

Gardening Group Report for March by Sue

After what seems a long winter, wet if not cold, time for spring to arrive, and what better than a trip to Wallington Hall walled garden, where tens of thousands of purple crocus have been planted creating a crocus lawn, and I defy anyone not to leave with a smile on their face. Still on show around the grounds are hundreds of thousands of snowdrops, bringing the promise of spring and warmer days, and being able to get out and into the garden.

The Hall built in a block with four sides surrounding an open area, was later covered and painted with panels depicting Northumbrian history. It is also home to a collection of dolls houses and an eccentric collection of period bric-a-brac "cabinet of curiosities".

The fact that the sun was shining, and we had called at Kirkharle Courtyard for excellent coffee and scones, and browsed the craft shops, only added to a very pleasant day.

Future programme

3rd April. Stainton Village Hall 1.45pm, a talk by Keeley Metcalfe on Garden Design for Year-Round Interest

1st May. Visit to Himalayan Garden.

5th June. Visit to Benningbrough Hall and Gardens (NT)

3rd July. Visit to Helen Bainbridge's garden (Fir Tree Cottage) in Stokesley and Mount Grace Priory (NT and EH)

7th August. Visit to Longframlington garden.

Interested in joining us, please contact Pauline as soon as possible as places are limited. Contact details Pauline Fawcett 01833 638020 or pvfawcett@tiscali.co.uk