



**"The Joy Of Flowers" with
MICHAEL BOWYER**

Michael Bowyer, renowned National demonstrator, came to Chieveley in April to conclude the celebrations of our silver anniversary year. The hall was full to capacity and members and their friends enjoyed canapés and aperitifs prior to the demonstration which celebrated both

Michael's and our love of flowers.

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS EDINBURGH -

A small group of members gathered in Edinburgh to indulge in a weekend of "friendship through flowers"- and in particular to view the brilliant entry "From the Ends of the Earth" designed by Carole



Dorward and Jenny Clarke on behalf of BB&O, for which they were awarded a superb "commended". Their theme of the Olympics 2012 was highly original and quite breathtaking. The demonstration in the arena by Sue Davies was extremely entertaining, and, with ample opportunity for sight-seeing, chatting and relaxing, it was a great weekend! Next year's competitions are in Coventry (July 18 - 20 2009) -

watch for news of a planned outing to the event.

Lynn and Jackie enjoy the sights of Edinburgh



**NEWBURY SHOW -
SUCCESES**

With 5 firsts and 3 seconds between them, Kathy, Rita and Carole deserve warmest congratulations!! Here are three of their designs

Rita Leroy's
"All Things
Bright and
Beautiful" -
2nd



Kathy Seymour's
"Great
Balls of
Fire" - 1st
and Best in
Show



Carole Dorward's "If I were a punk-rocker" - 1st



From our Chairman...

Welcome! Another year and so much going on that it has been hard to fit it all in to this two-sided format. The beauty and variety of the floral designs you see here are testament to the many achievements of our members and their enthusiasm for their art. There is something for everyone at Floral Group so join us soon at one of the many events coming up. We guarantee you won't be disappointed.

Jackie Parker (01635 248995)

**Dates for your diary:
Demonstrations and Events 08/09**

- Tues Nov 18th: Liz Matheson
"Christmas Miscellany"
- Tues Dec 16th: Lucinda Sanderson,
"Journey Through France"
- Tues Jan 20th: David Martin
"Steps Along The Way"
- Sun January 25th and week: Watch out for Golden Flowers in our local churches to mark the start of NAFAS' Golden Anniversary celebrations
- Tues Feb 17th: Anne Bartlett
Title TBA
- Tues Mar 17th: Pat Trunkfield
"Just Dreaming"
- Tues April 21st: Jane Belcher
"Something Else"
- Sat May 9th: Coach trip to Westminster Abbey for "Golden Fanfare" Flower Festival
- Tues May 19th: Sandy Bailey
(National Demonstrator)
"Golden Enchantment"
- Tues June 16th: AGM 6.45 followed by Annette Urquhart
"Summer Nights"
- Sat June 20th/Sun June 21st: BB&O Area Show at West Woodhay House Garden Show
- Tues July 21st: Ninon Linnell
Title TBA

All, unless stated, at 7.00 for 7.30pm at Chieveley Village Hall, with free entry for members, visitors £5. (Tel 01635 248244 for information).

Enjoy coffee before the meeting, buy raffle tickets and browse our sales table, packed with essentials and treats for every flower arranger.

If winter comes....

With the end of summer comes an opportunity for some of the foliage in our gardens to take centre stage in our 'floral' arrangements. Much of it provides forms and colours which only come into their own when flowers become scarce and expensive.



The choice is huge, from the Christmas evergreens to skimmia, sarcococa, lonicera pileata, garrya elliptica, with fantastic catkins like icicles, cornus, especially the red stemmed varieties, choisya, osmanthus, ivy, particularly the wonderful variegated varieties, euonymus, in its silver and gold forms, contorted hazel and willow, bergenia (choose carefully and you can find varieties whose leaves turn bright red in winter). Eucalyptus is an all-the-year-rounder and eleagnus is another great and reliable standby.

Of course, there are still flowers to be found. In my garden I can find viburnum tinus blooming from late autumn until early summer, while mahonia provides generous sprays of bright yellow, lily-of-the-valley scented blooms. Hellebores start appearing soon after Christmas and continue in bloom for months. (They behave better in water if you singe the ends of the stems when you pick them or - better still - wait until they have prominent ovaries showing in the centre of the flower.) Then there is wintersweet (chimonanthus), winter jasmine, the very early iris stylosa . The list goes on...

Who says you can't have homegrown flower arrangements in winter?

June Butcher

A DAY OUT WITH PAM LEWIS

Aware of how much our members always look forward to attending our Annual General Meeting we thought 'outside the box' this year – literally – and took them on a coach trip to Pam Lewis's garden and workshop near Devizes. It was the most popular AGM for years! Business over during the journey, we arrived to be met by Pam's husband and escorted to coffee and delicious home-made biscuits. Then Pam took over for a guided tour of her very extensive and lovely garden. Despite only having returned home from preparations for the Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival very late on the previous evening, she gave us an amazing lunch with home-made (by Pam) quiches, salad and delectable desserts, then followed up with a flower arranging demonstration using, of course, some of the metal containers she designs and makes. We finished a memorable day with tea and an even more memorable selection of home-made cakes - and yes, she had made those as well.



