

The Cheshire Area of NAFAS
Minutes of Area Council Meeting held at Plumley Village Hall
Monday 12th November 2018

Officers Present: Chairman – Nicky Wylie, 1st Vice Chairman - Chris Gibbons, 2nd Vice Chairman – Louise Jones, Treasurer – Tracy-Ann Clancy, Secretary – Morag McCord, Publicity Officer – Catherine Bower, Minute Secretary – Shiona Fosh

Chairman's Remarks:

- Apologies for not attending the AGM and for being late today.
 - Thank you to Val Seed for doing the table flowers.
 - Deaths: from Northwest area. NAFAS and Flowers North west Associate of Honour Josephine Yates passed away in her sleep.
 - Unfortunately Poynton Flower club will be finishing at the end of this year despite the committee trying to keep it open. We need to start working together by looking at clubs, which are near you. If you are struggling to get committee members, rethink this. You don't have to have the traditional committee set up. If its working for your club then continue but if its not then rethink. Some clubs are now having event teams, who organise the programme and a treasurer. Look at your neighbours for help and support. As an area I am very keen to work with Flowers NorthWest.
1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Heswell Flower club, Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme Flower Club and Carol Black, Area Speakers Rep
 2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd July 2018 were agreed and signed by Nicky as correct.
 3. **MATTERS ARISING:** Amendment to 5J v) Photography: wrong report was sent, but has been replaced with the correct report.
 4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence.

5. **REPORTS:**

a) Secretary – Morag McCord

Reminders:

- Delegates reminded again to sign in beside their club name as we had several new delegates to the meeting and also to collect their packs.
- One vote per club.
- Delegates advise club committee as soon as possible after council of any business requiring action and remind especially as some clubs do not have meetings in December or January.
- Let me know of any changes to club officers as soon as possible and if your delegates are unable to attend the Council, contact Morag beforehand if you are sending another member.

Correspondence:

- Received request from HQ for Club anniversaries in 2019. Could you let Morag know if your club will be celebrating a significant anniversary next year and when?
- Emails from HQ re: Diamond anniversary Celebrations and Floral Design show in 2019 with Designer of the year competition.
- Received several enquiries re: Club demonstrations and meetings and requests for help with Flower festivals, which need to be followed up.

Packs:

- Agenda

- New club Officers form- please use this one after your next AGM.
- Diary Dates 2019
- Area lunch Poster – 18th March 2019 – check information
- Area Lunch Ticket Application form
- Designer of the Year Application Form
- Update information re: Ian Buxton, National Demonstrator-phone number
- 5 copies of Lymm Flower Club flier
- 2 Fliers from Wilmslow Guild
- New Cheshire Area list
- Craft for 'Chelsea' Stall at Area Lunch (18/03/19) – Sally Melvin
- Per Benjamin flier
- Prestbury Flower Club 'Christmas by design'

Many thanks to Marilyn, Ann and Maureen for their help with club packs and registration today. As it was Marilyn and Ann's last meeting as Club reps on F&GP, Morag presented them flowers.

b) Treasurer – Tracy-Anne

- I am Tracy-Anne Clancy your new Area Treasurer and I very much look forward to working with you all. I am currently Treasurer for Lymm Floral Art Group so have experience of a Club Treasurer's role. I have completed my handover with Chris Middleton which has been very comprehensive for which I am very grateful. The email address for the Cheshire Area Treasurer remains unchanged and is now directed to me, so I will be able to receive and reply to your emails.
- The signatories at the bank and building societies are in the process of being changed over. There may be some delay in being able to pay invoices etc. by cheques until the process is complete. To some extent we are in the hands of the bank.
- Thank you to all clubs who have paid their affiliation fees. There are still 4 clubs who need to complete the forms and send the fees. These should now be sent to me direct and I also have some spare forms with me today. Please speak with me direct so that I can then settle our account with Head Office before the deadline in December.
- The balances on all our bank accounts (as at 12.10.18) are as follows:
Finance and General Purpose Account (F&GP) £28,240.76
Savings £5,192.86
Flower Arranger (FA) £1,397.45
Trading £6,476.94
Chaffinches £1,352.00

Please note that included within the F&GP Account is the total raised to date for the Chelsea exhibit. This amounts to £8,183.06.

