

THE CHESHIRE AREA OF NAFAS

Minutes of 48th Annual General Meeting held at Tarvin Community Centre on Thursday 4 October 2018

PRESENT: Mrs Carol Black, President. Sharon Nolan, Chairman. Mrs Chris Gibbons, 2nd Vice Chairman, Mrs Chris Middleton, Treasurer. Mrs Morag McCord, Secretary. Mrs Catherine Bower, Publicity. Mrs Shiona Fosh, Minutes Secretary

WELCOME: Sharon Nolan welcomed everyone to the 48th AGM of the Cheshire Area of NAFAS, in particular, Carol Black, Area President and Area and National Associates of Honour. She thanked the Tarvin Community Centre committee who had made us so welcome. Carol was invited to chair the meeting.

CLUBS PRESENT: Area Secretary holds the Register of Clubs present.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Nicky Wylie, 1st Vice Chairman, Joan Wilkinson, Chair RCCAS team, Appleton Afternoon FC, Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme Flower Club, Group 2000, Marilyn Haslam F&GP, Anne Watson F&GP, Beryl Cotton, Area AOH and National AOH, Margaret Standley, National AOH and Area AOH, Pam Dimeloe, AOH.
2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (October 2017): The Chairman signed the Minutes of the previous meeting as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Proposed by: Chairman, Seconded by: Tarporley Flower Club, All agreed.

3. **AMENDMENTS:** 15 a) Sub-committee reports F&GP - Maureen Hernon was welcomed as the Chairman of Sale club, which is incorrect.
4. **AREA CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - Sharon Nolan:** Sharon remarked on how a number of the members have sadly lost loved ones, or had to battle with illnesses. It showed her how supportive the NAFAS family is of each other. Cheshire Area has much talent and has yet again made a major impact on the results sheets at shows:
 - Gold medals at the Festive Flower and Food Show in Blackpool. Congratulations to Eleanor Griffiths, Anne France, Gillian Moseley, Chris Gibbons, Val Seed & Nicky Wylie.
 - Gold medal at RHS Tatton.... For the fifth year in a row! Congratulations to Sylvia Bower and her talented team.
 - Gold medals at Southport Show. Congratulations to Eleanor Griffiths and Debbie Davies.
 - Gold medals at RHS Chelsea. Congratulations to Debbie Davies & Louise Jones.
 - Gold at Arley Hall. Congratulations to the Publicity Team and Disley Flower Club.
 - Stunning flower-filled marquee at Royal Cheshire Show. Congratulations to Joan Wilkinson and her team and all competitors.

Every student on the Area Speakers course passed. Congratulations to Carol Black, our Speakers Representative and all those students.

Stunning designs for major events at Westminster Abbey. Thank you to Anne France & Linka Woodward, Edena Joughin & Rita Roberts, Pat Murphy & Carol Black.

Social Days, Education Days, Workshops, great days organised for our members to enjoy. Thank you to JDSE and Social Committee members.

Neil Whittaker, one of the world's leading floral artists, is doing an all-inclusive workshop on the morning of Sunday 14th October.

Chelsea fund-raising initiatives have been too numerous to mention. Thank you to all members and clubs who have contributed to this so far.

Thank you, and well done, to everyone who has been involved at Area events, and to all those clubs whose hospitality I have enjoyed. It's been a brilliant year for the Area and I know that everyone giving a report here today will add to the list of our successes.

