

Minutes of the Darrington Garden Club held at the Kyte Hotel April 8<sup>th</sup> 2015.

Present:-

Chairman - Andy Tagger

Members:-

Anne Hutchinson - Hazel Crabtree - Barbara Abrey - Mike Wheatley - Vera Stones - Roy Cooke - Freda Cooke - Wendy Armitage - Kathleen Hirst

Apologies:- Joan Lowe

Absent:- Allan Bentley – Gail - Philip Maw - Margaret Maw - Jackie Giles

- 1 Welcome.
- 2 Minutes from the last meet were read. Everyone was pleased to receive a copy.
- 3 Items raised from the minutes for discussion: - mainly talked about left handed ink pens
- 4 About 12 Dahlia cuttings taken this morning, advice given about protecting from frost

**Different types** of Dahlias were talked about –

*When considering the types of dahlia, it is worth remembering that all of today's variants are descended from an original 30 species. There are now in excess of 57,000 recognised dahlia cultivars worldwide and this number continues to grow through the efforts of gardeners and enthusiasts of this incredible flower.*

*Most people accept that there are 9 distinct types of dahlia which all have clearly defined characteristics. There are also one or two other types of dahlia that are just classified informally as they may have features from various groups.*

*[Single](#) – the flower has a central disc with a ring of petals encircling it. The petals may be rounded or pointed. [Waterlily](#) – this type has curved, slightly curved or flat petals and is very shallow in depth compared with other dahlias. [Collerette](#) – large petals form an outer circle around a central disc. The collar term comes from a smaller circle of much smaller petals closer to the centre. [Anemone](#) – The centre comprises of dense elongated tubes. The outer parts have one or more rings of flatter petals. [Pompon](#) – These resemble perfect spheres and are made up entirely from petals that are curved inwards. [Ball](#) – these are larger than pompons and have a spiral arrangement of incurved petals.*

*[Semi-cactus](#) – these have very pointed petals, almost spiky in appearance. [Cactus](#) – similar to semi-cactus, but with narrower petals. [Decorative](#) – broad petals with no central disc showing.*

*[Miscellaneous](#) – orchid and peony types are classified as miscellaneous.*

- 5 Andy checked that everyone was up to date re the Waste collection sorting out.
- 6 Annual hydrangeas – classed as house plants - very few people have heard of them -
- 7 Mike talked about Berberis



etc

and [cotoneaster](#)



Etc.

First Impressions selling off both plants for £1 each, good plants just out of peak selling time.

- 8 Farm smells – country smells / farming area – still to let Peter Battie know when smell annoys – he is wanting to sharpen up his work methods.

9 Spanish Slugs (easy to see as they are Yellow / Orange 5 – 6" long) are still hitting the headlines



Watch out for them in your gardens.

10 Dangerous ladybirds are now 'kicking' around, they are invasive and are killing off the native ladybirds – this was compared to the trouble 'grey squirrels versus Red Squirrels'. It is reported that Red squirrels are now fighting back



(armed with guns – Andy's pun)



Vera recalled one of her plant pots being full of eaten or 1/2 eaten acorns with no oak trees near her house – Barbara says they travel from her garden to Veras. Talk about hiding the acorns led on to the Jewel heist in London and the police searching under plant pots looking for the gems and finding acorns instead!

11 Sightings of Butterflies were talked about, Mike said that he saw about 12 butterflies in his garden – the group then



talked about types – it has been decided that at record of the first sighting of [peacock butterflies](#) <sup>06 05 15</sup> – also a record of



House Martins

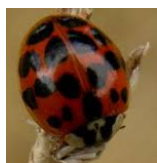


swallows



Invasive Ladybirds

There have been 3500 species of coccinellid (ladybird) described worldwide but until recently only 43 were considered as resident in Britain. Here are pictures of some of them





tadpoles 08 05 15 / frogs 25 05 15

less and less wild life is being seen locally.

