**Report of the Storrington Horticultural meeting Held at the Village Hall on 19th August 2022.**

To a well attended meeting Andy Thomas gave a very interesting and thought provoking talk on ‘The Crop Circle Mystery.

In his talk Andy explored the extraordinary Phenomenon of crop circles, revealing the fascinating history and intriguing arguments around these controversial but stunningly beautiful patterns which appear in fields each year.

The earliest known illustration is a wood cutting of a crop circle appeared in 1678 which clearly shows a circular shape in a field of oats or similar crop and is an illustration of a folklore legend according to the Oxford reference library.

The story goes, a farmer told a worker with whom he was feuding that he would rather pay the devil to cut his oats than pay the fee demanded. The wood cut shows Satan himself who complete with signature horns and tail can be seen holding a scythe and cutting the oats.

Investigations have now proved that crop circles are layered and not cut as previous thought but the crop is carefully laid in a regular pattern so disproving the view that they are cut.

Crop circles are formed overnight often sighted first thing in the morning by farmers or passersby they have puzzled experts and sparked many UFO theories.

The greater number of circles is found in the UK, particularly in the South West and often close to water or an ancient monument

There have been a number of hoax crop circles probably the best well known is the Flying Saucer crop circle found in a field in Wiltshire , England in 1976 and made by Doug Bowen and Dave Cherley

The size of crop circles and complexity of design many of which are denoted as Fractalls that is shapes that are mathematical and follow a precise pattern either in shape or size.

The precise manner in which they are made or formed is still open to discussion with many different opinions being given needless to say the making of crop circles continues to be a mystery.

The meeting closed with light refreshments and a raffle.

The next meeting is on Friday 21st October at the village hall Storrington commencing 7.30pm when Sarah Squires will be talking about garden trends as well as the interesting history of Squires Garden Centres over more than 85 years since it was first established.

Michael Webber

Web site: storringtonhorti.org.uk