



**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL 61st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETIES HELD ON TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

<b>LIVE PRESENTERS:</b>	Sue Brinton	President
	Dr Christina Curtis	Chairman
	Steven Lane	CEO
	Michael Bowyer	Director, President-Elect
	Brenda Eyers	Host
	Jackie Charnock	Area Chairman, Mercia & North Wales
	Marretta Coleman	Area Chairman, NIGFAS Area Chairman
	Simone Squire	Area Chairman, South Midlands
	Elizabeth Gordon	Incoming Area Chairman, Three Counties & South Wales
	Katherine Kear	Area Chairman, Three Counties & South Wales

**20/01 Opening Remarks – Brenda Eyers:**

“On behalf of our National President, Mrs Sue Brinton and the Board of Directors I extend to you all a very warm welcome to the 61st Annual General Meeting of NAFAS, The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies. Because of the world-wide Coronavirus, COVID-19 we are unable to all meet face to face this year, so the meeting is being conducted virtually and we are delighted that you have joined us.

My name is Brenda Eyers, Vice-Chairman of the National Speakers Committee and I have been invited to assist with the running of your AGM. Let me explain to you how this important event will progress. The left-hand side of your screen will show live broadcasting throughout the meeting and on some occasions pre-recorded videos. On the right-hand side you will see information and photographs of our various officials. You will also be able to enjoy the stunning photographs from the 2020 National Photographic Competition and hopefully a member from your Area may be a prize winner. Although we cannot see or hear you, please feel free to applaud! And as if by magic, we can hopefully now see the first prize winner.

Class 1 – “Seasonal Beauty” (The Doris Madeley Trophy)

1<sup>st</sup> - Norma Leslie of Orpington Floral Art Society, London & Overseas Area

Judges’ comments: An amazing shot with superb composition. I cannot fault this image. Wonderful reflections.”

**20/02 Welcome – Brenda Eyers:**

“So ladies and gentlemen, in the well-known words of BBC Broadcaster Derek McCulloch (better known to those of us who grew up listening to “Children’s Hour” and “Children’s Favourites” as Uncle Mac – if you are sitting comfortably, then I’ll begin. Please give a very warm, virtual welcome to our National President, Mrs Sue Brinton.”

**Sue Brinton:**

“Thank you, Brenda, for that very warm welcome. Usually the Annual General Meeting is a time when we look forward to catching up with friends so naturally, we will miss this social interaction that we love.

At these meetings there is always quite a few changes in office and awards that take place so we will also miss the actual awarding of badges and gifts of flowers, the recipients of badges will receive them through the post.

Today I welcome:

Our presenter for the meeting Brenda Evers, National Speaker  
National President-Elect, Michael Bowyer MBE  
National Chairman, Dr Christina Curtis  
National Vice-Chairman, Katherine Kear  
NAFAS CEO, Steven Lane  
NIGFAS Area Chairman, Marretta Coleman  
Mercia and North Wales Area Chairman, Jackie Charnock  
Three Counties and South Wales Area Vice-Chairman, Elizabeth Gordon  
South Midlands Area Chairman, Simone Squire,

I also extend a warm welcome to all NAFAS colleagues and members watching and to all interested in the art of Flower Arranging and allied crafts.

I am very sad to report the loss of many dear members who have passed away since the 2019 Annual General Meeting:-

October 2019	Flowers North West Area member and NAFAS Special Associate of Honour Mavis Turnbull
November 2019	Mercia & North Wales Past Area President and Chairman and NAFAS Associate of Honour Jill Birchall
December 2019	Kent Area member and NAFAS Associate of Honour and Past National President Evelyn Mercer
December 2019	Flowers North West Associate of Honour, NAFAS Associate of Honour and Past National President Gerry Reid
January 2020	NIGFAS Past Chairman and NAFAS Special Associate of Honour The Very Rev. William McMillan, MBE MA (affectionately known as Rev Mac).
March 2020	Surrey Area member, NAFAS Associate of Honour and Past National President Joan Cooper
June 2020	Flowers North West Area Associate of Honour and NAFAS Associate of Honour Midge Ferguson
August 2020	North Midlands Area member, NAFAS Associate of Honour Jean Hill MBE

Please join me in taking a moment to pause and reflect remembering in our hearts all NAFAS members and friends who have sadly died during the year, also remembering those who have died through the Coronavirus.”

**20/03 Apologies:** Apologies had been received from:-

Jose Allen	Bermerton Flower Arrangers	Craig Bullock
Jenny Coxhead	Mo Duffill	Jean Holland
Diana Kinch	Jan Law	Edna Levett
Moira MacFarlane	Mary Shirville	Carolyn Wise

**20/04 Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting held at the H G Wells Conference Centre, Woking on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019:**

The Minutes, having been circulated and after the following amendments were noted:-

Item 19/06 and 19/12 North West should be correctly titled Flowers North West.  
Item 19/12 NAFAS Masquerade Weekend was held in 2018 and not 2008.

At the National Advisory Council meeting held virtually on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 the Minutes were proposed by Sandra Taylor, Dorset & Guernsey Area Chairman and seconded by Pat Penno, Devon & Cornwall Area Chairman.

The meeting agreed that these minutes were a correct and true record of that meeting and will be signed as soon as possible.

## **20/05 President's Address – Sue Brinton:**

“January is often a quieter month for flower clubs so, just when we were all starting to enjoy our new calendar of flower club events, I am sure very little thought was given to the world crisis that was about to implode and how it would change all of our lives quite considerably.

Throughout lockdown the Board of Directors have been introduced to virtual meetings, a new way of working for many of us, and as far as possible, it has been business as usual. It is also good to hear of the many ways that Area's and clubs are keeping in touch with members and, I hope like me you have enjoyed the many YouTube flower arranging videos.

To all those newly elected today, welcome. I hope you enjoy your time with NAFAS Michael, I wish you a very happy term as National President, I know that you have everyone's support. To the many who are retiring, thank you for your hard work and commitment to your Area's, your clubs and the Association. My grateful thanks to the Staff at Headquarters for their continued support, and all they have endured this year.

In clubs and Areas throughout the country there are many volunteer members who work tirelessly, a huge thank you to you all for your continued hard work especially in these challenging times.

