**Storrington Horticultural Society**

At the Augst meeting we had a talk by Martyn Denny on Cyclamen in the wild and in cultivation. Martyn is very knowledgeable on the subject, being a Trustee of the Cyclamen society and has also written a book on the colourful plants.

Cyclamen mainly come from the areas around the mediterranean with small pockets of plants in Somalia and the southern shores of the Caspian Sea. The plants grow in a widely differing habitats ranging from sea level to over 5,500 feet. Martyn showed us some wonderful pictures of the different areas that cyclamen prefer, from humid woodland soils to extremely inhospitable areas, including high snowy mountain scree beds. Generally, cyclamen like an alkaline soil and tend to grow near where there is some limestone.

It is possible to have a cyclamen in flower in every month of the year, either in the garden or the greenhouse. We were shown some beautiful examples of plants from the show benches, some of the tubers being many years old. The flowers vary in colour, size and petal shape and some are even perfumed. However, it is the leaves that have the greater variation and in some cases are more spectacular than the flowers.

The evening closed with light refreshments and a raffle. The next meeting will be on Friday 20th September when the talk will be entitled “ A Day in the Life” by Bob Eade

Janet Webber