

Neil Whittaker is one of the UK and Europe's top florists. He has studied around the world and gained his National Diploma in Floristry (NDSF) in 1998 and his American Institute of Floral Design (AIFD) in 2000.

Neil travels extensively, teaching and demonstrating around the UK, Europe, the Far East, Brazil, Australia, the USA and Canada. He was listed as one of the UK's top ten florists by 'The Independent on Sunday' and his work has appeared in many magazines and design books over the years, including 'Fusion Flowers', 'The Best of British', 'International Annual Floral Art 2006/07' and 'The Spirit of the Rose'. He has also featured on TV and radio shows, and in 2008 Neil was asked to provide the flowers for a national TV station's flagship dream wedding competition.

Neil has been an ambassador for Smithers-Oasis UK since 2001 and has worked for many key organisations within the floristry industry, including the Flower Council of Holland. In 2007/08 Neil was the British Florist Association's Retail Florist of the Year and Interflora Florist of the Year.

An experienced international competitor, Neil has represented the UK around the world. He was ranked fourth in the Europa Cup in 2007, the highest position ever achieved by a British florist and recently took part in the Croatian international competition in Split. Neil has won two Gold Medals at the Chelsea Flower Show and is a finalist in this year's Chelsea Florist of the Year competition. He also uses his competition experience to help support and mentor young up-and-coming florists.

As well as designing for shows, publications and magazines, Neil has operated a shop and floral design school at The Design Element in Manchester for almost 30 years and has a wide range of high profile clients throughout the North West of England and beyond. Some of Neil's work was recently on display at the prestigious Lowry Gallery, another first for a British florist.