

Darrington Parish Council Newsletter

VOL 1, ISSUE. 14

AUTUMN 2016

Firework & Bonfire Night Saturday 5th November

Autumn is now upon us and plans are in place to make our village bonfire every bit as successful as previous years.

The event will start at 5.30pm on the village field opposite the school. Competition has been stiff for the best Guy Fawkes and carved pumpkins, there are prizes on offer so start thinking about your designs now. The Pumpkins and Guy Fawkes will be judged at 5.45pm shortly followed by the lighting of the fire.

Thanks to your generous donations this year's firework display should be bigger and better than previous years and will start at 7.00pm.

Get drawing, painting or using your computer skills to create pictures themed on Bonfire and Halloween nights. Please hand your entries in to the Village Store by Wednesday 26th October. Pictures must be A4 only and don't forget to write your Name and Age



on the back. The winner of each age group will win a prize. All pictures will be displayed in the reading rooms from 6pm on bonfire night.

On sale we will have Burgers, Hot Dogs, Cakes, Soup and Jacket Potatoes, together with a selection of hot and cold drinks, beer, wine and mulled wine. Please do not bring your own drinks.

The gate to the field will be open from Saturday 22nd October for you to bring your garden rubbish

and wood. For safety reasons strictly no Glass, Soil, Mattresses, Suites or Rubble. Note, we may need to close the gates early to keep the bonfire to a reasonable size.

Although we have a willing team of helpers we always welcome people that want to join in and become part of this community event.

We also need your generous donations of parkin, buns and cakes and would be grateful if you could bring these to the field at 5pm on the day.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pigs, Potatoes and Sustainable energy. 2

A1 Update 2

Scarecrow Competition 2016 3

Christmas Carols at the Tithe Barn. 3

Gardening Club 3

Clock go Back 4

If you would like some more information, would like to join the committee or help out with the event please contact

Andrew on 01977 796133, Kenny on 01977 704208 or Paul on 01977 705373.

Find the FACEBOOK page Darrington Village Field Trust and "like" for more updates.



Traffic Light Shooting

It would appear that some drivers passing through our village are having difficulty with understanding what a red traffic light signifies.

This is evidence by witnesses noting several incidents where the light on red has been completely ignored.

The Parish Council have

made the local police aware of these incidents but in the meantime please use caution at the cross roads junction.

Dog Control

Following a recent incident on the village field where an over excited animal caused distress to a child who was playing, we again appeal to dog owners who exercise their dog on the village field to consider other users. Not everyone is a fan of dogs so please control your dog when around people.

New Councillor

Darrington Parish Council is delighted to welcome our new councillor Ian Thompson. Ian is very familiar with the Parish Council having audited the council for a number of years. His particular interest is in the A1 and trying to improve its environmental impact. (See his report on P2.)

A1 Noise Update

Those of you who enjoy watching "Escape to the Country" will be familiar with the newly retired couple seeking to move from their three bedroomed semi in London to a six bedroomed mansion with five acres in Lincolnshire. The wife invariably cups her hand to her ear, turns her nose up and says "I think I can hear a road!" What would they think of Darrington?

In March 2014 a representative from the Highways Agency attended a parish council meeting and confirmed that our village was in the category of suffering the highest road noise. A European Directive requires an action plan from DEFRA to reduce the noise and we were told that resurfacing with low noise surfacing was the "best approach". Given that the northern carriageway was resurfaced recently and villagers reported no noticeable reduction in noise we discovered that be-

cause of the slip road entry at the south end of the village and the exit to the Ferrybridge services a few hundred yards to the north the resurfacing had to be done with a high friction surface to support heavy braking. This surface has less good acoustic attributes! An acoustic barrier or fence would appear to be a better solution.

