**NORTH EAST AREA OF NAFAS**

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 JULY 2021**

**VIA ZOOM**

**Present:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| President: Mrs. Ann HardingChairman: Mrs. Janet Ratcliffe1st Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Sheila Drybrough Secretary: Mrs. Ann SimpsonTreasurer: Mrs. Sue GuilliattProjects Officer: Mrs. Joan O’Brien*Flower Arranger* Officer: Mrs. Joan O’BrienDemonstrator’s Representative: Mrs. Sue SpencerJudge’s Representative: Mrs. Janet HaytonSpeaker’s Representative: Mrs. Rita BraithwaitePhotography Representative: Mrs. Anne LindsayMedia Officer: Mrs. Sarah SpencerWebmaster: Mr. Peter MathersArea Historian: Mr. Tony CleaverDeputy Education Representative: Mrs. Christine HinchcliffeDeputy Judges Representative: Mrs. Joan McBurney | **Special Associates of Honour at National Level**Mrs. Janet Hayton**Associates of Honour at National Level**Mrs. Pat MartinMrs. Sheila RodgersMr. Tony Cleaver**Associates of Honour at Area Level**Mrs. Joyce BarlowMiss Louise NettletonMrs. Gill PritchettMrs. Sue SpencerMrs. Jenny FreemanMrs. Ann Harding |

 41 members representing 33 clubs registered to attend the meeting.

**21/23 The Chairman, Mrs. Janet Ratcliffe**, welcomed members.

Good afternoon everyone and thank you for agreeing to join this Council Meeting, again on Zoom, when we had really hoped to meet in person.

Some of you will be disappointed that we are not in the Folk Hall in York whilst others may be pleased that we made the decision to revert to zoom again, and we might even have some club chairman attending who would not have been there in person for whatever reason. So, a warm welcome to you all.

You will see on the agenda item 8 that there is an ‘Open Forum’ and when we were planning to meet in person, the Exec felt it would be a good opportunity for club chairman to update us on their future plans for club meetings and events, securing their venues and demonstrators etc, secondly, we were hoping for a discussion about the AGM format, and I see no reason why these discussions cannot still go ahead on Zoom.

This will also be the opportunity to ask any questions or make any comments on any of the information and reports you hear today.

We may have to invite you in turn, to enable accurate minutes of the meeting to be recorded but we will work out how best to do this when we get to this item on the agenda.

Apologies to Huddersfield Flower Club who are not able to do the flowers and sell raffle tickets, hopefully they will be able to do them in October.

**21/24** **Apologies for absence** were received from: Fil Caldwell, Joyce Harrow, Mo Duffill, Sue Maddocks, Lynn Naylor, Vanessa Wellock, Catherine Gledhill, Rosalind Walker, Shirley Clegg and the following clubs, Antheia, Easingwold, East Ardsley, New Dimensions & Viking.

**21/25 AREA REPORTS**

***Chairman*** Mrs. Janet Ratcliffe reported:

The Area Executive committee had continued to meet on a planned monthly basis through Zoom along with several other meetings in between, until 6th July when we were able to meet in person in Wetherby. It was good to see each other, and we had a lovely surprise as we were each given a Christmas present from Ann Simpson, who had been saving bottles of fresh apple juice made from last year’s enormous bounty of apples and which made 47 bottles in total. A lovely late Christmas present but gratefully received by us all. That is something you cannot do over Zoom!!

Following our last Council meeting we sent out with the minutes an updated Risk Assessment and Unlock Guidance produced by our Media Officer and deputy Sarah and Lynne, from existing documents available through NAFAS. These documents are not a requirement of the North East Area, they are updated examples of each document. It is however, strongly recommended that you use them to produce your own Risk Assessment/Unlock Guidance that meets your individual club’s needs.

When we last met, we were looking forward to the National Virtual Show, and I am pleased to say it was a huge success and there were many entries from the N E Area with nine Area members receiving awards

Class 2 third place – Joan McBurney

Class 2 commended – Rita Braithwaite

Class 5 Highly Commended – Joyce Hearnshaw

Class 5 Commended – John Hawkridge

Class 9 third place – Rita Braithwaite

Class 10 Highly Commended – Joan McBurney

Class 10 Commended – Dorothy Mcguire

Class 11 Commended – Julie Dickinson

Class 12 Highly Commended – Pam Kitchen

Congratulations to you all.

Rita Braithwaite our Area Speakers Representative gave one of the talks titled ‘Drawn to Nature’ and if you have not had a chance to view any of the National Show then I encourage you to look on the National website, a lovely way to escape inside on a very hot day or a rainy one for that matter!!

