



A regular newsletter from Damerham Parish Council  
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## About the Coffee Pot....

The Coffee Pot will be 10 years old later this year, so perhaps it's time for a re-cap! We're open to everyone, whatever their age – and indeed, whether they live in Damerham or

not. Our youngest visitor was 3 days old, and the oldest is well over 90! We have a big box of toys for the youngest ankle-biters and during the school holidays we get out some craft materials for older children.

We're run by volunteers, who help out for one morning each month. Most of them bring a home-made cake (a contribution towards ingredient costs is offered) but this isn't necessary. A team of three people each session take care of our guests, and a few strong visitors help us clear away afterwards.

It's £2 a visit, but we don't aim to make a profit. As often as we can, we make a donation to a charity nominated by the volunteers. There's a book box, and a sales table where you can dispose of spare items – no commission is charged. Once a month, John and Gilly from Martin shop come with fresh vegetables, frozen meats, and other items for us to buy.

During lockdown, we have been grateful to the Rector for organizing some Zoom Coffee Pot meetings, but we are looking forward to a time when everyone in the Village can just turn up at the Village Hall at 10.30 on a Wednesday morning, to tuck in and talk, talk, talk!

Robin Robbins.

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## SNOWDROP WEEKEND

Unfortunately the annual Snowdrop Weekend at St Georges Church will not take place this year due to Covid 19 precautions. We are very sorry as we know that so many people from near and far come to enjoy the lovely snowdrops growing in the churchyard and to visit inside the church for the stalls etc. as well as our famous tea and cakes.

If you would like to make a donation to the church, that can be done directly to the church bank account, details can be found in the porch at St Georges.

Hopefully the event will take place next year.

John and Cathy Godber (churchwardens)

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## News to share, or a village event to publicise?

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, or you have anything you would like to include into the March edition, please email me at [victoriawheeldon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:victoriawheeldon@hotmail.co.uk) by **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February.**



## DAMERHAM FAIR CONTAINER APPEAL UPDATE

The lottery is going well - thanks to all of you who have already signed up. We are currently on track to raise over £2000 which is wonderful news.

The planning has been a lengthy process, but we are pleased to say that the plans have now been accepted by NFDC. Plans had to be amended to add wood cladding around the container and having a pitched roof. We now start on the work to progress this.

If anyone wishes to join, you can still sign up to be eligible for the monthly draw. The prize money is worth winning!

[www.damerhamfair.co.uk](http://www.damerhamfair.co.uk)

or

<https://www.facebook.com/damerhamvillage/>

Thank you for your support

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## TEA AND CHAT



May I start by wishing you all a happy and safe February and hopefully delight in some of you having received your first Covid vaccinations before the end of the month.

It is a very uncertain time, still, but we do have the very pleasing thought that Spring is on its way, with plenty of snowdrops out in the village and even daffodils out along Barbara and Harry's front bank. We have experienced much activity from our sparrows, too, so perhaps they are heralding an early Spring.

Following the January Newsletter, we will try and produce something similar each month until we can get back to meeting up, normally. In the meanwhile, Happy Birthday wishes go to David, Linda and Mary, this month and to Tracey and Cathy for the beginning of March.

So, the first Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m, raise your "mug" of tea and drink to us all!

Do keep in touch with one another.

Every good wish,  
Cherry (and Simon!)

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## THINK FOR DAMERHAM

You might have thought this has died and gone away, but you would be wrong!

Although we can't make fixed plans, we have lots of ideas, because it's so important to have something to look forward to.

Here are some of the things that we are working on behind the scenes:

Most important of all – a chance for the Village to come together, perhaps with an event on the Sports Field when the weather is kind to us. Ideas are always welcome!  
The Village Hall celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, so that will be another priority. What form should the celebrations take? Should they be linked to the updating of the Damerham Domesday book, which was published to celebrate the Millennium, and highlighted our history as well as the doings of the villagers at the turn of this century.

As for smaller happenings - the "Sew and So on" craft group and the Drumming Circle in the Village Hall are easy to organise quickly as soon as we are allowed! That goes also for the Book Club, the cycling for the un-athletic, and Village walks.

It'll take a little longer for the Bingo sessions to get going, and the Open gardens and plant sale ought to be in the early Summer – which of course might not be possible. Things like this will be set in motion as soon as we are able.

But in the meantime, whilst most of us are sitting at home twiddling our thumbs, we can surely find time to jot down a favourite recipe for the new Damerham Cookbook, and send it to Cathy by e-mail [cathy-godber@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:cathy-godber@tiscali.co.uk) or drop it in to Ashbourne House in the High street whilst you are out for your daily exercise.

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### Parish Council Updates

The Parish Council continues to operate during the pandemic via Zoom. One activity which we have had to cancel is our twice yearly Litter Picks around the village. To compensate can we ask that when you are out for your daily exercise around the village, you take a carrier bag and disposable gloves to pick up some litter on your route and take it home with you to put in with your own rubbish. Thank you.

The very annoying potholes up and down Court Hill have been reported to Hampshire Highways. They have had white lines drawn around them and we await further action!

It may be a good time to ask you if there is anything you are wanting from the Parish Council which you feel is missing. If so please contact the Parish Clerk at [clerk@damerham.net](mailto:clerk@damerham.net). Examples of projects completed are the Village Walks leaflet and new footpath signs. Projects in the pipeline are the refurbishment of the red telephone box, investigation of affordable housing provision and a village design statement as an aid to planning decisions.

We all look forward to a better 2021.

Best wishes

David Crane (Chairman).

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### VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Sadly the covid pandemic has meant we were not able to host any of the annual village events from early March 2020.

As always, we are eternally grateful to Toby Sherwood for so kindly donating our Christmas tree this year. It was beautiful and along with the 'Tree of Hope' (produced by Midge Connell, Phil Tandy & Harvey Cracknell) it really brightened up the area during the dark days over a rather subdued Christmas period. In fact, the whole village was so well decorated with lights this year and really gave Mike some very strong competition!

The Potato day was squeezed in a few days before lockdown in March 2020 and was very popular. During September and October, we were able to host Pilates and Badminton with reduced attendees, but these sessions are also currently on hold. Rugbytots also started up in December only to be closed again due to lockdown 3 restrictions.

We managed two Jumble sales early in the year, one for Tea & Chat & one for the village hall. Our thanks to Cathy and her helpers, looking forward to their return this year, fingers crossed.

A new concrete path was laid on the south side of the hall, the fencing outside the committee room replaced and the clock tower received a much needed make over (a very cold job as I remember). Thank you to M.J Parker Builders but especially to Jack for the excellent work carried out. We are indebted to Harvey Cracknell who very generously donated all the timber for the new fencing and gates and to Eddie Robbins who supplied all the metal work for the job. We have also replaced the larder fridge in the kitchen.

We managed to secure two NFDC Business Support Grants one at the beginning of lockdown 1 and a smaller one in November. So we are able to keep the heating ticking over preventing any frozen pipes and pay the normal utilities which don't stop even during a pandemic!

2021 brings new hope for the covid vaccination, so we hope to move forward with many of the events which we have missed so much and those which have been suggested thanks to 'Think for Damerham'. We wait patiently but we think positively for the future! The village hall stands ready!!

### Damerham WILL rise again!

Take care everyone and to quote the wonderful David Attenborough  
'Give my regards to your lizard!'

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**Household Glass collection**  
All glass bottles & jars, no lids and  
no broken glass please

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February**  
**from 7.00am**



For the full 2020/21 collection calendar and details of what can and cannot be recycled: [www.newforest.gov.uk/glass](http://www.newforest.gov.uk/glass)