Vice Chairman Margaret McKenna welcomed members and many guests to the Open Night of the Solway Flower Club.

A few notices were given including drawing attention to the Open meeting of the Carlisle Flower Club on Thursday 6th December at Morton Manor at 1.30.

Margaret then welcomed our demonstrator, Linda Fraser, to give her special Christmas demonstration entitled ‘Fantastically Festive’.

Linda’s first arrangement was in a basket to depict a manger for the nativity scene, starting with peacock feathers, synonymous with the Virgin Mary, she added yellow gerbera for the star in the east and yellow roses and large chrysanths.  Linda produced another smaller arrangement to match and then played music ‘We wish you a Merry Christmas’.

Linda told us how much she loves Fairy stories and myths and legends, and while she was arranging, she was also telling fairy stories.

Next was about Sammy the Spider living in a cave.  She used a tall pedestal and silvered and frosted twisted willow, phormium leaves other frosted greenery and told the story of a man and woman coming into Sammy’s cave and it was Mary and Joseph.  All the flowers in this arrangement were greenish white. lisianthus, roses, spray carnations lily and finished with gyp and silver sprayed ferns.  Another similar pedestal was produced also a spider’s web and the accompanying music was ‘Silent Night’.

Next was a Christmas Wedding using red, silver and green in a gold container and added baubles.  Lovely greenery, ornamental cabbage, red gerbera, dark red roses, yellow roses, lilies, white chrysanths and red and gold sprayed masks complete with another arrangement and the fairy story about the Dove.  The music for these arrangements was ‘Deck the Halls’.

Linda’s next design was in a square suspended frame using silvered eucalyptus, birch, ivy, yew and ferns to which she added white and orange flowers and gold birds, red candles and another arrangement in to match and played the haunting tune ‘In the Air’.

Linda’s finale was to arrange a Christmas fireplace.  Also telling the Christmas story and traditions through the ages and Victorian times.  She used dark evergreen greenery to which she added dark red carnations, dark red roses, bright red gerbera, red alstromeria and poinsettas and switched a light for the fire in the hearth.  She added candles, twinkling lights and lots of Christmas accessories and another arrangement in a wooden chair and a book to read by the fire.  The music playing was ‘Wonderful time of the Year’.

Maureen thanked Linda most enthusiastically for the brilliant evening we had just experienced and it definitely is a most wonderful time of the year.

Ten members and guests were the lucky winners of all the arrangements in the raffle.  The evening concluded with mulled wine, mince pies and shortbread.

Next month, on the 5th December, we go out for Christmas lunch at Skitby House starting at 10.30 for coffee and scones followed by a demonstration before lunch.  Names and choice of menu were taken.