

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

Officers Present: President – Carol Black, Sharon Nolan – Chairman, Chris Gibbons – 2nd Vice-Chairman, Chris Middleton – Treasurer, Nicky Wylie – 1st Vice Chairman (pre-meeting)

Chairman's Remarks:

- **Happy New Year:** As this was the first Council of the year Sharon wished all delegates a Happy New Year and introduced the Officers present for the benefit of new delegates.
 - **Thank You/ Secretarial Assistance:** Sadly Morag's mother has died which is why she cannot be here today. In Morag's absence Sharon thanked Nicky for helping to photocopy and stuff envelopes and Maureen Herson (Royal Cheshire Show and F&GP committees) for volunteering to read the Secretary's report and take notes of the meeting. Sharon has promised Maureen that this does not mean she is now Morag's assistant!
 - **Table Flowers:** Thank you to Disley Flower Club for the beautiful table flowers.
 - **Deaths:** Sadly,
 - In December, Peggy Crooks, Area AOH, past Chairman of Cheshire Area, Past Area Vice-President, National Demonstrator and Chairman of Frodsham Afternoon Flower Club. A flamboyant character, well-known in the area.
 - Also in December, Dorothy Farrell, founder of several clubs in the Cheshire Area, including Sharon's own, Ashton Hayes & Tarvin
1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Nicky Wylie - 1st Vice-Chairman (part), Catherine Bower - Publicity Officer, Morag McCord – Secretary, Appleton Afternoon, Heswall, Upton Heath and Macclesfield Flower Clubs, Shirley Robinson and Hilary Storey.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th November 2017 were signed by the Area Chairman as correct.
3. **MATTERS ARISING** – no matters arising
4. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
- Letter from Jan Law, National Chairman, announcing that Lesley Gardener (Osborne House) is taking early retirement from NAFAS and leaves in March. Area is making a contribution to a gift for Lesley. Sharon had a card and money box if anyone else wished to contribute to Lesley's gift and will forward this to HQ.
 - Thank you note from Joyce Bowett at Hale Barns for their Sapphire Anniversary Card
- Any other items to be covered under appropriate heading.
5. **REPORTS**
- a) **Secretary – Morag McCord** (Prepared by Sharon, read by Maureen Herson)
- **Reminders:**
 - Delegates please sign in under Club name but only one person from each club can vote
 - If Club delegate is unable to attend or there is a change of delegate let Morag know before Council
 - Several important letters and application forms in packs so if you are not club chairman, please make sure they see the pack as soon as possible
 - When emailing Morag please remember to put your Club name on correspondence as makes it easier to reply
 - **In packs for Council:**
 - Agenda for meeting
 - 'Old' Constitution
 - Proposed Constitution
 - GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) Guidelines. Please note that 'signing in' is especially important today so that we know your club has received this paper on the GDPR
 - Revised Club Officers Form. I appreciate that some of your clubs have submitted this recently, but introduction of GDPR in May 2018 means that we have little option but to

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issue it again. It now has to be signed by everyone whose information is on it to confirm that they are happy for Area to hold the information and use it in the management of the Cheshire Area of NAFAS. But you can be assured that we do not release the information to any third parties.

- Cheshire Show Photography Schedule
- Cheshire Show Floral Art Schedules
- Cheshire Show Stewards Application Form
- Social Day Poster
- Social Day Application Form
- Chaffinch Workshop Flyer for 15/4/18
- Chaffinch Information Leaflet and Application Form
- HQ Members' Initiative Information
- Application Form for Workshop with Alan Beattie on Friday 6/7/18
- Chart to show how membership is reducing
- Flyer about Plant Sale on 13/5/18
- Application Form for Start A Fashion workshops (24/2/18, 24/3/18, 28/4/18)
- Various flyers from clubs
- **AGM 4 October 2018:** As Frodsham Community Centre is not available; Tarvin Community Centre has been booked. More information later.
- **Grand Sale:** All clubs have been sent an email from HQ about the sale of 2018 diaries and calendars for £2 each. Please apply direct to Osborne House.

b) Treasurer – Chris Middleton (Chris M)