This pandemic has affected so many, including NAFAS, we want to be here offering the joy and friendship that flower clubs afford, we want to survive and expand well into the future, it is up to us all to accept change, not just change for change sake but, to start thinking out of the box, to re-plant and grow a new and dynamic Association that will blossom, one that future generations will enjoy and look up to.

My best wishes to you all.”

## **Brenda Eyers:**

“Sue thank you so much for your very positive report. I am sure all of our members feel deeply for you in that the last part of your tenure as National President has been disrupted by the epidemic and so many planned events and visits could not take place. However, you have once again stepped up to the mark for NAFAS as we faced such a difficult challenge and your work with the National Chairman and Board of Directors has been tireless.

Normally at this point in the AGM we would see Sue being presented with a gift from her Area, East of England but sadly we cannot do that today. Sue I promise you that lots of your friends and members in the East of England are watching now and we will give you a rapturous round of applause at our Area Council Meeting next March, when God willing we will all be together again and the Golden Girls can welcome you back to the front row.

Well done Sue we wish you a happy retirement!”

Brenda continued by announcing the another winner in the National Photography Competition:-

Class 2 – “Edible Delights” (The North Midlands Trophy)

1<sup>st</sup> - Jayne Merriman of Grimsby Flower Lovers, North Midlands Area

Judges' comments – A beautiful shot, superbly lit. Great composition.

## 20/06 Chairman's Report – Dr Christina Curtis:

“My predecessor said in 2017, as she took up the post of National Chairman, that it was “a rather challenging role at any time but never more so, as our Association faces the changes brought about by falling membership and inevitable club closures”. In my first year as National Chairman NAFAS has been faced with the most serious trials and tribulations it has ever encountered.

A fantastic exhibition from Surrey Area members of NAFAS heralded in my inauguration at the NAFAS AGM in Woking. A superb new Vice-Chairman and new Directors were added to the Board Team. With a full-time CEO, two dedicated secretarial staff and a part-time Finance Officer at Headquarters in Osborne House we set about to work with great enthusiasm.

The Diamond Events in August 2019, to mark the Association's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, had showcased the best of floral design from our members and overseas guests including Wafa friends with many devoted volunteers assisting throughout. I would like to thank everyone who helped and took part. Unfortunately, it was not the financial success that had been hoped for. The Trustees and CEO must now be extra vigilant and transparent in whatever we undertake.

I was pleased to have been able to visit four Areas last October where I shared in your activities and met members. I welcomed this opportunity to hear what the ‘grass roots’ had to say.

However, no-one knew what was around the corner as in January 2020, we began the New Year with a full programme of meetings, discipline training and tests. The 2020 Residential weekend organised by our National President and her Team was likely to be a triumph.

In February, many NAFAS members, family and friends travelled to Jaipur, India for the Wafa Show. What a spectacle it was, and I was especially proud to see NAFAS members receive awards for their efforts. Many friendships were renewed, and new friends were made. In early March, whilst in India, we began to hear of worrying reports from home and on arrival in the UK the country slipped into the COVID-19 Lock down with no possibility of meeting for the foreseeable future and all events planned for 2020 were cancelled.

The NAFAS Board of Directors, the staff and the Standing Committees have continued to function with regular Virtual Meetings. Staff are beginning to visit Headquarters again to carry out vital work for the Association.

*The Flower Arranger* magazine, our high-quality journal, has continued to be prepared and published and thanks must go to the Editor and the Editorial Team for their diligence and devotion. As sales have not been possible in non-essential shops, revenue for NAFAS has been reduced. Subscription renewal is vital.

In June, sadly four colleagues resigned, including my Vice-Chairman. Subsequently two experienced members were co-opted as Trustees and we have since made important decisions re: getting the Association through this pandemic. A new series of briefing documents will inform about the realisation of our only asset, Osborne House. The Board, the CEO and I would like to thank Areas for their generosity regarding payment of Affiliation Fees and members for their continued support, especially when clubs too are facing so many challenges.

Areas, clubs and members have been working hard to provide motivation throughout Lock down. We are very sad to hear how those qualified in the disciplines have experienced a great loss of earnings. Many members have been working on the front-line or helping in some other way which is so commendable. An Unlock Guidance document has been prepared to assist clubs when re-opening. ‘The Power of Flowers’ details how our beloved medium of plant material is so important for our wellbeing during these challenging times. Shortly these documents will be available on our new, informative, and appealing website.

NAFAS and its members can only try to plan as if things will get back to normal. NAFAS continues therefore into 2021 with its Demonstrators Testing, Refreshing of Judges Skills and looks forward to Area and club meetings resuming as usual. We can only hope for a brighter future, **Bringing People and Flowers Together**. Keep safe. Thank you.”

## **Brenda Eyers:**

“Thank you so much Christina for your very in-depth report of the activities of the past year. It is such a shame that you have also been prevented from enjoying so many planned visits but I know once things improve and our clubs are open again, you will be made very welcome by all the members who can’t wait to welcome you.”

Brenda continued by announcing the another winner in the National Photography Competition:-

Class 3 – “From Any Angle” (The Coles Trophy)

1<sup>st</sup> - Louise Brown of Barnstaple Floral Art Club, Devon & Cornwall Area

Judges Comment - A beautiful work of art.

## **20/07 Financial Statements Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 – Steven Lane, CEO:**

“I am pleased to present the Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the year ended March 2020. Last Friday the Board of Trustees met virtually with the 21 Area Chairmen to discuss and approve the accounts and today I will take you through the key figures. Under normal circumstances, the accounts would be laid out on the chairs at the AGM, but of course these are far from normal circumstances, but you will be able to download the full set of accounts from the NAFAS website from tomorrow.

Last year we changed our auditor from haysmacintyre to the TC Group, and inevitably when a new auditor comes on board there are additional questions that arise and a tidying up process as they learn about our Charity and introduce their own processes. The pandemic ensured we had to work on our first virtual audit, which had its own challenges for both us and the auditors. This was always going to be a difficult year to report on, the deficit of the Diamond Anniversary events has had a significant impact on the accounts.

Let’s start with the Charity’s Income:

Trading Income is channelled through the Subsidiary Company, Enterprises Ltd, and income is down 10% on the previous year to £329,704.

