

# The Cheshire Area of NAFAS

## Minutes of Area Council Meeting held at Plumley Village Hall

Monday 23 May 2016

Present: Mrs Val Seed Chairman  
Mrs Sharon Nolan 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman  
Mrs Chris Middleton Area Treasurer  
Mrs Morag McCord Area Secretary

### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - Mrs Val Seed**

Very warm welcome everyone, especially to any new delegates.

Received notification of deaths of Dorothy Cockle, former Area Publications Officer, and Dorothy Bateson (Disley) just a few days short of her 100th birthday. Cards sent to families. Congratulations to Sylvia Bower and Linda Deakin who were awarded a Gold medal at RHS Spring Show in London.

Also, a Bronze medal had been awarded to Cheshire team – Janet Schofield, Gill Davies, Helen Hunter and Karen Clegg at Harrogate Spring Show. Well done to everyone.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Nicky Wylie, Area 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman, Ann Jackson, Area Minute Secretary, Pat Murphy, Area Demonstrator and Photography reps, Edena Joughin, Editor Cheshire Chat, Ashton Hayes & Tarvin Flower Club, Bebington Flower Society, Ellesmere Port Flower Club, Heswall Flower Club and Kelsall Flower Club.

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 were approved and signed by the Area Chairman with the following amendment: AOB – 2 - ... generous donation of £100.

### **3. Matters Arising**

Lonely Bouquet: More than 9 clubs agreed to do special bouquets to mark Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, some on 6 May and others in June.

### **4. Correspondence**

Letters received from Val Davidson and HQ congratulating Cheshire on Gold at RHS Spring Show. Letters of congratulations from Janet Hayton, National President, Beryl Cotton, National and Area AOH, Romiley and Tarporley FC for very successful Afternoon Tea and from Jean Mangnall and Janet Phillimore for surprise AOH badges. Letter from Gerry Reid, next National President, accepting invitation to Social Day.

### **5. Reports**

#### **a) Secretary –Mrs Morag McCord**

Reminders: Delegates to ensure that information is given to club officers as soon as possible. Only 1 vote per club.  
Parking at Plumley – take care when parking on the grass.  
Change of date for July Council – could any paperwork to be with me by 16 July or by 6.15pm at Frodsham please.

Included in packs:

1. Agenda with Date, Time and Address of Frodsham Community Centre with Postcode.
2. Reminder for meeting change next Council. Yellow slip.
3. Area List –extra information included.
4. Area Officers Nomination form for AGM. Remember to ask person being nominated first to make sure willing to stand.
5. Letter- Christmas Workshop for Members – 19 & 20 November 2016.
6. Flyer “Do You Love Flowers” from Pat Murphy, Area Demonstrators Rep.
7. Christmas pack and order form.
8. Flyer and Application form – Lymm Open meeting in November.
9. Various leaflets including Nantwich Show, NAC from Val etc..
10. Information re Staging large exhibits from Joan Wilkinson.

**Change of date for October F&GP meeting published in Cheshire Chat – from 31 to 24 October.**

**Open Council Meeting date** – Frodsham Wednesday evening **27 July 2016** 7 for 7.30pm. 4 members per club but only 1 voting member. Tea/ coffee and cake – Social Committee. **This replaces Council date 25 July at Plumley**

#### **Correspondence**

Only 34 out of 47 yellow Club officer’s forms returned with new web contact despite 2 reminders . Make sure details for your Club contact for website are correct and form signed by that person- giving permission for their details to go on Area website and contact from Area and NAFAS HQ.

Several email enquiries re clubs, demonstrators, blue forms etc., sent on to appropriate person.

I’ll be on holiday 17 -26 July which is why I have asked for paperwork for club packs be delivered to me by 16 July of failing that by 6.15 on evening at Council.

**My thanks** to Ann Jackson for the minutes and to hostess Merylyn Haslam and Chris O’Hara from F &GP team for great help today with registration and filling envelopes.