- Both the Trading and Chaffinches account will be closed asap and the balances transferred into the F&GP bank account. The accounting will still be maintained separately.

c) Publicity – Catherine Bower

Publications:

- Last selection of diaries, calendars and Christmas items for purchase today. This is the last year HQ is printing the calendar.
- Blue forms in stock – HQ confirmed electronic version would not be developed.
- Badges – available via Area.

Chris Middleton has handed over, so please let me know if you are willing to help.

You can share with friend, but activities include placing Publications order with HQ, selling items at Council and other Area events and shows. Christmas orders can be organised independent of other Publications. Please have a chat if you can help our Area.

i) The Flower Arranger:

- 2018 subscription due to me by Thursday 22 November. You can increase your order at any time during the year: £12.80 per annum / £3.20 per issue.
- Club pack includes dates for 2019. Please pass to your Flower Arranger officer.
- Any date changes to order or delivery location to be notified to me.

HQ cannot change delivery address if notified after date of order.

- Delivery date for each edition: Non-receipt or problems with order should be notified to me 5 days after this date. Lengthy delays will result in us being charged cost of redelivery (£11.50).
- I have small stock of current editions, so can supply if you need to increase number of copies.

Publicity team:

- Chris and Tony Middleton have stepped down from the group.
- Sally Melvin has joined, but please consider joining us.
- Current activities include developing promotional material, supporting club plans, supporting Area events. What can you offer? Please talk with me if you want further information.

d) NAFAS – Nicky Wylie

- Nicky apologised that she could not update the meeting with any information from HQ, as she had not yet received the minutes from the last meeting.
- HQ have had two members retire from the Board, but only have one new member, so have co-opted Sue Davis for one year.

e) Finance and General Purposes –Nicky Wylie

- We need 3 new members to come onto FGP. You don't need to have held any position in your club but if you are interested in being involved in what goes on behind the scenes then please get in contact.

National Show

- The Schedule is now out for the National Show. The Imposed classes are the same entry fees as the other classes. Suggestions that this Show will lose a large amount of money have been taken out of context. The Committee felt that we should make every effort to support the Show. Sharon is going to investigate details of train travel and Chris to investigate coach travel, including overnight stop. The Competitors will share the coach organised by Tom Hodge, for the North West Area.

Chaffinches – Sharon Nolan

Chaffinches is an on-line only club, affiliated to the Cheshire Area. It was launched 2 years ago and to date has only 8 members, who have joined for a variety of different reasons. We need to re-examine and rethink the original model and decide how to progress affiliated membership going forward. More non-affiliated members have attended events aimed at Chaffinches mainly from other clubs in the Cheshire Area, than Chaffinches. However, Chaffinches are attending other Area events, mainly workshops which is good. Until the review and relaunch is carried out, clubs are asked to keep an eye open for visitors who may be interested in workshops rather than demonstrations and pass their contact detail to Sharon, email address chaffinches@nafascheshire.org.uk. Clubs are also asked to give any thoughts/feedback to Sharon on affiliated membership.

f) Judges, Demonstrators, Speakers & Education – Chris Gibbons

- The Designer of the Year elimination competition will take place at the Area Lunch, at Cranage Estate, Holmes Chapel, on 18th March, in a room behind the dining room.
- Notification will be in the November Council envelopes and Pat Murphy will also email all the current Area Demonstrators.
- The Judge will be chosen during the next few weeks and Pam Fleming - Williams will steward the session.
- The winner will be announced at the end of the lunch.
- Chris encouraged members to compete in the event. She will run a short course to help members to compete 2 months before the event.

g) Social- Louise Jones

Area Lunch Monday 18th March 2019, 12 for 12:30pm at Cranage Hall, Crewe.

- Three course lunch for 300.
- Demonstration by Eleanor Griffiths and Pat Murphy.
- Stalls, tombola and raffle.
- Cheshire Area competitors are competing for the Designer of the year at the event, to be completed in London 2019.
- Tickets apply by form from club, returned between 24th and 31st January.
- Bring unwanted gifts for tombola prizes at next council meeting (4th Feb 2019)
- Craft needed for 'Chelsea' stall at Area lunch...knitting, crotchet, sewing, painting, patchwork, lace etc.....

