

26th Minutes of the Darrington Garden Club held at the Kyte Hotel on April the 12th 2017.

Chairman Andy Tagger

Present:-

Andy Tagger
Hazel Crabtree
Allen Bentley
Ann Hutchinson
Christine Blakeston
Mr and Mrs Maw
Wendy Armitage
Joan Lowe
Barbara Abrey
Kathleen Hirst
Mr and Mrs Heelis

Plant of the month

Apologies:- Mr and Mrs Cook.

Absent:- Gail Jenkins, Vera Stones

The meeting opened at 6pm.

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

Members were informed that Mr Cook is unwell, a Get Well card for him was signed by all the members who were present, and our wishes for a speedy recovery are sent to him.

Andys' wife Val, is recovering slowly following surgery – we send her our best wishes for a full and speedy recovery, and because of Vals' surgery Andy has had to change his holiday plans, so he has 're-set' the dates for the Darrington Open Garden event, the date is now the 18th to the 25th of June, the week following Darrington Feast and Fayre.

Michael Allsop of Mid Yorkshire Golf Club has been very helpful with setting up the advertising for the Open Garden event, and is doing a 'slow release' of information, advertising the event on his own web page. As the date gets nearer he will step up the rate of frequency (hying the event) in the hope that he will reach many more people than has been possible in the last few years. Thank you Michael from all the Garden Club members.

Andy brought the members up to date with the Air crash Commemoration event planned for September 2018 – The Parish Council are already collecting a lot of information / memories / pictures etc. and have been in touch with the RAF following all their protocols for staging such an event. It is hoped that a local official of the RAF will be able to attend, and maybe the RAF will be able to provide some music appropriate to such an occasion. The official launch will start on the 18th of September this year to advertise / inform – with a whole year to gather material and make all the arrangements it is hoped that nothing will be missed out or incorrect.

New Items:-

The plant of the month is the tulip,

19 things we should all know about Tulips:-

Information via Andy and 'Country Living' <http://www.countryliving.com/gardening/a35956/tulip-fun-facts/>

1. There are over 150 species of tulips with over 3,000 different varieties.
2. Their flower buds are known for being almost perfectly symmetrical.

3. Most tulips sprout a single flower bud, but a few varieties have up to four on a single stem.
4. Tulips are part of the lily family.
5. Tulips only bloom for 3-7 days in the spring.
6. You can find tulips in almost any colour.
7. According to Teleflora, different coloured tulips have different meanings. The red flowers symbolize true love while purple represents loyalty.
8. Make a mistake? White tulips mean "I'm sorry."
9. Tulips are also said to signal the arrival of spring.
10. Tulips are native to central Asia but didn't really become popular until reaching the Netherlands.
11. The Parkinson's Disease Foundation uses a tulip as its symbol.
12. Tulips were once the most expensive flower...
13. ...And in the 1600s, they were even said to cost 10 times more than a working man's average salary in the Netherlands, making them more valuable than some homes.
14. The time period where the flower was so expensive (around 1634 to 1637) is now known as "Tulip Mania."
15. Tulip petals are edible and can be used in place of onions in many recipes. **(Darrington Garden Club accepts no responsibility for the truth of this information – so try it at your own risk**
16. The Netherlands is the world's largest commercial producer of tulips, with around three billion exported each year.
17. If you cut tulips, they'll continue to grow in your vase for at least another inch.
18. According to The New York Times, the best time to plant tulip bulbs is in the Autumn so they can grow roots before it gets too cold.
19. Tulips will bend and twist to grow towards light (even in a vase!).