#### **b) Treasurer – Mrs Chris Middleton**

##### **1. Balances**

£18k in Current and Savings Accounts+£31k in Bond. Current account inflated by £1,400 from Social Day Tickets and missing final payments for Harrogate Show.

##### **2. Social Day**

So far 240 tickets allocated.

##### **3. Afternoon Tea**

Surplus made due to tremendous support on raffle and Tombola.

##### **4. Affiliation Fees**

New affiliation fee will be £8.10 which includes Area and National fees.

**5. Harrogate Spring Show–**

£3000 in advance payments have been sent to Janet but final expenses not been submitted yet.

**6. Treasurer's (and Chairman's) meeting 7<sup>th</sup> June.**

So far 14 Treasurers have responded positively plus two have sent information.

**7. Inventory**

Phase 1 implemented under the "Cheshire Area" tab on the website.

[www.nafascheshire.org.uk](http://www.nafascheshire.org.uk).

**8. Raffle**

Thanks to everyone today.

**c) Publicity – Mrs Chris Middleton**

1. Area Media Officer meeting in London 22/3/16 – Tony was due to attend but was ill on the day. Awaiting minutes of meeting.
2. Christmas – Sample calendar containing Information Sheet and Order Form available today for all clubs who want one.
3. Cheshire Chat – available today.
4. Flower Arranger – Catherine back so will give her own report.
5. Arley Garden Festival: Meeting of members of Publicity team involved and budget of £750 presented to Council for approval.  
Proposed: Chris Middleton    Seconded: Goostrey Flower Club.  
Flowers - £500 plus petrol plus contingency.  
Allowance £50 from Arley.  
Hoped hands on aspect would be sponsored by Tesco - not in addition to £750.
6. Agreed with HQ leaflets and handbooks would be on sale at Shows so sale-or-return box would be requested from London.
7. Handbooks and Flower Arranger would be present at Royal Cheshire, Arley and Tatton shows
8. Thanks to Maureen Hernan and Joan Wilkinson for helping today in Edena and Louise's absence.

**c) i) Flower Arranger –Mrs Catherine Bower**

**1.** Big thank you to Pam Dimeloe for holding the fort.

**2. Spring and Summer deliveries.**

Following some (National) problems with deliveries, it had been proposed Club Flower Arranger Officer's (CFAO) phone numbers are made available to the courier company. This would enable them to contact clubs if there is a problem with delivery eg delay or cannot find the address. Notify Catherine as soon as possible and by 1 September if CAFO not happy with this.

**3. Autumn orders and deliveries**

Any changes to CFAO or club order to Catherine by 9 June. Delivery for Autumn edition due w/c 2 August.

**4. AFAO meeting.**

Catherine could not attend meeting in London on 5 May but will provide feedback when received minutes.

#### **5. New back copies.**

Cost and arrangements for ordering new back copies has changed. Choice of edition is not available, however will provide a selection.

10 magazines £6      25 magazines £10

Catherine will order a supply for Area.

CFAO can order any number at 40p per copy. Cheques made payable to *The Cheshire Area of NAFAS(FA)*.

May be suitable to give to give new members as part of a welcome pack.

#### **6. Pre Loved magazines.**

Happy to take copies. Gives a good selection at Shows.

#### **Notice Board**

Display boards and promotional material will be at Area events, the Royal Cheshire Show and RHS Tatton.

Thanks to all clubs who had provided club and flower festival promotional material.

To give all clubs the opportunity to advertise events, posters/flyers should be no larger than A5.

### **c)ii) Photography – Mrs Pat Murphy**

Notes taken from minutes of National Photography Committee held 17 March 2016.

Committee consists of Chairman, Philip Gray, Chrissie Harten, Jane Burns and Beverley Moore.

For first time meeting conducted entirely online and was something of an experiment.

