

The Parish Pump March 2023

A regular newsletter from Damerham Parish Council
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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 6pm 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

- **Where:** Damerham Village Hall
- **When:** Wednesday 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!

The previous events were well attended, and everyone had an enjoyable time. Donations will go to the local food bank – thank you! If you want to know more, please contact Steve Lake (07774 136211) or Sarah Ings (07974 007425)

TEA AND CHAT

January finished on a remarkable high with the Jumble and Nearly New Sale producing a great result. Huge thanks to all concerned. Our February speaker must rate as the most poignant and overwhelming guest that we have ever had. Making her entrance dressed totally in her chador, Sandra's career as a Wren based in Portsmouth suddenly and quite unexpectedly turned to Iran, the fall of the Shah and the start of married life to an Iranian, having to cope with Sharia Law and a strict Muslim religion. The loss of freedom was colossal, something we in the West cannot even comprehend. By huge demand, Sandra has been booked for future talks.

The members received their first pen pal post from Maple Class, which has been a real joy to read. Thank you so much to the children and Mrs Kirkaldy.

At our March meeting on Wednesday 1st, we are welcoming back Maple Class to join us to play Bird Bingo, which should be great fun, and very educational!

Lastly, we send Angela our best wishes as she slowly recovers from her horrid accident.

Bless you all, Cherry and Simon (01725 518538)

Craft Club

A friendly informal group that meets on the last Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall from 7 - 9 pm. Our next session is on Wednesday 29th March, when we will be making delightful needle felted little witches or gnomes with Gitta. Please book your space with Mandy (07389 009995) so we are prepared for you! 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! This session is subsidised by the Village Fair, but we ask a contribution of £2.50 towards the cost of the materials and £3 towards the hire of the hall and refreshments.

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

Damerham Fair and Horticultural Show – 29th July

We have started to make contact with volunteers for this year's event and we have had a fantastic response. The main act for the arena and the band for the evening are booked (more details to follow) and the demo slots are being filled. Let us know if you would like to get involved in any way. Contact Steve (07774 136211) or Gilly (07774 995964)

Damerham and District Horticultural Society

Thursday 16th March from 7.30 in the village hall.
A talk with slides by internationally renowned wildlife photographer and author, Bob Gibbons. All welcome, members free, visitors £3.

DDHS SPRING SHOW

Saturday 1st April 2 – 4pm
The show is open to everyone to exhibit their spring flowers, shrubs and floral art. There are amateur and specialist classes, a cookery and handicraft section, and children's classes.
Entry forms and further details can be found on the website: www.ddhs.co.uk. Teas, raffle and plants stall.
Admission £2, members free

Royal British Legion

The spring meeting will be held at the village hall on Wednesday 8th March at 7.30pm. All are welcome

The Compasses Inn

Live band on St Patrick's Day on 17th March – The Ragwormers
Mothers' Day 3 course set menu £35.95 on Sunday 19th March – menus are available on the website

St George's Parish Church

Snowdrop Weekend. A great thank you to everybody who made cakes, brought books and produce for the stalls and bric a brac, helped on the day, or just came up for a cup of tea. The Snowdrops and flower arrangements were admired by all. It was perfect, with over £2,000 raised for St George's, which exceeded our expectations. This amount means we can pay for the Insurance, with a bit left over. Once again, thank you for all of your support.
Les Player, Cathy and John Godber.

Damerham Village Hall

Next session is
Thursday 2nd March
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 January

A fairly wet month with 115mm of rain compared with the average of 95mm. In the past 12 months we have had 944mm almost exactly the average of the past 20 years. You will remember well that it was a very cold month with 13 frosts, 11 of them on consecutive days during which the temperature only reached 8C. The average maximum for the month was 9C

Wildlife

We did the RSPB Big Bird Count on the last weekend of the month and I would be interested to hear of anyone else's results. We recorded 15 species, better than last year but well below some previous ones. The highlight was 3 Bullfinches in the greengage tree. I had several reports of Barn Owls although I did not see one myself. After watching Chris Packham on Winter Watch I decided to look at some Barn Owl pellets from a nearby barn. I identified 9 Field Vole skulls and 1 Wood Mouse. No Bank Voles which are the small mammal we see most often in the field, garden and allotment. I think this indicates that the owls are hunting mostly in the rough grassland of the riverside meadows. Field Voles are more abundant in this habitat whereas Bank Voles are more confined to hedges and banks.

