Eve Johnson, our Chairman welcomed everyone to the April meeting.

A get-well card was being circulated for members' signatures, and which would be sent to our Treasurer following her recent operation. Also details of our Garden Visit to Laversdale, followed by supper at 'The Sally' at Irthington on the 21st June was also going around, for members' information.

Eve then informed us of the following invitations:   Brampton Flower Club had invited us to join them on the 8th May, and Dalston Flowers & Crafts on the 10th May. The Dalston Festival Committee had again invited us to join with other Flower Clubs to do arrangements in the Church for their Festival to be held from the 5th - 13th August. An Artwork exhibition would be held in Burgh-by-Sands on the 13th May.

Eve then reminded everyone that the May Meeting on 17th May, would be a Members' Night, when we would each bring a basket, or other suitable container, oasis, spring flowers, and create a 'Spring Basket'.

Eve then introduced our demonstrator for the evening, Hilary Porter from 'Perfectly Planted', Gosforth.

Hilary told us that she had sadly closed her Florist's on Christmas Eve, as her horticultural work with 'Perfectly Planted' had gone from strength to strength, and she needed to put all of her efforts into that. However, she had four commitments with flowers that she had to fulfil this year, namely our Solway Flower Club demonstration tonight, which would be her final one, and three weddings.

Hilary had called her demonstration 'April Showers', and with an array of lovely flowers - blue delphiniums, gorgeous pink roses, cream, white and mauve lisianthus, lemon and white freesias, and greenery consisting of ferns, aspidistra leaves. eucalyptus, eringium and fountain grass proceeded to entertain us with some wonderful arrangements, the first one being in an open umbrella. Keeping to her Shower theme, a mini watering can held the next one, which was followed by a pair of pink wellies, two different designs - very unusual, and finishing with a bucket. With her excellent rapport, and floral art, her final demonstration was superb.

Hilary and her florist's shop has already been sadly missed in her local area, and her brilliant skills as a flower arranger will also be greatly missed by many flower clubs in the wider area. The Solway Flower Club were privileged indeed, to host her final demonstration.

Margaret Hodgson, our President, gave the vote of thanks for a superb evening, and we wished Hilary every success with 'Perfectly Planted.'