*The Flower Arranger* magazine accounts for the bulk of trading income and circulation is down, some of this is attributable to the impact of COVID-19 in March but there is a downward trend and as with other national magazines, times are tough. A number of established titles have disappeared this year but despite the dip in sales, *The Flower Arranger* continues to be the market leader in the floral sector, latest figures show *The Flower Arranger* has 58% of the market share

Sales of NAFAS publications are also down on the previous year, and this is a concern. COVID-19 may have impacted on March sales but the main contributing factor is the absence of new publications and many of the established titles going out of stock. The Publications Team are working hard but there is a lot of work to do and this will not be a quick fix.

Affiliation and Direct Membership fees are up 2%.

Shows and Assemblies – this is where you will find the Diamond event income of £262,937 included in the total of £263,432. Although Diamond income was received in prior years, it has been accrued into this financial year.

Donations & Legacies are down slightly to £4,124.

Investment Income – Interest & Dividends – this is bank interest and is down on the previous year

Other Income – is up 40% to £79,308 – this includes income from Westminster Abbey, Tour Commission, education courses and various other bits and pieces.

So, the Charity recorded a total consolidated income of £914,539 against the previous year figure of £722,344.

Let's move on to the Charity's expenditure:-

Trading Costs through the subsidiary increased 23%. There has been an increase in Direct costs and printing costs for *The Flower Arranger* magazine. And we have taken the opportunity this year to write off some bad debts accumulated over the past 5 years. Previous financial controls were not adequate and bad debts relating to advertisers in *The Flower Arranger* magazine were accrued over the years. We were successful in retrieving some £15,000 of bad debts earlier this year but a balance of £30,106 has been written off. New internal financial controls are in place to ensure this cannot happen again. After a tidy up of management charges, and a discrepancy with opening balances, and a stock reduction figure agreed with the auditor the Subsidiary company recorded a deficit of just over £8K for the year.

Charitable Activities expenditure is down slightly on the previous year. This is mainly due to activities being focused on the Diamond events.

Shows and Assemblies total of £401,096 is mainly Diamond Events expenditure.

Bringing the total expenditure for the year to just over one million to £1,124,314

The Charity recorded a deficit of £208,039 for the year ending March 2020.

I mentioned earlier that we have taken the opportunity to turn a bad year into a slightly worse year by agreeing with the new auditors on a tidying up exercise.

The major contributing factors to the deficit include some of that process.

There was a loss of £137,000 from the Diamond Events. This is now well documented, and a report of a significant loss was sent to the Charity Commission.

The Bad Debts figure of £30,106 is a factor and the stock level has been significantly reduced. This is because we have been unable to find any supporting purchase documentation for old stock, some of which has the old NAFAS logo and head office address. The figure agreed with the previous auditor does not meet with our new auditors' approval and the stock figure has been reduced by £15,000.

The drop in Trading income also has an impact on the overall result.

Without the loss of the Diamond events and the accounting figures relating to the tidying up process, NAFAS would still have recorded a deficit, albeit a lot closer to last year's deficit of just over £10,000.

Having taken into consideration all the detail and implications of the Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 the Board and the 21 Area Chairmen agreed and adopted the accounts. They were proposed by Sandra Taylor, Chair of Dorset & Guernsey and seconded by Liz Manning, Chair of NIGFAS.

The reappointment of the auditors the TC Group based in Steyning, W. Sussex was agreed by the Board and the 21 Area Chairmen. It was proposed Joan Gittings, Chair of Wessex & Jersey and seconded by Margaret Strachan, Chair of SAFAS.

The Charity has now recorded a deficit for the past 3 years.

Question marks about the sustainability of the Charity were a concern before Coronavirus arrived. Aware that we needed a year of consolidation, the Board agreed a Budget for 2020/21 that predicted a small surplus of £18,000.

When the pandemic arrived, the budget became redundant and we have been, and still are, working to a cashflow forecast.

Nearly every income and expenditure item has been affected and difficult to predict. Doubts about the number of Affiliation Fees that would be paid to the Charity this year became a concern and the Board agreed that an application for a Business Interruption Business Loan would help ease the situation. Our 21 Areas rallied together and offered to pay some Affiliation Fees early to the Charity. Together these two initiatives have ensured the financial stability until the end of 2021.

So where do we go from here?

After today, we have a new look Board of Trustees and a new look National Advisory Council. Together they must face the most difficult of challenges, but we are not one of the charities that faces closure, in Osborne House there is an asset that provides long term security and therefore an opportunity to transform NAFAS into a modern vibrant Charity, and that must happen if the Association is to survive. NAFAS needs strong professional leadership and everyone pulling together, we must learn from past mistakes but not let them hold us back, it's time to draw a line and start the recovery.

Over the next few weeks, the review of the Articles of Association can resume, this will make the Charity's governance more effective.

We must work toward the completion of the Feasibility Study and compile a comprehensive report on the organisation's requirements and the future of Osborne House.

We need a new Business Plan with a strategy and a vision and with a new budget and cash flow forecast. For our members we must be professional, transparent, and accountable throughout this process.

There are a number of key issues that we can address as part of our future planning:-

A review of the membership structure, we know there are members who belong to more than one club and pay NAFAS Affiliation Fees multiple times.

How to attract new members, this is the holy grail for NAFAS but it is time to discuss and plan initiatives. NAFAS is a membership organisation without a professional database and this impacts on GDPR and restricts opportunities to target specific groups with promotions. It would be hugely beneficial to have a professional database in place.

There is work to do on increasing the circulation of *The Flower Arranger* magazine, not just in the high street and digitally but with our own membership as well.

New publications and the reprint of out of stock publications is a priority.

We must update the Charity's Policies & Procedures and Standing Orders.

Review the Website/social media structure.

Plan ahead for the next National Show, albeit a very different show to last year.

There is a lot to do, NAFAS is an organisation that is centred around social activity and Coronavirus has impacted on all of us in very different ways but the Board and the staff will work hard for the Charity to ensure the future and the sustainability of the Association for our clubs and our members."

**Brenda Eyers** "Steven thank you for guiding us to expertly through the financial reports and all your hard work and determined efforts for NAFAS. I do hope you have enjoyed it despite the enormous amount of work that has had to be covered due to the epidemic and we hope that things soon become much quieter for you and the team at Osborne House."

Brenda continued by announcing the another winner in the National Photography Competition:-

Class 4 – “Any Old Iron” (The Surrey Trophy)

1<sup>st</sup> – Linda O’Toole of Clophill & District Flower Club, Home Counties Area

Judges Comment – An excellent image with lovely textures and very good composition.

