

There was a good attendance at the Woodhouse Eaves WI meeting on 17th September – we had to keep setting up more chairs! After the normal business of the meeting we welcomed our speaker for the evening, Kerry Evans, who had been invited to share her expertise on flower arranging.



Kerry's enthusiasm for flower arranging was evident from the outset, and she encouraged us all to have a go. Here are some of the tips she shared:

- Anything can be used as a container, weighed down with small stones/gravel if necessary
- Only buy flowers if there's water in the bucket
- To condition flowers such as roses before use, cut a short piece from the stems, plunge the stems into boiling water for about 1 minute then remove and put into cold water
- Soak Oasis in water with the writing side up for approximately 1 minute before use
- Start with arranging greenery in a triangular shape, tall stems at the back and shorter ones sticking out at the sides. Then all flowers should stay within the triangle
- Remove all leaves from the flower stems
- Zig-zag the flowers through the design, taller stems at the back and progressively shorter stems at the sides and front
- To prevent roses and gerberas bowing their flower heads, insert a wire through the head and wrap it around the stem
- Use flowers such as lilies and roses as focal points, with chrysanthemums filling in the gaps



- Divide sprays of chrysanthemums into individual stems, spread throughout the arrangement
- Concentrate on where the flower head is going, not the stem
- Don't overdo it – keep checking and stop when the arrangement is right. Don't worry if not every flower is used.

Whilst talking, Kerry was deftly preparing and arranging greenery and flowers. Her confidence and skill made it look easy! In a short space of time she had created three beautiful arrangements, all different in their form and style. At the end of the meeting the usual raffle draw took place, and three lucky members went home with a flower arrangement to inspire them to have a go themselves.



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