

# The Parish Pump April 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](mailto:Sandie.wills@hotmail.co.uk)

*Tuesdays from 9.45am – Fluffy Chicks parent and toddler group.*

Contact: [fluffychicks21@gmail.com](mailto:fluffychicks21@gmail.com)

*Tuesdays from 5pm Taekwondo with Adam*

Contact: [adam.btsouth@gmail.com](mailto:adam.btsouth@gmail.com)

*Tuesdays from 7.30pm – Badminton Doubles club*

Contact: [m.walter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:m.walter@hotmail.co.uk)

*Wednesdays from 10.30 – Coffee Pot*

*Wednesdays from 6pm Zumba with Carolina*

Contact: [carolinatuc@gmail.com](mailto:carolinatuc@gmail.com)

*1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month from 2pm – Tea and Chat*

Contact: [cherrybrittan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cherrybrittan@hotmail.co.uk)

*2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9.30 – Walking Group*

Contact: [Sarah at brian.ings@btinternet.com](mailto:Sarah at brian.ings@btinternet.com)

*Last Wednesday of the month from 7pm – Craft Club*

Contact: [sharon54mia@btinternet.com](mailto:sharon54mia@btinternet.com)

*1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from 7.15pm Bingo*

Contact: [sharon54mia@btinternet.com](mailto:sharon54mia@btinternet.com)

*4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every other month from 7.30pm Book Club (held in the Compasses)*

Contact: [stevekarenlake@gmail.com](mailto:stevekarenlake@gmail.com)

*Fridays from 9.30 – 12. Avon Valley Shed at the Pavilion on the Sports Field.*

Contact: [Paul Kalsi – 07597 470056](tel:07597470056)

*3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every other month from 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting*

Contact: [clerk@damerham.net](mailto:clerk@damerham.net)

## King's Coronation Picnic

*The Damerham Village Hall Committee would like to invite you to bring your own picnic together with your chairs, or a mat, and join with others to celebrate the King's Coronation. A small number of tables and chairs will be available for those unable to sit on a picnic mat/camping chair.*

*The Picnic is to be held in the grounds of the village hall on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May between 1 and 3pm. Tea and coffee will be served from the hall, and toilet facilities will be accessible. If the weather is not good, the event will be moved to the main hall.*

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

## TEA AND CHAT

*A new adventure for Tea and Chat but one I hope was enjoyed by everyone. At our March meeting, twenty three Maple Class children played 'Bird Bingo' with the Tea and Chat members. Once the initial uncertainties we overcome (mainly from members!), the children found out all sorts of facts about various British and foreign birds from our lovely little kingfisher to the giant snowy albatross, getting very excited when their bingo cards were nearly full! Prizes were handed out and the children all seemed pleased with their 'out of school' experience. It was an absolute pleasure having them join us.*

*Some of this year's outings have been booked, starting off with a visit to Exbury Gardens in mid-May, and we look forward to the Easter parade in April. Hats are being decorated and ideas exchanged. It should be a fun afternoon! Do get in touch if you would like to take part!*

*With the start of British summertime, let's hope we start April with some warmer weather to enjoy our gardens. Take care  
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 26<sup>th</sup> April. This one will be a 'bring along what you're doing' one – so come with something you're working on at the moment, or something you would be happy to share, and we'll also talk about what we would like to do in future sessions. The less than crafty, or not so confident are really welcome too!*

*Contact Sharon and Jemma*

*sharon54mia@btinternet.com or jkcoopershj@btinternet.com*

## Damerham Fair and Horticultural Show – 29<sup>th</sup> July

We now have the main arena attraction booked, and a band for the evening event. We've had a great response for support on the day, but could always do with more! If you would like to be involved in any way, please contact us - Steve (07774 136211) or Gilly (07774 995964)

## Damerham Free Lunches

There have been 3 free lunches held this year, which have been really well attended. We had £300 donated, which has been given to the local food bank. Thanks for all the help, providing soups and crumbles and to the Village Hall and Fair for sponsoring the event. Given the success, we hope to do the same again next year.

## DDHS SPRING SHOW

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2 – 4pm**

The show is open to everyone to exhibit their spring flowers, shrubs and floral art. There are amateur and specialist classes, cookery and handicraft section, and children's classes.

Entry forms and further details can be found on the website:

[www.ddhs.co.uk](http://www.ddhs.co.uk). Teas, raffle and plants stall.

Admission £2, members free

## Royal British Legion



The Royal British Legion provides lifelong support for the Armed Forces community – serving men and women, veterans and their families. Anyone can join, so why not become an RBL member, and a member of our branch, and support the RBL all year round? It costs only £18 per year, and you can join online at [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk) (click 'get involved', 'things to do', 'membership') or get in touch with the Secretary, Jim Eames at [jim.eames@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.eames@btinternet.com)

## Humble Lunch

Thank you to everyone who helped and attended the Humble Lunch - £133.50 was raised and sent to Sudan Medical Link, where it is very much needed.

## Damerham Village Hall

**Next session is  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April  
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](http://www.damerham.net)**

**A welcome pack is also available from the Clerk [clerk@damerham.net](mailto:clerk@damerham.net) for newcomers.**

**The Parish Pump is printed by Time2Display, Fordingbridge 01725 512021**

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## Nature Notes from Paul T

### **Weather in February**

What a contrast to last month! We had just 10mm of rain, and the average is 66mm. Roads have dried and most of the water has gone from the meadows although the river is still full and running well up the valley. We had 9 frosts, with the coldest nights on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> when it dropped to minus 3C (I know many will have recorded lower down by the river). On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> the thermometer reached 14C and on several days it reached just 8C. We had no days when it stayed near freezing, unlike January.