#### **Festive Flower & Food Show, Blackpool.**

Committee attended the Show in November 2015. As not possible to have DVDs ready for first day of show, orders were taken at photography stand. This worked better as able to include not just competitions but WAFA Elimination Competition, Designer of the Year Competition, Special Awards and 21 Area s Napkin Ring exhibits. Committee felt should do this for future as much better value for those who bought the DVD.

#### **2016 National Photography Competition.**

Chrissie Harten, Competition Secretary, reported that for first time National Photographic Competition will be digital following success of 2017 Calendar Competition. Title is "Colourburst" and is available on NAFAS website. Prizewinning entries will be printed and put on display at "Colourburst" weekend in Leicester in November and at NAFAS AGM at Bishopsgate Institute in October. Closing date for entries is 1 September 2016.

#### **NAFAS 2017 Calendar Competition.**

Very successful. All winners have been advised and calendar available April 2016 – Trading.

**New NAFAS Website.** It was reported there is a facility on new NAFAS website to upload You Tube videos and would be good if Photography Committee could

collaborate with other disciplines and do photoshoots at HQ to get videos up and running.

**New NAFAS Photography Facebook Page.**

New Facebook page for NAFAS National Photography was created in January and can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/Nafas Photography/>

**Date of next meeting – Tuesday 6 September 2016 at NAFAS HQ.**

**c)iii) Cheshire Chat – Mrs Chris Middleton,**

Cheshire Chat – new edition available today. Some amendments to copy already! Copy date for November edition is 1/10/16 not 22/10/16 and in Diary Dates 2016, F&GP is 24 October not 31 October. Thanks to all the contributors and sorry to all clubs who had sent in copy just too late. It is stored waiting for November edition. Buy copies for the clubs as a lot had been left over of last edition.

**c)iv) Social Media – Mrs Nicky Wylie**

New member, Mark Entwistle, has agreed to operate an Area Twitter account. Getting better at Facebook and quickly getting things out. A good way to promote ourselves. Clubs need to keep sending things to get out on the FB page and to tweet. Contact publicity team at: [social.media@nafascheshire.org.uk](mailto:social.media@nafascheshire.org.uk)

**c)v) Website – Mr Tony Middleton**

Council minutes now available via website, starting from November 2015 meeting. A Spring “How-To” by Chris O’Hara was added in March. A new “How-To” by Diane Fair will be added shortly. As usual, routine maintenance has been carried out –eg, club diary updates and event photographs. Club contact details will be updated soon from forms provided to Secretary.

To contact Website officer, use either contact form on website or [website@nafascheshire.org.uk](mailto:website@nafascheshire.org.uk).

**5d) NAFAS – Mrs Val Seed**

**2 things of real importance.**

**1 )** Clubs could ask their local councils to fund a Floral Art exhibition – Corby Council gave £4,000 last year for an Art exhibition!

**2)** Blackpool made a loss of £13,000 in main because members did not support it by going and buying raffle tickets. National Show will be at Blackpool again from **9 – 11 November 2017.**

**Company Secretary, Paul Bonter’s report – last sentence**

**“The main purpose of NAFAS is to advance public education in the art of Floral Art Design and it is therefore justifiable if costs incurred in achieving these ends”**

Works out at 25p per member and as we only have a National Show every 2 years it is 12 and half p per member!!

Advertising in a good magazine for possibly 2 issues only would cost much more and how many people would it reach.

Unless we go “out there”, nobody will know about us. It involves spending money but

money well spent to get our name in public eye.

Would club members be prepared to contribute to the Nationals?

Unless we recruit new members and form new clubs in the way they want to be, in a few years' time we will not be here.

## **5(e) Finance and General Purposes – Mrs Val Seed**

Lots of budgets have been discussed and approved for various things coming up in Area, which will be covered in other reports.

At Tatton there will be a **“New member Initiative”** which should be self-funding. How do we recruit all these new people who will see Cheshire’s wonderful exhibit and want to learn how to be part of something like that?

**Mark Entwistle** has agreed to do a workshop in September, for which all materials will be provided, and there will be an opportunity for the public to put their details in a box and from names received, will be a chance for 2 people to attend the workshop free.

