

THE PARISH PUMP

A REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
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FEBRUARY 2016

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH DAMERHAM

"SNOWDROP WEEKEND"

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY
13th & 14th FEBRUARY**

12.00 Noon to 4.00 p.m.

COME AND SEE THE DISPLAY OF BEAUTIFUL
SNOWDROPS IN THE ANCIENT CHURCHYARD

VISIT THE WONDERFUL NORMAN CHURCH

HOME MADE REFRESHMENTS, JAMS &
MARMALADES & OTHER STALLS

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE

Damerham & District Horticultural Society

The Damerham & District Horticultural Society's
event for February is a talk by Susannah Applegate -

'Plant to Plate'.

The date is Thursday, 18th February at 7.30p.m.
in Damerham Village Hall

For more information, check the web-site at ddhs.co.uk

Non members are always welcome at £3.00 p.p.

Damerham is joining the National Campaign

"Clean for the Queen"



Damerham Village Litter Pick

will take place on

Saturday, March 5th & Sunday, March 6th

Litter Grabs, Hi-Vis Jackets and Bin Bags
can be picked up from the Bus Shelter

A map and list of the village roads will
show the areas that need to be tackled.

Please mark on this map the area that you intend to cover.

Please leave all filled bags
between the Bus Shelter and the Phone Box

Bring your own "Wellies" and Gloves!

Road Closure Notice

**Church Lane and the "Causeway" to/from the
school will be closed for Bridge repairs (again!)
from Monday, 22nd February for +/- two weeks.**

Alternative routes will be signposted

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

Wanted – New Editor/Compiler for the Pump

Having been involved in putting the Parish Pump together for
more than five years – almost 60 editions – I feel that it is time
that someone else should take over this role.

All that you need are reasonable computer skills, enough
knowledge of who does what in the village and a degree of
common sense - plus a good "spell checker" on your computer!

If you feel like having a go, please make contact with me on
01725 518417 or e-mail to robert@gilbey.fsbusiness.co.uk or to
Phil Tandy by phone 01725 518802 or e-mail to phil@ochf.co.uk

Bob Gilbey



THE DAMERHAM LOYAL VARIETY SHOW

Celebrating the 90th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II

JUNE 11th 2016 @ 19.30 IN VILLAGE HALL

Preparations are going well for this village spectacle.

Several acts are already signed up & additional ones sought.

Do you have hidden talents or are you a closet "Am Dram"?

Perhaps you already have experience of the footlights.

The Stage could be yours!

Backstage & Front of House help also required -

To register your act & intent, please e-mail

gilly@stavedenedesigns.com

or call 0777 499 5964 or 01725 518397



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, DAMERHAM

The "BIG SPRING CLEAN" will take place on Saturday, 19th March (the
week before Easter) from 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon.

If you are able to help even for a short time to keep your church spick and
span you will be very welcome and your help will be much appreciated.

Damerham & District Horticultural Society

Potato Day is Coming!

Sunday, 6th March is the day.

10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. is the time.

Damerham Village Hall is the place.



As well as the usual wide range of Pennard's Seed Potatoes, you will
be able to buy Heritage & Heirloom Seeds, Onion Sets, Shallot and
Garlic Bulbs, Fruit Trees, Rhubarb and Asparagus + things for the
Kitchen Garden and lots of advice will be available!

KERBSIDE GLASS COLLECTIONS

The February Kerbside Glass Collection will be on
Tuesday, 16th February from 7.00 a.m.

Please make sure your "Bottle Box" is out in good time!

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VILLAGE MEETING

A public meeting will be held on
MONDAY, 8th FEBRUARY
In Damerham Village Hall at 7.30pm

Andy Carr of the Fordingbridge First Responders will tell us about the new village defibrillator and demonstrate its use.

There will be a discussion about recent break-ins and Neighbourhood Watch and the possibility of a local networking group.

PLEASE COME AND HAVE YOUR SAY.

To honour the 90th Birthday of our longest serving Monarch

**There will be A typically Damerham Field Party
on Saturday 11th June from 12 – 3.30**

Relax with friends or join in activities for all ages: Tug 'O' War, Coconut Shy, Pitch and Putt, and Games and Races for children.

