

Minutes of the Darrington Garden Club held at the Kyte Hotel 12th of August 2015.

Chairman - Andy Tagger

Members Wendy Armitage
Mike Wheatley
Hazel Crabtree
Joan Lowe
Barbara Abrey
Mr and Mrs Cooke
Mr and Mrs Maw
Gail Jenkins
Vera Stones
Trevor King
Jackie South.

Apologies Allen Bentley
Kathleen Hirst

It was good to see Joan with us again after her 'sick leave' sorry you didn't get the grapes Joan, we will do better next time....

Welcome to everyone especially the 2 new members Trevor and Jackie

The accounts were discussed - if anyone wishes to see the account sheet please ask at the next meeting - nothing is secret. There is now £26 20 left in the kitty split between £20 10 in the box and £6 10 in the account held by Andy.

The Posters for Darrington Garden in Bloom competition was discussed - the bill for them of £20 is still outstanding.

Andy talked about the small report in the Pontefract and Castleford paper about the Darrington Garden in

Tithe Barn has a garden haven

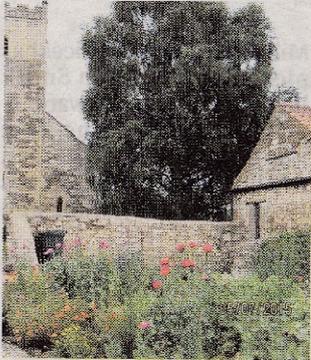
The garden of a medieval tithe barn won recognition in the Darrington Garden competition.

The recently restored building in the centre of the village was awarded a special mention in the 2015 competition.

The church, parish council and Darrington Garden Club led by Hazel Crabtree have all helped to transform this formerly derelict, historic area into a wonderfully colourful, peaceful haven.

The overall winner of this year's competition was Claude Spencer from Wentbridge. The best containers award was presented to Hayley and Denise Chaland, of Wentworth Park Rise. The best feature award went to John and Pat Harrison, of Park Close.

The organisers wished to thank The Kyte, Darrington Stores and Nancy's Nurseries who generously supported this year's competition.



Darrington's Tithe Barn

Andy reported that he has finally presented the fully engraved Silver cup to Claude Spencer, Wentbridge, Claude promised to return the cup even though he is moving house to be nearer his daughter.

Next Years' Open Garden was discussed and will hopefully take on a different style, all volunteers can open their garden to all villagers on maybe 2 weekends, at a time convenient to the garden owners, a notice could be displayed with maybe such wording as - 'This garden is open 2 - 4pm today / tomorrow' The gardens could be voted for by the visitors in the same way as the scarecrow judging is done. The Scarecrow competition is to be held 18th - 19th and 25th - 26th of June 2016 - the Feast and Fayre is to be on the 18th of June. Full plans will be drawn up and advertising started immediately to give gardeners plenty of time to prepare their garden.

The theme for the scarecrow 2016 will be 'Famous characters' fiction or non-fiction, past or present.

Andy suggested / asked 'Can we have a special one off Village do this year - for what occasion' - no ideas were forth coming.

The A1 updating to motorway standard was discussed as the plans for this work have now been resurrected - moth balls thrown away - With the lay-bys already closed this has caused a 8 miles non-stop zone creating problems for long distance lorry drivers, the fear is they will come into the village for an overnight stop. Whether this resurrection of the plans will affect the Golf Club or not is unknown, but the Golf club once privately own, was bought by the Highways, then resold to Stoneacre when the plans for an extended Motor way were shelved. The golf club is now about to re seed the area they have been working on, part re seeded this year part next year. The 'hill' that has been created by the work done by the golf club is still too high and will need some work doing on it to bring it into line with the law governing this type of work.

The hanging baskets were discussed - the general consensus of opinion is that they are much better than last years, but still some way to go. Disappointed was expressed over the fact that the flowers in the baskets were not open for the Feast and Fayre. Comparisons were made with the Hanging baskets in South Elmsall, Upton and Ackworth, which are 'much better than ours'. It was pointed out that they would cost more, and those areas may have more cash to play with. Darrington having the lowest precept in the area, therefore less money was available to spend on the hanging baskets. First Impressions did say that the flowers were late in opening for various reasons, and as they have a rolling programme and someone has to be last / first in supply.

