

THE CHESHIRE AREA OF NAFAS

Minutes of 46th Annual General Meeting held at Frodsham Community Centre on Thursday, 6 October 2016.

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
	Mrs Morag McCord	Secretary

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, Delegates and members 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, AOH, Mrs Sue Jackson, AOH, Mrs Lynn Breeze, AOH, Mrs Margaret Standley, National & Area AOH, Mrs Judith Butterworth, AOH, Mrs Pam Fleming-Williams, Area Judges representative, Mrs Lynda Braddock, Royal Cheshire Show committee chairman.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (October 2015)

Amendment: 16b) 17 Cheshire book to be re-issued end 2015/early 2016.

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

Proposed by: Chairman

Seconded by: Stockport Afternoon Flower Club

All agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Matters would be dealt with later.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - Mrs Val Seed.

It had been a very interesting time with much going on during which Area had gained medals and prizes galore as members represented area so well and with great passion and enthusiasm at shows around the country – Westminster Abbey, Blackpool for National Competitions where Alison Cooper won Designer of the Year competition for Cheshire and where other members gained special prizes and accolades for outstanding work. Also Harrogate Show, early Spring Show in London, Chelsea, Tatton, Southport, the Royal Cheshire County Show, Arley and Bramall Hall, all with great success. Thank you to everyone who had taken part since last AGM.

Chairman's and Treasurers evening had had lively discussions and first Evening Council meeting which had allowed members who worked to come along and have their say. Hoped that evening meetings would continue.

We must persuade new, younger members to join our organisation in whatever way appeals most to them or whole future of NAFAS very uncertain.

Cheshire was respected at HQ as an Area who "does", likes to say "Yes". Thank you to all who have given support over last five years – where would we be without friendship and flowers. Flowers and Floral Design had given so much pleasure and friends made in support of our hobby are precious and beyond price.

You will continue to support Sharon and her team in same positive way and wish every success for Cheshire and your clubs.

Mrs Seed gave very special thank you to Shirley, her mentor and friend and worked in the best way always with Cheshire interest at the heart.

No chairman can function without backing of Officer's team, so a huge thankyou to everyone for their friendship and support.

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 2016

	F & GP	JDS&E	Trading	Flower Arranger	Overall
Income	£41,485	£6,405	£3,692	£9,152	£60,732
Expenditure	£50,213	£6,954	£4,022	£9,058	£70,247
Profit (Loss)	(£8,729)	(£549)	(£330)	£94	(£9,515)
Bank Accounts	£44,376	£8,306	£4,413	£5,608	£62,703

Cash in hand £647

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

Adoption of Accounts

Proposed by:

Mrs Chris Middleton, Area Treasurer.

Seconded by:

Neston Flower Club.

All agreed

6. **APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANTS**

Mrs Middleton proposed Area appoint Marie Stokes of Cheshire Accountancy Services to act as the Accountant during 2016/2017.

Proposed by:

Mrs. Chris Middleton, Area Treasurer

Seconded by:

Rural Chester Flower Club.

All agreed.

7. **SECRETARY'S REPORT - Mrs Morag McCord**

1. Issued today:
 - a) Financial Statements
 - b) Annual Report for 2015 – 2016
 - c) Agenda
2. Area held four Council Meetings at Plumley Village Hall and an AGM at Frodsham Community Centre.
3. New Club Officers Forms were issued to Clubs in February with new section for clubs to nominate member to be Club contact on website. They will receive all Area information – minutes, messages regarding Area events and also information from HQ etc.
On 3/10/16 last club sent in club officers form and club contact list will be issued at next Council meeting in November.
4. Minutes had been sent out to all clubs, all Area Officers and all but 3 AOHs electronically and in main had been successful, saving on printing and postage.
5. Sincere thanks to the ladies of the F&GP Committee who have so ably helped with registration and giving out club packs at Council meetings.
6. Unfortunately Ann Jackson, minute secretary has had to resign but I would like to thank her for the time and effort she has put in over the past year.

I have really enjoyed my first year as Area Secretary and hope I have not been too “naggy”. This is still a learning curve and hope next year will be better.

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

There have been no volunteers to take on Trading over the last year. Louise Jones has continued with help to sell Handbooks, leaflets & badges. They were present at Area events, Council meetings and some of JDS&E training days. Sally Melvin has again organised the Cards, Calendars and Christmas Cards. However, if Area wants to continue this service a volunteer to take on this aspect of Trading was needed. (Liz Neely volunteered for 2016/17). The remainder of Miscellaneous, Old Christmas and Sundry stock will be either sold off or re-allocated, aim being to finish by the end of calendar year.

