

BRADFORD FLOWER CLUB



EMERALD ANNIVERSARY 16th April 2012

Dear Members

There just had to be a Newsletter this evening!

How lucky we are that our Emerald Anniversary actually falls on a club evening. Yes it is 55 years to the day that Peggy Greenough and Pam Bannister formed the Bradford Flower Club, meeting in Church House on North Parade. It had 35 members following a recruitment drive in the Telegraph and Argus and at Shipley College. George Smith was the demonstrator for the evening.



Many things have changed in the world over the past 55 years but it is good to see that for our Club many many things remain constant. Founder members; Peggy, Pam, Margaret and Betty attended our Dinner in March and George Smith is still very highly regarded both in the Area and throughout NAFAS. Bradford remains one of the largest Clubs in the North East Area of NAFAS with over 100 members and is, I believe, the only club that provides 11 demonstrations and two speakers each year and still has an annual dinner. We should be proud.

I would like to thank all Club Members who have helped and supported the Club throughout the years and especially the Committee who always rally behind me as we embark on whatever project the Club is asked to take part in. I hope everyone has a very enjoyable evening and that you are able to join us for a small celebratory drink of Shloer and a piece of cake after the demonstration and also throughout the coming months as we celebrate this special year.

Yvonne Coppin

Club happenings since our Golden Anniversary.

In the five years since our Golden Anniversary the Club has not stood idle. It has helped other Organisations raise funds by staging flower festivals at Aldersgate Methodist Church, Saltaire United Reform Church, St Peters in Allerton and an arrangement at Shibden Hall. Our Arrangement at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show this April may be our most challenging.

Spring Fairs and cake stalls at club meetings and a sponsored Walk have raised funds for various Lord Mayors' charities as well as contributions to Area for Chelsea.

Four workshops have been held to raise knowledge and understanding of the Art of Floral Arrangement for the local community of Bradford and have been met with great enthusiasm. Bradford Grammar School is also very enthusiastic and waiting eagerly for the ones we will be holding in May at their Spring Fair. These were additional to the many workshops held for Club members.

We have also been busy raising funds to ensure the Club has a future. Grants have been received from Bradford West Community Chest for leaflets to promote the Club, Cnet Grassroots provided funding for new shelving, lights and stationery and the Lottery provided funding towards our demonstrators, the Website, a new sound system, screen, postage and workshop materials and just received is a small grant from Sovereign Health for Club Materials.

This funding has allowed the Club to maintain its high standard of demonstrators, whether established or newly qualified, and to have an additional demonstration at the July AGM.

New events have been added to the Club's calendar in the form of a Christmas Fuddle and seasonal dress for our December meeting, Strawberry Tea follows the July AGM and the Photo Competition running through the Summer months is growing slowly.

We have been on outings to George Smith, Kelberdale Gardens, Littlethorpe, Arley, Shibden Hall and Poppleton Hall Gardens. Our trip to Burton Agnes in June this year is already filling up fast and promises to be another very enjoyable day though we are hoping for good weather for a change.

And in November 2010 we welcomed Norma Dobney as an Honorary Member of Bradford Flower Club.



Area News

Once again the Area has a great many events planned for the year as it too celebrates its Emerald Year.

23-25th May is the Area trip to Chelsea, where hopefully we will see that the North East has won gold.

12-14th July is the National Show and Competition at Southport.

If you would like to go to something different there is the Area Photography Day on the 9th August. There are no further details at the moment as to the time and venue.

The National AGM in London is on the 24th October and the Area on the 17th November. Again more details will be given nearer the time.

Annual Dinner

The build up to the Club's special year started with the Annual Dinner and Flower Demonstration at the Mercure Hotel (Bankfield) on Monday



the 5th March. 74 Members and Guests were joined by the Lord Mayor Mrs Naveeda Ikram and her Mother as well as the NE Area Chairman Sheila Rodgers. Seven Past Chairs were present on the night and Peggy Greenough and Pam Bannister gave a short overview of the club's early days.

Kathleen Williams was the demonstrator and entertained everyone with her title 'Brief Encounter' and comedy banter. Proceeds of £100 from the Raffle were donated to the team who were staging an Arrangement for the Harrogate Spring Flower Show.