5. **PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - Mrs Chris Middleton.**

	F&GP	JDS&E	Trading	Flower Arranger	Chaffinches	Overall
Income	£39,527	£5,578	£2,130	£8,807	£702	£56,024
Expenditure	£34,465	£5,399	£1,984	£7,965	£734	£50,547
Profit(Loss)	£5,062	£179	£146	£122	(£32)	£5,477
Bank Accounts	£48,042	£8,609	£6,517	£5,171	£1,297	£69,636

Chris explained the accounts and a full set will be available on request. The F&GP account includes the money raised for **Chelsea**, 2016/17 - £220, 2017/18 - £5,395. After the closing of the accounts on 31/7/18 and before the AGM the following was raised, 2018/19 - £2,146. Therefore total raised so far as at 4/10/18 is **£7,761**

Adoption of Accounts: Proposed by: Carol Black, Area President. Seconded by: Knutsford Flower Club. All agreed

6. **APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANTS**

Mrs Middleton proposed Area to appoint Marie Stokes of Cheshire Accountancy Services to act as the Accountant during 2018/2019.

Proposed by: Chris Middleton, Area Treasurer. Seconded by: Liz Kennan, New Brighton Flower Club. All agreed.

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

Issued today:

- a) Agenda
- b) Annual Report
- c) Financial Statements.

- Area held 4 Council meetings at Plumley Village Hall, an AGM at Frodsham Community Centre and an EGM, which preceded Council on 23 April. May I take this opportunity to thank the ladies of F&GP committee for all their generous help with registration and issuing the club packs at all the meetings.
- Minutes have been sent out to all clubs, Area Officers and most AOHs by email and in the main had been successful. Unfortunately some of the club contacts had not passed the minutes on and they had to be re-issued later.
- With new Data Protection legislation coming into operation, a new club officers' form was issued in February. Some clubs are still having problems with it but we will eventually have them all completed.
- My sincere thanks to Shiona Fosh who took up the position of Area Minute Secretary at April Council to my great relief and has been doing a wonderful job.
- If you need any help or information regarding Area, please continue to contact me and I will do my best to help or direct you to the relevant person to deal with the query.

8. **PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT - Mrs Catherine Bower:** It has been a busy year and a big thank you to all who took time out of their hectic lives to promote our organisation at local and area events.

Selection of events: We were represented at a variety of festivals and although it was disappointing that promotion at two club events did not occur this year, I look forward to helping you with local events.

- Area Social Day
- Royal Cheshire Show
- Arley Garden Festival
- RHS Tatton
- Elworth, Open Garden fund raiser for 2019 RHS Chelsea

Promotional material: The Area information leaflet continues to provide information to prospective members. For a second year, Area sponsored free visitor vouchers.

Social and 'traditional' media streams: We need to be creative in the use of all forms of communications with members and prospective members, using Social and "traditional" media streams.

Facebook - 'Like, comment, share' helps to increase your audience. It may not be for you but it may satisfy someone else. Give it a go. Our Area Facebook page goes from strength to strength.

Publicity Group: Thank you to the group and other members supporting events. Tony and Chris Middleton step down from the group, and new members welcome.

Web site: Tony Middleton notified his intention to step down from maintaining the Area site. A new site, using an 'off the shelf' package, is under development.

Publications: Thank you to Chris M for maintaining NAFAS publications and Christmas Orders activity.

The Flower Arranger: 2018 subscription for NAFAS Members in Affiliated Clubs - £12.80 per annum / £3.20 per issue. (£11.80 per year, £2.95 per copy). The Flower Arranger magazine remains a valuable source of income to NAFAS, with 2017/18 profit c £77k – final figures to be confirmed. The Spring 2018 edition introduced a new editor, Chloe Byran-Brown. Although reports show overall magazine sales continue to fall, including the Flower Arranger, market share is buoyant at 79%, compared to 11.8% for Fleur Creatif and 9.2% for Flora. Thank you to your club Flower Arranger officers, who coordinate your orders and distribute magazines. I have supplies of back copies available. Please remind your members that subscriptions can be increased at any time during the year.