Although the flooded roads have been a bit of a problem, it was nice to see water back on the meadows and some days there 4 Mute Swans and a dozen Pied Wagtails there. I also saw a Grey Wagtail, Fieldfare and a few Redwing.

Whilst trying to find a stopcock to mend a leak I came across a hibernating Toad and in the inspection pit, a very lively Frog. No frogspawn yet but it should soon be about.

Messages from The Cranborne Chase AONB remind us how lucky we are to be in a Dark Sky Area. Recent publications have shown the detrimental effect of night lighting on insect populations, particularly moths even in area like this and we can all do a bit to help by cutting outside lighting to a minimum and not leaving lights on all night. I remember the how marvellous the Milky Way was when I was a child in Surrey. I don't suppose you can even see it there now.

Happy Spotting!

It is so wonderful to have Paul's Nature Notes to read in the Pump. I so missed them with the demise of The Gate magazine. He notices so many things that many of us miss, and upon reading, we think 'oh yes, I remember that!' or 'I've noticed that!'. Take the silver fish, for instance, my Mum always used to say that they only appeared in a clean house. We had no reason to doubt her, as she never told a lie in her life, bless her. I will admit to allowing the odd spider to go up the Henry pipe!! I don't remember house crickets though. Who else would think that dabbing them with paint to check numbers? Absolutely brilliant! Keep up the good work, Paul!

Damerham Parish Council

The local council elections will be taking place in May this year. As a result, all Parish Councillors will be standing down and either offering themselves for re-election or resigning from the Parish Council. If you feel you can contribute to our community in Damerham, you can offer yourself for election. To do so, please contact our Parish Clerk, Lindsey Malcom at clerk@damerham.net.

If you would like to receive agendas, minutes and other pertinent information from the Parish Council by email, please contact the Parish Clerk on 07943 390965 or email clerk@damerham.net

Avon Valley Shed

It's not all about making bird boxes.... But we can! It's about people (usually men) getting together in a shed environment over a cuppa and talking anything instead of being alone in a shed! We do tasks for the community and social engagements mainly for our own peace of mind and satisfaction. (but a donation to funds for our costs is greatly appreciated).

It is our ongoing intention to expand slowly, having little groups of people engaging in such things as guitar sessions, with forthcoming ideas like photography, model making and more, all of which take place on our Wednesdays session at the Methodist church hall in West St, Fordingbridge SP6 1BB.

On Fridays we meet at Damerham sports field pavilion 09:30 till 12:00 and arrange pick up of colleagues from the Methodist Church for those who can't get to Damerham otherwise.

Other dates are available on request see our Facebook page or just come along or ring Paul Dennis (projects) on 07368-300614 or Paul Kalsi on 07597 470056 for a chat.

See our website or drop us an email we would be more than happy to talk to you.

Damerham Dash – save the date!

The inaugural Damerham Dash fun run will be held on Saturday 17th June. Runners/walkers/dog walkers of all levels are welcome to join in the fun. Starting from the Sports Field, the 5k route will take you around areas of Damerham not normally open to the public. There will also be a Colour Run for the kids! Huge thanks to the Bryant family for allowing access to their land and supporting the event. Please keep an eye out for more details and contact Mathew.holden@sky.com if you would be willing to help out.

100 Club

1st prize – ball #3 - anon

2nd prize – ball #1 – Crispin de Pass

3rd prize – ball #21 £18 Peter Brooks

Please contact Mathew.holden@sky.com for details of how to join.

THANK YOU to David Crane the Parish Council Chairman, for arranging the cleaning of the village war memorial. It is now looking much smarter and a fitting tribute to our men who fell in the two world wars. From a grateful resident.

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 March from 7.00am



Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on **14th and 28th March**.

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 **April** edition, please email me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com by **Wednesday 15th March**. Thank you!!!

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