



# SURREY AREA OF NAFAS

*From the Chairman*

***Please reply to:  
Lynis Williams***

**Email: [chairmansurreynafas@gmail.com](mailto:chairmansurreynafas@gmail.com)**

**Tel: 01372 813852**

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Dear all,

Have you ever stood in front of a competition bench and said, 'I don't understand why that design has come first'. Someone then comes up to stand beside you and echoes what you have just said. It has certainly happened to me. More understanding of judging is needed.

However, more than that, we need to encourage our members to compete. It is sad when we hear of shows that have had to be cancelled due to lack of competitors. It certainly takes a lot of time and effort to put a show together.

Your Surrey Officers have come up with an idea, but it is up to you to make it work. Many years ago Ray Newell generously gave some money to Surrey NAFAS in memory of his wife, this fund we call The Barbara Newell Fund. This fund was to encourage our members to take part in Competitions – to give people more confidence to compete. You may well remember the Barbara Newell Classes. We intend to use some of this money to offer workshops to the clubs.

We have 4 wonderful National Teachers on our Surrey List who are also National Judges - Chris Brown, Jane Rickard, Anna Steven and Margaret Trepant. They are looking forward to coming to our clubs to offer this workshop. The workshop will be called 'Demystifying Judging'. The plan is that it will be a light-hearted workshop looking at the schedule, taking part in competitions and, of course, what is going on in the judges' minds when they make their decisions. By the end of the 2-hour session we hope your members will be more confident to take part in competitions at Club and Area level.

You will need to choose which of our 4 tutors will suit your club best. We are stipulating that you must not book one who is a member of your club. We will pay the tutor and their mileage directly from the Barbara Newell Fund. It is up to you to pay for the venue, any plant material used and any parking. You may like to use it for a meeting or for an additional workshop. Your club cannot use the money for anything else. Please book directly with a tutor – their contact details are on our website. The workshop needs to have taken place by no later than December 2028. I hope you can take advantage of this – if you have any queries do contact me.

Let us work together and enable more of our Surrey members to feel confident in competing and understanding the judging.

Enjoy Flower arranging

Lynis