Adoption of Reports: Proposed by: Ashton Hayes & Tarvin Flower Club, Seconded by: Disley and District Flower Club, All agreed

9. **CONFIRMATION OF PRESIDENT:** It was the wish of Area Officers, F&GP and Council that Val Seed take on the role Area President. She was presented with her President's badge and invited onto the stage.
10. **CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN:** Nicky Wylie was taking over as Chairman from Sharon Nolan as Sharon's term of office had come to an end. Carol Black, President presented gifts to thank Sharon Nolan for all her hard work she had done for Area.
11. **CONFIRMATION OF 1st VICE CHAIRMAN:** Chris Gibbons was presented with the 1st Vice Chairman's badge by Carol Black president.
12. **2nd VICE- CHAIRMAN:** Louise Jones has been nominated by New Brighton Flower Arrangement Society for the position of 2nd Vice Chairman.

CITATION

NAFAS Experience

- I joined New Brighton Flower arrangement Society in 1991 after being invited to the Flower Cub by my night school teacher and I have never looked back. I have served on the committee at New Brighton in various roles, including Programme Secretary and Club President.
- I am also a member of Group 2000 and Formby Flower Club.
- I qualified as an area demonstrator in 2016 and have enjoyed demonstrating and meeting NAFAS members at many clubs in the Cheshire area and elsewhere. I love to expand my knowledge and skills and regularly attend workshops.
- My sister Debbie Davies and I competed at RHS Chelsea earlier this year and were thrilled to be awarded a gold medal. I enjoy regularly competing in various competitions, including the Royal Cheshire show and Southport Show.
- I have been a club delegate for a number of years, a member of the publicity Team and regularly help on the trading table.

Business Experience

- I have spent many years of my working life in Human Resources.
- As an Area HR Director for the Salvation Army, I was part of the strategic planning team and involved in budget preparation, skills that I consider essential for an officer in the Cheshire Area of NAFAS.
- I also have considerable experience in working with, and leading, teams of volunteers, again totally relevant to my desired role.
- Finally I am passionate about NAFAS; I have had so much enjoyment and pleasure as part of this wonderful organisation and want others to know how wonderful this world is.

Proposed election of 2nd Vice Chairman by: New Brighton Flower Arrangement Society, Seconded by: Elworth Flower club, All agreed.

13. **RE-ELECTION OF PUBLICITY OFFICER:** Catherine Bower had agreed to continue as Area Publicity Officer.
14. **RE-ELECTION OF SECRETARY:** Morag McCord had agreed to continue as Area Secretary.

Proposed re-election of Publicity and Secretary Officers by: Disley and District Flower Club, Seconded by: Sale Flower Club, All agreed.

15. **ELECTION OF TREASURER:** Chris Middleton was standing down as Area Treasurer. Tracy-Anne Clancy has been nominated for the position of Area Treasurer by Lymm Floral Art Group.

CITATION

NAFAS Experience

- I have been a member of Lymm Floral Art Group for over 20 years and have held various committee positions including Publications Officer, Treasurer, Vice Chairman and Club President. I have helped to organise two Cub Open Demonstration evenings.
- I enjoy competing and I represented my Club at the Royal Cheshire Show.

Business Experience

- I qualified as a Chartered Global Management Accountant in 1990.
- The most recent full-time position held in industry was Finance Director for a household name supermarket retailer with over 50 stores.
- Current role is a part time manager of St Matthews Pre School, Stretton. Having held position of Treasurer of Lymm Floral Art Group for several years and Treasurer of St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn, I feel that I have necessary experience to be considered for role of Area Treasurer and would welcome the opportunity to be part of Cheshire Area team and to embrace new challenges offered by the role.

Proposed by; Lymm Floral Art Group, Seconded by Disley and District Flower Club, All agreed.

16. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTE SECRETARY: Shiona Fosh

Proposed by: Sale Flower Club, Seconded by: Stockton Heath Flower Club,

Shiona received her Minute Secretary badge.

17. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) F&GP - Sharon Nolan.