Rita also gave a talk to North East Area members in June titled ‘Flowers on Show’ which was another way to spend an interesting and entertaining evening and I am sorry if you missed it as unfortunately this is not available to view. You can however book any of the Area or National speakers for live or Zoom presentations by accessing their information on the Area and National websites. Thank you, Rita, for your talks and representing our Area on the National stage.

.

As I am sure you are all aware there have been many demonstrations and workshops on Zoom, and you might have already held them for your club. It was a suggestion at a recent ‘Buddy’ meeting that it is feasible to have a National Demonstrator or teacher to provide a full demonstration/workshop with the cost shared between 2 or more clubs either for in person meetings or through Zoom. Something to think about!

Just to clarify ‘Buddy Meetings’ these are Zoom meetings with 4 or so other Area Chairman, linked to a member of the Board of Directors, where we are given chance to discuss NAFAS business in small groups. Any concerns, questions we have or comments we want to make are fed back to the Board by our ‘Buddy’ I personally have found these extremely useful, particularly to hear from the other three Area Chairman in my group as to what is happening in their Areas.

Sadly, we heard at the end of April that Pocklington Flower Club had closed and in dividing their financial assets the Area has benefitted from a substantial donation which we will use for a specific purpose, yet to be decided. Our best wishes go to all the members, and we do hope that those who wish to join another flower club, are able to do so in the not-too-distant future.

We held a Club Flower Arranger Officer’s meeting on Zoom on May 4th which produced some very useful suggestions as to how it was felt *The Flower Arranger* magazine could appeal to a wider audience, resulting in all the suggestions and recommendations being forwarded to the Editorial Board.

Thank you to everyone who joined the meeting.

On Sunday May 9th we had a very successful Demonstrators, Speakers and Teachers Refresher Day, presented by Janet Schofield, where everyone learnt a lot about the different ways of using Zoom. This clearly demonstrated whether you ‘love it or hate it’, that Zoom is here to stay! Thank you to everyone who took part.

On the 18th May we held another successful zoom workshop with Vanessa Wellock, with 30 participants. We produced a non-foam arrangement, and this can be seen on the Area website. Our thanks go to Vanessa, for a beautiful design structure that can be used over and over again!

June 15th was a talk by Rita Braithwaite detailed earlier.

On July 9th *The Flower Arranger* Magazine Editor, the Editorial Chair and a photographer were in York at George Smith’s garden, followed in the afternoon by several demonstrators arriving in Tony Cleaver and Peter Mathers garden to produce completed arrangements and step by step arrangements for next summer’s Flower Arranger magazine. It is all top secret until the publication in July 2022, so watch this space and make sure you have you order in place through your Club Flower Arranger Officer. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and to Tony and Peter for your hospitality. Tony your Risk Assessment meant that everything ran smoothly, and we had a lovely afternoon in the sunshine.

We were not able to attend The Great Yorkshire Show this year as there was no flower marquee where we would normally hold our free workshops. We are however, hoping to be present at the Harrogate Autumn Show, held this year at Newby Hall. This sounds an exciting change to the usual format with floral designs inside the Hall as well as marquees including specialist societies. Sarah Spencer will be asking for your help with updating your club’s information in her report.

We had planned to present new Representatives and Deputies with their badges at this meeting as well present a gift of thanks to the retiring officers however as I said earlier, sadly this is not something we can do through Zoom. My apologies for not being able to do this, however the October Council is looking more favourable.

I recognise that there are also a number of club anniversaries during the coming months and if you have managed to have plans in place to celebrate, I wish you every success and hope that you are able to enjoy your special event.

Finally, I am sorry to have to report that unfortunately we have had to cancel the ''Scarborough Escape' weekend as Scarborough TEC cannot guarantee to provide the arrangements for the weekend we had planned.

**21/26 TREASURER’S REPORT**

Mrs. Sue Guilliatt reported:

Bank balances

Community account £29,832.40

Special Fund £5,971.34

Building Society £6,327.53

Building Society bond £13,327.98

Cash £157.00

The community account is higher than normal as it includes all the payments received for the planned event in Scarborough which will be refunded.

**Affiliation fees**

We have received affiliation fees from all of the Area’s 58 clubs which cover 2,427 members. This compares to 3,056 last year which is a reduction of 629 members and represents a 20% reduction. This reduction includes 53 members from Pocklington Flower Club.

