

THE PARISH PUMP

A regular newsletter from Damerham Parish Council
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October 2013

Damerham & District Horticultural Society Annual General Meeting

Thursday, October 17th 7.30pm
Damerham Village Hall
Preceded by Drinks and Nibbles.

Followed by
“Meet a Broomsquire”

A talk, by Terry Heard, about Wood Coppicing,
and a demonstration of Broom-making.

DAMERHAM BADMINTON CLUB

Why not come along to our new season of Badminton in
Damerham Village Hall on Tuesday evenings from 8 p.m.

It is an ideal way of keeping fit and enjoying yourself at the
same time!

We are a friendly club catering for both men and women and
all standards of ability.

Our new season starts on Tuesday, September 3rd.

For more details call David Crane on 01725 518790.

Good News and Bad News on Glass collections

The **good** news is that the centre of the village will start
the “Green Route” Kerbside Glass Collections on
Tuesday, 29th October and will continue after that date
as per the leaflet that was delivered with the box.

The **bad** news is that the “rural route” that covers these
part of the village including South End, Lower Daggons,
Cornpits Lane and The Common will not have glass
collections until much later as smaller vehicles are having
to be organised before their dates can be determined.

If you have any queries – please contact Debs Lucas by
telephone on **023 8028 5588** or by e-mail at
deborah.lucas@nfdc.gov.uk

Village Events Diary

September

Friday, 27th Village Harvest Supper 6.30 pm
Damerham Village Hall

October

Thursday, 17th DDHS Annual General Meeting
Damerham Village Hall 7.30 pm

Saturday, 26th Jumble Sale 2.00 pm
Damerham Village Hall

SpeedWatch



“Everybody does it” isn’t an
excuse for speeding! Statistics
from the recent deployment show
that almost half (48.2%) of vehicles
were exceeding the 30 mph limit in
North End and High Street.

The limits are there to protect not just the other
motorists, but they are there to ensure the safety of
pedestrians, cyclists, runners, riders and family pets.

Please make sure that you are not one of those who
receive a warning letter from Hampshire Constabulary as
a result of your car number being recorded by the
SpeedWatch team – or if the speed checking is done by
the local police force, then you will receive a summons
that will now cost you £100.00 and three points on your
licence!



The Coffee Pot

It is hard to believe that October marks the second
birthday of The Coffee Pot. We could not have believed
two years ago that it could have been such fun, so
enjoyable, and so enriching - with new friends, new ideas,
and the chance to welcome complete strangers who are
just passing through.

The children have been a special joy, and it is good to
know that they too have been welcomed. During these
two years, we have been able to give away £250 to
various charities nominated by our band of wonderful
volunteers.

We have to open on a weekday, because that is when the
Village Hall is reliably available to us, but we feel very
sorry for all you folk who have to go to work and cannot
share The Coffee Pot experience with us!

**So, we are going to have a special birthday for The
Coffee Pot on Saturday, 5th October, so that everyone
in the Village who would like to, can celebrate with us.**

From 10.30 am to 12 noon, we shall be serving FREE
unlimited filter coffee (but we ask you to pay the usual
50p for cake!) to anyone who wants to enjoy The Coffee
Pot experience.

We would really like to welcome you, so do please come!

Robin Robbins - 01725 518861

A leaflet is available for new residents. Ask any Councillor for a copy of “Welcome to Damerham” or download it
from www.damerham.net or contact Phil Tandy on 518802 or Bob Gilbey on 518417 for further information.

The Parish Pump is printed by James Byrne Ltd., Sandleheath, Hampshire, SP6 1PA

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Damerham Archaeological Project - Robin Robbins

Now I know this is very wrong of me – but I have promised myself that I shall poke my thumb into the eye of the next villager who asks me “Well, what did you find – nothing?”

Surely, in this lovely Village it is not too surprising that we can find something so wonderful, so exciting, so important as the huge Neolithic complex hidden under the fields here? Where else would a sensible Neolithic family choose to live?

So what did we find? First of all, we re-found the Dampney Long Barrow, known over the years as the name-giver of White Bar Field. But we also found another Long Barrow, the Pegasus Barrow, under the soil at Manor Farm.

