FLOWER CLUBS OF CHESHIRE

Inspire - Learn - Create

55th Annual General Meeting
Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham.
2nd October, 2025

1.Welcome and introductions

The President, Dorothy Irvin proposed a toast to the NAFAS Area Flower Clubs of Cheshire, now celebrating 55 years. Cheshire was part of Mercia and North Wales until 1970 and Dorothy recalled the early days of our new Area. Sherry was served – just like at the first meeting.

2.Attendance and apologies for absence

Present were Tracy-Anne Clancy, Janet Schofield and Jean Jones, Flower Clubs of Cheshire Chairman's office; Vanessa Lees Flower Clubs of Cheshire Secretary, Tracy-Anne Clancy Flower Clubs of Cheshire Treasurer, Judy Gratton Flower Clubs of Cheshire Support Officer, Flower Clubs of Cheshire Judges' representative Pam Fleming-Williams, Flower Clubs of Cheshire Demonstrators' representative Beryl Cotton, Flower Clubs of Cheshire Education representative Pam Mosedale, Royal Cheshire County Show joint chairmen Carol Baker and Sylvia Bower, and *The Flower Arranger* officer Catherine Bower.

These persons are included in the total attendance of 93 members including representatives from: Ashton Hayes and Tarvin Flower Club, Chester Flower Club, Disley and district Flower Club, Eddisbury and Sandiway Flower Club, Elworth Flower Club, Frodsham and district Flower Club, Goostrey Flower Club, Hale Barns Flower Club, Handbridge Flower Club, Heald Green Flower Club, Holt Flower Club, Hoylake Flower Club, Knutsford Floral Design Club, Leek Floral Art Society, Lymm Floral Art Group, Macclesfield Flower Club, Mid-Cheshire Flower Club, Neston Flower Society, Nether Alderley Flower Club, New Brighton Flower Arrangement Society, Prestbury Flower Club, Romiley Flower Club, Rural Chester Flower Club, Sale Flower Club, Stockport Afternoon Flower Club, Tarporley Flower Club, Upton-by-Chester Flower Club, Wilmslow Guild Floral Design Club, Winwick Flower Club, Wirral Flower Club, and Wistaston and district Flower Club.

Apologies were received from Nicky Wylie: NAFAS Chairman and Bramall Hall, David Mason: Sunflower Cluster lead and Romiley, Chris Gibbons: Knutsford, Elaine Meredith: Tarporley, Sue Walton: Lymm, Lorraine Simcox: Leek, and Anne Williams: Wirral.

3.Minutes of 54th AGM: 3rd October, 2024

The minutes were proposed by Goostrey, seconded by Disley, and passed by all present. They were signed as a true record of events.

4.Amendments

On page 16 of the minutes there is a spelling error. Irvin is correct and not Irvine[1].

[1]Sincere apologies – EF.

5.Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Reports

6. Chairman's Office

6.i Administrative – Tracy-Anne Clancy

It is an honour, and extremely special to write the Chairman's Administrative Report for the 55th AGM, in our Emerald Anniversary year. Cheshire have achieved an awful lot over the last 55 years, and this last year was no exception.

It is extremely rewarding to look back and appreciate what we have achieved in just one year. At the beginning of the year, we gained five new Area demonstrators, all having been successful at the tests held at Tarvin Community Centre. At our Area AGM, Dorothy Irvin was invited to be our President (once again) – but the first President under our new name of 'Flower Clubs of Cheshire'. Dorothy is a National Associate of Honour, Cheshire Area Associate of Honour, member of Rural Chester Flower Club and an Honorary Member of Sale Flower Club. Dorothy was Cheshire Area President from 1995-1998. After our AGM we enjoyed a double demonstration entitled 'Diamonds and Rust', by Lucy Ellis and Coral Gardiner. A very upbeat and entertaining afternoon with a stage full of fabulous flowers, to kick-start our year.

Cheshire were once again hosts for the National Tests, held at Frodsham Community Centre at the end of October. Thank you to everyone for all your help and support – the event ran like clockwork, and we were able to showcase our Cheshire hospitality.

We held four in-person Club Representative Forums during the year, at various venues across the Area. Our January meeting marked the start of our Emerald Anniversary year. The very first meeting of the Cheshire Flower Arrangement Society (as it was called in 1971) commenced with a glass of sherry and our mascot for this year has, therefore, been a bottle of Croft Original as a nod to our founder members. The April meeting was followed by the Area lunch, held at Lymm Golf Club. It was an opportunity to meet up with friends, enjoy a pre-lunch drink in the sunshine overlooking the 18th green and after lunch to sit back and listen to Kate Russell, our guest speaker, as she reminisced about flower arranging, demonstrating and flower club life over the years.

In July, the Area Social Day was back, as we enjoyed a 'Cheshire Summer Celebration' at Abbeywood Estate and Gardens. Six of our Cheshire demonstrators guided us through the past six decades, with appropriate floral designs, anecdotes, music and fashion. It was an opportunity to meet up with friends, enjoy afternoon tea and celebrate all things 'Cheshire'. A huge thank you to the organising team, our Cheshire demonstrators and to everyone who helped on the day and supported the event. A truly memorable occasion. Cheshire Life were also in attendance, with photographs of the celebration being included in the September issue of Cheshire Life magazine.

Several of our Clubs celebrated significant Anniversaries in 2024, 25 and we offer them our warmest congratulations. Janet Schofield and Tracy-Anne Clancy attended the lunch and talk by Chris Beardshaw hosted by Nether Alderley Flower Club, as they celebrated 70 years. We were also delighted to be invited to attend New Brighton Flower Club's afternoon tea followed by an entertaining talk on 'Anniversaries' by Kathleen Williams, as the members celebrated 60 years.

Also celebrating 60 years were Prestbury Flower Club and Dorothy Irvin, was the guest of honour, accompanied by Tracy-Anne Clancy. A celebratory demonstration by Sara Barrow, followed by fizz and cake, was enjoyed by the membership. Tracy-Anne Clancy was invited to give a short talk about Japanese culture and Ikebana after the Sapphire anniversary afternoon tea held at Rural

Chester club, as they celebrated 45 years. Stockport Afternoon Club celebrated their 55th Emerald Anniversary with a luncheon followed by a mini demonstration by Mark Entwistle – thank you for inviting me to attend. Other clubs celebrating this year included Disley & District, Upton-by-Chester, Heald Green, Mid Cheshire and Winwick. It's wonderful that so many clubs have been in action for so long, bringing the fun of flowers to each new generation.

One of our annual Area highlights is our floral competitive show in the 'Theatre of Flowers' at the Royal Cheshire County Show. It was a fantastic showcase of our collective talents; not only in organising such a wonderful show but also to be able to appreciate the creativity and fabulous floral design talents of our members. Thank you to everyone who organised, entered, supported and created and congratulations to all our prize winners, especially to those who had never entered before.

Many of our members have competed and achieved successes at various other Floral Shows this year: Harrogate, Malvern, Chelsea, Nantwich, and the National Show at Gloucester Cathedral. Well done everyone. Huge congratulations to all our Cheshire competitors at the National Show at Gloucester Cathedral a few weeks ago. Particular mention to our Cheshire 'baker's dozen' – Denise Hubbard (HC), Eleanor Griffiths (C & HC), Louise Jones, Joan Quinland, Gillian Jackson (3rd & 3rd), Pat Murphy (C), Carol Baker (C), Helen Hunter, Janet Schofield, Karen Clegg (HC), Sharon Nolan (C), Debbie Davies (C), Gill Davies (HC). Thank you for flying the 'Cheshire' flag.

