

***Club Representatives Forum, 24th July 2025, 11 am
The Five Villages Hall, Station Rd,
Backford, Chester CH1 6NT***

1. Opening remarks

Tracy-Anne Clancy (TAC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Chester Flower Club for hosting us. She introduced the Flower Clubs of Cheshire team and explained their rôles. The welcome flowers were arranged by Diane Fair and will be raffled at the end of the meeting.

2. Apologies, minutes of previous meeting & correspondence

Present were: Tracey-Anne Clancy, Janet Schofield and Jean Jones, Flower Clubs of Cheshire Chairman's office; Vanessa Lees Flower Clubs of Cheshire Secretary, Judges' representative Pam Fleming-Williams, Demonstrators' representative Beryl Cotton, Education representative Pam Mosedale, and Young Persons' representative Judy Gratton.

Representatives from the following Clubs attended: Ashton Hayes and Tarvin Flower Club, Chester Flower Club, Disley and district Flower Club, Eddisbury and Sandiway Flower Club, Goostrey Flower Club, Hale Barns Flower Club, Handbridge Flower Club, Holt Flower Club, Hoylake Flower Club, Knutsford Floral Design Club, Lymm Floral Art Group, Neston Flower Society, Nether Alderley Flower Club, New Brighton Flower Arrangement Society, Rural Chester Flower Club, Sale Flower Club, Stockport Afternoon Flower Club, Tarporley Flower Club, Upton-by-Chester Flower Club, Wilmslow Guild Floral Design Club, Wirral Flower Club, and Wistaston and district Flower Club.

Apologies were received from *The Flower Arranger* officer Catherine Bower, and from from the following Clubs: Elworth Flower Club, Heald Green Flower Club, Leek Floral Art Society, Mid-Cheshire Flower Club, and Winwick Flower Club.

The minutes from the April meeting had been circulated and there were no amendments. TAC signed them as a true record.

A number of cards and emails have been received by Flower Clubs of Cheshire to thank the committee for their efforts in arranging the recent events celebrating our 55th Anniversary. Other correspondence is listed in appendices and will be covered later in the meeting.

3. Updates from the Chairman's Office

Administrative Update – Tracy-Anne Clancy (TAC)

It's all go! Since our last meeting, we have celebrated a Club Platinum Anniversary (Nether Alderley) and two Club Diamond Anniversaries (Prestbury and New Brighton) – congratulations to you all. Cheshire members were successful at Harrogate Spring Show, the designs were shown on Facebook and in our May newsletter. The British Iris Society late spring show was held at Plumley, thank you to Beryl for being our Flower Clubs of Cheshire ambassador for the event and for demonstrating designs using iris. We have received lovely feedback from the Society. Knutsford Floral Design Club were also present at the event and successful in the competitive class. Competitors showcased their creative floral design talents in the 'Theatre of Flowers' at the Royal Cheshire County Show, where we promoted National Flower Arranging Day. We also enjoyed a fabulous 'Cheshire Summer Celebration' at Abbeywood. The very popular event was a celebration of 55 years of 'Cheshire' and we enjoyed watching six demonstrations (one for each decade) by six of our Cheshire demonstrators. The table flowers were grown in Cheshire and our Cheshire venue

provided a delicious afternoon tea. Cheshire Life visited us at both Abbeywood and the Cheshire Show for a photo-shoot, as we celebrate 55 years of 'Cheshire'. We should all feel incredibly proud to belong to *Flower Clubs of Cheshire*.

The Nantwich Show in the floral marquee will be another opportunity to compete and to promote Flower Clubs of Cheshire, on 30th July. This floral competition is being managed by Judy Gratton, from Wistaston Flower Club and Nantwich Flower Club.

Finally, we do need to start thinking about succession planning for the Leadership Team, and the nominations forms will be distributed at the July meeting – the AGM will be upon us before we know it. Tickets are on sale now for the AGM demonstration. There is a competition running alongside the AGM for members to enter, the schedule for which will be available soon.

Happy arranging everyone – enjoy your flowers.

Pastoral Update – Jean Jones

Jean has visited a few more clubs and has had the opportunity to promote the work of NAFAS at area and National level.

Jean told the meeting that Angela McDevitt from Neston has recently died and Flower Clubs of Cheshire have sent a card.

National Liaison Update – Janet Schofield

NAC April 22nd via zoom

The minutes have not yet been published so this is my brief summary of the salient points:

National Flower Arranging Day Friday, 20th June 2025 – see area newsletter for details.

CEO Recruitment process: Steven Lane retires in November. A recruitment agency has been selected with the plan to have a replacement in place by October.

Standing Orders: Flower Clubs of Cheshire have signed in agreement to the changes which were amended slightly at the January NAC.

2026 National Affiliation Fees

In the April NAC report, previously circulated, NAFAS announced that from December 2026, National affiliation fees would be increased to £10. Following the heated debate at the April NAC, NAFAS issued a summary of how your affiliation fees are spent and this document was circulated with the Club Representatives Forum report booklet¹. I will not be answering questions about affiliation fees, nor will we having a discussion about them because at the NAC on July 22nd Steven Lane presented a slide show on the subject. (This will not be circulated because it contains little of substance.) I have no intention of fuelling any further speculative debate.

In summary, the slides said:

- ② Since the announcement head office have been inundated with correspondence and telephone calls, some of which were abusive to staff and Trustees. This is unacceptable and I sincerely hope that none of it came from any members of Flower Clubs of Cheshire.
- ② NAFAS are proposing a full review of the Affiliation and Membership structure with the 21 areas and will be investing in a new structure that will benefit all.
- ② Issues with the current structure and aims of the new were addressed.
- ② A meeting will be held on November 10th, including all Area chairmen, to agree the new membership structure and fees. It is likely to involve club affiliation fees and individual membership.
- ② The 2026 Affiliation fees increase to £10 is **now on hold**.

