

## Darrington Parish Council Annual Chairman's Report. 2020/21

The past year has not been the easiest for the parish council. In order to continue with business, like many other people, we have been forced to hold virtual meetings by telephone link. Personally I found this a less than ideal solution, but I accept that it was the best that was possible under the circumstances. Though we did manage to give access to members of the public I would have preferred face to face contact. Thankfully the restrictions were eventually relaxed and we were once again able to meet together in one place. Unfortunately the Reading Rooms, (our normal meeting place) remained closed for a while, but we were fortunate that Andrew Johnson, the landlord of the Spread allowed us to use his meeting room in the interim. I would like to note that the parish Council were very grateful to Andrew for allowing this.

Throughout this unsettled period the Parish Council continued to function. All our normal business went on uninterrupted and we managed to carry out some extra project work as well, notably the purchase and installation of dog poo stations and new benches throughout the village.

In some respects the pandemic brought out the best in some people. I am thankful to the various groups and individuals who used the time to collect litter in and around the village, and I would especially like to thank Avril and Jonathan Jackson who have been looking after the old Tithe Barn garden.

In recent months we have been fortunate in having Jo Jones assist the council in preparing the minutes and other duties. Though Jo is not a member of the council, I have no hesitation in welcoming her to our group and thanking her for her work to date. I am confident that she will continue to serve the parish council well in the future.

Our finances remain sound and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr Paul Stainer for his excellent fiscal management, not only for the past year, but for the many previous years that he has held the position of Responsible Finance Officer. Paul has made it known that he will be standing down from this role in the coming year. Throughout his tenure Paul has carried out his role professionally and competently, but always with good humour and wit, I can not praise his efforts enough.

Paul and I decided some time ago that this was to be our final year serving as parish councillors. He will remain in position to the end of the financial year, and I will not seek re-election next May. Sadly I have recently been informed that Cllr Smith our current Vice Chair will also be standing down. Fi has been a real asset to the council and a great help to me personally. I would like to thank her for her excellent service.

Clearly there will be vacancies on the council in the coming months. Anyone wishing to fill one of the vacancies should contact an existing councillor, or come to one of the meetings, which are held on every second Thursday of the month, in Darrington Reading Rooms, starting at 7pm.

Michael Britton  
Chairman DPC

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## Darrington Village Field Trust

Looking Forward to 2022.

As the nights get longer, and the weather gets colder, it's easy to just snuggle up in front of the TV just chilling out and starting to think about Christmas. At the same time as being bombarded with adverts for food and present ideas. Then along comes Boxing Day and the adverts suddenly all change to summer holiday destinations. Holiday booking in 2022 should be easier as the covid restrictions and travel restrictions are being lifted, and we all become used to the new normal of needing covid passports alongside the usual travel documentation.

2022 also means that the Feast and Fayre will be back again on the 25<sup>th</sup> June after a couple of years of it having to be cancelled. So, make a note of the date now in your new 2022 diaries.

Many people will have felt the financial impact of coronavirus over the last couple of years and so has the village field trust. There have been thousands of pounds of expenditure just to maintain the status quo on the field, but no income whatsoever. 2022 is the year when we hope to get things back on a sounder financial footing.

Sam Wood has done a wonderful job over the last 11 years pulling together the Feast and Fayre and has now decided to step aside and let others take over. This year Jenna Pinto is taking on the task. Naturally, she cannot do everything herself, and will need a myriad of helpers with all sorts of skills and ages to make the day a success.

So, if you are a local business wanting to advertise in the programme, or a stall holder wishing to hire a stall get in touch now.

For those of you who may have over indulged a bit during lockdown and are planning to make 2022 a year to get a bit fitter. Why not target the 5-mile run that day as being your 2022 goal.

Nearer the time we will need help with putting up stalls and marquees, catering, manning stalls, marshalling the run, organising games, and yes, the less glamorous side as well, litter picking and bin emptying. If you think you can help in any way possible let us know. The only personal reward you will receive that day is the knowledge that you volunteered to help get the community of Darrington back together after a long layoff, thus helping it become once again a great place to live. More information will be available in the New Year.

***All dog owners using the field should keep their dogs under control in the presence of other users.***

John Hoyle.

Chairman Darrington Field Trust  
contact email [john.hoyle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:john.hoyle@hotmail.co.uk)

or Jenna at [feastandfayre@gmail.com](mailto:feastandfayre@gmail.com)  
Facebook & Instagram @darringtonvillagefield



### Christmas Coffee Morning

10:00am to 2:00pm on 16th December  
At the Reading Room, Philips Lane,  
Darrington.

Join us for a mince pie, a cup coffee or  
tea and a chat. All welcome.