Area Education organised an Education Day and two workshops during the year, with the Elements and Principles workshop tutored by Jackie Charnock being very well attended. Our Judges Representative, Pam Fleming-Williams, stepped into the role when Sue Clissold moved up north in 2023. Pam volunteered to support us for a second year in 2024 but is stepping down from the team at this AGM. A huge thank you, Pam, for all your support, guidance and for sharing your knowledge with us – it's been very much appreciated.

Our Area Flower Arranger Officer, Catherine Bower, is also stepping down this year from her role – a role which she has held for the last 12 years. The orders continued to be placed, and magazines continued to be delivered to our doors every year, even when Catherine was hospitalised, thanks to her husband John who stepped into the role as required. Catherine promoted the Flower Arranger magazine at various shows; Cheshire Show, Arley Garden Festival, RHS Tatton and rewarded those clubs who had increased their magazine orders year on year, with the silver tray. Thank you, Catherine, for your unwavering dedication to your role over the years and for all your support. We wish you (& John) all the best for the future and hope you can enjoy many more years of cruising!

Sadly, we have lost some of our members this year, but we will remember them. We give thanks for the love and joy that they have brought into our lives and their work for their clubs and Area.

In conclusion, thank you everyone, for all your support and friendship this year. Looking forward to another successful year of 'Flower Clubs of Cheshire'.

Tracy-Anne Clancy stressed the contribution that judges, demonstrators, and the education team make to the continued success of Flower Clubs of Cheshire. She also stressed that without the membership taking part there would be no Area.

Tracy-Anne Clancy and Janet Schofield gave thanks for members who have died recently, local and national, who were honoured by a round of applause.

Pam Fleming-Williams was thanked for stepping into the role of Judges representative and Catherine and John Bowers who have been *The Flower Arranger* Officers for 12 years.

No questions were asked. Tracy-Anne Clancy was thanked by Dorothy Irvin.

6.ii National Liaison Report – Janet Schofield

I have attended NAC meetings and 'buddy group' meetings with fellow area chairmen and our trustees Mala Williams and Paula McLinden.

On your behalf, I make and receive regular NAFAS reports, cast our vote and provide information as and when required, provide feedback on proposals and events, and voice the views, opinions and concerns of our members.

All meetings are an opportunity to gather information from Head Office, the board of Trustees, and other area chairman, as well as sharing our innovative and groundbreaking activity of what we are doing in Cheshire.

The NAFAS Virtual AGM will be taking place on Wednesday 15th October 2025 at 10:30am. This will be a live webinar. I have requested information as to how our members can attend and will ensure this is circulated.

If you have anything that you would like raised with NAFAS, at the NAC, or buddy group, or have any questions about NAFAS and how it works, please get in touch. If you contact NAFAS directly, please let me know and copy me in so I am aware.

NAFAS visited several venues looking for new locations for the next National show, many of which were prohibitively expensive and/or difficult to access. However, I am delighted to report that the next National Show will be held at Lincolnshire Showground week commencing 5th July, 2027. Save the date!

It has been a privilege and an honour to represent Flower Clubs of Cheshire at national level as your NAFAS Liaison co-chair for the last two years, and to serve on the leadership team for the last five years.

It had been my intention to step down at this AGM, but as I said at the last Club Representatives' Forum in July, I am willing to stay on for a further twelve months, with your approval and support, in order to take part in the upcoming discussions about the proposed new structure of NAFAS.

Clubs were given a questionnaire to be completed, the results of which are vital for the next meeting in November. This was evidence gathering exercise to enable Janet to properly represent Flower Clubs of Cheshire nationally.
No questions were asked. Janet Schofield was thanked by Dorothy Irvin.

6.iii Pastoral – Jean Jones

The Pastoral Chairman's role is relatively new to Flower Clubs of Cheshire. The primary role for this job is:

- To liaise regularly with Clubs in Cheshire Area, via the Club Representatives' Forum and Club visits;
- To offer pastoral support and advice to Area Leadership Team, Members and Area Clubs as required;
- To be a good listener, value individual contributions and promote fairness in all situations.

I have done my best to fulfil this role over the past twelve months. I have visited Elworth, Knutsford, Mid Cheshire, Tarporley, Chester and Handbridge clubs. In some cases, it has been sufficient to simply attend to show support, in other clubs I have been invited to say a few words. I have used this opportunity to raise the profile of Flower Clubs of Cheshire, explaining how the Leadership team works and encouraging members to join in the many activities on offer. At these sessions members have come forward to chat, ask questions and to generally make me feel welcome as a visitor. The main impression I have taken away from my visits is the absolute love of the club from members and committees, they are joyful, happy places to be.

I hope I have been a good listener, at leadership meetings, area reps' meetings and to individual members. It is always a pleasure to hear the good stories emerging from happy clubs and members, but it is equally important to listen to the problems and to react accordingly. If I cannot help myself, I always endeavour to find someone who can. I cannot promise to get round all the clubs in Cheshire in the time that I remain in post, especially those a bit further afield for me but I will do what I can. I already have Nether Alderley and Frodsham on my radar before the dark nights set in!
No questions were asked. Jean Jones was thanked by Dorothy Irvin.

7. Area Secretary's Report – Vanessa Lees

The Flower Clubs of Cheshire Leadership Team has met on seven occasions, all on Zoom.
Club Representatives Forums – we have had four meetings, all face to face, at Grappenhall in December 2024, at Owley Wood in January 2025, at Lymm in April 2025 and at Five Villages Chester in July 2024.
The Area Leadership Team includes discipline leads and cluster leads as well as officers, our President and including the three-way Chairman's office.
The LT meetings are recorded by means of a rolling Actions List (rather than formal minutes) to keep track of what has yet to be completed but to record the enormous number of tasks which have been actioned successfully already during the year. It is important to look back and reflect on where we have been to help inform where we go next.
We have held Club Representatives' Forums in a variety of venues across the Area, which has been a strategy appreciated by members because this has allowed all clubs to have at least one meeting reasonably near home. I am very grateful to the clusters and clubs who have stepped up so magnificently to help stage the meetings when it has arrived on their home turf – thank you to every one of you who has helped to welcome us all, often with delicious cakes and refreshments.
All documents including minutes, report booklets and other notices have been circulated to clubs by the Secretary via email, where one contact from each club has been responsible for circulating news and notices within their club. It has been emphasised how vitally important the role of this person is in letting their club officers and members know what is going on in a timely fashion. Where a club contact has been unable for various reasons to do this, an alternative has often been provided. The Secretary is always willing to assist clubs in keeping everyone informed. Some clubs have opted for more than one member to receive the reports etc. to be certain that they do not miss important news.
Correspondence received from HQ, clubs and requests via website have been dealt with. Anniversary forms have been submitted.
We currently have 35 clubs in the Area. We were sad that Tunstall took the decision to disaffiliate in 2024, but we were very pleased to welcome Holt Flower Club into Flower Clubs of Cheshire in Spring 2025. It has been a pleasure to meet their members at our meetings, and we welcome their participation.
Thank you to the many clubs who have been so efficient in returning their Club Officers forms after their AGMs so that our contact records as completely accurate. I will continue to do my best to obtain up to date forms from every club.
I have also continued, working with our website manager, to get an up-to-date club programme on the Area website on each club page. This was almost 100% successful – well done everyone and keep your programmes coming please!
The big piece of work which I undertook this year was to try to have in place some important policies/guidelines for ensuring that our Area/clubs are run safely and with due regard to legal obligations. So far, we have produced and adopted policies which address the Safeguarding of both