¹Supplied separately, not in the minutes.

Janet told the meeting that although she is due to step down from her rôle as National Liaison representative at the AGM she will remain in post, if it is the will of the meeting, to see these matters through. This was welcomed by a round of applause. Janet will now make plans to attend the meeting in Leamington Spa in November, possibly with a shadow representative.

Other NAC news:

1. Elected Trustees. No nominations have been received. The Board will now attempt to recruit. If you are able, please consider putting yourself forward. Details can be found on the NAFAS website.
2. National AOH. Nominations have been received and a committee will review the nominees against the new points system and any appointees will be announced at the AGM in October.
3. National Flower Arranging Day 2026. There will be a Club opening initiative for this to be held on June 19th. Publicity material for the event will be funded by NAFAS. More information was requested by delegates at the Zoom meeting.
4. National Show 2027. Two venues have been visited for consideration and the decision made by the board, is that the show will take place in the Lincoln show ground, week commencing July 5th. Some venues were discounted due to high costs.
5. National Judges test results. My questions about this were noted and will be addressed. Prospective judges do not have the benefit of the mock tests and pre-assessments which the demonstrators have. Training takes two years, and is expensive. Judging is not lucrative and could be described as an expensive hobby. Necessary costs cannot be offset by selling tickets. HQ proposes to support candidates in order to encourage more people to come forward as judges and demonstrators. My proposal to fund the National Judges tests differently will be discussed in November: I will send my questions with a proposal to Alan Beatty (national judges' committee chairman) and Nicky Wylie (NAFAS chairman).
6. Lloyds Bank charges. Lloyd's bank are tightening up on free bank accounts. Members should to contact Vanessa Keys at HQ to get details of how to remain free of banking charges – NAFAS is a charity and as such Clubs are eligible for free banking.
7. The President's event is in Armagh August 18th – 20th 2026. Email events@nafas.org.uk to register your interest.
8. NAFAS AGM. This will be a webinar, so that it is live, and questions can be asked. A face to face meeting was considered expensive and therefore unattractive.
9. Gloucester National Show, September 19th, 20th 2025. Please promote this at your club and on your social media accounts – I am delighted that we have 13 Cheshire competitors, please support them. Tickets are available online from the NAFAS website.
10. *The Flower Arranger*. The CEO has reported that the budget deficit by *The Flower Arranger* is a cause for concern – please encourage all club members to subscribe to our NAFAS magazine.

11. Harrogate show

I helped out on the NAFAS stand at the show and acquired some of the new greetings cards and jigsaws which will be available to buy at our Club reps meeting in July.

Buddy group meeting via Zoom 30th June

I attended my buddy group Zoom with trustee Paula McLinden who has taken over from Mala Williams. There was some heated debate from me and my fellow area chairs with regard to our disappointment with NAFAS not moving forward, as well as about the recent National Judges test where only two of the 15 candidates passed. I raised this along with questions regarding long term future planning and lack of strategy at the NAC on July 22nd 2025.

Club member Information – Please could every club take part?

I would like each club to carry out a simple poll at your next meeting so we can feed back information to NAFAS about what our members actually do with regard to flower arranging. We know that the vast majority of our members simply enjoy watching flower arranging demonstrations but don't have accurate numbers to back this up. Please ask your members the following questions:

1. How many members are present at your meeting?

By a showing of hands:

In the last twelve months

2. How many have bought flowers for themselves/their home?
3. How many arranged these flowers (rather than simply putting in a vase)?
4. How many have bought flowers as a gift?
5. How many arranged these flowers (rather than giving as purchased)?
6. How many arrange Church flowers?
7. How many members have attended a club workshop?
8. How many members have attended an Area workshop?
9. How many members have attended any other flower related workshop?
10. How many have been to a demonstration outside of their own club?
11. How many members have competed at club level?
12. How many members have competed at Area level?
13. How many members have competed elsewhere?
14. How many members have arranged flowers for a flower festival?

Please send responses to secretary@nafascheshire.org.uk by end of September. If you are unable to collect the information for any reason please let us know.

These questions were asked of the Club Representatives at the meeting²:

Q1.	45 representatives attending
Q2.	100%
Q3.	70%
Q4.	73%
Q5.	73%
Q6.	31%
Q7.	93%
Q8.	29%
Q9.	40%
Q10.	87%
Q11.	27%
Q12.	13%
Q13.	16%
Q14.	27%

Competitor Support Group

We have 13 members competing at the National Show, several of whom are doing more than one class! I have set up a WhatsApp support group for the competitors and will be doing a virtual tour of the cathedral for them via Zoom.

Flower Clubs of Cheshire will continue to honour the more-than-one-club rule, whereby members only pay the National levy once. Going forward, this will be addressed by HQ because there is a strong feeling nationally that the current situation should not prevail in the long term.

4. Area Secretary's Report – Vanessa Lees

It is now time to seriously think about the succession planning for our Leadership Team for October, 2025 and beyond. Nominations to fill vacancies at the October AGM will be open from July, 2025. All clubs are encouraged to think carefully about taking Flower Clubs of Cheshire and the Theatre of Flowers forward beyond 2025 to enable us to build on the progress already made.

