

27th Minutes of the Darrington Garden Club held at the Kyte Hotel May 2017.

Chairman Andy Tagger

Present:-

Wendy Armitage , Mr and Mrs Cook, Mr and Mrs Maw, Anne Hutchinson, Kathleen Hirst, Barbara Abrey, Hazel Crabtree, Vera Stones, Christine Blakeston, Barbara M^c Killop, Fran Walker

Apologies:-

Mr and Mrs Heelis, Mrs Joan Lowe, Allen Bentley

Absent:-

Gail Jenkins **Happy Birthday for Saturday.**

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Hazel welcomed everyone on behalf of Andy who was late arriving

It was nice to see 2 new faces – Fran and Barbara, and to see Mr and Mrs Cook back after a very tough month health wise, and to see Kathleen who has also had (is having) a rough patch at the moment. Andys' Val is recovering nicely after her knee replacement – We hope for better health in the future for each and everyone of you.

Vera informed the members that it is a 'big' birthday on the 13th of May for member Gail – Gail should have felt her ears burning with all the compliments she received from the members about the work she does for the village, and her support for all the events that take place – plus the unstinting work she has put in to turn the shop around making it not just 'a shop' but a place where villagers and visitors alike can find all the information and help they need.

I know of two people who bought a house in Darrington simply because they were so impressed with Gail – not many shop owners can claim a recommendation like that – Have a lovely day Gail and long may you continue in the shop.

Vera mentioned that her apple tree is not growing and wondered if anyone could think of a reason for this as last year it flowered but failed produce fruit.

Anne showed a photo of a really elegant plant she has – a Pleione and wondered if anyone could advise her about re potting and what type of compost to use.

The internet gave many pictures but no guide lines on care of / re potting / compost type. Reading between the lines it would seem that following the rules for orchid care would be suitable. One tip is that Pleione can tolerate cold but not freezing conditions.

Wendy talked for a little while about her tree peony and the wild garlic which is growing in her garden, she brought a flower to the meeting the petals of which are edible and she kindly let everyone have a taste. The leafs can also be eaten but they are not as tasty.

Vera asked if it was safe for her to put her window boxes out yet, some members thought it may well be others were more cautious and advised her to wait for a while longer.

Anne asked about rust on the leafs of Hollyhocks and what if anything can prevent it - the following is as per the RHS

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=564>

What is hollyhock rust?

Hollyhock rust is caused by *Puccinia malvacearum*, a fungal disease of the foliage, spread by airborne spores. The disease will invariably develop on untreated hollyhocks, although it is worse during wet summer weather.

Leaves, stems and calyx (outer part of the flower) can all be attacked. Heavy attacks stunt plants and reduce their vigour.

Control

Control of hollyhock rust is not easy, even when fungicides are used. Spores of the fungus can travel long distances, so will arrive continually from surrounding gardens and wild plants.

Non-chemical control

- Check plants regularly and remove and dispose of affected leaves
- Dispose of heavily infected plants
- Do not use seed from affected plants

• Chemical control

The fungicides tebuconazole (Bayer Fungus Fighter Concentrate), tebuconazole with trifloxystrobin (Bayer Fungus Fighter Plus), and triticonazole (Scotts Fungus Clear Ultra and Scotts Fungus Clear Ultra Gun) are approved for the control of rust diseases on ornamental plants, and can be used against hollyhock rust. However, regular applications will be required - this could entail spraying twice a week when plants are in active growth, particularly if the weather is unsettled. Protect plants as soon as new growth emerges in spring.

Inclusion of a fungicide product does not indicate a recommendation or endorsement by the RHS. It is a list of products currently available to the home gardener.

The Lily Beetle is back in evidence again
At this point Andy arrived.

Because of other commitments Andy has been unable to do a 'plant of the month' for May.

Andy told the members that he has been delivering leaflets round the village about this years Open Gardens, set to take place from June the 18th to the 25th. Mr Allsop of Mid Yorkshire Golf Club has also been 'drip feeding' the wider public about the Open Gardens. Andy re-capped the details of the Open Gardens to the new members.

