

## The Cheshire Area of NAFAS

Minutes of Council Meeting held at Plumley Village Hall - Monday 2 July 2018

**Officers Present:** Chairman - Sharon Nolan, 1st Vice Chairman – Nicky Wylie, 2nd Vice Chairman – Chris Gibbons, Treasurer – Chris Middleton, Secretary- Morag McCord, Publicity Officer – Catherine Bower, Minutes Secretary – Shiona Fosh

### **Chairman's Remarks:**

Welcome and introduction of Officers.

- **Personal Statement:** Sharon thanked everyone for their kind cards, messages and practical support following the recent loss of her husband. They were much appreciated.
- **Deaths:**
  - In early-April, Kevin Gunnell, Chairman of Mercia and North Wales, National Demonstrator and Judge and national AOH. Sharon attended his funeral on 30/4/18 where he was given a flower filled send off. She has an order of service if anyone would like to see it.
  - Joan Dyson has died recently. She was a founder member of the Area and AOH. Joan was an inspirational teacher whose dedication and enthusiasm in those early days inspired many of our talented members, including, among others, Val Seed. Joan's funeral was on 22/6/18.
- **Congratulations to:**
  - Everyone who won awards at Chelsea, but especially Louise Jones and Debbie Davies for their gold award.
  - The team from Disley Flower Club for their gold medal at Arley Garden Festival.
  - Dawn Weaver, Chairman of Handbridge Flower Club, won the Wafa eliminator at the Royal Cheshire Show. She will represent Cheshire Area at the national eliminator at the Masquerade weekend in Leicester on 10/8/18. (The winner from this will be sponsored by NAFAS to attend the Wafa Show in Jaipur, India in February 2020.)
- 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Pam Fleming-Williams, Area Judges Representative, Carol Black – Area President and Speakers Representative, Hale Barns FC, Ashton and Sale FC, Ashton Hayes and Tarvin FC, Wistaston and District FC, Prestbury FC.
- 2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 were agreed and signed by Sharon as correct.
- 3. **MATTERS ARISING:** None.
- 4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** To be covered in relevant section.

### 5. **REPORTS:**

#### **a) Secretary – Morag McCord**

##### **Reminders:**

- Delegates to sign in beside your club name.
- One vote per club.
- Delegates advise club committee as soon as possible after council of any business requiring action and remind club contact to quickly pass on any information sent to them for their members, especially as some clubs don't meet over summer months.
- Let Morag know of any changes to club officers as soon as possible and please return the club officers form issued in February – even if you had already returned one before then and after your AGM. Ensure that everyone who has to sign the form for data protection purposes.

##### **Correspondence:**

- Several emails from clubs and members sending their condolences to Sharon and Joan Dyson's family.

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- Emails from HQ reminding members of Masquerade weekend in Leicester in August and places were still available.
- Received several inquiries re: Club demonstrations.
- Email re: Complaint from a club concerning a demonstrator which was passed on to Pat Murphy Area Demonstrators Rep.
- Initial notification from Ashton & Sale FC that they will close in December 2018.

### Packs:

- Agenda
- Flower Arranger 2019 letter and order form.
- New date for Bramall Hall FC, workshop at Plumley 22/09/18
- Festival of flowers, Cheadle Hulme 27-30 Sept 2018
- Period Flower arranging 6/10/18 Plumley
- Neil Whittaker 14/10/18 Plumley workshop
- Dawn Weaver 17/11/18 Plumley Day workshop
- Mark Entwistle 20/11/18 S. Cheshire FC. Congleton
- Angel Turner 26/11/18 Rural Chester FC, Christleton
- Per Benjamin 24/02/19 Demonstration, Crewe Lyceum
- "Hold this Date" flyer – Area lunch 18/03/19

Many thanks to Merilyn and Ann for their help with club packs and registration.

### b) Treasurer – Chris Middleton

**Social Day:** 25 tickets still available. These can be paid for on the door but let Chris know if you are coming.

**Arley:** Aim was to cost Area nothing for the big burst of publicity. The result: There was a surplus of £42, a gold award, 50+ hands on arrangements made, Lots of clubs and area information handed out to interested parties.

**Chelsea 2019:** 13 clubs have donated money plus many individuals, Plant sale raised £575, Donations in memory of Joan Dyson £138, 1<sup>st</sup> Stage payment from Disley for an afternoon tea. Money raised so far £4,600.

**Christmas orders:** Pictures of diaries, cards, calendars and order forms in packs. Orders by the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018 to be sent to Chris Middleton.

