



Flower Clubs of Cheshire, Club Representatives Meeting 24th April, 2024

Lymm Golf Club, Whitbarrow Road, Lymm WA13 9AN

Minutes

1. Welcome

Tracey-Anne Clancy (TAC) welcomed everyone to Lymm Golf Club, especially the Associates of Honour who have come for lunch.

The archives are on display today which date back to 1970. The scrapbooks cover the history of flower clubs in Cheshire and demonstrate the wealth of talent there is. Many names and faces are familiar to members. (Please see also section 8.v Archives.)

TAC announced the recent death of Liz Kennon. She will be missed by the Flower Clubs of Cheshire. All present showed their appreciation of Liz by a round of applause.

2. Minutes and apologies

Present: Chairman's office – Tracey-Anne Clancy (TAC), Janet Schofield (JS), Louise Jones (LJ); Secretary – Vanessa Lees (VL); Jean Jones, Sally Melvin, Sue Clissold, Pam Mosedale, Sharon Nolan, Eileen Fantom.

Representatives attended from Ashton Hayes and Tarvin Flower Club, Chester Flower Club, Disley and district Flower Club, Eddisbury and Sandiway Flower Club, Elworth Flower Club, Frodsham and district Flower Club, Goostrey Flower Club, Hale Barns Flower Club, Handbridge Flower Club, Hoylake Flower Club, Knutsford Floral Design Club, Leek Floral Art Society, Lymm Floral Art Group, Mid-Cheshire, Flower Club, Neston Flower Society, Nether Alderley Flower Club, New Brighton Flower, Arrangement Society, Romiley Flower Club, Rural Chester Flower Club, Sale Flower Club, Stockport Afternoon Flower Club, Tarporley Flower Club, Upton-by-Chester Flower Club, and Winwick Flower Club.

Apologies were received from Carol Baker, Catherine Bower, Beryl Cotton, Judy Gratton, Heald Green Flower Club, Macclesfield Flower Club, South Cheshire Floral Society, Wirral Flower Club, Wistaston and district Flower Club, and Wilmslow Guild Floral Design Club. Some Club Representatives also apologised for their personal absence and other members attended to represent their Club instead.

No amendments were made to the minutes which were signed as a true record.

3. Updates from the Chairman's Office

Administrative Update – Tracy-Anne Clancy

The new year started with a new name, 'Flower Clubs of Cheshire' and plenty of positivity which, unlike many resolutions, is continuing and growing:

- The foam-free workshop organised by Pam Mosedale, tutored by Alison Cooper and hosted by Eddisbury and Sandiway Club was well attended and was a most enjoyable way to spend a Sunday creating floral designs. Great camaraderie, plenty of chat and cake!

- I'm delighted the demonstrator training has now commenced (well done Beryl) and I invite you to support the Area test event on 1st September at Tarvin. Tickets are now on sale priced £10.
- Not only will Cheshire be holding Area tests, we are also hosting the National pre-assessments and tests on **30th, 31st October** at Frodsham. Tickets are already on sale from NAFAS HQ at £15. Please support this event as it is in Cheshire.
- The 'Plumley event' on 7th April (Principles and Elements and Judges' Taster) was a smash hit with 25 attending, including out of Area attendees. Well done Sue, this was just what we wanted.
- The Flower School of Cheshire supported its first event of the year at Macclesfield on 16th April.
- Don't forget it's **National Flower Arranging Day on 3rd May** – what will you create?
- Members workshop at Tarvin with Mark Entwistle – few places remaining.
- Plans are progressing well for the Area Show at the **Royal Cheshire County Show (RCCS) on 18th and 19th June**. Best wishes to everyone who has entered – there is still time if you haven't! We are also requesting Stewards for the two days in the Theatre of Flowers. Details have been sent to all Clubs -please support your Area show.
- Cheshire will hopefully be supporting a candidate at the Malvern Show in the Autumn as they compete for a funded place at Chelsea in 2025. Selection for Malvern will be at the next Club Representative's Forum at Woodford on **17th July**.
- The demonstration after the **AGM on 3rd October** is now booked – a 'double bill'. Lucy Ellis & Coral Gardiner will present 'Diamonds & Rust'. Tickets will be on sale soon – Early Bird price of £15 if purchased before 31st August (£20 full price). Refreshments included.
- We could be doing a photo-shoot in Cheshire for the Flower Arranger magazine; discussions are currently taking place.
- Thank you to all Clubs who are holding Club competitions at their meetings – well done. Great to see the silverware out again!
- Finally, all the new publicity materials are currently being designed, ready to be launched in the Theatre of Flowers at the RCCS.