**20/08 Pre-Recorded Education Report – Julie Woods, Chairman, National Education Committee:**

The Tutor and Moderators Day held in July was a successful meeting even though it was held under Zoom conditions and was much shorter therefore it was decided that another will be held within a short period of time. The meeting covered discussion on various ways of teaching during the pandemic. Sharon Dower our Course Consultant made us aware of the safety issues in the classroom during this period and to check on our insurance etc. Irene Manson gave us an insight on how she taught the Teacher Training Course by Zoom to enable her students to finish. We learned about the pros and cons and decided that we would still need classroom contact at some point. We enlightened all attendees about the way forward regarding the NAFAS Course.

It had been brought to our attention that the NAFAS Course is due for reviewing and changes made through the OCN Credit4Learning in 2021.

We have started looking at this but have received proposals from two of the course moderators to bring the whole under the Association instead of Credit4Learning which would mean we could change and update the course as and when the needs arise without incurring costs. This looks like a good way forward and although early days, could be very exciting so on being given the go ahead from the Board, work has begun. Much work is needed to do this from the committee, but all would benefit in the long run.

In 2019 we were pleased that 44 students/learners had completed their course so congratulations to all who succeeded.

It is anticipated that the Publications Team will work closely with us as to which books need updating and any further books/leaflets needed to run alongside the course. We are hoping that many leaflets/booklets will be able to be downloaded from the new website with a payment area entered first.

The Church Flowers Book has been passed onto the new Publications Team who will, at their earliest convenience, update some of the content. The Period Guide to Flower Arranging Book I, has been updated with the inclusion of the Indian and Japanese periods and is with the Publications Team for the final finishes.

On a request from an Area Chairman we have written a simple teaching manual which will allow Areas to give guidance in the organizing of lessons given within clubs and community groups. This would be delivered by a National Teacher from their Area. The National Teachers will be given an instruction day/s at Headquarters or during the pandemic the committee are looking into it being delivered by Zoom. The manual is waiting for proof reading etc.

This is my last report as National Education Chairman, I have enjoyed my time on the committee, it has been an enlightening experience. I would like to thank everyone for their friendship and will truly miss this. I wish the new Chairman every success with her team.”

**Brenda Eyers:**

“On behalf of everyone Julie, thank you for your report and we also thank you for all your hard work during your term as Chairman and wish you every happiness in the future.”

**20/09 Pre-Recorded *The Flower Arranger* – Chloe Bryan-Brown, Editor:**

“As the Editor of *The Flower Arranger*, I receive many emails every day. Here are a couple that I think really bring home what 2020 has been all about.

The first, came from an Area Chairman who gets her magazine via her flower club. It said:

*“Thank you.... The magazine is uplifting, interesting, fresh and colourful during this strange time and greatly appreciated now more than ever.”*

The second came from a member of the public, a recently trained Florist, who bought her magazine in W H Smith. She said:

*“I came across your magazine last season and I'm in love - you've opened my eyes to all the wonderful possibilities before me, so I thank you for that.”*

For us and the magazine this year has been all about trying to satisfy our members desire for relevant content and reaching our to new readers who may never have heard of our Association before picking up their magazine in W H Smith. It has been a year like no other, as well as Coronavirus, the Editorial Committee has faced its own particular set of challenges but despite everything the magazine has come out of time and if the feedback is anything to go by, you have all enjoyed reading the magazine as much as I have enjoyed editing it and it has been a welcome tonic amidst all the doom and gloom.

In January – before the virus, we held a very successful Area Photo Shoot in Surrey. Photos from the day form the basis for our current Winter issue – and wonderful they are too, a truly inspirational mix of seasonal designs in traditional and contemporary styles. Make sure you don't miss your copy it is going to clubs later this week and to W H Smiths a few days after. A very big thank you to Chris Brown and Alison Gillott for organising and hosting the day, and all the participating arrangers. I have talked, on previous occasions, about the importance of our Area Photo Shoots; they provide us with high-quality, original designs and photography for a fraction of the cost that we would pay commercially, and I am keen to restart them as soon as I can. To that end I have put out feelers and tentatively made arrangements for the Autumn and the forthcoming Spring – fingers crossed we can go ahead.

In terms of content, in 2020 we introduced an advanced level, modern European step-by-step in each issue. We have looked at different materials, such as jute, discussed how we can be more ethical flower arrangers and investigated styles, such as Still Life and Steampunk. There were lots of offers and giveaways. Astonishingly, we have also featured nearly 200 stunning and completely original designs by you – our NAFAS members. These are what make our magazine stand out from the competition – real designs by real people that anyone can achieve.

It is the only floral art publication where you get such a mixture of professional and enthusiast designs. In this context the words enthusiast is wholly positive for as we all know that in our field it is the enthusiasts who lead the way, test new ideas and push boundaries with their show and competition work.

The fact that many of these shows and competitions were cancelled for 2020 does mean there is less to draw on for the magazine in 2021 but not all is lost as NAFAS members have shown what they are made of and answered my call for designs from virtual events some of which we will be able to use in 2021 ensuring that we continue to reflect the real world of floral art.

There are a few people I would like to thank including the National Officers and Steven, Sylvia and Vanessa at Headquarters. The Editorial Committee, Linda Lyons, Chris Saunders and Sylvia Loader. Plus, Margaret Rumens, Jan Law, Val Best and Kathy Stangaard who have all helped me personally, your kindness is much appreciated.

Mostly though, I would like to thank you – the readers who make the magazine what it is with your enthusiasm, ideas and feedback. I look forward to meeting more of you in 2021. Please keep reading.”

**Brenda Eyers:**

“Our thanks to Chloe and her hard-working team and also our Flower Arranger Distribution Officers at clubs.”

Brenda continued by announcing the another winner in the National Photography Competition:-

Class 5 - "Something beginning with A" (Novice Class, The East of England Trophy)

1<sup>st</sup> - Anne Lindsay of Steeton Flower Club, North East Area

Judges Comment – An outstanding image, brilliantly composed with superb colours. Cropped to perfection.

"Having seen all the slides, I offer thanks and congratulations to the National Photography Committee and particularly their Chairman Chrissie Harten for all their work in bringing the 2020 National Photography Competition together in very difficult times.