Vulnerable Adults and Children and Young People. Thank you to Anne Walton and Jean Jones to being so persistent in helping to get to the final version of these policies, which are now live and on the Area website. It is to the credit of all clubs that they have engaged very seriously with ensuring that we are duly diligent in this area. A short question/answer session was held on zoom to allow clubs to ask questions about how to implement this.
The next piece of work which is almost complete is Data Protection guidelines and meeting our GDPR obligations. Thank you to Fiona Macdonald, club member of Nether Alderley, for help in moving this work forward. This should all be ready for adoption towards the end of 2025.
On the Flower Clubs of Cheshire website, you can now find under Documents several useful documents including our new policies. My aim is to create a bank of documents which clubs can access independently as required.
My grateful thanks to Eileen Fantom who has again been our very efficient Minutes Secretary in the past year. Her work is quiet and painstaking, providing support and friendship in equal measure. Thank you, Eileen!
It has been an extremely enjoyable second year for me as Area Secretary and I continue to be humbled by the kindness and dedication of club members I meet, as well as being in awe of the enormous talent in Cheshire.

Vanessa thanked Clubs for being efficient which is a help to her. She and Jean Jones are happy to visit any Club to help and assist on the matter of safeguarding. Area policies, documents, and forms are on the website for use by all Clubs to help streamline the Area
No questions were asked. Vanessa Lees was thanked by Dorothy Irvin.

8. Presentation of Area Statement of Accounts – Tracy-Anne Clancy

I have pleasure in presenting the financial statements for Flower Clubs of Cheshire for the year 1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025[2].
An Income and Expenditure Statement (Annex 1) and a Balance Sheet (Annex 2) have been prepared.

Statement from Area Support Officer (Financial Oversight) – Judy Gratton
I confirm that I have had sight of the bank statements and the accounts prepared by the Flower Clubs of Cheshire Treasurer (Tracey- Anne Clancy) and confirm that all is in order.
Judy Gratton 2025

[2]Income and expenditure statement: Annex 1; Balance Sheet Annex 2.

Bank Overview

The balances on the accounts at Barclays' Bank as at 31st July were as follows:

Current Account	£2,055[3]
Savings Account	£23,220
JD&E Account	£7,198
The Flower Arranger Account	£3,191[4]
Cash in Hand	£1,135[5]

Our reported **surplus for the year** (after £484 interest) is **£1,074[6]**.

Income

- Affiliation Fees: £21,282, comprised of 1,731 members paying £4·75 to Cheshire Area, and £7·50 towards National Head Office. £8,299 income retained by Area.
- Actual expenditure *vs* budget was as follows:

	Budget	**Actual (to date)**
	£	**£**
Facility Costs (website / storage / licences)	3,500	3,822
Publicity & Promotions	1,000	870
Cheshire Area Show	2,300	1,982

[3] Uncleared cash funds at the statement date totalled £1,318. Had these funds been received in time, then the current account balance would have been £3,373.

[4] Payment is still to be made for the Winter Edition which will be approximately £1,242.

[5] £926 was banked in August leaving the balance of £209.

[6] Annex 1

Meetings	1,000	879
Other	499	470
Total	**8,299**	**8,023**

Interest of £484 was received during the year, not included in the budget. Other income received during the year was related to specific events, and had associated expenditure.

Expenditure

- Affiliation Fees paid to HQ totalled £12,983. This was calculated based on a membership of 1,731 members with the National Rate of £7·50 being applied.
- Facilities expenditure of £3,822 includes:
    - Website Updates £2,020
    - Internet & Cookie Costs £820
    - Zoom Licences £144
    - Storage Charges £693
    - Insurance £145
- Publicity cost £870 included supporting Clubs for National Flower Arranging Day, running our Instagram competition and the publicity display in the 'Theatre of Flowers' at the Cheshire Show.
- 'The Theatre of Flowers' at the Royal Cheshire County Show cost £4,953[7]. Financial support was provided by Cheshire Agricultural Society, £1,929. Income also came from competition entry fees, selling of designs, and donations from the children's activity, £1,042. Flower Clubs of Cheshire budgeted £1,982 towards the costs.
- Many thanks to Pam Mosedale (Lymm) who voluntarily took all the photos at the Royal Cheshire County Show and sent them to Mike Gallagher – fabulous job.
- The Leadership Team meetings during the year were held via zoom. Since the last AGM, four Club Representatives Forums have been held, venues being Grappenhall, Weaverham (Owley Wood), Lymm (Golf Club) and Chester (Five Villages). After our April meeting, we were able to enjoy our Area lunch. The net cost of our meetings totalled £879.
- Included within our 'Miscellaneous' expenditure was travel expenses for four Cheshire members to arrange Flowers in Westminster Abbey, London, and support for Nantwich Show.
- £1,095 was expended on Publications and Trading which included badges, blue forms, diaries, calendars and Christmas cards. Income from these items totalled £1,120 generating a small profit for Area.

Events

The budget for the year assumed that all events would break even, achieve a small surplus or receive a managed subsidy from Area to ensure the events can actually take place.

Summary

[7]Including paying of demonstrators, travel expenses, equipment, refreshments, and inclusion of results and photos on the website; not including marquee, staging or utilities.

- AGM Demonstration £364
- Area Lunch, Social Day (£203)
- Education Day, E&P Workshop, Foam Free Workshop (£97)
- Area Demonstrator Tests £238

- The 2024 AGM demonstration by Lucy Ellis and Coral Gardiner was successful and generated a surplus of £364 which helped to cover the cost of the expenses for the AGM business meeting.
- The Area ran three educational events during the year. Thank you to Pam and the tutors for arranging these. The Area Tests held on 1st September made a surplus of £238. Thank you to Beryl for organising this and to all members who supported the event.
- Clubs were encouraged to support National Flower Arranging Day in May and an allowance of £25 per Club was paid by Area towards costs of exhibits and floral arrangements. A publicity exercise was also undertaken to promote National Flower Arranging Day in the 'Theatre of Flowers' and on social media.

This concludes the presentation of the Financial Statements.
There will be no increase in subscriptions because Flower Clubs of Cheshire is solvent. The policy by which one member pays one fee to Area is working well but this cannot be used for National subscriptions.
No questions were asked. Tracey-Anne Clancy was thanked by Dorothy Irvin.

9.Appointment of independent reviewer

Nigel Taylor – Proposed TAC; Seconded Lymm, no dissension, Mr Taylor is appointed.

10.Adoption of Area Committee Reports

The reports were considered en bloc. Proposed Prestbury, Seconded Rural Chester, duly adopted.

11.Publicity & Events Reports

11.i Publicity Report – Tracy-Anne Clancy

The Royal Cheshire County Show 'Theatre of Flowers' was an ideal opportunity to promote 'Flower Clubs of Cheshire'. Thank you to Stockport Afternoon and Romiley Flower Clubs for staging a stunning exhibit *Wicked* within the publicity area of the marquee, providing us with the opportunity to showcase our talents and promote all our Cheshire clubs. The publicity area allowed for photo opportunities and we requested that if any were shared on social media, we were tagged in the post. We welcomed about 3,500 members of the public into the 'Theatre of Flowers' at the show and were able to engage in conversation with many at the publicity stand. It was also an opportunity to advertise National Flower Arranging Day and encourage members of the public to 'have a go', with our social media competition. This resulted in an increase following on our Instagram page.

