

Chairman Mr Andy Tagger

Present	Apologies	Absent
Andy Tagger	Christine Blakeston	Vera Stones
Hazel Crabtree		Barbara McKillop
Barbara Abrey		Joan Lowe
Ann Hutchinson		Gail Jenkins
Mr and Mrs Audsley		Fran Walker
Mr and Mrs Cook		Mr and Mrs Maw
Jeanette Bannister		Wendy Armitage
Mr and Mrs Ruddick		Mr and Mrs Glover
Allen Bentley		

The meeting opened at 18 05 with Andy welcoming everyone.

Andy then went on to re-cap last months minutes and bring everyone up to date with the exhibition of the Air crash memorial recordings and items which was to be on display at Pontefract Public Library for 2 weeks – it has proved so popular that the Library staff decided to extend the timing to 3 weeks, it now continues to be on view until Friday the 12th of October. For the exhibition Darrington school pupils have made 12 perspex figures which stand approximately 5 feet high, after Friday these will be returned to the school to be on display there to remind pupils of some of the history of the village. Following on from this Andy mentioned that ‘The Dean Family’ have offered to annually fund an award for the next 5 years, which will be given to a Darrington School Pupil or group of pupils, for work they do which demonstrates that they have a real sense of the place they live in or are being educated in i.e. Darrington.

Andy would like to compile a list of possible speakers who would be willing to come to the Garden Club and talk about plants / flowers / garden related interests, if anyone knows of anyone – please contact Andy.

The Annual Darrington Village Carol Service will be held in the Tithe Barn at 6pm on the 4th of December.

Andy then went on to ask a few questions:-

Q. Which King is credited with creating the Hanging Garden of Babylon?

A. The most popular theory is that the gardens were built by king **Nebuchadnezzar II** to make his wife Amytis happy because she was homesick for the plants and gardens of her homeland. King **Nebuchadnezzar II** ruled Babylon from 605BC, for a period of 43 years. It was during this time that he is said to have had the Hanging Gardens built. *Information as per Google*

Q. What is the correct name of Capability Brown?

A. *Lancelot Brown* was baptised on 30 Aug 1716 at Kirkharle, Northumberland, the fifth of the six children of William Brown, a yeoman farmer and Ursula, née Hall, who had worked in the big house on the Kirkharle estate. He went to the village school at Cambo, and then began work as a gardener at Kirkharle, leaving in 1739. In 1741 he reached Stowe, Buckinghamshire where he rapidly assumed responsibility for the execution of both architectural and landscaping works in the famous garden. It was at Stowe in 1744 that Brown married Bridget Wayet, with whom he eventually had nine children.

While at Stowe, Brown also began working as an independent designer and contractor and in autumn 1751, he was able to move with his family to the Mall, Hammersmith, the market garden area of London.

Brown’s style derived from the two practical principles of comfort and elegance. On the one hand, there was a determination that everything should work, and that a landscape should provide for every need of the great house. On the other, his landscapes had to cohere and look elegant.

Information as per <http://www.capabilitybrown.org/lancelot-capability-brown>

Q. What year was the RHS founded as the Horticultural Society of London?

A. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) was founded in **1804** in London, England. It was originally called the Horticultural Society of London, and was renamed in **1861**. The RHS is the UK's leading gardening charity. The RHS helps to protect *plants*, *gardens* and *parks*. It also helps people learn gardening, and encourages people to grow their own food.

It holds flower shows such as the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, RHS Tatton Park Flower Show and RHS Cardiff Flower Show.

The RHS has several gardens. The four main gardens are: Wisley Garden in Surrey, Rosemoor Garden in Devon, Hyde Hall in Essex, and Harlow Carr in North Yorkshire. *Information as per Wikipedia*

Q. Which gardener kept his designs in a series of Red Books

A. Humphry Repton (21 April 1752 – 24 March 1818) was *the* last great English landscape designer of the 18th century. To help clients visualise *his designs*, Repton produced 'Red Books'

Repton lived in a modest cottage at Hare Street near Romford in Essex. In 1788, aged 36 and with four children and no secure income, he hit on the idea of combining his sketching skills with his limited experience of laying out grounds at Sustead to become a 'landscape gardener' (a term he himself coined). Since the death of Capability Brown in 1783, no one figure dominated English garden design; Repton was ambitious to fill this gap and sent circulars round his contacts in the upper classes advertising his services. He was at first an avid defender of Brown's views, contrasted with those of Richard Payne Knight and Uvedale Price, but later adopted a moderate position. His first paid commission was Catton Park, to the north of Norwich, in 1788.