**Raffle:** Thanks to Joan Quinlan from Stockport Afternoon FC.

### c) Publicity – Catherine Bower

- Thank you to all who 'rallied round' to ensure RCS and Arley Garden Festival were an excellent showcase for Cheshire NAFAS.
- Congratulations to Disley & District flower club members who were awarded Gold at Arley. They represented The Cheshire Area in the Floral Marquee. Please let Catherine know if you would like to represent the Area at Arley 2019, 2 to 3 volunteers to make display! **Post-meeting note: Sally Melvin, Upton – by – Chester Flower Club came forward for 2019.**
- Thank you to clubs who have booked publicity material for their local shows. Please email publicity@nafascheshire.org.uk to check availability

### Publicity items:

- Free visitor vouchers issued at Royal Cheshire Show and Arley Garden Festival. Please return any presented to your club, even if you do not want a refund. Hopefully this will introduce prospective members to your club.
- Publicity for club to be sent on A5 sheet to be laminated for publicity board at Tatton RHS.

### Flower Arranger:

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- Order form for 2019 subscriptions and covering letter in club packs. Please pass to your club Flower Arranger Officer.
- Any changes for Winter orders to Catherine by Friday 31 August for delivery 11 October 2018.

### **d) NAFAS – Sharon Nolan**

**National flower arrangement day:** A prize was offered by Sharon for the best flower arrangement idea for the national flower day. No club produced a picture, so no prize!

### **Diamond Anniversary Celebration Event:**

- Val Seed has been co-opted to assist with hospitality in London.
- Sharon to organise a day trip from Cheshire, possibly by train. Information to follow.

### **WAFA 2020**

- Sharon is hoping to organise a trip to Jaipur 2/02/20 for the WAFA competition, let her know if you are interested in going. **Post-meeting note: Information from CTS about three different trips to Jaipur circulated to all clubs.**

### **e) Finance and General Purposes -Sharon Nolan**

- 3 more Chaffinches
- Important to engage personally with the public at local shows and inform them of what NAFAS does.

**Tatton:** Good luck to Sylvia and her team who have just completed their mock up.

**Royal Cheshire Show:** Sharon commented on what a brilliant show it was.

### **f) Judges, Demonstrators, Speakers & Education – Nicky Wylie**

- There are still places available for the Alan Beatty workshop on the 6th July.
- New date for Bramall Hall FC, workshop at Plumley 22/09/18
- Period Flower arranging 6/10/18 Plumley

### **g) Social – Chris Gibbons**

- A 'hold this date' notice has been put into club envelopes to give plenty of notice for the Monday, 18th March 2019, Social Lunch. Posters and further information will be put into the next Council Meeting envelopes in November.
- 5/07/18 is the Social Day for the Area and over 200 tickets have been sold.
- Tickets are on sale for the AGM 4/10/18 when Kate Kerr from Dumfries & Galloway will be demonstrating for us. Note that the AGM is in Tarvin Community Centre. Let Chris G know (email [2nd.vice@nafascheshire.org.uk](mailto:2nd.vice@nafascheshire.org.uk)) if you need a disabled (blue badge) parking space reserving.

### **h) RHS – Pat Bannister**

- Sylvia and her team are working hard on finalising their exhibit and Pam Fleming-Williams and Nicky Wylie have viewed it. They were very pleased with the design and suitably impressed.
- Nicky Wylie, Chris Gibbons, Chris O'Hara and Sue Mansfield have agreed to do a different version of the Flower Tower. These will all be in the centre of the Flower School marquee and will be judged by the public and Social Media.
- It will be an exciting time in the marquee and we are all looking forward to it.

### **i) Royal Cheshire County Show Team – Joan Wilkinson**

- A very big thank you to all the clubs who sponsored classes at the show. I know that at the moment some clubs are struggling financially and others are supporting Chelsea 2019 so to receive any money was a real bonus. Without this input we cannot keep the show looking fresh with new ideas and formats so a very big thank you from myself, Gill and the committee for your support.