Basic rules for planting and caring for tulips -

1. Plan to plant the bulbs in the Autumn when the soil is at least 60 °F (16 °C).
2. Choose bulbs that are firm, with a light brown papery skin.
3. Dig holes 8 inches (20.30 centimetres) deep and 4 to 6 inches (10.2 to 15.2 cm) apart.
4. Insert the bulbs into the holes, pointy-side-up.
5. Cover the bulbs with soil and water lightly.
6. Water the bulbs when the soil becomes dry. Do not over water.
7. Dead in the same way as you dead head Daffodils
8. Leave the leaves to die back naturally.
9. Watch out for slug and snail attacks – also be aware that Squirrel, rats and mice adore tulips!
10. if Blight / tulip fire occurs dig up and destroy the bulbs.
11. After flowering – the question is do you dig up the bulbs or leave them in the ground – the choice is yours, if your ground gets water logged in winter it is best to lift the bulbs as they hate being water logged.

The Tulip Society Written by W.N.E.T.S.

The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society is a long established floral society with a tradition of growing English Florists' Tulips or Old English Tulips.

An Old Tulip Tradition – Today only one society remains specialising in tulips, the **Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society dating from 1836**, and is one of the oldest florist's societies. Shows & Events - The Annual Show is held in the Wakefield Area each year, and open to the public. As well as the classes for English Florists' Tulips, there is a section for Dutch Tulips. A full history of the society can be found on the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society web page. (it is too long to reproduce here).

In recent years the Society has revived its Dutch Tulip show which is held at the Harrogate Spring Show. The society also supports other florist's shows and events with information on the showing, history and cultivation of tulips.

Apr 20 Thu 2017 - Sun 2017 Harrogate Spring Show

Apr 29 Sat 2017 - Mon 2017 Constable Burton Hall Tulip Festival

Apr 29 Sat 2017 Burnby Hall Gardens Tulip Festival 29 April - 13 May

Apr 29 Sat 2017 - Sun 2017 RHS Late Daffodil and Tulip Competition

May 13 Sat 2017 Tulip Society's 182nd Show

May 21 Sun 2017 **The Tulip Society's Small Show (TBC)**

Jobs for April – as per The Garden Helper <http://www.thegardenhelper.com/calendar/april.html>

April is the month for planting summer flowering bulbs like Dahlias, Gladiolas and Lilies. Mix bulb fertilizer, processed manure and peat moss into the planting soil. ☒Tuberous Begonias and Canna should not be set outdoors until all danger of frost has passed, so wait until next month.

Plant annual seeds of Asters, Cosmos, Marigolds and Zinnias in the garden.

When all frost danger has passed you can move your stored Fuchsias and Geraniums outdoors. ☒Trim them back, feed and re-pot if necessary. Water them well.

If you have a pond or pool you should set aquatic plants any time after the middle of the month.

Rotate your house plants so that each side receives it's share of light, for even growth and a balanced shape.

As the sun's rays strengthen, some plants, such as African Violets, may need to be moved away☒from a south-facing window to avoid leaf scorch.

Spring cleaning of your indoor plants will keep them beautiful and help to avoid diseases. ☒Remove any spent flowers, dead leaves or branches, or any yellowing leaves. ☒Rinse the dust from the leaves with the kitchen sprayer. Clean leaves allow the plant to breathe!☒Pinching back the tips of foliage plants will stimulate new growth and make your plant fuller and bushier.

When they have finished blooming, you should deadhead your spring flowering bulbs. Do not cut off the green foliage yet! These green leaves continue to grow for a few weeks, and provide the bulb with food for flowering next year.

April Lawn Care – The application of a spring type of lawn fertilizer should perk up the lawn and improve its overall colour and appearance. If there is moss growing in the lawn, scarifying and then use a spring lawn fertilizer that has the moss-killer included, so you can 'feed and weed' in one easy application –

Tying in with that – to-days' useless bit of information:- by Mary Bellis Updated August 11, 2016
<https://www.thoughtco.com/first-lawn-mower-1991636>

If you have a manual push mower today, it likely uses design elements from **19th Century black American inventor John Albert Burr's patented rotary blade lawn mower**. On May 9, 1899, John Albert Burr patented an improved rotary blade lawn mower. Burr designed a lawn mower with traction wheels and a rotary blade that was designed to not easily get plugged up from lawn clippings. John Albert Burr also improved the design of lawn mowers by making it possible to mow closer to building and wall edges. Life of Inventor John Albert Burr
John Burr was born in Maryland in 1848, at a time when he would have been a teenager during the Civil War. His parents were slaves who were later freed, and he may also have been a slave until age 17. He didn't escape from manual labour, as he worked as a field hand during his teenage years.

