

# The Parish Pump September 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 6.30pm – Damerham AFC training*

Contact: [Dylan - 07380192020](mailto:Dylan-07380192020)

*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: [sarahings56@gmail.com](mailto:sarahings56@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Paul Kalsi – 07597 470056

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

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

**Badminton Club** starts up again in September, every Tuesday evening – new members are always welcome!



### Royal British Legion Social

*On the first Thursday of every month from 7.30pm at Martin Village Hub. Everyone is welcome to come along to join us and ask questions. Contact Jim Eames – [jim.eames@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.eames@btinternet.com).*

### Damerham and District Horticultural Society

A talk by Benjamin Turner on the subject of 'Inspiration from Tresco Abbey Gardens'. At Damerham Village Hall on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. All welcome! Refreshments available. Non-members £3.

### An Apple A Day...

Keeps the doctor away! Not sure about that, but take a leisurely stroll to West Park Community Meadow and gather some delicious apples from the community trees there. They are just beginning to ripen, and would make a tasty crumble or something else yummy! Don't let them go to waste.

The Community Meadow is off West Park Lane, and there's a signpost to show you the entrance.

### 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 meeting is 27<sup>th</sup> September, and there will be macramé! The less than crafty, or not so confident are really welcome too.*

Contact Sharon or Jemma

[sharon54mia@btinternet.com](mailto:sharon54mia@btinternet.com) or [jccoopershj@btinternet.com](mailto:jccoopershj@btinternet.com)

## Damerham Fair – 29 July

A heart-felt thank you to all our committee, volunteers and sponsors, without everyone pulling together there wouldn't be a Fair. We really value your support, and we were really pleased that many new faces helped out, as well as our regulars.

What a fantastic day! It was good to see so many people having fun and enjoying themselves – we were also blessed with the weather, with two heavy showers passing quickly through! We were entertained by the Mighty Smith in the main arena, and our new items proved successful, including a free bus service from Fordingbridge, crepe stand and the new bbq.

The Fair was a great success financially as well, and we have once again raised over £10,000. Funds are already committed to the Village Hall and Sportsfield for use of their facilities, Cadets who provide the car parking, Inner Wheel who run the tea and cakes and Pilgrims who run the dog show. As promoted at the Fair, we have also already sponsored projects this year (cleaning of the war memorial, dog poo bin, drinks hot water system) and our main project is sponsoring the School's new shaded play area (the Horticultural Society are helping in the design and the Avon Valley Shed will also assist).

The good news is that we have some left over funds to distribute to other village and local organisations or specific projects which benefit the village. We are setting up a new process replacing the general hand-outs we have previously made. We are inviting these organisations, or if anyone with a specific project which may benefit the village, to apply for funds using our application form. We have also appointed non-committee independent members who will assist in the review process of these. Forms are available from [chairdamerhamfair@gmail.com](mailto:chairdamerhamfair@gmail.com)

### The Green Gram

*We are a Community Benefit Society and we opened the Green Gram Refill shop in Fordingbridge last May. The support we have received so far has been amazing, and so many people are now starting to use the shop to avoid more single use plastic entering the waste stream. We desperately need more space, and are hoping to move to new premises on the High Street. We will use repurposed and recycled items to refurbish the shop wherever possible, but unfortunately, there are some items that we need to buy new, and also will have to pay tradesmen so we are currently desperately fundraising. It is possible to buy a share in the Community Benefit Society and become a member, or any donations are welcomed. More details can be found on our website – [www.thegreengram.org](http://www.thegreengram.org)*



### Two Bridges NEED YOU!

Can you help out, please – just a few hours a month is fine! Two Bridges provide transport for hospital and medical appointments in Damerham, Fordingbridge, Alderholt and area, and need more volunteer drivers. A vital service where we live, and a wonderful way to 'give back'.

Contact them on 0845 838 5902 for more information.

### Damerham Village Hall

Next session is

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September

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 July**

A very wet month with 106mm compared with the average and just 10 days with no rain. The warmest day was the 19<sup>th</sup> with 24C, and the coolest night was 10C on the 25/25<sup>th</sup>. The average high was 21C and the low was 14C.