- **Account Balances:** General £14,761 (includes Chelsea money), Savings £36,642 (includes Bond), Trading £4,568
- **Affiliation Fees:** All paid. 2,895 members in 46 clubs, including affiliated memberships. Decrease in membership of 178.
- **Membership Initiative:** 5 clubs have reported the use of the free guest tickets issued at the 3 main shows. 1 club has requested their fee be diverted to the Chelsea Fund and so in total it has cost £24. Please remember to report on visitors becoming a member, 2 of the 5 are known to have joined so far.
- **Insurance:** A reminder to make sure that any helpers should be either paid and therefore come under Employers Liability (if you have it) or they are members of the club. By making helpers at the Royal Cheshire Show members of a club their insurance position has been improved. Please make sure all of your helpers are adequately covered by insurance.
- **DOY (Designer of the Year):** The cost to Area was £784.14.
- **Trading:** As in 2017, all clubs may order Christmas items (Calendars, Diaries and cards) in 2018 through Area. The order form will be issued in April.
- **Cheshire Show (see also show report):** A request has been made for the usual loan of £1,000 and a grant of £500 to cover the cost of new stands and the children's hands on. A contingency grant of up to £300 has been added in case the stands or the non-competitive Exhibition pieces cost more than expected.
- **RHS (see also RHS report):** Total budget requested £5,500. This is made up of Exhibit £4,470, Show Walls £600 (still under negotiation with RHS), Publicity & contingency for workshop or demonstrations as above £430
- **Raffle:** Thank you to Sale Flower Club for selling raffle tickets.

c) Publicity – Catherine Bower

- **2018 Shows:** Publicity Team will attend:
 - **Arley Hall Garden Festival:** Awaiting information from Arley. In anticipation, Disley and District Flower Club (Margaret Delaney and Pam Orton) have accepted Area invitation to complete Area exhibit. Other Cheshire members will promote NAFAS.
 - **RHS Tatton:** Possible changes to layout by RHS may impact on what will be available. See also report from RHS Co-ordinator.
 - **Nantwich Cheese Show:** Wistaston Club has booked publicity items, but not yet known if Area will attend
- **Publicity Items:**

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- **Matched Funding:** Proposed that we repeat matched funding and visitor vouchers. This resulted in visitors and new members. Although small numbers have been notified, we do know that one of the most effective recruitment methods is to bring a friend. Details will be available at Council in April.
 - **Area Promotional Material:** Whatever the Area is named, it is important that we educate the public to the wide range of activities available to members. The Area leaflet, feather flag and X banner are designed to show what we do, not only a name. If you would like to borrow these items email publicity@nafascheshire.org.uk to check availability.
 - **Local Shows:** If your club supports a local show, or there a local show where you would like a NAFAS presence, please speak with Louise or email publicity@nafascheshire.org.uk. The Area team can help by providing publicity material, attending or promoting on social media.
 - **Club Promotional Material:** Please pass any information (programmes, free tickets, etc. to the Publicity team by late May (preferably bring it Council in April.) This allows the display to be prepared ahead of shows.
 - **YouTube Videos:** HQ photography team have produced wide selection of videos, from floral designs to introducing a demonstrator. These are proving popular, especially the one about Vote of Thanks.
 - **Area Facebook Page:** For those who follow the page, I hope you enjoy the content, including notification of BBC coverage of flower arranging and show work. Please send posters for Facebook in jpeg format.
 - **Flower Arranger**
 - **New Editor:** Keen to cover Area events.
 - **Spring Edition:** This featured many Cheshire members – (Margaret Delaney, Karen Clegg and Alison Cooper). Details were shared on Area Facebook page.
 - **Cheshire 2018:** Subscriptions were down 15% compared with winter 2017, although 4 clubs increased their order with a further 3 increased following delivery of the spring edition. Email flower.arranger@nafascheshire.org.uk if wish to increase your club's order. Subscriptions can be increased at any time during the year.
 - **FA Award:** This is based on % increase between winter 2016 and winter 2017. Delighted to announce: 1st Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme, 2nd Neston, 3rd (joint) Wilmslow & District and Eddisbury. The award will be presented at Area Social Day in July.
 - **Cheshire Chat:** The paper version was discontinued last year and there are now no plans to launch an on-line version until we have implemented the new Area web-site. As Edena Joughin, former Editor of Cheshire Chat, does not attend Council Sharon asked Louise Jones from Edena's club to take a card and small token of our appreciation for Edena's work on Cheshire Chat back to her club for presentation. (Post-meeting note: Louise has confirmed that this will be presented to Edena at her club's AGM.)
- d) **NAFAS – Sharon Nolan: (National Chairman's Day 15/1/18 and NAC 16/1/18)**
- **Change of Name:** HQ has NO plans to change name of NAFAS or its logo. Considering a new strap-line. (Not to say that this will not happen in the future, though. What is really needed is to employ CEO, but financial constraints in doing so with current staff structure at HQ.)
 - **Diamond Card:** 1170 holders. Application from has replaced subscribe button web-site. Must send in paper form.
 - **Blackpool, 9-11/11/17:** Cost of £30K v. predicted profit of 13K. Footfall considerably less than 2015 and significant contribution to loss. Cost of building reduced by £3K because of building work. Post mortem did not include comments/learning points from visitor perspective, so added points about coach handling, falls in hall and stewarding. Discussion on loss, but we are where we are. Personal view, loss is OK as long as it does not come as a big surprise and can be absorbed into cost base. Also some discussion on number of falls and who would be liable in the event of a claim. Sharon could not comment on this as she is

