

Minutes of the Darrington Garden Club held at the Kyte Hotel 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Number Present: - eight

Chairman - Andy Tagger

Members: - Andy Tagger  
Wendy Armitage  
Vera Stones  
Mr and Mrs Cooke  
Jackie Giles  
Ann Hutchinson  
Hazel Crabtree

Apologies: - Allen Bentley  
Kathleen Hirst  
Barbara Abrey  
Mr and Mrs Maw  
Mike Wheatley

Absent: - Joan Lowe  
Gail

Fridays Garden club meal was discussed. Menu read and discussion took place about the taste / liking of sweet potatoes

- 1 Welcome.
- 2 Minutes from the last meeting were read.
- 3 Items raised from the minutes for discussion: -

A The care of lawns.

B Festivals due to take place.

C Lily beetles – Wendy said she had got rid of them by using some ‘white powder’ which the beetles obviously liked, as they ate it, then dropped dead – Wendy has no idea what the powder was but maybe something like Derry Dust’ – and presumably is now taken off the market..

D Nancy’s Nurseries – Sonia has given a voucher as a prize for the Garden in Bloom competition.

E Darrington Newsletter was praised – the best one ever. Wendy thought that she rarely got a copy but when she was told it is only out once a ¼ she realised that she does get it, so Postman Andys ruffled feathers were smoothed down!

F Parish Council meetings were discussed and comments made re the new lady Councillors and the tone of the comments in the Parish Newsletter and the Parish Council letter in the Parish Magazine about this. Regret was expressed over the 2 Parish Councillors who weren’t re-elected after all the work they have done for the village as Councillors.

G The mound of earth outside Mr and Mrs Cookes’ garden will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting – Mr Cook pointed out that the mound of earth will be removed anyway in a few days as the Mid Yorkshire Golf Clubs new driving range will be completed.  
Mr Cooke told the members about the posts which had been erected round an area of the Golf course, then tarpaulin attached to the posts, when Mr Cooke asked if this was it to stop the earth rolling down, he was told ‘that is to keep out the grass snakes’. The man was very serious saying that the place was full of grass snakes and some of his Grounds men would not work in that area because of the snakes.

H Red Hot Poker or Torch Lily Plant – Andy had downloaded a lot of information about this plant the official name is **Kniphofia Uvaria**

*How to Grow Red Hot Poker Plant or Torch Lily*

*Perennial, Tritoma Drought and heat tolerant Red Hot Poker plants are easy to grow. They will do well in mid summer's heat, when other plants have wilted. They are great for arid, and semi-arid areas. You may know Red Hot Poker by another name. It is also called Torch Lily and Poker Plant. They are native to South Africa.*

*Red Hot Poker grows two to five feet high, depending upon variety. The leaves are long, thin and dagger-like. They produce flowered spikes from spring through fall, as long as you [deadhead](#) the spent spikes. Flower colours include the ever popular red (of course!), orange, coral, cream and yellow. It should come as no surprise that Hummingbirds like the tubular florets.*

*Red Hot Poker plants look their best when grown in clumps, and displaying lots of blooms. Check the height of the variety you purchase, to determine where it best fits in your mixed flower garden. We also suggest they are placed within easy viewing, so you won't miss the Hummingbirds when they visit!*

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### **Plant Propagation:**

*Red Hot Poker plants are grown from seeds. They can be directly seeded into your flower garden, or seeded indoors for transplanting later. Sow Red Hot Poker seeds early in the season, and cover lightly with 1/4" of fine garden or potting soil.*

*Ideal plant spacing is 18" -24". Thin or transplant seedlings, if needed, when they reach 2". They will tolerate a little crowding.*

*Established plants can also be propagated by plant division. Separate in spring or late fall. Replant in desired location, with the crowns at or just below the soil level.*

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### **How to Grow Red Hot Poker Plants:**

*Red Hot Poker plants are very easy to grow. They like full sun. They prefer loose, rich soil that drains well. It is important to avoid wet soils, as the crowns can rot. Mix in compost when planting, if your soil is not rich. Add a general purpose fertilizer when planting them, then once a month after that.*

*Once your Red Hot Poker are established, they should grow well with few problems. They will grow on their own with little care or attention. Just make sure to view them often, to enjoy their brilliant blooms. And, if you're growing red Hot Pokers, you will likely find Hummingbirds. They are attracted to the tubular flowers. **Red is best colour for attracting Hummingbirds.***