Code of Practice – this is available to download from the NAFAS website:

<https://www.nafas.org.uk/about-us/nafas-documents/>

Most clubs look after and work with our lovely demonstrators, abiding by the Code of Practice. If your Programme Secretary does not have a copy of this, it's worth just reminding him/her of the guidelines we have to ensure everything runs smoothly at our demonstrations.

Safeguarding The Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults is now published on the Flower Clubs of Cheshire website. Many clubs are now acting to adopt this policy for their own clubs.

The drop-in Safeguarding support session on 9th June was well attended by 15 club representatives – thank you all for giving up your time to attend. Clubs are taking this seriously and let us hope that having raised awareness, we are rarely called upon to make use of our policy. If the need does arise, all clubs should now be able to deal with a situation at their club.

One club has requested a Safeguarding poster to display on their club notice board. This is now available. Please contact me if you would like to use it for your own club noticeboard. I will also make it available for download on our Area website.

²Figures as supplied to me by TAC.

A Safeguarding Children Policy is now agreed by the Leadership Team³. Thank you to Anne Walton and Jean Jones for your huge support in getting this put together. Whilst most clubs will probably not need to adopt a specific policy for children, it is worth pointing out that where a club is involved in occasional activities where children take part, or where a club member helps at an Area event where children are taking part, e.g. the children's 'hands on' at the Royal Cheshire County Show, there is a part of the policy which highlights how adults can ensure that they do not place themselves in a vulnerable situation with a child. It is also worth reminding ourselves about the guidelines around using photographs of children on social media. Your club may not feel a need to adopt a Safeguarding of Children policy, but it is worth your committee being aware so that if the need arises, your club members can be advised accordingly.

Proposal: to adopt the Safeguarding of Children Policy for Flower Clubs of Cheshire.⁴

Unanimously passed.

A data protection policy will be the next policy available to Clubs: data protection is important and is covered by law.

Please give the leadership team feed-back about the venues for club representatives meetings; new venues are welcome.

Please encourage individuals to sign-up for Flower Clubs of Cheshire newsletter.
newsletter@cheshirenafas.org.uk

A request has been received to talk about First Aider training for clubs⁵.

A response from Nicky Wylie has been received in answer to the open letter sent by our members to NAFAS HQ⁶.

A helpful document has been received from North Midlands Area entitled 'Saving our Clubs and Building Committees'⁷.

A letter from NAFAS has been received detailing the proposed rise in affiliation fees, and the rationale behind the decision⁸.

5. Area Treasurer's Report – Tracy-Anne Clancy

Our financial year runs from 1st August to 31st July.

Financial Overview

Barclays Bank balances as at 26th June were as follows:

Current Account	£5,799 ⁹
Savings Account	£23,220
JDS&E Account	£7,102

³Policy supplied separately, not in the minutes.

⁴Proposal 1.

⁵Section 6.iii, part 4

⁶Appendix 1

⁷Appendix 2

⁸Supplied separately, not in the minutes.

⁹ Includes £2,825 income in respect of Social Event @ Abbeywood but accruals and unbanked cash and cheques totals £2,164.

The Flower Arranger Account £4,429¹⁰

Budget 2024/25

Our budget for 2024/25 is based on the income received from affiliation fees. The actual expenditure incurred to date vs budget is presented below:

	2024	Budget	Actual (to date)
	£	£	£
Facility Costs (website, storage, licences)	3,954	3,500	3,084
Publicity & Promotions	1,273	1,000	670 ¹¹
Cheshire Area Show	2,496	2,300	1,969 ¹²
Meetings	1,553	1,000	749
Other		499	80
Total	9,276	8,299	6,552

[**Note:** Since the start of the financial year, we have received £484 in interest earned on our Savings Account which is not included in the budget.]

Events must either break-even or realise a surplus. The Flower Clubs of Cheshire social at Abbeywood made a very small profit.

National Flower Arranging Day¹³

National Flower Arranging day was Friday 20th June. As agreed at the last Leadership Team meeting, National Flower Arranging Day was promoted in the 'Theatre of Flowers' at the Royal Cheshire County Show. A leaflet was designed and 500 printed at a cost of £130. The competition attracted 15 entries and the winner was a lady from Croft, Cheshire, who had picked up a leaflet at the Royal Cheshire County Show and, inspired by the designs in the 'Theatre of Flowers' picked flowers from her garden and arranged them in a charity shop jug. She is going to treat herself to a flower bouquet from M&S with her £25 prize money and will enjoy arranging those too! Our Instagram account now has over 120 followers, including businesses in Melbourne Australia and South Africa!

The publicity installation in the 'Theatre of Flowers' was designed and created by Romiley and Stockport Flower Clubs and depicted 'Wicked', complete with an Emerald Green City in celebration of our Emerald Anniversary. The cost was £540. The flowers were then re-used on the 20th June to create two placements in 'The Stockroom', a new community hub in Stockport, providing us with another promotional opportunity as we celebrated National Flower Arranging Day.

The Area budget assumes £25 per Club (£850), to be spent on promoting the art of flower arranging and Cheshire Flower Clubs. It was agreed at the January Forum, that this will still be available for Clubs to claim, if they can provide photographic evidence of something the Club has done to promote our organisation.

¹⁰ Payments still to be made for Autumn & Winter (circa £2,500).

¹¹ National Flower Arranger Day

¹² Expenses outstanding

¹³ Included within Publicity & Promotions in the budget

Cheshire Area Show

The total cost of the Area Show was £4,940, which excludes the cost of the marquee. We are incredibly grateful to the Cheshire Agricultural Society for all their financial support. We were also able to sell off the designs after the demonstrations which raised £450 for us. The net cost to Flower Clubs of Cheshire for 2025 was £1,969, which includes all out-of-pocket expenses for the show team volunteers, cost of demonstrations, marquee entrance flowers, sundries plus tea and biscuits for all competitors!