9. **PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT – Mrs C Middleton.**

Publicity Team has had presence at all Council Meetings, Social Day, AGM and at following shows – Arley Garden Festival, Royal Cheshire Show and RHS Tatton – promoting NAFAS and Area. Arley Garden Festival was new venture with 50% display being an exhibit that was judged to be at Gold standard. Team has worked hard at promoting Area both before and after events in various ways and hopes to expand its role under new Committee Chairman. Mrs Middleton thanked the members of the committee for their help and support in setting up the new committee and wished it them well under guidance of new Publicity Officer.

9a. **FLOWER ARRANGER REPORT - Mrs Catherine Bower.**

Account stood at £5,628.05 with Autumn and Winter invoices still to come. Compares to closing balance of £5,680.95 in July 2015. Invoice from 3 summer shows, Royal Cheshire Show, Arley Garden Festival and RHS Tatton was £85.45 less than summer 2015.

A "Promotional Discount" of 10p per copy was given to Area Flower Arranger officers to help promote the magazine.

The Flower Arranger Awards, Royal Cheshire Show sponsorship, printing and postage were funded by it.

The Flower Arranger Awards, totalling £55, were made to The Bramall Hall, South Cheshire, Tarporley and Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme Flower Clubs.

For a third year, Flower Arranger sponsored the ever popular adults "hands-on" at Royal Cheshire Show to value of £80.

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.

Approximately ½ of Cheshire Clubs had increased or maintained their subscriptions, there had been a reduction from 779 to 759.

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

She had also purchased a supply of back copies at 40p each and Club Flower Arranger officers had bought them to give to new members and use in other promotional ideas.

2017 Annual subscriptions to NAFAS members remain at 2015 rate of £11.80 for 4 editions.

Personal thank you to Mrs Pam Dimeloe who managed Spring and Summer 2016 deliveries and orders.

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

9b. PHOTOGRAPHY REPORT – Mrs Pat Murphy

National Photography Committee had met twice in past year under Chairmanship of Philip Gray (Three Counties & South Wales Area), assisted by Chrissie Harten, Jane Burns and Beverley Moore.

One of the meetings was conducted entirely online – something of an experiment but was felt to be a great success.

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

Committee were present at National Flower & Food Show in Blackpool taking photographs of winning exhibits and also producing a DVD.

Mrs Murphy was retiring from Area Photography rep position and a small gift was presented to her for all her hard work over the years for Cheshire Area.

9c. CHESHIRE CHAT - Mrs Chris Middleton.

Thank you to all contributors over the last year. However sales had been disappointing. Despite being asked to order the magazine in advance only 105 copies from 15 clubs an average of 7 per club had been ordered leaving editors in quandary over size of next print run, in fact future of magazine in its present form was open to debate.

9d. AREA WEBSITE - Mr Tony Middleton.

www.nafascheshire.org.uk

During year no major changes had been made to the website.

Clubs had been encouraged to have contact details on Area website, either by phone or email or both. All clubs have now done so.

Minutes of Area Council Meetings have been added.

In addition, routine maintenance had been carried out such as updating club programmes and adding photographs.

New arrangement "how-to"s had been added for autumn, spring and summer and autumn again.

Of the clubs in Area, 27 have some details about the club on Area website or on own web page, 35 have programme details and 46 have current details. 22 have all three.

Over year, visitors to website had averaged 503 per month, compared to 476 last year and 267 the previous year.

9e. SOCIAL MEDIA - Mrs Nicky Wylie.

This now going from strength to strength. Clubs getting better at letting know and promoting events. Facebook page quite often had over 1000 hits on each post – visits for one promotion. Cheshire has been shared by NAFAS, North West England and the 3 Counties and South Wales, and London & Overseas Areas. Post promoting winning Gold and Best in Marquee at Tatton had over 3100 hits and was shared 24 times. Janet Schofield and Nicky are administrators on Facebook page.

Area Twitter account has taken off thanks to Mark Entwistle who is helping to promote it. Now have 141 follow which is dramatic increase. Mark, Nicky and Heather Fleming-Williams (Cheshire Show) responsible for promoting it.