Methods of selling have changed dramatically.

Young go on internet all the time – this is the way forward. Facebook, twitter, Pinrest etc which needs to be up-dated all the time. Videos of “how-tos” on u-tube etc.

Nicky does Facebook and now Mark Entwistle has taken on Twitter and Pinrest. Twitter is going well and followers have gone up 10%

Val made a promise to establish a Facebook page – to join the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Almost there but has an appointment with a 10year old who has promised to sort her out!!

**Cheshire’s Got Talent Forms** – Only 6 replies received – to do flowers – not jobs! Really need new people to help. Club members need to offer their talents to do jobs.

**Information sharing evening** – 18 clubs responded so far – 16 can attend and hopefully a few more will reply.

**Situations Vacant** - Positions of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman and Publicity Officer both urgently required for next year.

**Congratulations** to our extremely successful medal winners competing at **Chelsea, Eleanor Griffiths, Dawn Weaver, Pat Murphy, Chris Gibbons and Janet Schofield.**

**Finally** Val and Officers would like to say “Good Luck” to anyone entering Cheshire Show, to the team going to Arley Hall and of course the team representing us at Tatton, I know you will all do us proud and remember the medals and prizes are nice but most importantly ENJOY yourself.

## **5f) Judges, Demonstrators, Speakers and Education - Mrs Sharon Nolan**

### **1 JUDGES**

**1.1 Judges Refresher Day:** Planned to hold joint day with North West, combined with North West training programme for new judges in October 2016. Will cover new competitions manual.

**1.2 National Judges Training:** 13 national candidates, 2 from Cheshire (Chris Gibbons and Edena Joughin). Test end of October 2016 Good luck to both.

### **2 DEMONSTRATORS**

**2.1 Introductory Course for NAFAS Disciplines, 29/2, 4/4, 16/5, Plumley:** Diane Fair and Edena Joughin. 10 students have completed the course and most will hopefully go on to demonstrator training. Thank you to Diane and Edena.

**2.2 Demonstrator Training:** Booked for 11/7/16, 8/8/16, 5/9/16, 25/9/16 (Mock), 16/10/16, 31/10/16 (Final) at same cost as last year, £150 + £30 for final test. These dates are Mondays and some Sundays to attract florists. Expect approx. 8-10 student, including 4 to retake, 3 from NW, "new" florists from Cheshire Area. Application form for tickets for final test on 31/10/16 will go out at Council in July. If know of anyone interested in training as a demonstrator, contact Pat Murphy, demonstrators rep.

### **3 SPEAKERS:**

Course proposed for 2017, subject to enough names. Provisional dates 25/3/17, 20/5/17, 8/7/17, 2/9/17 (Mock), 28/10/17 (Final). If know of anyone interested to train as NAFAS Speaker contact Carol Black, Speakers rep.

### **4 EDUCATION**

**4.1 Start A Fashion, Plumley 2/4, 30/4, 14/5/16:** Val Seed, Chris O'Hara. 10 students. Extra day added 16/7/16 Thank you to Val and Chris. students.

**4.3 Members Day, Pedestal Workshop, 9/7/16:** Diane Fair, Chris O'Hara, and ANO. By popular demand. Fantastic quick response to this. Fully subscribed with 26 students and a wait-list. Whole building booked to take overspill.

**4.4 Education Day, Rachel Poole, 5/11/16:** Will be sent to persons on Education List only. Note – Education days only open to teachers in Cheshire Book and those members who run workshops locally and for their clubs. If anyone thinks they should be included on this list, speak with Diane Fair, Area Education rep.

**4.5 Members Days, Christmas workshops, Pauline Foster (National Teacher) 19&20/11/16.**

Being held at Plumley – proved difficult to get venues at each end of Area. Application form in pack, cost £20. Most people organising day are volunteers so can hold price down to make more accessible to as many members as possible. (Compare commercial costs of £100 + for some workshops). Great to have speedy response to bookings for these workshops too.

