

Darrington Parish Council Newsletter

SPRING

Darrington Air Crash 75th Anniversary Commemoration Project Update

First, the project team was very sad to hear the news that Geoff Towers (BEM) died on Thursday 21st February 2019, aged 94.

We were honoured that Geoff accepted our invitation to attend the Commemoration event as a Very Special Guest and to help unveil the Commemoration Sign on Chapel Hill on the morning of the 22nd September, 2018.

We have passed on our condolences. He was given a fitting farewell at his funeral in March.

Regrettably, Geoff wasn't able to view the final video but his son, David, who accompanied him at the Air Crash Commemoration was kind enough to let us know how much Geoff had appreciated being asked to be involved and we will ensure David and Geoff's family are able to view the video when it's ready.

R.I.P

The Commemoration Project Documentary video was very close to completion at the time of writing this item. The final steps will be special viewings by, first, the Project Team followed by Darrington Parish Councilors.

Darrington Parish Council very generously agreed to finance the Video work done by Deadline Digital and will, following their viewing, discuss and then agree a plan to enable the video to be viewed by residents and the wider public.

Finally, appropriate arrangements will be put in place to enable people to request personal copies of the Video.

Patience is a virtue in these matters! We are assured that the Video is of a very high quality both in terms of the high production standards as well as

the depth and range of content. Such things inevitably take time! Also, Parish Council meetings take place monthly and it's during meetings when decisions are almost always made. In view of this, it's likely that both a public 'World Premiere' and subsequently, the opportunity to request individual copies will take place by about July this year.

Andy Tagger on Behalf of the Project Team (Dennis Burns, Judith Fisher, Dave Hepworth, Gail Jenkins, Jeff Pickering)

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Darrington Feast & Fayre 29th June 2019

The 2019 Darrington Feast & Fayre will take place on Saturday 29th June and we are currently in the process of looking at arena events. We are happy to announce the return of Knottingley Concert Brass and Jesters Dance Group. We also welcome Pontefract Stagecoach Performing Arts and Mod Revue who are a tribute to Mod, SKA & two tone band.

Run entries open at 7am on Monday 8th April & capacity has been increased to 250 but no entries will be available on the day.

The new play equipment is due to be installed shortly so due to the high cost of this the decision was made that all profits this year would go back into the field account.

There will be the annual cake baking competition with

prizes in the category of best tasting and best cake appearance. This year we are also introducing a preserve competition which includes both sweet & savoury entries and again there are prizes in both categories.

We are also in need of donations for the raffle & prize hamper for which we ask for unwanted food/drink items (in date) or luxury body products. If you have any contributions please contact Stella on 704619.

As always we need the support of people power so if you can help out in any way please contact- **Samwood3004@googlemail.com** or contact via our Facebook page Darrington Village Field Trust.

Thank you.

Darrington Parish Council Annual Chairman's Report 2018/2019

In the past year a number of annual events failed to attract sufficient support to help organise them and consequently had to be cancelled. The Christmas preparations also suffered. Though the Carol service did take place, the lighting was not as good as before due to a shortage of volunteers to put the lights up. The Christmas tree which had been selected, had to be replaced by a smaller one, as only three of us turned up to collect it. (The previous year there were seven volunteers and we still struggled to put it up.) Without Philip Morrell and his tractor we would not be able to manage at all, so thanks to him for all his help. My thanks also go to the ladies who helped to decorate the Reading Rooms.

The major success of the previous year was the project to mark the 75th anniversary of the air crash at Chapel Hill. I should like to express particular thanks to Councillor Tagger for managing this project and to the rest of his team who organised a potentially difficult project without a hitch. Thanks also to the Golf Club for their participation and assistance.

Unfortunately once again I have to report that the ongoing planning dispute at the east end of the village has still not been resolved and is now into its ninth year. We are informed that the matter is still in the hands of the planning office's legal department and entirely out of our control.

The Tithe Barn information board project will hopefully be completed in the spring.

At long last we have seen the completion of the defibrillator

project, but I don't feel that we can be smug about it, having taken so long to achieve. Thanks to everyone who donated to the project. It has already been deployed on two occasions, fortunately it was ultimately not needed.

The Parish Council remains in a sound financial state with funds of around £20,000. As a consequence the decision was taken not to increase the precept above the level of inflation this year. A full statement of our accounts will be published in due course. The current state is reported at each meeting and posted on our website once it has been ratified at the following meeting.

I would like to remind all residents that our monthly meetings (second Thursday of each month) are open to anyone who wishes to come along and comment on proceedings.

Finally I would like to remind all residents that 2019 is an election year. Every four years the whole parish council is required by law to resign and reapply if they wish to be re-elected.

Elections will take place on Thursday the second of May. Darrington parish council are entitled to have nine members. We presently have only eight, as Cllr Wilkins resigned a couple of months ago. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr Wilkins for his efforts over the many years that he has served. For most of his tenure Kelvin has served as unpaid Clerk to the council and he has been exceptional in that role. Fortunately, when he resigned he passed the responsibilities of Clerk on to Cllr Thompson,

who has been equally efficient in the role. Unfortunately, Cllr Thompson has now informed the council that he has no intention of re-standing in the forthcoming elections. This will be a difficult position for the council to fill competently. Two other councillors have informed the council that they have no intention of standing at the next election and consequently there will be at least three vacancies to fill. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Cllr Johnson and Cllr Hoyle for their service, in John's case over many years. I believe he was the longest serving member of the council. It has been a pleasure to serve with all three of the outgoing councillors.

Most of the parish council are of a certain age (not you Fi), and it would be good for some new blood to come and stir things up a bit, but don't forget that there is work to be done. Two of the leavers, leave two of the most difficult and onerous jobs vacant. The position of clerk and minutes secretary are positions that we must fill from our first meeting, which will be on the 9th of May.