These questions and many many more can be found on 'The Telegraph' web page
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/gardenprojects/>

Andy asked 'Did you know that (according to 'The Telegraph') October the 14th is Apple Day – below is a quote from the internet <http://www.national-awareness-days.com/apple-day/>

Apple Day – If the saying is anything to go by then 21 October should be declared a national holiday for all doctors, as there are lots of reasons why an apple a day can keep the doctor away! It's is a day to recognise the wealth and variety of apples available in the United Kingdom. The day was first started in 1990 by Common Ground in Covent Garden. The following year it launched nationwide with over 50 events ranging from apple road-shows, grafting classes and village hall markets. By 2000 the day was celebrated in over 600 events around the country, and abroad! Events were organised by restaurants, museums, Women's Institutes, cider makers, community orchards and garden societies, to name but a few.

One member of the Garden Club told members of her visit to Newby Hall and said how beautiful the garden looked with its Autumn plants and colours.

31st of October is the deadline of the Nation wide Garden of the Year Photographic competition – I could find nothing specific on the internet but if you really want to know all about garden photographic competitions go on <https://uk.downloadsearch.cnet.com/s?q=garden+photography+competition>

Plant of the month

As with last month there was no specific plant but members were asked which is their plant of the month now in flower in their garden:-

Viola which keeps on flowering and enjoys coolish weather



Gaultheria — Gaultheria has a lovely coloured foliage in the autumn and keeps its pretty red berries on the branches for a long time in the winter! The edible berries taste minty and the leaves make a rather tasty tea! Birds don't like the berries!
Fox and cubs

Geraniums
Dahlia
Buddleia
Roses
Cyclamen



Salvia 'Hot Lips'



Red Hot Poker (Kniphofia)



Nerine or Pink Spider Lily



red-barked dogwood *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica'

Andy asked if anyone had seen any squirrels this year – quite few members said yes. One member reported that a wood pecker has taken up residence in her garden having first enlarged the entrance hole of a Tit nesting box, it is thought that it is a female Woodpecker and that she has started to bed down for the night earlier now that the evening are getting darker sooner.

Both ladybirds and butterflies have been see flying round this last week and maybe this is due to 'climate change'

Jobs for the month:-

- Protect ½ hardy plants (there has already been one 'white frost' this month)
- Lift Dahlia tubers unless they are in a very sheltered position.
- Plant Spring bulbs.
- Clear rubbish i.e. dead and falling leafs
- Plant bare root cuttings.

Re-plant containers with winter flowering plants.
Move dormant trees / shrubs.
Prune climbing roses.
Sow sweet peas.
Mulch round plants with tree bark chippings

Mr Ruddick talked about his apple tree 'Howgate Wonder' which produces very large cooking apples, two other garden club members also have Howgate Wonder trees in their gardens though it was thought to be 'rather rare'

Richard Brown a gentleman who came to talk at the Garden Club about apples visited Mr Ruddick to see the tree and gave Mr Ruddick a potted history of the tree and how it got its name:-.

The parents of Howgate Wonder are Blenheim Orange and Newton Wonder. It was first grown in 1916 at Howgate Lane in Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. The original site of the apple tree, 4, Hope Gardens is still there and occupied but unfortunately the original tree was disposed of in 1968. Howgate Wonder is an apple variety which divides opinions more than perhaps most other apples do. The reason for this is possibly that it does better in cooler but not overly wet parts of the UK. In wet conditions it can suffer from scab spots of the skin but properly stored these develop only very slowly.

The reasons for growing this variety can be very compelling if you already have more than one apple tree. It looks magnificent, it stores into the New Year like no other apple and it's huge! Use as a cooker and also an eater but at the correct times during storage. Pest and disease resistance makes Howgate Wonder suitable for growing under organic conditions.

Plant swap.



Hair bell – *Campanula rotundifolia*



A 'Look a like' Strawberry plant which may or may not be a *Cinquefoil Potentilla*

3 books were also on offer how to grow Dahlia and Chrysanthemum.

The meeting finished at 7pm. The date of the next meeting is November the 14th 6pm at the Kyte
£9 was taken in Tea / Coffee money this was handed to the staff by Andy.