**5 JUNIOR LIAISON:** Plan to arrange get-together for anyone interested in teaching Juniors later in the year.

### **6 AOB:**

**6.1 Cheshire Book:** Copy in pack. Give it to Programme Secretary. If require more copies they can be purchased from Sally Dyke – full details in front of book. Already an extra name added and we are looking forward to adding some more after October.

**6.2 Northwich Memorial Centre:** Always looking out for large venues, for Area or National functions. Northwich Memorial Centre has been rebuilt, with theatre upto 500 persons, lunch/cabaret 320-330 and other rooms available. Will view it in October and will let you know result at November Council. If come across any other large venue let us know.

**6.3 Charity Event:** Delighted to accept invitation from Stockton Heath FC to charity demonstration for St Rocco's Hospice on 28/11/16.

## **5g) Social – Mrs Nicky Wylie**

### **Afternoon Tea**

Unfortunately, could not attend in the afternoon but would like to thank Chris Middleton and rest of the Social team for stepping in and running it all so successfully and would recommend using Chester racecourse again.

### **Social Day 7th July**

Speaker, Julia Summers confirmed. Jam company and jewellery and ribbons as stalls this year. Demonstrator, Emily Broomhead good to go. Bringing her husband but requires help behind the stage. Title is “Let’s Celebrate”. Ticket sales going well. Remember to wear a piece of jewellery.

### **AGM**

Plans ongoing and will be able to tell more at next Council meeting in July.

## **5h) RHS – Mrs Pat Bannister**

Cheshire Area entry to Tatton has been accepted by RHS. Many things have changed.

1. Position of Design Studio will be nearer the design outlets and Country Living Marquee.
2. Shape of the Marquee will be hexagonal and should be brilliant for us. Have been given huge area adjacent to our design where we are planning to have a workshop and information area where the public can “Have a Go” and promote NAFAS. Also will have a “Selfie” wall so that those who have made an item at the workshop can take photos and can send posts to Facebook and Twitter. We will promote our work by engaging and encouraging everyone to take part.

No demonstrations or selling merchandise but will have “How To” booklets, club information, news, media and Flower Arranger available in workshop area.

Determined to show the public what can be achieved easily and with little cost, by showing different techniques and ideas. Very hands on and very busy.

Mark and his team are doing a stunning design showing just what can be done by flower arrangers and what talent they have. These are Mark’s words which will be printed in the handout for Tatton.

“Floral art to catch the eye and capture the imagination” is the inspiration behind the exhibit. Flowers have their own beauty but when used in an imaginative and unexpected way they can create stunning, awe inspiring works of art.

Unless go for Gold and show what can be done, NAFAS is going nowhere. Have to move into 21<sup>st</sup> century. RHS Show together with Royal Cheshire Show are only ways to showcase the talent in this Area.

Officers and F&GP team had agreed the budget sum of **£5,000** which included Mark’s budget and the workshop expenses be presented to Council for approval.

Proposed: **Mrs Pat Bannister**

Seconded: **Knutsford Floral Design Club.**

All agreed

## **5 (i) Cheshire Show Team – Mrs Lynda Braddock**



The plan and lay-out for the marquee has been submitted to CAS and furniture, electricity etc. has been ordered.

Entries doing well with some classes already full and a waiting list prepared. However still availability in Novice class so if thinking of entering, get entry forms in as soon as possible. Come and have a look at the four large non-competitive exhibits inspired by the Royal status of the show, encompassing "Royal Ascot", "Royal Garden Party", "Royal Deeside (the other one)" and "Royal Variety Performance". Intriguing to say the least.

Free demonstrations by our own creative demonstrators will take place morning and afternoon on both days, alongside demonstrations and techniques in leaf manipulation. Had hoped to have member of Bonsai Society from Wirral in attendance but due to work commitments has had to pull out.

