

Darrington Parish Council Newsletter

Autumn 2017

Firework & Bonfire Night Saturday 4th 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 takes place on the village field opposite the school and will start with the fire being lit at 5.30pm. Thanks to your generous donations this year's firework display should be bigger and better than previous years and will start at 7.00pm.



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. There is also a drawing competition, winners receive a Chocolate Bar courtesy of the Village Store, so get drawing, painting or using your computer skills to create a scene from the Darrington Bonfire and Firework display. Please hand your entries in to the Village Store by Wednesday

18th October and don't forget to write your Name and Age on the back.

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

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.

The gate to the field will be open from Saturday 21st October for you to bring your combustible 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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. We have a willing team of much appreciated helpers but we always need more people to join in. There is lots to do be-

fore, during and after the evening itself, so why not sign up to get a little more involved in this community event? Please contact Andrew on 01977 796133, Kenny on 01977 704208 or Paul on 01977 705373. Or send your contact details to info@darringtonvillagefield.org and we will get in touch with you.

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



Change of Chairman

I was delighted to be elected as chairman of the Parish Council following the annual meeting in May 2017.

Unfortunately, I suffered some health issues after taking on the role and following medical advice I have resigned.

I would like to give thanks

to my fellow councillors and many residents for their support and encouragement during what has, for me, been a difficult time.

I do intend to stay on as a councillor and focus on the relationship with Highways England and carry on lobbying for an improvement to the A1. Councillor Briton has once again been

elected as chairman and I must give particular thanks to him for the advice and guidance he gave me during my short tenure.

Ian Thompson

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Clocks Go Back 29th October



Highways England Update

Road building in England is currently split into 5-year periods and the current phase ends in 2020. When we would expect to benefit is in the next 5-year phase commencing in 2021.

In previous newsletters we have reported that the government was “committed” to upgrading the stretch of A1 from Darrington to Redhouse to motorway standard. In more recent documentation the important word “committed” has disappeared

However, recent documentation highlights the following issues in the stretch from Darrington to Redhouse – air quality and noise excesses, capacity issues with a bottleneck at Darrington, high risk of collision, poor carriage-way alignment, a flooding risk, an

ageing asset, a lack of intelligent signage to inform motorists of the situation along this stretch, and the current road inhibits opportunities for economic growth along the M62 corridor. Our strong case for a change is recognised.

We have been told that a team is already in place and working on how a “smart motorway” for the stretch from Darrington to Redhouse may be achieved. Our current understanding is that such research will take place into 2018 and a decision phase will then begin resulting in a decision in 2019.

We expect that we and all villagers will be invited to express our views in this phase.

Smiley Sid Traffic Speed Monitor

Speeding through the village is a constant issue with both Valley Road and Estcourt Road being used by motorists for access to the A1 and beyond and so greatly increasing the volume of traffic a village the size of Darrington might normally expect.

In an attempt to understand what’s happening better and hopefully prick the conscience of offending drivers causing them to slow down we are borrowing a device known as “Smiley Sid” from Wakefield MDC. This is a lightweight radar activated speed indication display (SID) which measures and displays the speed of approaching vehicles. If their speed is less than 30 mph a smiley face appears. If greater than 30 the actual speed is shown. The unit is approximately 31” by 24” and is mounted on a frame and is designed to sit on the pavement facing the traffic to measure its speed.

We will borrow the unit for a couple of weeks and use it in both Estcourt and Valley Roads in positions advised to us by the police. It will be operated by villagers and is no more than a warning device. No speeding tickets will be issued and registration num-

bers are not recorded. Wakefield MDC have only one such device which they loan out to councils throughout the district.

Our local PCSOs have indicated they will join us for moral support on some of its outings. Although we know we have a problem we have no statistics and we intend to collect data and try to get an impression as to whether it does slow traffic down or not. If it works we could either buy one or join with a couple of other councils and buy one between us. It will be appearing in the next few weeks.