As approved by Council the Area has paid £2.10 per member of the £6.10 NAFAS affiliation fee utilising the Flower Festival and Special Funds. As a result, we have £369.84 remaining in the Special Fund but in addition Pocklington Flower Club kindly donated £992.55 giving us a balance of £1,362.39.

This means that the Area has paid £5,096.70 affiliation fees to NAFAS on behalf of our clubs and their members. With only £1,362.39 remaining in the Special Fund the Area cannot provide the same level of support next year.

As yet no decision has been made regarding the level of the 2022 affiliation fees but NAFAS have confirmed they are holding their fees at £6.10 per member. We will consider later this year the level of the Area affiliation fees when we have a clearer understanding of the position and what support if any the Area can provide this year. We will confirm the affiliation fees and room hire costs at the October Council meeting. As with this year the collection date will be from November this year to 31 March next year.

**21/27 PROJECT OFFICER’S REPORT**

Mrs. Joan O’Brien reported:

*Scarborough Escape*

Janet has informed you of the cancellation of the Scarborough Escape.

Everyone who booked for the weekend has been notified by email or telephone and refunds will be arranged.

*Area AGM 20 November 2021*

It is with regret that the Executive Committee have decided the Area AGM will not be held at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Wakefield on the 20 November 2021. However, the meeting will be held on Zoom.

When the projected numbers were compared to previous years the AGM in its present format would not be financially viable.

*Area Luncheon*

The luncheon is being held on Wednesday 4 May 2022 at the Parsonage Hotel, Escrick, York. Jessica Aldred from the House of Heyday will be the after luncheon speaker. The title of her talk is ‘Adventures in Needlework’.

**21/28 TRADING**

***THE FLOWER ARRANGER*** Mrs. Joan O’Brien reported:

NATIONAL

Some good news, the Enterprise Board have agreed that the annual club membership subscription rate will remain at £12.80 for 2022. The increase to the production/distribution costs during this time will be absorbed by NAFAS.

Back Copies of the Flower Arranger Magazine may be ordered via the Area Flower Arranger Officer at the cost of:-

2019 and earlier — £1 per copy plus postage

2020 — £2.30 per copy plus postage.

The Area hosted a photo shoot on the 9 July for future editions of the magazine. Please make sure you have placed your order for the 2022 subscriptions with your Club Flower Arranger Officer to ensure that you see the work of the North East Area's talented designers.

AREA

The Area held a Zoom meeting on the 4 May 2021 for Club Flower Arranger Officers (CFAOs) to discuss issues regarding:-

1 The distribution of the magazines to members.

2 How we might encourage members to subscribe to the magazine

3 Thoughts of how to improve the magazine and make it appealing to current and new members.

Their recommendations were forwarded to the Editorial Board for their consideration.

Hazel Bell will take over the role as Area Flower Arranger Officer as from today 24 July and will be contacting Club Flower Arranger Officers in the near future. Her contact details are:- Telephone 01924 270203 email hazelbell45@hotmail.com

I wish her every success and will support Hazel in her new role.

My thanks to all the Club Flower Arranger Officers for their hard work in promoting and delivering the magazines during these challenging times. Your endeavours are much appreciated at Area and National level. It's been my pleasure to work with you all over the past few years.

**21/18 NATIONAL REPORT –** Chairman Mrs. Janet Ratcliffe reported:

So much has been happening with the Board of Directors and standing committee meetings since our April Council meeting. The Board of Directors meet on a fortnightly basis and are currently dealing with the sale of Osborne House. The estate agents responsible for the sale are Knight Franks, the brochure has been produced and there were already four viewings during this last week.

There is to be a fourth presentation by an investment company in the coming weeks, for the Board of Directors to decide upon, following the sale of Osborne House.

The Articles of Association are almost ready for signing off and solicitor Helen Harvie was present at the National Advisory Council Zoom meeting on July 20th to answer any questions the Area Chairman might have. Helen has over 20 years’ experience working with charities on their Articles of Association, Constitutions, Charity Commission requirements and all related aspects of law.

At the meeting we were informed that the accounts for 2020/21 are with the auditors and are expected to show a surplus of approximately £37k, which is an incredible achievement after the huge deficit shown in the previous year’s accounts.

We were informed that the Christmas cards and diaries will be going on sale sometime in August/early September and if you have received your Autumn copy of The Flower Arranger you will be able to see the four designs available. 2022 diary is orange, and these can be ordered through your club or online.