Photographic competition follows main theme of "Let's Face The Music" and has exciting titles such as "What a Wonderful World", "I've Got Rhythm", "Think Pink", "Ebony & Ivory" and "In Scale". Encourage members and friends to have a go at photography. Let your seeing eye look through a lens as well as using it for floral design. Contact Pat Murphy for more information.

Had a good response for Stewards but always need waiting list for someone to fill the gap when Show gets busy. Contact Liz Kennan if can help.

Sponsorship always a challenge but Gordale Garden Centre has shone again. Also very grateful to response from letter asking for donations/sponsorship from Area flower clubs and to date has received cheques from 5 clubs with couple more to come. The Flower Arranger Magazine and JDS&E committee have agreed to sponsor flowers for Adults and Children's Hands on, and personal donations have been received. Full list of sponsors/donations will be displayed at the show.

On lighter note, CAS has invited Area to enter the "Scarecrow" competition which they are running throughout the show. Public will vote for best scarecrow and a prize will be awarded. Keep your eyes open for the Scarecrow - you never know we might win.

## **5j NAFAS Sub Committee reports**

### **i) JUDGES – Mrs Pam Fleming-Williams**

**National Report:** Meeting held 18 February 2016:

Overall, new competitions manual has been well received. Major changes were covered in an article in "Insight" and in emails to all Area reps.

Adjudicators and Instructors Day held 17 February. Exercises on writing and marking exam papers and identifying plant materials. Information and discussion on modular training system and amendments to guidelines.

Area Reps Day to take place on 29 June when changes to competitions manual, new modular training scheme and what is meant by the term plant material will be discussed as well as all guidelines being brought up to date and affirmation of responsibilities of Area Reps.

Training/Refresher Days taking place in North East, North West, Northumberland & Durham, Mercia & N Wales, Three Counties & South Wales, Kent and SAFAS.

Show Guide booklet being up-dated. To be retitled "Putting On A Show".

North West Area holding Area Judges' Training and Cheshire hope to share

training/refresher day with them at end of this year, concentrating on the practical aspect of the test.

National Test confirmed for 29 October in Solihull with 11 candidates.

Two Cheshire ladies are training towards taking National Judges' Test and Pam will continue to work with and encourage them as second training day and final test approaches in the Autumn.

Designer of the Year Competition likely to be repeated at Blackpool 2017.

Conference to go ahead in August 2017 – venue to be confirmed.

**Next meeting 30 June**

**(ii) DEMONSTRATORS' REPORT – Mrs Pat Murphy/Sharon Nolan.**

Notes from meeting of National Demonstrators' Committee held 23 February 2016.

**Present:** Michael Bowyer, Chairman, Elizabeth Graham, Beryl Cotton, Jacqui Arnold and Diane Fair.

**Matters Arising:** New Code of Practice has been agreed and circulated.

**Training and Testing:**

**Changes to Guidelines** –All D Forms should be available to representatives, adjudicators, instructors and Committee members electronically. Change pre-national assessment form for next two tests so that candidates are given a full written report which will advise Areas of good practice and where improvements need to be made. They will also be given their marks sheet. Michael to advise candidates it is not a pass/fail situation but purely assessment. Trial for two tests. Comment sheets for unsuccessful candidates at Area and National level and all at Pre-National level will show all marks.

**National Test 2016:** Venue booked in Northallerton.

**2018 Symposium:** Chairman has looked at venues in Ross-on-Wye and Oxfordshire. To be discussed further at next meeting.

**Website:** Chairman showed printout of home page of new website to Committee. With regard to blue form on new website, everyone will be given a password to be able to fill out form online.

**Colourburst Event 2016:** Chairman advised there would not be a National Demonstrator at the event as Simon Lycett had been chosen. He expressed disappointment that a National demonstrator was not being chosen for NAFAS events despite their training. Letter was written to National Chairman on this matter.