We found the ditches around the Dampney Barrow, dug over 4000 years ago. Ditches so deep that we had to shore them up and go up and down with ladders – built by human might alone, with the aid of deer antler picks.

The Barrow is enormous – and we cannot bring THAT down to the Village Hall to show you!

We found a ceremonial complex, older than Stonehenge, but built to the same, but smaller, ground plan. We found an enigma – a kind of figure of eight, enclosed by a ditch and post holes – but we don't understand that quite yet, and there are more such puzzles, with solutions still yet to be found..

Whilst we were exploring these larger edifices, we also found Neolithic stone tools, charcoal from their fires, cooking stones crazed by heat, and pieces of early pottery, not yet glazed, but still enduring for thousands of years. We crossed the fields in lines, one metre away from our neighbours, and picked up over 600 such items in two days. We found a thrill in holding them in our own hands, and thinking about the people who made them. People with the same brain power as us, and the same ingenuity.

Aerial photography had already found almost 30 Bronze Age round barrows. Searching this area, we found Bronze Age evidence, fragments of cremated human bone, Roman pottery, and mediaeval artefacts - items showing us that people had lived in these fields for untold generations.

We found items covering the years, right up to a single, Village Hall teaspoon! And not only did we find evidence of people – an environmental archaeologist was able to plot the different species of snails, which had inhabited this place as the habitat changed. Their chalky shells can tell us what the landscape looked like through its entire changing environment.

We found many, many new skills, for example - how to work the “Geophysics” equipment familiar to TimeTeam viewers, and how to mark and bag up finds so that the exact spot where they were found (their “context”) - could be plotted. So much to learn, to enable us to find new links with our ancient past. We were filmed by the BBC for a whole day for the series “The Flying Archaeologist”. Did you watch it?

Very importantly, over a period of 5 years, we found new knowledge, new confidence in what we were doing, and new friends. And yes, of course - some of us even found ourselves!

NEWS

safer new forest
Targeting Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

Watch out, the shed burglar is about

At this time of year, everything in the garden should be rosy – but beware of shed burglars.

After a recent spate of things being stolen from sheds in the Hythe area, the Safer New Forest Partnership is urging all residents to take extra steps to protect garden and allotment sheds, outdoor stores and garages from intruders.

- Ensure that all outside storage facilities, such as sheds and containers, are locked with a heavy-duty secure padlock. Safer New Forest offers a high quality alarmed padlock for £10, which can be purchased through New Forest District Council information centres.
- Improve outdoor security with external passive infra-red lights, CCTV and alarms.
- Do not park vehicles or store large items, such as bins, against a fence, as this will provide easier access to your property.
- Keep tools and high-value goods out of sight and locked away. Store your most valuable items inside your main property if possible.
- Report any suspicious activity, including descriptions of suspects and vehicle number plates, to police on 101. In an emergency, dial 999.
- If you have access to the internet, or can pop into your local library to use their computers, visit www.crimereports.co.uk to see the actual crime reported to police in your area.

Cllr Jill Cleary, NFDC portfolio holder for Housing and Communities, said: “New Forest residents take great pride in their gardens and spend a lot of time and money in nurturing them. To prevent the heartache and loss that garden crime causes, I urge all our local gardeners to take these simple measures to protect their property.”

For information about the work of the Safer New Forest Partnership, visit: www.safernewforest.gov.uk or contact Stephanie Bennett on 023 8028 5588 or email stephanie.bennett@nfdc.gov.uk

Jumble Sale

Saturday, 26th October at 2.00 p.m.

in Damerham Village Hall

Any goods can be delivered from 10.00 a.m. on the day

Fund raising in aid of St. George's Church



Damerham Leisure Exercise & Keep-fit

Salli Grant's popular classes will take place on Monday, 7th and Monday, 14th October in Damerham Village Hall from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m.

The very reasonable costs are £4.00 for an individual or £6.00 per couple. No need to book – just turn up!

A leaflet is available for new residents. Ask any Councillor for a copy of “Welcome to Damerham” or download it from www.damerham.net or contact Phil Tandy on 518802 or Bob Gilbey on 518417 for further information.

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