



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

*By kind permission of the  
Royal Horticultural Society*

# NEWSLETTER

NO 58 SPRING 2012

## EDITORIAL

Early spring is my favourite time of the year. The days are getting longer, with a bit of good luck there is more sunshine and less snow and ice, the blossoms on fruit shrubs and trees look promising and there are hardly any pests around yet.

At last year's pear conference one of the pears on show was called 'Schweizerhosen' which translates as 'Swiss trousers'. The pear has a green/yellow/red striped skin and is named after the colours of the trousers worn by the Swiss Guard which guard the Vatican. In March the German participant of the pear conference was travelling to Rome to plant some of the 'Schweizerhosen' pear trees in the gardens of the Vatican so that the Pope, who is from Germany, can enjoy this unusual pear. What a nice gesture!

A few weeks ago I contacted some members who replied via the questionnaire that they would be prepared to supply contributions for the Northern Fruit Group newsletter. Some contributions in this newsletter were written by these members, they are listed under the header: Members Forum. A big thank you to everybody who contributed. I also want to encourage anybody who knows anything which may be of interest to share this information with the other members and get in contact with me, preferably by e-mail ([ursula.rehkemper@northernfruitgroup.com](mailto:ursula.rehkemper@northernfruitgroup.com)) or alternatively by post. Letters to the Editor are also welcome as long as they don't exceed approximately 250 words but please let me know if you don't want them published. This way we may get a good exchange of ideas and information between the members.

Ursula Rehkemper

## HELP

Do you remember how you first came across the Northern Fruit Group? Many people find us first at Shows or at the Apple Days. Everyone is different, so we need a wide range of people to help on the stalls at these events. You do not need a broad knowledge, just the ability to talk to people or, more often, listen to their adventures in fruit growing. The

