

Darrington Parish Council Newsletter

VOLUME 1-ISSUE 15

SPRING 2017

Scarecrow Festival 16th—26th June

This years Scarecrow Festival will be from the **16th—26th June** to coincide with the Darrington Feast and Fayre weekend.

The theme for this year is **Film people or characters**

Free entry forms are available from the Village Store. This helps us to make the scarecrow trail map as accurate as possible so others can enjoy your efforts.

Maps of the scarecrow trail will be available in the Village Store or at the Parish Council stall at the Feast and Fayre for £1.

Prizes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd best scarecrows as voted by you.

Free straw will be available in the Spread Eagle car park from 18th May.

If you require further information contact:

Gail Jenkins in the Village Store or Vera Stones on 794794



Notes from the new Chair— Ian Thompson

I want to pay tribute to Mick Britton's chairmanship of the parish council over many years. During his tenure, we've seen him run and be active in joint projects with the church to transform and renovate the Tythe Barn and Old Orchard areas of the village along with the renovation of the "Reading Rooms".

Whenever one of our beautiful stone walls has fallen down Mick has led from the front in rebuilding them and presided over the replacing of the olden wooden planters with stone ones.

Our financial position is stable and adherence to legal matters within the 1972 Local Government Act exemplary. In short he has stepped down

from the chairmanship giving his successor every opportunity to thrive! I'm delighted he will remain on the council as a member. On behalf of all of the residents of the village I'd like to thank Mick for his hard work and dedication through his term of office.

For my part there is one huge issue in the village. The traffic on the A1 brings high levels of noise, pollution and congestion to Darrington and endangers our residents lives whenever they venture onto the road through the dangerous slip roads. Estcourt Road and Valley Road are "rat-runs" for motorists often speeding

through en route to joining the A1 for their daily commute. The latest Highways England document on the "future of the A1" names Darrington thirteen times alongside issues and confirms that an upgrade to a smart motorway will be commenced in the next road building phase beginning in 2021. Tentative plans are with the government and I am told they will soon be released for public comment.

The general election is not helping as government policy may change after the election and may bring delays to the process. My focus will be on keeping up the pressure on Highways

England to solve our problems and confirm and consolidate the support given to us in a recent meeting with the acting chief executive of Wakefield MDC. Hopefully our newly elected MP will soon come on board. We have had little power to influence the decision making process to date but I am thankful that the upgrade was committed to by the outgoing government and that the planning process is underway. I will keep residents informed as soon as the plans are made public and ensure your voice is heard!

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Parish Council Annual Report from the Chair 2016/17.

Once again I must begin my report by thanking all those who helped with Parish Council projects over the past year, these include all those who participated in the Scarecrow Competition and the Open Garden event, those who helped with the Feast and Fayre stall, the Christmas Carol service and the erection and removal of the Christmas tree and decorations and thanks again to the Brotherhood Church for donating the trees.

The Scarecrow Competition and Open Garden event will take place again this summer, details will be made available later.

Perennial problems persist with inconsiderate parking, dog fouling and fly tipping, unfortunately there is little the Parish Council can do about these things except plead with individuals to consider the consequences of their actions. With this in mind it's the time of year to remind you all about overhanging vegetation. As you begin to tidy your gardens please take a moment to check if your bushes and shrubs need a trim on the outside as well.

Unfortunately, I am unable to report that the ongoing planning dispute at the east end of the village is anywhere

near resolution although it has been going on for over 7 years. Although we regularly remind WMDC planning department that the situation is unresolved, progress is poor.

We face a couple of challenges in the coming months, there are two developments one on Phillips Lane and one at the old Hillcroft Farm site which will cause disruption. We have spoken to the developers at both projects who have assured us that they will try to work with us to minimise problems. It will not be possible to please everyone, but a degree of tolerance will help.

A more positive subject is our intention to install a defibrillator in the village. This will cost around £5000. Thanks go to those individuals and groups who have already contributed.

Another project is to install some kind of memorial to the WWII Air Crew and residents who died when their aircraft crashed into houses on Chapel Hill. It will be the 75th anniversary of this sad incident in just over a year, we hope to have some sort of memorial in place by then.

Wall rebuilding and landscaping in the old Church Orchard has now been

completed, but there is a need for ongoing maintenance, our thanks go to the Golf Club who have agreed to cut the grass.

