



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

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NEWSLETTER

NO 47 JULY 2009

OBITUARY

GERRY THOMPSON (1934 - 2009)

It is with the deepest sadness that I have to report that Gerry Thompson died in hospital on 5th July.

He was born and brought up in the Pontefract district. His family were connected with the market gardening trade, providing Gerry with an early introduction to horticulture - an interest which remained with him all his life.

He married Doreen in 1961 and they settled in Pudsey. Gerry was a painter and decorator by trade and worked for many years at the Leeds General Infirmary.

Apart from his gardening he had many other interests, including membership of walking and cycling clubs and stamp collecting. In addition, for many years he attended night school classes to learn the art of book-binding, as he was an avid collector of old books.

Gerry joined the Northern Fruit Group shortly after its formation and, true to his nature, he soon became very active in its affairs. His knowledge of gardening extended over a wide range of subjects.

Gerry never sought the lime-light or wanted to be centre-stage but at group events, when volunteers were required for working parties and for erecting display stands at shows, he was always the first to roll up his sleeves and get on with the task in hand. He had tremendous energy and enthusiasm and loved talking to the visitors to our stand at the various shows, giving advice on all aspects of cultivation. His displays of gooseberries were a regular feature of the stands and his presence will be very much missed.

I've known and respected Gerry for 35 years and during that time I have never heard him say a bad word about anybody. I feel that it has been a privilege to have known him. Gerry will be very sadly missed by the many people who knew him.

Tony Booth

All members who knew Gerry and worked with him at NFG events will echo Tony's sentiments. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues.

Diana Davis

