



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

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Royal Horticultural Society*

NEWSLETTER

NO 55 SUMMER 2011

EDITORIAL

During a visit to Germany over Easter we went to the Kreislehrgarten des Kreises Steinfurt. This is an approximately 10 acre demonstration and education garden run by the Steinfurt district authorities in the Muensterland area of Westphalia. Part of it is ornamental with well established very old pear and apple trees underplanted with flowers, bulbs, small roses, climbers and annuals. The highlight of my visit however was the orchard which occupies about half of the 10 acres. Several varieties of red, white and black currants, gooseberries, jostaberries, blueberries and the usual tree fruit such as plums, damsons, pears, apples and (I think) some cherries are grown there. Most of the soft fruit bushes and some of the tree fruit had already finished flowering but the mid season and late apple trees were in full blossom – beautiful! It would make the perfect venue for the NFG to visit but I think it is a bit too far away. However, I am going to collect more information and write about this garden in more detail in another newsletter.

Back home, not everything was well. Some members lost all their plums, most of their cherries and some of their apples and pears due to the late frosts. The tall hedge and the large oak tree behind my allotment provide some shelter from the northerly winds and I did not get any frost damage on my fruit.

This year the Northern Fruit Group's own fruit show is on 10th September (details below). We want to encourage especially newer members to enter their fruit in the novice classes which are open to anybody who did not get a first prize in previous shows. It is great fun and very satisfying to get a prize, so please have a go. The show secretary has compiled some advice on how to display fruit at the show, so if you follow those rules you should have a good chance of winning.

A big thank you goes to the members who returned the questionnaire which was sent out with the spring newsletter. For those who did not reply yet, there is still time to do so. Peter Nichols summarised the results, they are in the News and Notices section. We will go through the replies and respond accordingly but it may take a few weeks because most of us are busy gardening at the moment.

Ursula Rehkemper

