

**Minutes of Cheshire Area Council Meeting
Northwich Memorial Court, evening of Monday 8 May 2017**

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

Chairman's Remarks:

- Sharon thanked the delegates and members for coming to the evening meeting of Council, held by popular request, but was disappointed to see so few clubs represented.
- Sue Jackson, AOH, had informed Sharon that, sadly, Jane Hinde, past chairman of Kelsall Flower Club died in March. No doubt many council members past and present would remember Jane from Chester Cathedral 2000 when she led a team from Kelsall, and from many other Area floral events. Please remember Jane and the pleasure she brought to others through flowers.
- Many thanks to Diane Arden, Tarporley FC for the beautiful flower arrangement for the raffle.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Pat Murphy - Area Demonstrators rep, Pam Fleming- Williams - Area Judges rep, Pat Bannister - RHS co-ordinator, Val Seed – Delegate for The Bramall Hall FC, Ashton & Sale, Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme, Hale Barns, NE Cheshire, Poynton, Romiley, Winwick and Wirral Flower Clubs.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 February 2017 were signed by the Area Chairman as correct.

3. MATTERS ARISING - none

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- Invitation to Wirral Flower Club emerald anniversary celebration on 18/7/17
- Invitation to Leek Floral Society emerald anniversary 14/6/17
- Invitation to Ashton & Sale Floral Art Group and Sale Flower Club Show 27/5/17 and demonstration on 15/6/17.

5. REPORTS

(a) Secretary – Morag McCord

Reminders:

- Delegates please sign in under Club name but only one person from each club can vote
- If Club is unable to attend or there is a change of delegate let me know before Council
- Several important letters and application forms in packs so if you are not club chairman, please make sure they see the pack as soon as possible
- Club Officers Form – must be your designated club contact who signs club officers form as it is their information which is printed on Area website for other clubs to contact and who will also receive Area minutes, emails, info from HQ
- Venue for AGM 2017 in October is Frodsham Community Centre

Correspondence:

- Received several emails, letters etc. re- information from HQ, club requests, people enquiring about Area flower clubs and more.

In packs for Council: (All will be explained in more detail during meeting.)

- Agenda for next Council meeting - 3 July 10.00 for 10.30 start at Plumley Village hall
- Letter and application form re Workshops for members – Richard Haslam
- Enrolment form and information for Intermediate Floral Design classes by Pam Dimeloe
- Large poster and 2 flyers for Festive Flower & Food Show in Blackpool
- Flyer for Arley Hall Garden Festival
- Flyer for Cheshire Chat
- New Cheshire Area Leaflet
- Christmas 2017 order form
- Letter and application form for Start a Fashion etc
- Advertisement for new Website Manager
- Details re: Demonstrator to go into Cheshire Book

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- Flyers for Goostrey and Wilmslow Guild flower clubs
 - Nantwich Show Floral Art Schedule
 - Flyer Ashton & Sale and Sale flower clubs demonstration for Sale Festival
- Many thanks to Anne and Joan for their help tonight with registration and issuing of Club packs.

(b) Treasurer – Chris Middleton (Chris M)

1. **Balances:** Current Account £19,706, Nationwide & Bond £36,625. £9,000 will be paid out at Area Lunch. Ticket money for social day already coming in.

2. **RHS budget:** Total budgeted spend of £4,497. Pat Murphy has been very generous with her contingency of £650, has sponsorship of £210 and hopes for more. Final spend anticipated to be less than budget.

3. **Highlights from Area Treasurers Meeting in London:**

- National Affiliation will be increased by 20p to £5.60.
- Colour Burst weekend raised £11k
- Recommended clubs have Employers Liability Insurance – even if people are asked to do things rather than employed to move chairs etc., insurance companies are proving difficult.
- Public Liability Insurance not limited to 90 years therefore a fall in a venue not excluded by age – check venue insurance.
- Clubs financial record should be kept for 6 years. Significant information such as AGM minutes, Constitution, set up details etc. should be kept for ever.
- Several suggestions for money raising. Complete notes will be emailed to Club treasurers.

