

Chair's Report February 2024.

I am pleased to welcome Dennis Burns to the Council and look forward to working with him. I would like to begin by saying a big thank you to the residents of Darrington for their generous sponsoring of some of the projects the Council has undertaken recently:-

- The Remembrance Service and exhibition of memorabilia was well attended. The announcement to replace the damaged plaque was supported and people there made a donation towards this.
- In the autumn Councillor Pete Batty suggested we should look into putting some kind of Christmas decoration on the lampposts. This would have taken quite a large sum from our precept so it was suggested to ask for sponsors and we were able to sponsor 17 of the 20 little Christmas trees thanks to the residents of Darrington.

Without this financial help we would not be able to carry out these projects with the precept money we receive from Wakefield

Two other events that have happened in the Village were supported by The Village Field Trust and organised by Councillor Karina Whalley. They were the Bonfire Night and Santa's Sleigh. Both these events have been a great success and hopefully along with the Feast and Fayre and Christmas decorations will become part of Darrington's annual events.

Speeding

We have received more complaint regarding traffic speeding through the village, although this is exacerbated by the ongoing A1 road works it is not this that causes drivers to speed and unfortunately will continue to speed after the road works have been completed. We are therefore looking at various devices that may encourage drivers not to speed through our village. If anyone is aware of a device that may work please come along to a meeting and tell us about it. We are presently investigating the possibility of installing a 'Smiley Sid' flashing sign. Or publishing speeding information gathered by the speed cameras.

Off Road Motor bikes.

We are currently getting reports of people riding off road motor bikes along the public footpaths around the Village, this is very dangerous and should stop. The Council have informed the Police and Wakefield Council about this problem. If you are troubled by this please report it to the Police 101 number. The more complaints the Police get the more likely we are to receive a regular police presence.

Now to end with something more positive the Council are asking for ideas as to how the Village can celebrate 80 years since DDay. Small scale Summer Ball, Ceilidh, Square Dance, Street Party or Party in the Playing Field are some suggestions but we would like to know your ideas so please get in touch with a Councillor. email me :- Chair@darrington.org.uk or come to the next council meeting, on the 2nd Thursday in the month 7pm at the Reading Room, Philips Lane, and tell us your ideas. Linda Thompson.

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The Darrington Air Disaster

We need your help to provide a permanent Memorial Stone

Many readers of this newsletter will be aware of the Darrington Air Crash disaster which took place on 18th September 1943, when a Halifax bomber on a training mission suffered major mechanical failure, and sadly crashed into occupied cottages at Chapel Hill. In the ensuing conflagration, the crew of 6 were killed outright, as were 4 members of the Dean family in one of the homes. Another resident died some months later as a direct result of the injuries he received that night, and still later a small baby died from lung damage caused by inhalation of smoke and fumes.

Their names are commemorated on what was a beautiful plaque installed on a wall at Chapel Hill, which was unveiled as part of a significant event to mark the 75th Anniversary of the crash.

In 2016 the Parish Council had formed a Project Group to make plans for this event. They did a magnificent job, organizing an exhibition of memorabilia from the crash, making an excellent and informative documentary DVD, and commissioning the plaque. The ceremony was marked by the RAF fly-past of a Lancaster bomber (unfortunately no Halifax aircraft remained air-worthy). Even more poignantly the Group traced many of the surviving relatives of the families affected from all over the world, including Australia and Canada, together with surviving Halifax bomber crewmen, and invited them to be present at the event. The plaque can be viewed at the foot of Chapel Hill, just off Valley Road.

The current Parish Council marked the 80th anniversary of the crash with a special segment in the Remembrance Day service at St Luke's church, followed by a display of the memorabilia gathered by the 75th Anniversary Project Group and a presentation of the documentary DVD in the Reading Rooms.

(Continued Overleaf)

The Darrington Air Disaster
We need your help to provide a permanent Memorial Stone *(continued)*

During our preparations we noted that sadly the memorial plaque put in place 5 years ago has suffered from the ravages of the weather, and no longer provides a fitting tribute to those who died. We therefore decided to replace it with a substantial granite memorial, set into a centuries old wall at the site, to provide a suitable point of commemoration for many years to come.

Naturally such a piece is not inexpensive, and the anticipated cost of up to £1,800 (hopefully somewhat less) for a solid granite stone to be permanently installed is beyond the limited budget of the Parish Council alone, as funds are already largely committed to other works in the village. We asked initially for pledges from residents at the events last November, and due to the generosity of a small number of residents, we are already on the way to achieving our objective. As a result, we are in the process of arranging the final details of the new memorial, in discussions with a highly recommended local mason.

We are now asking, through this article, for any further pledges which residents wish to make towards the realization of the project. We also have copies of the DVD documentary available for purchase. This provides a detailed insight into all aspects of the disaster and is a must see for interested residents and their friends and relatives. Every penny pledged, and from the sale of DVDs will go towards to cost of the memorial stone.

It is planned to unveil the new memorial to coincide with the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in June this year.
If you feel able to make a contribution, or would like to buy a DVD, please e-mail John Cox, at vicechair@darrington.org.uk

THANK YOU FOR ANY HELP YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE.
In the event that pledges actually exceed the final cost, we would of course return any excess funds in proportion to the donation - no money would be retained for any other project.

