



DARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Feb
2026

Chair's Report

As we begin the New Year, I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of the Parish Council, to reflect on the past year and to look ahead to the months to come.

The past year has been both busy and productive. Your Council has continued to work constructively in the interests of the parish and its residents, and I would like to thank all councillors for their commitment, thoughtful contributions and willingness to work collaboratively, often on complex and sometimes sensitive issues.

Key areas during the year included:

Village events, with highlights being the VE Day celebrations, the Feast and Fayre, and our first Christmas light switch-on. After each event, we carefully consider your feedback in order to make improvements for future events.

Plans to purchase and install additional defibrillators (a detailed article on this subject is included in this newsletter).

The continued hard work and professionalism of our Clerk, Jo, and our Responsible Financial Officer Fiona, whose dedication ensures the smooth running of council business and our compliance with statutory responsibilities.

Sadly, and unexpectedly, the year ended with the loss of our good friend and fellow councillor, Vera Stones. It was originally Vera's idea to hold the Christmas tree lights event. Although she was unable to witness the occasion in person, many of us feel sure she was aware of it and was looking down on us with a smile.

Looking ahead, winter is thankfully coming to an end and spring is approaching. Snowdrops and daffodils are already in abundance and, like me, I am sure many of you are looking forward to drier weather so that we can spend more time in our gardens and enjoy a good tidy-up.

In 2026, the Council's priorities will include:

The recruitment of a new councillor to fill the current vacancy. If you feel you would like to contribute to the work of the Council for the benefit of the village, I would encourage you to contact one of your councillors to discuss what is involved and consider applying for the position.

The continuation of engagement between our Traffic Working Group and WDC Highways (the most recent planned meeting in January is currently being rearranged).

Potential new village events. Two new ideas are currently being developed, and posters will be created and displayed on our noticeboards in due course to assess levels of interest.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors, our Clerk, volunteers and community partners for their continued support and cooperation. Finally, I look forward to working with you all in the coming year to ensure that our parish remains a positive and welcoming place for everyone.

Cllr. Dennis Burns, Chair, Darrington Parish Council

Chair's Report	1
Defibrillators in the Village	1
Vera Stones	2
Village Field	2
Garden Club	3
Evening of Local Entertainment.	4
Contact Numbers	4

Defibrillators in the Village increased from 1 to 3

A big shout out of thanks to Joanna & Dave at The Spread (Eagle). Thanks also to the regulars who fundraised amongst themselves, and anyone who was at The Spread in December who bought a raffle ticket.

Thanks to your kind generosity, the Parish Council have been able to purchase and make emergency-ready an additional two defibrillators, bringing the total in the village to three. These are all registered with the emergency services and available 24 hours per day.

Getting a defib to someone in cardiac arrest within three minutes can increase their chance of survival by as much as 70%. As most cardiac arrests happen at home, it is vital to have those defibs located close to where people live.

Within the village we now have defibrillators at the phone box at Manor Park Rise (established by the Parish Council in 2018), The Spread (Eagle), Estcourt Road and Holme Cottage (near the WW2 plane crash memorial), Valley Road

Thanks again to Joanna & Dave at The Spread, and also to Dennis & Hana Burns for the kind permission to have the new cabinets and defibrillators fitted onto their properties.

All modern defibs are designed for anyone to use, with voice prompts to guide you through the process, but it is also planned to have some training sessions in the village later in the Spring/Summer, watch the notice boards for more information.

In October 2025, Darrington lost a person with a big heart — someone who was truly a big part of the village.

The recent passing of Vera Stones has left Darrington without a larger-than-life character who certainly had her finger on the pulse of village life.

When she stood for election to the Parish Council in 2015, she was asked to provide a summary of her life within the village. In her pre-election statement, she wrote:

“I have lived in Darrington since 1981 and have helped organise the Feast & Fayre and bonfire for many years. For over 25 years I was involved with Darrington Village Pre-School and became manager until its closure. I now have more time to dedicate to village matters.”

She certainly used that time well.

Vera was, not surprisingly, elected in 2015 and was unique in being the only person to remain on the council continuously from her election until her untimely passing. She was always the person to turn to when wanting to gauge the mood within the village. She seemed to know everybody — and everything — that was going on.

She took over running the newsletters. She was the driving force behind the village obtaining a defibrillator. She continued her long involvement with the Feast & Fayre. She pushed hard for the Christmas trees on the lampposts, overcoming Wakefield MDC’s “spanner in the works” approach. She was always the first to volunteer and the person who secured sponsorship for many village projects.

Vera was a good listener, a great supporter of her colleagues, and always gave 100% to anything she took on.

In short, Vera Stones was Darrington personified. Everyone who knew her will remember her with affection and admiration.

Ian Thompson

Darrington Village Field

A very happy new year to all users of Darrington Village Field from The Village Field Trust Group.

Thank you all for the support you gave to our events in 2025, and especially the Bonfire event last November and the Santa Sleigh event in December. The Santa Sleigh raised a magnificent £435.22 for our trust funds and this will be put towards the new hedge at the northern end of the Field (between the Field and the Paddock). We also intend to have a plaque in remembrance of Vera Stones, who was a valued member of the Village Field Trust Group for many years, as well as the Parish Council and other village groups. We are delighted that Jonathan (Vera’s son) has accepted our invitation to this year’s Feast & Fayre as our guest of honour.