4. **Replacement Treasurer:** Chris M will retire at AGM 2018. She would like incoming Treasurer to be in place as her assistant or to take over completely at AGM 2017. Clubs are asked to do their bit to find replacement.

5. **Trading:** NAFAS Enterprises has been making a loss for several years on gift side of Trading and despite best efforts to turn it around there has been no improvement. (Cheshire Area already reduced Trading down to Handbooks, leaflets, badges and blue forms, plus Christmas stock of cards, calendars and diaries.) NAFAS now decided it must do the same – Bob Bright who has worked on Trading for several years has been given notice and will finish in October or before. No difference to Area as NAFAS will continue with goods we require, including no change to Flower Arranger.

6. **Today's Raffle:** Thanks to Merryn Shaw from Ashton Hayes & Tarvin FC for selling raffle tickets

c) Publicity – Catherine Bower

New promotional material:

- Area Leaflet: Leaflet designed to show the variety of activities available with NAFAS membership.
- X banner – designed for indoor use (on display).
- Feather flag – simple wording allows it to be read from a distance (on display).

Website:

- Review of current maintenance arrangements undertaken as Tony Middleton, website manager, will step down within 18 months, 2018 AGM latest. Current site requires greater technical understanding as it is bespoke, written in HTML and PHP and requires technical “coding” experience.
- Following the review, considering moving to a template/Content Management System (CMS) e.g. Wordpress, Joomla or Drupal. Do any members have a working knowledge of CMS web design and are willing to help develop a new site? Or experience of Word Press/Wix or similar, with view to helping develop new site/test alongside current site. Slip in pack.
- Tony will be available to help with initial set up. Recruiting someone now will allow effective maintenance of current site, whilst developing and testing new one. Slip in club pack. If you can find someone interested please ask them to contact Catherine Bower-
publicity@nafascheshire.org.uk.

Social Media: Facebook – variety of posts, including promoting club and Area activities. Email information to: facebook@nafascheshire.org.uk.

Events:

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- Arley Flower Festival 24&25/6/17 – 2 clubs unable to accept offer to exhibit. Publicity team to complete. In addition to exhibit and hands on in Floral Marquee, will be 2 x 30 mins demonstrations in Talks Marquee.
- Royal Cheshire Show 20&21/6/17
- RHS Tatton 19-23/7/17
- Macclesfield Garden Festival 19-21/5/17 Macclesfield, Poynton and Nether Alderley FC to display designs. Publicity material available with Chris M and helpers.
- Nantwich Show 26/7/17 – Wistaston & District and Nantwich clubs organise floral Marquee and Cheshire Area publicity material will be available.
- Southport Flower Show 17-20/8/17 – Cheshire Area will exhibit in addition to individual members.
- Get-Together of Area Committee members identified events supported by local clubs where Area promotional material may be used.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to support both Area and local activities.

Media Officer HQ meeting 14 March 2017:

Chaired by national Press Officer, Caroline Jackson. Sheila Hadlow attended for most of the day. 19 Areas represented.

Cheshire Area has addressed items other Areas would like:

- There is an Officer – some media officers not allowed to attend Council.
- Publicity Officer has access to information at planning stage.
- Social Media utilised.
- Variety of promotional material available.

(ci) Flower Arranger – Catherine Bower

Sponsor Hands-on at Macclesfield Garden Festival and Royal Cheshire County Show.

Mixed feedback on Rachael Bull's Spring edition. Sheila Hadlow asked we give her 12 months to develop her style and respond to feedback.

Thank you to clubs who had increased their order. Can increase order anytime.

Mrs Bower will attend Area Flower Arranger officer meeting Wednesday 10 May.

