

Hello everyone,



April was certainly a busy month for Flower Clubs of Cheshire and May promises to be much the same. In this newsletter we look back on a very successful Elements & Principles / Introduction to Judging day at Plumley, a workshop at Macclesfield Flower Club, meeting up with our Associates of Honour, the launch of our new logo and publicity material and we offer congratulations to everyone who competed at Harrogate Spring show. We look forward to National Flower Arranging day, our Members Workshop with Mark Entwistle, celebrating special Club anniversaries, planning for our Area show in the 'Theatre of Flowers' at the county showground, Tabley and much more.

Happy Reading!

National Flower Arranging Day – 3rd May 2024. What will you create?

Each Club supporting the event will receive £25 from Area. Simply send photos of your design(s) to treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk

Congratulations to Neston Flower Society celebrating 65 Years in Neston

(See the Flowers Galore poster later in this newsletter)

Associates of Honour – Honoured!

The Club Representatives Forum was held on 24th April at Lymm Golf Club followed by a buffet lunch, providing an opportunity for delegates to meet with other Club representatives to share ideas and also have a look through all our archive books. Additionally, it was a great opportunity to meet with our Cheshire Associates of Honour, recognising them for their contributions to our Area over the years and to enjoy a good catch up over lunch. (Pictured standing from L to R: Tracy-Anne Clancy (Chairman's Office – Host), Lynn Breeze (AOH), Pam Dimeloe (AOH), Sue Clissold (Judges Representative – Final Meeting), Chris Middleton (AOH), Nicky Wylie (National Chairman & AOH), Lousie Jones (Chairman's Office – Host), Pam Fleming-Williams (AOH), Carol Black (AOH), Dorothy Irvin (National & Area AOH), Janet Schofield (Chairman's Office – Host), Anne Keates (AOH)).





The April meeting was our Judge's Representative, Sue Clissold's last meeting as our Area Representative, as she will soon be heading to pastures new (Scotland) with her family. Sue has been our representative for the last 7 years having moved 'up north' from the Wessex and Jersey Area. Sue was thanked for all her contributions to Cheshire Area with a Cheshire 'goody bag' and a hand-tied bouquet, presented by Janet Schofield. We will certainly miss Sue at our meetings, particularly for being so positive and supportive, but she will be joining us in the 'Theatre of Flowers' in June.

Pam Fleming-Williams has agreed to step into the role of Judge's Representative for the time being (having previously held the position before Sue). Thank you Pam – we look forward to working with you.



The Introduction to Principles & Elements of Design / Becoming a Judge event held at Plumley on 7th April was a most informative and enjoyable event. Organised by Sue Clissold, attended by 28 participants, some having travelled from the South Midlands and

York, the day was tutored by both Jackie Charnock and Margaret Rumens. It was an interactive day, with an opportunity to 'judge' designs created by participants, applying the P&Es which were presented in the morning session in both a visual and memorable way. Thank you to Chris Middleton and Margaret Delaney for all the catering - providing delicious soup and homemade cakes for lunch.



Pictured L to R are: Sue Clissold, Pam Fleming-Williams, Jackie Charnock & Margaret Rumens



Pictured are participants creating a P&Es board.



Out & About in Macclesfield.....

On a surprisingly pleasant spring evening Judy Gratton and Jean Jones travelled through the leafy lanes of Cheshire to Macclesfield Flower Club. What a fabulous venue! Large flat car park, a few easy steps plus a ramp open out into a light airy room with plenty of space for our event. Tracy-Anne arrived minutes after us and we were greeted by an army of willing helpers who unloaded our boxes and kept us supplied with tea and coffee. (Demonstrators take note, lots of plus points for this club already!)

Why were we there? Well, this was the first official outing since the naming of The Flower School of Cheshire to deliver a beginner's workshop. Macclesfield Flower Club hosted, organised the publicity and tickets and were there to warmly welcome 30 ladies and a gentleman. After a brief illustrated talk on preparing our flowers and the various mechanics available we demonstrated three simple designs that could be followed or interpreted however people wanted to. Everyone soon got to work using the most stunning roses and alstroemeria supplied by GBR flowers and the room buzzed with enthusiasm from complete