It is hoped that there will be *The Flower Arranger* magazines promotional material available for 2022 shows, in the hope of increasing public interest. This could result in someone taking out a subscription which may hopefully lead them to joining their nearest flower club. To accompany these Warners the publishers, have a considerable number of back copies and it is hoped that these can be made available to Areas for promotional purposes. It is anticipated that the cost of *The Flower Arranger* magazine will remain at the same price for members, though there has been an increase in the cost of paper.

Publication of *The Flower Arranger* magazine currently stands at 20,000+ however Morrisons are promoting the magazines in 100 of their stores with in-store demonstrations in October, and Hobbycraft are trialing the magazine in 100+ stores commencing with the Autumn edition. Obviously extra sales of the magazine mean extra income for NAFAS!

The two vacancies on the Board of Directors have been filled by Phillida Irving, Northumberland and Durham and Ellie Meaking, South Midlands who will be serving a second three-year term of office.

There were six new National Associates of Honour, and these names will be published when everyone has been informed.

The President elect is Lillias Hoskins, SAFAS, who will follow on from Michael Bowyer and brings a wealth of experience at Area and National level having worked across a wide range of appointments.

We were asked to ‘Save the Date’ with notification of a National Weekend planned for 9 – 11 September 2022 at the Marriot Hotel in Leicester, and there is to be another National Virtual show after the success of this year’s show. This will be 20th June – 1st July 2022 titled ‘Chasing Rainbows’

There was a lengthy discussion about the payment of Affiliation Fees for the coming financial year when some clubs are not meeting till September or even not until next year. It was strongly recommended that Areas continue to encourage clubs to pay their fees wherever they can irrespective of whether they’ve been able to meet, to ensure that their club will be there when they are able to return, securing their clubs future.

We were also informed that the photographic committee has been disbanded after failure to replace Chrissie Harten as she is retiring after many years as Chairman of the committee. Therefore, there will not be any more National photographic competitions after this year.

The new co-ordinator for WAFA has been announced as Valerie Best, but unfortunately the 2024 WAFA in New Zealand has been cancelled.

At Chelsea Flower Show 21st – 26th September NAFAS will be represented with eight individual exhibits rather than one very large exhibit as in previous years.

The National Demonstrators test is planned for September in Gloucester and the National AGM will be a zoom presentation in October and hosted by Tony Cleaver.

Please note there are volunteer posts being advertised in all clubs and on the Area and National websites for a National Proof reader, an RHS Coordinator, a Publications Officer and a Junior Liaison Officer plus information on how to declare an interest.

Finally, you have just two days left till July 26th to submit your Chairman’s Challenge photos for July – the title is ‘Happy Holidays’ and I guess some of you will have plenty photos on your phones taken over recent days in this glorious sunshine.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**21/29 AREA REPRESENTATIVES’ REPORTS**

**DEMONSTRATORS** Mrs. Sue Spencer reported:

NATIONAL

I have no real National News, I just hope some of you were able to enjoy virtual show in April

AREA

Again, nothing really to report, our Demonstrators are eager to get back to visiting your Clubs, when the time is right.

The zoom refresher day in May went very well (although some of it was beyond me). I would like to thank Vanessa for organising this. I know some clubs have been having our zoom demonstrations, which have been enjoyed but it is not quite the same as meeting people.

Our Demonstrators are now taking bookings for 2022 and some are already full, so I would recommend you rebook as soon as possible. We all understand things can still change and the size of venues can make a difference. A few Clubs have opened this month and others starting in September, but whenever the time is right for you enjoy it and keep safe.

Please remember we are all here to help so never be afraid to ask, especially if you are a new bookings secretary, our details can be found on the website or in the information book. Also remember you can look on the website to find details and photographs of all our Demonstrators.

I am pleased to announce that Sarah Spencer has started training in the North Midlands Area.

**EDUCATION** Mrs. Christine Hinchcliffe reported on behalf of Mrs. Vanessa Wellock:

We had a successful and very informative zoom training session with the demonstrators, speakers and teachers given by Janet Scofield and Pip Bensley, on May 9th, Janet and Pip gave us lots of information and guidelines for online demonstrations, workshops and talks.

Everyone I spoke to felt they had benefited from the session and left the session with a better understanding of online sessions.

I have been in contact with Susie Barwick with reference to the basic teaching Manual.

Some of the areas have already put on the 2-day course. Irene Manson held the instruction for the course via zoom for members of SAFAS and felt it was successful. Susie is going to send more information after she has finished the presentations this week.

There is a presentation on zoom on Monday 26th July for the new modular courses which I am attending, after which I shall report back to the Exec committee.