Andy is now a School Governor at Darrington school and has been in consultation with the head teacher who would like to see a member or two from the Garden Club going into school to talk to the children about plants and their care, hopefully starting off by talking to the School Council.

Andy had noticed that there is now a new notice board in the Tithe barn, making the idea of a special board informing people about the history of the Tithe Barn unnecessary. Andy was told that Mr Maw – a garden club member made that and 3 other notice boards for the village. It is hoped that it will be possible to put a QR code some where on the board so people can bring up information about Darrington on their phone app.

Members were brought up to date with the progress of the plans for a Special event to remember the Aeroplane crash which happened in Darrington during the war. The timing coincides with the 100th Anniversary of the formation of R.A.F. and so the two events have been sharing some information on the internet – so much so that a gentleman who lives in Singapore read about the Darrington event and got in touch with the secretary of R.A.F.A. to chat about it as he used to live in Darrington and knew all about the air crash. It is just possible – if the dates slide nicely together for all involved – that there will be a fly past by the R.A.F. but that at the moment is not set in stone.

Last month it was stated that Tulips flower for just 3 – 5 days – though many tulips in members gardens have been in flower for longer than that, and it is thought that that is due to weather conditions – and not that the information was inaccurate!!

The Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield is to get a further grant to extend its green area, there were mixed feelings about the 'beauty' of the gallery itself, but all agreed a bit more green space in Wakefield would be nice. A plan for the new project was shown to members, and can be seen in a back copy of the RHS magazine – issue November 2016 page 13.

Jobs for May as per Andy and the RHS <https://www.rhs.org.uk/Advice/InMonth>

Top 10 jobs this month

1. Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants
2. Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining
3. Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)
4. Water early and late to get the most out of your water, recycle water when possible
5. Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
6. Mow and scarify the lawns
7. Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges
8. Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs

9. Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs

Weed

other jobs

Plant out cannas and dahlias

Take softwood cuttings of tender perennials like Argyranthemum, Pelargonium and Fuchsia.

Apply a liquid fertiliser to spring bulbs after they have flowered,

Allow the foliage of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs to die down naturally.

Put supports in place for herbaceous plants before they are too tall, or for those - like peonies - that produce heavy blooms.

Harden off plants raised from seed and cuttings by leaving them outside for gradually increasing periods of time.

Thin out direct sowings of hardy annuals and vegetables such as radishes

Vine weevil larvae can be a serious pest of containerised plants, and become active this month. Tip out the root ball of suspect plants, and inspect for the creamy, orange-headed maggots, which tend to curl up into a 'C' shape. There are various chemical and biological controls available.

Fran told the members about a Gardeners World magazine special offer, which she feels is a brilliant offer

<http://www.gardenersworld.com/2-for-1-gardens/>

How to use your 2-for-1 card ----Check the garden opening times before you set off, to make sure your card is valid on the day of your visit --- Present your entry card at the garden to receive your discount --- Keep your 2017 card in a safe place - you can use it until Thursday 12 April, 2018

10 great gardens to visit

- **1. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB
- **2. Audley End House & Gardens** Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4JF
- **3. Eden Project** Bodelva, St Austell, Cornwall PL24 2SG
- 2. **4. Osterley Park & House** Jersey Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 4RD
- **5. Shakespeare Birthplace Trust - Shakespeare's Birthplace** Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6QW
- **6. Haddon Hall** Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1LA
- **7. Castle Ward** Castle Ward, Strangford, Co Down BT30 7LS
- **8. Dunvegan Castle Gardens** Dunvegan, Isle of Skye IV55 8WF
- **9. Powis Castle & Garden** Welshpool, Powys SY21 8RF
- **10. Inverewe** Poolewe, Ross-shire IV22 2LG

Plant swap

Pineapple lily, Garlic

The meeting finished at 10 minutes past 7

£9 tea / coffee money was handed to the Kyte staff by Andy