- 12 The choice of the best make / strongest / lightest suitcases was talked about and where to purchase them (Ikea or Freeport).
- 13 **Jobs for the month** – *Gardening through the Year* (RHS)  
 Warning of night frosts / Protect young plants / heavy snow falls rare now but often snows on Andys' birthday (same days as Queens Birthday – 21<sup>st</sup> April. Protect young plants with maybe straw.  
 Mike talked about the heat in his greenhouse 85<sup>o</sup> with all the doors and windows open. Barbara said in her greenhouse it was 90<sup>o</sup>  
 Quite a few people seem to have lost Clematis over winter.  
 Trimming of Leilani but watch out for birds nesting  
 Protect plants from slugs and snails  
 Dead head daffodils  
 Sow annual climbers  
 Sow grass seed or turf new lawns.  
 Sow Tomatoes seeds - Elsa Craig tomatoes normal size, nice flavour, discussion led on to the different types of tomatoes – grow your own for the best taste. Gardeners delight Vine tomatoes.  
 Pinch our seedling before they get too tight leggy and weak  
 Last chance to plant summer flowering bulbs – sweet peas  
 The question was asked - Can you plant Daffs any time of year – book says before end of September – so anytime  
 Dead head daffs – foliage left on plant for 6 week post flowering not to be tied up with raffia or rubber bands -Talked about the strength and temerity of Daffs
- 14 Wendy still looking for the yellow 'Open Garden' booklet – no one seen one – but maybe Gail will have some, or the Library. Wendy also reported that she had had her Leilani stolen! Mike offered replacements – reminded that they must be put in the right place – i.e. large garden away from the houses.
- 15 Talked about laurel bushes being pulled up on Philips Lane. Confession is good for the soul - Andy confessed his criminal past in vandalising daffodils with a stick when a young man.
- 16 Vandalism was talked about re the Planters on Estcourt Road.
- 17 Snowdrops talked about on Marlpit lane – and the need to split the groups to aid the quality of bulbs – nothing really resolved.
- 18 First Dahlia cuttings Wendys' Dahlia not shooting at all – really must be protected from the frost
- 19 Pruning and taking Hydrangea cuttings –

### **Hydrangea Cuttings**

*One of the easier plants to propagate is a hydrangea from stem cuttings. At the end of the summer you can take cutting from the plants that have been in your garden over the summer to produce plants for use next year.*

*Hydrangea cuttings stage by stage:*

*Remove a cutting with about 2 or 3 leaf joints from the top. Cut the stem just below a leaf joint and remove the lowest leaves to produce a bare stem that can be inserted into the cutting compost.*

*If the cutting has any flower heads on it they should be removed so that the cutting directs its energy into rooting.*

The compost for the cutting should be a mixture of 50% sand and 50% peat. This will produce compost that is open so as not to rot the stem before it has rooted.

20 The pros and cons for rooting powder or gel 50 - 50 spilt on usage non usage.

21 Amaryllis care in non-flowering seasons – Mike bought a really big bulb – massive bulb honestly it was turnip size which disappointedly had a very small but neat flower

22 Mike wanted to know where Plug plants of wild flowers could be bought – promised to go on the internet and see what is on offer.

Place to buy plug plants of wild flowers :- Just 3 of many firms (email numbers available if wanted)

Meadowmania phone 01672 519994

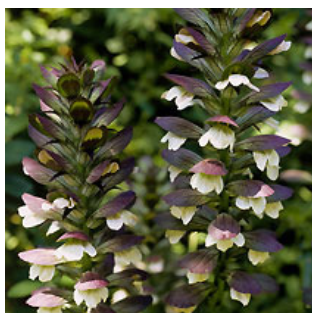
Naturescape.co.uk phone 01949860592

British Wild Flower Plants phone 01603716615

23 Plant up hanging baskets and keep indoors – allows plants to become established before being put outside when all danger of frosts have gone.

'First Impressions' have been given the feedback from the villagers re- last years' hanging baskets colour being 'lost in the background' promised they would do better this year. Their Centre is worth a look round for quality and choice of plants.

Plant Identification – Wendy brought some leaves in the hope that the plant could be named – Acanthus / **Bears Breeches**.



Common Name: **Bear's breeches**

Genus: *Acanthus* - Species: *spinosus* - Skill Level: **Beginner** - Exposure: **Full sun, Partial**

**shade**

Hardiness: **Hardy** - Soil type: **Well-drained/light, Dry, Moist** – Height: **150cm** Spread: **90cm**

Time to plant seeds: **March to April** - Time to divide plants: **February to April** - Flowering period: **June to September**

A statuesque architectural plant, with handsome dark green leaves whose stylised shapes form the decorative detail on Corinthian columns, bringing a strong hint of classical elegance to the garden. The plants make large, mound-shaped rosettes of glossy leathery leaves, finely cut and each tipped with a ferocious spine. The flower spikes resemble tall foxgloves from a distance, with hooded two-tone flowers. **Once established it is virtually impossible to move plants so correct positioning is vital.** A dramatic plant for growing in gravel or grass, or at the back of a large border. The Royal Horticultural Society has given it its Award of Garden Merit (AGM).

Mr and Mrs Cook brought a tray of Bells perennial Daisies. – unable to find a matching picture

Gail had sent via Vera a selection of seeds – both veg and flowering variety.



Wendy had on offer some **Yellow Flag Iris**

The meeting closed at 7pm

Tea and coffee money totalling £6 was handed over to the Kyte Staff.

Arrangements were finalised for Friday evening Garden Club meal to be held at the Kyte.