**Becoming a NAFAS Area Judge**

Are you an experienced flower arranger or competitor?

In a competition do you sometimes wonder why the judge has given specific awards?

Would you like to gain insight into the process of judging exhibits and gain valuable knowledge in all aspects of show design and scheduling?

At the same time would you like to Improve your horticultural knowledge and floral art skills?

**Training to become a NAFAS Area Judge will fulfil all of the above and more.**

NAFAS Judges encourage the creative activity of arranging plant material and entering competitions. They have the ability to assess exhibits calmly and with common sense, they use constructive comments to help exhibitors and visitors understand the reasons behind their decisions. They respect the work of all exhibitors from the novice to the more accomplished.

The training programme which will be led by qualified tutors and supported by mentors will include:

* A thorough understanding of the elements and principles of design
* A working knowledge of horticulture with familiarity of the botanical names of plants
* Practical judging both written and oral
* Communication skills

A Mock Test and Final Test will be the last part of the process for you to attain qualification as an Area Judge. The knowledge gained is invaluable for all aspiring students who wish to strive to reach a higher level of understanding of floral design and competitive show work.

There are 5 aspects of the test:

* Practical Judging
* Oral Judging
* A written paper
* A Horticultural Test
* A staged exhibit

An individual affiliation to NAFAS or being a member of an affiliated club is required in order for you to commence training. Fees will be charged for training and the tests. Further information on courses in your area or elsewhere can be obtained from your Area Judges representative.

The training programme will afford you invaluable knowledge to use throughout your floral art journey.