



The Parish Pump



December 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.bt.south@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

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 ellawhitcher@hotmail.co.uk tel: 07986 650123

1st Wednesday of the month Quiz Night at the Compasses Inn
Contact: 01725 518231

2nd Wednesday of the month from 9.30 – Walking Group
Contact: sarahings56@gmail.com

Last Wednesday of the month from 7pm – Craft Club
Contact jkcopershj@btinternet.com

1st Thursday of the month from 7.15pm Bingo
Contact sharon54mia@btinternet.com @btinternet.com

1st Thursday of the month from 7.30pm, Royal British Legion social at Martin Village Hub.
Contact: Jim.eames@btinternet.com

Fridays from 9.30 – 12. Avon Valley Shed at the Pavilion on the Sports Field.
Contact [Paul Kalsi – 07597 470056](mailto:Paul.Kalsi-07597470056)

3rd Monday of every other month from 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting
Contact clerk@damerham.net

Seasonal Closures!!

Please check with the group contacts, or see below, to make sure when they are meeting over the holiday to avoid wasted journeys, and missed mince pie eating opportunities!!

Coffee Pot are breaking for a week, so no gathering on 27th December.

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Damerham and District Horticultural Society

There will be a wreath making demonstration on Thursday 7th December at 2pm at the Village Hall. The wreath will be made using different materials and styles and auctioned off. All welcome. Festive refreshments. Members free, non-members £3. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone!

Royal British Legion

The Damerham and Western Downland branch would love to see you at our next social – to be held at the Compasses Inn on 7th December at 7.30. Everyone is welcome – do come along and find out more about us.

Seasonal Events!

Village Get Together

You are warmly invited to this year's Get Together, to catch up with friends and neighbours and enjoy the festive spirit, on Saturday 9th December 12 – 3pm at the Village Hall.

Mulled wine, pizza, mince pies, roast potatoes and other nibbles are all provided, but if you'd like to bring something along to share, everyone would be very grateful!

We'll have the festive music on, and a bit of sing song if the mood takes us!

This year's main raffle is a yummy Christmas hamper, full of tasty treats to enjoy. Small prizes are available, but we are not asking for any donations of prizes this year, thank you.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Christmas Carols and Festive Songs

At Crossways Farm on Thursday 14th December 5 - 7pm
Sing along with choir/artist recordings, and enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls

A few seats will be available, but you may wish to bring your own if needed. There will be a collection plate in aid of St George's Church.

Damerham Village Hall

Next bingo session is
Thursday 7th December
with a Christmas themed
raffle and refreshments.
from 7.30pm start
CASH PRIZES & RAFFLE
Refreshments Available
It's great fun, come and have a good laugh!



Tea and Chat

We had a lovely time at our November meeting celebrating that Tea and Chat has been running for 26 years! We are so grateful that over the years dedicated people have invested their time into the group to keep it going for the people of Damerham and surrounding areas, and that at the right time they were able to hand over the baton to the next leaders. This village has so many people that are willing to invest in the community and it is such a blessing to live here.

At our December meeting, we have the children from Maple class coming to sing carols to us and meet up with those members who have agreed to be a pen pal. Then we will play some age appropriate party games – sorry, no musical chairs – too much of a health and safety risk, but fun will be had you can be certain!

We are looking forward to our Christmas meal later in December and I am sure there will be fun and laughter there too!

Contact Ella Whitcher for more info on 07986 650123

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.

The Parish Pump is printed by Time2Display, Fordingbridge 01725 512021



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Nature Notes from Paul T

October Weather: Another very wet month, with 198mm rain, compared to the average of 86mm and 2 days with more than 20mm. There were 9 days with no rain. The 12 month total is now 975mm. October was mostly very warm, with 2 nights when the temperature only fell to 17C. There were no frosts and the coolest night was on 16th/17th at 5C.

Wildlife: I have not been out very much partly because it has been so wet. On 8th October, it was fine and warm, and we had lunch in a friend's garden. In the next couple of hours there, we were treated to a fine display of birds. It started with 2 Ravens flying over, followed a few minutes later by a Sparrow Hawk. Next was a fine view of a Goshawk really low, a Buzzard soared high overhead, and then last of all, a Kite. Quite a birding lunch!

