



DARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

July
2026

Chair's Report – July 2026

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Keeping our community safe is always a priority, and I'm pleased to share some progress on this front. In addition to purchasing and installing two new defibrillators (defibs) at The Spread and on Valley Rd, we have now also replaced the old defib (which was out of its maintenance contract) in the telephone box on the corner of Estcourt Rd and Manor Park Rise. Special thanks go to James and his team at JJ Electrical Solutions for their support, including zero-cost installation at The Spread and at-cost installation on Valley Rd (which needed a lengthy cable run). We also organised two well-attended defib training sessions, conducted by Joanne Watson from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

Despite a later start of planting than usual (due to a late frost and some logistical issues), our new supplier, White Rose Nurseries, has now installed our hanging baskets and stone planter summer floral displays. The maintenance of the flower bed by the Darrington Garden Club sign, near the A1 bridge, is also included in our new contract, together with an increased watering schedule, due to the drier summers we are now experiencing.

The Village Field Trust has just held another very successful Feast and Fayre, with great support from the Feast and Fayre Committee, Pete and his team at Church Farm, and numerous volunteers. The weather was kind, and it was heart-warming to see so many smiling faces.

On the subject of road safety - I am frustrated to report further lack of progress by our Traffic Working Group and WDC's Traffic Team, on road signage and junction improvements. Your council remains fully committed to pressing for these improvements, and our newly elected Pontefract South councillors will also be invited to attend our next meeting for support.

It is with great sadness that I must inform residents of the passing of Iain Glass, a former Parish Councillor and Chair of this Council. Iain was widely liked and deeply respected throughout the parish, with a well-earned reputation for never failing to help when called upon, whatever the task. On behalf of the Council, I would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to Iain's family and friends at this difficult time. He will be greatly missed, and his contribution to our parish will not be forgotten.

On a more practical note, we still have an open councillor vacancy and would encourage applications from anyone who wants to contribute to the workings of the council and make a positive impact on village life. If you are in two minds about applying, please feel free to call myself or any of our councillors for an initial chat about what being a councillor involves (our phone numbers are listed on the back of this newsletter).

Looking ahead, the council is keen to continue enhancing community engagement, village infrastructure, and events — on which note, we are excited to be holding "An Evening of Entertainment" at Darrington Golf Club on Saturday 10 October. Tickets will be on sale shortly and will include a buffet.

Finally, a reminder that residents are welcome to attend our Parish Council Meetings, which are held at 7pm on the second Thursday of each month (excluding August), where we have a 15-minute slot for questions or issues to be raised.

Cllr Dennis Burns
Chair, Darrington Parish Council

HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY

Following a talk at the Gardening Club from Prickly Edge Hedgehog Rescue in Methley I thought creating 'hedgehog highways' was something we could do very easily in the village. This would help create much more habitat for these lovely, endangered creatures. Gardens are fantastic habitats for hedgehogs & all we need to do is create an easy passage from one garden to another - a 5 x 5 inch ground level gap.

If you are interested in doing this in your garden, please contact me:

Fiona Gray,

Village Field

A big thank you to the many hundreds of you who once again attended the Feast & Fayre. The weather was kind to us, and it was so satisfying to see our community enjoying the day together. We are very grateful for the positive feedback from Darrington residents and from people outside the village who visited us on the day. One of the best things about the Feast & Fayre is meeting people who may have moved away from Darrington but come back especially for the event to catch up with old friends and neighbours.

Well done to everyone who competed in the run. There were some tired and hot people at the finish line, and although many of the athletes come from running clubs (some from as far away as Chesterfield), it's good to see so many Darrington residents taking part as well.

On behalf of the team in the catering tent, Lyndsey said: "A massive thank you to all who donated cakes and buns and bought food and drink. The aim of the catering tent is to keep the tradition of the Feast & Fayre going, bring people together and raise funds for the village Field — which we could not do without your help. To the residents of Darrington and the wider community, we thank you."

I know it's not a competition, but we have some fabulous bakers in our community — perhaps we should invite Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith to next year's Feast & Fayre?

As always, thanks must go to Church Farm, who manage to give us so much support even though this is a particularly busy time for their business. As well as the volunteers who give their time on the day, we have a small but dedicated Village Field group, led by Olivia Dale, who pack a massive punch. They put many hours of effort into all the preparation, as well as the set-up and strip-down before and after the Feast & Fayre. You know who you are, and thank you for your immense effort. As is usual with events of this nature, we occasionally have little glitches and problems, so thanks to James at JJ Electrical for stepping up again and helping us with an IT problem on the day.

It was lovely that Jonathan Stones (son of the late Vera and Bryan Stones) and his partner Jo were able to attend as our special guests. Vera spent many years deeply involved in delivering the Feast & Fayre, as well as being a parish councillor and at the heart of all our community events, so it was lovely to welcome Jonathan and Jo back to Darrington to share the day with us.

It must be said that without the Feast & Fayre and Bonfire events we would have no income for the upkeep of our Village Field, which is such a cherished asset. Typical annual costs run to more than £2.5k, covering insurance, grounds maintenance and the upkeep of our equipment. Although we are committed to keeping a local, family atmosphere at our events, as the workload and planning increase it feels to many of us that we can't carry on with events of this nature unless more people step forward — both in the planning stages and on the day. So, especially if you are a Darrington resident who regularly uses the Field, please do consider contacting us about how you could help.

