

North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

Newsletter

August 2026

Dear Members and Friends,

What an amazing summer we are enjoying, although not for our gardens or for farmers. However, it's been great for all the local village shows as well as the larger National shows. I understand that several of you visited the RHS show at Badminton, what a joy to have something on that scale so near to home.

Since my last newsletter NWVFC have enjoyed a wonderful outing to David Austin Roses, we had a great journey in a lovely coach, were met on arrival and taken on a conducted tour of the gardens and glass houses, learning all about the process of development and the family history and business. We were especially fortunate that Mr David Austins personal garden was open for us on this day too, truly fabulous, despite the drought and soaring temperatures. The café and restaurant offered very good value and the largest scones I have ever seen! It was with sadness that we learned of the death of Mr David J C Austin the week before last.

Only 14 members took advantage of our outing but fortunately we were able to break even costs wise as several non-members came along. This does beg the question that perhaps our members are no longer interested in organised outings. I will ask this question again at the AGM.

Our meeting this coming month is a week on Saturday, August 8th, 10am – 1 pm, I apologise for the confusion with times these are the correct ones. It is a workshop with Coral Gardiner, Coral will be showing us how to create a pedestal design. It does not have to be cathedral size, can be made using for example a candle stick. Below is the list of requirements, we will have oasis for sale if that is your medium of choice and the sales table will be available for sundries. Don't be put off by the flower list, garden /hedgerow flowers can be used, even dried or add some silk if they are appropriate. Please notify me if you have not already done so if you plan to come along and take part. Everyone is welcome even if you only want to watch the demonstration and perhaps make some notes.

This meeting has been arranged for a Saturday to make it more accessible to our members who are still young enough to go out to work!! Looking forward to seeing you all.

Pedestal Workshop, With Coral Gardiner

Saturday August 8, 2026, 10am

Materials needed:

To do a traditional large pedestal you will need-

- **Foliage**
Some tall pieces of e.g. eleagnus, viburnum, Rhamnus, about 10 stems
- **Transitional materials** such as pittosporum, choisya, viburnum, eucalyptus
Large leaves for adding in to give central interest fatsia, Bergenia, etc

- Some trails of ivy, rubus etc
- **Flowers**
Whatever you have available, ideally some tall verticals such as gladioli
Some round headed flowers eg roses, carnations, etc maybe a few stems of lily, dahlia
- **Mechanics**
Pedestal, large dish with oasis (I would think 2 blocks) or dish with chicken wire and pin holder. If you are not happy working large bring smaller plant material and stand e.g. tall candle stick or tall straight vase.
- We will do several designs in different areas; Coral will bring lots of spare materials so we can try out different styles.
- Bring a well-stocked toolbox and table cover
- We currently have approx. 4 spare pedestals so please let me know if you would like to borrow one, don't be afraid of giving it a go. Big is beautiful!
- **Please confirm if you will be attending** or have any queries on janet@yaffle.me.uk or 07866 887851
- There will be some spare foliage and leaves available.
- The usual delicious refreshments

Dates for your diary: -

12 September SW Area Council Meeting

12 September Wiltshire and Somerset Rock Choir, Celebrating 10 years, concert at Wiltshire Music Centre, Bradford on Avon,

September 16 NWVFC AGM, further information to be sent one month prior to the meeting as in our constitution.

October 21, Willow Wreath making workshop

November 18 Open Meeting at Malmesbury Town Hall, not to be missed. Nick Grounds, members £20, Visitors £25.

December 16 Christmas Lunch at the Old Royal Ship, Luckington, 12.30

NAFAS Diaries for 2027 are available, £5.50, please let me know if you would like yours collected from SW AREA Council meeting in September.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Best regards

Janet Bentley