We have a lot to look forward to and enjoy this year. Thank you for your continued support. There were no questions.

Pastoral Update – Louise Jones

I have been visiting various clubs in the area, going to their demonstrations, workshops and other social events. This gives me the opportunity to meet with the officers, committee and of course our members.

There are still the same concerns: lack of committee, lack of finance and lack of new members.

When Janet Schofield was working on the archives, we find that none of this is new – the Clubs of 1970 had the same concerns – so we must be positive and find ways forward.

Our organization means so much to each one of us. We want as many people as possible to enjoy our beautiful flowers and all that that gives to us.

Whilst visiting our Area and other Areas, I have come across many interesting ideas that may or may not work in your club. Some of them are not novel ideas, and other are. I think it's worth remembering that the world has changed considerably and maybe what didn't work before may work now. I visited one club recently who had had some beautiful professional flyers printed, inviting anyone and everyone to their next club meeting. These were put up in the local charity shops, community centres and public buildings. Some of you may be thinking would that work:

you can only try it and see. The outcome for this club was 64 visitors came to their next meeting, and some of whom joined before they left the meeting. I'm not saying it's going to work every time but sometimes trying a different place to advertise might just make a difference. Sometimes we need to invest in order to grow.

We aspire to be a community of flower lovers, who feel that they belong. One Club has a chairman who sends a birthday card to all their members. This year she has had three phone calls from members who said they were spending their birthday on their own and it meant so much to them to receive that card.

Its lovely going to our clubs and seeing some beautiful work by demonstrators and tutors but especially the club competition – if you don't have one give it a go. The Area would like to encourage all Clubs to stage a small competition. Suggestion: a cup and saucer arrangement. The Area organisation started in 1970 because of competitions. There are many Area judges who are happy to attend Clubs.

Finally thank you to all Officers and Committee for all their hard work in running your local club and the area thank you for all your hard work. We must never forget the love that we have of our flowers and the joy that they bring to us each and every month.

There were no questions.

National Liaison update – Janet Schofield

NAFAS Liaison Report, NAC April 23rd on Zoom.

Area Chairmen Trustees: none of the 52 eligible names have come forward to stand as Trustee so NAFAS will look at the eligibility criteria to try to increase the pool. Charity law means that there has to be a Trustee.

National Flower Arranging Day 2025: NAFAS will form a working party to decide a new approach which will be used by all Areas – working together will give the biggest possible impact. Anyone interested in being a volunteer for the working party to contact JS.

New NAFAS president will be James Burnside from Northern Ireland. Congratulations have been sent on behalf of Area.

Westminster Abbey: along with the Flower Arranger photo-shoot we need a list of experienced arrangers in case we get the call to provide someone for Westminster Abbey. Volunteers need to be experienced and able to work in pairs to produce large traditional designs. They need to be physically fit and agile as there are steps involved and some areas of the Abbey need good balance and flexibility to access! Volunteers to contact JS.

National Open Gardens Scheme: it was suggested that NAFAS could partner with the NGS to promote Clubs and Area. NAFAS will look into putting an agreement in place. Meanwhile if you are opening your garden, please consider doing an arrangement and promoting NAFAS (club, Area or national) – contact TAC if you need publicity materials.

NAFAS webinar: following comments about members being unable to ask questions at the NAFAS AGM (now held online), there will be a webinar (held on Microsoft Teams) on Thursday, 16th May, 2024 at 6:00-8:00pm. Details will be in the area newsletter and sent to club contacts. Anyone who wants to raise a question needs to submit it *in advance* so that NAFAS can ensure the most frequently asked questions are answered.