The cupcake table decorations and favours ensured everyone went home with a little memento of the evening. And from comments received since the evening it would appear that members thought the meal was the best we had had at the Hotel and how lovely it had all been as the Club started its Anniversary Year.

Club Events

Besides our usual monthly demonstrations and speakers this year the Bradford Flower Club has agreed to take part in and support two other organisations.

The Club has been asked to stage an arrangement at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show which runs from the 26th -29th April. The title we have been asked to depict is 'Our Town'. Well for a city with the history that Bradford has,, I am sure Sheila Boyes and her team will be hard pressed to capture everything even though they have some 10 feet to cover. We offer Sheila, Pauline Benson, Sheila Clarke, Pauline Lowes, Joyce Bonham and Pam Wiley the very best of luck. We know they will do the Club proud so why not come along to the Spring Show and give them your support.

The 12th May sees another group of people from the Club supporting the Bradford Grammar School Fair. Here the small team led by Jean Mouls will be depicting the 2012 Olympics in an arrangement in the Entrance Hall. To help raise funds this will then go into the main raffle. They will also be leading a series of small floral workshops during the afternoon. The School has decided to present certificates to any children who attends these workshops and may even run a competition to decide a winner.

This event always attracts many family and friends. It is hoped that awareness of the Club will be heightened by its presence on the day and also by an advert in the printed programme. We wish Jean Mouls, Helen Reynolds, Eulie Henriques and Yvonne Coppin a successful day.

The 30th June sees the Club going on a day trip to Burton Agnes Hall where there is a wonderful walled garden which hopefully will be in full bloom, a woodland walk, the lovely Hall to visit and a very tempting tea shop and plant and gift stalls. Then onto Bridlington for a couple of hours where no doubt Fish and Chips will come into the equation. Please do join us.

Club Website and Library

The Club website continues to grow slowly. It has received many favourable comments from readers. For those with a computer please log onto www.bradfordflowerclub.org.uk and have a read. If anyone has any more detailed information on the history of the club, when and where it used to meet or any other significant points of interest could you let Yvonne know so they can be added to the site. Any photos or interesting articles would also be appreciated.

Due to donations of many books from Mrs Luff the club was able to set up a small library in February. Many Floral Books are available to 'borrow' at a cost of 50p.

Rowntree Theatre

On Sunday 1st April several Club members were lucky enough to attend the show BROADWAY-CHELSEA held at the Rowntree Theatre in York to raise funds for our area entry at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Sally Lockwood writes:

What a show! There was comedy, music from the shows and superb arrangements from five of our favourite demonstrators, who dressed up in fabulous outfits from Sound of Music, My Fair Lady, Mamma Mia and South Pacific. The final demonstration was by Jonathan Mosley appearing out of fog, for the Rocky Horror Show. He had spiky black wig, basque, suspenders and high black heels. Need I say more!! The legs!! Fabulous! He demonstrated like this and everyone sang the Time Warp. Big thanks to Tony Cleaver who produced and presented it all (also in suspenders and silver heels). It was a real treat.

Sales Table, Flower Arranger and Notice Board

Thankyou for your continued support of our sales table. Sally and Wendy have worked hard to make an interesting display throughout the year. In November 2011 they broke all records in takings - £107.60 and our Christmas table was really tempting. Please take advantage of subsidised prices which helps support club funds. As well as flowers you can also purchase oasis and containers so do ask if you need any of these. The Flower Arranger remains a lovely magazine with inspiring arrangements and the price is a special discount to NAFAS members. Don't forget to have a look at the Club Notice Board for further news and information

Committee News

Two new members have joined our team in September, these are: Helen Reynolds and Eulie Henriques. We hope they will enjoy being on the committee. They are already getting involved in our activities and they will be presented with their badges tonight.

£1 Club Night Entry Fee

The Committee would like to thank all members for their support with the £1 entry fee to Club Nights. Without it we would not have been able to keep Club fees at £27.00 once again this year.

Costs keep increasing. The 20% VAT on top of hall and demonstrator fees and insurance means our monthly meeting costs are on average £350 and for people like Jonathan Mosley £550.