**JUDGES** Mrs. Janet Hayton reported:

NATIONAL

I have received the Minutes of the National Judging Committee which was held on 16 June 2021. The judging of Virtual Shows was discussed and the Committee has now issued some guidance notes which I have sent out to all judges in the Area. Congratulations go once again to all those from the North East Area who were successful in gaining awards at the virtual National Show. There was some wonderful work to look at online.

AREA

It has also been an extremely quiet time for the majority of our own judges apart from just a very few who have been busy but a number of them have unfortunately ended up without any bookings at all. Clubs were reluctant to book judges under the current circumstances and those who did have perhaps had to postpone or even cancel the bookings. Virtual shows seem to have been popular and some of our Judges have been involved in these and enjoyed them. It is quite a different experience to actually walking along a row of exhibits and it is certainly time consuming. At the present time bookings for 2022 also appear to be well down but there is plenty of time still for this to improve with clubs just beginning to think about starting up again and planning their future programmes.

**SPEAKERS** Mrs. Rita Braithwaite reported:

Our Area Speakers have been keeping busy. There have been many virtual talks delivered during the pandemic.

Bookings are coming in for both virtual and “real” talks for the rest of 2021 and for 2022. It is however, very clear that only a small percentage of talks are to NAFAS clubs. Less than ten percent of one Area Speaker’s bookings are from our North East Area clubs and this is the general trend.

We receive fulsome votes of thanks from those clubs/organisations who book us and get repeat bookings, so we obviously give presentations which are much enjoyed. There appear to be some clubs/organisations who are finding zoom great and are looking to utilise it in the Winter months when members may prefer not to venture outdoors.

Our speakers are happy to give presentations to fit most occasions, so please do consider if we could add interest and variety to your club program.

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Mrs. Anne Lindsay reported:

NATIONAL

Just a reminder that the National 2021 Photography Competition entries close at the end of August, so I hope as many members as possible will have a go, the details are on line and there are some interesting categories.

AREA

Unfortunately, I do not really have anything to report due to the pandemic, but have enjoyed various zoom events.

I am currently working on the Area Photography Competition. I hope you will all get your Cameras, phones and tablets etc out as the competition is open to all Flower Club members. Please do not put on either Facebook, Instagram or any social media etc before judging. The closing date for entries is 31 July. I hope everyone will have a go and make it an exciting and interesting event.

I hope everyone has managed to keep safe & well during these dull days and look forward to meetings starting again.

**21/30 MEDIA REPORTS**

**AREA MEDIA OFFICER** Mrs. Sarah Spencer reported:

We have spent the second quarter of 2021 with the gradual relaxation of the Covid 19 Government instructions and at the time of putting this report together we are still waiting for the final unlock to happen. I hope that your club has found the information in the “unlocking” document and the Risk Assessment useful and would remind you that these are only a basis for your club to work with.

Information from some clubs is that they hope that they will resume face to face meetings in the autumn and so are planning autumn and winter programmes. Other clubs are finding venues are no longer available and are sourcing new premises. I hope that your club will be able to successfully reopen and that new members come along. To help we are planning a general press release to newspapers and radio stations, covering the whole area, around September, when clubs hopefully will be starting to open again. The release will incorporate some of the items reported on the news, such as the move away from gardenless housing to properties with gardens and the desire to go greener. We hope that this will be beneficial to clubs as people will want to know what to do with the flowers they grow alongside their vegetables. People interested will be advised to look at the website or contact the Area Secretary for more information.

Lynn Naylor has been very busy on Facebook with some good feedback and so we ask that you send her items and especially photos of arrangements for posting.

Her role as Deputy Media Officer for the Area has been to keep our Facebook Page up to date.  At present we have 1,356 followers, regularly having days of 300 hits on a single subject. Our highest hit of the day was 645.  If you would like to promote your Club’s, competitions, workshops or anything else of interest please contact Lynn and she would be happy to share your news.

Lynn posts a variety of articles many from our country and across the world including South Africa, Japan and New Zealand to name a few - as well as information from our local clubs, and news from National and Areas.

If you would like to view the Facebook page, but don’t know how, please let Lynn know and she will make a “crib sheet” available for you. Lynn’s contact details are 07812 149932 lynnnaylor50@outlook.com

We were both looking forward to Scarborough, meeting each other face to face and getting to know other flower arranging enthusiasts while enjoying the activities on offer. I have never been to Area weekend before, but know the hard work planning that goes on in the background prior to putting on such an event and regret that it has been cancelled. Please do support the events that the area put on as without the support they cannot be held.

