

## Flower Club



*Doris Pearce*

Membership in 1972 was 39 (1975 – 66; 1978 – 97; 1980 – 154 with 18 on the waiting list). By 2003 around 100. The minutes of one committee meeting asked for letters to be sent to the members who had not attended the last Club meeting when only 7 members turned up. Various competitions and shows have taken place.

In June 1961 one class was named 'Fragrance' and the judges on that occasion were blind. The show that year was held at the Town Hall and the proceeds of £37.10.0 were split between Chester Blind Welfare Society and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Over the years the group has helped members and their families to celebrate special occasions by presenting them with lovely floral arrangements, or supplying and arranging flowers for their anniversaries or weddings.

As well as flower arranging for pleasure, many events have raised funds for local charities including:- Dorincourt; The Hospice of the Good Shepherd and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Arrangements have been made for social events - including a visit by the Queen to the Cathedral; Peckforton and Bodelwyddan Castles; local churches and stately homes. Over the years members have enjoyed outings to Chester Zoo, china factories and one recorded outing to The Alabaster Works!!

Many members have gone on to become professional demonstrators or teachers, while others enjoy entering local and national competitions. Some who have been attending the Flower Club for many years just enjoy sitting and watching a demonstration and arranging flowers at home for their own pleasure.



Olive Minor, Brenda Saunders, Nancy Turton, Ann Harrop, Sue Dernie, Marie Christian and other members of the Flower Club

The National Association of Flower Arrangers (NAFAS) was split into areas, Chester being part of Cheshire area and Upton part of Mercia and North Wales. In the 1950's Chester Flower Arrangers Group met in the Conservative Club in Newgate Street.

In 1960 Doris Pearce and a group of friends from Upton formed Upton Heath Flower Club. Early committee meetings and club nights were held in the chairman's home, in Upton Park, or in the Village Hall; either in the afternoon or the evening. At one meeting the treasurer was 'delighted' to report that there was £180.12s.1d in the bank. Mrs Cowap made a profit of £44 running the shop.

The entrance fee for the 10th Anniversary celebrations was 3/- although a mistress of St. James Secondary Modern School wrote to ask for reduced terms for a visit by her girls, consequently they were charged 2/-. Raffle tickets were 6<sup>d</sup> or 2/6<sup>d</sup> per book. A typical allowance for a demonstrator was £10 for the flowers and £25 for their fee.

*Full to capacity meetings held in the Village Hall*





At a coffee morning in aid of the proposed Hospice of the Good Shepherd.



Details awaited





Flower Club Silver Jubilee (1985) celebration in the Village Hall