Pinterest: Now have a Pinterest account – Cheshire area of NAFAS which Mark Entwistle had set up. Early days but has some fantastic pins and boards to look at. Pinterest is visual media site – great to use for ideas and inspirations in floral designing.

If need to contact Area, email Social.media@nafascheshire.org.uk.

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

<i>Proposed by:</i>	<i>Goostrey Flower Club</i>
<i>Secoded by:</i>	<i>Elworth Flower Club</i>

All agreed

10. CONFIRMATION OF PRESIDENT

It was wish of Area Officers, F&GP and Council that Mrs Carol Black be elected Area President.

Mrs Carol Black CV

Carol joined NAFAS as a member of Disley & District Flower Club 1985, on returning to UK after spending 13 years living in the Far East. She subsequently served as Treasurer and then Chairman of Disley & District FC and has for several years been Programme Secretary.

During 1990s she joined Area Social Committee, when events were catered for by the committee and spent many happy hours trying out and cooking large amounts of food.

She became a Cheshire Area Speaker in mid 1990s and in 1998 passed Area Demonstrators Test.

Carol was invited to join JDS&E committee shortly afterwards and subsequently became and still is Area Speakers Representative.

Carol also served on National Speakers Committee for several years and served as National Speakers Chairman for further three years.

Carol has also taken an active role in arranging flowers for various festivals and events over past 21 years.

Mrs Black had agreed to this.

All agreed with a show of hands.

Mrs Black was invited on to the stage to receive her badge from Mrs Robinson.

11. ELECTION OF 2ND VICE CHAIRMAN.

Mrs Chris Gibbons has been nominated for the position of 2nd Vice Chairman.

Mrs Chris Gibbons CV

Mrs Gibbons is committed to competitive work as a keen competitor and through encouraging all members to participate in show work to the best of her ability.

In 2016 Chris was thrilled to win a Chelsea Gold medal and was delighted to follow this with "Best in Show" at Royal Cheshire County Show. She became an Area Judge in 2013 and was training to qualify as a National Judge.

2010 to date: Chris joined Knutsford Floral Design Club in 2010 and its committee in 2011. She is the club's Show Chairman. Since 2014 Chris has run classes to encourage members to compete by building confidence, helping to develop designs and understanding what a judge looks for.

2003 – 2010: Chris joined Guernsey Flower Club and its committee in 2004, where for 4 years she had led a team of members and parishioners responsible for the annual Church Fund Flower Festival – an important part of the island's tradition, being major source of income for upkeep of its churches, raising more than £3,000 each year.

1990 – 2003: In 1990 Mrs Gibbons moved to Plymouth and joined Yealm Flower Club where she was a committee member until it closed in 1994. She joined Plymouth Flower Club, continuing competing and started City & Guilds course in Flower Arranging. Chris became Secretary in 1999 and remained a member until she moved to Guernsey in 2003.

1981 – 1990: Mrs Gibbons belonged to various flower clubs in Cheshire Area. Mrs Gibbons' various jobs included owning and running two retail outlets, giving her experience of wages, tax returns and staff management. She was later employed as an office supervisor and her last role was as PA to MD of hi-tech engineering company until she finished work in 1995.

Proposed by: Knutsford Floral Design Club

All agreed.

Mrs Gibbons was elected and invited on to the stage to receive her badge.

Mrs Sharon Nolan became Chairman and received her badge from Val Seed.

Mrs Nicky Wylie became 1st Vice Chairman and received her badge from Sharon Nolan.

12. ELECTION OF PUBLICITY OFFICER

Mrs Catherine Bower has been nominated for the position of Area Publicity Officer.

Mrs Catherine Bower CV

Mrs Bower joined Lymm Floral Art Group in 2007 after taking early retirement from the Civil Service. Professional roles include those as Regional Training Manager and Project Manager of multi million pound projects.

Catherine became Lymm Floral Art Group Membership secretary in 2008 and remained a member of Lymm committee, becoming Vice Chairman in 2011, Chairman in 2013 & 2014 and is currently Club President.

Catherine was invited to join Cheshire Area F&GP in March 2011 as club representative. She took over as Area Flower Arranger Officer in January 2013 and remained on F&GP until Area Publicity Team was introduced in March 2014.

Catherine has been a member and secretary to Cheshire Area Publicity team since March 2014 and took on responsibility of maintaining Area promotional boards in addition to her role as Area Flower Arranger Officer.

