

THE CHESHIRE AREA OF NAFAS

Minutes of 45th Annual General Meeting held at Frodsham Community Centre on Thursday, 1 October 2015.

Present:	Mrs Shirley Robinson	President
	Mrs Val Seed	Chairman
	Mrs Sharon Nolan	1 st Vice-Chairman
	Mrs Nicky Wylie	2 nd Vice-Chairman
	Mrs Chris Middleton	Treasurer

The Area Chairman welcomed the Area President, Associates of Honour and Delegates to the Annual General Meeting and invited the Area President to chair the meeting.

The Area President welcomed Area Officers, Associates of Honour and Delegates to the meeting, and reminded delegates they had one vote per Club on any resolution and to state name of Club if proposing and seconding.

CLUBS PRESENT

The Register of Clubs present was held by Area Secretary.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs Janet Phillimore, Area Secretary, Mrs Sue Jackson, AOH, Mrs Pam Ingham, AOH, Mrs Anne Keates, AOH, Mrs Pam Dimeloe, AOH, Mrs Judith Butterworth, AOH, Mrs Margaret Standley, National & Area AOH, Mrs Pam Fleming-Williams, Cheshire Show Chairman & Area Judges representative, Mrs Carol Black, Area Speakers representative, Mrs Edena Joughin, Cheshire Chat editor, Elworth Flower Club, Handbridge Flower Club, Heald Green Flower Club, Padgate & District Flower Club.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (October 2014)

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Proposed by: North East Cheshire Flower Club.

Seconded by: Knutsford Floral Design Club.

All agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Matters would be dealt with later.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - Mrs Val Seed.

Cheshire Area has had a very busy year with another "Grumpy Old Women" demonstration – "Jingle All The Way" – which added to Byley Flower Festival fund.

Several members had been keen show competitors over the course of the year, winning awards at Chelsea, Cheshire show, Southport and others seen on super Cheshire website – too many talented folk to list but sincere thanks for keeping Cheshire at forefront of competitive work. At North West Area show at Towneley Hall, Cheshire members did very well with Pat Murphy

winning Best-exhibit-in-Show and Most Innovative exhibit. A great way to show general public what can be done and encourage members to consider putting themselves forward to take part. Well done to all.

Cheshire invited to arrange flowers in Westminster Abbey – most wonderful experience – give names of good arrangers from clubs to be included on list. Many thanks to Eleanor Griffiths, Alison Cooper, Diane Fair and Janet Schofield who put themselves forward to compete in Designer of the Year and WAFA classes at Cheshire Show and at Social Day and wish Alison, Designer of Year, and Diane, WAFA, both very best at “Festive Flower & Food Show in Blackpool and thanks for all time and effort they were putting in on our behalf. Another great piece of news was Area had been running a Demonstrator’s course and Pat Murphy will tell more but we wish the candidates the best of luck for their Test on 17 October. They had worked so hard and a huge thanks to each and every one.

RHS Tatton –our show piece – where once again Cheshire team, led by Joan Wilkinson, gained a Gold medal and Best Exhibit in the Marquee. Huge thank you to Joan and her team for a superb exhibit and to Pat Bannister, RHS co-ordinator for all her hard work both before and during the Show. A very friendly show with good relationships between NW Area team and Cheshire – a working relationship which may be fostered in the future.

Our presence at all these shows was vital – often only time the general public gets a chance to see how wonderfully creative we can be and also where we can encourage new members to join us. Must embrace new ideas and if necessary new ways of doing things so that in another 50 years a new generation of Floral designers will be sitting here, excited and full of anticipation as to where NAFAS could go next.

Finally, thank you for your support over the past year. To fellow officers who do a fantastic job for us in their different roles undertaking anything asked of them with patience and good humour.

Thank you also to the various sub-committee representatives who work tirelessly to bring interesting workshops, courses, members’ days and education to ensure that to the best of our abilities Cheshire Area of NAFAS had a future to be proud of.

