

Minutes of the Darrington Garden Club held at the Kyte Hotel February 11th 2015.

Present:-

Hazel Crabtree
Anne Hutchinson
Barbara Abrey
Joan Lowe
Mike Wheatley
Margaret Maw
Phillip Maw
Allen Bentley
Vera Stones
Wendy Armitage

Apologies:-

Kathleen Hirst
Andy Tagger

Missed:-

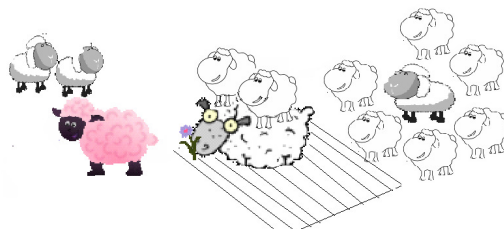
Mr and Mrs Cook - rang to check both fine 'just a memory lapse'

Subjects under discussion:-

Garden club Friday evening meal to be held on the 13th of this month.
Menus read and choices made. (Food setting the priority of the evening!!!!!!)

Notes from the January meeting read and discussed.

- 1 The subject of Dahlias was raised by Vera and Mike, Mike gave guide lines on planting, and storing of tubers, then went on to tell the meeting of a particular dahlia he has which is 8 feet tall with flowers the size of dinner plates.
- 2 The subject of Dahlias moved on to Earwigs and the fact that they attack Dahlia tubers - but as Monty don says that ear wigs have not been seen for 5 years various people at the meeting think they may try growing Dahlias again (the fact that they can't stand earwigs had put them off growing dahlias for a while now)
- 3 Birds in the garden was raised because of some members having seen the Common Buzzard flying around - and sitting not just in trees but also on garden fences. Other birds discussed included the Sparrow Hawk, also seen in Darrington.
- 4 Garden pets/pests depending on ones' point of view were talked about - rabbits, pheasants / hedgehogs - and a question was asked about where the nearest / local hedgehog rescue centre was - no definite answer.
- 5 Talking about hedgehogs led on to subject of Cattle grids being made safe for hedgehogs, ditto garden ponds. One member told the story of the intelligence of sheep with regard to cattle grids - I quote - at one particular cattle grid a large sheep was seen to lie down on it and the other sheep then walked over the prone sheep to get across the grid safely - presumably the same thing occurred on the return journey - but then sheep seem never to be able to find their way home so who knows!



- 6 Members were asked to recommend a good Garden Centre (Nursery) - Crown Green seemed the favourite local Nursery.
- 7 Seen on Monday the 9th of February. The 'firsts' of the year suggesting Spring is not far away
- (a) The first butterfly
 - (b) The first bees were seen on the heather
 - (c) The first swarm of midges
 - (d) The first gardeners (3) were seen on their knees doing some weeding.
 - (e) Birds appear to be collecting nesting materials
 - (f) Ants have been spotted - unfortunately in a members' house!
 - (g) Daffodils are virtually in flower.
- 8 Methods of getting rid of moss on drives / patios etc. Rock salt or bleach were recommended.
Barbara to inform members at the next meeting of the trade name of a solution which is very good.
- 9 Marl = clay, pit = where it is obtained - clay is very good for conditioning soil - broken into a fine dust, scattered on the top of soil - then raked in, it gives a very good water retention base and helps crops to grow well even in dry seasons.
- 10 Some members have already been sowing veg seeds (indoors)
- 11 Open Garden catalogues were discussed and the difficulty of obtaining them now that Penny has moved away from Darrington.
- 12 Plants identified by their leaves - Lords and Ladies / Parson in his Pulpit (Arum Lily).



Plant swapping took place - Soldnella it has a lilac flower and



Campanula (bell flower - if I have got it right)

- 13 'Christmas Roses' were discussed and why in some gardens they have disappeared totally while in others they are thriving and flowering, no solution was found.

The meeting closed at 7pm, and £7 tea coffee money handed to Kyte staff - several members had purchased liquid refreshments from the Bar staff.