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not a claims specialist, but any claim would be against insurance. One delegate did say that they had been told it was against the venue's public liability insurance.

- **Diamond Anniversary Celebration Event:**
 - Nothing yet about competition. But will have DOY (Designer of the Year). So we will have an Area eliminator in 2019.
 - Just over 100 early bookings for dinner.
 - Sharon had suggested that Derek Armstrong (organiser) should attend future NAC meetings to report on progress for 2019 event.
 - If anyone would like to buy a raffle ticket, Sharon has some – £5 each, but the 1st prize is a diamond necklace, reported to be worth £4K.
- **Masquerade Weekend – 10/8/18, to include Wafa Eliminator for Jaipur 2020:**
 - Request from Peter Mathers, NAFAS Director, for bottles from tombola at the Masquerade Weekend. We are NOT organising an Area collection, but anyone going to the Masquerade weekend might like to bear it in mind.
 - Confirmation from Pat Daley that the design used at Leicester will NOT be taken to Jaipur – the person going will be advised of what is required, usually something to represent the UK. The Area eliminator will take place at the Royal Cheshire Show.
- **National Flower Arranging Day 4/5/18:** Still do not know what HQ is proposing for NAFAS. (Sharon is planning to contact WI in Cheshire.)
- **New Members Initiative:** Announced by HQ as part of 5 year plan and already notified to club chairmen by HQ in Jan Law's New Year letter to clubs. This did not say how to apply - this is included in club packs, with information on how to apply through Area. We need clubs and teachers to organise events designed to attract new members to NAFAS. Diane Fair has also forwarded the information to teachers on her Education list. If your club can help, please do – you will see later that we are continuing to lose members, in spite of clubs transferring in from Mercia and North Wales. We are now fighting for our survival!

(e) **Finance & General Purposes**

- **World of Wedgwood** Reasonable turn-out for first two, 8 persons at 3rd, 4th cancelled. Those who went thought it was a very good experience and good value for money. We need to have post mortem with Wedgwood. Possibly not advertised early enough? (Sharon and Pat Murphy to follow up.)
- **Chaffinches (Cheshire Area Affiliates)** – 4 members so far. Clubs are asked to keep an eye open for prospective members, e.g. visitors who can only attend infrequently or who want to do workshops. Alison Cooper's workshop went ahead in October with only seven students. Mark Entwistle is running an all-inclusive workshop in April and a flyer about it is included in club packs. As is a leaflet about Chaffinches and an application form. Remember that it is an all-inclusive workshop so you only bring scissors, and if you do not have them we can lend you some.
- **Vacancies** – Improving slightly but still need some people:
 - 1 Area minutes secretary to assist Area Secretary, Morag, at Council and AGM
 - 2 Club representative on F&GP, to replace Anne Watson who will administer Chaffinches.
 - 3 Minutes secretary at F&GP, to free up Sharon's time to sort out some other outstanding work for Area
 - 4 Someone has said that they may take on role of treasurer. However, we must observe due process so cannot reveal who at this time. Clubs are asked if they have someone suitable.
 - 5 2nd Vice required, October 2018. Clubs are asked if they have someone suitable.