(c ii) Cheshire Chat – Chris Middleton

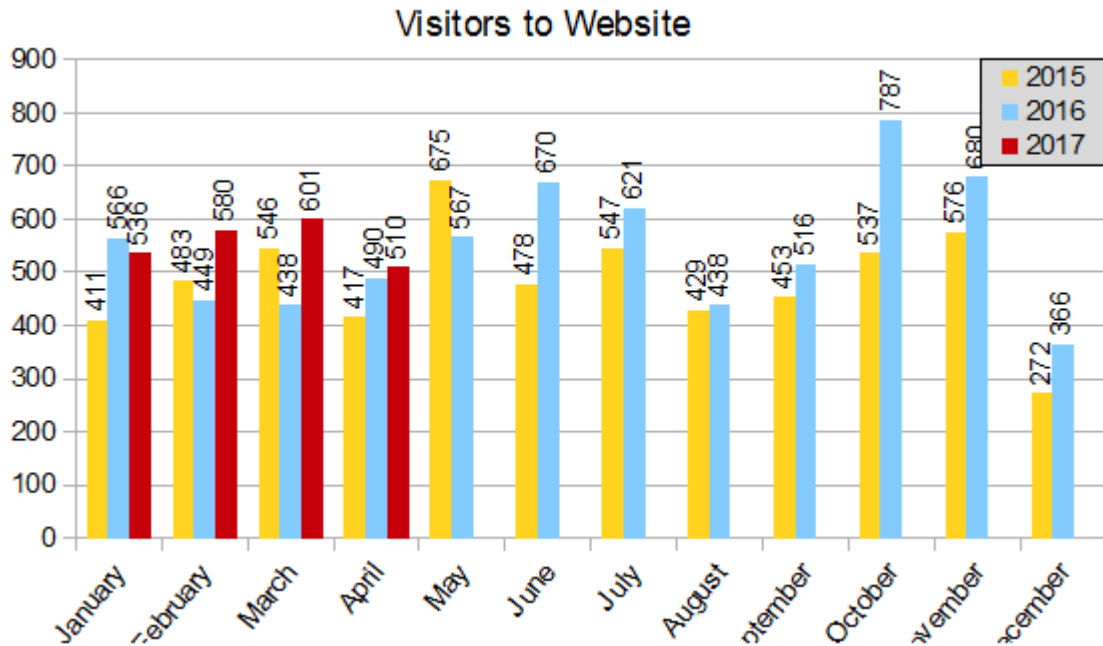
Meeting 24 March 2017 to discuss future of the magazine: Present - Sharon Nolan, Chris Middleton, Catherine Bower, Edena Joughin. Currently losing £220 with each edition. Price held at 70p as falling numbers taking magazine and thought price increase would discourage even more. In November 2016, only 231 copies were paid for. Area Photos etc. also available on Website. Dates (being expanded to include JDS&E as appropriate) also on website. Club photos etc. only in Chat. The facts to be presented to May Council and a flier created to be supplied at Council for club representatives to take back to their members. To include the following:

1. Retain as is and charge £2 per copy. (Only work if numbers stay same or increase) OR increase affiliation fees by 10p
2. Stop production and use website for Area information losing club information.
3. Input from clubs re change of format/content BUT must be supported by a big increase in numbers.

(c iii) Social Media – Nicky Wylie: Facebook page really good. To share anything good use Instagram etc to hit younger generation. Profile increasing. If want anything put on contact Nicky with photos in Jpeg format.

(c iv) Website – Tony Middleton:

Very little change has taken place since the last meeting, mainly routine maintenance – e.g. club diary updates and event photographs. The February Council minutes are available via the website. As from this meeting starting to look for a replacement for Website Manager. Current manager will finish 2018 AGM at latest although could step down sooner if someone else was available.



To contact the website officer, use the contact form on the website or email:
website@nafascheshire.org.uk.