5. **PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

- Mrs Chris Middleton.

Treasurer had prepared Functional Accounts again. Copies of full accounts were available on request.

Summary of Year End Accounts 31 July 2015.

	F & GP	JDS&E	Trading	Flower Arranger	Overall
Income	£58,24	£7,957	£6,534	£9,079	£81,594
Expenditure	£61,203	£6,972	£5,371	£8,881	£82,427
Profit (Loss)	(£3,179)	£985	£1,163	£198	(£833)
Bank Accounts	£47,805	£8,211	£8,704	£5,681	£70,401

Treasurer explained the presentation of accounts and wished they be adopted.

Adoption of Accounts

*Proposed by: Mrs Chris Middleton, Area Treasurer.
Seconded by: Romiley Floral Art Guild.*

All agreed

6. **APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANTS**

Mrs Middleton proposed Area appoint Marie Stokes of Cheshire Accountancy Services to act as the Accountant during 2015/2016.

*Proposed by: Mrs. Chris Middleton, Area Treasurer
Seconded by: Goostrey Flower Club.*

All agreed.

7. **SECRETARY'S REPORT - Mrs Janet Phillimore/Mrs Morag McCord**

1. Issued today:
 - a) Financial Statements
 - b) Annual Report for 2014 – 2015
 - c) Agenda
2. Area held four Council Meetings at Plumley Village Hall and an AGM at Frodsham Community Centre.
3. Club Officers Forms were issued to Clubs in April 2015. (Blue) Imperative returned as soon as possible with 2 programmes for your club after club AGM so records kept up to date. Update e-mail as it alters.
4. Sincere thanks to:
 - a) Morag McCord, Minutes Secretary for all her work on your behalf.
 - b) The ladies of the F&GP Committee who act as hostesses at Council and AGM Meetings

Mrs Phillimore had enjoyed time as Area Secretary and thanked all officers for their help and support and good wishes over her time as Secretary. Grateful to Morag who has taken over in last few weeks and wish her all the best. Well done to Tatton team and good luck to Cheshire Area who will always have a place in her heart.

8. **TRADING OFFICER'S REPORT - Mrs Chris Middleton.**

Mrs Middleton has made decision to resign as Trading Officer as can no longer maintain Treasurer, Trading Officer and chair of Publicity Committee. Unfortunately, there have been no nominations for the role and therefore Trading will cease to exist in its present form from now - full Trading Table will no longer be present at any future functions.

Sally Melvin will be distributing 2015 Christmas Cards, 2016 Calendars and Diaries today at AGM & at November Council.

Remains will go into store except Louise Jones has agreed to sell NAFAS leaflets, handbooks, blue forms and badges for time being.

9. PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT – Mrs C Middleton.

Area had been invited to exhibit at Arley Garden Festival 20&21 June. As dates clashed with setup and staging of Cheshire Show, Publicity team took a gazebo at the event in order to promote Area and NAFAS.

Unfortunately, event plagued with bad weather, poor attendance as a result and Father's Day. Cheshire stand got visitors, Flower Arranger Magazine sales and some potential members so if no clashing dates would probably be worth repeating to give a fair assessment.

Team also present at both Cheshire and RHS Tatton Shows. During year promotion of Area continued through Flower Arranger, Cheshire Chat, the website and social media.

Change of Roles:

In our continuing push to raise awareness of our art form, Officers want to change the 6th Officer position on Management team to be Publicity rather than Trading. This would mean some changes needed to be made and will be taken to Council and a general meeting if needed. Trading role will be part of Publicity Team along with Media, Flower Arranger, Cheshire Chat, Website and Social Media.

10a. FLOWER ARRANGER REPORT - Mrs Catherine Bower.

Account stood at £5,680.95 with Autumn and Winter invoices still to come. An in year profit of £199.

The Flower Arranger Awards, totalling £50 had been funded from Flower Arranger Account. They were made to Wilmslow Guild, Padgate and Winwick Flower Clubs.

