

25<sup>th</sup> Minutes of the Darrington Garden Club held at the Kyte Hotel Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2017.

Chairman Andy Tagger

**Present:-**

Andy Tagger  
Hazel Crabtree  
Ann Hutchinson  
Christine Blakeston  
Barbara Abrey  
Joan Lowe  
Wendy Armitage  
Mr and Mrs Maw  
Mr and Mrs Cook  
Allen Bentley  
Kathleen Hirst

**Apologies:-**

**Absent:-**

Gail Jenkins  
Mr and Mrs Heelis  
Vera Stones

**The meeting opened at 6pm.**

Andy welcomed everyone and apologised for once again forgetting to advertise the meeting on the village notice boards (he promised to do better next time) he then gave a resume of last months minutes.

A warm welcome back was given to Joan who was healthy enough to join us again after quite a long absence.

Last month Wendy reported that her hellebores had died off completely – but this month she is happy to report that pink ones are now in flower, although there is no sign of the black flowers.

Andy reported back on his meeting with Michael Allsop (Mid Yorkshire Golf Club) they had been discussing this years Open Garden festival, Michael who has a 'business search page' which reaches a radius of 50 miles, has offered to advertise / inform people of the Open Gardens and Scarecrow competition. Michael has also offered to do the printing of the leaflets which will be needed – Thank you Michael.

**New Items.**

'Plant of the month', this month it is Azalea, and Andy pointed out the 'good and not so good' points.  
(Though there are many colours I have just included the pale pink one)

**Pick the right azalea for your garden.** Azaleas are popularly grown in either gardens or pots, they are hardy plants that don't need much in the way of accommodations. Different types of azaleas have slightly different needs, so pay attention to what type you pick out to ensure you'll be satisfied with the results.

**Pick the right place for your Azalea -** Find a place in the garden or patio with some shade - "dappled shade," as many azalea enthusiasts term it. This particular mix of shade and sunlight is perfect for azaleas. If you plant them in full sunlight, they won't grow as well. There are deciduous azalea varieties that do well with full sun, so check into these if you don't have much shade available. Azaleas need soil that drains very well, rather than retaining water after a rain. To determine whether the soil drains well where you want to plant your azalea, dig a hole before it rains, then check back afterwards. If the hole is filled with standing water, the soil doesn't drain well; it's likely highly composed of clay. If the water is gone, the soil should be fine for azaleas. If the soil doesn't drain well, you can mix it with compost or other organic matter in order to loosen it up. Till it to a depth of several feet to break it up, then mix in the other well-draining matter. Another option is to plant your azalea in a pot or a raised bed, where you can control the soil drainage more easily.

**Determine the soil's acidity.** Azaleas prefer a slightly acidic soil, such as a pH 5.5 or pH 6. If a soil test reveals an alkaline soil, mix some sulphur into the soil before planting to balance it.

**Dig a hole and plant the azalea.** dig a hole deep enough to cover the root and bottom of the plant. Dig a hole twice as big as

the ball of the root, and set the azalea upright in the hole so that the top of the root ball is slightly above the surface of the ground. Drop soil into the hole around the plant. Spread it around and under the azalea, and lightly pat it into place with your fingertips. Wet the azalea root before planting by dipping the root ball into a bucket of water, or use a hose to lightly dampen it, before setting the azalea into the ground. If you are planting more than one azalea, make sure the holes are space several feet apart. Water the plant and the soil slowly and thoroughly. Water again the day after planting. The plants must be watered at least once per week, unless they are in direct sunlight, in which case they must be watered more frequently. Take care not to let the azalea dry out, or it will wither.

All the above information is via Andy and <http://www.wikihow.com/Plant-Azaleas>

### **Top spots to see well established Azaleas:-**

**Wentworth Castle** Open every weekend 10-4 until Easter. Easter weekend 14-17th April 10 - 4 more details and pre buying of tickets can be found on <http://www.wentworthcastle.org/full-events/> This page is still on Google though there is some discussion as to which parts have had to close due to lack of funding so check before setting off.

**Temple Newsam** Temple Newsam open every day except Monday 10 30 to 5pm – phone to check 01133367461

Sat Nav details Templenewsam Rd, Leeds LS15 0AE

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/museumsandgalleries/Pages/Temple-Newsam.aspx>

From their site – . Rhododendron Walk and Lakeside Gardens --- Over the years the main path has developed into 'Rhododendron Walk', ---- Azalea beds provide a contrasting splash of colour to the right, backed by choice specimen trees planted across the lawns. □

**Himalayan Garden & Sculpture Park** | Gardens North Yorkshire <https://www.himalayangarden.com/> Address: Hutts Lane, Ripon HG4 3DA Phone: 01765 658009

A speciality plant and flower garden and nursery, offering rare and unusual species for sale.