As Lymm membership secretary, Catherine developed a "new member" pack. To help attract new members she included photographs of flower festivals and Area events on club and Area boards. This allows current members to see examples of events they may have missed and prospective members a variety of NAFAS activities.

Catherine actively promotes NAFAS when at events, flower festivals and shows.

Proposed by: Lymm Floral Art Group

All agreed

Mrs Bower was elected and invited on to the stage to receive her badge.

13. RE-ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Mrs Morag McCord had agreed to continue as Area Secretary.

14. ELECTION OF MINUTES SECRETARY

Position vacant

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

Since last AGM, the Committee has welcomed Marilyn Haslam, Chairman of Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme Flower Club to the F&GP committee.

Val thanked the members of the committee for all their hard work over the last year. They have an important role to play in looking at decisions and proposals made by the Officers and providing the link between Officers meetings and Council. Anne Watson took on special role in organising the Christmas decorations sale at Altrincham market when members made arrangements to sell.

Committee said goodbye to Joyce Bowett, minute secretary for the committee for past two years and grateful thanks were extended to her for all her hard work as she efficiently took on the role.

b) JDS&E Report - Mrs Sharon Nolan

Mrs Nolan's second and last report as chair of JDS&E. For second year in a row held more than 20 days of training/education events in past year.

1. 17/10/15 – Area Demonstrators Test: Saw all aspects of demonstrator training course, which started in March 2015, came to fruition with 6 students out of 12 becoming Area demonstrators. Congratulations to them all – a fantastic achievement also contributing to a slightly thicker Cheshire Book. New one in October and wish all well.

2. **21/11/15 – Education day – Laura Leong:** A workshop for teachers and members who run workshops.
3. **12/9/15, 10/10/15, 28/11/15, 16/1/16 – Members days - Start a Fashion, Share a Passion:** The second highly successful 3 day course to improve arrangers' skills. Fourth day was added, initially for anyone who had not made all 3 dates, but was extended to any other students.
4. **29/2/16, 4/4/16, 16/5/16, Introduction to NAFAS:** A three day course aimed specifically at students who wished to undertake further demonstrator training, a pre-cursor to planned demonstrator training course later in the year.
5. **12/3/16 – Education day - Jill McGregor:** For teachers and those members who run workshops.
6. **9/7/16 – Members' Day – Going Large:** Was run by popular request by JDS&E members providing an opportunity for club members of all experience to work on large designs and pedestals. Great to see so well supported.
7. **2/4/16, 30/4/16, 14/5/16, 16/7/16 Members' Days – Start a Fashion, Share a Passion:** Third highly successful 3 day course to improve arrangers skills. Fourth date added.
8. **3/10/16, 4/10/16:** Committee members attended National Speaker and Demonstrators Tests in North Allerton.
9. **11/7/16, 8/8/16, 22/8/16, 5/9/16, 12/9/16, 25/9/16(Mock Test), 16/10/16, 31/10/16 (Final Test) – Demonstrator Training:** Area held demonstrator training for second successive year, to provide "quick" second opportunity for some students capitalise on training already received and retake the test, along with some new students. Course had been run on Sundays and Mondays to maximise opportunity to attract florists. Wish students well for final Test when look forward to more Area Demonstrators.
10. **Other Activities:** In addition to courses and workshops also have:
 - **Royal Cheshire Show:** Sponsored adult "hands-on" workshops at the show.
 - **Cheshire Book:** Re-issued the updated Cheshire Book, including new demonstrators.
 - **Junior Liaison:** Undertaken workshops in Chester Area.
 - **Reaseheath College:** engaged with college in hope of attracting florists to demonstrator training.
 - **Deaf Community:** Engaged with Deaf Community hope of attracting new members.

Future plans include:

11. **15/10/16 – Area Judges Refresher Day:** Being run jointly with NW Area in mid - October.
12. **31/10/16 –Demonstrators Test:** Will complete demonstrators training as move towards Final Test on 31/10/16.
13. **End –October 2016 - National Judges Training:** Anticipate 4 candidates taking National Tests and we wish them well.
14. **Speaker Training:** Now only 3 speakers listed in Cheshire Book and committed to increasing this by running Speaker Training Course in 2017.
15. **Education Days:** Continue to run at least 2 Education Workshops a year, aimed at both qualified teachers and those people who run workshops in their own club/areas, as well as short courses, such as "Start a Fashion".