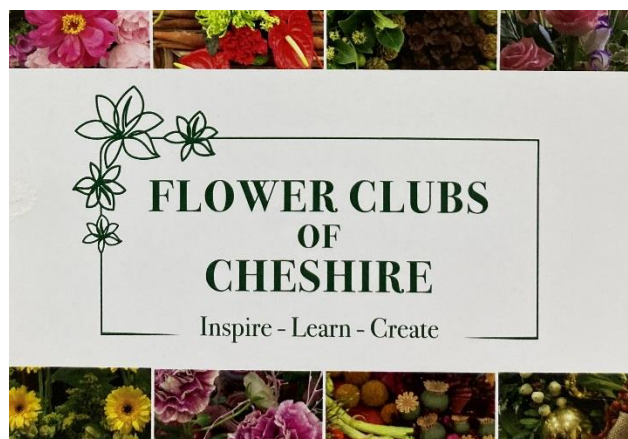
beginners to those with more experience. Tips and hints were on hand from the three Flower School leaders and the club committee. We shared, we laughed, we helped each other and what's more we enjoyed delicious cake!

We hope you agree that the finished pieces were fantastic! If you would like a similar event for your members or a different organisation that you belong to such as a church group, WI or school PTA do get in touch with the chairman's office. There are also teachers within Flower Clubs of Cheshire who will deliver a similar event but for experienced creators under the umbrella for Flower School of Cheshire. Same contact Chairman@nafascheshire.org.uk



Introducing our new logo & publicity material...

Following the decision to change our name to Flower Clubs of Cheshire and the launch of Flower School of Cheshire the next task was to create a logo and some new updated publicity materials. The proposed 'new look' was presented to the Club Representatives at the meeting in April and was accepted by a unanimous vote. Previously, a member from Bramall Hall and Disley with extensive expertise in marketing and promotion had offered guidance and advice on what and what not to do, how to write a brief for the designer and explained the 'power of three'. Hence the strap line on our logo – Inspire, Learn, Create. We are inspired by our demonstrators and we can inspire others, we offer opportunities to learn (to flower arrange, demonstrate, judge and teach) and we enjoy our hobby by creating floral designs for our own homes, for others to enjoy or to compete. Our publicity material is postcard sized and features parts of designs created by Cheshire members so no copyright issues! The logos are within this newsletter and the publicity postcards are shown below. They will have their first 'outing' at the Royal Cheshire County Show in June.



Front of Postcard



Back of Postcard



Front of Postcard



Back of Postcard

Workshop 2 - 2024



Flower School of Cheshire **Members' Workshop** with **Mark Entwistle**

Sunday 12th May
Tarvin Community Centre,
Meadow Lane, Tarvin CH3 8LY
10.00am - 3.30pm
£25



Some more of Mark's innovative foam free designs using a straw wreath and midelino sticks.

Bring your own lunch – tea, coffee and homemade cakes provided.

To find out more and to book your place email Sharon/Pam at education@nafascheshire.org.uk

Final Call. Last few places – book now!

Demonstrator Training

Cheshire Area Demonstrator's Tests are being held on 1st September 2024 at Tarvin Community Centre. **Tickets are now on sale for this event priced at £10. Please apply to: treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk** All details are on the poster below.

We wish all our candidates every success with their training and look forward to seeing them soon at our Clubs.



The poster features a green floral background. At the top center is the logo for Flower Clubs of Cheshire, which includes a stylized flower and the text 'FLOWER CLUBS OF CHESHIRE' and 'Inspire - Learn - Create'. Below the logo, the text reads: 'AREA DEMONSTRATOR TESTS', 'to be held at', 'Tarvin Community Centre', 'Meadow Close, Tarvin, Chester CH3 8LY', 'on', 'SUNDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2024', and 'Tickets £10'. Further down, it states: 'Doors open at 9.30am – Audience must be seated by 10.00am', 'Tests should finish around 1.30pm', 'Refreshments will be available (Plenty of car parking at venue)', and 'Electronic tickets available from treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk'. At the bottom center is a circular logo for 'GLOBAL DESIGN WITH EXCELLENCE' and 'NAFAS'.

Cheshire will once again be hosting the National pre-assessments and National tests for demonstrators at Frodsham. All ticketing is being managed by NAFAS HQ and tickets are £15. Anyone wishing to purchase a ticket should contact Vanessa Keys vanessa@nafas.org.uk or call 020 7247 5567. Please note – admission is strictly by ticket only. Any Area Demonstrator with two years' experience wishing to step up can still make an application to take their Pre-National Assessment by contacting Head Office on 020 7247 5567.