Clubs were also encouraged to support National Flower Arranging Day, with a financial incentive, and an opportunity to publicise their local club in the vicinity.

Flower Clubs of Cheshire had another opportunity to engage with the public at the Nantwich Show in July. We had our display board and banners and also had the opportunity to create (with audience participation) a simple vertical design.

Recognising that Flower Clubs of Cheshire were celebrating 55 years, it was an opportunity to contact *Cheshire Life* magazine. The magazine photographer visited both the 'Theatre of Flowers' and Abbeywood, to capture images from the social event held there in July. The September edition of *Cheshire Life* magazine has a double page feature, with plenty photographs of our members and demonstrators, as we celebrated all things Cheshire.

The monthly newsletter was published throughout the year, enabling members to be informed about all our activities and share in everything that we have achieved during the year. Thank you for all your contributions. All articles, news, events information can be sent to newsletter@nafascheshire.org.uk. Finally, thank you to everyone who posts floral events on Facebook and shares the posts.
No questions were asked.

11.ii Website – Mike Gallagher

The website is constantly being developed, almost weekly, to add information for, and about, clubs. This includes demonstrations, workshops and social events.

2025 Cheshire Area Show at the Royal Cheshire County Show
This is the biggest annual website addition, including many new pages and approximately 150 photos. You can also see a list of all the results in each category, Special Awards and Prizes.
See www.nafascheshire.org.uk/royal-cheshire-show-2025.htm

Selection of other updates
How to Guides: More step-by-step pictorial guides have been added under the Flower School section so you can create your own flower arrangements.
Area Documents: This section has been enhanced by the addition of more documents, which includes more policies.
Newsletters: A well as being distributed to individual clubs the excellent monthly newsletters, packed with floral features can be viewed on the website.

Your Club on the Website
To find your club's own webpage go to www.nafascheshire.org.uk/clubs.htm
If the page is not up to date, please send updates to me Mike Gallagher at webmaster@nafascheshire.org.uk
No questions were asked.

11.iii *Flower Arranger* Magazine – Catherine Bower

An average of 309 copies were ordered per edition, which includes addition of Holt Flower club who joined the Area and the loss of one club due to disaffiliation to NAFAS. This is a fall from 341 copies in 2024. Five clubs did not place an order for 2025.

Accounts
The *Flower Arranger* accounts are managed within the Area account. The balance at 31st July was £3,387·74, with the winter edition yet to be paid, expected to be £1,238·16. Cash balance £26·41.

Promotional Discount
The remaining balance in the account has been earned from promotional discounts and, in past years, the sale of 'pre-loved' and back copies at shows. Headquarters give 10p per copy to help promote the Flower Arranger magazine and cover the cost of postage for additional copies to

clubs. This was under threat but continued after Area *Flower Arranger* Officers demonstrated how it was used and was a useful source of income[8]. The balance covers administration costs.

2026 Subscription

2026 reduced price via club subscription is £17 for four editions. The 2026 order form, delivery dates stencil, and covering letter was forwarded to club contacts, with copy to Cheshire *Flower Arranger* Officer, who provided a contact email address. The Area Treasurer will continue to manage 2026 Club orders and payments. The Area *Flower Arranger* Officer requested a nominee process at AGM to allow her to stand down.

Contact to Area Flower Arranger Officer can be made via email, or by the link on website contact button. flower.arranger@nafascheshire.org.uk
No questions were asked.
Dorothy Irvin and Tracey-Anne Clancy thanked Catherine and John Bower for 12 years dedication to being the Flower Clubs of Cheshire *Flower Arranger* Officers and they were presented with a gift.

11.iv Royal Cheshire County Show – Carol Baker / Sylvia Bower

Theatre of Flowers (NAFAS) @ Royal Cheshire County Show 2025

We were delighted to be able to showcase a fabulous display of flower arranging talent in the 'Theatre of Flowers' at the Royal Cheshire County Show, for the public to enjoy. However, this was only possible thanks to the very generous support from the Cheshire Agricultural Society. The new marquee was incredible and our National Judge for the event has subsequently praised the layout we were able to achieve in our new 'venue'. There were 67 entries in total across 12 classes, and the standard was exceptionally high. The trophy winners were: Best in Show – Eleanor Griffiths; Runner-Up to Best in Show – Joan Wilkinson; Best Use of Colour – Collette Dunkley; Best Use of Garden Plant Material – Dorothy Monks; Cheshire Area Member with most points at the Show – Eleanor Griffiths. The winner of the 'People's Choice Award' (and placed 1st in their class) were the team from Knutsford Floral Design Club (including a person who had never entered a floral art competition before) for F12 Crescendo – Frances Scholes, Wendy Ingleston and Susan Smith. All prizes, photos and exhibits can be viewed on the website www.nafascheshire.org.uk and also on the Flower Clubs of Cheshire Facebook page. This year's judges were Jackie Charnock and Donald Morgan.
We staged four floral art demonstrations, by NAFAS qualified demonstrators: Julie Pearson, Debbie Davies, Eleanor Griffiths, and Jane Tully, over the two days for the public to enjoy.
The publicity exhibit depicted 'Wicked' and was designed and created by Romiley and Stockport Flower Club. The 'Children's Hands On' was extremely popular once again, with the children enjoying having a photograph taken with their floral creations next to the 'Wicked' exhibit, wearing witches and wizard hats!

[8]In August 2023 it had been intimated that this would cease.

The publicity team and stewards handed out 'You be Judge' cards to visitors to the 'Theatre of Flowers' and encouraged them to vote for their favourite design. A total of 3,300 cards were handed out; the footfall was about 4,000.
Visitors into the 'Theatre of Flowers' marquee included; the Patroness of the Cheshire Agricultural Society (CAS), the President and Chairman of CAS (plus their wives), Lady Alexis Redmond (Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire) with Sir Phil Redmond, Esther McVey (MP for Tatton), *Cheshire Life* photographer, Cheshire Mix 56, Dee Radio, and lots of really lovely children, brownies, dogs, and members of the public.
Grateful thanks to everyone who supported the Show: the 'Flower Tent Team', Competitors, Demonstrators, Stewards, Volunteers and Clubs – we genuinely could not have achieved what we did without your support. Thank you.
It has been confirmed that there will be a Show in 2026. A team will be assembled to make the tasks more manageable by having many hands make light work.
No questions were asked. Carol and Sylvia were thanked by Dorothy Irvin.

11.v Flower School of Cheshire – Jean Jones

Under the huge banner of Flower School of Cheshire there has been a great deal going on from Master Classes to Education Days for teachers and leaders. There were also hands on activities for children and mini demonstrations at Nantwich Show supported by the Flower School of Cheshire. More and more clubs are now running their own workshops either regularly or seasonally and many cater for a range of skill levels.
If your club would like to join the growing trend for more workshops but are not sure where to start just drop an email to the Flower Clubs of Cheshire area office chairman@nafascheshire.org.uk and we can help with as much or as little as you want us to. Don't forget that these can also be a good way to subsidise club funds and grow your membership especially if your club invites visitors.

Competitors Support Group – Janet Schofield
I held a 'zoom' walk through the Cheshire show schedule in February and a virtual tour of Gloucester cathedral in July. I set up a WhatsApp group for our competitors at the National Show where we shared information and made sure everyone was well supported. I was delighted that we had thirteen competitors doing eighteen entries across twelve classes and was very proud of all the exhibits produced. Congratulations to all.
I look forward to seeing the designs and results at our special AGM 'Emerald' competition and wish all entering the best of luck. Don't forget to vote for your favourite design.