### **Wildlife**

Our neighbours had frogspawn in their little pond by the 19<sup>th</sup>, but we haven't seen any in ours. The toads were spawning in Breamore late in the month with the toad patrol rescuing many from the road. The first cherry plum came into flower on 25<sup>th</sup>, a bit later than last year when it was the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Seeing a large flock of fieldfare prompted me to write a bit about our British thrushes. We have six, three residents, blackbird, song thrush and mistle thrush, two winter visitors, fieldfare and redwing, and one summer visitor, ring ouzel.

The blackbird is one of the birds which nearly everyone knows, the commonest and most easily identified with the black male and the dark brown female, whereas the ring ouzel is one that most people have never seen. Both of these species have black males and brown females, whereas in the in the others sexes are similar in appearance. Why this should be I find very puzzling.

Of the resident species, song thrushes are the smallest, and bullied by the blackbirds, and in our garden are always driven off by the resident blackbird within a few minutes. Mistle thrushes are the largest and can be told from song thrushes by their upright stance on the ground, their more streaked than spotted breast, white feathers in the tail which are evident as they fly, and the grating 'chack, chack' call.

Fieldfares and redwings visit Britain in autumn and winter from their breeding grounds in Scandinavia and Russia. They descend on us to gorge on the berries, particularly hawthorn, and then most of them move on to spend the winter in southern Europe and even Asia although many stay in Britain, depending on how severe the weather is. They then make the return journey in late winter and early spring, feeding mainly in open fields on invertebrates, and large flocks may be encountered in March and early April.

Fieldfares can be identified by their large size, grey head and rump, and chestnut back, whereas redwings are rather inconspicuous like a slightly smaller song thrush, but instantly recognisable if you are close enough to see the cream eye stripe. In flight, field fare have a loud 'chuck, chuck' call, and redwing a high pitched 'tseep' call, often at night, as migrating flocks pass over and this used to be one of the awaited autumn signs for me, but unfortunately, I can no longer hear them.

Ring ouzels are summer visitors, breeding in mountains and moorland and have declined greatly in recent years, although it is not clear why. They are very similar to blackbirds but have pale edges to their wings and pale crescents on the breast, white in the male and cream in the female. They winter in southern Europe and may be encountered in lowland Britain in late summer and spring on passage.

### **Happy Spotting!**

A puzzle! Reading Paul's piece about household creepy crawlies last month, I remembered a puzzling thing.

On a sunny spring day, take a look on a warm wall or fence, and you will probably meet the little zebra spider. Look closely into its very shiny black eyes, and it will look back at you. It is a jumping spider – springing on its prey, or out of the way of a predator. And, just in case it slips, it spins a lifeline from its spinnerets, and fastens the other end to the wall. A wonderful creature!

But here's my puzzle. Why is it that in spring, lots of baby zebra spiderlings appear in the washbasin of our bathroom, practising little spider hoplets on the porcelain? Where do they come from? And how? If I didn't rescue them, what is the point?! **Robin**

### Damerham Parish Council

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm at the village hall. It is an opportunity for the village to get together and to raise the issues that matter to you. The meeting will be followed at 7.30pm by the Annual Meeting of the New Parish Councillors, and those who wish to stay are most welcome.


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](mailto:clerk@damerham.net). Use this contact too if you are interested in the Parish Council election.

### Damerham Celebrates King Charles' Coronation

The Damerham Beacon will be lit on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 9.30pm to celebrate the coronation of King Charles.

All residents and visitors are welcome to join the lighting. Please bring something to raise a toast to our new King!

### Damerham Dash – save the date!

 Please book the morning of 17<sup>th</sup> June in your diaries, and support the inaugural Damerham Dash! Runners, walkers, dog walkers are all welcome to join in for a 5km run round the beautiful Damerham countryside. The off-road route will start and end on the Sports Field and will give access to areas of farmland not normally open to the public. The kids can also join in with a children's colour run around the Sports Field. We will have a barbecue and other refreshments available all morning for 'athletes' and spectators alike. The event will be available to everyone for booking soon on [sientries.co.uk](http://sientries.co.uk). All profits will go the local charities: Damerham Sports Field Committee and the Friends of Western Downland School. Please contact [Mathew.holden@sky.com](mailto:Mathew.holden@sky.com) for more information, or if you would like to help on the day.

### 100 Club

1<sup>st</sup> prize – ball 28 – Nathan Welch  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize – ball 1 – Crispin de Pass  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize – ball 17 – Gillian Benfield

Please contact [Mathew.holden@sky.com](mailto:Mathew.holden@sky.com) for details of how to join.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> April from 7.00am**



### Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on **11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April**.

For more information about collection days for household waste, recycling and more, see [www.newforest.gov.uk/recyclingandrubbish](http://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 **May** edition, please email me at [mandysrobbins@gmail.com](mailto:mandysrobbins@gmail.com) by **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April**. **Thank you!!!**

For new residents: lots of information on the village is to be found on the Damerham web site [www.damerham.net](http://www.damerham.net)

A welcome pack is also available from the Clerk [clerk@damerham.net](mailto:clerk@damerham.net) for newcomers.

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