### NEWSLETTERS

Why not go green and save some Parish funds? Choose to receive your Parish Council Newsletter by email instead of print.

Please contact  
[vicechair@darrington.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@darrington.org.uk)  
with your email and home address.

## DARRINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Delighted to report that we've had 3 physical meetings since August.

Even more delighted to report that to date, no-one has expressed any worries about our 'Covid-Aware/safe' arrangements and currently we're well-set to continue on every 2nd Wednesday at 'Gallimores at The Kyte'.

Speaking of the Kyte - and just for anyone who hasn't attended on of our recent 3 meetings, we don't 'charge' subs: anyone is VERY welcome to attend and enjoy our meetings. We do, however, ask everyone to purchase a drink of some description. Craig VERY generously allows us to pay £1 (yes, ONLY a £1) for a super cup of Illy Coffee or a Tea.

We even get 'table service' so you don't have to carry a hot drink after ordering. By all means, buy a different drink over the bar.

Although some of the 'regulars' have still been a tad 'Covid' apprehensive, please let me try to re-assure you; once you arrive - and many folk are still wearing their mask when moving into public indoor places - you'll enter a large room that isn't overcrowded and has ventilation (although it's still well-warm enough to remove your coat).

At our last meeting we discovered everything from whether the 'dropping' of huge power station uildings may have affected our local water table (If so many of us actually felt the thuds when they fell, what impact may that have had on the ground below?) We considered challenges to Veg growers this year as well as sharing suggestions to increase soil fertility and 'jobs or the month.

We're arranging to invite some speakers to some future meetings ranging from a 'garden focused' Climatologist to Wildlife specialists.

If you've never attended, please consider checking us out at one of our future meetings:

Wednesday Dec. 8th

(Special Xmas themed meeting with, *hopefully*, a few festive - Covid-safely-presented - nibbles 6pm

Wednesday Jan 12th 6pm

W.... You get the pattern? Every second Wednesday at Gallimores at The Kyte 6pm to 7pm

Look forward to seeing you

Want to ask a question? Please pone 01977 704681

Thanks

Andy Tagger

### **Ever thought about becoming a Parish Councillor?**

The 'Council Year' runs from late April to early May.

Darrington Residents have been very lucky (honestly!) to have had a so many Parish Councillors who have been 'in post' for so many years.

We haven't had a large number of changes and some on the Council have served well over 15 years!

Inevitably, there will be changes - not a bad thing in itself 'cos it's good to welcome fresh ideas, interests and faces.

If you have ever thought about becoming a Parish Councillor, please either contact our Clerk or one of the other Councillors, or simply pop down to one of the meetings to check-out what goes on and ask what's involved.

There will be some changes next May and It's very important that Darrington Parish Council is able to continue contributing towards the Physical and Emotional environment of our Darrington Parish.

Please don't assume that 'someone else' will always step-up.

We look forward to hearing from you and answering any of your questions.

## Darrington Parish Council

Michael Britton Chair	708205
Fiona Smith Vice Chair	797644
Paul Stainer Responsible Finance Officer	705373
Andy Tagger	704681
Vera Stones	794794
Jonathan Jackson	797540
Linda Thompson	700059

The Parish Council Clerk  
Email [clerk@darrington.org.uk](mailto:clerk@darrington.org.uk)

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

Keep up to date with  
Darrington events at  
[www.darrington.org.uk](http://www.darrington.org.uk) and  
[www.darringtonvillagefield.org](http://www.darringtonvillagefield.org)

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 by  
Kelvin Wilkins and edited by  
Vera Stones.

Available 7 days a week

### Family Experience Package for 2

- 2 x baskets of balls to use on the driving range
- One of our qualified professionals to show you the ropes
- 2 x meals in the clubhouse lounge
- 2 x soft drinks to go with your meals
- 1 x golf buggy to access the course\*
- 1 hour access to the putting greens
- A little memento for your child to take home

**£29**

\*Buggies used to access the putting greens only, not a round of golf

Available 7 days a week

### Family Experience Package for 4

- 4 x baskets of balls to use on the driving range
- One of our qualified professionals to show you the ropes
- 4 x meals in the clubhouse lounge
- 4 x soft drinks to go with your meals
- 2 x golf buggy to access the course\*
- 1 hour access to the putting greens
- A little memento for your children to take home

**£56**

\*Buggies used to access the putting greens only, not a round of golf

  
**GREENE KING  
INNS**

**Darrington  
Hotel**



To all our local residents and neighbours,  
we wish you all a  
Very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year.

Thank you all very much for your  
continued custom and support.



Call us on 01977 602516 or pop in and see  
us to book your Festive Celebrations