April was members night when three members, Doreen, Eve and Anne each did an Easter or spring arrangement first before everyone did their own container arrangement.  There was a lovely variety of designs and Jean was the winner.

On May 15th Chair Eve welcomed members and several guests and gave out a few forthcoming events including the Plant Sale in Burgh Hall and the Open Garden day at Cherry Cottage, Crosby.

A list for names and choice of menu for the June meeting when we visit the garden at 1 Holme Meadow, Cumwhinton, followed by supper at the Lowther Arms.

Eve then introduced Sue Oliver to do her demonstration entitled ‘What’s in a Name’.

Sue began with a long wooden box, which already had the greenery in to which she added Iris, willow, stocks, pink gerbera, 3 allium, yellow tulips and more iris.  This arrangement was in two parts and would be two prizes in the raffle.  Sue told that she is not really a flower arranger, but was a gardener, before retirement, and all her life loved entering shows including the big ones Chelsea, Harrogate Spring show,

Tatton Park and many more and winning many prizes over the years.  Sue’s next arrangement was a tall container with a round basket at the top with greenery.  To this she added all garden flowers, not using any oasis, but the stems were placed in phials of water.

Thirdly, again no oasis, but into an urn container used two rows of chicken wire and after the greenery she added snowball tree, nine barks foliage golden yellow flowers, pittosporum, yellow roses, pale peachy alstroemeria, spray carnations and heuchera flowers, this reminded her of showing at Southport.

Sue told about doing a lot of hanging baskets in Carlisle city centre when working for the Parks Department.  Next came two pot-e-fleur arrangements, firstly a square basket adding a yellow plant, a fern then tall iris into a jam jar.  The other was a wooden oval  box adding a pink plant and ivy then cerise tulips.

Sue then showed how she did a hand tied bunch using eucalyptus, rosemary, peony flower, white altroemeria, aquilegia, roses, gerbera and white lilac.  After tying, she made sure they would stand on the table before placing in a jar.  She produced two more almost identical bunches, making three more prizes.

Lastly using a tall candlestick she added Love lies Bleeding, large ivy leaves, white lilies, green carnations, white roses and more greenery.  Then Sue produced a second completed candlestick and made the stage a wonderful scene of colour and totalling eleven designs to be raffled.  The lucky recipients were delighted.

Refreshments of tea, coffee and biscuits completed the evening.

We are reminded to meet at 5.30 on 19th June for the Garden Visit at Cumwhinton.