### **Wildlife**

We have still been seeing one Grass Snake on our allotment all through the month, as well as Slow Worms and Common Lizards in the field, and a lot of Damselflies on the garden pond. Only a few Dragonflies. The poor weather has curtailed wildlife watching, so I have very few records. I did take part in the Big Butterfly Count near the end of the month, and there were a lot of whites, mostly Large White, but also a few Green Veined White and Small White. A few Peacocks and Red Admirals as well as some Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers. Small Tortoiseshell are still very scarce, in spite of feeding on Stinging Nettles which are certainly not uncommon.

### **Chalk Streams**

Chalk streams like the River Allen in Damerham are very rare, with less than 300 globally, and most of them are in Hampshire. The water in them comes from rainwater which has fallen on the chalk downs and then percolated through the chalk rock to emerge in the valleys below. Because the water is almost all from underground, it stays cool, at about 10C throughout the year, and this maintains a high concentration of oxygen which enables the streams to support a lot of invertebrates, such as Mayflies, Stoneflies and Caddis flies. These in turn supply food for the fish. Especially well known are Brown Trout, Grayling and Salmon, although these have decreased dramatically in recent years, and there are also Millers' Thumbs, Minnows and many other species. Many years ago, I used to take a group of children from Damerham school into the meadows here each week and we always made notes on the river, including taking the temperature. I especially remember the Brook Lampreys in the spring (river not season) making their nests with the fine gravel, and finding a Water Scorpion when the river was very low.

Kingfishers are frequently seen feeding on the small fish, and in the past, Water Voles were often seen. I discovered when looking up information about streams that there is a species of blind and colourless crustacean which lives in the water down in the aquifer unchanged for millions of years, unaffected by the Ice Ages. One of the unique features of these streams is the winterbournes where the upper reaches of the river dry up during the summer, as the water level in the chalk aquifer falls, and then fill again as the winter comes. Unfortunately, many of them now dry up further down and for longer because of abstraction by water companies to supply our water, and this, and the pollution they suffer from agriculture and also sewerage is severely damaging them. Hopefully, we will take action to prevent further deterioration of this wonderful resource.

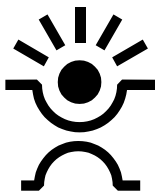
**Happy spotting!!**

### **TUFF summer**

We have really enjoyed our TUFF sessions on the Community Meadow on Wednesday afternoons, with lovely faces old and new joining in all sorts of stuff! Thank you for joining us.

Our final session is on Friday 1 September from 5.30pm, when we will have a Wild Night, with storytelling, some games a bat walk and more – don't forget to bring your picnic!

**Contact Mandy on 07389 009995 or [turnupforfun@live.com](mailto:turnupforfun@live.com) and check in on our facebook page – Turn Up For Fun – TUFF.**



## **Hampshire and The Islands Historic Churches Trust**

### **Ride and Stride – 9<sup>th</sup> September**

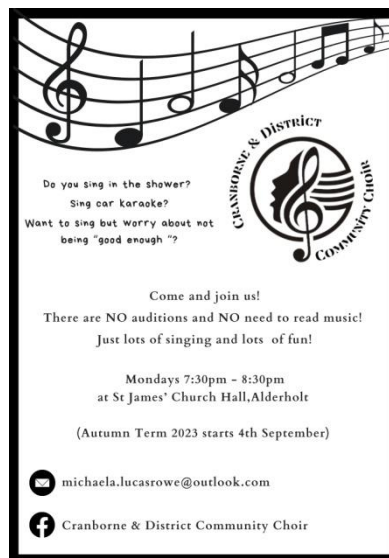
*The day is an amazing opportunity to discover the rich heritage of our historic church buildings, get some exercise, see some beautiful countryside and raise some funds for the churches and chapels of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The idea is to plan a route and travel between some of the churches in the area; many will have refreshments, loos and folk to chat with, as well as fellow travellers to meet. Our own St George's will be taking part. Find out more at [hihct.org.uk](http://hihct.org.uk)*

### **Summer Cream Teas**

Thank you to everyone who came along and enjoyed a cream tea or two during August to help raise funds for the Church.

### **A Date for Your Diary**

Jumble Sale on Saturday 14 October from 2pm at the Village Hall, with a raffle and refreshments. Funds for St George's Church. Please start saving your jumble now – no electrical goods though, please!



### **It's Rubbish!!**

**Recycling Sheds** – in the school carparks 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 19 September from 7.00am



### **Garden Waste**

Collection for existing customers will be on 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> September. 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 **October** edition, please email me at [mandysrobbins@gmail.com](mailto:mandysrobbins@gmail.com) by **Friday 15th September. 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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