*Flower spikes will begin to bloom in the spring. [Deadhead](#) the spent spikes, to promote continuous blooms all the way to fall. Remove the entire spike.*

*Red Hot Poker plants are heat and drought tolerant. But, we do recommend watering them during the driest periods of summer. They will do well in mid-summer's heat.*

*In cold weather areas, add 2-3 inches of mulch before winter to protect the crowns.*

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### **Insect and Disease:**

*Insect and disease problems are uncommon.*

Discussion then took place about the pros and cons of dead heading the Red Hot Poker – no one at the meeting seemed to be aware that dead heading is needed. The Red hot Poker can be grown from seed or division.

A letter was read out from Mr and Mrs Morrell giving thanks to the Garden Club re the Tithe Barn, which they thought is looking wonderful, and thanked the members of the Garden Club and villagers for donations of plants. Andys reply to them was read out, thanking them for their lovely comments, and noting that he is to meet the School Council tomorrow (12th) to see if they can come up with an idea for displaying information of the history of the Tithe Barn.

Other items under discussion: -

Plant out annuals – beware of the grass frost – take a risk.

- 1 Nancys' Nurseries have got a good selection of plants, Crown Nurseries also has a good selection of healthy looking plants.
- 2 Vera mentioned about a new plant nursery at Thorpe Audlin but had scant details.
- 3 Morrisons did have some good geranium plants until neglect took place.
- 4 Indoor Hydrangea were discussed – Hazel had tried taking cuttings from her plant but was unsuccessful, but then they are annuals – Wendys' indoor hydrangea is still growing outdoors but there are no sign of flowers. Andy talked about his outdoor Hydrangea being pot bound.
- 5 The new 'front' garden at the Kyte was talked – looks lovely but Andy thinks that bark rather than white core would have been nicer, most of the members agreed....
- 6 Spare plants may be donated to the Kyte for the extension of their garden.
- 7 The Orchard reclamation was talked about and will be discussed at the Parish Council tomorrow (12<sup>th</sup>) The retention of the Apples trees is seen as a priority. Vera talked about the Apple Orchard she knew about – see list on last page of the minutes for those interested in Apple Orchards – Mirfield College of The Resurrection also has a small apple orchard with very old apple trees in it.  
You never know one day we could get Darrington Orchard listed along with those mentioned!!!!
- 8 Mrs Cooke wondered how many village people actually are aware of the Village Field, the Tithe Barn and the Orchard – not many probably. Communication as good as it is, is not perfect.
- 9 A chat took place about the 'picking / acquiring / taking' of plants / flowers from the Tithe Barn, and also picking of Daffodils from Escort Road, and the digging up of snowdrops on Marlpit Lane – all these plants are owned by or belong to the village and are not freebies.
- 10 It has been noticed that Wild flowers have had a change of habit tat – they are now growing along road sides rather than in fields. May be in part due to the Local Council not having enough money to cut the road side grass areas, and have not been using weed killer either.
- 11 A 'Donation' of a window box fully planted up and left in the Tithe Barn Cupboard and a bowl of what appeared to be Hyacinths – there are also 3 bowls and a jug -- ??? if these are actually stolen and stored ready for collection later. Vandalism in the Tithe barn area was reported and discussed.
- 12 If it is not too late and you have snowdrops still in the green now is the time to lift and divided them as needed. It is important to keep newly planted shrubs / trees well watered, and to re shape hanging baskets plants if they are getting leggy, oriental poppies can be cut back to encourage a fresh flowering, and it is a good idea to nip out the tips of Fuchsia to encourage bushiness. Dead heading of plants as and when.  
Andy mentioned that his geraniums have survived being outside all winter, Mr and Mrs Cooke talked about their garden being in a frost pocket and they had lost all their geraniums.  
Taking Geraniums cutting were discussed – and led on to the use of rooting powder or not with a 50 – 50 divide on opinions.

A discussion of the use of News-paper in the garden – will make very good plant pots, mulch

Used tea leafs make a good compost but it is important to remove from the non-biodegradable tea bags first.

Chatter about Tea bags versus loose leaf tea – according to Andy loose leaf takes more effort but it makes a better cup of tea. Vera mentioned that her Grandmother used to put a pinch of bi carbonate of soda in to the tea pot then add the tea leafs and hot water and enjoyed the results.

We were reminded that it is important to tie in new growth of Honey suckle and Clematis.