Other news

Flower Arranger photo-shoot

The Flower Arranger photo shoot will be held in July and we will be doing Christmas designs. The day will start at 8.30am and finish around 4pm. Can you help?

We need 10 people to produce two designs each, one of which needs to have written step by step instructions. Please look at previous issues of the Flower Arranger to get an idea of what is

required and to ensure no repetition of designs. The Step by steps need to be a spread of beginner, enthusiast, and expert abilities so please indicate for which level your design is suitable. Each volunteer will receive a generous flower allowance and be able to claim travel and lunch expenses. If you would like to be considered as part of the team, contact Janet via canonlinevents@gmail.com with suggestions for type/style of design you'd like to do. If we are oversubscribed, we will hold a ballot to select people.

Venue, date and theme to be notified soon.

NAFAS RHS competition.

Our competition to select the Cheshire area representative for the NAFAS RHS competition will be held at the Club Reps Forum at Woodford on July 17th. If you have never exhibited at RHS Chelsea (as an individual or as part of a team) and would like to enter please contact Janet via canonlinevents@gmail.com for details.

I have emailed area tutors asking for recommendations for candidates for the NAFAS RHS competition. If anyone has any suggestions, please let me know. I have been in touch with Delyth Price (the Show Competition Coordinator) and she will let me know when more information is available, including how it will be judged.

Flower Arranger photo-shoot I have been in touch with Chloe regarding The Flower Arranger photo-shoot and now have a better idea of what is required. I will let you know when we have anything definite planned. If anyone would like to go on a list of available arrangers, please get in touch.

4. Area Secretary's Report – Vanessa Lees

Thank you to all of you for your co-operation in keeping the administration of our Area running so smoothly. As a 'newbie' I have had so many lovely conversations with you all – it makes the job a pleasure to do.

Sharing information Running our clubs and our Area shouldn't be a lot of work for us – we all belong to enjoy our love of flowers and not to spend time on paperwork. There is lots of news to share with clubs and their members and our colourful Area newsletter keeps everyone up to date. To make things as simple as possible, we rely on each club having a single contact name to cascade all the news out to their members. Your club contact person does not need to be the Chairman or Secretary. It can be anyone in your club who is happy to be your club point of contact. They need to be ready to send out the Area newsletter to their club members as soon as they can. There's nothing worse than finding out about an event after it has already happened! The club contact also sends to the relevant people in their club the reports and agenda for each Club Representatives Forum. The person attending does not need to be the club contact, but it may be. In most clubs this happens extremely effectively, occasionally things don't go so smoothly. For example your club contact may be unwell or coping with family problems which happens to us all at some point. I am very happy to change or add another club contact who is able to step in – please let me know and I will do my very best to help.

AGMs Sixteen clubs have held their AGMs in the first quarter of 2024. Thank you for sending back to me your new Club Officers forms. I am updating my records as I receive them and notifying relevant people of changes in your officers. I would like to have a return from every club even if it is a 'no change' return, so I know we are all up to date.

Website page for your club I am pleased to report that we now have a club programme on the website for every club – thank you for sending them in. It's a great way to let prospective members know what you're offering. Don't forget to keep checking that the information for your club on your page is up to date, especially things like your membership subs and visitor charges.

Updating the website With great assistance from Sally Melvin, we have been going through the website noting the changes and updates which need to be made, especially reflecting our new

Flower Clubs of Cheshire title. This piece of work is nearing completion, and we will be liaising with Mike Gallagher to implement the changes very soon.

Constitution Work is in hand to update Appendix B of the Constitution in line with the changes to our Team structure agreed at our AGM. This will need to be approved at a Club Reps Forum before being incorporated on the website.

Associates of Honour It has been my pleasure to send out formal invitations to all our Associates of Honour to the Lunch at Lymm Golf Club on 24th April. I am delighted to report that many are able to attend.

Lymm Golf Club Lunch Thank you to everyone who has booked and paid for lunch at Lymm Golf Club. I hope those staying will enjoy an opportunity to chat and enjoy lunch and a drink or tea/coffee from the bar.

No questions were asked.

VL thanked members for their efficiency in cascading information and thanked Eileen Fantom for taking minutes.

