

The Stokesley Pride-in-our-Town Association

[wwwstokesleypride.org](http://www.stokesleypride.org)



MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING HELD ON 24TH October 2016

This public meeting was attended by some 30-40 people in response to our search for new volunteers and all present were welcomed by our Chairman Mrs Linda Purnell.

Mr Alan Weighell presented a power point slide show to explain the beginnings of Stokesley Pride in our town in the year 1981. Rotary was responsible in the first place for setting up groups to tidy up the town following the uncomplimentary views of a visitor to the town. Mr Mike Irving was the first chairman. One of the early achievements was the planting of the avenue of trees on the playing fields, and later the design and construction of the original ziggurat by Mr Wilf Turnbull. Later under the chairmanship of Mr Frank Cuthbert the town signs were installed. Spiota was successful in Yorkshire in Bloom for three years and Pateley Bridge, having come to visit us and pick our brains, beat us the following year.

Mrs Purnell then continued by explaining that we buy all the plants and carry out two plantings in the year – one in the autumn and one in May. This is quite onerous and as the volunteers are not as young and active as they once were, new younger people are urgently needed. Volunteers meet every Thursday morning outside the Manor House to do any work required – ie weeding, dead heading etc., and during the summer months a watering rota is set up to water all the 137 flowertubs three times a week.

The new ziggurat was installed in time for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Grandchildren of the Fiddler family, visiting from Australia donated £1,000 for the upkeep of the mill wheel site, and our photographer Derek Whiting sends them a picture each year. Roses have been planted round the cenotaph, and this year blue and yellow pansies were planted around the Stokesley Motors roundabout to celebrate the Tour de Yorkshire cycle race (this earned us much praise).

Our final project this year has been the construction of the Memorial Garden on the riverbank, and also a tree which has been planted in memory of Mr Frank Cuthbert – one of our founder members. We have won the Newcastle Building Society Cornerstone of the Community Award, and this year we have been nominated for the Queen's Award for Community Service.

The members of Spiota love what we do and want it to continue, but new ideas and younger stronger volunteers are needed to take over in due course.

This public meeting was followed by the Annual General Meeting and the ordinary monthly meeting.