Adoption of Publicity and Events reports
The reports were considered en bloc. Proposed Disley, Seconded Wistaston duly adopted.

12. Cluster Reports

Iris Cluster (Ashton Hayes & Tarvin, Chester, Eddisbury & Sandiway, Frodsham & District, Holt, Mid-Cheshire, Rural Chester, Tarporley, Widnes, Winwick)

The Cluster met several times during the year. Six members of Iris Cluster last met on 4th September, representing five of the 11 Clubs in the Cluster. All but one of the others responded to the invitation with their apologies; their responses show a commitment to the Cluster which was very pleasing. Thank you to you all for getting in touch!
Clubs represented:
Eddisbury and Sandiway (Chairman and Cluster Lead Anne Walton)
Mid Cheshire (Chairman: Diane Hewett and Vice Chair: Ruth Sissons)
Chester (Chairman: Diane Fair)

Ashton Heyes and Tarvin (Chairman: Merryn Shaw)
Holt (Chairman: Lorraine Wilson)
We had a very pleasant time chatting about our clubs and the atmosphere was relaxed, open and friendly. We are clearly getting to know each other much better, and everyone is keen to share thoughts and ideas.

Club Subscriptions

This is a query that comes up each time. Some Clubs have a collection of subs and a monthly registration fee. Others have a flat fee for Subs. With subs and registration fee included annual membership works out between £40 and £60. The number of meetings held per year ranges from seven to 10. Visitors are charged between £8 and £10. The general opinion is that members get good value for money. Where can you have an afternoon or evening out for under £10?

Blue Forms

Flower Clubs of Cheshire sent out a "*Code of Practice For Clubs, Demonstrators, Speakers and Teachers".* On the first line it mentions an electronic format for the blue form. No one is aware of an electronic format although one Club does send their forms to the demonstrators by email. A query then arose about whether or not this is legally binding. AW agreed to send an email to Beryl Cotton (National Demonstrator Officer) for clarification. All clubs would appreciate an electronic version. Postage is getting increasingly expensive and is a drain on Club finances. We received a very quick and detailed response from Beryl. Her firm advice is that we continue to use the Blue Forms as they stand and not an electronic version. She noted that some clubs struggle to print electronic documents and for a demonstrator it is vital and fail-safe to have a blue form on the day of the demonstration in case of computer or IT problems. She feels that eventually a suitable electronic version will be found, but nothing is available yet, and although there is some doubt as to whether a Blue Form is actually a legally binding document, Beryl emphasises that in all these bookings, we rely on a large measure of trust and good will.

Card Machine

AW asked if any clubs use a Card machine. None in this group do but would be interested to know the outcome of Eddisbury and Sandiway's exploration of the use of one. One Club had considered using "Sumup". However, they were advised that it would not be suitable for collecting subs as it will not accept multiple payments of the same amount. Others felt a card machine could be expensive. AW will report back if her club goes ahead. Disley and Nether Alderley, not in this Cluster, are using such successfully.

NAFAS HQ

A brief discussion was held about NAFAS HQ and the paper sent from them justifying the raising of subs. It was generally felt that it was not a helpful document. Concerns continue to be raised about the running of the NAFAS organisation, including financial transparency, the financial risk of another National Show, the lack of support offered by HQ when help was requested by a club, the unclear benefits of the organisation to members. There was disappointment that members were not being listened too generally. We are grateful that Janet Schofield is representing Flower Clubs of Cheshire views at National Level and for her commitment to encouraging change to secure the future of NAFAS.

Ideas!

A number of ideas were discussed, including "Pop up shops" at meetings, and a Christmas Hamper tombola. The use of an Electronic Random Number indicator on phone for a variety of activities

(tombola, raffle etc.) was suggested. A visitor card could be handed out with every raffle prize. The Christmas meeting could be held with no registration charge for members. Have a garden visit instead of a demonstration paid for by club. A raffle on your coach if you go on a visit. Have a tea party with a folk group. If a Club is not successful/attracting new members, do they need to consider a change of name?

The Future of the Cluster

We had a very positive meeting and enjoyed sharing our thoughts. We will meet again in New Year 2026 when we hope to discuss a cluster event of some kind.

Peony Cluster (Elworth, Leek, Macclesfield, Nether Alderley, South Cheshire, Wistaston & District)

Regular emails have been exchanged between the group, but it remains difficult to meet up. I decided to carry out a short survey to see if I could fathom out why this is the case. Four out of the six clubs have so far responded, and it seems that they struggle to find someone to attend a catch up. It is usually the chairman who responds and attends the few meetings that we have had. I am well aware of what a great job these people are doing, and they are always busy. Our cluster is spread over a wide geographical area which compounds the problem. The clubs who responded made the point that they get a lot of information through the newsletter and by attending the Club Reps forums. Some of their responses gave me great hope:

"Cluster meetings can be a great source of information on fund raising, demonstrators and often an "off the cuff" remark can be so useful."

"I would really be sorry if we no longer had a Peony Group, I think it is a great back-up and would certainly not hesitate to reach out – if I had any problems. I would like to say how much I appreciate all your hard work."

"I feel it has value, and I personally have learned quite a bit about how other clubs function and how they differ from ours."

I will continue to send emails now and again and am more than happy to meet up whether it is with two or six of us.

Rose Cluster (Goostrey, Hale Barns, Heald Green, Knutsford, Lymm, Sale)

The cluster group met several times during the year, usually at Fryers Garden Centre for a coffee and a toasted tea cake. Information about club events and workshops was shared, with members attending workshops at other clubs within the cluster. Thank you to Rose Cluster members for their assistance with the Area lunch set up and flowers. The friendship, support and camaraderie is very much appreciated.

Unfortunately, one of the cluster Clubs, Hale Barns, will be closing at the end of the year. Despite many discussions and offers of support, it was decided by the membership that the Club will definitely close due to no new committee members coming forward to fill the positions. The final dinner and demonstration will be held in December. Lymm Floral Art Group welcomed some members of Hale Barns to their June demonstration and has offered other members the opportunity to visit a Lymm demonstration over the forthcoming months.

Lily Cluster (Handbridge, Heswall, Hoylake, Neston, New Brighton, Upton-by-Chester, Wirral)

Collette Dunkley reported that there has been good communication and support between members.

Sunflower Cluster (Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme, Disley & District, Prestbury, Romiley, Stockport, The Bramall Hall, Wilmslow)

Whilst the members of the Sunflower Cluster have not had a catch up recently I would like to thank members of Romiley Flower Club and Stockport Afternoon Club, both members of the Sunflower Cluster, for their involvement in the design of the arrangement in the welcome area at the Royal Cheshire County Show in June where we depicted the musical 'Wicked' and celebrated the Area's Emerald Anniversary. You did such a good job they might just ask us back. Hopefully we will be able to get together and chat when we are decorating our Christmas Trees at Bramall Hall in November as most of the people involved belong to clubs in the Sunflower Cluster.