- F&GP oversees and approves the budgets for all Area events and assists our Area Secretary, Morag, at Area Council. Its responsibilities include any activities not covered by Social Committee or JDS&E, including RCS and RHS Tatton shows.
- Since last AGM, membership of the F&GP has been pretty stable, but several club representatives are due to retire in the next couple of months, so if you would like to help by reviewing and sanctioning Area activities and expenditure, please come and have a chat.
- Maureen Hernon has volunteered to become Minutes Secretary.

b) JDS&E Report - Nicky Wylie.

- JDSE continue to work hard for the area and nationally. I have been very lucky to have such a great and incredibly experienced team.
- This year we have had a demonstrator's refresher day in March. A member's day with Richard Haslam and an additional day with Alan Beatty. The educators had an inspired day with Jackie Charnock.
- Val Seed and Chris O'Hara have continued the very popular Start A Fashion lessons. Thank you to them both for giving up their time to inspire future demonstrators.
- We are currently reviewing the Cheshire Area Book and that should be with you soon. Thank you to Claire Roberts for all her hard work in doing this.
- I have enjoyed my time as 1st Vice Chairman and am excited to be Chairman for next 2 years

c) Social Committee - Chris Gibbons.

The Social committee attended 4 Council meetings, Social Day and the AGM, providing refreshments for the delegates and Area Officers before the meetings.

- The first event for the year was the Social Day on 5th July at Frodsham, when James Burnside gave a talk on the 'Legacy of Art Nouveau' and Alan Beatty demonstrated 'Artistic Expression'. Members enjoyed both sessions and the day was a financial success too.
- This afternoon, Kate Kerr, a National Demonstrator from Dumfries, will demonstrate for us 'Found and Fashioned' and I am sure we will all enjoy this demonstration too.
- Preparations are in hand for the Social Lunch on 18th March 2019, to be held at the De Vere Cranage Estate. This is a lovely old building, with beautiful gardens and plenty of parking. We will have a set 3-course lunch, with coffee and some entertainment for you to enjoy afterwards. Full details, including how to book, will be included in club pack at November Council, so do please look for them.
- This is my last event as 2nd Vice Chairman and I would like to say that having a very experienced and dedicated Social Committee has made life easy. I would like to thank them all for their hard work not only on my behalf but yours too. They get to the Social Days very early to make sure you all get a hot drink and a biscuit when you arrive. I know that they will support the incoming Officer as she finds her feet in her new role and I wish her and them good wishes for the year ahead.
- I would like to thank all of you, for supporting the events and for keeping our Area vibrant and welcoming. Our movement is 60 years old this coming year, quite an achievement and I do hope we will carry on celebrating the milestones of NAFAS with our friends around us, in future years.

d) Royal Cheshire County Show Team – Mrs Joan Wilkinson.

- The weather was very kind to us. We had an excellent show with some exciting work being produced and the new stands proved very popular. It is our intention to introduce some more stands for another two classes next year.
- Exhibits by tutors and students were much admired by the public, giving opportunities for the students to work large projects at a prestige show. I hope they will return next year.
- The adult and children hands on proved very popular, making fish out of skeletonised leaves and wire and hanging them off a medolino stick.
- The demonstrations were excellent, which pulled in enthusiastic audiences who bought all the designs at the end of the show. Watch this space: a new twist on the last demonstration next year.
- The photographic competition pulled in a huge number of entries. Thanks to the use of albums we were able to show the public all the exhibits as well as putting up the prize-winners on the boards.

- Thanks to the Cheshire Agricultural Society for all their support and help that they gave to Gill and me, and the clubs who sponsored the classes and the dedicated committee and partners who helped to set up. Massive thank you to you all.
- Thanks to the entrants of the show, which were of an extremely high standard. When the schedules are out put your entry in next year, we are a friendly lot willing to help.

e) **RHS Tatton Park - Mrs Pat Bannister:** Once again the Cheshire Area enjoyed an excellent show at Tatton.