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

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- **Members' Workshop with Alan Beattie 6th July 2018**: As he is here for the Social Day we had an opportunity to book an instructor we might not normally have. There is an application form in the club pack.
- **Area List aka Cheshire Book**: This is being updated and will be reissued later this year.
- **Start A Fashion 24/2/18, 24/3/18, 28/4/18**: An application form is in the club pack. If members cannot make all three days, no problem, you can book one, two or three days.
- **Demonstrators Refresher Day 17/3/18**: This has been sent direct to demonstrators, but if you have anyone in your club who might be interested in demonstrating and just want to know more, they are welcome to come on this day.
- **Education Day 3/3/18**: This has been sent direct to persons on the Education list. Please remind your club members that if they teach or run workshops they may also be included on the list. Contact Diane Fair at education@nafascheshire.org.uk.
- **Judges Refresher Day 6/10/18**: This will focus on period flower arranging and be sent direct to judges. However, anyone thinking of becoming a judge, or just keen on competing, may also wish to attend. It is a very valuable way of finding out what the judge is thinking!
- **Judges Course 2019**: This is being planned for 2019 and will consist of 4 modules. Please note that if students miss a day they may also take a module outside the Area or at Osborne House, 4 days over 2 weekends.
- **National Tests**: These will take place for national (4 candidates) and pre-national (10 candidates) demonstrators at Thornbury over 29 and 30/10/18. No-one from Cheshire is taking part.

g) Social – Chris Gibbons

- **Social Day, Thursday, 5th July 2018**: To be held at Frodsham, refreshments available from 10:00 a.m.
Morning session – Speaker, James Burnside from N. Ireland, 'The Legacy of Art Nouveau'
Afternoon session – Alan Beatty from N. Ireland, 'Artistic Expression'.
The ticket price is the same as last year, £15, closing date for tickets is 15th June 2018. There is a poster and application form in the club pack. We will invite the jewellery and handbag stall-holders to attend and there will be a Chelsea Fund Raising stall. (Alan Beatty will also instruct a members' workshop the following day which allows us to benefit from sharing the cost of his trip between Social Committee and JDSE.)
- **Area AGM - Thursday, 4th October 2018**: Venue, Tarvin Community Centre. Sharon and Chris G have visited the venue to familiarise themselves with layout etc. The Car Park is not massive but there is ample on street parking within easy walking distance. The demonstrator will be Kate Kerr, National Demonstrator from Dumfries, more information at the April Council meeting.

h) RHS Tatton– Pat Bannister

- **The Team/Exhibit**: The team, led by Sylvia Bower, comprises Pat Murphy, Debbie Davies and Heather Bateson. Overall theme this year is 'Celebration' and Sylvia has planned a design with the title of 'Nature's Bounty'.
- **Floral Walls**: As well as the main exhibit, the Area is also planning to decorate both sides of a floral wall, probably situated indoors but away from the main floral art area.
- **Budget**: A budget of £5,500 to cover exhibit, wall and publicity area was approved by Officers and F&GP. This was ratified by Council members, proposed by Joan Wilkinson (Goostrey), seconded by Val Seed (The Bramall Hall), unanimous agreement.

i) Royal Cheshire County Show – Joan Wilkinson

- **Floral Art Schedules**: There are four schedules in club packs. Please encourage your club members to enter the show. There are two additional bench classes this year and Joan would especially like to see more novices entering the show. This year, the winning novice will receive a beautiful prize a year's subscription to the Flower Arranger.

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- **Wafa Eliminator:** This year we are holding the eliminator for the Masquerade weekend competition and ultimately the world show in Jaipur, India in February 2020.
- **Sponsorship:** Would any clubs like to help with sponsorship of the show? Gill will be in touch with you shortly but we do rely very heavily on the generosity of our members to run the show. It is the only area show so please support us; many clubs helped last year and it was much appreciated.
- **New Trophy:** This year there is an additional trophy kindly donated by Padgate Club when it closed. It will be awarded for Best Innovation.
- **Stewards:** We need approx. 50 stewards for the show. They are vital to answer any questions that the public might have about the exhibits and to stop little fingers from fiddling with them! The stewards are given free entry to the show. Details for applying are in your packs.
- **Budget:** Officers and F&GP had approved a budget of £500, plus £200-300 contingency for RCS. Council ratified this. Proposed by Goostrey, 2nd by Disley, unanimous approval.

