Chairman Eve Johnson welcomed everyone to the April meeting of the Solway Flower Club.  It has been suggested to start a library of Flower Books for people to bring and swap.

Lists were passed around for those wishing to have a meal at Aikton Arms in June following the Garden visit at White Gables.  The other list is for afternoon tea at Bowness in August when visiting the church to view the super kneelers which the local ladies have made.

Eve then introduced our demonstrator; Derek Morgan from Morecambe to give his demonstration entitled ‘Fierce Creatures’ which has everyone intrigued.

Derek started by telling how he started with flowers.  After working in forestry in south Cumbria, moved to help his in-laws with their fruit and vegetable shop in Morecambe and included flowers in the shop.

His first container was a round block of wood and with ‘leaf manipulation’ cleverly formed into two vicious bulls horns to attach to the container.  Derek used the most super shiny greenery including lots of different palms, rhapis palm, long pheonix palms, and Aspidistra leaves stapled to make them stand upright.  He then added huge red carnations, red Naomi roses, large red gerbera and the smaller red germinis.

Then Derek produced a smaller similar arrangement as a bullock to the large vicious bull, and he couldn’t think why, but he then draped a length of red chiffon around the arrangements, as we all know what happens with a red rag to a bull.  The two arrangements together in all red and green were magnificent.

Derek gave a lot of hints and tips on preparing flowers and how he ‘manipulates’ larger leaves by snipping bits off.

Secondly he produced, in a large copper urn, an arrangement depicting Bees and Wasps.  We know how fruit and veg attract wasps.  Using green cordyline leaves, solidago, yellow roses, lilies, special yellow calla lilies and lastly a yellow gerbera with brown centre the exact colour of wasps.

The next arrangement was in remembrance of him having to look after rabbits, which were alright to feed and amused everyone telling about when cutting their claws became a problem.   He used kangaroo paws flower, iris, green anastasia chrysanths depicting colours of the vegetables the rabbits ate also orangey gerbera the colour of carrots, and a Miss Piggy two tone orangey rose.  This was a lovely spring arrangement.

Next container was tall with a glitter pattern entitled The Black Panther.  Derek used darkened fatsia leaves and black aspidistra leaves, then produced the most beautiful pink multi-headed lilies stating he had got it a bit wrong because Panthers are really pink.  He continued to use pink farina carnations, pink germinis, sprayed dark pink pussy willow branches and spray roses and finished with anthuriums.

Lastly a tall white vase, white sprayed fatsia and cordyline leaves, variegated aspidistra and palm leaves.  He added white oriental lily, large calla lily and large avalanche roses

Derek had everyone guessing which ‘fierce creature’ this last arrangement reminded him of, and then when everyone had run out of guesses he very cheekily said ‘women’.

President Margaret had difficulty thinking of words to use when thanking him for this wonderful and entertaining evening.

All the arrangements were then raffled and coffee and biscuits were served.  The next meeting on 16th May will be Karen Phillips entitled ‘How to grow cut Flowers’.  Everyone welcome.