**Report of the Storrington Horticultural monthly meeting held on 18th March 2022 at the Village hall, Storrington**

Janet Webber our chairman introduced the meeting welcoming all attending and reminding us that there has been a gap of over two years since our last meeting due to Covid restrictions.

Janet also confirmed the need to book your attendance at future meetings which can be done by telephoning her on 01903 74109 on the Thursday before or on the morning of the Friday meeting.

Also there is a change to the speaker for our May meeting from that published in this year’s programme which will now be given by Michael Joseph who will give an illustrated talk on ‘**Art in the Garden’**.

At the meeting John Williams gave us a very entertaining talk on **Cookscroft gardens** which he his wife Jill and some close friends have developed since 1988.

It all started with the purchase of a 17th century house with its grounds of 5 acres close to The Witterings and sea. Two of the primary objectives for the garden design were that it should have colour all year and be interesting and easy to walk round.

Things got off to a difficult start with the late autumn destructive gale of 1987 which destroyed a large number of trees leaving the garden site with virtually no wind breaks which were essential as the site was so close to the sea. The task of deciding what type of tree to replace the wind breaks and be attractive in both style and bark was difficult and it was eventually decided that the various varieties of Eucalyptus would fit this criteria with the addition of other trees such as Beech.

The search for year long colour has resulted many different plants being sourced from New Zealand and Tasmania regions of the world where flowering cycles are a little different to ours and support the objective of year long colour.

The garden is now 36 years old and continues to develop featuring two separate pond areas one with a water cascade, cottage, woodland, and Japanese style gardens, and borders of perennials with particular emphasis on southern hemisphere plants which offers a number of different and unusual plants to enjoy .

Many of the plants in the garden have been grown from seed and a plant sales area has been established containing many interesting and colorful plants.

The garden is registered under the NGS and is open at various times of the year full details of these are available on their web site.

Our next meeting will be held as usual at the Storrington Village Hall on 20th May when Michael Joseph will be giving an illustrated talk on Art in the Garden.h

M.J.Webber