But his talent was recognized and wealthy black activists ensured he was able to attend engineering classes at a private university. He put his mechanical skills to work making a living repairing and servicing farm equipment and other machines. He moved to Chicago and also worked as a steelworker. When he filed his patent for the rotary mower in 1898, he was living in Agawam, Massachusetts.

Inventions of John Albert Burr --- "The object of my invention is to provide a casing which wholly encloses the operating gearing so as to prevent it from becoming choked by the grass or clogged by obstructions of any kind," reads the patent application. His rotary lawn mower design helped reduce the irritating clogs of clippings that are the bane of manual mowers. It was also more manoeuvrable and could be used for closer clipping around objects such as posts and buildings. Looking at his patent diagram, you can see a design that is very familiar for manual rotary mowers today.

Powered mowers for home use were still decades away. As lawns become smaller in many newer neighbourhoods, many people are returning to manual rotary mowers like Burr's design.

Burr continued to patent improvements to his design. He also designed devices for mulching clippings, sifting and dispersing them. Today's mulching power mowers may be part of his legacy, returning nutrients to the turf rather than bagging them for compost or disposal. In this way, his inventions helped save labour and were also good for the grass. He held over 30 U.S. patents for lawn care and agricultural inventions.

John Albert Burr's Later Life --- Burr enjoyed the fruits of his success. Unlike many inventors who never see their designs commercialized, or soon lose any benefits, he got royalties for his creations. He enjoyed travelling and lecturing. He lived a long life and died in 1926 of influenza at age 78.

by Mary Bellis [Updated April 12, 2017](#)

Formal lawns made of short, well-maintained grass first appeared in France around the 1700s, and the idea soon spread to England and the rest of the world. But the methods of maintaining lawns were labour-intensive, inefficient or inconsistent: Lawns were first kept clean and tidy by having animals graze on the grass, or by the use of scythe, sickle, or shears to hand-cut the grass lawns.

That changed in the mid-19th century with the invention of the lawn mower. – "Machine for Mowing Lawns" --- The first patent for a mechanical lawn mower described as a "Machine for mowing lawns, etc." was granted on August 31, 1830, to engineer, [Edwin Beard Budding \(1795-1846\) from Stroud, Gloucestershire, England](#). Budding's design was based on a cutting tool used for the uniform trimming of carpet. It was a reel-type mower that had a series of blades arranged around a cylinder. John Ferrabee, owner of Phoenix Foundry at Thrupp Mill, Stroud, first produced the Budding lawn mowers, which were sold to the Zoological Gardens in London.

In 1842, Scotsman Alexander Shanks invented a 27-inch pony drawn reel lawn mower. --- The first United States patent for a reel lawn mower was granted to Amariah Hills on January 12, 1868. Early lawn mowers were often designed to be horse-drawn, with the horses often wearing oversized leather booties to prevent lawn damage. In 1870, Elwood McGuire of Richmond, Indiana designed a very popular human pushed lawn mower; while it wasn't the first to be human-pushed, his design was very lightweight and became a commercial success.

Steam powered lawn mowers appeared in the 1890's. In 1902, Ransomes produced the first commercially available mower powered by an internal combustion gasoline engine. In the United States, gasoline powered lawn mowers were first manufactured in 1919 by Colonel Edwin George.

Next time you mow the lawn, acknowledge the inventor (or inventors) who made the task a little easier.

[Plant swap](#)

Mouse plant / Lowlander grass / quince all found new homes.

The meeting finished at 7pm

£11 tea and coffee money was handed over to the Kyte staff by Andy.

£10 was given to Hazel to help towards the printing costs of the minutes.