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- The show was very successful, with very few hiccups and the new stands proved popular. We hope to add to these next year to give the show a more modern twist.
- Congratulations to Dawn Weaver who put on a stunning exhibit to go through to the next round in Leicester for the Wafa eliminator.
- It is hoped that the space at the front of the marquee can be filled with the new stands for next year.
- The standard of the show was extremely high and both judges, Sheila Rogers and Joyce Hearnshaw, said how hard it was to write critical comments to justify the competitor not getting a card.
- This year we introduced a new trophy, donated by Padgate Flower Club when it closed. This trophy was for 'Innovation' and deservedly won by Val Seed for her design "Over the Edge". Best in Show was won by Chris Gibbons and Pat Bannister for their interpretation of the fairy tale "Rapunzel". It was absolutely stunning, very well done to both of them. Sylvia Bower won Runner up to Best in Show with her exquisite design for "Over the Edge". Well done to all who entered and, although not everyone won a prize, each design was much admired by the public and the judges.
- Once again the children's and adult's hands on proved very popular. Pam Dimeloe made little fish from aluminium wire and a skeletonised leaf suspended on a medolino stick; the children loved them. A big thank you for all her help over the two days.
- Next year we plan to give a prize for the Best Use of Craft to be retained by the winner. We are still going to call it the Mary Shaw Award and Sue Jackson has very generously said that she would buy the prize each year and present it to the winner.
- We had three excellent designs from tutors and their students; these always attract a lot of attention from the public. Well done to everyone for making that side of the marquee look amazing.
- Finally please thank all of your members who either entered the show or came to have a look and we look forward to seeing some of those who did not enter this year having a go at next year's show.

### **j) NAFAS Sub Committees:**

**i) Judges – Pam Fleming-Williams:** No report

**ii) Demonstrators – Pat Murphy:** Notes from National Demonstrators' Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23/7/18 and the committee were Michael Bowyer, Chairman, Elizabeth Graham, Pam Lewis, Jacqui Arnold and Diane Fair.

### **Correspondence:**

- Regarding forwarding blue forms to all tutors for the Demonstrators Symposium and also to the Adjudicators for the National Test.
- Sharon Nolan, Chairman of Cheshire Area wrote to the Chairman to say that everyone had enjoyed the refresher day for demonstrators taken by Angela Turner.
- Many cards of thanks were received following a very successful symposium.

### **Complaints:**

- There were three letters of complaints against National Demonstrators varying from formal complaints to letters expressing concern.
- A letter also complaining regarding the national demonstrators training date being cancelled. All these matters were discussed and action taken.

### **2018 Symposium – 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018**

- The symposium was attended by 58 people, 48 delegates plus 10 committee/tutors. Of the 48, 13 were national demonstrators and 35 area demonstrators.
- Feedback from the delegates on the hotel was "very good".
- Workshops either "superb" or "very good".

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- Thoughts for the future were for the event to be named the NAFAS Demonstrators Symposium dropping the National.
- Inclusion of a teaching demonstration tuition on speaking/presentation skills.
- Future potential venues were discussed and suggestions were Northern Ireland or Holland although maybe reduce the event to 2 nights to keep the cost down.
- The Chairman once again thanked the committee for their hard work.

### **2018 National Tests and other events:**

- Pre National Candidates: Alison Penno, Jackie Page, Tina Pound, Peter Bodnar, Carol Stables, Helen Raymond-Clark, Cherie Nummy, Sarah Fenton, Lieneke von Lien.
- National Candidates: Vanessa Wellock, Delyth Price, Marie Munday, Lucy Richardson.
- Tickets sold for Monday 29th October - 160 and for Tuesday 30th October - 200
- All pre Nationals are to be on Day One and Day Two will be for Pre Nationals am and National Candidates pm.
- Committee's roles for the test were discussed in detail. Final planning will take place at the next meeting in September.

### **2019 Diamond Anniversary Event:**

- The Chairman had received an email from Derek Armstrong requesting names of demonstrators for this event.
- A list of 14 names will be sent to Derek along with a list of suggestions and recommendations for the successful running of this event.

### **Any other business:**

Revision of D forms took place – some changes were:

- Prior to commencing training areas are advised to offer the NAFAS Introductory course for NAFAS Disciplines.
- Also the area responsible for training to issue a certificate for trainees at every training day which is to be placed in a test folder. Two certificates at least are required prior to taking a mock test.
- Re - take candidates must attend an additional certificated day prior to retaking a test.
- Instructors and area representatives must ensure all designs in the portfolios have been demonstrated during training.
- The Chairman would like all the above points to come into effect in January 2019 so as not to affect the current training policies.
- The future of the pre National assessment was discussed and the overall result was to keep it as it is and monitor it on going.
- It was agreed that a reps day should be held at Osborne House on Wednesday 30th January to implement the new D forms.

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 17th September 2018.

**Report from Demonstrators Symposium:** 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018: Pat attended this weekend along with just one other demonstrator from the Cheshire Area. It was a superb event with workshops run by Laura Leong and Lucy Richardson. An amazing demonstration was given on the Saturday afternoon by Stein an Hansen. It was a great opportunity to mix with fellow demonstrators meeting old friends and making new ones and sharing ideas and learning new skills.