Two of our members were particularly delighted to be able to buy some of Pam Lewis's metal work (see Kathy's exhibit at the Newbury Show overleaf).

WE LOVE WEDDINGS -

(and other celebrations)!!

Bridegroom Charles Thomas awaits his bride Kate outside St Mary's Chieveley, alongside one of a pair of white arrangements designed

for their wedding by a Floral Group team.

To the right, golden blooms for a Golden Wedding celebration, another commission for the Group this summer.



It's the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness....

which means it's also time for my husband to make himself useful and go 'blackberrying'. Pies, crumbles, jelly and jam are then produced but best of all, Bramble Liqueur!

Try it, it's delicious.

You cook together 4lbs of blackberries, 1 tablespoon of whole cloves, 1 tablespoon of grated nutmeg, in 1 pint of water until soft.

Allow to cool then strain through muslin.

For every pint of the blackberry juice add 8 ounces of sugar, then heat gently to dissolve the sugar.

Then for the bit that gives it its bite, add half a pint (or more to your taste!) of brandy. Rather than use my husband's more expensive brandies I buy one of the cheaper brands and find it better for adding that extra bit of zing!

That's all there is to it.

It really is delicious over meringue or ice cream as well as just to drink on its own.

Ann Hunter

INTERESTED IN JOINING CHIEVELEY FLORAL GROUP?

Membership is currently £25.000 pa. This gives you free entry to monthly demonstrations, reduced rates for ticket-only events, priority for workshops and many other opportunities to enjoy flower arranging. Join at one of our meetings or phone Carole on 01635 200229

LIVING WITH DEER..

I often describe my garden as more of a nature reserve than a garden; it's a haven for deer, both roe and muntjac, moles, moorhens, herons, squirrels, field mice, foxes and occasional badgers. I'm also an area demonstrator and hope to use garden plant material to inspire and enthral in my dems. She'll be lucky I can hear you say, but after many years' experimentation I am beginning to accrue a sizeable selection of plants that deer, even muntjacs, find unpalatable. The other constraint to growing plants is that they must thrive in the cold and very wet clay during the winter, and survive the occasional baking in the summer. I also buy large plants to give them a fighting chance.

Starting with trees, beech, oak, bay, pine, hamamelis and loquat thrive along with most conifer species. Shrubby bushes such as box, myrtle, sorbaria sorbifolia, phormiums, hypericum, mahonia, buddleia, all succeed, and this year I've even had to prune my osmanthus davidii! Wisteria, lonicera nitida, choisya, rhododendrons and azaleas, smoke bushes (cotinus), pieris variations continue to grow well with a bi-annual feed. Bamboos thrive but from a flower arranger's point of view the leaves do not condition, but will glycerine.

Perennials such as euphorbias (but be careful of the milky sap as it can irritate skin) of which there are many diverse species provide ground cover as well as specimen plants, lungworts, miscanthus and grasses, agapanthus, skimmia, and some of the more obnoxious smelling geraniums do extremely well, as well as many silver leaf plants such as senecio and sage. Plants with a rough, dry texture do well - gunnera manicata – my first plant is now about 7 feet high and has leaves over 3 feet in diameter. Once established it is easy to take cuttings from the main root ball to increase stock. Ferns grow well, and the ever-green ones provide shape and structure all year.

In the spring, the true primrose as opposed to the primula grows untouched, as do violets and hellebores. Occasionally daffodil shoots will be nibbled but generally survive. Roe deer will not eat bluebells, but muntjac do, as well as tulips.

I regard gardening as a bit of a challenge. I buy a plant. If it survives in its pot near the house for a couple of weeks it gets planted and maybe grows. *C D*

DAY SCHOOL with Carole Dorward - "Hand Tieds and Decorative Wire"

I have attended several excellent Days Schools at Chieveley and this was again in the same category. Carole gave a very informative demonstration on hand tieds with tips that helped us to create the elusive hand tied bunch. Having been to several workshops and still not been satisfied with the final result, I was delighted that after this session with Carole I managed to create two hand tieds which I felt I would be able to re-create at a later date!



Carole also showed us how we could embellish these designs and other arrangements with decorative wire, using aluminium, bullion, and reel wire, together with beads and sisal. These could be placed in our arrangements to give a wedding, or a special, bouquet and even Christmas Church designs that extra special look.



Of course, the day would not have been complete without the splendid lunch!

Pam Seymour

