

COLUMN FLOWER CLUB

CHAIRS REPORT FOR AGM at CROSS HOUSES COMMUNITY CENTRE, CROSS HOUSES 7.15pm TUESDAY 11th OCTOBER 2022

Good evening everyone and welcome to Column Flower Club for our AGM.

It is so good to stand here able to say we've had a full year of successful club meetings. Our move to Cross Houses seems to be working very well for us too. We seem after 2 years of disruption due to the pandemic find ourselves now "living with Covid" and getting on with life.

We've had another very interesting year and my thanks to Jan who as ever has put together a super programme. Our open evening (A Carnival of Colour) with guest demonstrator Leanne Williams from Welshpool was a success, thoroughly enjoyable and my thanks to everyone who helped that evening go well.

We have had some lovely club demonstrations and to see the work you all produce on a practical evening is amazing. Over the year too you have sent pictures for me to put onto the website of things you have been involved with and I have to say how talented everyone is. There has been some wonderful work done I'm sure you'll all agree. Please continue to send me things to load.

As you know this is my last meeting as Chair of our flower club. How did I get here; I joined club around early 1989 when Ian & I moved to Shropshire, which was in the summer of 1988. I knew nothing about flowers and flower arranging and was so pleased when I went home with my arrangement of 5 flowers in a linear row and a bit of foliage at the base – and I think it had taken me all evening to do it!! – I'm a bit faster now. After a few years I more or less slipped into Chair when I helped out for our previous Chair Hazel who found she had to spend more time at home to care for her husband -- and the "rest is history" as the saying goes.

I cannot depart without saying a couple of things. The Committee (Barbara, Jan, Carol, Suzanne, Donna, Andrea, Viv & Sandie) --- what would I have done without you. I cannot thank you enough for all the support you have given to me over the years and to the club in general. We have all worked so well together, we've had some interesting committee meetings over the years and I know it has not always been easy for you particularly when taking on a new position but you all knuckled down, got on with the job and made a success of everything. I have to say what a fantastic team. And to you the club members (and visitors) – without your support there would be no club. So a huge thank you to you all.

Finally being Chair is a roll I have thoroughly enjoyed, it's been a bit of a roller-coaster ride sometimes, a few times our membership had been so low we'd been on the verge of closing but we battled along and I have to say it's Barbara who has helped me along with the encouragement of "come on Trish we'll give it a bit longer": and truthfully none of us wanted to see it close. So I can say it has been a privilege to have been your Chair and to see the club grow to what it is today. In all honesty, yes I will miss it a lot but it's time to "let go the reins". So as I side step into being Club President I look forward to the club moving on with a new helmsperson – Barbara and I wish her and the committee every success. I hope everyone will continue to enjoy our unique flower club, will make new friends through the common interest of flowers etc and I wish continued success to you all. I will continue to support the club but will also enjoy my "time off".

Trish Payne (Chair)