Happy New Year to you all

As I write the ground is hard with frost and the leafless trees are silhouetted against the misty sky. We will soon leave winter behind and we can once again use spring flowers in our designs.

Just days after I took office, the Area Show committee worked extremely hard to give us a delicious cooked lunch followed by a most informative Gardener’s Question Time. The event sold out quickly and was an outstanding success both socially and financially raising almost £3,000 towards the cost of staging our Area Show in Woking in March.

The last month has been a hectic one for me combining family Christmas preparations with the enjoyment of visiting several clubs for their Christmas festivities. I look forward to meeting more members at club events during my term of office. It is my aim to visit all Surrey Area Clubs at least once during my term as Chairman.

Highlights for 2017 include our Area Show at Woking on Saturday 4 March, Florimania at Hampton Court Palace from 24 to 26 March, 12th World Flower Show in Barbados in June, the RHS Wisley Show from 5 to 10 September, our Area President’s Lunch and Demonstration on Monday 30 October and the return of our National Show to Blackpool in November. NAFAS encourages all members to participate in National Flower Arranging Day on Friday 5 May. Please get involved as a club or individual. Why not hold a sociable workshop in the preceding days to produce collectively some small posies or designs in recyclable containers? Your local florist or supermarket may be willing to sponsor the flowers. Labels will be available nearer the time to download from the NAFAS website. I look forward to hearing more heart-warming tales on social media from the recipients of these bouquets.

Good luck to all the competitors in our Floral and Photographic Competitions at the Area Show. Our Woking Show ‘Circumnavigation’ has an inspiring schedule. Please remember that the dates for submitting floral entries are between 16 and 28 January and the closing date for photography entries is 28 January. The 2017 RHS Wisley Show schedule will be released at the March Council meeting. Look out for an exciting large NAFAS centrepiece design at this show. Did you know that at the 2016 RHS Wisley Flower Show approximately 20,000 people entered our floral ballroom to see the stunning designs in the competition ‘Not Quite Strictly’? What a tremendous advertisement for NAFAS. I was delighted to hear that, as a direct result of watching flower arranging demonstrations by our National and Area demonstrators at the Show, one club now has 3 new members; I am sure there are others.

Please consider your club’s publicity. Why not have some business cards printed with your club and Area details? Why not ask if you can leave the cards at your local florist or garden centre? Let’s encourage club membership and harness the ‘on trend’ interest in crafts.

Do look regularly at both our Area website www.surreynafas.org.uk and our National website www.nafas.org.uk to find the latest news. Do watch the new ‘How to’ videos released from NAFAS HQ http://nafas.org.uk/news-and-events/how-to-make-a-christmas-wreath with more to follow.

I wish you well in all your flower club pursuits and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during 2017.

Alison

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