Our Parish Council informed WMDC that they did not require an increase in the precept this year, however, when figures were published the household percentage showed an increase. This is because the number of people paying the precept in our parish has reduced in the past year, consequently for the Parish Council to receive the same money those who do pay have been charged slightly more.

We remain one of the lowest precept council's in the WMDC group.

To conclude, the coming year sees the Parish Council in a sound financial state and councillors maintain a resolve to work towards improving benefits for all residents.

I would like to remind all residents that our monthly meetings (second Thursday of each month) are open to anyone who wishes to come along and comment on proceedings.

Michael Britton Chairman DPC.
(outgoing)

The Darrington 5 Mile Run 17th June

This years is the 20th Anniversary run and is already fully subscribed although 25 places are available for entry on the day

Come along and cheer for your favourites.

This years profit will go towards helping the Parish Council purchase a defibrillator for the village.



Darrington Air Crash site Memorial

Darrington Parish Council is supporting a project to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the day an RAF Halifax Bomber crashed into houses at Chapel Hill, Valley Road.

The crash occurred on the 18th September 1943.

All six aircrew perished in the crash along with 4 Darrington residents.

At the time, a neighbour living nearby reported being woken up, fearful that the noise and flames were due to a German bombing attack!

A significant and determined community effort ensured that nearby surviving residents were looked after, with some, eventually, having to be rehoused due to the damage to properties.

A project group is working hard be-

tween now and the anniversary date in 2018 to plan a fitting commemoration. This will include not only contacting as many surviving relatives of those who sadly perished but also arranging for an appropriate way of marking the event for generations to come. We've already contacted the Royal British Legion as well as the RAFA.

There will be a formal launch of the project later this year but in the meantime, if you've any information about - or connection with - that very sad but important event, please contact Andy Tagger.

(Coincidentally, 2018 also marks the 100th anniversary of the formation of the RAF!)

Garden Open Week

18-25th June 2017.

It's not a competition, just an opportunity for folk to 'share' views of some of the lovely gardens in Darrington.

No entry fee - just contact Andy Tagger on 01977 704681 or pop into Darrington Stores and leave your details there.

Your garden doesn't have to be 'open' every day - you decide which day and between which times.

Signs/directions and printed details will be sorted after Andy has had a chat with you to answer any questions you may have before the Open Garden week.

Darrington Golf Club, Darrington Stores and The Kyte are once again very generously supporting Darrington Open Gardens 2017.



Feast and Fayre 2017—June 17th

The 2017 Darrington Feast & Fayre takes place on Saturday 17th June .

Confirmed acts for this year already include Knottingley Concert Brass, Yorkshire band DB3 performing Rock and Country covers along with Dance Fusion .

There will be the ever popular Cake Baking competition and this year there are two categories: Best Tasting Cake and Best Cake Design .Entries to be taken to the catering tent by 12.30 Saturday please.

This years King will be Ben Banks attended by Thomas Grace Nicholls, Queen is Martha Fieldhouse attended by Molly Bennett and Evie Cook.

As there are so many runners this year we would be grateful if the roads on the course could be as open as possible

during the race so please park thoughtfully.

The Feast & Fayre really does unite the village and the key to its future success is encouraging new faces to come forward. As ever we are particularly in need of helpers to set up Friday evening & Saturday morning as well as people who can stay behind after the event to assist the clear up operation.

We are also asking for raffle prizes and contributions for the food hamper- please drop these off at the Village Store.

If you are interested in hiring a stall please contact Vera on 794794.

For offers of helping out on the day please contact Kate on 07590 230486.

General enquiries and offers of help in the catering tent should be directed to Sam 706479.

We look forward to another enjoyable afternoon of entertainment.

Visit our website at www.darringtonvillagefield.org for new updates or like our facebook page.



Darrington Parish Council Members

Ian Thompson—Chair 798884 ,
thompsi@hotmail.com

Mike Britton 708205 ,

Fiona Smith—Vice Chair 797644

Kelvin Wilkins—Clerk 702240

Paul Stainer—Responsible Finance
Officer - 705373

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 above.

If you are interested in getting more involved contact the Chair , Ian Thompson or come to the next Parish Council meeting which is usually held on the second Thursday in the month in the Reading Rooms.



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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MON - FRI	ANY 2 MEALS for £8.99		

1 Free Drink per advert, valid until 30th June 217