Planning for this year’s Feast & Fayre is well underway and we are hoping to bring some new events and things to do for all ages, as well as keeping all the old favourites. This year the event is on Saturday 20th June. Please contact us if you want to get involved in any way — we are always open to new ideas. Whether it’s help in planning or on the day, we welcome any support you can give. This year the event lead will be Olivia Dale, and as well as Olivia it is great to see some younger generation residents joining our group.

Another date for your diary is Saturday 7th November, when we will be hosting our Bonfire/Firework event. If people want to volunteer to help set up, on the day, or post our events, that would be brilliant. Please speak to Richard on 07825 676174.

You may have noticed we have had a tree removed from the Field, as it has a large crack running down through the trunk which made it unsafe. We made the decision not to plant another tree but to plant a wildlife-friendly hedge (mentioned above) instead. We have a number of other housekeeping jobs to do as the weather improves, and we strive to ensure the Field and its equipment and assets are maintained in good order. Costs to keep the Field maintained are circa £2k per year, so it’s vital that we generate sufficient funds through our events to cover this and are able to invest in new equipment when necessary.

Thank you to all the people who use the Field in a responsible and respectful way. We believe it is such a great asset for the village. If you do have any issues or concerns, please contact Richard on 07825 676174 or email hirst507@gmail.com.

Dates for your diary

Feast and Fayre.....Saturday 20th June

Bonfire/Firework event....Saturday 7th November

Richard Hirst, Chair

Garden Club Update

Sad news since the Garden Club report in Autumn '25 — a longstanding member of our club, and of numerous other Darrington groups, Vera Stones, has died. She will be missed.

This is quite a milestone year!
20 years and still going strong. We must be doing something right!

Jenny Serjeant — a mycophile (fungi/mushrooms) enthusiast — treated us to a superb, very well-attended presentation and talk in October about the usually hidden but quite amazing world of fungi. Hidden, but playing such a major role in maintaining and nourishing our environment.

Talking of 'nourishing', we had a great Christmas 'fuddle' for our final meeting of 2025.
A table full of festive fayre, a fun quiz, and a couple of songs from our club's resident superstar singer-songwriter!
... and all for free!!!
It certainly was value for money!

We've already started as we mean to go on in our anniversary year!

It's easy to take our gardens for granted, but just a simple check on the sort of soil we have can help turn an 'OK' display of shrubs and flowers into something a little more special. There was an opportunity during our January meeting for members to have their garden soil samples checked, with advice shared on which plants are best suited, as well as strategies to enhance the quality of their garden soil.

We're looking forward to inviting Karen, an amazing flower arranger, as well as Paul from First Impressions, and Les Driffield, who has a butterfly and wilding sanctuary at Wenthillside — a place most people will be unaware of, but somewhere very special. In fact, it's within a Site of Special Scientific Interest — and it's 'on our doorstep'.

Everyone is welcome to come along to the Reading Room, Philips Lane, Darrington from **6pm to 7pm every 2nd Wednesday**. A hot cuppa (and sometimes a biscuit!) for — at most — £1, and an enjoyable, friendly and informative hour is waiting for you. Looking forward to seeing you, whether longstanding (well, 'old' doesn't sound quite right!) or new, in our special year.
No pressure — just 'nice'.

Andy Tagger

Wednesdays, 6pm–7pm: February 11th, March 11th, April 8th. May 13th, June 10th, July 8th, August 12th, September 9th, October 14th, November 11th, December 9th

Evening of Local Entertainment.

The Parish |Council are thinking about organising an "Evening of entertainment" that will highlight the amount of talent we have in Darrington. I have already spoken with a few people who are interested in doing this and I am inviting you to get in touch with me if you are interested.

This is not a talent Competition

It will be held in the summer at a local venue with the possibility of a buffet. It will be a ticketed event. Any money made will be put towards Parish Council Projects.

Please contact me either by email or telephone

- linda.thompson@darrington-pc.org.uk
- 01977 700059

Looking forward to hearing from you, Linda Thompson.





DARRINGTON
Golf Club

Sunday 15th March

Mother's Day Meal

2 Courses

£21.95 - 12 & Over
£13.95 - Under 12

Dietary Options Available



Book a table

Call 01977 704522 or Email events@darringtongolfclub.com

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

Darrington Parish Councillors

Dennis Burns Chair	07701 289675
Linda Thompson Vice Chair	01977 700059
Fiona Gray Responsible Finance Officer	01977 793812
Pete Batty	01977 706538
Trish Hirst	01977 707332
Karina Whalley	07789 776383
Laurie Dale	07753 926 419
Wayne Pickup	07958 717099

WhatsApp Groups

- There are two WhatsApp groups now for Darrington.
- There is a **Darrington Alert** group which is for any crime or suspicious behaviour in Darrington. Then there is another what's app group called **Darrington** which is for any other things related to Darrington, but not crime or suspicious behaviour.
- Please can I ask that everyone respect each other when putting posts on either of the groups or responding to posts, thank you.
- If you would like to be added to both or any of the what's app groups please can you send me a message with your full name to Tel: 07789776383

Keep up to date with Darrington events
at

www.darrington-pc.gov.uk/ and
www.darringtonvillagefield.org

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. Edited by Karina Whalley & Jonathan Stones

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.