(j) NAFAS Sub- Committee Reports:

i) Judges – Pam Fleming-Williams (See also JDSE report)

- **National Report:** None submitted as the next meeting of the National Judges Committee takes place on 22/2/18.
- **Area Judges Meeting:** Pam is attending the next meeting in London on 21/2/18. She has already submitted a report on the number of judges, judging jobs, etc. to be included in a report bringing together information from all NAFAS Areas for discussion.
- **Diamond Anniversary Show 2019:** Pam is show manager for this event in Islington Design Centre, London in 2019. Cheshire Area hopes to organise trips to London to support the event.

(ii) Demonstrators – Mrs Pat Murphy:

- **National Demonstrators Committee:** The National Demonstrators' Committee, Michael Bowyer, Chairman, Elizabeth Graham, Pam Lewis, Jacqui Arnold and Diane Fair, held a meeting on Tuesday 23 January 2018 and the following are notes from that meeting.
 - **MATTERS ARISING:** A National Demonstrator has been booked by RHS Rosemoor for October 2018.
 - **BLUE FORMS:** An electronic blue form still not available and will not be available in the near future on the NAFAS website. However Diane Fair has submitted copies of a proposed electronic blue form for the Cheshire Area. The committee agree that this is a good starting point and the layout was very clear and user friendly. The committee suggests some minor alterations as follows: date should read day and date: an alternative contact should be included: provision for a VAT number if applicable: the signing procedure needs to be looked into. A clearer manner of acceptance needs to be implemented in place of signing the contract. The committee suggests that the Cheshire Area Chairman submits the form with minor alterations to the Board of Directors for their agreement. NOTE: The minutes are incorrect; it is the committee chairman who will take the blue form to the Directors.
 - **CORRESPONDENCE:** There were various items of correspondence regarding congratulations and thank you's to National Demonstrators on wonderful demonstrations and standing in for demonstrators who were unwell.
 - **COMPLAINTS:** There were five complaints against National Demonstrators varying from formal complaints to letters expressing concern.
 - **TRAINING & TESTING:**
 - Adjudicators/Instructor Day:** This will be discussed in detail in June. Adjudicators and Instructors need to be invited ASAP.
 - Practical Training Day:** Chairman will contact all applicants to invite them to the day. Hall is booked. London & Overseas will cater. Format to be discussed at Committee meeting in June.

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National Test 2018: Taking place at Armstrong Hall, Thornbury, North of Bristol. There are 10 candidates for the pre-national test. There are four candidates for the National Test. 3 Candidates 10.30 – 12.20 Monday 29th October: 4 candidates 2.00 – 4.30: Tuesday 30th October – 3 pre-national candidates 10.30 – 12.30 and then 4 National test candidates 2.00 – 4.30. Suitable adjudicators were discussed by the committee. Tickets for the test will be priced at £10 and will be sent by Diane Fair. Tasks agreed between committee and Michael to produce a budget for the Board of Directors.

Reps' Day: The content timetable and practical details were discussed in depth amongst the committee with tasks allocated for a successful and smooth running day.

- **PAST EVENTS: BLACKPOOL:** Demonstrators were all well received. The assistance of committee members was invaluable to those demonstrating.
- **FUTURE EVENTS: MASQUERADE AND DIAMOND FLORAL ART & DESIGN SHOW:** The Chairman will write to Derek Armstrong with suggestions for the Diamond Floral Art and Design Show.
- **2018 SYMPOSIUM - 19TH – 22ND APRIL:** There are 60 applications including committee etc. Discussions took place regarding the programme of events and tasks for the committee to help with workshops and demonstrations.
- **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** None
- **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 19th June 2018.
- **Representatives Day: ON WEDNESDAY 24TH JANUARY 2018.**

I attended this day along with the majority of reps from all Areas. The committee had planned a very interesting and comprehensive day covering many topics:-

- National Tests
- Materials Allowance
- Plant identification at area Tests
- Planning a training programme for new demonstrators
- What makes a club complain?
- What makes a demonstrator complain?
- Questions and Answers from the group.