Andy mentioned that he had joined the National Trust, and noticed that there are far fewer Nation Trust places round here, that in other areas - Margaret asked him if he got free binoculars with his enrolment - no. Andy also mentioned the Historic Houses Association - there are more Historic Houses round here to visit than Nation Trust places.

Vera and Gail told us about Street Life - just Google it and you will get all sorts of information about what is going on - where you can find a 'man with a van' and anything else you wish to know, all you need to do to register is put in your post code - no other information is asked for, nor should anything more be given. One thing that the site has on is that on the 20th of August it is hoped that a new cinema is to open up on Ropergate - at the site of the old Crescent cinema.

Grass snakes were discussed - Mr Elston of Darrington told Andy that he had 2 resident grass snakes in his garden and had been taking photos of them, he had also had found their skin which has been shed in his garden.

Andy mentioned that he has two trees but he can't remember what they are - but one has died and one is doing really well, one is planted in his front garden and one in his back garden, apart from that they have looked after in the same way. Andy things he has a Lord Derby apple tree in his garden

A discussion took place on the new trees planted in the Tithe Barn - they are growing slowly but doing well, Mike has promised to give them a 'look over'

Jobs for August.

Trimming hedges / water plants well / take cuttings - best time to do this in early morning when the plant is full of water / lift and dry off onions / harvest first apples and pears / start planting spring bulbs / plant up / start to force Hyacinths for Christmas / keep a check on ponds / trim hedges / trim lavender .

Mrs Cooke passed on some information that she had read -- Freesia bulbs only last for one year.

Garden centres / Nurseries were discussed - Spring Green going downhill - they are buying in rather than growing their own - Nancys' Nurseries still rank very highly with members of the Garden club.

Andy brought a book for reference

A quiz took place - proverbs about plants -- answers on the last page

- Root vegetables will not gain a coating of a dairy product simply through the use of pretentious language
- I decline to donate the pulpy fruit of the ficus
- It's no use thinking you can collect bryophytic plants by using rounded mineral mater even in motion
- Long, green and phallic - but slow to warm up
- A container of globose fruit is a metaphor for existence

Hazel asked for information about the minuscule bright orange worm found in the poppy seed heads - no one knew anything about them.

Note this was not mentioned at the meeting but maybe should have been - Darrington Church donated a square wooden table and 3 wooden chairs to the Tithe Barn, they were put on the Patio area by the tubs of red geraniums and looked really nice, it gave the area a courtyard appearance - they were there for 2 weeks before being stolen!

Plant swop time:-

Vera told us about some South African flowering Yucca plants which she had had given, one is planted in the Tithe barn, there were 10 other plants up for grabs - sorry they have now all found homes.



South African flowering Yucca

Vera also has some Perennial Sweet pea seeds to give away if anyone is interested - the flowers are beautiful

Trevor told us about some square stemmed Verbena plants he had brought - they too have all found new homes. They grow to 4 feet high, and the bees and butterflies love it.



Verbena



French marigolds



Seeds available - name of plant not known



Love in the mist



Canterbury bells
and shapes of African daisy.



African daisy there are many different colours

Barbara told us the sad tale of her birthday present - a peach tree which grew well and was covered in blossom and in time - fruit. The fruit was thinned out by her son to an amount that the tree could cope with. One day Barbara went to look at it and there were just 3 peaches left on the tree - no sign of the birds having eaten them and no fruit drop - it was the squirrels - Barbara said she could murder them. Mike said that squirrels are good to eat but you have to catch them first!! Vera said so are hedgehogs they taste like chicken (no one asked her how she knew). Our sympathies are with Barbara.

The meeting finished at 7 pm. The next meeting is on the 9th of September - Andy gave his apologies. £7 was taken in Tea Coffee money and handed over to the Kyte staff by Andy when he booked the room for September. Turn to next page for the quiz answers.

Answers to the quiz

- Fine words butter no parsnips
- I don't give a fig
- A rolling stone gathers no moss
- Cool as a cucumber

- Life is just a bowl of cherries