

The Cheshire Area of NAFAS
Minutes of Area Council Meeting held at Plumley Village Hall
Monday 13 November 2017

Officers Present: Sharon Nolan – Chairman, Nicky Wylie - 1st Vice-Chairman, Chris Gibbons – 2nd Vice-Chairman, Chris Middleton – Treasurer, Catherine Bower - Publicity Officer, Morag McCord - Secretary

Chairman's Remarks: Sharon welcomed everyone to the first meeting after the AGM. For the benefit of new delegates, the Area Officers were introduced.

- **Deaths:**
 - Diane Hill, ex-chairman of Oxton Flower Club had died earlier this year
 - Mary Law MBE – notified by HQ.
 - Doreen Sanckson – Area Speakers Representative and past Chairman of National Speakers Committee. She was President of Stockport Afternoon Flower Club.
 - Nancy Turton, our condolences to Diane Fair, her niece and family. Nancy was very well known in Area.
 - Carol Henrys, secretary of Neston Flower Society.
- **Gerry Reid:** we send our good wishes to Gerry, out-going National President, after his recent operation
- **Congratulations to :**
 - Diane Ardenne, Chairman of Tarporley Flower Club on her recent marriage.
 - Christine Leigh, Stockport Afternoon Flower Club, for winning the Diamond Puzzle in issue 2 of Diamond Newsletter.
 - Mavis Wilkinson, Frodsham & District Flower Club, awarded Highly Commended in National Photographic Flower Competition (class 2 –“Plantaholic”).
 - Our 5 new Area Speakers, Anne Russell, Lyn Picken, Mary Pease, Kathleen Williams and Anne Houghton.
- **Festive Flower & Food Show, Blackpool:** Cheshire members have had a brilliant result at Blackpool with 5x1st, 1x2nd, 2 VHC, 1 HC and 4 C. They were:
 - First: Ann France, Eleanor Griffiths, Chris Gibbons, Nicola Wyllie and Val Seed and Gillian Mosley.
 - Second: Karen Clegg
 - Very Highly Commended: Gillian Jackson, Val Seed.
 - Highly Commended: Anne Williams.
 - Commended: Dorothy Monks, Janet Schofield, Patricia Murphy, Felicia Dykstra, Margaret Delaney and Chris Gibbons.
 - Mark Entwistle was in final of Designer of the Year but was pipped at the post by Tracy Griffiths.

Anne Williams, unfortunately fell on Saturday, badly damaging her shoulder, and was in hospital in Blackpool. We send her our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Carol Black, Area President and Speakers representative, Pat Bannister, RHS Co-ordinator, Hale Barns and Hoylake Flower Clubs, Romiley Floral Art Guild and The Flower Club of Wilmslow & District.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3 July 2017 were signed by the Area Chairman as correct.

3. **MATTERS ARISING** – will be dealt with in reports.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Thank you card from Jan Law for inviting her to the AGM and especially for the delicious lunch.
- Email from Jan Neely, Tarporley Flower Club, praising AGM and demonstration.

5. **REPORTS**

(a) **Secretary – Morag McCord**

Reminders:

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- Delegates please sign in under Club name but only one person from each club can vote.
- If Club is unable to attend or there is a change of delegate let me know before Council.
- Several important letters and application forms in packs so if you are not club chairman, please make sure they see the pack as soon as possible.
- When emailing me please remember to put your Club name on correspondence as makes it easier to reply.

Correspondence:

- Request from HQ re Notification of Cheshire Area Club anniversaries 2018. 4 clubs had still not replied.
- Several requests from clubs, phone calls re club demonstrations from people wishing to attend meetings, members of public looking for classes etc. and hopefully have been directed to the appropriate person to deal with them.
- Sadly, notification of Padgate and Kelsall Flower Clubs closing.

In packs for Council:

- Agenda for meeting
- Diary Dates 2018. A couple of dates will be discussed later.
- Club Officers form – Yellow – to be filled in and returned as soon after your AGM as possible even if no change.
- Diamond Card Application form.
- 3 different flyers for Diamond Anniversary 2019.
- Flower Arranger Order dates.
- Inset for Cheshire Area Book – Judges- Judith Butterworth's new address and contact details.
- New Area Speakers list also for Cheshire Area book.
- Flyer for "Masquerade" weekend at Leicester Marriot Hotel 10-12 August 2018.
- 7 copies World of Wedgewood Christmas flyer.
- Flyer for Wistaston & District Floral event.

Thank You and Congratulations: Many thanks to Anne and Marilyn for their great help with registration today and my congratulations to all Cheshire members who had taken part at Blackpool and for the members who had supported them.