(d) NAFAS –Sharon Nolan:

This covers points from NAC (National Advisory Committee) 11/4/17

- **Blackpool 9-11/11/17:** Posters from Mig Kimpton. One for each club, to be put in a prominent place, not club notice board. Information released about Taste Theatre and Talks. Alison Cooper features on catwalk show 9/11/17 at 18.30. Joan Wilkinson doing red bauble exhibit. Val Seed acting as joint Trading Officer (food). Raffle tickets available. Sharon running coach from Tarvin - £30 to include ticket, coach and gratuities Let her know if interested.
- **Chelsea:** Still no answer from HQ whether Cheshire will be asked to do Chelsea exhibit in 2019 or not. Directors cannot agree on whether NAFAS should do it and format/size it should be. What does it actually give NAFAS as a benefit? Promised reply on two dates last month but nothing each time. Some Areas may wish to do Chelsea with or without subsidy from HQ. Our Area will have to do through due process when asked, as until then, we do not know what terms will be. Any delay means that if Cheshire chooses not to do it, makes harder for any other Area following on. Also time constrained on raising money.
- **Membership/Affiliation Fees:** Issued to Chairmen on an Area by Area basis – numbers of clubs and members are all falling.
- **Diamond Card:** <500 applications received so far. Cost is 90p per plastic card.
- **Trading:** Advised at NAC that Trading, ie sale of fancy goods, was in sorry state. Since then, further announcement has been made. Chris M already announced details.
- **WAFSA 2023:** New Zealand to host.
- **Diamond Anniversary Celebration event 2019:** pack to be issued at next NAC. 8,9 &10/8/2019 for Floral Art Competition in Business Design Centre, Islington, London. Dinner on 9/8/2019 in Grosvenor House, Park Lane. Look on bright side. Although may be South of Watford you can get there on train for the day.
- **National Flower Arranging Day:** WI collaborated over National Flower Arranging Day on 5/5/17. Tags issued. Gold star to Merylin Haslam and her committee at Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme Flower Club for being first club to send in photographs of what they did.
- **Osborne House Refurbishment:** work is being carried out, decoration will start soon from top down.

(e) F&GP report – Sharon Nolan

- **Badges:** New badges made for all Delegates, Area Officers, Committee members etc.

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Committee Get-Together 3/4/17: Successful day at Plumley for two thirds of Area's committee members.

- **WI Collaboration:** Excellent meeting with Jean Harding, Cheshire WI Chairman. WI building in Chester has rooms available to hire. Also suggested venues for hire in Cheshire Area. She had not realised that Royal Cheshire Show was open to everyone.
- **Southport Flower Show 17-20 August 2017:** Exhibit to be staged by Catherine Scales assisted by Judy Gratton at planning stage and Rita Roberts for actual staging.
- **Chaffinches – Cheshire Area Affiliates:** Launching in July – Anne Watson administering initially. Purpose is to attract younger members who are not interested in joining one of our existing clubs. It is an online, email, telephone postal club for individuals affiliated to the Cheshire Area of NAFAS. Workshops have been booked in October 2017 – Alison Cooper, April 2018 – Mark Entwistle, October 2018 and April 2019. Information will be added to Area website but big push at RHS Tatton. Not intended to replace existing clubs in any way – club members may choose to join Chaffinches if they wish, to come to the workshops but not prime intention. Flyers will be in July Club pack.

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

- **Start a Fashion Plumley – 3 days 18/2/17, 11/3/17, 22/4/17, 3/6/17 (extra day) - Val Seed & Chris O'Hara:** Successful course and students have now been invited to do a class exhibit at Royal Cheshire Show under Val and Chris's tutelage. An extra day has been provided (free of charge) to mock up the exhibit on 3/6/17.
- **Area Education Day 4/3/17 – Irene Manson:** A great day best summed up as corrugated cardboard rules ok.
- **New Demonstrators Day 25/3/17:** Excellent day for new demonstrators - 2015 and 2016.
- **Speaker Training 1/4/17, 20/5/17, 8/7/17(Mock) and 28/10/17 (Final) – Carol Black:** Course underway with 8 candidates.
- **Designer of the Year Eliminator 6/7/17:** Application form out at February Council. Number potential competitors identified and contacted. Two replies so far and others have been approached. Looking forward to a great contest at Social Day.
- **Start a Fashion (2nd of year) – 2 days 30/9/17 and 18/11/17 Val Seed and Chris O'Hara:** At Plumley, dates agreed with students on 22/4/17 as all wish to attend. Cost £20 per day. Application form in pack – please ask members if anyone would like to attend.
- **Members Day 7&8/10/2017 – Richard Haslam from Northern Ireland:** – Application forms in pack. Really hope members will support what should be a brilliant two days of workshops – with both Friday and Saturday places available, those who work as well as those who do not should be able to attend.
- **Education Day 21/10/2017 – Kate Kerr :** Not distributed at Council but persons on the Education list contacted directly. If anyone in club thinks should be on Education list contact Diane Fair.
- **Intermediate Classes with Pam Dimeloe:** Information in Club packs.