Area Social Day: 4th July 2019.

h) RHS – Pat Bannister

- Our involvement with the Tatton Show is likely to be different in 2019. We are at the moment thinking of doing a much smaller design which would still be eye catching, but one in which we could incorporate techniques that we could then show to the public in a 'how to do' workshop. This is all aimed at getting the public involved and taking their interest forward.
- Pat shall be stepping down from being the RHS Coordinator after this next show and Pam Mosedale will take over from her.
- I have been very lucky to look after so many talented and successful teams doing the Tatton Show and I know that Cheshire Area can be proud of what we have achieved, and what we will achieve in the future.

i) Royal Cheshire County Show Team – Joan Wilkinson

No report

j) NAFAS Sub Committees:

i) Judges – Pam Fleming-Williams

- Report on Residential Training for Area judges, which took place at HQ, was sent to Board of Directors.
- Budgets approved for A&I Day National Test training days and the National test.
- Contact was made with the editor of the Flower Arranger Magazine regarding notice to be give to Judges aske to do 'You be the Judge' articles.
- Correspondence about: competition work, manual instructors, potential candidates, definition of 'bract', judges for 2019 show, Designer of the Year 2019. Latex as plant material, still life definition, comments at Show and A&I Day.
- Mock test at HQ 21/09/18, test 10/11/18
- Competitions Officer for 2019 Show reported changes to show.
- Designer of the year process revised can be seen on NAFAS website.

- Feedback on A&I Day: good
- Plant list for Area Demonstrators and judges to be combined.
- Amendments made to Period Module.
- Six candidates for National Test. 2 training days 4/06/19 and 10/09/19. Test 9/11/19 at HQ.
- 2020 Conference: Nottingham University, August. Dates to be agreed.
- Delyth Price to remain on Committee for another year.
- Copy agreed for the Flower Arranger Magazine.
- Thanks to James Burnside finishing after 4 years of service.

Next meeting 27/02/19

ii) Demonstrators – Pat Murphy

The National Demonstrators' Committee, Michael Bowyer, Chairman, Elizabeth Graham, Jacqui Arnold and Diane Fair, held a meeting on Monday 17th September 2018

Correspondence:

- Canada Blooms requested that a NAFAS representative attends the show and enters the international competition and demonstration. Katherine Kear has agreed to attend.

Training and testing:

- Test in Dorset and Guernsey.
- Mock test in South Midlands 16/09/18
- Further training in Kent Area, Mercia and North Wales, three counties & South Wales and North East

A & I Progress:

- Jacqui Arnold at stage 11A, Angela Turner at stage 11C.
- Angela Turner and Beryl Cotton sitting final papers.
- Two successful and practical training days were held.

National Test 2018:

- At Armstrong Hall, Thornbury, N. Bristol. 9 pre-national candidates. 4 for National Test.
- Major changes were made to the Demonstrators form. The plant list was revised and will be used by NAFAS Area Demonstrators, Pre National Test Assessment and Judges.

A.O.B.

- Diamond applications forms to be forwarded to Area Reps.
- Demonstrating information for inclusion in Diamond newsletter to be sent to Sandra Bailey.
- Kathy Lee (Umbrella) advised that the Board are requesting that each discipline sets up a Facebook page or Social media page to feed into the national media.
- Electronic Blue Form is not going ahead at this moment in time.
- Kathy thanked Michael Bower for all his hard work as Committee Chairman.

National Test 2018:

Pat Murphy and Diane Fair attended the National Test at Thornbury, Bristol.

- Two out of four candidates passed, Delyth Price, Wales and Lucy Richardson, Yorkshire.
- Pat recommended one of the candidates for club meetings. See her for details.
- National Test 2020 is to be held in Cheshire, give them your support!