For a second year, Flower Arranger sponsored the ever popular adults "hands-on" at Cheshire Show to value of £70.

Mrs Bower had purchased a mixed box of back copies to supplement Area stock. Thanks to members who had donated pre-loved editions for sale at shows. They continue to be most popular and give a wide selection for visitors.

Mrs Bower had attended the annual meeting at Osborne House in May where ideas for articles were discussed, including the extensive Byley articles.

Although sales down, Flower Arranger continued to perform better than other floral art magazines.

(Fleur Creatif down 6%, Flora down 52%. Market shares for first half of 2015 were The Flower Arranger 62%, Flora 26%, Fleur Creatif 12%).

Profit to NAFAS of approx. £103,000 continues to support our organisation. Paul Bonter, (Company Secretary), congratulated everyone on very good achievement. Asked to remind demonstrators to promote magazine.

Approximately ½ of Cheshire Clubs had increased their subscriptions although there had been a reduction from 794 -779.

Mrs Bower had purchased a small stock for area, which allowed clubs to purchase extra copies without distributor's postage charge of £6.50.

A "Promotional Discount" of 8pence per copy was given to Area FAOs to help promote the magazine. The Flower Arranger Awards, Cheshire Show sponsorship and printing of Club posters were funded by it. Mrs Bower had asked Clubs to forward promotional ideas to her.

2016 Annual subscriptions to NAFAS members remain at 2015 rate of £11.80 for 4 editions.

Mrs Pam Dimeloe will manage Spring and Summer 2016 deliveries and orders.

Thank you to Club Flower Arranger Officers for their continued promotion of our magazine.

10b. PHOTOGRAPHY REPORT – Mrs Pat Murphy

National Photography Committee had met three times in past year under Chairmanship of Philip Gray (Three Counties & South Wales Area), assisted by Chrissie Harten, Beverley Stevenson, Mary Wright and Pauline Martindale. Area Photography Representatives' Day was rescheduled at short notice from 16 March 2016 to 8 September 2015 which Mrs Murphy was unable to attend due to other commitments but had sent in a report outlining the occasions she had taken photographs for publication on our website and in magazines. She had not received notes of the meeting yet.

Committee had supplied various NAFAS committees with photographs from archives and organised annual Photography Competition and 2017 NAFAS Calendar Competition.

Committee will be present at National Flower & Food Show in Blackpool taking photographs of winning exhibits and also producing a DVD, saving NAFAS £3-4,000 as they did at Bournemouth by not hiring a professional photographer.

10c. CHESHIRE CHAT - Mrs Chris Middleton.

There had been 2 editions during the year. First in September 2014, a bumper edition focusing on Byley and another in May 2015. Next edition in November will contain much club anniversary news and hopefully results of Area Demonstrators tests.

Thank you for your support. Adverts were most welcome and members could suggest to any businesses they think were appropriate.

10d. AREA WEBSITE - Mr Tony Middleton.

www.nafascheshire.org.uk

During year no major changes had been made to the website, just routine maintenance such as updating diaries and adding photographs.

New arrangement "how-to"s had been added for Autumn, Christmas, Spring and Summer.

New process had been introduced when photographs were submitted for the website to help improve quality of content on website and ensured to have appropriate permission.

Of the clubs in Area, 28 had some details about the club on the website or their own web page, 34 had programme details and 26 had contact details. 14 had all three and 5 had none.

Over year, visitors to website had averaged 476 per month, compared to 267 last year.

10e. SOCIAL MEDIA - Mrs Nicky Wylie.

Facebook Page:

This was growing and now had 543 likes and would like this to grow. Social media was a great way of getting different people of different ages to be interested in flowers and NAFAS, a way of helping to continue the longevity of NAFAS. Janet Schofield now helping to run Facebook page. If clubs had Facebook page and would like to promote any event or celebrating any good news, send in any photos and Area will promote them as well.