Anyone wishing to stand would be well advised to come along to our next meeting on the 11th April to get an idea of what goes on.

Application forms may be had from our present clerk, Cllr Thompson, or contact WMDC, directly.

Michael Britton

Chairman DPC.

Parish Council Elections

Hopefully this section will help clarify the appearance of the yellow notices that you have probably seen in prominent positions throughout the Darrington Parish Council's area which are advertising a "Notice Of Election". These notices have been issued by Wakefield Metropolitan District Council who have forty Parish Councils within their boundary. All parish councillors in these forty wards have a term of office which ends on May 1st 2019. Those wishing to carry on must seek re-election. The number of councillors that form the parish council varies from parish to parish. Darrington can have up to nine councillors. Four years ago there were eleven candidates and so an election was held. However, in earlier years the number of people seeking election to the Parish Council has often been nine or fewer and so, of course, on occasions such as these, no election was required and all would have been appointed.

A number of the current members of the Parish Council have stated that they do not intend to stand again and so this could be an incentive for those who have been considering standing to indeed do so. The rules are straight forward. Broadly speaking anyone at least 18 years old who is resident or works in the parish or indeed has lived within three miles of the parish can apply. There are some restrictions but 99.9% of people aged 18 or over living within the parish will be eligible to stand for election. To stand you will need to be proposed by two residents on the electoral role. The application form along with the formal definitions of who can and who can't stand and other guidance can be found online at www.wakefield.gov.uk/elections. Alternatively this information can be obtained from the election office within Wakefield's town hall. Ian Thompson, the clerk to Darrington Council lives in the village and has volunteered to download and print the appropriate documents for you if access to the internet is difficult. Ian's phone number is 01977 798884. Polling day is actually May 2nd

2019. The nomination period has begun and ends at 4PM on Wednesday the 3rd of April. On the 4th of April Wakefield MDC will publish the list of those nominated and of course the decision is then taken as to whether an election is required. As well as the yellow notices referring to the Parish Council there are white notices referring to elections for Wakefield Metropolitan District Council. Darrington is within the "Pontefract South" ward for the MDC and rules here are different. We are represented by three councillors but only one of the three's term of office ends in May. For District Council election details please refer to the Wakefield MDC website, but note the election date is not surprisingly also May 2nd for this election.

Darrington Village Field Trust

The field in the centre of Darrington is one of those features in the village that help make Darrington such a special place to live. In the mid 1970's the field was acquired and it has been held in a charitable trust on behalf of the residents since then. The charity receives no external funding and the Trustees, Management Team, and all the helpers are all volunteers and receive no payment whatsoever.

Any expenditure on the field, other than the grass cutting, is funded by fund raising initiatives, such as the Feast & Fayre and the Five mile run. In the past we have raised money from the bonfire, barbeques, casino and race nights, and for those old enough to remember a valentine's dance held in the old school.

The day to day management of the field is coordinated by a Management Team, which generally meets 2 -3 times per year. Here it would discuss and organise work on the field, fund raising ideas, and development options. Members of the Management Team were originally representatives of other village organisations that benefitted from the field, but sadly many of these organisations are no longer functioning in their own right.

At 7.30 PM on 16th April upstairs in the Spread the Management Team will be holding its AGM. So if you are interested in participating and getting involved please come along.

In the next few weeks you will see a 4m high activity net being erected near the swings; this will replace some of the wooden equipment that has had to be taken down due to safety concerns.

This one piece of play equipment will cost in the region of £20,000 so it will take several years of further fund raising to build back our funds. So please support us in whatever way you can at this year's Feast & Fayre.

John Hoyle 01977 704619

Darrington Village Field. Annual General Meeting.
7:30pm on 16th April
upstairs in The Spread

Darrington Open Garden's Week

Regrettably, we had to cancel last year's planned event due to lack of interest!

However, I'm hoping that the idea receives LOADS of support this year. The planned week will be Sunday 30th June to Sunday 7th July. Don't be put off by the word 'Week'! You will be welcome to 'Open your Garden' for any amount of time from a morning or afternoon on only one day to being open on several occasions; Your choice!

We'll be discussing the Open Garden at our forthcoming Garden Club Meetings.

They're open to anyone/everyone connected with Darrington and take place monthly on the second Wednesday from 6pm to 7pm at The Kyte Hotel.

The next few Meetings: April 10th, May 8th, June 12th.

More info? Please contact Andy Tagger 01977 704681

Darrington Parish Council

Members

Michael Britton Chair	708205
Fiona Smith—Vice Chair	797644
Ian Thompson –Clerk	798884
Paul Stainer— Responsible Finance Officer	705373
John Hoyle	704619
Andy Tagger	704681
Vera Stones	794794
Linda Johnson	702923

Darrington Parish Council are working on your behalf to improve and maintain the atmosphere and facilities of Darrington and Went-bridge.

If you have any issues that you wish to raise or ideas to help the community please contact one of the Councillors above.

If you are interested in getting more involved contact the Chair or come to the next Parish Council meeting which is usually held on the second Thursday in the month at 7:00pm in the Reading Room, on Philips Lane

Keep up to date with Darrington events at www.darrington.org.uk and www.darringtonvillagefield.org

Our thanks to Darrington Golf Club and Hungry Horse for sponsoring the production of this newsletter.

All the information given in this newsletter is provided in good faith. As such the Parish Council disclaim all responsibility for any inaccuracies irrespective of the reason or cause.

Newsletter created by Kelvin Wilkins and edited by Vera Stones



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The Darrington

Call 01977 602516 For More Information

Or To Reserve Your Table