- Sylvia Bower and her team did us proud by gaining yet another gold medal. Their exhibit was stunning with woven willow circles and 'champagne' glasses filled with flowers suspended from a frame so that they all moved in the breeze. All who were lucky enough to see it admired it.
- The area was also asked to design a Flower Tower, which was about 7ft. tall. Many different towers were made and the idea was for the public to vote for their favourite one on Social Media. This was a new departure by the RHS in trying to involve the public. We felt that it needed some refining and didn't work for us in its present form.
- After 8 years as the RHS Area Coordinator, I have decided to step down after this coming show. It has been enjoyable and exciting especially as we have won so many gold and silver gilt medals. We have also won the accolade of 'Best Exhibit' in the show tent 5 times. My friend Pam Mosedale will be taking over from me and I know she will bring new ideas and particularly an ability on computers, iPhones and the social media which I just don't have. For this year we will be joint coordinators.
- My thanks go to all the girls who have worked tirelessly on their exhibits for the Tatton Show and have thus enhanced the name of NAFAS within the RHS.

Adoption of Sub Committee reports en bloc, Proposed: Stockport Afternoon Flower Club, Seconded by: Disley and District Flower Club, All agreed.

18. **NAFAS REPORT - Sharon Nolan:** In the last year I have attended the national AGM, 4 National Councils and an Area Chairman's get-together day. Nicky Wylie accompanied me to the NAC in July as incoming Area Chairman.

HQ has:

- Continued to promote the Diamond Card.
- Is refurbishing Osborne House. Has achieved savings through the donation of pre-loved floor coverings from the building next door.
- Organised the Festive Flower and Food Show in Blackpool in November, where a number of Cheshire members assisted.
- Organised the Diamond Anniversary Event, and Show, in London in August 2019, where once again, a number of Cheshire members are assisting.
- Promoted the WAFA Show in Jaipur in February 2020.
- Promoted National Flower Day in May 2019 through the publicity company they have engaged.

Cheshire Area Involvement in national events:

- Mark Entwistle competed in Designer of the Year at Blackpool in November 2017, sadly not winning but he did get through to the final five.
- Dawn Weaver competed at the Masquerade weekend in August 2018, but did not gain the coveted prize of a sponsored trip to exhibit in Jaipur.
- Cheshire Area is supporting HQ by exhibiting at Chelsea in 2019, the NAFAS Diamond Anniversary Year.

HQ is financially sound, but like all of us, is deeply concerned about falling membership and loss of clubs. We wait with interest how they plan to tackle these issues further.

19. **NAFAS SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Judges - Mrs Pam Fleming-Williams.**

- National Judging Committee members for this year were: Margaret Rumens, Chairman South Midlands. Joan Magee, Vice-Chairman NIGFAS. Christine Picton, Training Co-ordinator East of England. James Burnside, NIGFAS. Delyth Price, 3 Counties & South Wales
- Three committee meetings were held during the year.
- The Committee organized and ran a day for Area Judges' Representatives in February, covering topics such as Modular Training, sharing of information between areas, judging with reference to plant material in all its forms, the 'Plants for Training list', (incorporating a plant identification session), writing comment cards and a quiz on flower arranging periods.
- Congratulations were sent to Alan Beatty who qualified as an Instructor for Judges' Training.
- Six candidates are at various stages of training to qualify as an Adjudicator for Area Judges' Tests.