Twitter Account:

Heather Fleming-Williams had promoted Area twitter page during Cheshire Show. Now have 30 followers. It really raised our profile during the show and Mrs Wylie would like to thank Heather for that. Something Area needed to do more of, especially when people were at events and competitions.

If anyone was a keen tweeter and would like to be involved chat to Mrs Wylie.

Adoption of Secretary, Trading, Flower Arranger, Publicity, Photography, Cheshire Chat, Website and Social Media Reports en bloc:-

Proposed by: Area President
Seconded by: Tarporley Flower Club

All agreed

11. **CONFIRMATION OF PRESIDENT**

It was wish of Area Officers, F&GP and Council that Mrs Shirley Robinson be elected for a further year as Area President. Mrs Robinson had agreed to this.

All agreed.

The Chairman and Vice Chairmen did not need to be re-elected as theirs were 2 year appointments.

12. **ELECTION OF PUBLICITY OFFICER**

Position vacant – to be appointed by Area Officers, members of F&GP as and when a suitable person could be found

13. **ELECTION OF SECRETARY**

Mrs Morag McCord had been nominated to take over the role as Area Secretary following the resignation of Mrs Janet Phillimore.

Morag McCord

Growing up in Scotland, I was always surrounded by flowers. My Mum was a founder member of Falkirk Floral Art Club and for many years she attended night school Flower arranging classes at local High School so my love and appreciation of flowers started at a young age although it was not until I moved down to Bramhall in 1989 that my involvement with flowers began.

I attended an Adult Learning Flower Arranging Class at the Manor School in Cheadle Hulme in 1992 and a very encouraging teacher started me on my journey.

I joined Stockport Afternoon Flower Club in 1993 –member 126 and became a general committee member in 1998 followed by becoming Flower Arranging Officer/Trading 1999-2000 and took over as Secretary in 2001-2003 while also Vice-chair in 2002 and 2003 and eventually becoming Chairman in 2004 – 2006.

During this time I helped decorate Bramall Hall for Christmas and latterly helped decorate Staircase house in Stockport as well as several Church Flower festivals over the years.

My involvement with Area started in 2006 when I was persuaded to take over as Minute Secretary. The end of the table at Council was an interesting place but I learned a great deal about NAFAS and how involved many of the Officers were in making Cheshire Area the success it is today.

In 2008 Pam Ingham asked if I would like to join Social Committee and for my sins took over as Secretary of the committee in 2009 until June of this year.

I would never admit to being a great flower arranger but I can appreciate the skills involved with so much talent around but I am enthusiastic and will give my best to the challenge ahead.

Area President proposed Mrs Morag McCord to be elected Area Secretary.
All agreed

14. **ELECTION OF MINUTES SECRETARY**

Mrs Ann Jackson had offered to take over as Minute Secretary and Mrs. Morag McCord proposed we accept her offer.

All agreed.

15. **RE-ELECTION OF TREASURER**

Mrs Chris Middleton had agreed to continue as Area Treasurer.

16. **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **F&GP - Mrs Val Seed**

The Committee had met four times during the year to fully discuss Area spending and all matters regarding finance and budgets for events. Committee has been pleased to welcome Chris O'Hara, Anne Watson and now Joan Wilkinson past year. Being on this committee was really good way to get to know what happens in Area.

b) **JDS&E Report - Mrs Sharon Nolan**

JDS&E had worked very hard and held more than 20 days of training/education events in past year.