*Personal note* - The (aerial) Virtual Garden tour video on their web page is fantastic.

### **Facts about Azaleas:-**

'Azaleas' are also known as the 'Royalty of the Garden', and are shrubs that bloom from autumn to spring, depending on the variety.

Azaleas are either deciduous or evergreen, depending on the species, and generally like to grow under the shade of trees.

Azaleas are from the family 'Ericaceae', which is the family of heaths or heathers, and belong to the genus 'Rhododendron', which are a group of woody plants.

Azaleas grow up to 2.5 meters (8.2 feet) tall, although some only grow to half that height.

Azalea nectar and leaves are highly poisonous, and in the past, have been seen as a death threat if the flowers have been given in a black vase.

**The language of Azaleas** In China – I am thinking of home. In Japan – the giving of happiness, in England - take care of yourself for me. <http://thelanguageofflowers.com/> it is the national flower of Nepal

### **Other news**

Ripley Castle visits are free until March the 31<sup>st</sup>

Wakefield Hepworth Gallery plans have now been approved for the development of the river side – it will be expensive!

It was thought that Wentworth Castle, which spent millions of restoring the greenhouses, have now closed but their web site is still in operation, and gives prices for 2017.

Wooley Hall and Bretton Hall are now hotels not 'large houses with gardens for the public to visit'

Nostell Priory no longer sell the roses they were famous for.

Last Month Andy asked people to think about the 3 plants they would take with them to a desert Island. Here is what people chose.

Rose

Michaelmas Daisy

Delphinium

Camellia	Fuchsia	Dog wood
Snowdrops	Hibiscus	Sedum
Primroses	Wallflower	Crocsmia
Brunera (Jack Frost)	Red Hot Poker	Aquila
Daffodil	Sweet William	Foxglove
Clematis	Chrysanthemum	Nasturtium
Penstomen	Elephants ear	Heather
Dahlia	Lilies	
Primula	Hellebore	

From this a review was held of the best places to buy plants 'today' and in no particular order the following were recommended:- Spring Green on the way to Wakefield, B and M in Pontefract, Featherston and Castleford, First Impressions at Ackworth, Plus one Ann recommended Reighton Nursery, at Hunmanby Rd, Filey YO14 9RT Phone:01723 890359 <https://www.google.co.uk/search?site=&source=hp&q=reighton+nursery+opening+time>

### **Jobs to do in March**

Prep soil ready for any planting.

Mulch as needed

Re seed lawns

Prune roses and other bushes

Check climbers have sufficient support, tie in new growth

Dead head Spring flowering bulbs if they have finished flowering.

Protect new shoots from slugs – Christine mentioned that Vaseline applied to the shoots stopped slugs climbing on to the plant, Ann mentioned sharp sand placed round the plants – slugs need to be able to 'slide' and they can't on rough or greasy surfaces.

Plant early potatoes

Split groups / plant snowdrops while they are 'in the green'

Put stakes in position for plants to grow against before they grow too bushy.

### **Plant swap:-**

Snowdrops

Peace lilies

Blue flag iris

Gladioli

Mystery plant-lets - which may be a delicate evergreen climber which bears red tube like flowers

### **Other Items**

The Parish Council are trying to arrange a Commemoration Service for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the plane crash which happened in Darrington, a letter has been written to the RAF and efforts are being made to contact any relatives of the families of the crew who flew the plane and lost their lives in the crash, plus relatives of local people who suffered as well. If you have any information or you know someone who might have please contact the Parish Council.

### **New £1 Coinage**

Andy made one very good comment about the change over time from old to new £1 coins, he suggests that you need to keep a little stash of both old and new coins for car parking machines and supermarket trolleys as they may not all be changed over immediately to stop accepting the old and only accepting the new coins. Supermarket shopping trolley tokens will need to be changed too.....

### **The Accounts**

At present the Darrington Garden Club has £83 10 in the bank and £8 60p in cash.

It has been proposed that £10 will be given towards the cost of printing and delivering the minutes each month.

The account books are open for inspection at our monthly meeting.

Although subs are not required, it is asked that anyone coming will pay £1 for any tea or coffee they drink, or you may purchase a drink at the bar

The meeting closed at 7pm.

£10 was taken for the tea and coffee and given to the Kyte staff by Andy

**The next meeting will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April at the Kyte Hotel 6pm.**