- Two successful weekends of training were held at Osborne House, the first in April and the second in July, offering four sections of the new Modular Training scheme, to help candidates who are not able to access training in their own Areas.
- A draft schedule for the Floral Art & Design Show 2019 was reviewed in February. The Board of Directors recommended judges for approval.
- An Adjudicators and Instructors Day was held in September keeping everyone up to date with changes to directives, the new Period Module (for use by Areas, Clubs and Instructors) as well as revisions to the Competitions Manual and the Plant List. Social Media was also discussed.
- A Spring Bulletin was distributed to National Judges and Area Representatives who then forward this to all Area Judges on their lists.
- Area: A planned day in October for Judges and Competitors on Period work has to be postponed until next year.

b) Demonstrators - Mrs. Pat Murphy

- The National Demonstrators Committee has met three times during the last year under the chairmanship of Michael Bowyer with Elizabeth Graham, Jacqui Arnold, Diane Fair and Pam Lewis joining him on the Committee. The following were organised by the Committee:
- A Demonstrators Representatives day took place on Wednesday, 24th January 2018.
- A Demonstrators Symposium Weekend took place from 19th to 22nd April 2018 at the Marriott Hotel, Leicester.
- Pre-National Assessments and National Tests are scheduled to take place on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th October 2018. On the Monday there are 6 pre national candidates and on the Tuesday 3 pre national candidates and 4 national candidates. These tests will be held at the Armstrong Hall, Thornbury, Nr. Bristol

c) Speakers - Mrs Carol Black

- The National Speakers Committee met three times over the past year at headquarters in London.
- The Chairman for the first two meetings was Susan Shaw and for the last Philida Irving, the committee are Susan Horne: East of England, Alan Beatty: NIGFAS, Philida Irving: Northumberland and Durham and Kathy Stangaard: London and Overseas. Sandy Bailey: Umbrella.
- Much correspondence was dealt with over the year and several guidelines were readjusted.
- Preparations were started to organise the next National Speakers Test, which will take place in 2019. Any Area Speaker who has been qualified for at least two years can apply to take this test.
- Many preparations were in progress for the next Speakers seminar due to take place in 2019, however due to all the celebrations and events organised for the Diamond anniversary and the expense involved, the course was postponed until 2020.
- The Speakers Chairman resigned at this point and Philida Irving stepped into the chair.
- A very successful Speakers Representatives meeting was organised at this time by Philida at very short notice.
- An Adjudicators and Instructors day was held during September where much discussion took place regarding the training and testing of Speakers.
- Speakers will again have a presence at the National Show, that takes place in London next year and plans for this event are well ahead.

d) Education - Mrs Diane Fair.

- The National Education Committee chaired by Julie Woods has met 3 times during the year. Gill McGregor has joined the committee to liaise between Education and Publications. Sharon Dower has also joined the committee, Joan Woodhead has been the course consultant for 4 years and during that time 130 students have gained their accreditation. Moyra Turnbull is Editor of Insight, which it is hoped will become online only from 2019.
- The committee took an active part in the Festive Flower and Food Show last November with Workshops and hands-on sessions it is hoped that Education will have a major presence at the Diamond Anniversary Show in August 2019.
- The new Illustrated Booklet of Basic Designs is now available from HQ £4.50 plus £1.02 postage
- The next Education /Teachers Conference is to be held in Nottingham University, Jubilee Conference Centre from Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th March 2019
- The National Education Reps day will now be on Tuesday 16th October I am unable to attend due to teaching commitments but will send a report and I have tried to find someone to go in my place.

Area:

- Members Christmas workshop with Dawn Weaver I still have a few places available-£25 on Saturday 17th November
- Start A Fashion Christmas workshop Saturday 1st December - £20. Come and get your Christmas wreath and other designs made with expert help from Val, Chris and myself.

e) Photography – Mrs Pam Mosedale

2017 AGM & Demonstration: Last year's AGM and demonstration photos made it on to our Facebook page and Vanessa Wellock's boots appeared to be a hit with our followers with lots of likes.

Royal Cheshire County Show Photography Competition

- We organise the competition on behalf of the show, therefore the competition is open to everyone, not just NAFAS members.
- The competition titles were taken from the floral design schedule:
 - Class 1 A symphony of nature – a landscape or garden scene
 - Class 2 What a tangled web
 - Class 3 Over the edge
 - Class 4 Little mix – close up detail of natural plant material
 - Class 5 Interlinked – a monochrome or black and white
- There were 119 entries in total
- 6 non Cheshire Area NAFAS members entered
- The 'visitor votes' proved very successful with 405 votes cast. 78 different photographs gained votes and just 2 votes separated the winner and second place
- The Visitor Vote winner was Joan Platt's Class 1 Commended entry.