Also the committee each demonstrated an excellent design suitable for an Area demonstrator to use to an Area Club which would be very cost effective. Each Area had submitted a report and it was interesting to hear about their demonstrator' tests and ideas for demonstrator refresher days.

iii) Speakers – Carol Black:

National Speakers Committee: The Speakers Committee met on the 29th & 30th January with Chairman Sue Shaw and Philida Irving, Kathy Srangaard, Susan Horne, Alan Beatty and Umbrella Peter Mathers. The Chairman welcomed Kathy and Peter to their first meeting. Philida Irving has accepted the appointment of Vice Chairman.

● **The Chairman's Report:**

- At the National AGM, Tony Cleaver, past National Speaker, had been made an Associate of Honour. Congratulations to London and Overseas Area for the entertainment at the National AGM where Speakers, Judges, Demonstrators and members who had held positions in NAFAS, entertained the audience and received a standing ovation.
- Sue asked if all the Committee had signed up for the Diamond card. She mentioned that the card had been used in wholesalers and as ID at Westminster Abbey.
- Sue reported on the Standing Committee meeting and the NAC meetings which she had attended. She also encouraged members to have a response to the perennial question "What do we get from the NAFAS affiliation fee". The answer is Qualified Judges Demonstrator and Speakers. It was also worth reminding members that the fee is part to the Area and part to NAFAS.
- A complaints procedure has been added to the National website and on Page 2 of the new National List.

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- In order to conform to other disciplines it was agreed to amend guideline A2 to insert "where possible the Area Speakers Rep should be qualified at National level. Other guidelines were reviewed.
- **Speakers Symposium 2019:** A number of venues have been explored, but the likely one is the Nottingham Conference Centre.
- **Tests:** Tests were held over the last year in NIGFAS and Cheshire and the Committee were delighted to report that both had 100% pass rate. Letters had been sent to all new Speakers and congratulations to the organisers. East of England and Wessex and Jersey are running training at present. Currently only one Candidate has applied to take the National Test, potential candidates at Area level who have passed three years ago can apply.
- **Blackpool:** The Chairman congratulated the N Show Committee for putting on such a special event at Blackpool where Sue and Philida spent a lot of time meeting and greeting and promoting speakers. Speaker's presentations were well received and there was standing room only for some. There was however an issue with being only two microphones available which were at times interrupted by the public address system.
- **National Show London 2019** - Ideas for this event were discussed.
- **U Tube videos** on votes of thanks have been viewed 22,500 times to date; a further video is being prepared.
- **Eye Contact:** The Committee reviewed a new handout on eye contact which will be uploaded onto the Handy Hints page of the National Website.
- **Articles:** The Speakers page was reviewed and How to become a Speaker will be added to the page. Watch out for a "Know Your Speaker" article in the spring edition of the FA magazine, an article has also been sent to Insight.
- **Travel Costs:** Sue asked the Board to review the travel costs paid to Adjudicators and Instructors who receive only 50% of the fare to London whilst Area Reps received the full amount, because this could be the reason for poor attendance at the meetings.
- **Next Meeting:** The next Committee meeting will take place on the 23rd of April, followed by an Area Reps meeting on the 24th, which Carol will attend.

(iv) **Education – Diane Fair:** (See also JDSE Report) No national or representatives' meetings, hence no national report.

(v) **Photography – Pam Mosedale**

- **Royal Cheshire County Show Photography Competition:** The 2018 Royal Cheshire County Show Photography Competition has now launched and Competition Secretary, Pam Mosedale, will be delighted to receive entries. The schedule is in club packs or can be downloaded from the NAFAS Cheshire website, 2018 Area Diary section. We organise the competition on behalf of the show, therefore the competition is open to everyone, not just NAFAS members. The **CLOSING DATE** is: Thursday 31st May 2018. There will also be an opportunity for visitors to select their favourite photograph; the photograph with the most votes will receive the 'People's Vote' award of £10.
- **Notice to exhibitors about posting photographs on social media and permission to take photographs during the show:** The following notice will be placed in the marquee during staging:

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

By entering this competition, you agree to photographs being taken of your exhibit, and that such photographs may be posted on social media or used in the future in print or digital media.
- **Photographs of Demonstrations:** You are reminded to get the permission of demonstrators before posting their photographs, especially on social media.