### **iii) Speakers – Carol Black**

**National Speakers Committee** 23/04/18

**Attendance:** Chairman: Philida Irving, Kathy Standguard, Susan Horne, Alan Beatty and Umbrella, Peter Matthews.

- Thanks to everyone for their support after the sudden resignation of Susan Shaw, Chairman, especially Philida who took charge.

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- Accepted that the Speakers residential course would be postponed from April 2019 to 2020, as the NAFAS calendar was very full for 2019.
- Area speakers test recently in the East of England, 2 out of 4 candidates were successful.
- Next Test: Wessex and Jersey Area in October 2018.
- Exploring possible venues for National Speakers test in 2019.
- Committee to review Power point presentations at National Tests after consulting Adjudicators and Instructors in September 2018.
- 3 A/Is, 2 hoping to sit their final assessment at the National Test, 1 who has commenced training.
- Committee discussed the process of training A/Is and will review at a later date.
- Committee decided that the ruling that microphones should not be used in any test environment should be upheld. Matter to be kept under review.
- Ideas were discussed regarding Speakers presence during National Show in August 2019.
- A/I Day. Sept.2018. Request for all travel expenses to be paid in full instead of 50% to be in line with the Area Reps. meetings.
- Suggested that Speakers page on the NAFAS website, Handy Hints, should be listed as a collapsible menu. The idea of a Handy Hints booklet should be explored.

### **The Area Representatives Meeting 24/04/18**

- Paul Bonter explained new Data Protection regulations, which affect NAFAS. Information available from Carol Black.
- Reports from Area Reps were discussed.
- Ideas for promotion of Speakers were exchanged.
- Questions rose about fast track training for people who had experience in other spheres of life. It was felt that this would appear to discriminate against NAFAS members. To be debated further.
- Suggested that Speaking should be introduced to NAFAS juniors as other youth organisations have public speaking and debating within their programmes.

**Date of next meeting:** Sept 2018

### **iv) Education – Diane Fair:** No National report

- The new National List –Orange cover - that was sent to every club chairman in January with a letter from Jan Law – please pass the list to the club Programme Secretary – if you have not received one please contact HQ.
- In the back of the National list is the NAFAS Recommended mileage rate and also a list of every Area and who you can obtain their Area List from.
- Area Education day for teachers and tutors is on 27th October with Jackie Charnock
- The Area Members day with Dawn Weaver on 17th November at Plumley –still a few places left. I have not received the worksheet yet.
- Start a Fashion Share Your Passion Christmas workshop Saturday 1st December at Plumley- more details to follow via e mail.

### **v) Photography- Pam Mosedale**

#### **Royal Cheshire County Show Photography Competition**

Thank you to everyone who entered the photography competition. Here are some of the highlights:

- There were 119 entries
- The competition was open to everyone and 6 non NAFAS members entered
- We made a small surplus of £50
- The 'visitor votes' proved very successful with 405 votes cast. 78 different photographs gained votes and just 2 votes separated the winner and second place

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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.

### 6. Chelsea 2019 - Nicky Wylie

- Ours will be the last NAFAS big exhibit at Chelsea, 17' wide and 25' high.
- Nicky made a plea to all the clubs for their support as more money needed to be raised for this last amazing event at Chelsea.
- As part of fund-raising, Per Benjamin, a renowned International Floral arranger, is coming to Crewe Lyceum from Stockholm, in February 2019. The event is going to be advertised nationally.

### 7. Any other Business:

- Val Seed suggested that clubs could raise money for Chelsea by swapping jigsaws and books for a £1 or filling Smarties tubes with 20p coins, which was suggested by.
- Bramall Hall FC is starting a new initiative for new members starting at 8pm so that they can put their children to bed. Five places for teenagers at £25 a head.
- Sharon thanked Nicky Wylie for doing the flower arrangement for the raffle.

### 8 Post-Meeting Note:

**Affiliation Fees:** If they have not already received it, Clubs will shortly receive an email requesting payment of their affiliation fees later this year

**Nominations For Treasurer and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman:** If they have not already received it, clubs will shortly receive a form asking them to nominate names for Area Treasurer and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman.

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In Area President, Carol Black's absence, Sharon thanked everyone for coming and wished every success to Dawn Weaver at Leicester and to Sylvia Bower and her team at the RHS Tatton Show.

**Date of Next Meeting:** AGM, Thursday 4 October 2018, Tarvin Community Centre, Meadow Close (Off Crossfields), Tarvin, Chester CH3 8LY. 10am Coffee/Tea Meeting 10.30am

**Date of Next Council Meeting:** Monday 12 November 2018 Plumley  
10am Coffee/Tea Meeting 10.30am

Signed.....

Dated.....