

Gardening Group

March Report by Sue Holmes

Howard Leslie's Unusual Perennials, unusual for some, weeds for others, and I think you will agree he won the competition for the most unusual plants. Howard used to run the nursey at Bobby Shafto's, Spennymoor, but now sells through plant fairs, and talks like ours.

His presentation showing slides of some of the many varieties he grows, far too many to mention individually, was delivered with wit and humour, but a couple of things I will mention. Pruning, as a general rule, June is the yardstick. If it flowers before June then prune as soon as it has finished flowering and if it flowers after June prune in December. Howard talked of the grasses at Scampston, we have a visit there 7th June, and if particularly interested in grasses Floors Castle in the borders is the place to go. Pink Meadow Sweet was another shrub mentioned, and the fact that it has now been introduced in Wynyard Rose garden, another of our visits, this one on 5th July.

I hope you made note of your favourite plant, Howard will be at Staindrop Carnival and if you get in touch with him, will bring any orders there. To get in touch telephone Howard Leslie 07932159204 or email hal@uwclub.net.

Next Meetings - Stainton Village Hall 1.45pm for 2pm

Friday 5th April. Sarah Hopps, broadcaster, traveller on **Touring the Gardens of Britain**.

Friday 3rd May. Members meeting. **Bring and Buy**, Plants, seedlings, anything gardening.

Visits

Friday 7th June. Scampston Hall and gardens.

Friday 5th July. Tudor Croft, Guisborough and Wynyard Rose Garden.