



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

# NEWSLETTER

No. 31 JULY 2005

## EDITORIAL

The Harrogate Spring Show in April marked the start of the Show Season. Hilary's report (p. 7) tells how this year we ditched our principles and bought in some fruit to prettify the NFG Stand. Apparently the Show organisers and judges are quite happy for Specialist Society exhibitors to buy in material for their displays; in fact they seem to expect it. We have never done this before, but it seems to be the only way to get a high-ranking medal at this time of year. The strategy worked, we achieved Silver-Gilt and collected a useful sum in prize money for the NFG funds.

In this issue, we look forward to our own NFG Fruit Show in September (schedule enclosed). It goes without saying that in this case everything shown must be grown by the member in his/her garden/allotment. Buying in is definitely not an option! There was an occasion a couple of years ago when a member entered a lovely yellow melon she had produced in her greenhouse. The judges were convinced it must have been bought in a supermarket, it was so good, and disqualified it. Result—one indignant member and two apologetic judges, who agreed it should have won 1<sup>st</sup> in its class!

To help the novices amongst us, Dick Tresize has written an article about preparing your fruit for showing, with basic "do's and don'ts" explained (p. 10). Dick is a very experienced judge and exhibitor, so follow his advice and you won't go far wrong. Sharan, our Show Organiser, hopes that even more people will "have a go" this year. It is good fun and the prize certificates are smart enough to display on the mantelpiece.

*Diana Davis*

## PROGRAMME 2005

**SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST.** Afternoon visit to Beningbrough Hall (NT). The restored walled garden has matured well and has an interesting collection of old apple and pear cultivars, both bush and trained; also soft fruit, figs and vines. The Hall is situated N.W. of York at Newton-on-Ouse and is approached from the A19 at Shipton; there are brown signs on the A19 and on the York bypass. There is a good restaurant.

Executive Committee meets 11.30. Tour starts 14.30; meet in the cobbled courtyard beyond the entrance (NT members, remember your card; others can enter at party rates by saying you are in the NFG party).