Oversight

Please be advised that Judy Gratton has sight of the bank statements and accounts each month to ensure an independent review. Judy has confirmed in writing that she has seen the statements and accounts to date.

6. Representatives' Reports

6.i Judges Report – Pam Fleming-Williams

At time of writing, I have only had three people reply to the call out for judges' training, despite having contacted North East, North West, Midlands and Mercia, as well as the information going on the Judges' representatives WhatsApp group. Two members of Handbridge club have indicated that they are interested as well as one other person. I did have another push at the end of May. By the time of the meeting the number interested has risen to seven. We will need to discuss whether to go ahead with the Judges training at the end of July.

Pam spoke warmly about the enjoyment she has had from judging and encouraged people to take part. It is a lovely way of meeting people and travelling to shows.

6.ii Demonstrators Report – Beryl Cotton

Area Report

Very little to report on the Area front for demonstrators. I pay tribute to all the demonstrators who have been taking good care of their flowers for their performances during this heatwave. It is not an easy task travelling and keeping them in pristine condition, along with foliage which is still slightly tender. My door is always open to chat, help, or advise any demonstrator on the Cheshire list. They only have to make contact if they have any queries. It is also good to see our newly qualified Area Demonstrators out and about gaining experience. A Demonstrators Refresher Day will be hopefully planned for early 2026.

The hot topic currently is Public Liability Insurance. All Demonstrators would be well advised to take out their own insurance whether National or Area. Some Areas of NAFAS are reporting that their Club Insurance does not cover the demonstrator or anyone they are paying to perform. I would stress, it is entirely up to the individual demonstrator who should speak with their insurance broker for the best advice.

Aston Hayes and Tarvin asked if the Flower Clubs of Cheshire insurance covered speakers and demonstrators? Beryl stressed that **all** demonstrators need public liability insurance. Demonstrators should not assume that the Club is covered. The Hall insurance mayn't cover the demonstrator because they are legally an employee. The demonstrator should take their insurance document with them. Sadly, insurance companies may try to edge out of paying. The best practice is to protect yourself always!

Important to do the risk assessment at the start of the meeting and document that it has been done.

Point of clarification from the Chair: Flower Clubs of Cheshire does not sell insurance. TAC buys it for the Area and Clubs make a contribution to the over-all cost of it.

National Report

The next National Demonstrators committee meeting will be held at the end of June followed by an Adjudicators and Instructors Day. A budget has been submitted to the Board for the next Pre-National assessments and National tests and the dates will be announced very soon.

On a personal note, Beryl said she was honoured to be invited to demonstrate at the British Iris Society Show at Plumley Village Hall in April 2025 to promote Flower Clubs of Cheshire and NAFAS. This was a new venture as the show usually takes place at Wisley. Several local organisations had been invited to promote themselves and network. A letter of thanks and appreciation from the BIS was much appreciated.

6.iii Education Report – Pam Mosedale

1. Members' Workshop with Julie Pearson on Sunday 11th May at Tarvin (Wood, Wire and Wool)

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.

11 members attended, and everyone benefitted from Julie's breadth and depth of knowledge of floral design. The sounds of cordless drills added a new dimension to the workshop and some attendees will be purchasing their own soon.

A few comments about the day: *Thoroughly enjoyed the day. Challenging, but own thoughts evolved. For the first time ever, Julie progressed your own designs which was brilliant. Excellent workshop.*

2. Masterclass – details to be confirmed

This is still work in progress. A number of floral designers have been contacted; however, fees and associated expenses are rather high – circa £1,200 plus per day. The members' fee would be approx. £60 per person plus cost of various materials and flowers. Is that too expensive?

Teacher, location	Fees, mileage and costs	Hall hire etc.	Approx. cost of event	Approx. cost per person ¹⁴
Helen Hare – Kent	£750	£160	£850	£45
Morgan Douglas Nuth – Ascot	£920	£160	£1,080	£54
Joseph Massie – Bolton	£1,150	£160	£1,310	£65
Laura Leong – Stirling	£945	£160	£1,105	£56
David Ragg – Bournemouth (no reply)	x	x	x	x
Neil Whittaker – Irlam (no reply)	x	x	x	x

The following International Teachers/Demonstrators/Master Florists have been recommended but not contacted so far:

- ② Geertje Stienstra – Netherlands
- ② Rob Plattel – Netherlands
- ② Moniek Vanden Berghe – Belgium

Furthermore, working with Flower Clubs of Mercia & North Wales' Stimulus Design Group to reduce travel costs of demonstrators and teachers has proved frustrating.

Proposal

We have a wealth of talent and experience in Cheshire, many of whom have won prestigious awards at RHS and NAFAS National competitions. Perhaps some of our creative floral designers would like to share their experiences? A real *Masterclass of Cheshire Talent* supporting our future talent pipeline? Plumley has provisionally been booked for Sunday 2nd November 2025. This will be part demonstration but also hands-on, and a forum to encourage entry in the Area Show.

3. Education Day with Vanessa Wellock on Sunday 19th October at Frodsham

Vanessa Wellock, National Demonstrator and National Teacher, will be leading our Education Day on Sunday 19th October. Vanessa will be sharing her knowledge of leaf manipulation and wiring techniques. She will also be inspiring workshop leaders and teachers with some new Christmas designs to share with their students.