Evening Council: dates 23 or 24 April 2018: Sharon asked if Council wished to have another evening meeting to encourage more members who might not be available to attend during the day but would attend in the evening. The delegates voted NOT to have another evening meeting, with only 9 votes FOR, so date stands at Monday 23 April 2018 at 10am for 10.30am at Plumley Village Hall. This will be an EGM to update the Area Constitution. (More in AOB.)

AGM 4 October 2018: As Frodsham Community Centre is not available; Tarvin Community Centre has been provisionally booked. More information later.

(b)Treasurer – Chris Middleton (Chris M)

1. **Affiliation Fees 2018:** 43 out of 46 clubs have paid their fees with 2 in the post and 1 not paid. (The fees are paid now for next year's spending.)
2. **Chelsea Fund Raising:** Total so far is £1,259.45 with refunds from Area Lunch, Social day extras, generous donation from "Has Beens" and very generous cheque from Prestbury Flower Club today. Several more suggestions from clubs included collecting 20ps, having a Fashion Show, Afternoon teas, Chris Middleton's Plant Sale on 19 May at Plumley etc.
3. **Today's Raffle:** Thanks to Chris for the planter for the raffle.

(c) Publicity – Catherine Bower

Summer Shows/ Visitor Vouchers.

- Free visitor vouchers issued at shows, to encourage new visitors to our clubs which would then claim refund of visitor fee from Area. Some vouchers have been returned, but I am aware that some have chosen not to claim refund, simply happy to have a new member. We do appreciate your gesture, but it will be helpful if you can let us have details, so we can evaluate the scheme accurately. Please return voucher or notify details to Chris M when your club receives a voucher.

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- Area has received vouchers issued at Royal Cheshire, Arley and RHS Tatton shows
Area publicity/promotional items
- Please let me know if you would like to use any items – I have bookings for 2018. Details of items available are on Area web site
- Items for Area notice boards up to A5 size only, please, as space is limited
- Items for web page/Facebook can be emailed to relevant Area email addresses. Posters for Facebook should be JPEG format

Publicity Group

- Colette Dunkley to join as secretary
- Helen Rock to take over maintenance of Area Archives

Social Media

- HQ - new rep to maintain HQ Social Media – mala@malaflores.co.uk. Sent information re Wedgwood demonstrations and afternoon tea
- Demonstrators group added as requested by JDS&E – Pat Murphy to notify demonstrators. *Its aim is to allow Cheshire demonstrators to share ideas and request feedback from fellow demonstrators. All posts are confidential and should not be discussed/shared outside the group.*

Cheshire Chat

- Decision was made to discontinue paper version
- Outstanding question re electronic version. This can be emailed to subscribers if new web page allows this facility. Watch this space.

Publications: HQ has changed name from Trading to Publications – as Cheshire did last year

Area Web Site

- Tony added numerous updates/photos including 'How To' from JDS&E
- New site to be taken forward. (Tony stepping down with Chris in October at AGM. Must have new website up and running by then.)

The Flower Arranger

- New editor, Chloe Bryan-Brown, appointed to take over from Rachael Bull after Spring edition (was on the short list last year's interviews). She is currently shadowing Rachael
- Date slips in your club pack. Printers have moved date they require Spring 2018 orders by a week, so can club Flower Arranger officers let me have your orders by 27th November / ASAP – was 3 December

Club visits: Thank you for your hospitality. I really enjoy visiting your club meetings

(d) **NAFAS – Sharon Nolan: NAC (National Advisory Committee) on 10/10/17 and National AGM on 11/10/17.**

Westminster Abbey: Sharon thanked Ann France and Linka Woodward for arranging at Westminster Abbey on 9 November for Remembrance Day Service.

Chelsea 2019: Nicky and Sharon had met with Sue Brinton after National AGM. We will concentrate on appointing a lead designer and on fund-raising and we have had some serious amounts of money donated already. In future, Chelsea will be reported as a separate item.

Diamond Anniversary Celebration Events: The pack for the Diamond Anniversary Celebrations 2019 was issued at NAC – earlier than expected by Area Chairmen. It included 4 flyers:

1) The Show with venue and dates

2) Dazzling Diamond Dinner flyer and application form with date, venue and price for dinner. Marriot Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, Friday 9/8/19 at cost of £150. Payable in instalments with 10% discount for early booking, bringing cost to £140

3) Flyer for extra 5% discount for Diamond Card holders- no specific application form or info re instalments

4) Application form to photocopy as required **for a Diamond Card.** HQ Has asked that anyone who does not have an email address and wishes to take advantage of the Diamond Card offer should buddy-up with someone who already has one.