16. Members Days: Continue to run at least 2 days of workshops for club members at all levels of experience each year, as well as short courses, such as "Start a Fashion". (Delighted the two days of Members' Workshops of Christmas designs with Pauline Foster on 19&20 November are fully booked and wait list has been opened). Anyone with ideas for subject matter delighted to hear them.

17. Deaf Clubs: Will continue to engage the deaf community.

At a personal level:

- Mrs Nolan would like to thank everyone else in Area who has run courses or otherwise helped in any way at our many events – too many to mention individually and do not want to leave anyone out.
- We have a talented and committed JDS&E committee and would like to thank each one, on your behalf, for their contribution to ensuring that our members enjoy a full and varied programme of activity as well as ensuring we have adequate number of judges, speakers, demonstrators and teachers to support all our clubs and activities.
- Mrs Nolan would like to wish Nicky Wylie well as she takes over chairmanship of this dedicated and professional team.

c) Social Committee - Mrs Nicky Wylie.

It has been a great year celebrating our Sapphire Anniversary. The celebrations began with an afternoon tea and demonstration by Julia Knights called "Hello Broadway" at Chester Racecourse. This event sold out very quickly, far quicker than anyone anticipated, causing some controversy. Next year we will be having an event at Chester Racecourse on 15 May 2017. Details yet to be finalised but will be a demonstration with some food. We have had to change the date to May as the larger marquee only available April to October. This should hopefully sort out problem of lack of tickets and give more people the opportunity to attend. Please support this.

Social day, 7 July, again sold out and we had a fantastic talk by novelist and historian, Julie Summers, of "Home Fires" fame and demonstration by Emily Broomhead. Both ladies were greatly received and we had some positive feedback on the day. We also had surprise cake and prosecco for everyone.

d) Royal Cheshire County Show Team – Mrs Lynda Braddock.

After a wet and soggy start to first "Royal" Cheshire County Show the floral marquee was ready to expose its stunning displays of Floral Magic!

The theme was "Let's face the Music" and classes filled up quickly. All competitors rose to the challenge of titles such as Razzle Dazzle, Ebony & Ivory, Ragtime etc. and all entries were highly praised by our judge, Craig Bullock.

Each year the John Platt trophy is presented to one of the large exhibits that are produced by students and assisted by their tutors. Trophy judged and presented by Joanna Lomas, (daughter of late John Platt) and her sister-in-law. Titles for this section were: Royal Deeside (the other one), Royal Ascot, Royal Variety Performance and Royal Garden Party. Both judges found hard to decide on a winner, but in end agreed on Royal Ascot. Adults Hands-on area gave visitors an opportunity to produce and take home a buttonhole as in previous years, but this year also included leaf manipulation which was found fascinating.

Noise levels throughout the marquee were raised due to a very busy Children's Hands-on table which again proved popular choice. We are

actively trying to encourage the younger generation to take part in the competition, and our Junior Class attracted lots of entries. We had 2 winners, a young boy in 5-12 year old section and a girl in 13-17 year olds. Both very worthy winners and would certainly give the adults a run for their money.

Over 60 photographs received in photographic competition by very talented individuals that gave great pleasure to our audience.

Floral demonstrations throughout the two days were performed by four very talented local demonstrators showing what spectacular arrangements can be made. The arrangements were sold with no shortage of buyers, in fact they were queuing to buy them.

So much hard work goes into organising the show throughout the year, but Mrs Braddock would like to thank everyone for their help, support and involvement but especially:

Cheshire Area for supporting this prestigious show.

JDS&E committee for sponsoring a busy Children's Hands-on.

Flower Arranger magazine for helping with Adult's Hands-on costs.

Sponsorship from Area President – Mrs Shirley Robinson who also presented prizes.

Area Chairman, Mrs Val Seed and Area Chairman, Mrs Sharon Nolan.

Mrs Pat Wood, for making the delicious sandwiches and catering throughout the show.

Demonstrators and Stewards.

Following flower clubs and societies for their generous sponsorship: Knutsford, Goostrey, Hale Barns, Frodsham & District, Stockton Heath, Disley & District, Group 2000, Neston Flower Society.

Slater Harrison for the supply of paper for the schedule and for printing it.

Cheshire Agricultural Society, the Executive Director and his staff.

And finally all Cheshire Area members and their husbands (including hers) for all their help in what started as a show that for the first time Cheshire Agricultural Society discussed the possibility of cancelling due to the weather, but ended in a successful memorable two days of flowers and fun.

