

24th Minutes of the Darrington Garden Club held at the Kyte Hotel 8th February 2017.

Chairman Andy Tagger

Present:-

Andy Tagger
Hazel Crabtree
Allen Bentley
Christine Blakeston
Ann Hutchinson
Mr and Mrs Maw
Mr and Mrs Cook
Barbara Aubrey
Kathleen Hirst

Apologies:- Vera Stones

Absent:- Joan Low, Gail Jenkins, Mr and Mrs Heelis, Wendy Armitage

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Andy welcomed everyone and then gave a resume of last months minutes.

Andy apologised – he had forgotten to put notices on the village notice boards announcing this months meeting – he promised to remember next month.

Recap:-

1 Details discussed on last months 'plant of the month' winter flowering jasmine.

2 Garden villages.

3 Green belt land.

4 Closure of Ferrybridge power station.

5 The none appearance of Wendys' hellebores.

6 Healthwatch – a date was set for Mrs Ann McGuire to come to the Monday morning café to give a little presentation followed by a question and answer time, but due to death of Mrs McGuires' mother, that meeting has had to be cancelled. A new date will be arranged in the near future.

Michael of Mid Yorkshire Golf Club, would like to help with the publicity / advertising / promoting of Darrington Feast and Fayre this year which will be held on June the 17th, he is on holiday at the moment but will be in touch with Andy on his return. For the first time in many years Andys dulcet tones will not be heard over the tannoy at the Feast and Fayre – but his successor, John, will I am sure do an excellent job.

Open Gardens 2017 may need a revision of timing, usually it is held at the same time as the Feast and Fayre, this year the timing may need to be 'tweaked' – confirmation of dates will be announced later.

The Scarecrow festival will be held at the same time as the Feast and Fayre, again details will be circulated later.

New items:

Peter Box of Wakefield Met, has informed Andy that the plans for Knottingley Pool will be 'mothballed' for approximately 6 months while fresh ideas are considered, and it is possible that local people will be offered the chance to take over the running and presumably raising the money to run the pool, maybe in the same way as public libraries are being maintained / funded / staffed by members of the public.

The council are also looking at ways cutting down spending on running 'fly tipping clearing' as they have less money coming in and costs of each service are escalating, so cuts need to be made 'somewhere'.

The NHS has a '44 footprint' for spending the money they are allocated, and the area they cover is Harrogate to Huddersfield to Wakefield, and each area has different priorities. If you wish to find out more details go on to the [NHS Wakefield ST plan](#) where you will find a lot of information.

The Kyte Hotel is in the process of redecorating, but is still open for business, and they have two special events arranged, ring them for details.

The '**Plant of the month**' for February is Galanthus (Snowdrop) details below as per Andy and the R.H.S Galanthus nivalis, the snowdrop or common snowdrop, is the best-known and most widespread of the 20 species in its genus, Galanthus.

Other common names common snowdrop ☞ **Candlemas bells** (a new name to me)

Family – Amaryllidaceae **Genus** – Galanthus are dwarf bulbous perennials with linear or strap-shaped leaves, and solitary, often honey-scented, nodding flowers with 3 white outer tepals and 3 smaller inner ones often marked with green. **Details** – G. nivalis is a perennial to 15cm, with narrow, grey-green leaves and solitary, nodding, fragrant white flowers 2.5cm in length, the inner segments marked with green at the tip. **Plant range** – Europe / **Characteristics** – Foliage Deciduous / **Habit** –Tufted / **Fragrance** –Flower. **Toxicity**-- Ingestion may cause mild stomach upset / **Hardy** / **Light** – Partial Shade / **Aspect** – South-facing or North-facing or West-facing or East-facing / **Exposure** – Exposed or Sheltered. / **Soil** – Chalk, Clay, Sand, Loam, pH Acid, Alkaline, Neutral / **Moisture** -- Well-drained, Moist but well-drained / **Size** – Ultimate height 0.1-0.5 metres / **Ultimate spread** – 0-0.1 metre / **Time to ultimate height** – 2-5 years / **Cultivation** – Grow in humus-rich, moist but well-drained soil that does not dry out in summer / **Propagation** Propagate by seed, sown in containers in an open frame when ripe or division when foliage dies back (in the green). Seed may not come true / **Suggested planting locations** – Flower borders and beds, Underplanting of Roses and Shrubs, Cottage & Informal Garden Rock Garden, Wildflower meadow garden / **Care** – No pruning required / **Pests** – Can get narcissus bulb fly and slugs / **Diseases** – May be infected by a grey mould.

Places worth visiting to see snowdrops in their glory:-

Austwick Hall Snowdrop Openings 2017 – N.G.S Day 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th 22nd (NGS), 26th, 27th February, / time Noon – 4pm / Admission is £4 (children free) / Refreshments Available / contact details 015242 51794 www.austwickhall.co.uk

Hodstock Priory all details below are copied from Hodsock Priory web page

The Snowdrop (Galanthus nivalis) is one of the most eagerly-awaited flowers, heralding the end of the British wintertime. They symbolise purity and the cleansing of the earth after winter. Galanthus is Greek, meaning milk flower and captures perfectly the appearance of the Snowdrop. Snowdrops grow from a small bulb which produces thin green leaves – usually around six inches long – and a white flower with spreading outer petals. Different types can be identified by the green markings on the inner leaves. The Hodsock Snowdrop Garden is adorned with S Arnott, Atkinsii and Woronwii types, we also have two special varieties; Lady Beatrix Stanley and Barbara's Double named after George Buchanan's ancestors. Growing Snowdrops at home – Snowdrops can be grown anywhere but prefer rich moist soil. They will grow in the garden or in baskets or pots. The main things to consider are: Snowdrops will not grow well in heavily shaded areas in the garden. Dappled shade is better. When growing Snowdrops in pots or baskets, do not over water them in the autumn months and ensure that tubs and pots remain frost free. – For detailed advice on growing Snowdrops see www.judyssnowdrops.co.uk

Beningbrough Hall - Snowdrop planting at Beningbrough Hall, **Published on Feb 14, 2016**. To mark the hall's 300th anniversary, owners the National Trust are inviting everyone to help them plant **300,000** snowdrops. For more, see www.nationaltrust.org.uk/beningbrough That was last year so the snowdrops should now be in flower - Opening times and prices vary, visit website for up to date details.