1. **25/10/2014 – Judges Refresher Day:** Well attended and enjoyable day.
2. **29/11/2014 – Education day – Fun with Felt:** 26 teachers and members who run workshops at their clubs attended an exciting and state-of-the-art day.
3. **6/12/14, 10/1/15, 7/2/15, 28/2/15 – Start a Fashion, Share a Passion:** Highly successful 3 day course to improve arrangers' skills and provide pre-demonstrator course training. 23 attended. A fourth date was added initially for anyone who had not made all 3 dates but was extended to any other students. Standard visibly improved week by week and increased optimism for demonstrator's course too.
4. **14/3/15 onwards – Demonstrator Training:** Fantastic response. 13 students finally took their Mock Test on 5/9/15 and would anticipate all 13 would take their final Test on 17/10/15. Some brilliant candidates.
5. **22/5/2015 – Workshop with Geertje Stienstra:** (postponed from October 2014). 39 club members attended two half day workshops, great opportunity to attend workshop with talented young Dutch Master Florist on her first visit to UK. Everyone enjoyed sessions and took home fabulous creation.
6. **23/5/2015 – Demonstrators Refresher Day:** Great response with 24 attendees who thoroughly enjoyed session and took home fabulous designs – one seen on demonstrators training course and several at Cheshire Show June 2015.
7. **2/7/2015 – Designer of the Year eliminator:** 2 entries and very close contest. Alison Cooper will represent Cheshire Area at Festive Flower & Food Show in Blackpool 13-15/11/2016. Hope all go and support her.

8. **27/7/2015 & 28/7/2015 – Pre-national & National Demonstrators Tests:** Attended Tests in Thornbury.
9. **3/8/2015 – Education evening:** Approx 20 people attended get-together for update on Education initiatives & issues. Included need for insurance and guidance on a syllabus for classes. A great turn-out on an interesting and informative evening.
10. **2/9/15, 10/10/15, 28/11/15 - Start a Fashion:** Following its previous success, running another 3 day course for anyone who wishes to improve their flower arranging skills.
11. **16/9/15 – National Speakers Tests:** Attended at Ross-on-Wye.

In addition to courses and workshops, have also:

12. **Education information (Website):** Updated Area website with current information about teachers and members who also ran workshops in their clubs. Also had provided direct link from the home page to information about courses in floral art/flower arranging. No excuse for anyone to say they do not know where to go to learn.
13. **Reaseheath College:** Engaged with Reaseheath College with intent to train floristry students to become NAFAS demonstrators.
14. **Cheshire Show:** Sponsored adult “hands-on” workshops at Cheshire Show in June 2015.

Future plans include:

15. **13/10/15 – Reaseheath College (Demonstration):** Hopefully will inspire some students to become demonstrators.
16. **21/11/15 – Education Day:** Workshop for teachers and those members who ran workshops.
17. **Cheshire Book** to be reissued end 1015, early 2016.
18. **2016 – Demonstrator Training:** Hope to have enough people to run another demonstrator training course in 2016, after Introductory course above.
19. **11/1/16, 1/2/16, 29/2/16 – Introductory Course for NAFAS Disciplines:** Had been *provisionally* booked for *Mondays* as florists cannot usually make Saturday training.
20. **Education Days (General):** Run two Education workshops a year.
21. **Members Days:** Run at least two days of workshops for club members each year.
22. **National Judges Training:** Will support 4 keen Cheshire candidates who were embarking on this and wish them well.
23. **Deaf Clubs:** Will continue to engage with deaf community.
24. **At a personal level:**
 - Diane Fair had passed her NAFAS teacher training course.
 - Diane had joined National Demonstrators’ Committee.
 - Area had a talented and committed JDS&E committee and Mrs Nolan would like to thank each one of them, on club members behalf, for their contribution to ensuring that our members enjoyed a full and varied programme of activity as well as ensuring an adequate number of judges, speakers, demonstrators and teachers to support all of our clubs and activities.

- Mrs Nolan thanked everyone else in Area who had run courses or otherwise helped at many Area events.

Looking Forward: Last year Mrs Nolan was determined that Cheshire Book would be thicker at the end of her term of office than at the start and was delighted to say were moving in the right direction.

c) **Social Committee - Mrs Nicky Wylie.**

Social Committee continued to work hard to promote events for members of Cheshire Area of NAFAS. We welcomed Sally Melvin and Win Ross to the committee and Ann Meacher had finished her time on the committee after giving an unbelievable 20 years. A huge thank you for her hard work and help. Also thank you to all committee members who had made Mrs Wylie welcome.