The committee now looking forward to 2017 show and hope they can once again rely on the generosity of the Cheshire Area of NAFAS for their support.

e) RHS Tatton Park - Mrs Pat Bannister.

Once again Area had a really successful show at Tatton.

For 3rd year running we gained a Gold Medal and won the prestigious award of Best Exhibit in Design Studio. In past 5 years we have won 4 Gold medals and a Silver Gilt, and Mrs Bannister would like to thank all members of NAFAS who have worked so hard and given up so much time to make this possible.

Design Studio was slightly smaller this year, and benefited from it as the public moved easily from one stand to another. There was a real buzz of interest around and further enhanced by florists and Cheshire Area doing Hands-on workshops. We asked for and were given an extra area next to our design where we could promote some skills and techniques of flower arranging to the public. Really well received with lots of young people and boys and girls joining in. Maybe designers of the future.

Divided workshop area into space for media, information and education, and sale of Flower Arranger. In other part we had tables and chairs for visitors to sit and be shown how to use wire and small flowers and leaves to

make a simple design which they could wear. It was so successful that Country Baskets stand near us sold out of glue and aluminium wire.

Sincere thanks to all those who helped make it possible

Now looking forward to 2017 and have asked one of our members, Pat Murphy, if she will take on the job of designing our exhibit and forming a team which she has accepted.

17. NAFAS REPORT - Mrs Val Seed

Mrs Seed had not been to London but Mrs Nolan will have plenty to report after the National AGM.

National Competitions will be held in Blackpool in 2017 from 9-11 November and it would be great if Cheshire was able to give support to the organisers if asked to do so.

Support NAFAS HQ as they are a dedicated team of ordinary members doing the best job they can to make sure NAFAS has a future.

18. NAFAS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Judges - Mrs Pam Fleming-Williams read by Morag McCord.

The National Judging committee comprised:

Pam Fleming-Williams	Chairman	Cheshire
Margaret Rumens	Vice-Chairman	South Midlands
Pat Hutchinson	Training Co-ordinator	North East
James Burnside		NIGFAS
Delyth Price		3 Counties & S Wales

Three meetings held during year to discuss and plan for:

- A National Judges' Conference in 2017.
- The formulation and publication of a modular training programme for Area Judges.
- Rewriting of out-of-print Show Guide.
- Judging at Festive Flower & Food Show 2017.
- An Adjudicators and Instructors Day held in February.
- Area Representatives Day held in June.
- Training days for and the practicalities of running the National Judges Test to be held on 29 October.
- Training for new Adjudicators and Instructors.

A revised book list for trainee judges was available in Judge's section of new NAFAS website.

A list of what can be considered to be "plant material in all its forms" is on the website via a link in the News area. This list is not compulsory or definitive but is to help competitors and judges on the show bench.

Area

A Refresher Day for Judges and interested parties is taking place on 15 October in conjunction with the North West Area who has 6 candidates for the Area Test. Co-operation between Areas to run tests may well become the way to achieve sufficient numbers in future.

We have four candidates who have been working hard towards the National Judges Test and we all wish them the best of luck at end of the month.

b) Demonstrators - Mrs. Pat Murphy

The National Demonstrators' committee had met twice during the year under the chairmanship of Michael Bowyer. Also on the committee are Elizabeth Graham, Beryl Cotton, Jacqui Arnold and Diane Fair.

Training and Testing: An Adjudicators & Instructors Day was held and the Committee felt that this was a very successful day. Kate Kerr passed her final instructors and qualified at this day.
National Demonstrators Tests alongside National Speakers Tests are being held on Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 October 2016 at the Forum, Bullamoor Road, Northallerton.

c) Speakers - Mrs Carol Black.

National Speakers Committee had met three times during past year. Committee under chairmanship of Elizabeth Rea, Vice chairman Susan Shaw, Philida Irving, Carolynne Sorrell. Umbrella to Committee was David Ryland who sits on Board of Directors of NAFAS.

Cardiff University Campus booked for Speakers Residential Course and suitable content for the course was agreed upon. Elizabeth reported that due to cuts in budget, the Chairman of the Area would not be invited to attend the gala dinner, as was the case at all previous courses

Since the post of Course Administrator was abolished due to the cuts, the committee were responsible for all aspects of this course.

Following National Speakers Test last year, full discussions took place on matters arising as a result of the Test.

