Storrington Horticultural Society August 2023 meeting report.

Members and guests welcomed June Colley and Paul Abbott who gave a very interesting talk on True Lilies including the Oriental, Asiatic and Trumpet Lilies, The Peruvian lilies – Alstroemeria

and Day lilies- Hemerocallis.

The talk covered the origins and discovery of these lilies and their classification.

How to grow and propagate lilies and treat pests and diseases. The presentation was supported by numerous colourful slides of their collection of over 225 lilies.

Each type and colour of lily flower has a meaning sending a variety of messages including birth, life, love and peace. The lily has been associated with various cultural and spiritual meanings.

Lilies are also said to represent femininity and fertility from the Greek myth about Hera, the wife of Zeus as the myth goes, Zeus fathered a child with a mortal woman and tricked Hera in to breast feeding the infant. When Hera discovered this deception she was so angry that she threw the child away from her and in the process a few drops of her breast milk fell to the ground. According to the myth from those drops of milk sprang the first ever lily flowers.

The lily represents the purity and divinity of the Virgin Mary in Christianity. The blooms are often seen in the angel Gabriel’s hand and in the depictions of the resurrection of Christ.

Lilies are also popular choices for both weddings and, funerals and are a staple for many bouquets.

Unfortunately due to the changing weather this year June and Paul were unable to supply any plants for sale at the meeting disappointing but as gardeners I am sure we all understand the problems the weather creates.

The meeting closed with light refreshments and a raffle. The next meeting is on September 15th at the village hall Storrington commencing 7.30pm when we welcome Miles Hayward a local Horticulturist nationally recognized for his skill and specialized knowledge of Acer cultivation who this year was awarded a silver medal at the Chelsea flower show will be talking to us about Acers. Shrubs will be on sale.

Michael Webber

Web site: storringhorti.org.uk