**Any Other Business:** Recommended flower allowance of £100 needs to be updated. Will be discussed at next meeting.

With regard to Nationals Blackpool, Chairman sent report to Committee which includes:-

Information sent out beforehand was incorrect, staging not suitable, lighting a problem, problem with people not moving after demonstrations. Parking and getting materials for the Demonstration into the event was particularly difficult. Many National Demonstrators have bookings around Christmas time and many felt that the timing was not ideal. National Committees need to be able to use the event as a showcase and Committee will welcome involvement in 2017 event.

**Date next meeting of National Demonstrators Committee: Thursday 18 August 2016.**

### **(iii) Speakers – Mrs Carol Black**

Speakers Committee with Chairman Elizabeth Rea met Tuesday/Wednesday, 8&9 March Decided, following National Speakers Test last year, marking system should be revised. Area Candidates need to attain 105 out of 150 marks to pass test and National test 115 out of 150

Form B7A showing both of their marks and suitable comments will be sent to Candid after both an Area and National Test.

Form B8 will be abolished.

Alterations will be made to Guidelines reflecting these changes.

Also decided National Test trainee Adjudicators sitting in at Stage 4 will write papers on maximum of 5 Candidates. These papers should sample range of candidate's abilities.

This decision will bring Speakers into line with other disciplines.

Next National Speakers Test will be held as joint Demonstrators and Speakers Test at Northallerton in October, Speakers will take place Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 followed by Demonstrators. Tickets for both Tests available from Beryl Cotton Tel: 07710132721

Residential course for Speakers – Cardiff University from 25- 28 July.

### **(iv) Education - Diane Fair.**

Notes taken Minutes of National Education Committee meeting held 24 & 25 February 2016.

Chairman Jane Haas, June Borrowdale, Moyra Turnbull, Joan Woodhead and new member Julie Woods.

Last year Insight subscriptions stood at 358, this year 250 subscribers so far.

Only 17 students registered on OCN Floral art and Design course spread across 8 tutors in Great Britain. 9 students on Teacher Training course in Surrey which ends in summer.

Secretary has been liaising with OCN regarding revalidation of all NAFAS courses. Will cost £500. Budget for £500 will be sent to Board of Directors for approval.

Due to small number of students in various groups taking OCN courses it was felt The Margaret Newman award for Excellence could no longer be awarded.

Festive Flower and Food Show had been very successful for Education Committee, workshops very popular. "Twists and Turns" book launched at show and currently 1000 copies have been sold, despite discrepancy on page 41.

Teachers Conference will be held at Novotel Birmingham on 18 and 19 March 2017. Will be limited to 40 delegates, cost £160 in twin room or £200 in single room, dinner bed and breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

Amendments will be made to "Elements and Principles of Design" book in light of new Competitions Manual.

Due to low number of juniors enrolling on Junior Certificate the new Leisure class document will be called "A basic guide to setting up Leisure Classes for Adults and Juniors". Once finalised, document will be uploaded to website.

**Next committee meeting will be on 7 & 8 July 2016.**

**Next area Education reps Day will be 6 July 2017.**

## **6. Any Other Business**

1. Chris Middleton has requested on Nicky Wylie's behalf help for serving coffee/tea at next Council. Social Committee unable to attend.
2. '-----THESE THREE----!' Val Seed expressed her grateful thanks to all who attended the Charity evening last Friday Any profit will go towards a homeless charity and very grateful to Cheshire Area for their generous sponsorship of £100 as part of its Charity giving.
3. **Bebington Flower Club** Very sad news to be informed that Bebington Flower Club will close after their meeting in July.

Area President, Shirley Robinson, thanked Officers for a most enjoyable meeting and looked forward to an exciting few months ahead. Encourage members, friends, neighbours to attend the shows to support the tremendous work being done on our behalf. Good luck to everyone.

**Date of Next Council Meeting: Wednesday 27 July 2016**

**7pm for 7.30pm at FRODSHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Fluin Lane FRODSHAM WA6 7ON.**

..... **Signed**

..... **Date**