ECT Travel is arranging packages.

Pat Murphy organising a competitors coach for the Show

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Colourburst weekend 10-12 August 2018 to include Wafa Eliminator for Jaipur 2020: Masquerade flyer and application form in pack for booking the weekend. Email Pat Daley for more forms if required (email address on flyer). Weekend will include national final of **World Show Honorary Exhibitor Competition**. Area eliminator to be held at Royal Cheshire Show in June, where winner represents Cheshire Area in Leicester on Friday 10 August 2018. Winner of National event sponsored by HQ to exhibit at Wafa in Jaipur, India 26 February 2020 – 1 March 2020. An exhibition piece not competition piece. (Best in Show at Blackpool sponsored by HQ to compete at Wafa. Details of eliminator at Royal Cheshire Show will be issued at Council in February 2018. Full details of competition at Leicester will be given to winner at RCS.

National Flower Arranging Day 4/5/18: Nationally it was decided to exclude WI. Sharon will speak with Cheshire Chairman of WI to see if they wish to do something. Clubs encouraged to connect with local communities, e.g. libraries, village events, out-patients departments etc. Not considered appropriate for bouquets to be left as thought to be associated with death and particularly poignant after attack on Manchester Arena.

Class Affiliation: HQ working on affiliating classes directly to HQ but details not yet known. Area also needs to put something in place. Could affect classes being run with some non-NAFAS members so let Sharon know if any are being run by members of your club.

(e) F&GP Report – Sharon Nolan

World of Wedgewood: Announced at Area AGM and already being booked. £10 discount for NAFAS members was surprise. On Wedgewood website £45 non-NAFAS, £35 NAFAS. Several flyers in packs.

Vacancies: Improving slightly but still pretty desperate.

Filled:

- 1) Archivist – Helen Rock taking over from Shirley Robinson.
- 2) Minutes secretary to Publicity committee – Collette Dunkley.
- 3) 1 club representatives on F&GP. Maureen Hernon has replaced Joan Wilkinson who is now joint chair of Royal Cheshire Show committee.
- 4) RHS Coordinator/assistant to RHS Coordinator Pam Mosedale will assist Pat Bannister with IT aspects of RHS Show representation in particular.

Outstanding:

- 1) Club representative to replace Anne Watson who will administer Chaffinches.
- 2) Area Minute Secretary to assist Area Secretary at Council and AGM.
- 3) Minute Secretary at F&GP to free up Sharon's time
- 4) In just under a year Area Treasurer, earlier if we find one, to achieve hand over from Chris Middleton.
- 5) Someone to maintain website – Tony goes at same time as Chris M.
- 6) Publicity team, general member.
- 7) 2nd Vice Chair required October 2018.

(f) Judges, Demonstrators, Speakers and Education Report – Nicky Wylie

Speakers Course: List of new Area Speakers who passed the Test last month is in Club pack today. Congratulations to all who passed.

Budgets and details of courses etc. will be presented and issued in February 2018.

(g) Social – Chris Gibbons

No lunch being organised for 2018.

Social Day – Frodsham Community Centre booked for Thursday 5th July 2018.

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(h)RHS Tatton– Pat Bannister report given by Sharon Nolan:

Chris Gibbons did not feel she could do exhibit in 2018 but Sylvia Bower has accepted the invitation and will lead the exhibit team. (Sylvia, together with Linda Deakin, gained an RHS Gold at the RHS Spring Show in London a couple of years ago.)

(i)Royal Cheshire County Show – Joan Wilkinson

Schedule: Schedule for next year's show has been finalised and copies will be given out at Council in February 2018. Tried to give marquee a different look and are having frames made for one of the classes and utilising the plinth that had been used for display of petite class as part of the mechanics for another class. Hoped that each year we can add to these items which we hope will stretch the imagination of our exhibitors.

Bench Classes/WAFA Eliminator: Due to popularity of last year's bench classes, committee have decided to add a further bench class making total of classes up to eleven. Just hope can find room in marquee as space at front will be taken up with WAFA Eliminator competition, the winner of which will go on to represent Cheshire Area in the competition at Marriot Hotel, Leicester, the successful candidate will then be invited to stage an honorary exhibit at 13th World Show in Jaipur India 2020 so hope will attract several candidates for this exciting opportunity to hopefully represent Cheshire/NAFAS at the World Show. The children's hands-on will remain a vital part of the Show as we wish to encourage the future generation to take part in this wonderful hobby. Due to popularity of jewellery making, this too will be included in show.