Bring your own picnic or buy from the barbecue +ice creams +drinks

WHAT DO WE WANT? WE WANT YOUR SUPPORT!

Come along to Damerham Village Hall on
**Saturday, 20th February at 10.00 a.m. to hear more
about it and add your ideas into the mix.
Coffee and cake too!!**



Every Tuesday in Damerham Village Hall at 9.30 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.

We have a large well-equipped hall with a good range of toys for all ages and dedicated baby areas and once a month, we have a Mini-Bounce session and we regularly have other fun activities.

Costs are £2.75 per session for the first child - £1.00 if that child is under 1. £1.00 for additional siblings.

For more information, please look at our Facebook page.

Beware of Puddles!

I have been told that two or three motorists in the village have recently found to their cost that puddles can mean pot-holes!

You have no way of knowing whether it's just a puddle or could it be a pot-hole full of water!

The damage can be serious, not just to tyres and wheels - in one instance it had deranged suspension and ended up with a bill for many hundreds of pounds

– So take care if you see water!!! and please report pot-holes to HCC Highways a.s.a.p. by phone on **0300 555 1375** or on-line to **www3.hants.gov.uk/roads/potholes.htm**

A message from Gilly Chance & Alan Rackham

Gilly & Alan have been overwhelmed with the support and kindness shown by so many following Gilly's riding accident.

They would like to thank all of you very much, and are extremely grateful to live in such a wonderfully friendly community.

NFDC's Council's Tax & Benefits Service have issued the following warning about Council Tax scams in our area.

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is warning council tax payers about individuals and companies that may be operating in the New Forest Area. They may telephone you or appear personally at your door.

The Council have been told about customers who have recently been contacted by companies calling themselves **Council Tax Claims Ltd** and **Council Tax Review Service**.

Here are some examples of the tactics used to try and get you to part with your money:

- Charging an up-front fee of around £65. Sometimes the company will refer to this as a finder's fee and then not challenging your band on your behalf.
- Insisting you are definitely in the wrong band, when in fact your band is correct.
- Saying they are from the local Council or VOA and asking for your bank details so they can provide a refund. You may then find that money is taken from your account.
- Claiming that the VOA charges you to challenge your band when you can do this for free.
- Claiming that you must, by law, be represented by an agent to challenge your band when in fact anyone can do this.
- Saying that the VOA won't reduce your band without the help of an agent because the government is short of money.

Things you can do to avoid falling victim to scammers:

- Remember that you can have your band checked free of charge by contacting your local Valuation Office on 0300 050 1501.
- Inform the police if you believe that anyone is impersonating staff from your local council or the VOA or if a cold caller refuses to leave your home.
- Contact your local Trading Standards Service if you feel you have been the victim of a council tax scam.

Things you should not do:

- Don't give your bank details to anyone that contacts you by phone or who calls in person.
- Don't let anyone into your home without first seeing appropriate identification.
- Don't feel under pressure from a cold-caller to pay an immediate up-front fee. Take the time you need to think about it. Don't rush!
- Don't accept cold caller's claims that your band is wrong, without first seeing evidence of what they are claiming. There is nothing wrong with being sceptical.
- Don't speak to anyone who is reluctant to give you their company address or contact details.

If you feel that the band on your home is wrong, then all you have to do is contact the VOA on 0300 050 1501 and explain why you think it is incorrect. They will ask you to confirm that the details they hold about your home are correct. They will listen to your views and if they agree that the band is wrong, it will be altered.

If you have been approached by someone saying that your Council Tax Band is wrong, please advise HCC Trading Standards on **03454 04 05 06** or by e-mail to doorstep.crime@hants.gov.uk

February VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY

Monday, 8 th	Village Meeting re- defibrillator & other matters Damerham Village Hall	7.30 p.m.
Saturday, 13 th	"Snowdrop Weekend"	
& Sunday, 14 th	St. George's Church	12.00 Noon – 4.00 p.m.
Tuesday, 16 th	Household Glass Collection from 7.00 a.m.	
Thursday, 18 th	Damerham & District HortSoc Meeting Damerham Village Hall	7.30 p.m.
Saturday, 20 th	Meeting: re- Damerham Field Party 10.00 a.m.	

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