Lynn and I were asked to look at the role of Media Officers for the North East Area. We asked at the last Council meeting for your input into what you want from us to help publicise your club and NAFAS generally and specifically. We did not receive any replies and so can only ask again for clubs to email your ideas or requests to me as soon as you can. This would enable me to circulate them to other clubs as it might help them as well! Our contact details are in the information list booklet. Lynn and I are here to help you all!

We need your help to update the club information for the Media stand at the Autumn Show at Newby Hall. Please send A5 laminated information posters to advertise your club to me as soon as possible.

**WEBMASTER** Mr. Peter Mathers reported:

NATIONAL

The National website continues to showcase all the entries into the Chairman’s Challenge. This month the title is ‘Happy Holidays’ and the entry can be a design, a still life, a collection of plants or an assemblage.

AREA

I am delighted to announce that after six months of hard work and input from the Executive, Discipline Representatives and their Deputies and Clubs it is my pleasure this afternoon to formally launch the new Area Website. The website will have dedicated pages for the Executive, every Discipline and Club, news of events, photographs of exhibits and arrangements and input from the Area Historian, the Area News Editor and the Media team of Sarah Spencer and Lynn Naylor.

The new Website address is flowersnortheast.org

The old website will be switched off at the beginning of August. Peter asked members to check the entry for their club and inform him if there are any errors.

Janet Ratcliffe thanked Peter for all the hard work he has put into the new website and invited members to view it.

AREA NEWSMrs. Ann Simpson read a report on behalf of Mrs. Joyce Harrow:

Apologies for not attending the meeting.

There has been very little correspondence since the last Area Meeting. Thank you for the articles and photos sent.

Please continue to send articles photos etc. Other clubs will be interested to know how your club has coped during the pandemic. Have you used Zoom for demonstrations, workshops etc. How have your members reacted to this? What other means have you used to keep in touch with members. Has your club restarted monthly meetings and how have they been received?

If you are either a teacher or demonstrator, what steps have you taken over the pandemic? How successful have they been?

Please also send your stories and photographs regarding your events.

Please send articles, photographs via email to joyceharrow@yahoo.co.uk. These should reach me by 30th September.

**21/31 OPEN FORUM**

Janet Ratcliffe opened the forum to discuss the AGM format and club plans for reopening. To start the discussions Janet asked for any comments or questions about reports presented earlier.

Joyce Hearnshaw (Huddersfield) reported that her club had met on Wednesday 21 July and received alot of support from members. Out of 50 members, 30 confirmed that they would attend, only 3 members felt unable to come due to worries about Covid safety. It was a social afternoon with an in house demonstration and a step by step design from *The Flower Arranger.* The next meeting in August is a demonstration by Eileen Barraclough. Everyone felt safe in a large room with a Risk Assessment in place.

Janet Ratcliffe commented that some clubs are holding garden visits or afternoon teas for their first meeting.

Tony Cleaver said that two of the designs photographed at the recent *Flower Arranger* photo session are for the winter edition. Designed by Elaine Bedford and Jan Faulkner and hopefully one may be on the front cover, so don’t forget to get your copy.

Geraldine Carter (Halifax) asked if there is a closing date for club information posters required for the Harrogate Autumn Show due to be held on 17 to 19 September.

Sarah Spencer (Media Officer) replied as soon as possible or by the middle of August.

Geraldine also thanked Peter Mathers for his work on the website.

Rita Braithwaite (Speaker’s Representative) asked if due to the disbanding of the National Photography Committee, will the Area continue to have a Photography Officer.

Janet Ratcliffe replied yes, we rely on Anne Lindsay to record our events.

Sue Spencer (Demonstrator’s Representative) asked about the Area presence at Newby Hall for the Autumn Show.

Janet Ratcliffe replied that we will be taking the Media Stand, *The Flower Arranger* & the sales table. There will be floral designs in the hall but no competitions.

Sue Spencer asked if the world show in New Zealand has been postponed or cancelled.

Ann Harding (Area President & NAFAS Director) replied that the show has been cancelled. During a Board of Directors meeting yesterday, discussion took place as to how NAFAS can help WAFA in the future. Possibly looking at adding WAFA classes to a NAFAS National show. New Zealand was not cancelled solely due to Covid19, some of the sponsors have dropped out.

Ann Harding said when referring to Tony’s comment about the Christmas arrangements on July 9th explained that the editiorial board of *The Flower Arranger* select the front cover of the magazine from a short list of 4 photographs so there is a 25% chance one of them could be on the front cover,

Sandra Harder (Yorkshire) reported that the Yorkshire Flower Club have been invited to put 3 designs into the Library at Newby Hall for the Autumn Show. All the furinutre will be taken out of the rooms and replaced with drawings which will be accompanied by floral designs. It will be very different and exciting.