Non-Competitive Exhibits: Also having four non-competitive exhibits for tutors and their pupils which allows them a wonderful opportunity to stage a large exhibit as part of a team. If you are a tutor or know of anyone who would qualify to enter this class, get in touch with Joan. Information available on Area website.

Support: Committee looking forward to seeing all at show next year and as this is the one major show for us in Cheshire Area so let us show the public what this very talented area is capable of.

(j) NAFAS Sub- Committee Reports:

i) Judges – Pam Fleming-Williams.

Extracts from minutes of National Judging Committee held 29 September 2017.

Modular Training Programme:

Surrey & Sussex cooperated to hold a Judges Test on 12 July with 3 passes.

North East area held a Judges Test on 24 September and had 6 passes.

North West hopes to continue training in near future with a third module.

South Midlands have 8 candidates and hope to hold a test in Spring 2018.

Areas should be aware they are always able to hold additional training days for small groups or individuals which could be taken by a National Judge from their Area.

Judges Refresher days are taking place in Three Counties & South Wales, Northumberland & Durham and BB&O. East of England will hold a Refresher Day on Period Work in May 2018 and Devon & Cornwall are planning a training day on Still Life.

Six Trainee Instructors are at different stages in the process of qualifying.

Two trainee Instructors are awaiting an opportunity to finish off their last Stage.

Congratulations to Alan Beatty who has qualified as an Instructor for Judges Training.

Budget has been submitted to Board for a **two day intensive course** to be held at Osborne House. Intended for candidates who have missed certain days of training in their own Areas or who do not have access to a course in their own Area and want to start Judges Training.

Provisional dates of 7/8 April for Introductory and Practical Modules, and 7/8 July for Oral and Written Paper Modules were booked. The Chairman to advise AOIFA in Ireland of the provisional dates.

Guidelines: After discussion at Adjudicators & Instructors Day on allocation of marks to part questions, Guidelines for Writing Marking Schemes will be amended to be clearer.

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Suggestions are requested for revision of the **Plant List** for tests which is published on the website.

Conference: Feedback on Judges Conference held in Nottingham was very positive.

A&I Day: Committee would have preferred that all qualified and trainee Adjudicators and Instructors attended. Chairman would write to those who had not attended the last two sessions as it is essential that everyone keeps up to date.

Suggestions for updates to the 2015 Competitions Manual will be considered for a future edition.

It was suggested that the first Period Guide Handbook is reviewed for possible improvements in layout, for easier comparison.

Next A&I Day will be held on 19 September 2018.

Period Flower Arranging Unit: A draft of a Learning Scheme had been prepared in conjunction with a member of the Education Committee. This was reviewed and hopefully uploaded to the Members Area of NAFAS website for use by Areas, Clubs or individuals.

2019 Show at Business Design Centre in London: First draft schedule was presented and discussed.

Representative's day: next meeting will be held on 21 February 2018

Judges had been agreed for the WAFA Eliminator competition to be held during Masquerade weekend at Leicester Marriot in 2018.

Blackpool Show 2017: One judge had withdrawn due to having an operation. Chairman to contact Reserve to judge and appoint a replacement reserve.

Next meeting: Thursday 22 February 2018.

Thanks were expressed to Pam Fleming-Williams and Pat Hutchinson for their time on the Committee.

(ii) Demonstrators – Mrs Pat Murphy:

The National Demonstrators' Committee, Michael Bowyer, Chairman, Elizabeth Graham, Pam Lewis, Jacqui Arnold and Diane Fair, held a meeting on Tuesday 26 September 2017 and the following are notes from that meeting.

There were various items of correspondence regarding resignations from the National List of Demonstrators; all reps contacted outlining the need for any training and testing dates to be sent to the committee, various emails regarding the Festive Flower & Food Show in Blackpool and emails asking for advice on training.

COMPLAINTS: There were no complaints received by the Committee.

Training & Testing: Adjudicators & Instructors Progress – Jacqui Arnold and Diane Fair had passed their stage 1 B sit in. Kate Kerr and Craig Bullock to receive information regarding sit in at Sussex. Sandy Bailey will not be continuing with her adjudicator training.

Advice & Guidance Day: All those attending have received an email from the Chairman outlining the events of the day. The Committee ran through their responsibilities and roles for the day.

Practical Training Day: This will be held on Wednesday 20 June at South Weald Hall and the Chairman is to advise those attending the Advice & Guidance Day of this to get an idea of numbers.

National Test 2018: The date for the test is provisionally 23 – 24 October 2018. The Chairman is to ask the Area Chairmen in October for ideas of appropriate places for a national test in their area.

Next A & I Day: This is to be held on Tuesday 18 September 2018. The Committee will be meeting also on the 17 September.