At our AGM we would normally see all prize winners' photographs displayed but this has not been possible today. You can however view them on our National website, and I am sure that they will also be featured by Chrissie and her team on Facebook very soon. Finally, we do have an overall winner of the competition, but this will be announced by our new President, Michael Bowyer MBE."

## **20/10 Board of Directors, National Advisory Council Members, Standing Committee Chairmen and Special Appointments 2019/2020:**

Michael Bowyer, Director and President-Elect announced the following:-

### **National Officers**

Dr Christina Curtis, National Chairman

Katherine Kear, National Vice-Chairman

### **Board of Directors**

Ellie Meaking

Peter Mathers

Ann Harding

Nicky Wylie

Mala Williams

### **Standing Committee Chairmen**

National Judging Committee – Joan Magee, NIGFAS

National Demonstrators Committee - Elizabeth Graham, Three Counties & South Wales

National Speakers Committee - Philida Irving, Northumberland & Durham

National Education Committee - Susie Barwick, BB&O

National Photography Committee - Chrissie Harten, Three Counties & South Wales

### **Special Appointments**

RHS Co-ordinator – Judith Taylor, Devon & Cornwall

Editor of *The Flower Arranger* magazine – Chloe Bryan-Brown

National Proof-Reader – Pat Stammers, East of England

Westminster Abbey Co-ordinators – Liz Hall and Marilyn Marsh, Kent

### **National Advisory Council**

Barbara Collins, East of England

Pat Cooke, South West

Margaret Strachan, Scotland

Janet Ratcliffe, North East

Elizabeth Gordon, Three Counties and South Wales

Gill McGregor, London & Overseas

Chris Brown, Surrey

Joan Gittings, Wessex & Jersey

Audrey Balderstone, Home Counties

Jane Haas, BB&O

Eleanor Davies, Mercia & North Wales

Ros Harrison, Flowers North West

Gill Smaggasgale, Kent

Jilly Griffin, Sussex  
Julie Peace, North Midlands  
Annette Thomas, South Midlands  
Maureen Olver, Devon & Cornwall  
Pamella Alexander, Northumberland & Durham  
Sandra Taylor, Dorset & Guernsey  
Louise Jones, Cheshire  
Marretta Coleman, NIGFAS

**20/11 National Associates of Honour:** Brenda Evers introduced respective Area Chairmen/Incoming Area Chairmen to read citations commending members from their Area to receive an Associate of Honour for their loyal service and dedication:-

**Marretta Coleman, NIGFAS to Alan Beatty:**

“As Chairman of NIGFAS it gives me great pleasure to nominate Mr Alan Beatty for the award of National Associate of Honour. Alan began his journey in the Armagh Club and quickly moved up the ranks holding most office bearer posts. He is also heavily involved in NIGFAS JDS&E Association where he has been to the fore in the smooth running of the many instructional workshops and educational trips and is involved in the progression and training of NIGFAS members. Alan was the first member of NIGFAS to serve at National level.

As a National Judge, Demonstrator, Speaker and Teacher Alan is one of only 5 people in NAFAS who holds qualifications in all 4 disciplines. He is a National Judge, qualified Adjudicator and Instructor and has completed a term on the National Judges Committee and has Judged at the Wafa Show in 2014.

He has demonstrated at National Shows, and a Wafa show. Alan has demonstrated in all 21 Areas of NAFAS, also Ireland, USA, Malta and Spain.

Alan is a National Speaker, Trainee Adjudicator, Trainee Instructor, is acting Vice-Chairman of the National Speakers Committee and has given talks at Area Days throughout NAFAS.

Tutoring Day Schools in NAFAS and AOIFA, especially Contemporary clubs, JDS&E groups and Teachers Associations is a regular occurrence and tutoring Day Schools in Malta and Spain.

Alan is extremely hard working, is a font of knowledge which he willingly shares and is a great ambassador in both NAFAS and NIGFAS.

It is a privilege and honour on behalf of NIGFAS to propose that Alan Beatty be awarded NAFAS National Associate of Honour.”

**Alan Beatty’s pre-recorded response:**

“It’s a very great honour to be made a National Associate of Honour by NAFAS - an honour I hope I shall live up to. Just over 30 years ago I was a new club member, and spellbound. I remember the first time I saw a National Demonstrator at work; better still my first National Show, Nottingham 1990 as a mere spectator, but I was captivated - hook, line, and sinker. By then I was on committee at flower club - Armagh - and unknown to myself was already "in post" as Assistant Treasurer. Positions on the NIGFAS Executive and Area JDS&E committees quickly followed and I’m indebted to the experienced folk on those committees from whom I learned so much and who gave me opportunities that I grasped with both hands.

"Personal Development" is something NAFAS excels at. Any member willing to contribute, even a little, will find the truth of the old maxim 'the more you put in, the more you get out.' Those who embark as I have done on being trained in any of the disciplines will be richly rewarded many times over. What opportunities have come my way through Demonstrating e.g. to the National Assembly at Coleraine and abroad: Judging at National Shows and Wafa: leading a NIGFAS team to Gold for NAFAS at Hampton Court - treasured experiences and memories.

I was privileged to be part of the new Editorial Board when Judith Blacklock was appointed Editor - it was a challenging time, but wonderful to have played a small part in that.

I trust however, that not everything is in the past! I'm delighted to be re-joining the National Judges Committee and hope to continue to give back to NAFAS, the organisation which I, like all of you, love so much. Finally, I must thank the NIGFAS Executive, my own Area for nominating me for this honour which I accept with deep gratitude."

**Jackie Charnock, Mercia & North Wales to Sue Davies:**

It is my pleasure to give this Citation for Sue Davies. A great asset to the Mercia & North Wales Area and the NAFAS Association since joining Area Committee in 2000.

Sue achieved City & Guilds Certification in Flower Arranging/Creative Studies in 1997

2002 – became Area 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman

2004 – Area 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman

2006 – Presented with her long awaited and requested 'Gold Tiara' in true Sue Davies style, on becoming Area Chairman. With Sue's natural ability to promote fun and friendship within the membership. Becoming a NAFAS Area Demonstrator in 2002, on to her 'goal' of becoming a NAFAS National Demonstrator, with her gift to arrange plant material and to entertain!!