NATIONAL PRE-ASSESSMENTS & NATIONAL TESTS FOR DEMONSTRATORS

Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane Frodsham WA6 7QN

Wednesday 30th & Thursday 31st October 2024

A great opportunity for Programme Secretaries and Club Members to watch Demonstrators stepping up

****Stalls to Browse** **Raffle** **Day out with Friends****

If you are able to volunteer at either of these events, please contact either treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk or berylcotton06@gmail.com

SHOWTIME



Congratulations to Cheshire members Gill Jackson, Eleanor Griffiths, Sylvia Bower, Margaret Delaney and Carol Baker for their designs at Harrogate Flower Show. Here's Gill's fabulous 2nd place design in the Frozen Planet class. (Photo credit Eleanor Griffiths)

Floral Design Competition – Country Fest 1st / 2nd June 2024

We have just received the following message from the Westmorland County Agricultural Society:

Country Fest is now just over 4 weeks away. I wonder if you would be so kind as to re share our Floral Design Schedule with your members? Entries are good but we still have space for more!

For online entries please visit <https://westmorlandshow.co.uk/country-fest/competitions/>

Many thanks, Angela Cornthwaite, Chief Executive

Westmorland County Agricultural Society Ltd, Lane Farm, Crooklands, Nr Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7NH

Tel: 015395 67804 email: manager@westmorland.org.uk web: www.westmorlandshow.co.uk

web: www.countryfest.co.uk Westmorland Show: Wednesday 11 & Thursday 12 September 2024



Cheshire Area's 'Theatre of Flowers' will once again be at the Royal Cheshire County Show @ Tabley on 18th & 19th June.

A pdf version of the schedule is available on our website www.nafascheshire.org.uk on the home page (click where it displays 'here'). If you are considering entering, please don't delay as some classes are already full.

(Pictured left is last year's entry created by Eleanor Griffiths (Frodsham Flower Club), placed 2nd in the class 'Converging Lines')

Stewarding at the Show - Could you Help?

The Show Team would like your help please. If you are considering volunteering with a friend, please let Maureen know so that you can be scheduled at the same time and then be able to enjoy a look around the showground together afterwards.

Maureen Hernon (Sale) the Steward's Secretary writes:

'Once again, we are asking Flower Clubs to provide members who would like to steward at the Royal Cheshire Show. The stewards are extremely important to us, as it means that we have a friendly face to interact with our visitors, and their help is gratefully acknowledged.

We are offering 4 time slots and would like volunteers to sign up for any 2 of them. The slots are:
Morning: 10.00 am – 11.30 pm. AND 11.30am – 1.00pm.
Afternoon: 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm. AND 2.30pm – 4.00pm.

We also would like volunteers to help with 'children's hands-on' activities as well as stewarding. The task of stewarding entails sitting or standing in an allotted position and being ready to answer the visitors' questions, discussing Flower Clubs with those who show an interest, and directing them to the Publicity table if required and distributing the voting slips for "The People's Choice Award". This has proved to be very popular and provides a good opportunity to engage with the visitors. The success of this award depends on the stewards giving out lots of voting cards and persuading visitors to vote for their favourite designs. It encourages people to look more closely at the exhibits and appreciate the work involved. It is also necessary to discourage members of the public from touching or moving any component of the exhibit, explaining that some plant materials may cause allergies, and pointing out interesting features in the exhibit. A sash or badge will be provided to identify stewards. Tea and coffee making facilities are available to use before and after each shift, but drinks not to be brought to stewarding positions.

Stewards will receive a free entry ticket a few days before the show. (Public admission to the show is £30 in advance or £35 on the day). All parking is free and disabled parking is close to the entrance. Should the volunteer have to cancel for any reason it is important that they let the steward's secretary know as soon as possible.

If you would like to help, please send an email to steward's secretary:
Email maur19een@gmail.com or call 07512663297 on or before Sunday May 26th.
Thank you for your help and support.'

The Nantwich Show – 31st July 2024

Schedule is out now

'Olympiad in Paris'

Southport Flower Show – 15th -18th August 2024

The show is celebrating 100 Years. Novice class for the first time this year and an opportunity for a Club / Group entry. Interested? Contact Louise Jones for more information.

'Cheers to 100 Years'

Club/Group Class. Depict a Decade of Your Choice.

Restricted to Four Clubs or Groups Affiliated to NAFAS.

Space allowed: Width 120cm, Depth 120cm, Height optional.

Staged on a base Width 120cm, Depth 120cm. 5cm thick. To be viewed all round.