Pam Fleming Williams has written an article about the show for a future edition of the Flower Arranger including some of the photos. Hopefully they will make it to print.

Social Day: I have lots of images from the talk by James Burnside and demonstration by Alan Beatty but they have not been published.

RHS Tatton: There are many images following the creation of exhibit Nature's Bounty and the Floral Towers using wood and wire. We've tried using Drop box as a method of sharing the images rather than emailing them individually.

Copies of photographs: Not all of the images made it on to Facebook or the website. If you would like copies of any of the photographs from the various events, I will gladly share them with you.

Volunteer for the Photography Representative role: I've offered to help with the co-ordination of the RHS Tatton exhibit with Pat Bannister and I'd welcome some help the Photographer Representative role. You don't have to be a very technical, or own an SLR camera or be very tall.

f) **Junior Liaison – Judy Gratton:** No report

Adoption of NAFAS Sub Committee reports en bloc, Proposed: Neston Flower Society, Seconded: Sale Flower Club. All agreed.

20. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NAFAS

- a) Judges – Qualified judge needs to apply for post.
- b) Demonstrators – Mrs Pat Murphy
- c) Speakers – Mrs Carol Black
- d) Education – Mrs Diane Fair
- e) Photography - Mrs Pam Mosedale
- f) Junior Liaison - Judy Gratton was introduced to AGM meeting.

It was proposed that NAFAS representatives be elected en bloc. Proposed by: Bramall Hall Flower Club, Seconded by: Disley and District Flower Club. All agreed.

21. AOB

1. Pat Wood, Neston Flower Club: Why can we not be a charity?

Chris Middleton, Treasurer replied: We have looked into this very carefully with the help of the accountants and other clubs a few years ago and it was discovered that it is very complicated with not much reward. As it stands NAFAS Cheshire Area does not pay any tax.

2. Joyce Bowett, Hale Barnes Flower Club: Are we not worried about the Chaffinch Account?

Chris Middleton, Treasurer replied: The Chaffinch Account had money taken out of it for insurance in May and subsequently in June 2018. Barclays were contacted and the money was refunded.

The account had been compromised and 12 people had set up direct debits as well. 2 companies had taken money out. Barclays' fraud squad department was involved and as a result the account was closed and the money was transferred to the main account until it has been decided what to do with it.

3. Sharon Nolan, Chairman:

- Presented Gillian Moseley with the **Chairman's Award** for coming 1st at the Festive Flower and Food Show in Blackpool in the semi-imposed class. A truly remarkable example to us all of overcoming personal adversity.
- Sharon pointed out the significant contribution which Chris Middleton has made to Area over the last 8 years when she has not only been our Area Treasurer, but also ran Trading and set up and managed the Publicity Team before Catherine's appointment.

Sharon referred to the contribution which Carol, our out-going President has made. Carol was appointed as President two years ago, at very short notice and was thrown into the role 'at the deep end' without benefit of previously serving as an Area Officer. She has provided enormous support to

me personally over that time and has always acted as the voice of reason, during what can at times be quite heated discussion behind closed doors. Carol was also Speakers Representative and successfully mentored all trainee speakers to pass their test at the end of last year.

Chris and Carol have both carried out their own role effectively, and in addition, undertaken significant other duties. I and the other Officers would like to nominate them for AOH and seek your support in this.

Unanimous show of hands.

Chris and Carol were presented with their Associate of Honour badges

22. DATE OF NEXT AGM

Thursday, 3 October 2019.

**Frodsham Community Centre,
Fluin Lane, Frodsham WA6 7QN**

Signed

Date