

COLUMN FLOWER CLUB

CHAIRS REPORT FOR AGM at BELVIDERE SCHOOL 7.30pm TUESDAY 2nd October 2018

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

Again this year I can report our club seems to be going from strength to strength which I think is lovely. Currently we have 24 members with the prospect of possibly 3 people looking to join, those being Chrissies friend Avi, plus Mum & Daughter (Julia and Deborah). However, we do not seem to have seen anything much of Debbie who has been a club member for many years. I know several folk have tried to contact her but she does seem to be a little elusive, so if any of you do come across her please say Column has not forgotten her and we would be glad to see her at club again. We also have not seen much of one of our newer members Jo but she is in touch and will hopefully be able to return in the not too distant future. I really hope all other members, new and those who have been with us many years will continue to enjoy flower club.

Over the last year, my thanks to our Programme secretary Jan. Being new to the committee to start with was guided by Barbara just to the general layout of how the programme has been in the past but I think I speak for everyone by saying what a different year this year has been by concentrating on one subject, that being our interpretations of Gustav Holst and "The Planets Suite". I hope you have found it interesting and a little different. Jan has also been working very hard on the club programme for next year and has come up with some super ideas which we (being the committee) are sure will enjoy very much. I'm sure she'd like to tell you about it a little later during the evening.

Our New Year dinner at The Horseshoes, Dorrington I think you'll agree was a very nice evening. During the summer the evening fish and chip supper at The New Inn Hook-a-Gate was again much enjoyed by everyone. All down to good food and good company. My thanks to our Social Secretary Carol who organises these events for us.

The annual Open Evening in July at Cross Houses Community Centre with Ann Gater and her interpretation of "I can see a Rainbow" was very successful and I think a much better presentation than last years with Tina Pound and "Elvis". I have to say I was much relieved after this years evening and we just have to put last year to one side and move on – put it down to experience. Can I say thank you too to you our club members who sold tickets beforehand and then helped on the evening in what ever way you were able.

We had an interesting evening in September with Martin Wood our Town Crier, who looks very different when not dressed in his "Crier" regalia but still just as tall..!! His talk on "Ghosts around Shrewsbury and Shropshire" was interesting but I personally wished he'd shown us some more pictures of "Ghosts". Since then I have walked up Fish Street in town at 2.30pm when one of the ghosts is said to appear but alas I have not come across him --- but then maybe I have but not realised it – who knows.

Our web-site is regularly up-dated but recently the web host changed the platform of how things are now loaded which I have to say has not been easy to work with. We, as a committee agree we do need the website to promote the club. I will not be loading quite so many pictures in the future but I do try to rotate members' arrangements in different places. Come 2019 and the start of a New Year and new programme I will endeavour to make it a little different to how it is at the moment but keeping a lot of relevant information to attract folk and for anyone else interested in looking. I know some of our members have found us and joined through the website. Also to promote the club Jan regularly sends in club news to The Shropshire Star for publication. Don't forget too to look in the club information folder which Viv keeps updated with interesting snippets.

Due to the bad winter in December we had to unfortunately cancel our annual Bring & Share evening which was a shame as we all look forward it. We managed to hold the competition "Not A Traditional Christmas Tree" in January. My thanks to all of you who entered and showed us what a very talented bunch you are. Barbara and I judged the entries and you surprised us by who had done what – and we thought we knew you all and your style of things --- it's nice to know you keep us on our toes. As we were not able to have our usual Christmas Bring and Share food and drink supper it was decided to hold an Easter Social instead. Club funds provided the money for this and Viv & I went on a spending/buying spree. It event seemed to go down well with you all.

The other Committee members I've not previously mentioned are: Barbara our Treasurer who ensures we stay in "The Black", Sandie who concentrates on the raffle, Viv our Membership Secretary and Suzanne who runs our club sales. Suzanne puts a lot of time and effort into trying to get interesting items for you and keeps a regular supply of floral foam which you can purchase at a very reasonable price. I would just like to say that I'm sure at times the committee members must think "here she goes again" !!! --- But that as maybe I really cannot thank you all enough for all the work you do, I am so very grateful. Without you and your commitment the smooth running of the club would be extremely difficult if not impossible.

To finalise. We have such a lovely friendly club, which I hope you agree, always working well together and helping each other. I hope Column continues to prosper and continue for many years to come. So it's a big thank you to each and every one of you.

Trish Payne (Chair)