Next Reps Day: This will be Wednesday 24 January 2018.

2018 SYMPOSIUM - 19 – 22 APRIL: There are currently 29 applications and deposits. The Secretary read the list of applicants to the Committee and will make a table for the Committee providing names and areas of applicants.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Ten National demonstrators have retired and will not appear in the next National List. They are: Irene Bowkett, Alison Bradley, Derek Bridges, Lesley Devalle, Jayne Edmunds, Jacky Eyre, Avril Hill, Sheila Holland, Susan Phillips, Gerry Reid.
DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 23 January 2018.

iii) **Speakers –Carol Black:** No report

(iv) **Education – Diane Fair:** Notes taken from the minutes of National Education Committee Meeting 25 & 27 October 2017

The new committee chairman Julie Woods chaired the meeting with Moyra Turnbull-editor of Insight, Joan Woodhead- course consultant, Sharon Dower and Lesley Sturdy- new members –present.

INSIGHT -312 subscriptions to date

The Board of Directors have asked the committee to consider ceasing subscriptions and instead produce an electric version of the magazine which can be downloaded for free from the website online. Due to a number of two-year subscriptions the earliest this can happen will be April 2019.

Michael Bowyer and Mala Williams Wessex and Jersey Area have been accepted to teach the Teacher Training course and Michael to teach Level s 2-4 of NAFAS course.

The new book – Illustrated Designs-Book 2 is still a work in progress and was not launched at Blackpool.

The next Teachers Conference will be renamed The Education Conference and will be held in March 2019.

The next National Education committee meeting will take place on 26th -27th February 2018

(v) **Photography – Pam Mosedale**

National Photography Competition: There were almost 500 entries into this year's National Photography Competition. Congratulations to Mavis Wilkinson on achieving a Highly Commended award in Class 2 of the competition. Her image was displayed at National AGM and at Nationals at Blackpool.

Royal Cheshire Show Schedule: Draft photography competition for Royal Cheshire Show has been completed however Pam would like some suggestions for a qualified photography judge.

"How-to" photographs: Six designs have been photographed for Cheshire Area website's How-to section. These will be published during 2018.

(vi) **Junior Liaison – Sally Melvin:** No report.

6.) **Any Other Business:** Please Read 2-5 Immediately.

- 1) **Area Constitution:** Request from Wistaston & District for copy of Area Constitution revealed it was out of date and needed sorting out before any further changes can be made.
- 2) **Proposed Area Name Change:** Request was made at Area AGM to discuss a change of name for the Area, especially as North West Area has recently changed its name to "Flowers- North West". Subject not pursued as any name change had to be in line with Area constitution and work at HQ to consider a name change for NAFAS as a whole. It was agreed the constitution had to be consulted and the request progressed as appropriate after the AGM.
- 3) **EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting):** An EGM is required to both update the Area Constitution and also to put in place any agreed name change. **It is proposed that the Council meeting in April 2018 will be badged as an EGM** (this means we do not have to call an extra meeting). Sharon asked for a show of hands re calling 23 April meeting an EGM. **25 clubs were in favour.**

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- 4) **Revised Constitution:** Will be issued at Council in February with necessary changes to bring it up to date only- no name change.
- 5) **Area Name change:** Delegates must take information back to their clubs for members to discuss the possible name change and **submit suggested names by email to Morag by Sunday 28/1/18**. Officers will prepare short list to go to Council on 12 February 2018. Delegates will be asked to take short list back to clubs for discussion. The final name will be decided by vote at EGM in April. One club delegate/one vote. Implementation of new name will be carried out as far as practical before Area AGM in October 2018. **Note** that a short list must be prepared to ensure that the name is commercially acceptable, e.g. trade-mark contraventions, domain name issues, other business names etc. It will also take several months to implement any new name, e.g. bank account names, website changes, reprint publicity material etc.
- 6) **Chairman's Award:** This is given to Club which increased its membership by the biggest percentage, and which had sent in its affiliation fees by the requested date. This year's prize is 2 tickets to Social Day to be used for the benefit of the club and its members. 3rd – Chester Flower Club, 2nd – Neston Flower Society and 1st – Rural Chester Flower Club. Congratulations to Rural Chester Flower Club.

Sharon reminded all the delegates to talk to their clubs and to contact Morag with their suggested names by email by 28 January 2018. She thanked everyone for their hard work in 2017 and wished them a Happy Christmas and New Year.

- 7. **DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Monday 12 February 2018. Plumley Village Hall. 10am coffee/tea, 10.30 a.m. meeting.**

Signed

Date