(g) Social – Chris Gibbons (Chris G)

- **Chester Lunch 15/5/17:** All preparations for Chester lunch in place and ready to welcome members to the lunch which will be followed by a demonstration by Annette Urquhart from Berkshire, title "Crazy for Daisy".

Anyone involved in putting on an event knows how much hard work goes into trying to make sure the event is a happy and memorable day. It is very disappointing to report event has not been well supported by our members and we have struggled to sell 200 tickets to a venue that is capable of seating 400 people. The venue was booked in response to feedback from last year's event which had been oversubscribed and some members had not been able to purchase tickets. In response, Officers booked a larger venue which left scope for friends of members to attend the lunch – a first for this Social event. Despite this, not enough tickets have been sold which has led to a predicted loss for the Area and steps have had to be taken to off-set some of the loss.

Fair to acknowledge considerable effort of Chester Race Course management who have been very generous and helpful and Officers grateful for this.

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Obviously not the report Chris G had hoped to give in her first year as an officer but Social Committee would like to thank those members who have supported the lunch and are determined to give them a very good day.

- **July Social Day (6/7/17):** Social day on Thursday 6 July is at Northwich Memorial Court, Northwich. Speaker in the morning is Jennie Storr from Lincoln, subject "Travels with the Colonel". Afternoon session will commence at 1.30pm with National demonstrator, Angela Turner from Dorset. Angela is a National Teacher, Judge and 6 times Chelsea Gold Medal winner. Title "Party in the Park". Coffee stations will be available for you to buy coffee/tea and member's packed lunches must be eaten inside the hall – these are the management rules. Tickets sold on a "first come" basis and are £15 each.
- **October AGM (5/10/17):** Venue will be Frodsham Community Centre as the hall is now available.

Area Treasurer Chris M announced that Area initially was looking at a loss of £3,000 but after negotiating with Chester management and keeping our extra costs to a minimum, she has been able to reduce the loss to £1,600.

(h) RHS Tatton 19-23/7/17– Pat Bannister (Pat B):

Work is progressing well on the Exhibit which has been accepted. Title changed and will now be "A Floral Feast". Mock-up will be inspected by Sharon and Pam Fleming-Williams on 5/6/17. The background at Tatton will be pale grey with a black floor. Team will be asked to wear Area T-shirts during staging, maintenance and during the show so they can be easily identifiable. They will also have an Area name badge. There will be a selfie board.

NAFAS position in Design Studio similar to last year, with space next to it for workshops and publicity. Marquee in similar place but smaller as no BFA and Country Baskets.

Area has declined opportunity to carry out demonstrations – felt can engage more effectively with potential members (the general public) on a one to-one basis.

Pat B to discuss storage requirements with RHS, easy access to behind the scenes storage for flowers and helpers belongings.

One large table for workshops and one for publicity. Workshops scheduled for longer hours each day, including lunchtimes.

Pat B to speak with Carol Black, Pam Fleming-Williams and Mark Entwistle re designs.

All helpers, except staging team, to be asked to dress in navy and white or black and white, accessorised with green if desired.