Entertainment Officer for NAFAS National Assembly in Llandudno, Wales – 2003

National Demonstrators Committee 2011 – 2013

Co-opted to NAFAS Board of Directors 2018 – 2019

Participated in Stonehurst Festival 2002

Highcliffe Castle Show 2003

WAFAs Show – Japan 2005

Represented Area – National Show Bournemouth 2005

Demonstrated National AGM – Leamington Spa 2006

Demonstrated NAFAS National Show – Edinburgh 2008

Team leader for Mercia & North Wales Area exhibit in Westminster Abbey for the Golden 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NAFAS.

Arranged flowers in Westminster Abbey for various ceremonies and occasions.

Demonstrated in Guernsey, Jersey and numerous other events including our own prestigious Shrewsbury Flower Show.

Was voted our Area President – 2013

Awarded Area Associate of Honour – 2016

We have all shared Sue's passion for her beautiful garden, opened by Sue, Graham and the family on memorable occasions for Area and other charities including Cancer Research UK.

A very busy lady who will always find time to assist at NAFAS and Area events.

I am delighted, on behalf of Mercia & North Wales Area to congratulate Sue on being awarded National Associate of Honour in appreciation of her hard work and commitment to our Area and the NAFAS Association."

**Sue Davies pre-recorded response:**

"Hello to all my friends and colleagues.

I must begin by thanking my Area, Mercia and North Wales for proposing me for this award. I am thrilled, and it couldn't have come at a better time, it has lifted my spirits in what is a very strange time for us all.

I have been a member of NAFAS for almost thirty years now. How those years have flown by, at the very time you want time to slow down. Little did I think when I joined my very small flower club all those years ago, I would be here receiving this award.

Through belonging to our organisation, I have been given a wealth of opportunities, such as working for Area, Nationally and abroad.

Some of my highlights have been demonstrating at The National Show Edinburgh; heading my Area Team for NAFAS at the Golden Anniversary at the Flower Festival in Westminster Abbey and competing at WAFJ in Japan.

There are far too many other events to mention. I have made so many dear friends through our shared love of flowers, so many happy memories too.

So, I thank you most sincerely for this award.”

**Elizabeth Gordon, Three Counties & South Wales to Katherine Kear:**

“Katherine is Chair of the Three Counties and South Wales Area, a position that she has used to successfully take forward the Area’s profile and standing at local and national level. She is a longstanding advocate of the role of our Area; championing NAFAS and supporting our Area’s contribution to the development of clubs and their membership. Under her Chairmanship, the Three Counties and South Wales Area continues to thrive, and she has been pivotal in driving forward developments that underpin and sustain both its clubs and the National Agenda. She has been enthusiastic about promoting educational initiatives and in creating opportunities for clubs to showcase their skills together with identifying talent to represent our Area at local and national events.

Katherine is a Demonstrator, Speaker and Teacher at National level and has demonstrated, spoken and taught at overseas events. She is an author and an editor of several NAFAS books on floral design. She is also a keen competitor, representing both Area and NAFAS at major events. In 2016, she was team leader and designer of the NAFAS Chelsea Flower Show ‘gold medal award’ exhibit.

Her overall contribution at National level is underpinned by exceptional service at Area level.”

**Katherine Kear’s response:**

“Any award is special, what makes this personally more so is that I was nominated totally in secret by my Area. Still to this day I do not actually know who was responsible. Secrets best kept; I think!

I now feel like a Floral Knight in shining armour, a Templar with my award on my breastplate.

I have gained so much from my membership and work with NAFAS members and, especially so, with my very special Three Counties and South Wales Area. Flowers are like friends; they colour our world.

As Gandhi said ‘the fragrance remains in the hand that gives the flower’

Thank you, I am honoured and humbled.”

**Simone Squire, South Midlands to Margaret Rumens:**

“On behalf of the South Midlands Area I have the great pleasure and honour to read this citation for Margaret Rumens.

Margaret is a long-standing active member of the South Midlands Area. Margaret held the posts of Area Secretary, Area Chairman and Area President. She is to this day involved with JDS&E, she has been Speakers, Demonstrators, Education Representative and still occupies the post of Judges Representative.

Margaret is a founder member of Centrix, our Area Contemporary group.

Margaret is a National Demonstrator, National Judge, National Teacher and Area Speaker. She also is a Qualified Adjudicator and Instructor for Judges and Demonstrators.

Margaret was in the team to exhibit in Canterbury Cathedral in 1986, was part of the Gold winning Chelsea team in 2001 and masterminded the Flower Festival at Lichfield Cathedral in 2004. She demonstrated at the Swansea Assembly in 2005.

As Chairman of the National Show, Margaret organised the Harrogate Show in 2003, and in 2017 she became Chairman of the National Judges Committee. Margaret judged at the 2020 WAFA Show in India.

Margaret is a respected fountain of knowledge in our Area which she is willing to share through her demonstrations, workshops, judging and teaching. Congratulations Margaret.”

**Margaret Rumens pre-recorded response:**

“I thank three people for this honour being awarded today - Mrs Joynes, Kent, Muriel Schroeter, Newport Flower Club, and Alice Kneebone, Solihull Flower Club who all taught at evening classes and imbued me with the enthusiasm to live, breath, and work with both flowers and flower arrangers, for encouraging me to join a flower club and go on to teach, judge and demonstrate. That I went on to do committee work was a result of encouragement from fellow members and officers in both Newport and Solihull Clubs and by supportive Area Officers.

NAFAS has developed a wonderful committee system that fosters camaraderie and I have worked with excellent teams and NAFAS staff throughout my career. My Belbin profile says that I am primarily a team worker and that is how I work best but that needs good people around you, together with the support of my family - ‘Team Rumens’. I will treasure the friendships made through working for NAFAS at club, Area and National level.

I am delighted to receive this award and thank the National Officers for bestowing this special honour.”

**20/12 Retiring Directors**

**Sue Brinton to Kathy Lee:**

“Kathy, I had the pleasure of welcoming you as a new Director in 2014 when I was National Chairman. You have proved a very valuable member of the Board during your two terms in office. I know you are particularly proud of being part of the Board who finally managed to employ a CEO. Your organisational skills and support to competitors during two important competitions were much appreciated. I am sure your Area are looking forward to welcoming you back next time as their President, so I know you will not be idle. It is with great pleasure I say a very big thank you for all your diligence and hard work over the last 6 years.”