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- **NAFAS Photography Competition:** The 2018 National Photography Competition is open to all members of NAFAS with the exception of the NAFAS National Photography Committee. A schedule can be downloaded from the NAFAS website:
<http://www.nafas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/NAFAS-National-Photography-Competition-2018.pdf>

Digital images by email are preferred in jpg format but you can still send them through the post. There is no entrance fee. The competition titles are:

- **Class 1 Vibrant Vistas** - A colour image of a landscape or seascape
- **Class 2 Good enough to eat** - A close-up detail of natural plant material
- **Class 3 Reflections** - An image of plants and/or flowers, to demonstrate imaginative manipulation
- **Class 4 Back in the day** - A black and white, greyscale or sepia image of any subject to interpret the title
- **Class 5 Floral Showcase** - Novice Class* - A colour image to incorporate a floral design *A novice is defined as a member who has not previously won a prize in a NAFAS National Photography Competition
- **Class 6 My best friend** - Junior Class*- A colour image of any subject to interpret the class title *A Junior is classed as any person aged 17 years or under

The **CLOSING DATE** is: 5pm SATURDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2018. The Competition Secretary must receive digital entries, entry form and cheque by this date. **PRIZES Adults:** 1st - £30.00, 2nd - £20.00, 3rd - £10.00 and **Juniors:** 1st - £20.00, 2nd - £15.00, 3rd - £10.00. The winning images to be displayed at the NAFAS AGM, the Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH on Wednesday 10th October 2018.

- k) CHELSEA 2019:** It has been agreed that Nicky Wylie will lead the team at Chelsea and HQ has been notified. Nicky is in the throes of assembling a team.

6. EGM/UPDATE CONSTITUTION

- **Area Name Change:** This was suggested at Area AGM but deferred to check the Constitution and in the light of proposals at HQ to change its name.
 - Clubs were asked at Council on 13/11/17 if they wished to consider a name change and voted in favour considering it. They were asked to consult their club members and submit suggested names to Morag by Sunday 28/1/18. Only 7 clubs submitted valid suggestions. 5 clubs said 'don't do it'. (It is also known that other clubs did not agree but had not written in.)
 - Officers reviewed the names and two were viable. When variations of these were googled, Cheshire Area of NAFAS was consistently in the top three names returned by the search.
 - On the basis that HQ is not now considering a name change, less than 20% of clubs submitted names, the results of the google search and the considerable effort required to implement a name change, Officers recommend that it is not progressed at this time. If and when HQ initiates further work, that decision can be reviewed. This view was supported by F&GP.
 - A name change on its own will not encourage new members; we would have to launch a major publicity initiative. We may as well do this with the current name.
- **EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting):** An EGM is required to update the Area Constitution, and would have been required also to effect any agreed name change. The Council meeting in April 2018 has already been badged as an EGM (this means that we do not have to call an extra meeting).
- **Revised Constitution:**
 - Working from the 2005 version (the most recent master copy available); this has been updated by officers to put in place current practice. Main changes being to clarify role of club delegates, represent interests of existing clubs, remove reference to Trading and add Publicity, indicate that Area Chairman attends NAC at HQ, make time-scales for several roles consistent, update financial management . The changes have been approved by F&GP.
 - Copies of the 2005 version and proposed version are in club packs for delegates to take back to their clubs to consult members.
 - A vote will be taken at the EGM to agree (or not) the changes.

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7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):**
 - This is being enhanced in May 2018 to tighten up on the existing Data Protection Guidelines. It is essential for Area to identify and implement any changes. The purpose of the act is to ensure that individual information is held securely, that the person to whom the information relates knows, and agrees, that it is being held and the use to which it may be put. It is also necessary to demonstrate that the trail is known and secure.
 - HQ will issue guidance information to clubs in due course. However, Cheshire Area has prepared guidelines in advance of this.
 - Thank you to Catherine for preparing a one page briefing note which is in club packs. This is marked with the date of distribution and as delegates have to sign in will show that the club has been issued with it. Further information may be made available on request and more work is required to complete other documents, e.g. policy guidelines.
 - All Area information must be examined to determine if we really need it and to ensure that everyone whose information held is happy for us to do so and for it to be used as appropriate. Revised Club Officers form at Council will start the process.
- **Flower Festivals:** Val Seed promoted two Flower Festivals. Flyers are in packs.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - EGM:

Monday 23rd April 2018. Plumley Village Hall. 10:00 a.m. coffee/tea, 10:30 a.m. meeting.

Signed

Date