

The Parish Pump February 2023

A regular newsletter from Damerham Parish Council
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Craft Club

A friendly informal group that meets on the last Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall from 7 - 9 pm. Our first session of the year is on Wednesday 22nd February, when we will be making gorgeous personalised journals using Powertex! This session is being subsidised, but we ask a minimum donation of £5 for the tutor and materials. Please book your space with Mandy (07389 009995) so we know how many journals to bring. We are hoping to get a plan for the year together, so get in touch if you have a talent to share, some ideas, or something you would like to learn! Or you can just bring along a craft project and join in with some friendly chat. New members and the not so crafty are really welcome! £3 towards the hire of the hall and refreshments.

Contact Sharon and Jemma
sharon54mia@btinternet.com or jkcoopershj@btinternet.com

Star Gazing in Damerham!

There will be a Star Gazing event on Damerham Sports Field on Friday 17th February starting at 7pm. It will be led by Steve Tonkin of the Cranborne Chase AONB Dark Skies Unit. Steve will give a short introduction, then there will be opportunities to use a variety of telescopes to look at the stars and learn about the sky above us. Parking will be available in the Village Hall car park, and there will be toilets open in the Sports Field Pavilion. Please dress up warm, and bring your own binoculars and/or telescopes if you have them. The event is part of the Parish Council's bid to get a Dark Skies Award for Damerham village. You can also speak to Steve about how to reduce the effects of artificial lighting and other ways to support our bid.

TEA AND CHAT

In true T & C tradition, the first meeting of the New Year is always a happy, lively event with lots of chatter and humour. I suspect it is the 'getting back to normality after Christmas' that we all like the most.

Our varied forthcoming programme was discussed as was the Pen Pal scheme involving Maple class at the school. However, our main focus was on the Jumble and Nearly New sale on Saturday 28 January, which helps fund all our activities throughout the year, enabling our members to enjoy interesting speakers, outings and many other benefits. Please support us on the 28 January from 2pm.

On a sad note, we send our sympathies to Steve and Sue on the recent loss of our dear friend, Colin, who was a member for all too short a time. Also, our good wishes to Robin, wishing her a speedy recovery following her recent surgery. Take care, and don't overdo it too soon!

At the February meeting, Wednesday 1st February, we have a really interesting speaker, retelling her life married to an Iranian and about her 'Life Under the Veil'. It should be a fascinating afternoon. Visitors are always welcome.

Finally, seeing the snowdrops appearing in the Village reminds me that Snowdrop Weekend will soon be upon us, so don't forget to come and support our lovely Church. Spring is on its way – keep smiling! .

Bless you all, Cherry and Simon (01725 518538)

Regular Village Events:

Mondays from 9am Pilates with Sandie
Contact: Sandie.wills@hotmail.co.uk
Tuesdays from 9.45am – Fluffy Chicks parent and toddler group.
Contact: fluffychicks21@gmail.com
Tuesdays from 5pm Taekwondo with Adam
Contact: adam.btsouth@gmail.com
Tuesdays from 7.30pm – Badminton Doubles club
Contact: m.walter@hotmail.co.uk
Wednesdays from 10.30 – Coffee Pot
Wednesdays from 7 - 8pm Zumba with Carolina
Contact carolinatuc@gmail.com
1st Wednesday of the month from 2pm – Tea and Chat
Contact cherrybrittan@hotmail.co.uk
2nd Wednesday of the month from 9.30 – Walking Group
Contact: Sarah at brian.ings@btinternet.com
Last Wednesday of the month from 7pm – Craft Club
Contact sharon54mia@btinternet.com
1st Thursday of the month from 7.15pm Bingo
Contact sharon54mia@btinternet.com
4th Thursday of every other month from 7.30pm Book Club (held in the Compasses)
Contact stevekarenlake@gmail.com
3rd Monday of every other month from 7.30pm
Damerham Parish Council Meeting
Contact clerk@damerham.net

Damerham Free Lunches

These cold and dark days can be when we need things to look forward to. Let's celebrate our wonderful village by having a free soup and crumble lunch!

- **Where:** Damerham Village Hall
 - **When:** Wednesdays 15th February and 15th March
 - **Time:** 12 noon to 2pm
 - **Who for:** Damerham and Western Downland district residents
- Just turn up with your friends and have fun!

Thanks to our sponsors, Damerham Village Hall, Damerham Fair and all the volunteers. If you want to know more, please contact Steve Lake (07774 136211) or Sarah Ings (07974 007425)

Coffee Pot

During the past three months at the Coffee Pot, we have been able to make several donations to charities which have been suggested by our regular helpers. As we always say we do not operate to make a profit, but when we do, it's very nice to be able to donate to a charity. We place all the names of the helpers in a hat and draw out two, who can then nominate their charity. We have made donations to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Bowel Babe Cancer, Hampshire Air Ambulance, St George's Church, the Village Hall and Kidney Research UK.

Thanks to all those who regularly come and support our little gathering and enjoy the coffee, tea and lovely cake!

A huge thank you to all our volunteers who regularly help, serve and pack up, it is much appreciated.