Snowdrop Days at Goldsborough Hall, Knaresbough – Openings Sunday 12th and 19th February 2017 - 10am to 4pm. Opening the gardens once again for snowdrops February 2017. The spectacular display of snowdrops in 17th-century Goldsborough Hall's 12-acre royal gardens are made up of two species – single Snowdrops Galanthus nivalis and double Galanthus nivalis 'flore pleno'. **Species Snowdrop Walk** - A Species Snowdrop Walk was created in 2012 with expert help from Mike Heagney of Tudor Croft, and Della Kerr, both committed galanthophiles. It features over 40 rare varieties of snowdrops in a newly cleared area of the woods – some so rare they haven't even been named yet! **Snowdrop Days** - On Snowdrop days, visitors can enjoy access to the grounds of this private former Royal residence, also taking in delicate hellebores and carpets of winter aconites. They can enjoy a stroll down the quarter-mile Lime Tree Walk, which was planted by royal visitors to the Hall during the 1920s. Plaques on the trees show the dates when dignitaries including King George V and Queen Mary planted them. **Price & Opening Times** On Snowdrop Days, Goldsborough Hall's gardens will be open from 10am – 4pm (last admission), adults £5 and children under 16 go free. Please wear warm clothes and bring flat shoes or suitable footwear for the weather conditions. Parking is limited so please travel in groups if possible. Dogs are allowed if

they are kept on a lead.

Great Heck Bridge Farm Bridge Farm House Open Garden - Event - Selby - North Yorkshire
...www.yorkshire.com/view/events/selby/bridge-farm-house-open-garden-2066885

Visit during our Snowdrop Festival and see rare snowdrops, hellebores and winter shrubs in this ... Long Lane, , Great Heck, Selby, North Yorkshire, DN14 0BE ...This is one where you need to download 10 pages of information – or watch a video – neither of which are practical, but it looks well worth a visit.

General gardening news – If anyone is going to R.H.S garden show at Chatsworth – look out for a garden design by **Darringtons' Philip Hirst**. Philip (his Mum is a garden club member) is hoping to get enough sponsorship to enable him to show his garden design. The theme will be Climate Change.

It is now thought that not all wood burning stoves as environmentally friendly as was at first supposed – though some are – so if you are thinking of getting a wood burning stove, check first if the one you like is a 'friendly one'

The next meeting of the Bio Mass / Ferry bridge is to be held on March the 8th.

Jobs for February:- as per Andy and the R.H.S

Look after the birds

Dahlia tubers stored over winter (or bought this year) can be started into growth. Place them in a light, warm place to sprout before planting. They will need additional misting with a spray-bottle of water, to stop them drying out.

Lawns – General maintenance - If the weather is warm, you may need to start mow. Set the cutting height at its maximum, and only mow when the grass is dry. Re-cut lawn edges to crisp up the appearance of the garden and save work later in the season. Turf can be laid, provided the soil is not too wet or frosty. Work from planks, to avoid compacting the soil. Do not walk on the newly laid turf and leave undisturbed for several weeks to allow new roots to establish. Prepare seed beds for new lawns to be seeded later in the spring, but only attempt this if the ground is not too wet.

Lily bulbs can be planted in pots, for flowers this summer. After growing on indoors or in a cool greenhouse, they can be moved onto the patio when in flower, so that you can enjoy the blooms. Bulbs coming up in the rock garden or in containers may benefit from overhead protection from the rain and snow. A sheet of glass or Perspex placed on piles of bricks will do the job.

Hardy annuals can be sown in pots or modules to provide colour. Summer-flowering Dutch iris bulbs can be forced and used as cut flowers. Place gladiolus corms in seed trays or boxes and place in a light, warm (around 10°C/50°F) spot to encourage them to sprout before planting. This will ensure an earlier display. Sweet peas can be sown under cloches, in a cold frame, or in a cool room in the house. Any sweet peas that were sown earlier in the autumn can now be potted. Root cuttings can be taken of Papaver (perennial poppies), Verbascum (mullein), Acanthus (bear's britches) and Phlox. Check on tender plants overwintering outdoors to ensure protective coverings are still in place

Cut back deciduous ornamental grasses (such as Miscanthus sinensis 'Kaskade', left) and other perennials left for winter interest. Continue to deadhead winter pansies and other winter bedding. Pansies will carry on into the spring and even to early summer, if attended to frequently. Cut off old leaves of hellebores that produce flowers from ground level (including Helleborus x hybridus and H. niger) to expose the flowers and remove possible foliar diseases such as hellebore leaf spot. At the end of the month prune back the stems of pot-grown overwintered fuchsias and place in a well-lit, warm place to encourage new growth. Divide and / or plant bulbs-in-the-green such as snowdrops (Galanthus) and winter aconites (Eranthis hyemalis). Divide clumps of herbaceous perennials that you want to propagate, those that have become too large for their allotted space, and those that are flowering poorly or have lost their shape.

No plants were brought for the plant swap session. Barabra brought a cheerful little bunch of flowers from her garden to show everyone what is in flower now – Hellebours, snowdrops, both single and double, celendine, winter aconite, pulmonaire and Primrose.