

REPORT FOR WEBSITE - SEPTEMBER 2024

The speaker for the September meeting was Maike Windhorst who gave us her presentation of 'Flowers All the Year Round for the Flower Arranger'. For each month, even in the depths of winter, Maike showed us pictures of a posy of flowers and foliage gathered from her garden. It's surprising how much colour and texture there can be found in January and February. Early Sensation Narcissus 'Rijnvelds' is a good variety for early flowering. Maike recommended feeding bulbs with blood, fish and bone fertiliser just as they were emerging from the soil. We were also advised to feed conifers in March to provide good foliage later in the year.

Many plants were recommended for the flower arranger, even the dreaded ground elder - but the variegated variety which is less invasive. Dill and fennel seed heads are useful additions in late summer.

Maike demonstrated colour combinations using seasonal flowers from her garden. She too has Essex clay soil and the Essex drought. She recommended growing the prairie type plants such as Helianthus, Michaelmas daisies and grasses from North America.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd October, 7.30pm at Little Waltham Memorial Hall, when Nina Lewis will be giving a presentation 'Gardening in the Future'