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

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

Financial oversight

Please be advised that Judy Gratton has sight of the bank statements and accounts each month to ensure an independent review. Judy has written to the secretary (VL) to confirm that she is content with the processes:

Hi Vanessa

Following our Zoom on Friday I can confirm I have met with Tracy-Anne to go through the accounts. She has explained how the accounts function and I am in agreement with the process.

Kind regards

Judy

Bank Overview

The balances on the accounts at Barclays at 10th April were as follows:

Current Account	£7,725
Savings Account	£22,586
JDS&E Account	£8,524
Flower Arranger Account	£5,816

It should be noted that there are timing differences throughout the year between income received and payments being made – we have several 'work in progress' events happening at the moment. Additionally, payments for the Flower Arranger magazine are made quarterly (Summer, Autumn & Winter are still to be paid).

Income & Expenditure (Budget vs Actual)

Total income for 2023, 24 (from Affiliation Fees) is £7,871. The budget for 2023/24 with actual expenditure to date is as follows:

	Budget	Actual (to date)
	£	£
Facility Costs (website / storage / licences)	3,500	2,548
Publicity & Promotions	1,000	160
Cheshire Area Show	2,000	1,042
Meetings	1,000	295
Other	371	
Total	7,871	4,045

All events planned by Area must break-even or have an agreed 'overspend' budget to ensure the necessary event takes place.

Foam Free Workshop – Alison Cooper (3rd March 2024)

A surplus of £90 was realised on this event, primarily due to the favourable hall hire cost and refreshments kindly provided by Eddisbury and Sandiway Club (thank you so much).

Income	£	£
13 participants @ £25 (BACS)	325	
3 participants @ £25 (Cash & Cheque)	75	
		400
Expenditure		
Hall Hire	60	
Tutor Fee (all inclusive)	250	
		310
Surplus on Workshop 2		90

Introduction to Elements & Principles of Design and Becoming a NAFAS Judge – Plumley (7th April 2024)

A surplus of £56 was realised. Refreshments included lunch as well as beverages and cakes throughout the day.

Introduction to E&Ps and Judging - Plumley 07.04.2024

Income	£	£
25 Participants @ £25		625
Expenditure		
Hall Hire	131	
Tutor Fee / Mileage (MR)	153	
Tutor Fee / Mileage (JC)	153	
Expenses S Clissold	76	
Refreshments	56	
		569
Surplus / Deficit		56

Insurance

Discussions are being held with PIB Brokers <https://www.pib-insurance.com/> regarding an umbrella policy covering all Clubs within Cheshire. TAC will need to know when each Club's insurance renewal date is – please advise either by email or at the meeting. JS learned that Devon and Cornwall Area have this umbrella style of insurance. Area pays and the cost is distributed between all Clubs. TAC has received written confirmation that this is possible and the price is expected to be £30-40 per Club.

National Flower Arranging Day

Once again, we will be paying Clubs £25 towards supporting this event in May. Please send your photographic evidence to the treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk and we will send you the funding. Downloadable cards are available but no more are to be printed because the format is due to change next year.

Affiliation Fees for Multiple Memberships Work is progressing. A process is being formulated: a data collection form has been distributed along with this booklet for completion by Clubs¹. Some Clubs have already tested out the form for and have returned it completed. There is no requirement to re-send if you have already replied. We are still in the process of the fact finding exercise. Head office are interested in this information; many areas are doing this.

6. Representatives' Reports

6.i Judges Report – Sue Clissold

We have held the very successful Judges Taster Day at Plumley on the 7th April, 2024. 27 people participated from beginners to very experienced arrangers and an amazing day was appreciated by everyone. Jackie Charnock started the morning by covering the Elements and Principles of Design in a very innovative way. After lunch Margaret Rumens then covered what is involved in training to become an Area Judge with an informative booklet. I am delighted to say we have had several promising enquiries. An enormous amount of information was gained with a lot of laughter and participation by everyone including the 16 exhibits provided, and I didn't even have to pressurise anyone! Catering was ably done by Chris Middleton and Margaret Delaney which kept us fortified during the day.

