

Minutes of the Darrington Garden Club held at the Kyte Hotel 10th February 2016.

Chairman - Andy Tagger

Present:-

Allen Bentley / Hazel Crabtree / Vera Stones / Mike Wheatley / Mr and Mrs Cook / Ann Hutchinson
Christine Blakeston / Wendy Armitage / Barbara Abrey / Mr and Mrs Maw / Kathleen Hirst

Apologies:- Joan Lowe

Absent:- Gail Jenkins / Jackie Giles

Please note there will be no more bi-monthly Garden Club meals for the present time - unless we can chose any evening except Fridays, as the Kyte seem unable to accommodate us on any of the Friday dates I suggested between now and September.

The meeting opened at 6pm as 'Andy welcomed everyone.

Medical report on the 2 members who were 'off colour' at the last meeting - I am pleased to report they are both well on the road to recovery.

Andy reflected on last months minuets and brought the group upto date with one or two items.

The minutes can now be read by anyone accessing the Parish council Web page www.darrington.org.uk click on the links - 'Activities' then **garden club**'.

Andy is hoping to set up a 'searchable' page where if anyone wants to know more about a particular plant / bulb or gardening problems they can click on the link and follow the drop downs and have their queries answered, but he will need to approach the Parish Council about this at their next meeting - Thursday the 11th of February - if enough members of the council are present (quite a few are 'not well' and it is doubtful if they will be able to attend - a certain number of elected members have to be present before the meeting can go ahead ---

bbi.seadeo.net/docs/rulesord/quorum.htm

Before a meeting can conduct business it requires a quorum--the minimum number of members who must be present at the meeting before business can be legally transacted. The requirement of a quorum is a protection against unrepresentative action in the name of the association by an unduly small number of people.

The exact number, sometimes given as a percentage, should be included in the company's charter, bylaws or other documents that provide a framework for your operations.

It is therefore possible that Andy will not be able to raise the garden club business before their next meeting in March, The Parish Council needs to be consulted about. (1) The Searchable page, (2) some work on the snowdrop bulbs on Marlpit Lane which are getting to the stage of needing to be lifted, divided and replanted if they are to continue to beautify the village road side. Road safety will be of paramount importance for anyone undertaking to do this work as the road is narrow and very busy with both private cars and heavy farm traffic using the road (3) a grant for the Garden Club.

A few Garden Club members have made the kind offer of giving the village a lot of snowdrops from their gardens - but snowdrops need lifting dividing and replanting while the snowdrops are in the green (now while they are in flower).

No further news about the Darrington Open Garden event yet - Andy hopes to have something to tell the members next month again this needs to be talked about with the Parish Council.

The Orchard - nothing new to report.

The Mid Yorkshire Golf Club new driving range, nick-named at the Garden Club 'the Mountain' does not appear to be getting lower - though in all fairness the weather has not been very accommodating for any work to be carried out on the mountain.

It was brought to the attention of the Garden Club members that vague thoughts have been aired about some garden work being done at Darrington School, and the Garden Club being involved in some way - a few years ago the then headmistress of the school did approach the Garden Club and asked if we could undertake the work - following a site inspection it was felt that it was too big a task for the current members - that taken into account it was thought that maybe, the Garden Club members felt now that they could **assist** the new project. As this was just an airing of ideas, no promises from either side were made. Garden Club member Vera said that if the organisers wanted to speak to her, she was more than willing to tell them what was done in that area many years

ago, when she worked with the pupils and adults to clear the site, plant bulbs and trees and making 2 small ponds and Wakefield Met 'did' the paths. Veras offer will be passed on.

When the lighter evenings come the Garden Club members are to inspect / replant / revamp the Herb garden at the Kyte - one of their earlier projects done as a thank you to the Kyte staff / owners, and it still looks good but maybe could do with a bit of freshening up.

The talk of a new / shortened walk round Brockdale has had to be held in abeyance as the gentleman in charge will not be available for quite some time.

