

23rd Minutes of the Darrington Garden Club held at the Kyte Hotel 11th January 2017.

Chairman Andy Tagger

Present:-

Andy Tagger
Hazel Crabtree
Wendy Armitage
Ann Hutchinson
Christine Blakeston
Mr and Mrs Cooke

Apologies:-

Barbara Abrey
Vera Stones

Absent:-

Joan Lowe
Allen Bentley
Mr and Mrs Maw
Gail Jenkins
Kathleen Hirst
Mr and Mrs Heelis

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Andy welcomed everyone. The members were told that Mike Wheatley has now moved away from the immediate area so will no longer be coming to the Garden Club. We wish him well in his new abode.

It was proposed that from next month the Garden Club meetings will be advertised around the village and on the Darrington Web page to try and encourage people to join the Garden Club.

Andy is also hoping to do a feature - 'plant of the month' - using power point – the plant for January is **Winter Jasmine,**



Jasminum nudiflorum or winter jasmine is an exceptionally trouble-free plant to grow. No pest and disease problems, tolerates sun or shade and grows well in almost any soil (though it does prefer some shelter). Winter jasmine has very small leaves hardly even noticeable which make the plant look “naked” in the summertime as well. The stems are light-green and add interest to the garden in the winter. Easily confused with forsythia, winter jasmine has buttercup-yellow flowers and blooms late-winter. Winter jasmine is a very low-maintenance plant that grows rapidly. Once the weeping branches touch the surface of the soil, they immediately send out roots. This feature makes this plant perfect for retaining slopes with very minimal effort for the gardener.

Winter jasmine tolerates sun or shade, but will flower best in sun. It can grow well in almost any kind of soil, and is very drought-tolerant once established. It blooms on last year’s growth, so pruning must be done immediately after flowering. For a tidy appearance, winter jasmine can be cut back nearly to the ground. The cascading branches will quickly be rejuvenated by new growth. This plant is available at most garden centres throughout the country and is hardy up through zone 6. One apparent draw back with the plant is that it has no perfume.

Some of the members asked if cuttings could be taken from Winter Jasmine, but it was thought that maybe layering is the best way to go about propagating. Mr Cook said as they have a large Jasmine in their garden he is going to 'play about' with cuttings and layering and will report back in due course as to which method gave most success.

Andy talked about the new Garden villages which are being proposed in several areas -

The following information is as per:- CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) dated 2 January 2017

1. Government Plans - 14 Garden Villages in England - cpre.org.uk

020 7981 2800 Government plans for new garden towns and villages: CPRE's reaction

The Government has today announced plans to create 14 new garden villages in England, of between 1,500 to 10,000 houses. It has also announced support for three new garden towns in Aylesbury, Taunton and Harlow & Gilston. These garden towns and villages will be distinct new settlements, rather than extensions to existing urban areas.

Shaun Spiers, chief executive of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, comments:

"CPRE welcomes efforts to tackle the housing crisis in the form of high quality, well-planned and well-located developments. Done well with genuine local consent, garden villages and garden towns can be part of the solution and certainly preferable to what is currently happening in too many parts of the country - poor quality new estates plonked down on the edge of villages and market towns, in the teeth of local opposition and in defiance of good planning principles.

"But CPRE will look closely at these specific proposals to ensure that they really are locally led; that they respect the Green Belt and other planning designations; and that they meet housing need, particularly the need for genuinely affordable housing for local people, and are not driven by over-ambitious, centrally dictated housing targets.

"Where communities support new settlements, they should be protected from speculative planning applications for a long time to come."

Gilston village, and neighbouring hamlet Eastwick, would entirely disappear in the proposals of the East Herts local plan. The council has applied for Government funding for a new garden town of 10,000 houses that would act as an extension to Harlow and swallow these two settlements, with a current parish population of 228.

Kevin FitzGerald, honorary director of CPRE Hertfordshire, says:

"These plans herald the death knell of the rural character of whole swathes of Hertfordshire. Beautiful villages, supposedly protected by Green Belt, look set to be swallowed up by the urban sprawl of neighbouring towns. Housing targets are putting immense pressure on our area, and marginalising the basic purposes of the Green Belt which the Government has pledged to protect."

Along with other members of the public, Andy attended a Public Health-watch meeting, and was very impressed with what their aims are.

Sites for more information

<http://www.healthwatch.co.uk/our-values-and-behaviours>

<http://www.healthwatch.co.uk/rights>

<http://www.healthwatch.co.uk/>

I have downloaded quite a bit of information so if you want to know more but have no access to a computer let me know and I will print off the information for you.

Back to things pertaining to Gardening!

Wendy asked if anyone else was having problems with their Hellebores as hers seem to have died normally Wendy takes off the seed heads – but she failed to do so last year, and it is thought that maybe the plant gave all its energy's into producing the seed – and this cost the mother plant its life. This does happen with other plants too.

Andy wondered if the closing down of the Ferry Bridge power station will alter 'our' mini climate – time will tell.

Jobs for the month

Remember to feed the birds and supply fresh water for them.

Weed

Removed dead / dying plant leaves

Continue winter digging

Cover ground (to warm it up) ready for spring sowing

Check plant support for wind damage / wind rock

Take cuttings of perennials

Aerate lawns

Sow early veg under cover

Last chance to prune grape vines

Get lawn mower serviced ready for lawn summer cutting.

Prune wisteria

The meeting finished at 7pm.

£6 had been taken for refreshments and given to the Kyte staff by Andy.

The next meeting is on February the 8th 6pm at the Kyte hotel