Area Lunch Mere March 2015

A lovely day with a talk by Susan Shaw. Numbers down again to 264 from previous year of 313 with 343 the year before. Managed to make a surplus of £259 but only due to very careful budgeting. As a result, committee looked at alternatives for Sapphire anniversary and have chosen to have a demonstration followed by afternoon tea at Chester Racecourse. Strictly limited in number and first come first served basis. Does not mean lunch will cease but with decreasing numbers may look for alternative venues each year.

Social Day July 2015

Another great Social day which was a sellout. Great talk by Christine McKenna on orchids and demonstration by Christine Leigh.

A few complaints received about length of lunch but it was only due to Designer of the Year competition with normal timings next year.

d) **Cheshire County Show Team – Mrs Pam Fleming-Williams read by Mrs Diane Fair.**

Mrs Pam Fleming-Williams had resigned and Area very pleased Mrs Lynda Braddock had agreed to take over and had been shadowing Pam this year.

Theme of NAFAS Marquee competition 2015 was “Crafty Notions”, the ideas competitors had come up with were extremely creative and very much impressed our Royal Visitor, Countess of Wessex.

Classes filled very quickly and some last minute changes to layout were needed to accommodate everyone. Very happy to include Area WFAA Elimination competition to go to National Show, within Marquee and public were intrigued with ideas produced.

Juniors’ Class, “My Place”, had produced some really inventive place mats and coasters and younger section was won by a 6year old boy who will go far artistically.

Four large exhibits, staged by tutors and students, were exceptional. Lady Bromley Davenport and Joanna Lomas enjoyed assessing these “national standard” exhibits for the special trophy for “Excellent Endeavour” which had been donated by John Platt, Joanna’s father, who resurrected the Show after move from Tatton Park. They could not delineate between two exhibits, having spent nearly one and a half hours discussing, and so decided to award the trophy to both.

Thanks to Cheshire Area for supporting this section of this very prestigious County Show, to JDS&E committee for sponsoring very

busy Children's Hands-on, to Flower Arranger for helping with Adults Hands-on costs, to Knutsford and Goostrey clubs which helped to sponsor two classes and to Area members who gave their time to steward and enjoyed being part of a team. Last but not least, thanks to Area President, Shirley Robinson, who had sponsored the Beginner's Class and presented prizes with a smile for every photo.

Mrs Fleming – Williams has passed reins to Lynda Braddock for 2016 Show and wished her and the team many years of success at this huge public showcase for NAFAS talent.

e) **RHS Tatton Park - Mrs Pat Bannister.**

Mrs Bannister said it was a great pleasure to report once again on a superb exhibit done by Joan Wilkinson and her team at RHS Tatton Show in July.

They gained a Gold Medal and also accolade of Best Exhibit in the Design Studio. Their depiction of an underwater aquarium was excellent and hugely admired by the visitors.

Team had come in exactly on budget but taking the prize money - £525.00 and sale of flowers at end of Show, they were well under budget.

They had been invited by the organisers of Festive Flower & Food Show in Blackpool to show their skills once again by recreating part of the Aquarium at the show for all to see.

In designing her piece, Joan had commissioned two metal stands which Area had bought and would be available for clubs or individuals to borrow.

Area Chairman, Val Seed, had invited Mark Entwistle to lead the team in 2016. He was thrilled to have been asked and it will be very exciting to see what his ideas will be.

17. **NAFAS REPORT - Mrs Val Seed**

Just a brief summary of items discussed and acted upon at National Council Meetings in London

Lonely Bouquet

Many Areas had found this beneficial and had recruited new members so hope it will continue next year.

Junior Members

Age limit now up to and including 15 years old but clubs must check their insurance policy to make sure they are covered.

Osborne House

Badly in need of refurbishment - HQ very grateful for our donation of £1,000.