From 24th April I am handing over as Cheshire representative to Pam Fleming-Williams because I am moving to Scotland with my family in July. I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone from the Cheshire Area who have made me so welcome from my move from the Wessex and Jersey Area over seven years ago. I have thoroughly enjoyed being your rep and will miss you all. It is so true that flowers cultivate friendships, and I will be joining my nearest club when I move.

Questions have been raised about Area judges getting experience after they have qualified. All judges are happy to be accompanied (having checked the venue are happy for this to happen) so when you see a judge named on a Show Schedule contact them to see if you can go as an observer. Contact me if you are unsure how to do this or which Area the judge is from. It is important you keep your training up to date.

Also, in conjunction with Education (see Sharon's Report) we are compiling a list of the smaller shows that could be approached to see if they are aware of NAFAS and our availability. Please let Education know of any in your area.

¹Appendix I to the Minutes

The new Competitions Manual is now operative so make sure Shows are quoting the 2023 version!

The main alterations are:

- Contemporary has been removed
- Miniatures/Petites can either be quoted as the sizes in the manual OR height optional
- Palisade demoted to a technique
- Parrell hugely different
- Pave/Tapestry new guidelines
- Still Life – Stillness in the exhibit is a major characteristic.

Sue Clissold

Cheshire Area Judges Rep

TAC made a short speech to mark Sue's contribution to Flower Clubs of Cheshire.

Sue's professional career involved working with boys aged 16-21 who were leaving social care. Sue found flower arranging to be a natural way of relieving the strains of this. She took her NAFAS Diploma in 2008, trained by Michael Bowyer. TAC had contacted Michael Bowyer and Debbie Wadge, other National Judges, in advance to ask them for memories of Sue which she shared with the meeting. Debbie said: "Sue looks out for others, especially beginners". [I have personal experience of this, EF]

Sue was presented with a bouquet and a "goodie-bag" from Cheshire to thank her for her work. She warmly thanked everyone for the kind words and gifts.

6.ii Demonstrators Report – Beryl Cotton

Area Report

Demonstrator Training has commenced at Tarvin Community Centre, Meadow Close, Tarvin CH3 8LY. There is still availability should anyone wish to join the sessions.

The Demonstrator Mock Test will take place on **Sunday, 30th June** at Tarvin Community Centre with a small audience from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

The Area Test will take place on **Sunday, 1st September 2024** at Tarvin Community Centre from 10:00am to 1:30pm. There is plenty of parking. It is hoped that members will come along and support the candidates. Audience must be seated by 10:00am. Electronic tickets will be on sale shortly available from TAC – £10 each. The day should end by 1:30pm at the very latest. This is great opportunity for Programme Secretaries to find new talent. All welcome. Tea and coffee available. Volunteers to assist on the Mock test day and Area Test Day would be much appreciated. Please contact Beryl or TAC.

National Report

Another date for your diaries: **30th and 31st October, 2024** the pre-national assessments and National Tests will take place. Tickets are available from NAFAS HQ at £15 per day. Another wonderful opportunity to see talented Demonstrators stepping up to take their pre-national assessment and National Test. Tea and coffee will be available but please bring a packed lunch. Area helpers will be required on the day to assist the National Committee – please contact Beryl Cotton 07710132721 or TAC.

The National Demonstrators Newsletter was cascaded down to Area Reps and on to all demonstrators to keep them up to date on all demonstrating matters.

A Demonstrators' Symposium is being planned for **28th February and 1st March, 2025** at Telford, further information to follow.

Beryl Cotton

07710132721

6.iii Education Report – Sharon Nolan

Members Days

We held another excellent members' foam-free workshop with Alison Cooper on 3rd March 2024. Thank you to Pam for organising it, and for covering for me, as I was not able to be there. Bookings for the next workshop with Mark Entwistle on **12th May 2024** in Tarvin are coming in and are attracting attention of non-NAFAS students too.

We will do something on Principles and Elements in the near future, probably in or near Tarvin. Later in the year, we hope to run the three-day course at the east side of the Area.

Education day

An Education Day has been arranged for **Sunday 20th October 2024** at Frodsham with National Teacher Yolanda Campbell from the West Midlands. The day is suitable for existing teachers, those wishing to become teachers and experienced floral designers. More information about the content will be available later in the year.

