Wistaston Flower Club

March 2021

A welcome from the Chairman

I hope your spirits have been lifted by signs of spring this week. As buds and bulbs emerge from the winter gloom so do we! Although we have been staying safely at home, Wistaston Flower Club has remained active. Many have enjoyed zoom demonstrations, workshops and help with virtual competition entries provided by Cheshire Area. The committee have met via zoom and kept the club business up to date, including preparing for the EGM to be held in April via, you've guessed it, ZOOM!

The Chairman's Challenge is now in its 4th month and is much enjoyed by those who join in. Maureen Wildman was delighted to win and here she is receiving her prize on the doorstep in January.

February's winner is Anne McNally with her hearts and roses. The title for March is "A Spring Bonnet" and I would encourage anyone to have a go.

Wistaston Flower Club is embracing the zoom world with all its benefits and in May we will host our first zoom demonstration by Debbie Davies. More details will follow but hopefully you will have time to master this new way of doing things by May. We have helpers standing by to guide you through joining in. As restrictions begin to ease we will consider our options month by month. Many of you will have happy memories of events at Hunter's Lodge and we had scheduled our Afternoon Tea there in August, however, as you probably know the business has closed. At the moment we do not know if we will be able to hold this event but we hope we can be together with flowers and friends before too long.

In this edition of the newsletter you will find:

a copy of the letter sent by Katherine Kear, National Chairperson , NAFAS regarding the furture of Osborne House.

a CANDO proposal form, a process introduced by Louise Jones (new Chairperson for Cheshire Area of NAFAS) to consider ideas and suggestions to benefit the Area.

an application form for entry to the virtual Cheshire Show. There is also a competitors guidance group running on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm. If you would like to attend these sessions please email canonlineevents@gmail.com.

Simply Spring

To make this design you will need:

Mechanics	Flowers /Foliage
2 x Containers	A variety of foliage
Floral foam	6 x Tulips
2 x kebab sticks	1 x bunch of Freesia
14 x Midelino stciks	Few stems of Carnations
Sticky tape	

Method:

1. Cut and soak the floral foam so it sits in the containers with about 1.5cm above the top.

2. Take 12 midelino sticks and tape at one end. Tape two midelino sticks at the same end and gently twist these around the grouped midelino sticks. Once you run out of the twisted ones, tie off with the tape and cut the ends off. Tape a kebab stick at each end of the midelino sticks.

3. Place the tied midelino sticks, one in each container.

4. Add foliage to each container, wrap trailing ivy around the midelino arch to bring the two designs together,

5. Add the flowers to each container, positioning so they lean into the midelino arch.

Sit back and Enjoy!

Springtime

Yellow petals of golden splendour
Sway and nod in blissful surrender
White fluffy balls jump and skip
White drops shimmering as they dip
Jewels of colour in purple glory
Buds all around telling their story
Songs fill our hearts what a sound
Birds are nesting collecting twigs from the ground
A chirp and a whistle chit chat too
Cuckoo cuckoo we hear you
Joys of Spring are all so new
Beginnings of Life shining through

Spring Smilers!

Which lion never roars? A dandelion!

Which is the most talkative flower? Tulips, because they have two lips!

Why are A's like flowers? Because the bee's come after them!

Cheshire Area News

October saw the appointment of Louise Jones as chairperson of Cheshire Area. She replaces Nicky Wylie who is now one of the new Trustees at NAFAS HQ..

Louise has taken the opportunity to restructure the Cheshire Area of NAFAS. Jean Jones has joined the team to look at ways of getting flower clubs to work together and Judy Gratton continues as the Junior Liaison Officer.

If you have any suggestions for the Cheshire Area of NAFAS please do get in touch with Jean or Judy.

It is hoped to run some events later on in the year, once the pandemic restrictions are eased.

Tracy-Anne Clancy, the Area Treasurer, reported that from the donations received from the clubs (in lieu of affiliation fees) an amount has been forwarded to NAFAS HQ. The remainder has been used to fund virtual talks and demonstrations via Zoom. These are free of charge to Cheshire Area members.

Unfortunately Nantwich Show has been cancelled. Cheshire Show is being run as a virtual show, more information follows in this newsletter.

Tulips

Tulips with their wide range of colours and varieties are a favourite Spring flower which have been used in flower arrangements for centuries.

The tulip was originally a wild flower growing in Central Asia and was first cultivated in Turkey in 1000 AD. The name tulip came from the Turkish word for Turban. The flowers were introduced into The Netherlands in the late 16th Century.

At the beginning of the 17th Century the tulip was starting to be used as a garden decoration instead of for medicinal purposes and soon gained popularity. "Tulipmania" reached a climax in The Netherlands in 1637 when the most sought-after bulbs cost the same amount as a magnificent house in Amsterdam.

Around the middle of the 19th Century the Tulip was so popular that many towns had a specialist society and the National Tulip Society was formed in 1849.

Botanists started to hybridize the flower and soon found ways of making even more decorative specimens. Tulips are divided into 15 different divisions mainly defined by the characteristics of their flowers. Some examples include Rembrandt, Parrot, Darwin and Lily-Flowered.

Tulip bulbs should be planted in the Autumn in a sunny spot with well-draining soil. Plant about five to seven inches deep and four to five inches apart with their pointy ends up. Water well and wait for Spring.