This event is open to all members, not just teachers.

¹⁴Based on 20 attendees

4. 'Elements, principles and what the Judge is looking for' with Jackie Charnock in 2026

Jackie and Tarvin have been booked for another Elements and Principles workshop on Sunday 8th March 2026.

Thank you for the feedback participants provided after the 2025 workshop. It was appreciated by Jackie and she will be incorporating your suggestions into future workshops. She will also include a session on what a NAFAS judge is looking for in a design.

5. Emergency First Aid Training

Part of our Safeguarding and Health & Safety responsibilities to members, include an awareness of emergency first aid. Clubs do not require a fully qualified first aider, however an awareness of emergency first aid is desirable. Emergency first aid is the immediate care you provide to someone who is injured or unwell, aiming to preserve life and prevent further harm. This can include essential skills like CPR, wound care, and the Heimlich manoeuvre.

There are lots of providers of this type of training – some of which are free. Flower Clubs of Cheshire does not propose arranging anything.

There are many free online first aid training courses for example:

1. **Basic online first aid training** – just need to register for free [Free Online First Aid Courses – First Aid for Free](#)
2. **Reeds** – almost free first aid online course [First Aid Courses & Training | reed.co.uk](#)
3. **BBC Bite-size** – short films for schools covering various subjects [Dr Emeka's Essential First Aid – BBC Teach](#)
4. **Save an Adult Life (Heart start)** – free. Three hours of free training held at Safety Central next to the Fire Station at Lymm Services. Book through Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/save-an-adult-life-heartstart-at-safety-central>

[Discover First Aid Training Events & Activities in Warrington, United Kingdom | Eventbrite](#)

From their website:

Safety Central is the venue for our fab and free essential first aid course. We'll start at 6.45pm with a tour of 'Safety Central', then at 7.30pm sharp the course will commence. You'll learn how to deal with common, life threatening events, and at the end, can access an online certificate to prove your training.

5. British Red Cross

Free workshop for adults, online and face to face, giving 90 minutes of tuition. For individuals or groups of between five to 15 people. (Very limited availability in Cheshire.)

[Face to face workshop session bookings | British Red Cross](#)

[First aid workshop for adults | British Red Cross](#)

[Adult First Aid course | Red Cross Training](#)

Adult first aid training – 4 hours of face to face training.

These public events are held in Salford from 10am – 2.30pm on a Saturday and cost £54 per person; there don't appear to be any events in Cheshire.

First Aid for all ages – 2 hours of Face to face training

A course could be provided specifically for Flower Clubs of Cheshire. The course will accommodate up to 12 people at a cost of £420. This would be approx. £40 per person – course fees, associated hall hire etc.

6. St John Ambulance

There don't appear to be any courses available for community groups and individuals. They offer Emergency First Aid training. A one day course, at Level 2, delivered in Warrington at a cost of £234 per person.

Community Safety Programme

Finally, a possible club visit to **Safety Central**, next to Fire Station at Lymm Services – Community Safety Programme organised by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

A free 2.5 hour face to face event featuring:

- ❑ Fire safety
- ❑ Home safety
- ❑ Inline safety
- ❑ Street safety

For more information, visit their website: [Community safety programme – Safety Central](#)

6. NAFAS Education Committee & Education Reps

A Zoom meeting took place on Wednesday 11th June and below are some of the meeting notes:

New Flower Arranging Courses – Content & Structure

The meeting started with Jane Rickard updating the Education Representatives on the progress of the new courses which they hope to make available in the Autumn.

In direct response to our NAFAS National Tutors, Education Representatives, 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 practicals 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.

7. A new National Teacher in Cheshire

I am delighted to inform you that Jacqui Owen has been approved by the National Education Committee to become a National Teacher. The national website and national book will be updated shortly with her contact details. They are as follows:

 **Email:** hello@jacquio.co.uk

Mobile: 07540 441 112

 **Website:** www.jacquio.co.uk

 **Instagram:** [jacquioflorals](https://www.instagram.com/jacquioflorals)

 **Facebook:** [JacquiO](https://www.facebook.com/JacquiO)

Pam Mosedale, Education Representative, 07876 176501

6.iv Young Persons' Representative Report – Judy Gratton

Plans are progressing for Nantwich Show to be held on Wednesday 30th July 2025. I have started to complete sessions for the children's competition which is titled *Land Art*, taking inspiration from Andy Goldsworthy. This year children will have an opportunity to make a foam free arrangement in the Floral Art marquee, together with crafting and making seed bombs.

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

7. Events / Publicity Update

7.i Flower Arranger Magazine – Catherine Bower

Flower Arranger delivery and updates

Autumn Edition due to be delivered within 5 days of 10th July. Please let me have changes to the Winter edition order by 16th August.

Dates

Autumn edition	club order 17 May	delivery 10 July
Winter edition	club order 16 August	delivery 9 October

2026 club subscription rate will be £17 for 4 editions. I do not have date when Area has to forward orders to HQ, but this will be communicated as soon as possible, I expect it will be early November. I have a draft 2026 Order form, dates and cover letter, which I have forwarded to the Area Secretary.

Accounts are exchanged with treasurer to confirm that the BACS payments are correct.

After 12 years co-ordinating orders for Cheshire clubs, I have notified Tracy-Anne of my intention to step down from role as Area Flower Arranger officer (AFAo). This will be from October's Area AGM, though I have offered to manage to 2025 Winter edition. Contact to Area Flower Arranger officer will remain via: flower.arranger@nafascheshire.org.uk or via website contact button. This email will transfer to the new AGAo.