Nicky Chapman

Nicky is our Patron and she works for the BBC. There had been some disturbing and nasty remarks posted on Facebook which were unfair and upsetting as she does promote NAFAS whenever she can in ways which were not always visible to the public.

Financial Statement

Financial situation of NAFAS was now lot healthier thanks mainly to good work done by Company Secretary, Paul Bonter over the past few years.

Festive Flower and Food Show – Blackpool November 2015

Looks like being a very exciting and different show – encourage as many folk as possible to go and experience what is on offer.

Very best of luck to everyone who is competing from Cheshire and look forward to seeing as many members as possible.

Mrs Seed will be at National AGM in Plymouth and will take great pleasure to read out the citation from Cheshire when Beryl Cotton will be made a National Associate of Honour. She will take good wishes from Area with her.

18. **NAFAS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Judges - Mrs Pam Fleming-Williams read by Mrs Diane Fair.**

The National Judging committee comprised:

Pam Fleming-Williams	Chairman	Cheshire
Margaret Rumens	Vice-Chairman	South Midlands
Christine Picton	Finance	East of England
Pat Hutchinson	Training Co-ordinator	North East
James Burnside		NIGFAS

Three meetings held during year to discuss and plan for:

- A National Judges' Conference.
- Possible changes to training for Area Judges.
- Revision of recommended book list for Trainee Judges.
- Changes to Blue Form.
- A disability policy for competitions.
- Updating the Competitions Manual.
- Judging at Festive Flower & Food Show.
- Revision of Show Guide booklet.
- A National Judges' Test to be held in 2016.
- Revision of fee structure for Adjudicators and Instructors.

A one-day conference was held at HQ in March after which items for amendment in new Competitions Manual were finalised.

Area

Judges' Refresher Day held on 25 October at Plumley Village Hall was well attended and kept our Area Judges informed and up to date.

Further to announcement of a National Judges Test, five candidates from Cheshire had expressed an interest in training for this. Send them warm wishes and stamina for work ahead.

b) **Demonstrators - Mrs. Pat Murphy**

The National Demonstrators' committee had met four times during the year under the chairmanship of Liliias Hoskins, (SAFAS Area). Also on the committee were Elizabeth Graham, (Three Counties & South Wales), Sandy Bailey, (Surrey), Michael Bowyer, (Wessex & Jersey) and Beryl Cotton, (Cheshire).

A Refresher Weekend for National and Area Demonstrators took place over weekend of 24-27 April 2015 which was very successful.

Pre-National Assessments and the National Test took place at Thornbury, near Bristol, on 27 & 28 July 2015 with four Pre-National Candidates, **Melissa Sheldrake** (East of England Area), **Christine Hughes** (Ireland), **Emily Broomhead** (South West Area) and **Gill McGregor** (Home Counties & London & Overseas Area) being recommended to go forward to take National Test next time.

Five National candidates, **Annette Urquhart** (Surrey Area), **Lucy Ellis** (South West Area), **David Martin** (South West Area), **Patricia Bashford** (Kent Area) and **Julia Knights** (East of England) were successful.

c) **Speakers - Mrs Carol Black read by Mrs Pat Murphy.**

National Speakers Committee had met four times during past year. Committee under chairmanship of Elizabeth Rea, Vice Chairman Jo Jacobs, Susan Shaw, Sheila Smith and Christine McKenna. Umbrella to Committee was David Ryland who sits on Board of Directors of NAFAS. Preparations for Mock Speakers Test on 15 August, to be held in South Wold Hall in London.

14 candidates had applied to take National Test, too many for one day but funding for two days refused. Adjudicators felt 9 maximum number possible on one day – those would be decided upon at Mock Test.

Much correspondence been both received and dealt with re both Test and forthcoming Speakers Residential Course.

An Area Representatives Day held in March. Open to all Areas so ideas and problems with both promoting and organising Area Speakers Tests could be discussed. Kate Russell represented Area at this meeting, many thanks for this.