Pat B has confirmed that all exhibitors and stewards, including those running workshops MUST have a photo ID badge. Pat drawing up schedule of persons attending the show and will contact everyone to obtain the necessary photo and any other information required to order the badges.

(i) Royal Cheshire County Show 20&21/6/17 - Lynda Braddock

Preparations well under way for this year's schedule entitled "What a Wonderful World" and already 4 out of 10 classes are full – (F1 – Eastern Promise (pedestal), F3 – Out of Africa, F7 – Treasures of the Earth (Imposed) and F9 – Don't Fence Me In). Had such great response to classes F3 and F9 – have increased numbers from 12 to 16.

Still a few places left in:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| F4 Hanging exhibit | What Lies Beneath? |
| F6 Small Class | Little Things Mean a Lot |
| F8 Craft Class | Wherever I Lay My Head (cushion/pillow) |
| F10 Novice Class | Wood You Believe It. |

Generally find Novice Class fills up closer to the cut-off date for entries which is 5 June but do not leave it too late to enter.

Most disappointing class is F2 (This World and Beyond) which is the Club Class. At present only 2 possibly 3 whereas in past 5 or 6 so contact Ann France as not too late.

Juniors always encouraged to take part in the competition, so encourage your children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, friends or clubs such as brownies or scouts etc. to have some fun with flowers and enter the competition.

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There are 4 large non-competitive exhibits produced by tutors and their students and this year they will be Knutsford Floral Design Club, The Bramall Hall Flower Club, and 2 new schools this year who are Alright Petal Flower School and Share Your Passion Flower School – going to see some amazing designs from them all.

Mrs Braddock thanked the clubs that have sponsored the show, most appreciated and helps to maintain the excellent standards that have been produced in the past and give the general public the wow factor that flowers can bring.

Dates 20& 21 June for your diary to get your tickets.

(j) NAFAS Sub- Committee Reports:

i) Judges – Pam Fleming-Williams read by Morag McCord

Extracts from minutes of National Judging Committee held 9 February 2017.

Matters arising from previous minutes:

National Judges Test held at Solihull – came in under budget. Five passes out of 13 candidates.

On reflection, 13 candidates were too many for one day as it was very tough on the Adjudicators.

J Forms: After discussion and input from everyone, it was decided to remain with the option to provide a complete set of papers to all National Judges and Area Representatives, with updates being sent by preference by email.

Current Plant List would be given a prefix (J43) and the Chairman would update the Index and the Horticultural Module to reflect this.

Correspondence:

Items of correspondence regarding: list of plant materials, training, Festive Flower & Food Show, test results, conference arrangements, new Show Guide, and a request for information on competing from the Editor of the Flower Arranger Magazine. All dealt with by the Chairman.

Standing Committee Chairmen's meeting:

Items discussed included how to help demonstrators judge club competitions if asked to do so.

All chairmen were asked to use National Photography Committee for publications.

Thanks expressed by Judging Chairman to other committees - input new booklet "Putting on a Show".

Judging and Education committees will work together to produce module on Period Arranging for use by Areas and JDS&E committees, due to apparent lack of knowledge generally throughout NAFAS.

All Chairmen were asked to send information to Caroline Jackson, National Press Officer for uploading to social media sites.

A suggestion that clubs could approach their local Garden Centres to run Kids sessions at appropriate times of year - Eg. Easter/Mother's Day/ Christmas much in the way they run 90minute "decorate a Chocolate nest" or "paint-a-pot" sessions.

Training:

Mock Tests taking place this Spring in North East, Surrey and Kent Areas. Training dates have been posted to NAFAS website.

A weekend of training at Osborne House to be investigated. Could cover two modules.

Accommodation could be offered to candidates.

Conference:

11-13 August. Contract with venue at Nottingham University has been signed. It had come to light that not all Area Judging reps had passed information on this event to their Area judges. A flyer was included in Area Chairman's packs at National Council to encourage dissemination of this information. 29 deposits paid. Hoped to welcome at least 40 delegates.