7.ii Royal Cheshire County Show – 'Theatre of Flowers' – TAC for Carol Baker and Sylvia Bower

What a fabulous display of flower arranging talent in the 'Theatre of Flowers' at the Royal Cheshire County Show! There were 67 entries in total across 12 classes, and the standard was of an exceptionally high standard. 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 1 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. Photographs of the event were also published on Facebook and Instagram. This year's judges were Jackie Charnock and Donald Morgan.

Visitors to the Theatre of Flowers were able to enjoy live demonstrations thanks to our demonstrators this year: Julie Pearson, Debbie Davies, Eleanor Griffiths and Jane Tully. Well done ladies.

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!

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, making the footfall about 4,000.

Visitors into the 'Theatre of Flowers' marquee included the Patroness of the Cheshire Agriculture Society, (CAS) the President and Chairman of CAS and their wives, Lady Alexis Redmond, Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, with Sir Phil Redmond, Esther McVey (MP for Tatton), Cheshire Life photographer (watch this space) plus lots of really lovely children, brownies, dogs, and members of the public.

Huge thanks and congratulations are owed to the Show Team for organising the Area Competition and for working incredibly hard to ensure everything ran smoothly and that it was a most successful show. The team for 2025 was; Carol Baker and Sylvia Bower (Show Chairmen), Ann Shevlin (Competition Secretary), Tracy-Anne Clancy (Show Treasurer), Maureen Hernon (Show Secretary & Head of Stewarding), Ruth Cattrell (Children's Hands On Team), Jenny Williams (Presidents' Marquee Table Flowers & Arrangements), Mike Shevlin (Marquee Set up and Design Sales), Jing Wang (All Areas Support). Both Carol and Sylvia are now stepping down as Show Chairmen, and Maureen and Jenny are leaving the committee. Thank you so much for your commitment and hard work over the years, to ensure the show ran so smoothly.

A huge thank you also to our volunteer stewards – we couldn't do this without your support. Looking forward to 2026, we are still hopeful for some more volunteers to join the team, to ensure we have a show next year. Thank you to those who have already come forward.

7.iii Website & Social Media – Tracy-Anne Clancy

- 📷 Huge thank you to Pam Mosedale for getting up at the crack of dawn on 18th June to take all the photographs of the competitive entries in the 'Theatre of Flowers' at the Royal

Cheshire County Show. The quality is outstanding and made Mike's job a lot easier to upload onto the website.

- The exhibits and prize winners can be seen on the website www.nafascheshire.org.uk.
- ② The website continues to be updated with all the Club programmes for 2025. Please make sure all new information is sent to our website manager Mike Gallagher. We are very grateful to Mike Gallagher for all his hard work and continued support.
- ② Flower School of Cheshire is now a 'menu option' with an opportunity for us to clearly offer and advertise classes for all abilities. Clubs and individuals are now sharing details of their classes to be publicised on the website.
- ② Our Instagram page is **flowerclubsofcheshire**. Our Instagram competition in support of National Flower Arranging Day was well supported and achieved our aim of increasing our following. We now have 120 followers, the majority being outside of Cheshire. The winner had visited the Cheshire Show and inspired by the exhibits in the 'Theatre of Flowers' had a go with flowers from her garden and a charity shop jug.
- ② Flower Clubs of Cheshire Facebook page is very active – please keep sharing.

7.iv AGM – Tracy-Anne Clancy

The demonstrator for the **AGM on 2nd October 2025** is Nick Grounds from Cambridgeshire, title: 'Glorious Green'. The format and timings for the AGM etc. will be as for previous years with all the details and how to apply for tickets are in the poster. As we are celebrating our Emerald AGM, we will be holding an 'Emerald' competition – the title and competition details are still being finalised at the time of writing – for all abilities, in the small hall next to the kitchen. This gives our competitors and judges an opportunity to participate at the AGM. There will be a small trading area at the back of the main hall.

7.v Newsletter – Tracy-Anne Clancy

The June newsletter has been issued, and the July newsletter will be out soon. The editor apologised for the lateness of the circulation.

Any Club with information about events to share across the Area can be sent to treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk for inclusion. Please forward the newsletter on to all Club members.

8. Cluster Updates

Peony – Elworth, Leek, Macclesfield, Nether Alderley, South Cheshire, Wistaston.

Iris – Ashton Hayes & Tarvin, Chester, Eddisbury & Sandiway, Frodsham, Handbridge, Holt, Mid Cheshire, Rural Chester, Tarporley, Widnes, Winwick.

Lily – Handbridge, Hoyle, Neston, New Brighton, Upton-by-Chester, Wirral.

Rose – Goostrey, Hale Barns, Heald Green, Knutsford, Lymm, Sale.

Sunflower – Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme, Bramall Hall, Disley, Prestbury, Romiley, Stockport Afternoon, Wilmslow Guild.

Peony Cluster – Jean Jones

A meeting is planned, date to be confirmed later today.

Iris Cluster – Anne Walton

All clubs are busy and have been hosting some excellent demonstrators. Several clubs continue to celebrate anniversary years with special events for their members. Tarporley mentioned that people pick and choose Clubs and don't become members. Representatives were quite shocked that there are people not prepared to join.

Lily Cluster – Colette Dunkley

Hoyle have an October competition, novice and open sections, 21st October.

Rose Cluster – Tracy-Anne Clancy

The Rose Cluster will also be supporting the two events organised by Knutsford Floral Design Club in October. Joachim Erema will be demonstrating and tutoring at a workshop to be held in Chelford Village Hall.