Sponsored Plaques on Christmas Trees

Thank you to the following people for supporting the Christmas Trees on Lamp posts:-
R Wilson & Son, R T Batty & Son, Ripon Farm Services, Low Farm Energy, Farmstar, Hutchinson's, Pinnacle Elevators, Alton Building Services Ltd, JJ Electrical Solutions Ltd, Bennett's Butchers, the Bennett Family, Vera Stones, Karina Whalley, Lyndsey Grace Nichols, Laura & Nick Storr, Paul, Helen & Sam Glover, & Sue & Paul McCardle

Without their help we would not have been able to do this If anyone would like to sponsor a Christmas Tree for next year, please contact Vera Stones 01977 794794

Santa to Darrington 23rd December 2023

Wow! We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who came out to support this magical event while making a difference supporting two local charities. We collected a massive sum of £601.56

This money has been split between the two charities Prince of Wales Hospice & Pontefract Community Kitchen each having received £300.78.

This event would not have taken place without the help and support from the following:
The Fireworks Gang, M W Farming - Darrington, Pete & Kate Batty - Church Farm Darrington, Pearl Whalley, Kat Paintwell, Castleford, The Spread - Darrington, The Darrington Hotel and Two Other Supporters

We thank you all for your help & support. We wish you all a Happy New Year.
Please follow us on Facebook: Darrington Fireworks



Thank You

Many thanks to The Brotherhood for donating the Christmas Trees to the Village, one for the Reading Room and one outside the Darrington Hotel.
Many thanks also to Philip Morrel for collecting and delivering them, thanks to Pete Batty and Ed for doing a fantastic job of siting the tree and putting all the lights on.
Thanks Pete for checking the tree and keeping it stable during the severe winds over Christmas and for removing the lights and disposing of the tree.



Darrington Feast and Fayre June 22nd 2024.

Artificial Intelligence or AI, is the latest form of technology that will have a profound impact on the human race in the coming years. It is predicted that world wide over 300 million people will loose their jobs as more AI is introduced, but some new jobs in areas not yet envisaged could be created.

The leaders of the big tech firms creating this technology are already so concerned about what will happen in the future, that they have asked that world leaders and Governments start to develop some form of rules and safety protocols. Thus, ensuring that AI does not become too dominant in our lives.

Everyone reading this however young they are, will be able to recall a time when that latest bit of smart tech in their hands, or in the house just wasn't available, but is now taking over the way we do things and influencing the ways we think.

One thing that AI will never be able to replace though is that small group of "real" people that have the passion, commitment and community spirit required to organise and run the Feast and Fayre. Planning is again underway and the day will include a mixture of music, games and entertainment and it will start with the Darrington Five Mile Run. Run entry will be limited so, if you are up for that challenge, keep an eye out for further details when the booking opens in April. As the day develops more information will be available via the Darrington Village Field Trust website darringtonvillagefield.org and Facebook @ [darringtonvillagefieldtrust](https://www.facebook.com/darringtonvillagefieldtrust).

Naturally a great variety of food and drink will also be available all day long.

Once again there will be a small entry charge and wristband system in place on the day.

We know that many people consider this to be their family day out, but without people offering to help, for just one hour, it will not be able to go ahead as usual, as there are no longer enough people to run the event. The more that help on the day the bigger and better the day will become.

If you are aged 14 and above and want to offer your help as one of those "real" people who care about the community let the team know by emailing us on feastandfayre@gmail.com.

All the profits from the day will go towards the maintenance of the field and will help us to take another step towards our major goal of refurbishing the play area.

John Hoyle

Darrington Garden Club

We meet every second Wednesday in the Reading Rooms on Philips Lane, 6pm to 7pm EVERYONE is welcome to attend whether you are the most amazing Gardener or someone who just occasionally shifts a few leaves off a lawn that's seen better days!

We chat about everything - of course, gardens, flowers and advice about the best place to buy flowers, compost or garden-gizmos - but we often drift off into natters about Darrington, Stately Homes or TV!

However, you may hopefully get this before our next 'speaker' - Moira Nunn - who will share some of the secrets of the Wakefield Waste Management facility and recycling on May 8th

Our meetings are always entertaining and often very informative and you'll be assured of a warm welcome, a cuppa and usually a biscuit! Not bad for £1 and an hour of your time! Hope to see you!

NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to receive your Parish Council Newsletter by e mail please contact clerk@darrington.org.uk
With your email and home address

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

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



DARRINGTON
Golf Club

DRIVING RANGE OFFER

50 Range Balls
Tea / Instant Coffee
Bacon Sandwich

£7.00

Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday
9am-12pm



Darrington Golf Club, Havercroft Lane, Darrington, WF8 3BP
Club House: 01977 704522

Darrington Parish Councillors

Linda Thompson Chair	01977 700059
John Cox Vice Chair	07836 370714
Fiona Gray Responsible Finance Officer	01977 793812
Vera Stones Proper Officer	01977 794794
Pete Batty	01977 706538
Trish Hirst	01977 707332
Karina Whalley	07789 776383
Laurie Dale	07753 926 419
Dennis Burns	07701 289675

VILLAGE GROUP MEETINGS IN THE READING ROOM

Coffee Mornings = Monday mornings 9:30am to 11:30am
Contact Ruth 07951230334 or Vera 01977 794794

Garden Club = 2nd Wednesday of the month 6:00pm to 7:00pm
Contact Andy 01977 704681

Ladies Groups = 3rd Thursday of the month 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Contact Edith 0197773189

Whist = Wednesday afternoon
Contact Peter 01977 791384

Darrington Parish Council = 2nd Thursday of the month
7:00pm to 9:00pm

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.

Darrington Parish Council are working on your behalf to improve and maintain the atmosphere and facilities of Darrington.
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 or come to the next Parish Council meeting which is usually held
on the second Thursday in the month at 7:00pm in the Reading Room, on Philips Lane,