Venues for next Speakers Course were discussed and committee members nearest to them were requested to visit and assess their suitability and cost, taking pictures of facilities where possible.

Names of new Committee members to join after AGM in October, together with short resume and reasons why person thought suitable, must now be brought to Board of Directors in a letter to National Chairman from Committee Chairman.

Decided by Board that results of National Tests were to be emailed to candidates and Area Chairmen notified two days later – postal delays resulted in Candidates not receiving results before others had heard before them.

The review of the Mock Test was that the acoustics of the hall in London were difficult and stage not comparable to stage in Ross-on-Wye where actual Test was to be held. A cost saving exercise which was most unfair to Candidates. Adjudicators travelled to Ireland to hold Mock Tests for four Irish candidates due to costs of transporting their visual aids to London.

Budget has now been agreed and venue booked for next National Course for Speakers. Look for details and application forms on Speakers website.

An Adjudicators meeting will be held on 29 September after National Speakers committee so that various Area Tests and National Test can be discussed and evaluated.

Results National Speakers Test will be available soon after meeting.

d) **Education - Mrs Diane Fair.**

The National Committee had met three times during the year under chairmanship of Jane Haas, with committee members June Borrowdale Editor of Insight, Moyra Turnbull and Joan Woodhead Course Consultant.

Insight subscriptions stand at 286. Insight magazine available to all members. Subscription forms available.

A few NAFAS Diploma courses running around country but some Areas advised that due to high cost of the course to the student it was not viable to run the course.

NAFAS Teacher Training Course running in North Midlands Area and another will commence soon in Surrey Area.

3 workshops at headquarters during year with 10 students attending the Christmas session, 4 students in March and 5 students in July. There will be a further Christmas workshop on Saturday 6 December costing £125 including all materials for 2 designs, tea/coffee and lunch.

The Area Education Representatives Day was held at headquarters on 2 July – 17 Areas were represented including Cheshire, discussions took place regarding the updating of Leisure Initiative.

New trends book “Twists and Turns” will be launched at Festive Flower & Food Show in Blackpool. The error in “New Ideas for Christmas” booklet will be rectified in the reprint.

There will be mini teaching demonstrations throughout the Show plus junior and adult workshops.

Adoption of Sub Committee Reports and NAFAS Sub-Committee Reports en bloc

*Proposed by: Tarporley Flower Club
Seconded by: Wirral Flower Club*

All agreed.

19. **ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NAFAS**

- | | | | |
|----|---------------|---|--------------------------|
| a) | Judges | - | Mrs. P. Fleming-Williams |
| b) | Demonstrators | - | Mrs. P. Murphy |
| c) | Speakers | - | Mrs. C. Black |
| d) | Education | - | Mrs. Diane Fair |

It was proposed that NAFAS representatives be elected en bloc.

*Proposed by: Widnes Flower Club
Seconded by: Stockport Afternoon Flower Club*

All agreed.

20. **SPECIAL ITEMS.**

Area Chairman announced that due to rising cost of printing and postage, the minutes would now be sent out by email to all the clubs and the AOHs where possible.

21. **A.O.B.**

- 1) Area to invest in a microphone.
- 2) First Aid - Clubs should have a qualified first aider present at their meetings – Clubs to organise themselves.
- 3) Dorothy Irvin, AOH, informed the meeting that Beryl Cotton, AOH and soon to be elected National AOH, will be demonstrating at the National AGM.

Beryl thanked Officers for putting her name forward for consideration to become National AOH and was very proud to be associated with Cheshire Area.

The Area President thanked the Hostesses for their hard work which enabled the Annual General Meeting to run so smoothly.

President thanked Chester Flower Club for beautiful stage flowers, also Area Committees and individuals who had assisted with the day.
Finally she thanked the Area members for attending.
Area Chairman thanked Area President for taking the meeting.

22. **DATE OF NEXT AGM**
Thursday, 6 October 2016.

Signed

Date

Circulation: Past Presidents, Associates of Honour, President, Officers and Club Contacts.