Government concerning raising the lockdown, so the Officers have decided that it would be best to cancel the June Council meeting. I know that this will be frustrating for some who want to keep in touch or ask questions of the Officers. Please do contact me with your questions, concerns, gripes or whatever. I am trying to organise a 'virtual' meeting (probably via email) with the other Officers in the near future so that we can discuss any concerns.

I have been contacted by our events Officer, Helen Andrew who is making scrubs at present for those who need them. I know other members are doing the same. If you would like to help Helen (who is asking for help) please contact her on email events@surreyareanafas.org.uk and she will have the information for you.

The poem seemed to go down very well last week so thanks to Yvonne Farrar of Aldershot Floral Design Club for that. There has been a NAFAS invitation to take part in the rings with green or blue on them too, which will appear on the website.

While I am here it may not be untimely to remind you all that the Area still needs a new Show Chairman, a Chronicles person and new Publications people. Pat Lloylangston and Jean Stiff would like to step down after September, so we need to ask if there is any one or two or possibly more that you or someone you know could fill any of these posts. Please don't be shy and let me know if there is anything you need to know or ask about these posts.

That is all for now so please keep safe and well.

Chris Brown
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SURREY AREA OF NAFAS

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Message to Clubs

17th April

Hello Everyone

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and ready for the announcement of the next three weeks of lockdown. The puzzles and games are waiting, chance for George to beat me at Scrabble – not a hope!

The weather looks set to change this weekend too – a promise of rain to water the seeds sown in the garden. It will save time spent with the watering can, as if we need to save time.

I hope you have all been trying out the ideas on the website. This week we have an idea from Brenda Fox, our Treasurer. I like the suggestion of using silk flowers too or any thing from the garden, shed or cupboard could be used, sticks of celery anyone!

I promised a poem to go with the Green idea a few weeks ago so here is one:-

What is Green? (excerpt)

*Green is the grass
And the leaves of trees
Green is the smell
Of a country breeze
Green is coolness
You get in the shade
Of tall old woods
Where moss is made.
Green is a grasshopper
Green is jade
Green is hiding in the shade.
Green is an olive
And a pickle.
The sound of green is a water trickle.*

*Under a grape arbour
Air is green
With sprinkles of sunlight
In between.
Green is the meadow,
Green is the fuzz
That covers up
Where winter was.
Green is ivy and
Honeysuckle vine.
Green is yours
Green is mine.*

Mary O'Neill (from Hailstones and Halibut Bones)

Chris Brown
Chairman
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SURREY AREA OF NAFAS

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9th April

Message to Clubs

Hello Everyone

Well, we are in week 3 of lockdown and I think we have all got used to it, or are bored with nothing left to do, having cleaned the oven, defrosted the freezer, cleaned the windows etc, or are feeling quite isolated.

I must admit that being cut off from seeing friends and family quite hard to bear at times. We have granddaughter nearly 2 and we will miss some of her growing up. This is where modern technology can be a boon, with Skype, Zoom, Facetime etc. bearing in mind you have all these things and can work them!

However, there is something that we can all do to keep us from feeling low or at least sympathise with others if they are. Please ring those that you think might be alone at this time. We are privileged to have a garden and open space but I know some of you aren't so lucky. You may be confined to a flat with limited rooms. If you know of someone who this describes please give them a ring or if you are someone in this position and are feeling low then please feel free to ring me. I can always ring back if you are worried about costs.

I hope you found the paper rose an idea to try, that is if you haven't thrown them out of the window yet! You may also see that Katherine Kear sent in an idea for a door wreath with green on it. A member of Aldershot Floral Design Club has sent in some poems about Green which I shall share with you over the coming weeks.

Most Areas now are keeping their members up to date on their Area websites and some are quite amusing. If you want to lift your spirits have a look at the Sussex Area website www.sussexarenafas.org.uk

I am afraid I don't have anything in mind for ours at present but perhaps next week there might be something for you to see. If anyone has items that can be included please email them to me and I will pass them on. chairman@surreynafas.org.uk

All for now

Chris Brown
Chairman
Surrey Area of NAFAS
chairman@surreynafas.org.uk



SURREY AREA OF NAFAS

3 Edgemoor Road
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31st March

Message to Clubs

Hello All

By now I imagine most of us have got used to this 'Stay at Home' message, but it is for our own good. Please keep safe and well.

To any who are struggling, upset or finding things difficult please give me a ring, or a neighbour, or a friend. You are not alone, we are here to listen to you whatever the problem.

This week there is a message from our President of NAFAS, Sue Brinton, to all our members. This is on the website.

Also, on the Area website there are instructions for a 'Paper Rose' for you to try. Most of the things you need are probably easy to hand without the need to go out and buy them so it should be achievable. I look forward to seeing your efforts – mine is very basic!

Pictures can be sent to me at chairman@surreynafas.org.uk

Each week an Officer will be posting something on the website for you to view so please keep watching.

Kind regards to you all.

Chris Brown
Chairman
Surrey Area of NAFAS
chairman@surreynafas.org.uk
01276 61740 (5 figs only)



SURREY AREA OF NAFAS

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26th March

Message to Clubs

Hello Everyone

Last week we were all saddened to hear of the death of Joan Cooper. Attached is a tribute to her which I hope you will pass on to all members. I would be interested in receiving any personal stories that you may have involving Joan as she was much loved in the Area. chairman@surreynafas.org.uk

I think by now most of you will know of the cancellations and postponements of most of our activities. If you haven't heard then I can confirm that the Richmond Flower Festival has been postponed until May 2021 and the Surrey County Show has been cancelled in May but they are looking to hold it later in the year if possible.

This week has seen us all confined to our homes. It means that for some it's time to get a few of those outstanding jobs done, like sorting out the cupboard under the stairs. If we have a garden then the possibilities could be endless. But for some it means that they are unable to socialise with friends or family and the time can drag on.

We do not know for how long we shall have to 'stay at home' so the Officers and I have decided that we would use our Surrey Area website to give you inspiration, brighten your day/week or just give you an excuse to see what we are up to. I will also post any further letters to you all in this way. Just Google Surrey Area of NAFAS for the website.

Each week an Officer will post something on the website for you. Please feel free to copy it and 'send' in whatever format, to our flower friends who may not have internet access.

Please don't forget to give each other a ring or send an email just to keep in touch.

Keep Safe and Well

Chris Brown

Chairman
Surrey Area of NAFAS
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