Topics were discussed and draft timetable prepared. Name badges and evaluation sheets to be produced. Sylvia to prepare certificates of attendance for the meeting in June when numbers confirmed.

Putting on a Show booklet:

Board of directors had approved budget. Three quotes obtained. Quorum to print. National proof reader has proof read the booklet. Photographs to be finalised. Launch in March, available from the on-line shop. Chairman to send jpeg of front cover to Distribution Officer, Bob Bright.

J forms:

Further to feedback received from Adjudicators at National Test, the Oral section marking sheet for Adjudicators has been re-spaced and will be re-issued in due course.

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Festive Flower and Food Show:

Liaison had taken place with the Competitions Officer to clarify certain points.

It was hoped that, for future shows, the schedule and other information could be brought to the Judging Committee at an earlier stage.

A&I Day 28th September 2017:

Topics for the agenda were drafted. There will be a review of the marking scheme, feedback from tutors on the modular training programme, input for the period module, discussion on the protocol for touching exhibits and how to raise standards.

Agenda to be finalized in June. Attendees will be entitled to 50% of their travel expenses.

AOB:

The names of new Committee members were confirmed.

Chairman had provided the Editor of Flower Arranger with information on how to compete well and some photographs.

An enquiry to Editorial Board of the magazine for old 'You Be the Judge' articles unproductive as no longer available.

A template to assist Area Representatives with reports to the National Committee was discussed.

Copy had already been sent to the Flower Arranger News Supplement for the Summer edition due to the bringing forward of the copy date by one week.

Next meeting 8th June 2017

(ii) Demonstrators – Mrs Pat Murphy: No report

(iii) Speakers –Carol Black

Notes from National Speakers Committee minutes 27 February 2017

The committee met on February 27th with Chairman Susan Shaw and members Susan Horne, Sheila Smith and Carolynne Sorrell.

Derek Armstrong sat in as Umbrella in place of Sandy Bailey

At the recent NAC meeting the Speakers Chairman reminded all present that Speakers Instructors are available to assist with General Speaking and Confidence days. When the next National list is published a note will be included on the Speakers section, that Speakers Instructors are available to help in this respect.

The Chairman encouraged the Committee members to apply for the Diamond Card and she ensured that all were informed of its purpose.

A discussion took place regarding Speakers being asked to judge at Flower Clubs. It was acknowledged that Clubs are usually just happy that a person outside the Club would be judging. It must be noted that Speakers should not feel obligated to agree.

It was agreed that the joint National Test last year worked well and the Speakers Chairman thanked Michael Bowyer and his committee for all their hard work. The committee would also like to give thanks to Diane Fair and members of the East of England for their work in getting the Candidates both on and off the stage and for calming their nerves.

The successful Candidates at the Test were Alan Beatty – Nigfas, Anne Bridge – East of England, James Burnside – Nigfas, Hazel McGregor – Surrey and Kathy Stangaard – London and Overseas. Following an update of the guidelines after the test it was agreed that stage props would not be moved to the sidelines after each presentation – this should hopefully lead to a smoother and safer running of the test.

The Speakers and Demonstrators Committee have been asked to create a guideline on the running of a joint test.

An email from Royal Caribbean Cruised was circulated to both National Speakers and Demonstrators, some of whom had applied, however Chairman was aware there had been no responses to either discipline.

The recent Adjudicators and Instructors day held recently at headquarters had proved to be a full and productive day. (I unfortunately was not able to attend.)

The Nafas Youtube videos for introductions and votes of thanks can be viewed on the Speakers page of the Nafas website. The videos have been well received and further videos are planned to promote Speakers and Speaking activities.

The committee thanked Chrissie Harten, chairman of the National Photographers Committee for her hard work in making them possible.

Committee also planning advice sheets to cover various aspects of speaking and self- confidence.

The next meeting will be held on 15th and 16th of May

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(iv) Education – Diane Fair: No report.