Members were warned about the dangers when going out to buy plants on a hot day, and leaving them in locked cars prior to getting home – plants, like dogs locked in hot cars, suffer badly. Anne mentioned a plant she had bought and left in the car for only a very short time, when she returned to the car the plant had been badly damaged by scorch and dehydration.

Dried or cut up banana peel placed round rose trees discourages aphids. Apparently cut up over ripe banana placed on a high surface attract butterflies, but don't leave them out overnight as it will also attract mice and even worse rats.

The power of salt – salt kills slugs, and can be used as a weed killer if mixed with water – 1 cup of salt to 2 cups of cold water kill off weeds growing between the gaps in flags, but be aware of staining on the modern flags.

First sighting of Swallows seen today. Vera told us that if you find a young swift on the ground don't leave it there – they can't walk, so place it on a wall so that it can climb back up to the nest.



Swallow  
Birds Fly Nonstop for 6 Months).

Lookalikes -- swift



(Swift Record! Migrating



House martin

Damage to the plants in the planters outside the village store have been damaged Killed by vandals, all the soil and plants have had to be removed and replaced. A hard and expensive job. Caused by thoughtlessness by the one or two people.

The village hanging baskets – lack of - were discussed, Andy assured us that First Impressions would have them up and blooming in time for the Feast and Fayre. Stand out colours have been requested – as it was felt that last years' colours were rather dull and the baskets rather faded into the background instead of being eye catching.

A change of plan has be decided on re the planting of the Daffodils round the village as 'people' have complained that the grass between the planters looks a mess after the daffodils have finished flowering but before they can be cut back. So an alternative place for planting will be found, thanks and praise were recorded to Stella and John Hoyle for all their hard work planting 1,000's of daffodils all-round the village over a period of many years.

Andy talked about the Garden Competition – not many people enter their garden so is it worth continuing, a decision will be made later.

Open Gardens between Garden club members was talked about – and will be discussed in more details at the next meeting.

Plant swop – Wendy brought a Mouse plant and Mr and Mrs Cooke brought some Petunias.

The meeting finished at 7pm.

£5 tea coffee money was handed over to the Kyte staff.

Orchard Directory - UK list of apple orchards

Yorkshire

- Ampleforth Abbey Orchard

Ampleforth Abbey  
York  
Telephone: 0044 1439 766899  
Open: Monday-Friday 14:30 - 16:30, August through November

Directions: Situated 4 miles South of Helmsley on the road from Ampleforth to Oswaldkirk, just next to Ampleforth Abbey

Description: The Ampleforth Abbey Orchards have their roots in planting endeavours of Abbot Oswald Smith at the beginning of the 20th century. However apple trees have been grown by Ampleforth monks since their arrival in the valley in 1802. The present orchard has been constantly expanded and remodelled since its inception and extends now over 2 hectares, comprising some 2000 trees. Apples: There are 64 varieties of apples still grown in the orchard, although only 45 are really cultivated. Some of the earliest varieties are Vista Bella and Beauty of Bath, some of the latest are Wagner and Belle de Boscop. Amongst the favourites of many, like Egremont Russet, Sunset and Fiesta, are the real veterans such as Ashmead's Kernel and Ribston Pippin (the oldest variety grown in Ampleforth, originating from a tree grown locally at Ribston Hall in the 17th century).

- Yorkshire Orchards

White House Farm  
Bolton Lane, Wilberfoss, York  
East Riding of Yorkshire  
zip: YO41 5NX  
Telephone: +44 (0)1759 380375  
Open: open days, weekends when in season (while stocks of apples last)

### [Yorkshire Orchards](#)

*Directions:* See website for full directions. We are just off the A1079 York-Hull road, about 10 miles outside York. If you are coming from York take the left turn off the A1079 towards Bolton, about half a mile after the village of Wilberfoss. We are approx 300 yards down the road on the right.

Description: We supply a wide range of specialist apples, from Yorkshire and around the world. We currently grow over 120 different varieties, and aim to plant more. We have a wide range of dessert, culinary and dual purpose apples, and are planting cider and crab apples as well. We also offer a service where we will look after a tree on your behalf - please ask for details

Apples: Wide range of Yorkshire, English, and International varieties - both classic and modern. We are planting some unusual varieties including Chivers Delight, Dog's Snout, Annie Elizabeth. Also Ribston Pippin, Kidd's Orange Red, Red Pippin, Katy and more.