Find out more about Smiley Sid at <https://www.trafficttechnology.co.uk/displays/sid-speed-indication>



Keeping Darrington Tidy

Our thanks goes to those who help to keep the village tidy by keeping overhanging bushes and trees in trim, picking up litter and generally taking a pride in our surroundings.

Dog Fouling.

It has been brought to our attention that fouling is particularly bad on Philips Lane and Back Lane. Believe it or not there are some examples where the mess HAS been collected in a bag but is then left hanging on a branch for the Dog Poo Fairy to deal with.

This problem is now being monitored by our local PCSO Officer. He has already started to challenge dog walkers to prove they have the appropriate equipment to clear up after their dog. Age is no excuse as he has advised us that this responsibility belongs to anyone over the age of 10.

We know the vast majority of dog owners in the village do clear up after their pets and we would ask that some vigilance is maintained to apprehend those who are less so inclined.

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.

Christmas Carols 5th Dec . 6pm

Once again, we're delighted to be able to support Darrington School's Carol and Mince Pies evening.

This year, it will be on Tuesday 5th December starting at 6pm in the Tithe Barn, followed by warming refreshments in Darrington School. Children from Darrington School will be lead-



ing us in a selection of Christmas Carols - everyone welcome.

As in previous years, this is a free event but any Donations you feel able to make to the school will be very welcome.



Garden Club News

Darrington Garden Club meets every second Wednesday of the each month from 6pm to 7pm at The Kyte Hotel.

It's a really friendly, fun way to spend an hour once a month chatting about gardens, planting and sharing news about the best places to buy everything from plants to compost and how to find quality gardener-help or lawn mower repairers or patio pavers.

No subs, although we do hope you'll contribute towards our welcoming

Kyte Hosts by buying a hot, soft or maybe alcoholic drink.

We're most certainly not a 'cliquey' Club! You'll be made VERY welcome - and you'll have a really enjoyable hour (or your money back!)

Next few meetings: November 8th, December 13th (special free Xmas Quiz meeting), January 10th, February 14th (Valentine themed free quiz), March 14th.

Questions? Andy Tagger 704681

Defibrillator Project update

As you may be aware, Darrington Parish Council have adopted the old BT telephone kiosk in the village and plan to have it replaced with a traditional red kiosk which will house a defibrillator for use by people in village should the need arise.

A certificate of lawfulness has now been received, confirming we do not need planning permission to carry out the swap, and so we are now awaiting timelines and final details before the order is made.

Part of the costs of this project have been met by generous donations from the Darrington Ladies Group and from the proceeds of the Feast and Fayre Five mile run for which we are very grateful.

We will keep you posted via the DPC page on Facebook!

Find out more about defibrillation at <https://www.bhf.org.uk/heart-health/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators>

Air Crash Memorial

A project team has been formed to plan a commemoration to mark the 75th anniversary of the air crash involving a Halifax bomber in Darrington, Pontefract on the 18th September 1943. The crash resulted in the sad loss of its six crew members who were on a training flight, together with four Darrington residents. Several families had to be rehoused due to the regrettable, serious damage to properties on Chapel Hill, Valley Road.

Priority 1 for the team is to locate and contact families of the crew and survivors/ families of those affected by the crash. We're keen to make contact with anyone who either has a family connection or an authentic 'tale to tell'.

(Currently, we've identified contacts from as far afield as Australia, and Canada as well, of course, the UK.)

Priority 2 is to gather as much information about the crash and the location and families affected. This can be provided either verbally, or in the form of: photos, maps, newspaper articles or other documents. We plan to enable a better understanding of this tragic event and its effects on those lost in the accident and village life in Darrington by building an online virtual resource.

Priority 3 is to plan for the commemoration day on Sat 22nd September 2018 using all the resources gathered in advance and involving as many families as possible who were affected by the crash. More details available at a later stage.



Darrington Parish Council Members
 Mike Britton—Chair 708205
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 Fiona Smith—Vice Chair 797644
 Kelvin Wilkins—Clerk 702240
 clerk@darrington.org.uk
 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 and find us on Facebook under Darrington Parish Council

Our thanks to Darrington Golf Club and Hungry Horse 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.



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