Clare Downing, from Goostrey Flower Club, helped to organise a Flower Festival at Great Budworth church in July, to raise funds for the restoration of the church.

Sunflower Cluster – David Mason

Too busy creating *Wicked* @ the SHOW! Meeting pending.

9. Proposals

Proposal 1: Adoption of Safeguarding of Children Policy

Proposal 2: See section 6.iii, part 2 regarding an Area Masterclass, not yet a formal proposal.

10. AOB

A booklet entitled “55 Years of Cheshire” is being compiled and will document the key events which took place each year since November 1970. It will include the names of our Presidents, Chairmen, Officers and Area Associates of Honour along with the events and achievements in each year. If there are any events you feel should be included, we will have a quick post-it note session after the meeting or your suggestions can be emailed to treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk

The Area Treasurer will also do a short presentation for anyone who would like to gain a better understanding of Club budgets and setting subscriptions after the meeting.

Holt club requested a “Real basics” course. A recent event was held at Lymm by Joan Wilkinson and Dorothy Monks and they are happy to repeat this elsewhere. There are many classes in Cheshire which may have spaces, please refer to the website and newsletter.

Diane Fair said that there are spaces on the Sri Lanka trip from 2nd – 13th March, 2026.

If a Club is running a coach to Gloucester please send details to TAC for inclusion in the newsletter.

In response to a question about well-dressing, we learned that Scunthorpe has a good deal of experience.

The meeting closed at 12:51pm.

Date of next Club Representatives Forum: Thursday, 4th December at Plumley Village Hall

Signed.....

Date.....

**FLOWER CLUBS OF CHESHIRE
PROPOSAL FORM**

Name and Club
Jean Jones Pastoral Chairman, Vanessa Lees Area Secretary
Contact email (<i>this is to enable us to send you a response to your proposal</i>)
secretary@nafascheshire.org.uk pastoral@nafascheshire.org.uk
Contact telephone/mobile number (<i>this is in case we need to clarify any details</i>)
07729 000289 / 07795555492
Outline of your proposal: Adoption of Safeguarding of Children Policy
<p>We propose that The Flower Clubs of Cheshire accept the Safeguarding of Children Policy presented for approval as a working document for all Area officers to adhere to for all of their activities associated with Flower Clubs of Cheshire as required.</p> <p>We also propose that this policy be made available to all clubs who work with children and do not already have a Safeguarding of Children Policy to adopt as their own by adding club name and names of designated safeguarding leads. This document is relevant for working with children and young people.</p>
Draft budget
No cost should be incurred for the roll out of the Safeguarding of Children Policy as this can be done via email and website.
How does your proposal encourage new members to our Association or encourage our present membership to participate?
Existing and new members will be made aware that clubs have this policy in place and that matters of safeguarding are important to all clubs. This should reassure members, visitors and potential young members that they will be treated with respect and care.
How does this proposal demonstrate adherence to the NAFAS Values?
1.Promote NAFAS and particularly, Flower Clubs of Cheshire as a caring and safe organisation.
2.Aid mental and social wellbeing through awareness of safeguarding concerns.
Any other information
CAN TEAM Agreed/Not Agreed (<i>with reasons</i>)
Agreed.
This proposal to be ratified by whole membership at next CRF on 24th July, 2025.
Decision sent to Club/ Individual on (<i>date</i>) 30/06/2025

Appendix 1.

From: Chairman <Chairman@nafas.org.uk>

Date: 13 May 2025 at 18:27:03 EEST

To: tracyanneclancy@hotmail.com

Subject: Response to your letter

Dear Tracy Anne, Janet, Louise and Flower Clubs of Cheshire

Thank you for your letter and for taking the time to share the considered views of the Flower Clubs of Cheshire regarding the future direction of NAFAS, particularly in light of Steven Lane's upcoming retirement and other developments at Head Office.

We appreciate the thoughtful contributions and the evident commitment of your membership to the continued success of the Association. The suggestions regarding staffing, strategic review, and potential relocation were noted and have been discussed at Board level.

At this stage, we do not believe the proposed changes—particularly those involving a significant restructuring of roles or the relocation of Head Office—would be appropriate or beneficial. While we recognise the importance of adapting to meet future challenges, we feel that the current structure remains fit for purpose, and we are focused on strengthening it through ongoing internal improvements and enhanced operational support.

That said, we fully agree on the importance of raising the public profile of NAFAS and enhancing our visibility through improved marketing, social media, and digital outreach. This remains a key area of focus, and we welcome continued input from Areas and Clubs on how best to strengthen this effort. We are currently in the process of recruiting a dedicated individual to lead and support this work.

Please be assured that your feedback has been taken seriously and will continue to inform our ongoing planning. We value your engagement and your support for the future of NAFAS.

Kind regards
Nicky Wylie
National Chairman
NAFAS

Appendix 2. From North Midlands Area of NAFAS

Feedback on the discussion at the March Council Meeting 15th March 2025

Saving Our Clubs and Building Committees

- 1 How long has everyone been on their club committee?
- 2 Long serving committee members seem to be a norm (the longest serving was 60 years) but is this a good thing? – Is it better to have movement or change of roles? Movement brings new ideas.
- 3 Look at the club's constitution –does it need updating? This can be changed at any time by calling an Extra Ordinary Meeting which could be at the beginning of a club night.
- 4 New chairperson every two/three years brings new ideas.
- 5 Committee needs to be active and not static doing same old things each year.

2. When was the last time someone new came on to the committee?

- Some clubs have new committee members – this works by encouraging the members to help at events – getting to know the committee and how working as a team is fun.
- It is difficult to get new members on the committee without recycling people who have served before.
- Newer club members don't always want to make long term commitments.