13. Representatives' Reports

13.i Judges Report – Pam Fleming-Williams

A Zoom meeting of 18 Area Judges Representatives was held in January 2025 when we had discussions on plant identification, organising tests, recommended booklist, fees, and the use of floral foam.
A Judges Bulletin from the National Judging Committee was received in March, highlighting the definition of, and how to judge pedestals, following on from the Judges Conference in Dromantine. Eight photographs to study and decide whether they were pedestals or not. Very useful information. Also encouraging new competitors and pairing experienced competitors and/or judges with a novice to help confidence. (I think that has worked very well at our own Cheshire Show). Foam free classes were also touched on; it being important to know exactly what the schedule writers meant by this term. I contacted Smithers Oasis regarding their new plant-based foam 'Renewal'. I received a reply that it would be available for sale after 1st October.
There will be a Judges Conference from 9th to 11th October 2026 at Tiverton in Devon.

A proposal was put forward to the Flower Clubs of Cheshire membership for an Area Judges training course. After a poor initial response, I had a list of enough people to run a test. However, five people then dropped out and the course was not viable and had to be cancelled. This is very disappointing. Two candidates from Cheshire took the National Test in June. Our congratulations go to Carol Baker.
Sadly, after many years excellent work as an Area Judge, Eleanor Griffiths decided to retire from the judging list. We wish her well.
A Judges Refresher Day is due to be held in 2026.
No questions were asked. Pam Fleming-Williams was thanked by Dorothy Irvin.

13.ii Demonstrators Report – Beryl Cotton

Area Report
Information from the National Demonstrators Committee is cascaded to all demonstrators on the Flower Clubs of Cheshire list. One of the main topics this year has been public liability insurance, and our demonstrators are strongly recommended to consider taking this insurance out if they are not already insured. Obviously, it is up to each demonstrator to make their own decision, and they should speak with their insurance broker.

Several demonstrators on the Flower Clubs of Cheshire Demonstrators' list took their Pre National assessment held at Frodsham Community Centre, Frodsham in October 2024 and we hope they will step up to take their National test in April 2026 at Solihull.

Also, several of our demonstrators attended either the one-day workshop or the full demonstrators' symposium held at Telford Golf and Spa. Our very own National Demonstrator Dawn Weaver gave an excellent demonstration at the symposium.

A demonstrators' refresher day is being planned for Spring 2026. Those demonstrators who attended our last refresher day requested a Spring rather than Autumn refresher day.
Mercia and North Wales Area will be organising an Area Demonstrators Test mid-2026 and if Cheshire had enough candidates coming forward our Area could consider another Area Test to follow on from this. We are always on the lookout for new talent.
Our five 2024 newly qualified demonstrators are now out and about on the demonstrating circuit and gaining experience – a most welcome addition of new faces to visit our Clubs.

The Demonstrator Refresher Day is Sunday, 22nd February 2026 at Tarvin for all demonstrators. It will be given by Alan Beatie from Northern Ireland.
My door is always open for any demonstrator queries or questions.

National Report
The National Demonstrators Committee consisting of Beryl Cotton (Chair), Margaret Rumens (Vice Chair) Lucy Ellis, Delyth Price, Vanessa Wellock, Cherie Nummy have held five zoom committee meetings throughout the year along with an Area Representatives zoom meeting and a zoom for Demonstrator Adjudicators and Instructors. All have been attended by our committee umbrella (Trustee) Elizabeth Gordon who has been a great encouragement to the team. In the past, the committee produced a three year plan for NAFAS and continue to work hard to maintain their aims and objectives and measure their achievements.

A day of guidance and advice prior to the National Test for National Candidates and Pre National assessment candidates was held at Frodsham Community Centre by two qualified instructors accompanied by a trainee adjudicator. Candidates also had an initial zoom instruction meeting with the National Demonstrators Committee. The National tests were held in October at Frodsham Community Centre, Cheshire, and the National committee were very appreciative for the help and support from members of the Flower Clubs of Cheshire over the two days especially our Area Chair (Admin) Tracy-Anne Clancy. Several Area Demonstrators on our Flower Clubs of Cheshire list stepped up to take their Pre National assessment. Jo Purdy from the NE Area of NAFAS qualified as a National Demonstrator.

Adjudicators and Instructors met on zoom and had a very constructive meeting. The amended D Forms were introduced which have been worked on by Beryl Cotton and Margaret Rumens and reformatted by Vanessa Keys, NAFAS.

The National Committee produced a Winter and Christmas Bulletin which was circulated to all Area Representatives cascaded to all our demonstrators along with all Area Chairs.

The Demonstrators' Symposium was held at Telford Golf and Spa Resort at Telford and was a huge success – not only achieving all its goals but also a sound financial success. It was very well attended with very interesting presenters and workshops. A power-point presentation by Beryl Cotton has been produced and shown to the National Committee, all Area Reps and all Adjudicators and Instructors.

New leaflets have been produced giving information regarding stepping up to National level and stepping up to be an adjudicator and instructor for demonstrators. These will both be useful promotional tools and add to the stepping up to be an Area demonstrator leaflet already produced.

Nine National Demonstrators will undertake half hour presentations in the Chapter House at Gloucester Cathedral and a stand organised by the National Demonstrators Committee will be situated just outside the Chapter House in the Cloisters and will promote Demonstrating, plant identification, an array of foam free mechanics and all the designs created will be sold to visitors to the show.
No questions were asked. Beryl Cotton was thanked by Dorothy Irvin.

13.iii Education Report – Pam Mosedale

Flower School of Cheshire

During the past year we have held the three events for members from the Flower Clubs of Cheshire[9]:

Education Day – for Area Teachers

This year's Education Day at Frodsham on Sunday, 20th October, and it focused on teaching skills rather than the traditional format of developing knowledge of new floral designs and techniques. It included more information about the new NAFAS qualifications, how to become a National Teacher, different ways of teaching principles and elements of design, various models of learning styles, non-directive coaching approaches, update on relevant teaching qualifications, how the Flower School of Cheshire can share teaching resources, giving constructive feedback to students and much more.

The education appendix[10] contains qualification details to become a club, area and national teacher.

Members' Workshops

All levels of ability

- **Elements and Principles with Jackie Charnock on Sunday 9th March**

The aim of the day in March was for members to gain an overview of the Elements and Principles of Floral Design. The objectives focused on a greater understanding of each of the elements (texture, colour, line, form and space) and each principle of design (balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, scale, rhythm and harmony). It was a very interactive day with lots of participation in small group activities. Everyone brought a floral design to aid learning and experimentation in a very safe and friendly environment. The floral design titles were Spring Splendour and Simple Elegance.

- **"Wood, Wire and Wool" with Julie Pearson on Sunday 11th May**

Julie Pearson, National NAFAS Teacher from Bolton, ran our members' workshop in May. The designs were inspired by Gregor Lersch's work and have been adapted from her new NAFAS book 'Floral Design Innovation & Craft'. There was a choice of designs using wax bases to create the foundation for the designs and a table setting using a collection of log slices. Just 11 members attended, which was a little disappointing, but everyone benefitted from Julie's breadth and depth

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[9] The Masterclass and Education Days with Gill McGregor on Saturday, 18th October, and Sunday, 19th October, 2025 were cancelled due to Gill's other commitments with Cheshire Clubs in 2025.

[10] Annex 3

of knowledge of floral design. The sounds of cordless drills added a new dimension to the workshop and some attendees have purchasing their own.

NAFAS National

NAFAS certificated courses

Achieving Ofqual accreditation has been suspended for a variety of reasons – costs, administration and extensive quality assurance requirement across the UK.

New Flower Arranging Courses – Content & Structure

In direct response to NAFAS National Tutors, Education Reps, Students and Members, the Education Committee have put together a set of three courses taking into account all comments received.