Training opportunities for judges Sue Clissold and I have discussed the need to identify local shows where judges may be able to get experience. Sue has referred to this in her report. There are local shows in Tarvin, Barrow, Bunbury and Upton that I am aware of. I have direct contact with the Tarvin Show and can obtain contact details for the others. The Tarvin Show has already booked its floral art judge, but if anyone in that area is interested in assisting, please let me know and I will see what can be arranged. I have to emphasise that we cannot pay a fee or expenses.

Other news

Work continues to update the area website with information on where students can go to learn and improve floral art skills. There have been some very positive contributions and updates. However, we do need more. It feels like pulling hens' teeth at times!

HQ have given us a list of seven people in Cheshire who had responded to their advertisement about the certificated courses, urging us to run a certificated course. I have written to everyone on the list to find out where they live, how far they are prepared to travel, which club they belong to and what they are really interested in doing, hoping to organise a course to suit. So far, there are only two replies from students who already support the area workshops and/or attend lessons in the area. Nothing from the other five.

At least one area has heavily subsidised and trialled a certificated course and provided very good feedback on positive and negative points, which are being addressed. We have a small number of tutors who have said they would teach a certificated course, but given the lack of response from potential students, we can only recommend waiting for feedback from other Areas. Longer term, it may be preferable to work with one of the colleges in Cheshire. They have experience and infrastructure which may make the whole process smoother and more cost effective for students too.

The National Teaching Conference takes place over the weekend of **5th to 7th July 2024**. Several people in Cheshire have already booked to go. There has been some concern about aspects of the conference and its organisation which have been fed back to HQ. At this point, I can only say that I went to the last one several years ago and it was well worth attending. I learned some useful stuff and am still able to draw on some of the content now. I hope that the National Education Committee will deliver something equally good this time.

Sharon Nolan

Outgoing Education Representative

6.iv Young People's Liaison Report – Judy Gratton

Plans are progressing for Nantwich Show to be held on **Wednesday 31st July, 2024**.

We are planning to run drop-in hands-on sessions for our younger visitors and encouraging local primary schools to participate in their own individual competitions. 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. Flower School of Cheshire – Jean Jones, Tracy-Anne Clancy, Judy Gratton

We are in the process of booking a tutor for a 'Master Class' (for the more advanced) later in the year. The suggested tutor is David Ragg, from Bournemouth. We are waiting for more information: availability, cost, designs, workshop and possibly a demonstration.

At the last Club Reps meeting in Frodsham a new name was agreed for 'Cheshire Area of NAFAS' to become 'Flower Clubs of Cheshire'. This fits in perfectly with the 'Flower School of Cheshire'.

We have a number of events in the pipeline, the first was to assist Macclesfield Flower Club with a spring workshop on 16th April. This was well supported – 30 attendees and many visitors.

If you would like to host a class or workshop for your club or organisation, please contact the Flower Clubs of Cheshire area office

office@nafascheshire.org.uk

I will be taking the Flower Clubs of Cheshire notice board to St Bartholomew's Church Annual Plant Sale in Church Minshull **3rd–6th May**. This is a popular and well-attended local event and a good place to advertise any forthcoming events at you club. If you would like to include any flyers or posters, please bring them along to the Club Reps meeting on 24th April. See Peony Cluster report.



8. Events, Publicity Update

8.i RCCS – ‘Theatre of Flowers’ – Carol Baker, Sylvia Bower

Royal Cheshire County Show, Theatre of Flowers.

Arrangements for the show are well under way. Two demonstrators have been booked for each show day and Kath Williams with her paper flowers. There will be an opportunity for some leaf manipulation too. Entries are coming in well, many classes are full.

Information has now been sent out to all clubs via club contacts by Maureen Hernon asking for steward volunteers. Please encourage club members to sign up. Completed volunteer forms should be returned to Maureen as per the volunteer sheet. Looking forward to another successful year.

Carol Baker & Sylvia Bower, Joint Chairmen

TAC described the role of steward in detail to encourage people to take part.

