



MEETINGS HELD AT
THE RHS GARDEN
HARLOW CARR
CRAG LANE, HARROGATE
HG3 1QB

*By kind permission of the
Royal Horticultural Society*

NEWSLETTER

NO 46 APRIL 2009

EDITORIAL

For reasons I won't bore you with, during the latter part of 07 and the start of 08, I didn't get round to reading the Kitchen Garden Magazine as carefully as usual. In fact, some issues I apparently didn't read at all! In recent 'catching up' sessions I found an interesting snippet I had previously missed, in the July 07 issue. It referred to a book by Ruth Stout, "How to have a Green Thumb without an Aching Back". (Don't try to order it; published in America in the 50s, it is long out of print; so the only possible source is a secondhand bookshop and that's not very likely either). She is said to advocate using fresh wood shavings or sawdust as a mulch for raspberries, to suppress weeds and boost the plants. We are usually told that plant material, manure, etc should always be composted before adding to the soil, or it will result in nitrogen depletion as it breaks down. Not necessarily so, apparently. Joyce Russell (the regular columnist at KG) was sceptical but tried a sawdust mulch anyway - and she says it works! Her raspberries have never looked better. (She says it is also good on paths as a weed suppressant but don't put black polythene underneath, or the mulch will slide about and so will you). Worth a try if you can find a source of wood waste? (Local sawmill?).

The spring blossom and growth are (so far) looking good in my neck-of-the-woods; responding to the March feed, probably. As usual I am wondering if the weather will be conducive to good fruit crops this season and what will go wrong - there is always something! Gardeners certainly need to be a philosophical breed!

Diana Davis

PROGRAMME 2009

SUNDAY 16th AUGUST. Visit to "Yorkshire Orchards," (White House Farm, Bolton Lane, Wilberforce, York).

A commercial orchard, established in 2002, has over 160 classic English and international apple cultivars, old and new. Members of the public can sponsor a tree and receive the fruit from it in season.

Off the A1079 (York to Hull) about 6m E of York.

(Provisional date for an afternoon visit; full details in next Newsletter.)

SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER. NFG Fruit Show at Harlow Carr. Schedule in the July Newsletter.