Suitability of subject will be removed completely from National Test Paper, it will be taken as read that if the Mock Test was passed then the subject must already have been judged to be suitable. Also agreed the National Test marks should be given to candidates who did not achieved the required standard. (Previously no marks given, just pass or not passed).

For Area Test, candidates must achieve at least 105 out of possible 150 marks. For National Test 115 out of 150.

Also decided Trainee Adjudicators sitting in at National test will write papers on 5 candidates only. These papers should range of candidate's abilities.

They will be allowed 20mins per candidate for writing their reports. This will bring Speakers in line with other disciplines. Alterations were made to appropriate guidelines.

Request forwarded to Board of Directors that all guidelines be placed onto memory sticks and given to committee members, alterations to the guidelines will then be made without cost of reprinting all appropriate pages.

Training and Testing of Speakers Candidates taking place in following Areas – Kent, NIGFAS, North Midlands and Northumberland & Durham.

To cut down in costs of staging Tests, a joint National Demonstrators and Speakers Test was planned to take place in Northallerton, Yorkshire on 3&4 October 2016. All plans for this event were put into place.

Blackpool 2017

Speakers location and time slots were discussed. Photography Committee hoping to set up a video booth for all disciplines to use.

Residential Course took place in July and a Speakers Representatives meeting in September but no report received

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, Julie Woods and Joan Woodhead Course Consultant.

Committee was responsible for organising NAFAS Certificates in Floral Art & Design and the NAFAS/OCN Credit4 Learning Teacher Training.

Committee took an active part in Festive Flower & Food Show in Blackpool last November, running workshops and manning a stall promoting NAFAS courses and Insight magazine. The new booklet Twists and Turns was launched at the Show and has to date sold over 1000 copies. Printing error will be rectified when it is reprinted.

Revalidation of NAFAS programme of courses took place in July. New independent tutors have been approved to teach the course in Three Counties and South Wales and South West Areas.

Insight magazine subscriptions stood at 355 at last committee meeting. Winter issue will be last issue with June Borrowdale as editor. Moyra Turnbull will take over as new editor. Articles are always needed.

Teachers Conference will take place on 18&19 March 2017 at Birmingham. Due to lack of up-take for places at workshops at HQ, there will be no workshops scheduled for 2017.

The "Illustrated Booklet of Basic Designs" has been updated and reprinted. A follow-on booklet is being prepared at moment by Julie Woods and Jane Haas. The Leisure Class Guide for Adults and Juniors also being worked on by Joan Woodhead.

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

*Proposed by: Macclesfield Flower Club
Seconded by: Neston Flower Society*

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: Winwick Flower Club
Seconded by: Elworth Flower Club*

All agreed.

20. SPECIAL ITEMS.

1. Area Secretary announced that Wistaston & District Flower Club from Mercia & N Wales Area had joined Cheshire and their Chairman, Cath Scales and Treasurer, Judy Gratton were present.

2. Past Chairman, Val Seed announced that it was the wish of the Officers, F&GP and Council that past President, Shirley Robinson should be awarded an Associate of Honour of the Cheshire Area of NAFAS for her outstanding service to the Area.

3. Chairman, Sharon Nolan announced it was also the wish that past Chairman, Val Seed should become an Associate of Honour of the Cheshire Area of NAFAS, for her outstanding service to the Area.

In accordance with Area Constitution, the Officers, F&GP and Council approved Shirley and Val be awarded Area Associate of Honour.

Shirley and Val received their Associate of Honour badges with grateful thanks

21. A.O.B.

1) Ashton Hayes & Tarvin asked if the clubs could claim gift aid back for membership fees if club was a charity. After some discussion, advised that if club became a charity – a long and complicated process – they could claim. Neston advised to contact Charities Commission website to see if qualified for charity status as they had done. Suggested that Neston write report for Cheshire Chat explaining how to go about applying.

2) Vacancies at Area – Pat Murphy retiring as Photography Rep. so vacancy for this position.

Archivist – Shirley Robinson, retiring President has been looking after Area archive and will continue until Area finds someone for this position.

3) Val Seed and also Chris O'Hara thanked everyone who was involved in Festival of Flowers at Bramall Hall to mark re-opening of the Hall after a major refurb. It was a great success and Chris and she were so grateful to everyone who took part.

The Area President thanked everyone who had helped her over the years especially with the Flower Festival at Byley as an Officer of Cheshire Area and also for their best wishes for the future.

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

President thanked Eddisbury 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, 5 October 2017.

Signed

Date

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