8.ii Website & Social Media – Tracy-Anne Clancy

VL is working with Sally Melvin to make the website wonderful. It is still a work in progress after becoming stale and will benefit from a revamp.

The website is a great asset for the Area and all Clubs now have their up-to-date programme published (thank you Vanessa and Sally for your persistence – a great achievement). The website is currently being reviewed following our name change and we will need to consolidate a few other areas and develop some new ones. Please bear with us during this process. If you wish to contact our website manager Mike Gallagher, you can do so via email webmaster@nafascheshire.org.uk Pam Mosedale is progressing with organising the new ‘How To...’ designs for our website. Thank you to those who have already contributed. If anyone is willing to do a new ‘How To...’ would you please contact Pam Mosedale to discuss education@nafascheshire.org.uk. We have so many talented designers within Cheshire.

Inspire, learn, create

Our new ‘branding’ is being developed and I am extremely grateful to a Club member of Bramall Hall and Disley who has very kindly shared her marketing expertise with me, without charging, and provided some valuable guidance, tips and insights for the way forward. Thank you. The new publicity materials will include flyers, business cards, banners and signage. Cheshire now has a new Instagram page – FlowerClubsofCheshire. Please follow us and ask family to do so.

Proposal: TAC proposed that the new branding be launched at RCCS costing £200. All members present agreed with this by show of hands.

8.iii Newsletter – Tracy-Anne Clancy

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.iv Flower Arranger Report – Catherine Bower

No report received.

2024 dates

Spring edition	club order 11 November	delivery 11 January
Summer edition	club order 17 February	delivery 10 April
Autumn edition	club order 18 May	delivery 11 July
Winter edition	club order 22 August	delivery 10 October

8.v CAN Archive report – Janet Schofield

JS is currently creating a catalogue of all documents held in the Area archives and doing some renovation work where required. Several scrapbooks and photo albums are here today so please have a look at these fascinating documents after the meeting. Some of the items need updating so 'post its' are available for you to document any unnamed faces. Several of these items are quite fragile so please handle carefully. I have scanned pdf copies of the two 'history' documents so if you would like a copy drop me an email.

Sadly, our Archives stop in 2011 – I would like to create new ones for the missing years so if you have any memorabilia, leaflets, tickets etc., and most importantly, photographs of Area events, please get in touch so I can arrange to use them or take copies. Any printed matter may be brought to a club reps meeting.

9. Cluster Updates

Peony Cluster – Jean Jones – Elworth, Leek, Macclesfield, Nether Alderley, South Cheshire, Tunstall, Wistaston.

We have not met as a cluster yet this year although Anne Watson and I had a nice catch up over coffee while we planned the forthcoming workshop for Macclesfield Flower Club.

With longer days and brighter skies, we hope to meet up after Easter.

May 3rd – 6th sees the annual plant sale at St Bartholomew's Church in Church Minshull and the organisers have agreed to let us put up a display board to advertise Flower Clubs of Cheshire. If any clubs would like to include their posters/flyers etc. bring them to the next Club reps meeting at Lymm Golf Club and I will gladly display them for you. I am away that weekend so cannot be there to man a stall as such, but it is a popular event so any publicity may be useful.

Iris Cluster – Anne Walton – Ashton Hayes & Tarvin, Chester, Eddisbury & Sandiway, Frodsham, Mid Cheshire, Rural Chester, Tarporley, Widnes, Winwick.

We have not met yet as many people are so busy, but a coffee meet up will be arranged soon.

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

Cluster representatives met at Gordale on February 15th. It was a very buoyant meeting, and a lot of information was shared.

Wirral had a Spring Flower Workshop, Easter Lunch, and a Trip to Woolerton Old Hall Garden and Flower Exhibition. These were all open to members from other clubs in the cluster. The Spring workshop and Easter lunch have been a great success. Members from other clubs attended both of these events. The Woolerton Hall trip in May is open initially to Wirral members and then to other clubs.