- Flower Arranging Part 1 – 6-week course of 3-hour classes. 18 learning hours
- Flower Arranging Part 2 – 10-week course of 3-hour classes. 20 learning hours
- Flower Arranging Part 3 – 20-week course of 3-hour classes. 60 learning hours

The tutor can deliver these courses in any way that they choose regarding class numbers and lesson times.

Student written work can be completed during class time and the only homework is to prepare materials to bring to next class, detailed below:

- Student Diary of Work – this is one sheet of paper where the student records the practical work that they have done.
- Student Evaluation Sheet – this is a sheet that records that all the learning outcomes have been completed for that practical design.
- Subject Unit Outline – a record for the student to refer to for each class as to what the practical will be.
- Student Tracking Form – this is just a record of which practical session in the course have been completed as the student progresses through to the end.

These courses appear to be moving in the right direction by significantly reducing the learner hours. Currently we do not plan to run the qualification in Cheshire due to the significant costs, administration burden and the low number of people expressing an interest. Our preferred delivery channel is through Further Education Colleges.

A new National Teacher in Cheshire

Jacqui Owen has been approved by the National Education Committee to become a National Teacher.

Dates for 2025, 2026

Date	Location	Subject	Tutors
Sunday 19th October 2025	Frodsham	Wiring techniques, leaf manipulation and Christmas designs	Vanessa Wellock Open to all – free places available.
Sunday 2nd November 2025	Plumley	Masterclass – foam free, petite and traditional designs	Gill Davies, Mark Entwistle, Eleanor Griffiths, Janet Schofield.
Sunday 8th March 2026	Tarvin	Elements & Principles of design	Jackie Charnock
Saturday 17th October 2026	Plumley	Experienced members – tbc	Helen Hare
Sunday 18th October 2026	Tarvin	Experienced/teachers – tbc	Helen Hare

Details of course updates may be late because of delays in publication.
No questions were asked. Pam Mosedale was thanked by Dorothy Irvin.

13.iv Young Persons' Representative Report – Judy Gratton

Area

In December 2024 two workshops were held in a local primary school. Early years children (aged 3 – 5) decorated a mini silver birch wreath ring to hang in a Christmas tree. Children in Year 5 (aged 9 -10) made a door wreath from lengths of willow to form a heart shape, which was then decorated in natural plan material and seasonal items. All creations were posted on the school Facebook page and received some lovely comments.

Nantwich Show took place on Wednesday 30th July 2025 at Reaseheath Old Hall Farm.

Within the Floral Art section eight Year Groups from four primary schools took part in a competition to make a design. The overall title was Cheshire Delights and the children's class is Land Art (taking inspiration from Andy Goldsworthy who was born in Cheshire). Each class was judged separately with the winners being award a rosette. All other entrants received a highly commended card.

When the children returned in September, each school had an achievement assembly, where the awards were presented. Photographs have been published on the schools Facebook pages.

Within the Floral Art marquee, we ran drop-in hands-on sessions for our younger visitors. These included a foam free flower arrangement in a tin, making dreamcatchers and a flower identification competition. These proved very popular with the children and their parents / grandparents!

If anyone is interested in running floral activities for their own local schools or children's out of school activities please do get in touch. Judy Gratton 07506022709 or email judy.gratton@live.co.uk.

There have been no national meetings.
No questions were asked. Judy Gratton was thanked by Dorothy Irvin.

Adoption of sub-committee reports.
The reports were considered en bloc. Proposed Eddisbury and Sandiway, seconded Chester, duly adopted.

14. Election to Area Roles

Chairman's office

Tracey-Anne Clancy is willing to serve one further year as administrative lead following which she intends to stop. She expressed her desire that there should be a vice-chair in place by the end of the year in order for there to be a smooth transition of responsibilities. Proposed Upton, seconded Romiley. Duly elected.

Janet Schofield intimated at the last Club Representatives' meeting that although she is due to stand down this time it is logical that she continues for a third year because of what is happening at HQ. There is equally a need for a vice-chair in this role. Proposed Goostrey, seconded Handbridge. Duly elected.

Jean Jones has another year to serve and is willing to continue.

Vanessa Lees is happy to remain as secretary. Proposed Upton, seconded Elworth. Duly elected.

Judy Gratton has been proposed as treasurer by Eddisbury and Sandiway, seconded by Wistaston. Her citation was read by Vanessa Lees[11]. Duly elected.

Kate Hughes has been proposed and seconded as Flower Clubs of Cheshire Support Officer by Goostrey. Her citation was read by Vanessa Lees[12]. Duly elected.

Eileen Fantom is happy to continue as minutes secretary.

Sharon Hooper has been proposed and seconded as The Flower Arranger Officer by Eddisbury and Sandiway. Her citation was read by Vanessa Lees[13]. Duly elected.

[11]Pasted in the minute book at the end of these minutes.

[12]Pasted in the minute book at the end of these minutes.

[13]Pasted in the minute book at the end of these minutes.

14. Election of NAFAS Representatives

Carol Baker has been proposed as NAFAS Judges Representative by Pam Fleming-Williams and seconded by Judy Gratton. Her citation was read by Vanessa Lees[14]. Duly elected.

Beryl Cotton is happy to continue as Demonstrators Representative and Pam Mosedale as Education Representative.
The Young Persons' representative role is now subsumed into education.

16.Invitation to the President of Flower Clubs of Cheshire

Dorothy Irvin was invited to continue and is delighted to accept.

17. AOB

As intimated in item 11.iv the Royal Cheshire County Show is scheduled to take place in 2026. As well as committee members to help with planning there is a great need for people to move staging and other furniture before and after the event. This gives people an opportunity to take part without competing. A Club or Cluster is welcome to volunteer to decorate the publicity corner.
In lieu of a 55th anniversary celebration cake it has been decided to donate to the food bank. Please bring tins to the December meeting.

Dorothy Irvin, President Flower Clubs of Cheshire awarded Anniversary certificates to Nether Alderley – 70 years; 65 Upton by Chester and Disley – 65 years; Prestbury, New Brighton, Mid-Cheshire Hartford, and Heald Green – 60 years; Winwick, Stockport Afternoon, and Rural Chester – 55 years. Representatives from each Club received a certificate and were congratulated.

Dorothy Irvin, President Flower Clubs of Cheshire, was presented with flowers. She thanked the committee for their tireless work and warmly praised Tracey-Anne Clancy.

The next Club Representatives Forum will be on Thursday 4th December 2025 at Plumley Village Hall.

The date of the next AGM will be 1st October 2026.

The meeting was closed at 12:20 by Dorothy Irvin.

Signed…….

[14]Pasted in the minute book at the end of these minutes.