If anyone would like to discuss any Field issues, or how to get more involved, please contact me at hirst507@gmail.com or on 07825 676174.

For your diary: our bonfire event this year is on 7th November, and keep an eye out for Santa, who will be touring the village on 19th December.

With kind regards to all of you,

Richard Hirst, Chair, Darrington Village Field Trust

Finally the right weather at Church Farm!!!

After the moans and groans about the wrong weather in the last newsletter, I'm very happy to report that finally at Church Farm we are content with the weather at the start of 2026!!!!

Potatoes, Sugarbeet and Maize were all planted into superb conditions this spring in one of the best planting seasons we've ever had!! This was followed by the perfect amounts of rain and sunshine to leave crops looking fantastic by mid June!

The weather also fell perfectly for the Feast & Fayre last Saturday. Sunshine and the perfect temperature led to a brilliant event which was well attended and had a fantastic atmosphere all day. *Continued*

Continued... As always we managed to source and provide the little bales of straw to form the event ring in the field. It is a sign of the times that this size of straw bale is becoming increasingly hard to find as machines get bigger and more efficient. Not many staff on today's farm like the thought of throwing little bales around by hand, which of course was the way things were done in previous generations. Today big 500kg bales handled with a forklift or telehandler whilst sat in an air conditioned cab are much more desirable!!!!

Today we use 600 big bales each year. Back in the 1980's and 90's this would have translated into 1000's of little Feast & Fayre style bales, all manually handled!!!!

The farm trailer, which normally leads a boring life carrying potato boxes about, transformed into a Glastonbury style stage for the Feast & Fayre. The bands and entertainment this year were superb and helped make it a memorable event topped off with the traditional tractor pull.

Well done to everyone involved in making the event happen. It's been an important part of Darrington village life for over 40 years and is something we should be very proud of.

We are now getting ready for the summer harvest on farm. Fertiliser and fuel prices have rocketed on the back of the Iran war making operations such as combining a very expensive pastime!!! Crop prices have not increased in line with the increase in costs but crop yields look like they should be quite good after the favourable spring, so fingers crossed we can fill our sheds this summer!!

I've really enjoyed watching the most recent series of 'Clarkson's Farm' on Amazon. If you haven't seen it and are able to watch it, then I really recommend it. The trials and tribulations are a real picture of what farmers are dealing with on a daily basis and the series has been well received in the farming industry. It is noticeable that the program has also contributed to a huge increase in young people showing interest and coming into the industry, something that agriculture desperately needs! A real positive!!

Not long now until you see us out with the combine which is always an exciting time of year, especially for young tractor fans! You may also notice irrigators busily watering potatoes trying to keep on top of this very warm dry spell we're experiencing.

The staff are certainly looking forward to a cooler outlook next week!! I look forward to updating you on what will hopefully be a successful harvest, in the next newsletter. Hopefully we can all enjoy some more good harvest weather through the summer!!!

Pete, Kate and everyone at Church Farm

Darrington Garden Club were delighted to welcome talented and experienced flower arranger Karen to our June meeting in this, our 20th anniversary year!

Yes, 20 years! Time flies, especially when you're having fun — and there's been loads of that over the years!

We've welcomed many memorable guest speakers, including a wonderful worm expert, a brilliant bee enthusiast, an entertaining rhododendron raconteur, a very committed local conservationist, a happy herb honcho and a full-of-fun fungi enthusiast... okay, that's enough alliteration for now!

We've also welcomed several new members this year, so we must be doing something right!

We meet on the second Wednesday of every month, from 6pm to 7pm, in the reading room up Philips Lane. Just £1 (yes, only £1!) buys you a cuppa, a biscuit - and an hour full of chat, debate, Q&As and smiles. Along the way, we discuss all sorts of garden- (and Darrington-) related topics.

What's not to like! And if you're a garden-gadget "guru", you'd be especially welcome! It's a topic we're keen to explore, so if that's something you know about, please do come along.

Andy Tagger

— An — *Evening of Entertainment*

— Hosted by Darrington Parish Council —

Live Music From:

- Dennis and Nick Burns
 - Andy Tagger
 - Molly Wood
- Members of the Pontefract Choral Society

*If you would like to be one of the entertainers,
there is still time — ring the number below.*

Darrington Golf Club
Saturday 10th October 2026
7:00 p.m. until late

Tickets: £13 per person
Including Buffet
Cash Only

- Tickets available from:*
- Parish Councillors
 - Darrington Golf Club
 - Linda Thompson — 01977.700059



DARRINGTON
GOLF CLUB





**SIX WEEKS
OF
SUMMER!!!**



Thursday 23rd July
Thursday 30th July
Thursday 6th August
Thursday 13th August
Thursday 20th August
Thursday 27th August

9:00-3:00PM
£35 A DAY LUNCH INCLUDED
BOOK ALL SIX FOR £175

ACCOUNTS@DARRINGTONGOLFCLUB.COM
TO BOOK

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	07713645999
Pete Batty	07714155021
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 WhatsApp 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 - Karina

Volunteers Needed

The Parish Council is hoping to set up a Volunteers Register and are looking for people to help with delivering Newsletters, flyers and with other tasks in and around the Village, we have a few volunteers already, but more would be better,
 If you can help or would like more information please contact
 Karina 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,