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**NATIONAL SPEAKERS COMMITTEE**

**AUTUMN 2016 BULLETIN**

**The National Speakers Committee for 2016/17**

Chairman Susan Shaw Kent

Susan Horne East of England

Philida Irving Northumberland & Durham

Carolynne Sorrell SAFAS

Sheila Smith Mercia & North Wales

Thanks go to Elizabeth Rea, who has guided the committee over the last three years, and also retired members who have served on the committee during her reign, Jo Jacobs, Christine McKenna and Ann Horsley. Thanks also to David Ryland (Umbrella to the Committee) for his guidance and support over the last two years.

**Speakers Residential Course**

Thirty three members gathered at the end of July for a very successful course at Cardiff University. Both the NAFAS National Chairman Sheila Hadlow and NAFAS Vice Chairman Jan Law attended as delegates. A varied programme was enjoyed. Sessions were led by the committee, NAFAS instructors and an external professional vocal coach, Emma Stevens Johnson, who explained the production of sound and gave us tips for warming up our voices. Other sessions included topics such as Use of the Microphone, Audience Rapport, Dressing to impress and After Dinner speaking. Delegates enjoyed a very accomplished After Dinner Talk at the Gala Dinner by Michael Bowyer MBE. Also of note were the much admired flowers arranged by David Ryland, who included lots of treasures from his own garden. As always there was a lot of laughter and it was lovely to meet up with friends from around the country.

**National Speakers Test October 2016**

A joint test was arranged in Northallerton with the National Demonstrators Committee. Thanks go to that committee and the North East Area for their hard work and for making it a very special event.

Five candidates passed the National Speakers test. They are

Alan Beatty NIGFAS The Power of Colour

Anne Bridge East of England Lost and Found – The Mystery of the Cheapside Hoard.

James Burnside NIGFAS The Legacy of Art Nouveau

Hazel McGregor Surrey Faith, Charity and A Lifetime of Hope

Kathy Stangaard London & Overseas The Sound of Bow Bells

We wish them all the best for the future.

Apologies to Anne Bridge whose Postcode should have been shown in the programme as NR3 2EN.

**Guidelines**

There have been significant changes to the Guidelines. The A&B sections are now available to download from the NAFAS website, NAFAS tab, Members Area. All out of date guidelines should be destroyed.

**Speakers Representatives Day 27 September 2016**

The Representatives meet every eighteen months to share information, express views and receive updates. At our gathering the representatives delivered their reports and were brought up to date with changes that had been made to the guidelines. Advice on Reading Reports and being Pro Active were presented. The next meeting will be spring 2018.

**Adjudicators & Instructors Day 28 February 2017 10.30am**

The committee look forward to meeting the adjudicators and instructors on the 28 February 2017. These meetings are important as they help to maintain high standards in the training and testing of Speakers, review procedures and encourage good communication across the Association.

**National Show 2017**

The Festive Flower and Food Show returns to the fabulous Blackpool Winter Gardens on 9-11 November 2017. A great start to the Festive Season. Check out details at www.festiveflowerfoodshow.co.uk.

**Tests and Training Days**

Any Areas arranging speakers training, joint refresher days and general speaking and confidence days should advise the Chairman National Speakers Committee. Dates will be posted on the Speakers page of the NAFAS website. Please also advise of any mock and final test dates as soon as possible.

Often it is possible for Areas to do joint training days or testing so please communicate with your local Areas as well.

Many clubs have closed in the past, because no one felt up to going on the committee. Achieving speaking confidence is life changing. Speaking and confidence days help to reenergise clubs, so try running one in your Area. There are NAFAS instructors throughout the country ready to help.

**Next National Test**

At the moment a date is not known for the next test. Pre-test advice and guidance is needed before doing the National test so potential candidates are advised to make the Chairman National Speakers Committee aware of their intentions. Any Area Speaker who has been qualified for two years and is interested in finding out about the National Test should write to the Chairman National Speakers Committee, at Headquarters, as soon as possible.

**Speakers**

Speakers have a lot to offer NAFAS; presentations to inspire, enthral and inform; after Dinner Speeches; comperes at special events; after AGM entertainment and ambassadors for our organisation.

NAFAS needs members to come forward in all the disciplines, so please look around your clubs and consider who needs encouragement and support to step forward. If not you, who?

Susan Shaw Chairman NAFAS National Speakers Committee October 2016