Date……

FLOWER CLUBS OF CHESHIRE

Income & Expenditure Statement

for the year ended 31st July 2025

2024 £	2024 £	Income	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £	Expenditure	2025 £	2025 £
21,036		Affiliation Fees	21,282		13,118		Affiliation Fees to HQ	12,983	
		Insurance & Facilities	650		3,954		Insurance & Facilities	4,472	
		Publicity	-		898		Publicity	540	
		Meeting Receipts:	-				Meeting Expenses:		
753		Club Representatives Forum	-		1,533		Club Representatives Forum	683	
		Leadership Team	-		20		Leadership Team	62	
	21,789	**Sub-Total**		**21,932**		**19,523**	**Sub-Total**		**18,740**
-		Area AGM (Business)	-		275		Area AGM (Business)	134	
2,643		Area AGM (Demonstration)	2,366		1,485		Area AGM (Demonstration)	2,002	
		Flower School of Cheshire:					Flower School of Cheshire:		
1,025		Judges (Training & Refreshers)	-		991		Judges (Training & Refreshers)	-	
1,070		Demonstrators (Training & Refreshers)	1,265		1,633		Demonstrators (Training & Refreshers)	1,027	
263		Education (Training & Refreshers)	954		350		Education (Training & Refreshers)	1,051	
1,065		Members Workshops	-		1,011		Members Workshops	-	
321		Beginners Classes	-		440		Beginners Classes	-	
-		Competitor Support Group	-		-		Competitor Support Group	-	
2,782		Royal Cheshire County Show	2,971		5,442		Royal Cheshire County Show	4,953	
-		National Flower Arranging Day	-		375		National Flower Arranging Day	330	
5,376		Flower Arranger Magazine	5,178		5,320		Flower Arranger Magazine	5,092	
1,129		Publications & Trading	1,120		1,099		Publications & Trading	1,095	
726		Other Events & Miscellaneous	5,865		976		Other Events & Miscellaneous	6,638	
	16,400	**Sub-Total**		19,718		19,397	**Sub-Total**		22,321
	38,189	**Total**		**41,650**		**38,920**			**41,061**
	- 731	**Profit / Loss for the Year before Interest**		**590**					
	465	Bank & Building Society Interest		484					
	- 266	**Profit / Loss for the Year after Interest**		**1,074**					

Annex 2

FLOWER CLUBS OF CHESHIRE

BALANCE SHEET

for the year ended 31st July 2025

ACCUMULATED FUND	24/2025	23/2024
	£	£
Balance at 1st August 2024	**35,881**	**36,146**
Profit / Loss for the Year	1,074	- 265
Balance at 31st July 2025	**36,954**	**35,881**
Represented by:		
Stock	304	474
Accrued Income / Prepayments	1,926	2,694
F&GP Saver Account	23,220	22,736
F&GP Current Account	2,055	1,119
JDS&E Current Account	7,198	7,315
Flower Arranger Current Account	3,191	3,212
Cash in Hand	1,135	904
Current Assets	39,029	38,453
Less Current Liabilities		
Accruals Flower Arranger	- 1,242	- 1,350
Accruals Other / Deferred Income	- 833	- 1,223
Net Current Assets	**36,954**	**35,881**

Annex 3

Education Appendix: What Teaching Qualifications do you need to teach flower arranging?

This is a frequent question club members ask. Here's what you need:

Flower Club Workshop Leaders – leisure classes

- No formal qualifications are required – just plenty of enthusiasm.

Area Teachers – leisure classes

- A training or teaching certificate and) Ideal qualifications
- A Flower Arranging or Floristry certificate.)

  Or
- Evidence of significant training and flower arranging experience via a short CV, a reference and a chat and/or teaching observation by the Area Education representative.

National Teachers – leisure classes and NAFAS courses

- Certificate in Flower Arranging or Floristry at an Advanced level;
- Level 3 teaching certificate;
- Three years' experience (two years on an Area list);
- Reference from an Education employer or equivalent.

The Level 3 Award in Education and Trainings has replaced the PTLLS qualification (Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector). The qualification is widely available through local Further Education Colleges and takes about 6 months to complete. The qualification can also be completed online in just a few weeks.

Judy Gratton – Citation for Area Treasurer's Role

I joined Wistaston & District Flower Club in 2010 and am currently the chairperson.
Prior to becoming chair, I was the Treasurer from 2012 to 2023. This role involved handling money, banking, accounts reconciliation, providing regular financial updates to the committee, preparing the accounts for the auditor, and presenting the end of financial year report to the members.
I am a Support Office within Flower Clubs of Cheshire and have been overseeing Flower Clubs of Cheshire Area accounts for the past two years.
I have a City & Guilds bookkeeping and accounts qualification, am confident in using spreadsheets and on-line banking for the flower club.

Kathryn (Kate) Hughes – Citation for Area Support Officer's role

Past experience: I attended Val Seeds Floral Design classes for four years and during that time I supported her when she was responsible for the Queen Mothers 100th birthday celebration at Bramall Hall. I was asked to create a design to depict the conquering of Everest. I subsequently supported her at the exhibition at Holy Angels where I was asked to depict the 9/11 tragedy. Due to her enthusiasm and encouragement, I decided to join a flower club and in 2001 l became a member of Hale Barns Flower Club

Recent experience: 2018 became a committee member. 2019 appointed Chairman 2020 appointed leader of the Rose Cluster During lockdown kept the members updated and contributed to the Area website with simple floral designs for members to copy. We had regular meetings through Zoom and planned for the members to have a safe return to club meetings. 2022 planned, designed and supervised the Escape to the Country Flower and Craft Festival. Ran workshops for the Brownies and Guides who contributed to the festival Commenced workshops as an addition to club nights 2023 due to the success of the workshops the club now do alternate months with workshops and demonstrators. 2024 Appointed President

Organised a Christmas Tree Festival with the support of local businesses to raise money for Centre Point a charity supporting homeless young people Ran workshops again for the Brownies and Guides who contributed to the festival

2025 very sadly, the club is closing in December this year as there is no one willing to come on the committee. For the past year we have managed 5 committee members, and the majority of the work has been my responsibility. In conclusion I will be joining another local flower club and will have the time to support the Leadership Team. It has been a pleasure to witness the area team making such a difference. Due to the open and friendly nature of the meetings the area has become more energised, and members feel they are being listened to. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and hard work.

Carol Baker - Citation for Area Judges Representative Role

Background: I joined Frodsham and District Flower Club in November 2016, when a friend suggested that, as I enjoyed my garden, I might be interested. I went along and the rest is history! After several workshops, and being naturally competitive, I was encouraged to compete. I used to own show ponies and as a family we competed at National level. Flower arranging competitions were a bit different(!) but I had successfully competed at local horticultural shows in the past.

NAFAS Qualifications: I gained my Area Judges qualification in July 2021, in Mercia and North Wales Area I have attended several refresher trainings, both in Cheshire Area and Mercia and North Wales Area I attended the Judge's conference in Northern Ireland in August 2023
I recently passed my National Judges test

Experience: I have had experience judging: WI floral competitions in both Areas Young Farmers Area and National Competitions Club level floral competitions Shrewsbury Flower Show I continue to compete regularly at all levels of competition, from Club to National level, having recently been awarded 'Commended' for my exhibit at the National Show at Gloucester Cathedral. I believe it is important for a judge to keep up to date but also to look at things from the competitor's point of view.
For the last 5 years, I have been involved with the Royal Cheshire Show (Theatre of Flowers), being joint chair (Chief Steward) for the latter 3 years, which included liaising with the Cheshire Agricultural Society.

With experience of competing and being a qualified judge, I feel able to take on the role of Area Judge's Representative confidently**.**

Sharon Hooper – Citation for Flower Arranger Officer's Role

I would like to volunteer for the role of Flower Arranger Officer, as I believe that I have the relevant skill set to fulfil this role.
I have significant experience using computer systems, in particular using Microsoft modules such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
I am very organised and have a systematic way of working, that ensures the job gets done on time and in full.
I am happy to work with the Leadership team to ensure good communication with the members of Flower Clubs of Cheshire and to undertake the processes involved in ensuring the ordering, delivery and marketing of The Flower Arranger is efficient and professional.
I hope you will consider me for this position.