However, there are many hundreds of sites demanding such a barrier and the decision on which to implement is currently based upon assessing the number of residences that would benefit and working out a cost per house figure. If this figure is acceptable the work is carried out, otherwise the next on the list is assessed. Given the relatively low density of housing in Darrington we are currently near the bottom of the list! However, we have managed to persuade Highway England to perform the feasibility study and come up with a costing. We await

that report.

With regard to the A1 itself the government have a fully committed plan for new roads in their current road building period which takes us up to 2020. However, in the Autumn Statement of 2014 the government confirmed that they are "committed" to improving the stretch from Darrington to Redhouse to a "smart motorway" and increasing the capacity of the "Doncaster bypass" down beyond the M18 junction. These are the only two stretches of the A1 from London to Wetherby that they have "committed" to improving.

Highways England are in the very early stages of producing a plan to deliver that. We have been told that all parties including our villagers will be able to take part in reviewing any schemes they propose.

Pigs, Potatoes and Sustainable Energy!

At R. Wilson & Son, Church Farm, the potato harvest is in full swing. Our potatoes go to McCain, who are renowned for their oven chips. The varieties we grow are used for the famous 'Mac fry' for McDonalds restaurants in the UK and are produced by McCain factories. The next time you order a Big Mac and fries you may be consuming potatoes that have been grown in fields around Darrington!

Our cereal harvest finished on the 7th September with grain yields lower than last year but most wheat and barley was harvested dry due to the kind weather over the summer. Sowing of next years cereal crops is now well under way and the brown cultivated fields of late summer are slowly turning green with emerging wheat, barley and oil seed rape crops.

Pigs have been part of farming life at Darrington since the 1950's. Back then our pigs were housed just behind what is now the village shop. They could also be found living in the Tithe barn, on Philips Lane next to Church, and were even roaming the fields which later became the site for Darrington Primary School! In those days the UK could boast being nearly 90% self sufficient in pork. Today, however, our

country is only 50% self sufficient meaning a lot of the pork we consume is imported from around the world. The pork produced at our farm in Darrington ends up in some of the main supermarkets as well as some local butchers. Prices to the farmer are at last rising after being below the cost of production for the last 12 months.

Our pigs have sometimes been a hot topic locally because although pigs are known for being very clean and intelligent animals their manure can be a bit smelly. The recent Parish Council Odour log has helped us identify some of the processes that create the most noticeable odour issues. As a result of this we have been able to alter some of our management routines to help minimise our impact. We are continually working with the Environment Agency local officer to ensure we are doing everything we can in this area.

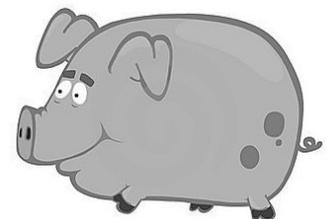
Over the past two years we have invested heavily in manure management and storage and have also built a 500KW Anaerobic Digester. The digester uses 70% of the manure and slurry we produce to generate electricity. The plant is a few miles away and uses pig manure, maize and rye to produce methane gas which then runs

a generator putting electricity back into the grid. This renewable power means our pig poo is now powering nearly 1000 homes! It also means less manure spreading on the fields around Darrington.

Around the village the farm has had a busy year helping with the Church Orchard project, Darrington School's new reflective garden, the basketball area at the park and of course the Feast & Fayre and bonfire. We continue to help the village where we can as a thank you for your continued support.

Always look for the Red Tractor when food shopping and remember to put British pork on your fork!!

Peter Batty
R. Wilson & Son



Christmas Carols at the Tithe Barn. Monday 28th Nov. 6pm

The Parish Council and the children of Darrington school invite you once again to join us for this years Christmas carols event on Monday 28th November at 6pm to be held in the Tithe Barn area.

We're delighted that Headteacher Mrs Ranby, staff, parents and, of course, pupils of Darrington School plus Councilors will not only be leading the singing but also inviting you for a warming drink and perhaps a 'festive bite to eat' in the school afterwards.

