Storrington Horticulture society September meeting

At our September meeting Andrew Gaunt gave a very interesting talk on Ginger lilies which clearly caught the attention of the audience on his interest for and knowledge off this very attractive and exotic family of plants became obvious.

He acquired his first flowering Ginger Lillies over 20 years ago, now his National collection consists of over 240 different species and hybrids of hedychium .Over the time while the collection has grown Andrew has had to relocate to larger accommodation for his plants and they are grown in a glasshouse on land which was previously used for commercial tomato growing.

Alongside his interest in hedychium he also has a full time employment in the UK’s Plant Quarantine Service.

Andrew also outlined the work and objectives of the National Plant Collections. These have been encouraged to stabilize some of the problems that streamlining and commercial production of plants can create. We also run the risk of losing the most precious species of cultivars if they are not in fashion or new diseases which can mean they simply disappear.

When it’s gone it’s gone over decades and sometimes centuries our nations dedicated gardeners have loved and cared for a rich diversity of garden plants. the genetic heritage contained in these living organisms can only be preserved by active gardening

National Plant Collections are being established to ensure the cultivated plants we grow will be available in the future generations for medical, cultural, medical, culinary and aesthetic use

Hedychium’s are found in a wide area of asia, from India through Southern China, from Nepal and as far as Vietnam.

They grow as an understory in lightly wooded areas but do better in full sun they offer many positional planting opportunities to the gardener.

They grow much more vigorously in full sun to a variety of heights and colours and are ideal in providing a depth of spectacular colour in nearly every garden location.

The meeting ended with a raffle and light refreshments our next meeting on 18th November at the village hall Storrington commencing 7.30pm is our AGM and after this Lizzie and Tony Gilks will be talking to us about The Victorian Christmas.

Michael Webber

Web site : storringtonhorti.org.uk