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19th January 2019.

iii) Speakers – Carol Black

No Report

iv) Education – Diane Fair

Notes taken from the minutes of National Education Committee meeting held on 15th October 2018

- Present- Julie Woods-Chairman, Moyra Turnbull Editor of Insight, Sharon Dower-Course Consultant, Gill McGregor, Leslie Sturdy and Susie Barwick
- 18 new students have been enrolled onto NAFAS courses since the last meeting in July
- Information has been sent to Edena Joughlin regarding Wirral Adult Education offering the Level 2 NAFAS course.
- 13 deposits had been received for the Education Conference in March next year.
- STOP PRESS this will now be a joint conference with Speakers.
- Insight now has 408 subscribers. Moyra is looking into making Insight colour throughout; details are to be taken to the Board of Directors. If this is agreed the subscription will rise by £1 to £13.
- Quorum- the printers could provide an electronic version of the magazine for 100 pounds plus.
- Lesley Sturdy is revising - The Guide to Period Flower Arranging.
- Discussion took place regarding a third techniques book but it was decided a book called Alternative Techniques and Mechanics would be more suitable as it could be a follow-on to Contemporary Floral Design. Fundamentals of Colour are now out of stock-it is believed that it could be very expensive to have a reprint due to the colour dyes needed.
- NAFAS/OCN LEVEL 4 AND TEACHER TRAINING COURSES are being considered to run at Osborne House.

Date of next meeting 4th -5th March 2019

v) Photography- Pam Mosedale

- **National Photography Competition 2019**

The competition schedule has been published on the NAFAS website and Photography facebook page. Here's a link to the schedule: <http://www.nafas.org.uk/nafas/photography/>

There are 6 classes:

Class 1 – Radiant Waters – a colour landscape or seascape

Class 2 – Glistening Frost – a close up of natural plant materials

Class 3 – Faceted – a plant or flower image involving manipulation

Class 4 – Diamond Geezer – black and white

Class 5 - Celebration – novice class of a floral design

Class 6 – A dazzling day out – junior class

The closing date is Sunday 30th June 2019 and open to NAFAS members.

Winning images will be displayed at the Floral Art & Design Show in London on the 8th - 10th August.

- **Royal Cheshire Show Photography Competition 2019**

The schedule will be published in early 2019 and the competition is open to everyone.

vi) Junior Liaison - Judy Gratton

No Report

6.Chelsea 2019 - Nicky Wylie

Per Benjamin – Sunday 24 February 2019

- Only 168 tickets sold for Per Benjamin. We need to really support this event.
- Please tell your members.
- You can select individual seats. They aren't allocated from the front.
- There are parking, lots of it within a 5-minute walk. However anyone who struggles to walk can be dropped off outside the door and then the driver can park.

Chelsea

- Thank you for those clubs who have continued to fundraise for us.

- The team has come up with a design and we have met with the RHS coordinator. We are now meeting every few weeks but we need somewhere to mock up from January to May. Please ask your members. It's absolutely essential.
- The area is not arranging a coach. Tickets can only be brought via RHS and cannot be booked. However this does not stop anyone else volunteering to do it.
- It was suggested that there should be plenty of publicity before and after Chelsea so that Cheshire Area would reap the benefit from it.
- Various coach tours were suggested who would include tickets for Chelsea when travelling with them eg. Travel Scope, New Market. Nicky suggested she would gather information about Coach Tours.
- A plea was given to any one who had access to a large premise for the Chelsea team to set up their Mock display before Chelsea.

7. Any Other Business:

- Cath Sharples from Stockton Heath gave a warning about using images on line, which have not been paid for. Pixie from USA tracks down copyright violations and can charge a lot of money, for you displaying them on your website.
- Ruth Hughes has tickets for Angela Turner's Demonstration on 26th November 2018 at Chester.
- Goostrey has their bi annual show on Saturday 17th November 2018. All welcome.
- Ellesmere Port FC Christmas show 21st November 2018 Katherine Keer.
- 'Cheshire List' apply to Sally@point.uk.com
- New Brighton Flower arrangement Society has a YouTube channel and all were encouraged to subscribe to it.

Meeting finished at 11:45am

Date of Next Council Meeting: Monday 4 February 2019

10am Coffee/tea Meeting 10:30am

Plumley

Signed.....

Dated.....