(v) Photography – Pam Mosedale

1. Royal Cheshire County Show Photography Competition The 2017 Royal Cheshire County Show Photography Competition has now launched and Competition Secretary, Pam Mosedale, will be delighted to receive entries. We organise the competition on behalf of the show, therefore the competition is open to everyone, not just NAFAS members. A schedule can be downloaded from the NAFAS Cheshire website and in 2017 Area Diary section:

<http://www.nafascheshire.org.uk/diary/2017/cheshireshow/photoschedule.pdf>

The competition titles are

- Class 1 Treasures of the earth – a landscape or garden scene
- Class 2 What lies beneath?
- Class 3 Wood you believe it
- Class 4 Little things mean a lot – close up detail of natural plant material
- Class 5 Don't fence me in – a monochrome or black and white

The **CLOSING DATE** is: 5pm WEDNESDAY 31st MAY 2017.

There will also be an opportunity for visitors to select their favourite photograph. The photograph with the most votes will receive the 'visitors vote' award of £10.

2. Notice to exhibitors about posting photographs on social media and permission to take photographs during the show

The following notice will be placed in each exhibitor's space during staging:

No photographs of competition entries should be posted on social media until the competition has been judged, the winners have been informed, and the event is open to the public.

By entering this competition, you agree to photographs being taken of your exhibit, and that such photographs may be posted on social media or used in the future in print or digital media.

3. NAFAS Photography Competition: The 2017 National Photography Competition is open to all members of NAFAS with the exception of the NAFAS National Photography Committee. A schedule can be downloaded from the NAFAS website: <http://nafas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/2017-Photography-Competition.pdf>

The competition titles are:

- Class 1 INCLEMENT WEATHER: A colour image of a landscape or seascape
- Class 2 PLANTAHOLIC: A close-up detail of natural plant material
- Class 3 WATCH THIS SPACE: An image of plants and/or flowers, to demonstrate imaginative manipulation
- Class 4 FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY: A black and white, greyscale or sepia image of any subject to interpret the title
- Class 5 SHOWSTOPPER - Novice Class*: A colour image to incorporate a floral design *A novice is defined as a member who has not previously won a prize in a NAFAS National Photography Competition
- Class 6 HAPPY HOLIDAYS - Junior Class*: A colour image of any subject to interpret the class title *A Junior is classed as any person aged 17 years or under

The **CLOSING DATE** is: 5pm FRIDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2017

The Competition Secretary must receive digital entries, entry form and cheque by this date.

PRIZES Adults: 1st - £30.00, 2nd - £20.00, 3rd - £10.00 and **Juniors:** 1st - £20.00, 2nd - £15.00, 3rd - £10.00

The winning images to be displayed at the NAFAS AGM, the Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH on Wednesday 11th October 2017, and at the NAFAS Festive Flower & Food Show, Blackpool, from 9th - 11th November 2017.

(vi) Junior Liaison – Sally Melvin: No report

6.) Any Other Business

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1. Please copy Sharon, or one of the other Officers, into email if club contacting HQ as they may be asked a question at London meetings and it helps if they have seen the correspondence beforehand.
2. Nicky collecting for Women v Cancer. Bike ride from Land's End to John O'Groats.
3. Vacancies: (PC skills not essential for Archivist, but essential for all other roles)
 - Archivist (Shirley Robinson has carried on but new person required)
 - Minute Secretary – Area
 - F&GP committee minutes secretary
 - 1 club Rep for F&GP
 - Chaffinch assistance if it takes off.Looking ahead:
 - Area Treasurer
 - Website manager
4. Sharon wished all competitors well for Chelsea.

Area President, Carol Black, closed the meeting and commented that it was exciting to be in the new hall at Northwich and thanked all the Officers for all their hard work. Cheshire is regarded by NAFAS HQ as a forward thinking Area, much respected in NAFAS Association.

**7.) DATE of NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY 3 JULY 2017 Plumley Village Hall
10am Coffee/Tea 10.30 meeting**

Signed

Date