We're planning to make the Tithe Barn area look quite festive and look forward to another lovely evening. (Sorry, but obviously it won't be possible to park in the Tithe Barn from the afternoon of November 28th through

to the evening.)

There will still be a Christmas tree with lights near the Darrington Hotel although there won't, though be a formal switch-on date.



Garden Club News



Darrington Open Gardens 2016

We were delighted to receive 12 entrants for this, our first year!

On each day for the week following the Feast and Fayre, there were at least 4 of the gardens open and on the final Sunday, 8 gardens were open! Comments received from participants and visitors were VERY positive.

So positive, that we will be running another Open Garden week in 2017.

A couple of the popular reasons for the positive comments was the fact that this year wasn't competitive, it was simply about sharing some lovely gardens as well as having the opportunity to meet other people with a shared interest in gardening!

We're looking forward to having an even more successful event in 2017. We'll be publicising arrangements well in advance!

Burglaries

As nights draw in please vigilant and take suitable precautions to secure your properties, garages and sheds as Darrington seems to be a current target for thieves.

In particular consider where you keep your car keys as this is often the only thing they steal, but then drive your car off the driveway. Do not leave them in plain sight. Also keep the outside doors locked even when you are in as walk in burglaries are the most common. If your suspicions are aroused contact the Police.

Scarecrow Competition 2016

A big thanks goes to everyone who got involved with this years Scarecrow competition.

Following the theme of Film people or Characters over scarecrows appeared throughout the village for everyone to enjoy.

Everyone had the opportunity to vote for their favourite. First prize went to Mick Flaherty for Spiderman, 2nd went to Dean Rose for the Flintstones and Third prize went to

The Baxter Family for The Hungry Caterpillar.

Lisa Parker was the winner of the Voting slip draw.

Next years theme is TV Characters and will run from the 17th June so get your thinking caps on!



Darrington Parish Council Members
 Mike Britton—Chair
 708205 , britton1955@btinternet.com
 Fiona Smith—Vice Chair 797644
 Kelvin Wilkins—Clerk 702240
 Paul Stainer—Responsible Finance
 Officer - 705373
 Ian Thompson 798884
 John Hoyle 704619
 Andy Tagger 704681
 Vera Stones 794794
 Linda Johnson 702923

Darrington Parish Council are working on your behalf to improve and maintain the atmosphere and facilities of Darrington and Wentbridge.

If you have any issues that you wish to raise or ideas to help the community please contact one of the Councillors detailed above.

If you are interested in getting more involved contact the Chair , Michael Britton or come to the next Parish Council meeting which is usually held on the second Thursday in the month in the Reading Rooms, Philips Lane. (Dates and Agenda can be found on the web site)

Keep up to date with Darrington events at www.darrington.org.uk and www.darringtonvillagefield.org

Our thanks to Mid Yorkshire Golf Club for sponsoring the production of this newsletter.

All the information given in this newsletter is provided in good faith. As such the Parish Council disclaim all responsibility for any inaccuracies irrespective of the reason or cause.

Newsletter created and edited by Kelvin Wilkins.

The Perfect Venue for...
Weddings, Christenings & Celebrations
(not forgetting a remarkable Sunday Lunch)

Open to all, everyone welcome!
 Call now to talk to Michael about your celebration

Havercroft Lane, Darrington,
 Pontefract, West Yorkshire WF8 3BP
 (Just off A1 1/2 mile south of M62 Junction 32A and 33)



We're more than just a golf club

Tel: 01977 704522 Web: www.midyorkshiregolfclub.com

Clocks Go Back 30th October

As the clocks change and the nights draw in this can herald the arrival of some unwelcome visitors to the area.

It is often around this time that burglaries are at their height so we ask everyone to be vigilant with their security arrangements and most of all KEEP SAFE.

The darker mornings and evenings also make it more hazardous for the school run so again please slow down and keep a look out for the children going back and forth to school.

The clocks go back **Sunday 30th October.**