Staging painted Dark Grey.

TROPHY CLASS. Maximum 2 people. Allowance of £200 maximum per group/club. Free entry to this class only.

Wild World.

Novice Class - Open to any exhibitor who has not previously won a prize or award in the Floral Art section.

Space allowed: Width 80cm, Depth 80cm, Height 122cm. Staged on a box base raised 60cm from ground with a solid backing.

Staging painted Pale Grey.

TROPHY CLASS. Restricted to 6.

Have you got the latest Competitions Manual (Fourth Edition 2023)? Copies can be obtained from treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk priced £5 plus postage.

WEBSITE REVIEW & UPDATE

Thank you to both Vanessa Lees and Sally Melvin who have conducted a comprehensive review of our website. Following our name change, new logo and publicity materials the next step is to update our website accordingly. We will be actioning the changes with Mike, our website manager, during May. Please bear with us. The website will still be up and running but we are aware it is out of date in places.

Website 'How To.....'

Thank you to everyone who has come forward to create a design to be photographed for our website 'How To....' Pages. Pam Mosedale already has some 'in the bag' which will be released over the forthcoming months. If you would be willing to create a design (funding

is available) would you please contact education@nafascheshire.org.uk. We would like to feature 6 new designs, Pam M will do the photography (so no need to worry about that bit!) and we will provide a venue for you to be creative in. We have so much floral design talent in Cheshire, would you share some please....?

Flower Arranger Magazine 2024

Price for 2024 is £16 for 4 issues

To order additional copies or for more information contact your Club Flower Arranger representative who will liaise with Catherine on flower.arranger@nafascheshire.org.uk

Order and Delivery Dates for 2024 are:

Order by	Delivery	
Autumn	18 th May	11 th Jul
Winter	22 nd Aug	10 th Oct

We will remember.....

Liz Kennan sadly passed away on Monday 22nd April. Liz was a member of New Brighton Flower Arranging Society, was Area Trading Officer and a member of the Cheshire Show team. We will miss her, particularly for her flower arrangement skills and joyful life approach. Liz's funeral is on 3rd May at 3pm at St Mary's Church on the corner of Manor Lane and Withens Lane in Liscard. Our thoughts are with her family – Jane Alasdair and Matthew.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

Cheshire Photoshoot: We have advised Chloe at The Flower Arranger of our 'interesting venues' in Cheshire to stage a potential photoshoot for the Flower Arranger magazine. We are now planning for **Christmas in July** (possibly 11th – to be confirmed). We will need 20 designs (10 designs & 10 How To.....) – all Christmas. We will be advised of the theme shortly. Generous flower allowance, travel & lunch – **just need you to volunteer please!** Email Treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk if interested in taking part.

Westminster Abbey Flowers: If you are interested in being on the **Cheshire list** to arrange flowers in Westminster Abbey would you please email Chairman@nafascheshire.org.uk

National Show 2025: The National Show 2025 is taking shape! Our Standing Committees are busy making their plans for the show and the Judges are planning a visit to the Cathedral in June to finalise the schedule.

Our two demonstrators for the Friday night Guildhall event have been chosen and we will release further information soon.

After his guest appearance at the 2023 show, Yan Skates will be creating a large exhibit in the Nave.

National Show 2027: The intention is to hold this event 'up north'. All suggestions for suitable venues are welcome. Please let us know.

NAFAS Webinar: It's your chance to ask the CEO and National Chairman a question. All members are eligible to attend. **Save the date - 16th May 6pm - 8pm.** If you would like to ask Steven Lane and / or Nicky Wylie a question please send it in advance of the meeting to info@nafas.org.uk. The link to join the

meeting is on the NAFAS HQ website: click on Latest News / Webinar and then click on the link to register your interest.

New National Lists: The 2024-25 book of Accredited Judges, Demonstrators and Speakers of NAFAS, Qualified Teachers of NAFAS and Qualified Teachers of Ikebana is now available priced at £2.75 from HQ. [Note: All Cheshire Clubs received one free copy at the Club Representatives Forum on 30th January at Frodsham Community Centre]



Nature's Challenge
The UK's most prestigious Flower Arranging Experience

Fri 19th & Sat 20th September 2025
at Gloucester Cathedral

- Demonstrations, workshops & talks**
- Competitive flower arranging classes
- Stunning floral exhibits**
- Food, drink & retail
- Music**

Tickets available from www.eventbrite.co.uk

www.nafas.org.uk
The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies
Charity Registration No. 1101345

Looking Ahead.....