**Kathy Lee’s pre-recorded response:**

“Thank you, Sue. The years have passed with great speed, and I seem to have been on a rollercoaster ride in my time serving NAFAS as a Trustee. I send my best wishes to all involved in taking our great Association forward into the future.”

**Sue Brinton to Pat Martin:**

“From being a past National Chairman and President, it is extremely kind of you to have helped NAFAS out as a co-opted Board member, your wealth of experience and calm nature has greatly been appreciated over the last 3 months. Thank you very much.”

**Pat Martin’s pre-recorded response:**

“I have appreciated the warm welcome and support that I have received from the Board members and thank them all. The dedication and hard work of this team on behalf of NAFAS in these particularly difficult times is to be applauded, thank you.”

**Sue Brinton to Michael Bowyer MBE:**

“Today Michael you step from being a Director to our National President but it is as a co-opted Board member that I want to thank you very much for your invaluable contribution over the past 3 months. We are most grateful to you for giving up this extra time to help the Association out.”

**Michael Bowyer MBE response:**

“Thank you, it has been a pleasure. The past 3 months on the Board of Directors has given me a valuable insight of the duties and the working of the Board which I think will set me up very well for the future.”

**20/13 Incoming Directors:**

**Sue Brinton to Mala Williams:**

“Mala is a past Chairman and President of Wessex and Jersey Area, a member of Lymington Flower Club and a past Vice-Chairman of Hythe Flower Club. Mala is a National Teacher and served on the NAFAS National Education Committee, she is also a keen competitor and has experience in Education, Finance and Accounting, Event Management, Marketing and PR. I am sure together with your interpersonal skills you will have much to offer as a Trustee of NAFAS. I wish you also a happy term in office.”

**Mala Williams pre-recorded response:**

“Thank you, Sue, for your kind introduction, may I say what an honour it is to be part of this wonderful organisation which has so much to offer. I will try my best to help in every way I can to move this organisation forward in the right direction, giving it a positive future. Thank you.”

**Sue Brinton to Nicky Wylie:**

“Nicky is retiring Chairman of the Cheshire Area, member, and past Chairperson of Bramall Flower Club, she is currently their Treasurer. A keen flower arranger and competitor Nicky led a very successful Cheshire Area Team at RHS Chelsea, gaining a Silver Gilt medal for NAFAS. Nicky has a wide range of experience in Human Resources, Education and Governance. She is qualified nurse, and a serving Town and County Councillor. You will, I know Nicky be a great asset as a Trustee of NAFAS and I wish you a happy term in office.”

**Nicky Wylie’s pre-recorded response:**

“Thank you, madam President, I would like to say thank you to all the Area Chairmen who have entrusted me to become a Director. I will do my best that I can to help bring NAFAS forward and to continue our love of friendship and flowers. Thank you.”

**20/14 Introduction of National Vice-Chairman**

**Sue Brinton to Katherine Kear:**

“I am delighted to welcome you Katherine as National Vice-Chairman of NAFAS, your reputation goes before you as many will have listened to you on radio and television on your exploration of myths and perhaps members are familiar with the books you have written.

Katherine is retiring Chairman of Three Counties and South Wales Area, a National Speaker, National Demonstrator and National Teacher, her experience in both business and commercial floristry together with vocational and leisure floral art gives Katherine a valuable insight into current trends and the way the overall world of flowers is moving. With more than 35 years of experience in NAFAS, coupled with experience in Financial/Accounting, Event Management, Fund Raising Appeals, Education, Business/Strategy, Planning, Legal, Governance I have no doubt that you will make a valuable contribution to the Association. A very warm welcome, it is good to have you on board.”

**Katherine Kear's response:**

"Thank you. Over 35 years ago I sat in the back row of my first flower club meeting. I was unsure what to expect but I remember it to this day. The fact I still remember is down to several things; the enrapt audience, the skills shown leaving me wanting to know more, the horticultural knowledge, the rummage through the off cuts box. I was educationally enriched. Being in the world of flower clubs opens doors to enrichment, self-development and education and I wish to ensure those opportunities remain accessible at all levels to all people. It is all about maintaining an organisation that has potential and relevance today and beyond. Its aims and objectives I support whole heartedly and wish to be part of as National Vice-Chairman to ensure I can help guide NAFAS into the future. I love quotes and it wouldn't be me if I didn't end with a quote:-

I read an article a while back, in it Alan Bennett is quoted: 'If you think squash is a competitive activity try Flower Arranging. The retort was 'he's not kidding NAFAS is a serious business in Britain'

Let's keep it so."

**20/15 Retirement of President and Introduction of new National President**

**Sue Brinton to Michael Bowyer MBE:**

"Michael is just one of a small number of members who hold National Qualifications in all four disciplines and has travelled extensively both training and adjudicating candidates in Judging, Demonstrating and Speaking. A past Chairman and currently President of Salisbury Flower Club also Vice-Chairman of Wessex and Jersey Area. He is Artistic Director of Salisbury Cathedral Flowers and heavily involved in amateur dramatics and musical theatre. A very proud moment in Michael's floral journey was receiving the MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in 2012 for services to charitable causes and Floral Art.

I am delighted that you are taking up the role of National President Michael and I feel honoured to pass the National Presidents badge of office to you, I could not think of a more worthy recipient and I wish you a very happy and successful two years."

**Michael Bowyer MBE response:**

"May I start by thanking you Sue on behalf of NAFAS members for the two years that you have served as our President. A position with which you have carried out with great grace and warmth. On a personal level for all the help you have given to me in preparing for the next 2 years.

I have been a NAFAS member for nearly 40 years since picking up *The Flower Arranger* magazine at a jumble sale in the 1970's. I still have that magazine and it contains a picture of all the Area Publicity Officers of NAFAS and there representing the East of England is a picture of Sue Brinton. On my first visit to Salisbury Flower Club I was captivated by a demonstration by Dorothy Bye. Little did I think it would lead to this. When Sue Brinton phoned to ask if I would consider this post I had to ask if she had dialled the correct number. I am pleased, proud and honoured to accept this important position within our organisation. I have met many of you watching today as I have either demonstrated, spoken, taught, judged or adjudicated in each of our 21 NAFAS Areas. A good thing as I do not think I will be visiting many of you during the early months of my term of office. However, with new means of communication during these difficult times I do hope to 'see' as many of you as possible in the way I see you today."

