



MEETINGS HELD AT
THE RHS GARDEN,
HARLOW CARR,
CRAG LANE, HARROGATE, HG3 1QB
By kind permission of the Royal Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

NO 37 JANUARY 2007

EDITORIAL

In November last, the Group entered its 12th year of existence. It was formed in November 1995 by a small group of enthusiasts to encourage northern gardeners to grow fruit and to research suitable cultivars for northern climes (Home counties-based outfits not being terribly interested in anywhere north of Watford!). It was based at Harlow Carr under the umbrella of the then Northern Horticultural Society and undertook the care and development of fruit in their Garden. Under the RHS, inevitably, changes are taking place at Harlow Carr and fruit growing is being much reduced, at least for a few years. This means some changes of direction and location for us. Our Chairman, Hilary Dodson, explains (p. 6) what we have been doing this winter and how we propose to develop in the future.

Further changes involve our publications. At a meeting in late '97, I agreed to produce a periodic Newsletter and Joan Hotham agreed to help by doing the layout on computer (me being totally computer-illiterate at the time and not much better now). After doing sterling work for nine years and 36 issues, Joan has decided to call it a day as she has other pressing commitments. I am most grateful for all she has done to help with the Newsletter and other leaflets. She has been a pleasure to work with and a supportive colleague. Luckily, as my computer skills are still not up to scratch, Brian Bebbington has stepped into the breach. This issue is his first attempt at interpreting my scraps of paper (as far as I am concerned, 'cut-and-paste' means old-fashioned scissors and glue, not clicking a mouse!). It looks good to me.

Apologies to members who came to the AGM expecting to hear Alessandra talk about vines at Wisley and in NZ. We did not discover until too late that she had not received the Chairman's e-mail confirming arrangements. By then she had other commitments. Apparently, in order to eliminate spam, Wisley blocks incoming e-mails unless they are replies to their outgoing ones! So, if you need to contact anyone at Wisley by e-mail:-

1. Phone the person concerned.
2. Ask them to send you an e-mail requesting you to e-mail them.
3. Send your e-mail in reply.

Otherwise you won't get through the defences.

(Query: Why do they put e-mail addresses in 'The Garden' if they don't function without all that palaver?)

It will not be long before the next growing season starts, hopefully with a warm(Ish) spring, enough rain and no late frosts.

Happy New Year and Happy Gardening to you all.

Diana Davis