The Annual General Meeting

Janet Ratcliffe explained that the current format for the AGM is not viable. The 2021 AGM will be held on Zoom but we need thoughts on how we can do it differently in 2022.

Sue Guilliatt (Treasurer) suggested moving the October Council meeting to November and holding it on the same day as the AGM at the Folk Hall and organising other events with a demonstration and food.

Tony Cleaver (Historian) reminded members that years ago the council meeting was held in the morning and the AGM in the afternoon of the same day. It was very boring and moved to the current format to encourage members to attend.

Sue Guilliatt replied that the plan would be to start at 1pm and run both meetings in the afternoon.

Tony Cleaver suggested using visual presentations similar to the National AGM.

Jenny Freeman (Ilkley) All reports apart from the Chairman should be sent out before the meeting to give members time to read them.

Janet Ratcliffe replied that she reads all the reports and tries not to repeat items in her report that will come up later.

Sue Spencer (Demonstrator’s Representative) said that putting the two meetings together will not be easy. If using the Folk Hall could we have a small demonstration.

Sue Guilliatt asked if the stage is usable?

Ann Simpson (Secretary) said that she is not sure if it is back in service but will enquire.

Geraldine Carter (Halifax) said that going to the Folk Hall is a long journey for some clubs and catering can be a problem. Some members will not go to the AGM at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Wakefield as they do not like the quality of the food.

Jackie Haigh (Huddersfield) said that the AGM is a social occasion and it is nice to get together and a good opportunity to sell items.

Pat Martin (Teesside) suggested asking at the 2021 AGM how members feel about various options for the 2022 AGM.

Janet Ratcliffe replied that we could send out alternatives to clubs before the AGM to give them time to think about them and ask for members opinions.

Rita Braithwaite (Speakers Representative) suggested a Zoom Council meeting in October 2022 and a physical AGM.

Sue Guilliatt (Treasurer) explained this year working on 80 members attending the break even price would have to be £35 and we didn’t feel that people would want to pay this amount.

Sheila Drybrough (1st Vice Chairman) asked members to send in any suggestions.

Louise Nettleton (Ilkley) asked why we are changing the format for next year.

Janet Ratcliffe replied that on a non changeover year an average of 80 people attend with slightly more on a change over year.

Sue Guilliatt informed members that at the last AGM held in person in 2019 we lost £340 due to the ticket price being capped at £25. If we could guarantee people attending we could continue to run the meeting as before but it is a balancing act.

Joan O’Brien (Projects Officer) said that we try to book a National Demonstrator who clubs haven’t seen to encourage members to attend.

Tony Cleaver (Historian) replied that originally Area Demonstrators were invited.

Joan O’Brien replied that Area demonstrators go to the clubs and members may not wish to see them again.

Ann Harding (President) suggested repeating the format of 3 or 4 Area demonstrators including some of the newly qualified.

Sue Spencer agreed that we should promote the Area demonstrators.

Ann Harding asked if we could invite demonstrators from out of the Area who passed their test in 2019.

Sue Spencer commented that taking the newly qualified demonstrators out of the test environment they will be able to showcase their talents.

Jackie Haigh (Huddersfield) attended the test in 2019 and agreed that we should give them a voice at the AGM.

Club reopening plans

Janet Ratcliffe asked if anyone would like to share information about when they plan to restart their meetings.

Hazel Bell (Ossett) said that they reopened in June. Members had to book a place with 30 allowed to attend workshops. 2 people sat at one table, face coverings were worn. Members were delighted to be back even though they had to wear masks. At a workshop last week members wore masks to come into the room and when moving about but removed them at the tables if the other people nearby were happy with it.

Christine Burton (East Keswick) plan to reopen with a small AGM on 19 September, if the hall is open. A small lunch will be provided with possible entertainment. A garden visit last week had only 12 members out of 56 attending.

Sandy Evans (Malton) reported that Malton had their first meeting on Tuesday when 40 people out of a membership of 47 attended. 32 were members and 8 visitors, some of whom plan to join the club. They were asked to wear masks (only 2 didn’t want to) sanitiser and wipes were provided and the chairs were approximately a metre apart. Elaine Bedford demonstrated and everyone had a wonderful afternoon. The next meeting is in September for the AGM and a demonstration.