Wirral are also in the process of planning an Exhibition at United Reformed Church, Telegraph Road, Heswall, CH60 7SE **28th and 29th September, 2024** (adjacent to the large Tesco supermarket.) This will be open to all comers, and it is hoped that it will encourage new members. It promises to be quite something. (Perhaps people can recall the amazing Christmas event Wirral held in 2022.) This show is entitled 'The World of Books'. There will be a number of designs of various sizes and types in the show depicting the title. There will also be a sale of work and crafted items as well as refreshments and a raffle. This is a big undertaking for Wirral, and I am sure we all wish them well.

Hoyle outlined their "Celebration of Spring" an event that took place on March 19th. It was hoped that it would encourage more members to be hands on. The club opened early to facilitate a "workshop" and preparation session where members could produce an exhibit entitled

“Celebrating Spring”. Exhibits could also be brought ready-made. There were sections for novices and more experienced arrangers. NAFAS area judge Carol Baker kindly agreed to judge. When the hall was cleared for judging, members decamped to an adjacent room for tea and lovely Easter themed cakes. Whilst they were there, they had the popular voting system explained and their attention was drawn to schedules from the RCCS, Royal Welsh Show, Shrewsbury Flower Show and Southport Flower Show. The new NAFAS Competitions Manual Fourth Edition 2023 was available to read.

After the formal judging, but before competitors’ names were revealed, everyone had the chance to vote for their choice of winner. Carol Baker spoke about the overall quality of the entries. She was very encouraging in her remarks and produced a variety of rosettes for exhibitors. As a member of the organising committee Carol also encouraged those present to come to the RCCS and compete. Certificates and Chocolate bunnies were awarded to winners! The committee found a beautiful old silver trophy, which hadn’t been awarded since the 20th century, to award to the winner of the popular vote. Every exhibitor went home with a small chocolate bunny and a chick!

Neston are looking forward to their “Flowers Galore” event on **31st May and 1st June**.

Rose Cluster – Tracy-Anne Clancy – Goostrey, Hale Barns, Heald Green, Knutsford, Lymm, Sale. The Rose Cluster met on 12th March at Fryers Garden Centre (our usual meeting place and usually includes a spot of shopping). During the meeting each Club Chair shared their latest updates, events, and Club programme. The support which the cluster provides is invaluable. Although each Club is different, we all face the challenges of recruiting committee members. The consensus was that members were very willing to help on the night but preferred not to have the commitment of committee meetings. Some Club committees only meet quarterly, some use zoom and WhatsApp to plan their meetings. Sharing problems, ideas and solutions within the cluster really makes a difference. Thank you to the Rose cluster ladies for stepping up to help at this Club Representatives Forum.

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

The Cluster met after the meeting.

10. AOB

Winwick asked if the newsletter may be available earlier in the month please? TAC offered to send it electronically to members if they prefer. There is no ideal date for a newsletter.

Southport Flower Show celebrates its centenary this year.

<https://www.southportflowershow.co.uk/> It runs from **15th – 18th August, 2024** and features a novice class for the first time. Also there is a combined class for groups or clubs which is free to enter. The schedule may be downloaded from the show website.

The next Zoom competitors support group is on **30th April**.

Handbridge, Neston, and Romily Clubs used the opportunity to mention their forthcoming events.

Shionah Fosh was thanked for her arrangement of welcome flowers which were raffled.

Pam Fleming-Williams thanked the Area team for their support of RCCS. She said she felt very optimistic.

11. Cluster Breakout Session – over lunch

This is a chance to have a get together with other Club representatives within you cluster and have a catch up. Clusters are:

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

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

Lily – Handbridge, Hoylake, 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.

The business meeting closed at 12.45pm.

Date of next Club Representatives Forum: Wednesday 17 July 2024 at Woodford War Memorial Community Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....

Appendix I



FLOWER CLUBS OF CHESHIRE

Hello

We are trying to gain an understanding of how many of our Cheshire members belong to more than one Flower Club and therefore how many members pay their Affiliation Fees more than once. If you are willing to complete this form and return it (via your Club Chairman) to the Area Treasurer (Tracy-Anne Clancy), I would be most grateful. All returns will be treated in confidence. Thank you for your support.

Name of Member

Name of Club

Are you a member of any other Flower Clubs? Y / N (please circle)

How many Flower Clubs in total are you a member of?

Please list all the Clubs which you are a member of

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