If you are a **Galanthophile** (lover of snowdrops) the following may be of interest to you:-



Burton Agnes Hall near Driffield East Yorkshire - Snowdrop Spectacular 6 of February to the 6th of March, from 11am to 4 pm daily -- Admission charges -- ring office for details 01262490324 or go on their web page www.yorkshire.com/view/.../burton-agnes-hall-and-gardens-

Austwick Hall, Austwick, Settle, North Yorkshire Open Wednesday 24th February 12 noon to 4pm Admission charges - ring 01524251794 for details or go on their web site www.hha.org.uk/Property/2736/Austwick-Hall

Bainton Close, Beverley February 14th to 21st only, 10 - 30 to 3pm. Visitors by arrangement only, please ring Mrs Thornton 01482 861643. This garden has approximately 150 varieties of snow drops plus many other spring flowers. Admission charges

Fawley House Brough - Quaker Well - (the internet gives me information about Quaker Parrots but nothing at all about Quaker Wells - not even the garden owners web page has anything related to it) Treasure Hunt for Children in February and July (their words not mine - it makes it sound as if you find a child hiding in the bushes or under a large plant you can take the child home with you) - teas served - Ices in July - Admission charges phone for details Mrs Martin 01430422266 or go on their web site www.nordhamcottages.co.uk

I rang Mrs Martin and had a chat with her about the Quaker Well - and she told me -- in times long past the area was very strongly connected to the people of the Quaker faith - and their dwellings - apparently the Well used to supply all their water, and is now just an historic feature - Mrs Martin sounds a really nice person and was telling me all about her garden and open days - it sounds like it is well worth a visit, but do ring first because all is weather dependant.

Images for blue Quaker parrots



Talking of birds -

The '**firsts of the season**' Friday the 4th of February 2016, a cuckoo was heard in Darrington, Mr Cook said this is the first time he has heard one for at least 5 years' I also heard one but I assumed I was dreaming!

Mike reported that a lemon tree, growing outside in a garden in Darrington, has now got 4 full size lemons on it

On the 9th of February Barbara saw some active ladybirds in her garden

Andy read out the projected long range weather forecast - snow gallons of it, rivalling the 1946 / 47 and the 1962 / 63 big freezes - Weather models show the entire country blanketed in deep snow by the end of February - Blistering Polar gales, several feet of snow and near record low temperatures will grind the country to a standstill until March -- as quoted by Piers Corbyn forecaster for WeatherAction

This item was followed by **Jobs for this month** -- (Mike suggested that one job would be to buy scarfs for your trees and plants)

Make sure the birds have food and fresh water - (but watch out that you are not encouraging rats and mice into your garden).

Plant seeds (where the instructions say sow January - Feb etc.) BUT if Piers Corbyn is correct you will need to be very careful of sowing / pruning / planting etc.

Andy read out some 'gardening superstitions

- (1) Beware of the white bean - if you find a single white bean in a row of green ones, get your affairs in order because death is nigh.
- (2) Rosemary and sage grow well in homes were the wife dominates
- (3) Never openly give someone a plant cutting - it is bad luck - instead leave the cutting out and turn your back so your friend can 'steal' it.
- (4) Parsley and Basil will only grow if you curse them vigorously when planting - it is said that the seed must travel to the devil 7 times before it germinates.
- (5) When you see a rainbow in the east - tomorrow will be fine, if you see a rainbow in the west - tomorrow will bring rain.

Plant swop -

Mr and Mrs Cook brought some snowdrops and a mini red rose



Barbara brought some young sedum



and some gardening magazines.

Kathleen suggested that Sedum should be given the 'Chelsey chop' (well pruned at the time of the Chelsey flower show - May) - this has been proved to stopped the sedum flowers falling flat to the ground.

Mike brought several gardening books - all of which found good homes.

Hazel asked if anyone could tell her what creature would make a small hole / tunnel like those in the photos - no thrown up soil is nearby - most holes seem to be at an angle but one appears to go straight down - mice or rats were suggested but it is thought that the hole is too small for a rat.



note the size of the seedling nearby



this photo is enlarged

The meeting finished at 7pm.

£6 - 90 was given to the Kyte Staff by Andy