



BASED AT
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NEWSLETTER
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EDITORIAL

Another, hopefully 'fruitful', year is beginning and our planned activities for the Group for the next six months or so are detailed herein. My stated intention of reducing alternate Newsletters to a couple of pages of basics is not working very well; there are too many things going on and too many interesting developments coming to my attention which I feel must be passed on to members. I hope the items I have selected will give food for thought to at least some of you.

Recently the Assistant Editor (Joan) came across an item in the Times relating to proceedings in the House of Commons which made us both chuckle. I should first explain, for the benefit of new members, that in the early days of the NFG, we needed to define "fruit" (as opposed to "vegetables") and decide where to draw the line. Under a botanical definition, peas and beans, marrows and tomatoes are the 'fruit' of their respective plants, but to all gardeners they are veg. So we adopted the culinary definition; fruit go with custard, vegetables go with gravy. (incidentally this resulted in rhubarb becoming an object of our interest!). To get back to the point, in October in the chamber of the Commons, MPs were discussing the "free fruit for schools" programme which, to the surprise of some, did not only mean an apple a day but also tomatoes and carrots. They were willing, at a pinch, to accept tomatoes as fruit – but carrots? Stephen Twigg, the Minister responsible, eventually admitted "I believe we have redefined carrots as fruit under the fresh fruit scheme".

So, anyone for carrots and custard? Actually not as silly as it sounds at first; a nice moist carrot cake is delicious with cream or custard! Even so the NFG will not be getting into carrot –growing.

May we wish all members a productive and happy year in their gardens, orchards and glasshouses.

Diana Davis and Joan Hotham

PROGRAMME 2005

SATURDAY 22nd JANUARY at Harlow Carr. Winter Pruning Workshop. Tutor: Charlie Rusling. Meet 10.30am.in the Fruit Garden. All members are welcome, bring your secateurs. If the weather is unsuitable (snow, hard frost or heavy rain), the work will be rescheduled later; if in doubt call Charlie or Diana.

The Fruit Garden Committee will meet at 14.00.