**Brenda Eyers:**

"Our grateful thanks to Sue for all she has done for NAFAS and will doubtlessly continue to do in the future and a huge welcome to our new President Michael Bowyer. We wish you a most enjoyable term of office Michael it is a well deserved appointment."

## 20/16 Questions:

- 1) Sandra Dean, Chair Felpham Flower Club - I have a member who is a member of two flower clubs, and each require Affiliation Fees to NAFAS. Why is this? She does not understand why she has to support NAFAS twice and other members are in the same position and often ask this question.

Steven Lane "I touched on this in my financial presentation. It will difficult if not impossible to introduce a process within the existing membership structure that will enable a member to attend more than one club and pay just the one Affiliation Fee. For this to happen we will need to introduce a new membership model that will be recognised by all our 900 plus clubs with the Individual member paying NAFAS direct. It is not impossible to do and I would like to see this happen. It will impact financially on the Association and we will need a central database to hold everyone's information securely.

This is a question that comes up a lot, and we base our member numbers on the number of Affiliation Fees paid and this is inaccurate and gives a false impression of the true figure and size of the Association. It is right at the top of the list of areas to address."

- 2) Patricia South, Area Flower Arranger Officer, East of England - How is NAFAS taking into account what is happening to individual clubs and assessing the financial risk to the Association overall of falling membership, reduced income and Affiliation Fees?

Dr Christina Curtis "On 1st August, I wrote a letter to all members about the current situation in the Association inviting comments. I received quite a few letters from concerned members on behalf of their clubs about their circumstances which I have passed onto the Board. Our CEO, Steven, has also received such letters and the Directors and I are regularly in touch with Area Chairmen through email and National Advisory Council Virtual meetings. We know that many clubs have not met, have not collected Affiliation Fees and some are in trouble financially with little reserves. We want to make sure every club keeps going and stays affiliated to NAFAS. We have been in touch with Area Chairmen about this and they have received guidance for their clubs on remaining affiliated.

After the Diamond Event loss, the Board set up a special Budget & Strategy Team to monitor NAFAS Budgets, Management Accounts and Cash Flow. As other membership organisations like the WI have examined the effects of falling membership and reduced income due to COVID-19 we are doing the same. Cash Flow Forecast documents prepared by Steven and our Finance Officer, Richard, have been sent to this Team. At the next Board Meeting, with our new Trustees in place, the Board will continue to discuss NAFAS' financial position in earnest considering the Budget and Strategy Team's recommendations. A close watch on income and expenditure will also be gained from regular monthly reports from our Finance Officer Richard."

- 3) Ruby & Grace Pearson, East Suffolk Junior Flower Club - Can you please tell us what plans NAFAS has to encourage younger members to join?

We have a few ideas we would like to see such as:-

- a) A page on the National NAFAS website specifically for junior clubs so we can post pictures of our classes and promote them to get more members.
- b) A regular feature in *The Flower Arranger* magazine for junior members
- c) Please can you think about reviewing the age at which we can stay in juniors. Most children go on to further education and to stop going to the club at 17 is quite hard.
- d) Encourage clubs to have junior members to join their monthly meetings either free or at a low cost. We are fortunate because Tiptree & District Flower Club always welcomes us and does not charge.

Steven Lane "Hello Ruby and Grace, we are always asked how we attract younger members so it's appropriate that we have received a question about this. I will be honest with you and say that at the moment, we do not have a strategy to promote junior clubs. We should have and I am sorry that we are failing to support our junior clubs.

Because of the NAFAS structure, we do not know the full details about how many junior clubs or junior members there are. Not that this should prevent head office from promoting junior clubs but it demonstrates the many issues we have with the current membership model.

I do like your ideas, so here's what we'll do:

I will add a page to our new website aimed specifically at junior clubs.

I will discuss with the Editorial Committee the idea of a feature in *The Flower Arranger* magazine for junior members.

I will raise your questions about reviewing the age of 17 and free or low-cost membership to join monthly meetings at Board level and come back to you with an update.

I spoke earlier about leaving the past behind and focussing on the future and this is exactly how the Board, and me, should be spending our time, thank you again for your question and well-done Tiptree and District Flower Club for your support to junior members."

- 4) David Thomson, Chairman of the Colchester Group of Flower Clubs, a Member of the East of England Area Executive, Chairman of a Contemporary Club in the Home Counties and a National Demonstrator - In the serious financial situation that NAFAS now finds itself surely the time has come to relinquish Osborne House and realise it's worth and find much more economic premises suitable for current needs?

Dr Christina Curtis "On 17th August the Board, the incoming National Vice-Chairman, Incoming Directors, our CEO, Steven and I held a meeting to discuss the way forward for the Association with short and long-term plans mentioned. A free report had been produced by Mike Pope of Gryphon Properties to discuss the options for Osborne House, our only asset. Due to our financial position it was agreed that this would need to be sold. The house is valuable, and its sale would allow relocation to somewhere more suitable for NAFAS of the future. It would also permit the Association to restructure and become fit for the 21st Century. Essential promotion of our wonderful Association would be possible; I know our CEO, Steven, has ideas about that. It would be a great chance for a fresh start. The Area Chairmen all received a Briefing Document about the meeting and will be further updated as more discussions take place. Also, a Terms of Reference Study on existing facilities at Osborne House is being undertaken and from that our future needs will be assessed."

**20/17 Date of 2021 Annual General Meeting &  
20/18 Close of Meeting and Thanks.**

**Michael Bowyer:**

"Thank you Brenda, for all your help today in making this a successful presentation. I am delighted to announce the overall winner of the 2020 Photography Competition. Congratulations go to Anne Lindsay from Steeton Flower Club, North East Area with her entry in the Class 5 category "Something beginning with A".

As we come the end of our AGM, I wish you farewell and thank you all for attending. Today has been a very different kind of AGM but let's think of it this way today has given the opportunity to every single member of our Association to attend and view the proceedings. Please keep in touch. Phone a flower friend to say 'hello, how are you doing?' To some we have said goodbye, to some hello and welcome, to others thank you for your continuing good work. The date for the 2021 AGM will be published in *The Flower Arranger* magazine. Our clubs will meet again, we will meet again, and until we do stay safe and keep well. Goodbye."