DISLEY & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Willow weaving Workshop

Mon 13 May 2024
Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start

Visitors £17.50
Members £10

Pay on the door, card or cash

In this 2 hour workshop you'll learn how to make a willow tower with hands-on tuition.

Willow stems will be provided. Please bring a 26cm pot and some dry compost + secateurs.

Join us at:
High Lane Village Hall
Windlehurst Road
Stockport SK6 8AB

Free parking available

Enquiry@ddfc.org.uk




Neston Flower Society
Celebrating 65 Years in Neston
1959 - 2024

Flowers Galore

Friday 31st May, 9.30am - 3.30pm
Saturday 1st June, 9.30am - 2.30pm
at Neston Town Hall

NESTON'S COLOURFUL PAST IN FLOWERS

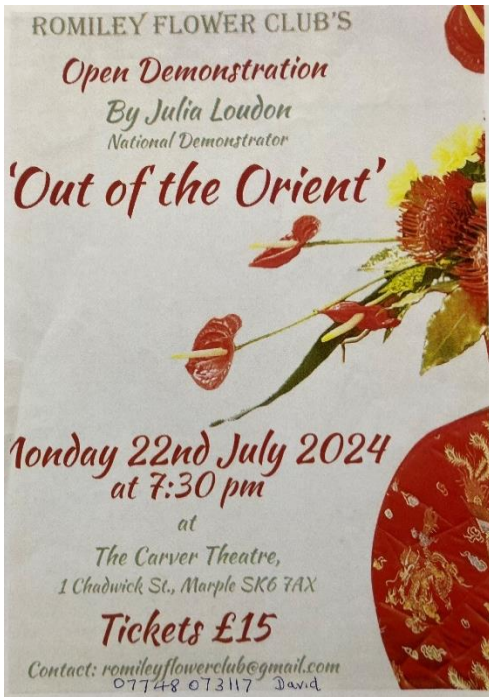
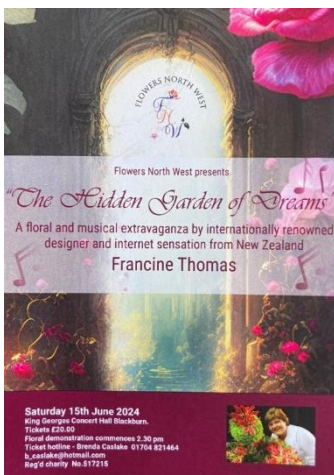
PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAYS

CHILDREN'S HANDS-ON WORKSHOP FOR LADIES DAY

SCHOOLS COMPETITION

FREE ADMISSION
Refreshments available

For further information contact:
✉ nestonflowersociety@gmail.com
Find us on 



Jacqui is not only a double RHS Chelsea Gold Medal winner but also won Chelsea in Bloom for her window display for LK Bennett. For more details, please message Handbridge Flower Club.

AGM 2024

Plans are progressing for the demonstration following our 54th AGM in October. Early bird offer of £15 per ticket, if purchased before 31st August 2024. All the details are in the poster.



Other Diary Dates

All our Diary Dates for 2024 are on our website, but here's a selection of show dates & events:

3 May	National Flower Arranging Day
9- 12 May	RHS Malvern Spring Festival
21 – 25 May	RHS Chelsea
18 – 19 June	Area Show @ Royal Cheshire County Show
2 – 7 July	RHS Hampton Court
17 – 21 July	RHS Tatton
31 July	Nantwich Show
9 – 10 August	Shrewsbury Flower Show
15 – 18 August	Southport Flower Show
27 – 29 September	RHS Malvern Autumn Show
3 October	Cheshire Area AGM
16 October	National AGM



We now have an Instagram page for Flower Clubs of Cheshire. Type in: **flowerclubsofcheshire** to find us. Please follow us – ask friends and family too, as we need to increase the number of followers. We would like to help publicise / share information about your Club on our Instagram page – future events, activities, workshops, designs, anything Flower Club related. Please send any photos and a brief description to treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk

Best Wishes

From All of Us

@

Flower Clubs of Cheshire

To receive this newsletter directly to your inbox, please send an email to newsletter@nafascheshire.org.uk and we'll add you to the distribution list

You are receiving this newsletter because you are the named Club contact or have subscribed individually. Please share this newsletter with as many members as possible – thank you.