



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

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Newsletter

NO 62 SPRING 2013

EDITORIAL

Shortly after the last newsletter was issued I was contacted by several members who commented that the last newsletter in particular was very interesting and that they would like to thank everybody who was involved. I replied that it was due to the contributions by various members and that I would pass the thanks on in this newsletter, also in the hope that it might stimulate more members to send me something for the newsletter. As mentioned in previous newsletters, contributions from members are always welcome, no matter how long or short they may be. If sent by E-mail, I would appreciate if it was in the Times New Roman font size 12, it would help with the formatting. The more contributions I get from members the better, it makes the newsletter more interesting.

Recently I had a chat with another member of the NFG and we compared notes about last years crop (or the lack of it), especially of blackberries. He told me that the variety *Reuben*, which was mentioned in the 'Gleanings' of a previous newsletter, did not produce very much fruit at all in his garden and the little he got came on very late. As he is a very experienced fruit grower I found that difficult to understand. We came to the conclusion that new varieties mentioned or advertised in the fruit and garden journals may be doing well 'down south' and/or in sheltered accommodation but are not necessarily suited for the sometimes rough weather here 'up north'. We would be interested to know whether other members had similarly disappointing experiences with varieties mentioned either in the press or in the gleanings. If you contact me either by mail or e-mail (ursula.rehkemper@northernfruitgroup.com) I am going to pass on this information in future newsletters 'to avoid disappointment' for other members.

Back to blackberries, I was given two plants of a thornless blackberry by a fellow allotment holder who was downsizing. The variety is unknown because the label got lost but it provided me with a bumper crop last year despite the weather. The taste is all right but for my jam I still pick the wild blackberries of the hedgerow bramble variety. I find that their taste is more intense and I heard a farmer's wife who knows all about jams and preserves saying the same.

Ursula Rehkemper

P. S. : Please read last page!