Anne Sellars (Worsbrough) said they had hoped to reopen in July. A letter had been sent to all members asking if they would like to return in September. There has been a good response, most wanting to come back. Thank you to Peter for the website. How do we make changes to the club page?

Peter Mathers (Webmaster) replied please send any changes and additions via email to himself. Email or whatsapp photographs, and he will update the page.

Janet Ratcliffe asked how many members attend Worsbrough, Anne replied 60 last time they met.

Sheila Rodgers (Pennine Borders) reported that they will meet in August for tea and cakes plus a mini in house demonstration. A newsletter has gone out asking members to confirm if they are attending. They will be asked to wear masks and sit at tables.

Geraldine Carter (Halifax) expalined the problems her club have had with venues and that they are returning to the social club in Arden Road which is currently been renovated. They will hold a Zoom meeting in August and hopefully meet in person in September. Sue Maddocks and Sue Hirst did a video demonstration for the club. 50 members have attended the Zoom meetings. There are concerns about meeting in person as social distancing is very difficult when you have 100 members attending.

Janet Ratcliffe suggested a booking system to keep numbers lower.

Geraldine replied that it will be difficult to allocate places and it will be unfair for people who are not on email.

Joyce Hearnshaw (Hudderfsield) reported that at their recent meeting members who travel together were grouped near one another. They were encouraged to wear masks and use hand sanitiser. Members tended to migrate to sit together by their own choice.

Joan Jarratt (Wetherby) found the information really heartening. Their venue was flooded due to roof repairs. The church has set lots of conditions re using the hall. They are hoping to restart in September and have 40+ members but not sure how many will return. The advise has been very helpful.

Joyce Gaffney (Teesside) has sent out emails and letters to members and have received only 3 negative replies plus one new member. They are waiting for notice of the hall restrictions when it opens for the September meeting for members and the November open meeting.

Janet Ratcliffe asked members who had not had chance to speak to email their plans to herself or Ann Simpson and they will be included with the minutes of this meeting.

**21/32 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Peter Mathers (Webmaster) reminded members to look at the new Area website flowersnortheast.org

**21/33 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Saturday 16 October 2021 - commencing at 1:00p.m. at the Folk Hall, New Earswick, York**

The meeting closed at 3:15pm

**Club feedback received after the meeting**

Christine Hinchcliffe (Headingley) Headingley FC @ Bramhope are planning to start back with live demonstrations in September.

Jean Hawkins (Acomb Flower Guild) Acomb Flower Guild did the flowers in York Minster last week which although still restricted did feel like getting back to normal. We have a garden party booked for the 14th August for members as a welcome back and then our full programme resumes in September with our AGM.

I had a question about how where clubs dealing with subs given there may well have been a shortfall in meetings in 2019/20.

Also, just to remind clubs that they need to renew their public liability insurance as it was probably suspended last year.

Sandra Harder (Yorkshire) the Yorkshire are hopefully having our first meeting on 18th August, with tea and cake and a talk by Martin Walker about the new garden he is making.  I must say I have been pleasantly surprised by the response we have had from our club, 59 people are coming!!!  so, let’s hope it can all go ahead.

Lesley Hill (Pudsey) We started our programme again in June and had our first meeting at Pudsey House. Numbers were limited to 15 which we managed OK. We only have 19 members. We had a belated AGM which we weren't able to do in June 2020 which was fun remembering back to 2019, trying to get our heads around timescales etc. I then did one arrangement like a mini dem and then we had lots of chat and catchups as we hadn't seen each other for so long. Getting to grips with the Covid criteria, as it was all new to us meeting in a group was challenging. We survived.

Pudsey Flower Club is 35yrs old this year so on Tues 27th July we are having an Anniversary Celebration with a demonstration, fizz and of course cake!! We have had to move venue to a Parish Hall that can accommodate more people. I am sure it will be a wonderful event and we will send details and pictures to Tony Cleaver as Historian and Joyce Harrow for the Area Newsletter.

So far, we have dates in our programme booked up to Jan 2022. Fingers crossed we can get back to some normality.

Alison Brown (Stokesley)

We as a club have made a decision to start back in September.
We have communicated to our club by monthly newsletters either emailed or posted. We have offered flower demonstrations by zoom on five occasions to keep the members interested.
The town hall where we hold the meeting has no social distancing requirements now so 100 people are allowed.
Raffle, sales table and refreshments are all allowed.
Masks to be worn on arrival then removed when seated.
We have however cancelled our Open meeting in October which is a larger venue. We thought it would be very difficult to sell tickets in advance.