3. Is Succession Planning included on your club committee agenda?

- What is succession planning? The Area team has succession planning on the Team meeting agendas. Succession planning is taking stock of the club, where it is currently and where it is going. Succession planning understands the objectives of the club. Understanding succession planning removes the personal. The committee roles are there to serve the club's objectives rather than having a figure head.
- Why is there resistance to change? Is it the reluctance of committee members to step down or lack of members to step up to take on committee roles?
- Whilst succession planning might not be an agenda item for committee meeting some clubs do change chairmen (2 – 3 years as per constitution) on a regular basis at the AGM. Requests for nominations for new committee members are on the AGM notice letters.
- Committees do not have to be personal friends, it just needs enthusiasm and commitment. Discussion is healthy and change is good.
- No forward planning for retirements or bringing new people to committee. This needs to be a regular item on the committee meeting agenda. There must not be a resistance to change to keep the club going forward.

4. Are retirements from the Committee planned so that not everyone retires together?

- The only planned retirements might be the change of Chairman. Some past chairmen are staying on the committee under new roles due to the lack of interest in gaining new committee members.
- Review the committee – why aren't members coming forward to join the committee.
- When an officer retires or resigns then the role is usually taken on by an existing committee member.

5. How do you get new people involved with committee work?

- By asking for help at club night and social events or flower shows.
- Helpers' board circulated at club nights.
- Consider changing the label of committee to Team.
- Mentoring and nurturing people to join committee and take on roles.
- Give members jobs on club nights or at events.
- Regular volunteers.

5a Do you really want new people on the committee who might not agree with you?

- Take away the personal. Committee meetings are for club business not an extra social event for committee members.
- Committees are a representation of the club members. Additions to the committee should be encouraged and personal feelings and dislikes should not cloud the acceptance of new committee members. It is OK to disagree. It's OK for members of committees not to get on.
- Committees need a variety of people with different views and skills.
- Committee members need to be open minded.

6. Do you have helpers who just 'help' rather than being on the committee?

- Volunteers are referred to as Friends ofClub. They are asked to help at events and on club night.
- Helpers' boards are circulated at club meetings and AGM.

7. How often does the committee meet? Why every month? Not necessary?

- Club committee meetings seem to be once a month.
- Main team – sub-team – buddy system.
- One club reduced meetings to monthly meetings for the officers. (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Programme Secretary) The sub-committee was kept in touch through minutes and emails and feedback from the chairman. The whole committee met once a year to plan the club programme. The chairman kept in regular touch with the subcommittee members and each had an allocated role/job and reported directly back to the chairman.
- Committees are a representation of the club members and members should be kept up to date regularly.

- Is a full committee meeting necessary each month? Consider officers (Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, Programme Secretary) meeting once a month. And other members to meet when events are to be discussed. This reduces the commitment. Committee members are necessary for hands on events.
- Committee members are busy on club nights and events – do members feel intimidated by the committee and so don't want to join?

8. Where do you meet? If it's in someone's house may this put someone off who doesn't want meetings at their home/or doesn't have the room?

- Mostly homes of the committee members. Consideration should be made for parking, home venue, etc.
- Consider moving meeting to a venue where you meet at club. It might not cost anything to meet in a small side room.
- Alternatively, consider a zoom meeting.
- Consider meeting in a library or pub – it may be free of charge.
- Venues need to be central to make travelling more reasonable for all

9. Have you considered sharing jobs, e.g. the Chairman's job?

- Set up a committee what's app.
- Pay as You Go phone – for club chairman- to be passed on when on holiday.
- Club email address.
- Some roles are shared successfully. At one club the chairman is also the treasurer. At club night the assistant treasurer deals with payments of subs and events monies. At the end of the night the Treasurer assumes the responsibilities of the accounts and banking.
- Some clubs share the chairman's role.

10. Do you have to have a committee at all?

- Consider changing the name to Team. This implies everyone is working together for the club's benefit and objectives.
- Committees are a representation of the club members and members should be kept up to date regularly.
- Is a full committee meeting necessary each month? Consider officers (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, Programme Secretary) meeting once a month. And other members to meet when events are to be discussed. This reduces the commitment.
- Committee members are necessary for hands on events.
- Committee members are busy on club nights and events – do members feel intimidated by the committee and don't want to join?

- Consider having 'Friends of ...' . These are members who are available to help at events, do a welcome arrangement but not want to attend committee meetings. This gives members and helpers a purpose and they feel valued.
- Main team – sub-team – buddy system

11. Do you talk at the club about what's involved with being on the committee?

- Members need to be aware of what happens on the committee.
- Are the committee meeting minutes displayed at club?

12. Could interested people shadow someone already on the committee?

- Coaxing, nurturing.

13. Any other ideas to save our Clubs and their committees?

- Bring your daughter/son/family member for free.
- 'Bring a friend for free' nights.
- Buy a flower club membership as a gift.
- Newsletters – get in touch with a local newsletter editor to advertise.
- Steering groups.
- Joint club nights.
- Newsletters and diary – with all local club events listed and shared with local clubs.
- Clubs need to help and support each other.
- Flower festivals are a good way of getting helpers and raising the profile of the club.
- Book stalls.
- Build up membership by getting good quality demonstrators.
- Know your members and what they want from the club.
- AGM meeting and meal with no speakers – time for members to chat and the committee to circulate – each committee member was seated on a table with members (not together).
- Annual lunch for members. Christmas party no entertainment – just a social event.