

COLUMN FLOWER CLUB

CHAIRS REPORT FOR AGM at BELVIDERE SCHOOL 7.30pm TUESDAY 8th October 2019

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

Again it's a pleasure to report our club appears to be growing. We have lost a couple of members but other people have arrived. Diana one of our long standing members has not been in such good health this year and her husband Trevor had to have a new hip. Thankfully he is recovering well from that but it must have been a hard year for them and we wish them both well.

This year's programme I hope you agree has been excellent. In the Spring we have been marching up the aisle preparing for weddings, the Summer has been rhythm and dance with lots of flair and colour, now we are on Partnerships/collaborations. Jan puts lot of hard work and research into formatting our programs, she is currently working along with the rest of the committee in formulating the programme for next year based on suggestions we have had from club members. We do endeavour to accommodate everyone's interests as best we can and really appreciate everybody's input.

As usual we started our annual programme with a very nice New Year meal at The Horseshoes in Dorrington and then in the summer a Fish & Chip supper at The New Inn, Hook-a-Gate. My thanks to Carol our social Secretary in organising these for us. We have been treated to some lovely demonstrations and workshops presented and led by club members. Can I take this opportunity to thank all of you who have carried out these evenings as I know just how much work goes into the planning plus the preparation involved to present an evening we can all either participate in or just watch and enjoy. I have to say too the work all of you produce on our practical evenings is of very high standard, I can tell you really enjoy these evenings and often I look at what you have done and thought "why didn't I think of that", so we learn all the time from each other.

The annual Open Evening in July at Cross Houses Community Centre with Jane Pugh from Bishops Castle and her interpretation of "Music My First Love" was very successful. Along with her Flower Arranging we were treated to her singing. I observed several people tapping their feet, swaying with the music and sometimes singing along, so I think we can say it was enjoyed by all. I would also like to say thank you too to you our club members who sold tickets beforehand and helped on the evening in whatever way you were able. I would also like to pass my gratitude to the husbands who helped with the liftin' and shiftin' and persuaded people to put a £1 in the bucket.

The committee:- Secretary Donna, Treasurer Barbara, Programme Secretary Jan, Social Secretary Carol, Suzanne our Sales Secretary, Membership Secretary Viv & Raffle Secretary Sandie. I cannot say a big enough thank you to you all for the commitment you all put into the smooth running of the club.

I consider we have are lucky enough to have a very unique flower club and this is due to all of you. We are all what our club set out to be "friends through flowers". It is so nice to see everyone working well together and helping each other. I hope you continue to enjoy club for many years to come.

My last paragraph is where I would usually end my report but this year I need to add to it. After a lot of thought I have reached the decision that at the next AGM, October 2020 I will retire from being your chairperson. I consider I've taken the club as far as I possibly can and it is time for someone else with new fresh and exciting ideas to carry the club to where it is travelling to next. As you all know I have been Chair for Column for many years probably around 20 years, so it is certainly time for a change. I have thoroughly enjoyed being your chair but I consider this will be the right time for me to step aside and become an ordinary club member.

Trish Payne (Chair)