Damerham Village Hall

Next session is
Thursday 2nd February.
from 7.30pm start
CASH PRIZES & RAFFLE
Refreshments Available



It's great fun, come and have a good laugh!

For new residents: lots of information on the village is to be found on the Damerham web site www.damerham.net

A welcome pack is also available from the Clerk clerk@damerham.net for newcomers.

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Nature Notes from Paul T

Weather in December

Another wet month with 142mm of rain compared with the average of 95mm. The year's total was 948mm; very close to the average for the last 44 years of 940mm. There were 10 dry days and 20 days with at least 0.2mm of rain. There were 13 frosts with 11 consecutive in the middle of the month.

Wildlife

Sometimes of an evening sitting by our log burner I think nostalgically of when we were first married and had House Crickets on the hearth. If we came downstairs again after lights out there they would be chirping loudly by the fireside. I knew there were only a few as I marked them with little dabs of paint to find out. During the day they hid in the cracks in the old fireplace and came out at night to feed on any fragments of vegetable matter. I can't remember hearing them in any other houses but there were dozens in the boiler room at one of the dairies where I worked and when I was in hospital in Bath many years ago they were very noisy at night in the heating ducts. They do apparently still survive on rubbish heaps and may be seen in gardens in warm weather although I have never found one there. Another plentiful occupier of the house were the Silver Fish which scuttled away as soon as the light was turned on to hide under rugs or logs. We still see them occasionally in the house but they seem to have become rare. Both species have presumably succumbed to fitted carpets and vacuum cleaners and I suspect that many people have never encountered them. Many other animals share our houses, some more welcome than others and Spiders come to mind as the most obvious ones. The two main species we see are the very large House Spider and the smaller and more delicate Daddy Longlegs Spider. Females of the former can be as much as 20mm long whereas the latter only reach about 10mm. However they both span up to 100mm if legs are included. House Spiders spin rough webs in corners and crevices and are much less abundant and the Daddy Longlegs are the ones which have a mass of fine webs all over the ceilings and walls if left undisturbed. We are very fond of the big ones and enjoy watching their slow progress around the bedroom ceiling but are less keen on the others, especially as I recently read that they catch and eat House Spiders. Never forget that they do a great job of keeping down the flies so try to be at least tolerant of them.

Our attics are home to a variety of wildlife, bats and wasps are frequent and we have had Serotine Bats in ours for over 40 years. This reminds me of story a few years ago when Cranborne Choir were giving a concert outside the hall in Cranborne. I told our choir master that he ought to let the audience know that we would be seeing Serotine Bats emerging from a neighbouring house at dusk. He then announced that "we will be seeing 17 bats emerge at dusk"!!

There are of course other very unwanted visitors such as mice which regularly come into our loft at the onset of winter and in the Chilterns many houses get Edible Dormice which can do a lot of damage with their chewing. I would be very interested to hear of anyone who still has House Crickets.
Happy Spotting!

St George's Parish Church

Snowdrop Weekend is 11th – 12th February at the Church from 12 – 4pm. Donations of cakes, books, bric a brac, jams etc are very welcome, and can be brought to the Church from 9am on either day.

Damerham and District Horticultural Society

The February talk is on the afternoon Thursday 23rd February at 2.30pm at the Village Hall. Sue Sumner will give a talk with slides about 'Gardening for your Health'. All welcome! Members are free, guests £3.

Damerham Community Fund.

Are you struggling to make ends meet?
Then contact us for help. We have already been able to provide assistance to several residents, and the one off payments of £50 per household are completely confidential. Please don't be afraid to apply or nominate, in strictest confidence,
chairmandamerhamfair@gmail.com
or contact Gilly Chance (07774 995964) or Steve Lake (0777 4136211)

Fordingbridge Repair Cafe and Children's Clothes Swap

At Fordingbridge Scout Hut on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 –
1. If you want a repair, contact them before attending to make sure there is someone who can help – email
fordingbridgerepaircafe@gmail.com

Chase & Chalk

Lots of information about events, talks and more across Cranborne Chase. Have a look at www.cranbornechase.org.uk

100 Club

1st prize – Carol Vincent £45
2nd prize – John Nettleton £27
3rd prize – Anon £18
Please contact Mathew.holden@sky.com for details of how to join.

A BIG Thank You – to everyone who helps to prepare and distribute the Parish Pump – especially those stalwart volunteers who make sure you get your Pump through your letterbox every month – give them a big smile, especially when the weather is so grim!

Recycling Sheds – in the school car parks in Damerham and Rockbourne – please use them if you can!

Household Glass collection

All glass bottles & jars
Metal lids only
No loose or plastic lids
No broken glass
Tuesday 7th February from 7.00am



Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on **14th and 28th February**. For more information about collection days for household waste, recycling and more, see www.newforest.gov.uk/recyclingandrubbish

Do you have any ideas, comments, or suggestions for the future of The Parish Pump? News to share, or a village event to publicise? Please get in touch!

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, or you have anything you would like to include in the **March** edition, please email me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com by **Wednesday 15th February. Thank you!!!**