On 24th October, there was a Hummingbird Hawkmoth on the warm wall in Swanage. I saw a Barn Owl on the 26th – my first in a very long time. I know we have them in Damerham, and I am surprised at how rarely I see one. And Red Admiral and Peacock butterflies spotted in the garden.

There were still masses of flowers out, right to the end of the month, and I was still putting out cut flowers into November. I read an article recently about bird rings and raptors. It started in 1997 when a bird ringer found a ring at a Peregrine roost in the Brecon Beacons (this is now called something else!). He found more rings there, one from a bird ringed in the Netherlands and one from Denmark. He then tried using a metal detector, and friends joined in. Over a few years, they found British rings from Blackbird, Dunlin, Jay, Starling, Song Thrush, Greenfinch, Great Tit, Chaffinch, Dipper (6) Reed Bunting Blue Tit, Sand Martin, Stock Dove and Whinchat.

They also found rings from birds ringed abroad. Starlings from Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Estonia, France, Netherlands and Sweden. They also found German Blackbirds, Fieldfares from Norway and Finland a Black Headed Gull from Lithuania, Common Terns from Netherlands and West Africa, Chaffinch, Woodcock and Sand Martin from France.

Many rings were from before 1950 as after that they tailed off, coinciding with the drastic decline in birds of prey due to the use of DDT. They increased again after the mid '70s. Over the years, many rings have also been found at archaeological sites, with 67 species recorded.

I ringed birds for several years back in the 60s and 70s, and in that time we had a few recoveries. A Fieldfare ringed in Wilts and recovered in Russia, and a Redwing recovered in Italy later in the same winter in which we had caught it. My only really interesting one was a Whinchat which I ringed as a nestling in mid-Wales which was trapped in the breeding season on Salisbury Plain where I lived at the time.
Happy spotting!!

Damerham Stargazing Evening

On January 4th at the Sports Field from 7.30 – 9.30pm, weather permitting. This is a free, ticketed event, as numbers are limited. Tickets online from Eventbrite, and organised by Cranborne Chase International Dark Sky Reserve.

Damerham Fair

Another year over, and we have already been busy planning for the next Fair on 27th July 2024. The band is booked for the evening event, and will play three sets – the 60's, 70's and 80's. The main arena attraction is booked with more details to follow.
Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas!!

Craft Club

No craft club for December or January – our next session will be on Wednesday 28th February 2024.

Contact Sharon or Jemma

sharon54mia@btinternet.com or jkcoopershj@btinternet.com

Damerham Village Hall

The Village Hall AGM went well, and a new Committee is now in place – watch this space for their news!! I have been asked to note that Carolyn Armitage had actually been Chair for 19 years – definitely a service worth noting!

Damerham Parish Council

Your Parish Council is anxious to keep any increase in Council Tax next year to a minimum. However, we are facing significant cost increases for the year ahead.

One such example is the new policy from NFDC to charge the Parish Council for the regular emptying of the litter and dog waste bins in the village from April 2024. This charge will be at least £1250 a year, which is a major increase in the Parish Council expenditure.

A suggestion for helping to offset this charge is to find local sponsors for the litter/dog waste bins. If there are any local businesses or individuals who would be willing to sponsor a bin or bins, please contact our Parish Clerk at clerk@damerham.net.

The Parish Council is also faced with significant costs in replacing play equipment on West Park Meadow. In particular, the large basket swing, which has been very popular with generations of Damerham children over the years, has reached the end of its life, and has been removed from the Meadow for safety reasons.

The Council has had a very generous offer of a donation towards the cost of a new swing. Any further offers to help would be very welcome. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you feel able to help. Thank you.

It's Rubbish!!

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 12th December from 7.00am

Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on 5th and 19th December. 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 December edition, please email me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com by Friday 15th December. Thank you!!! Wishing everyone a very happy and peaceful festive season!

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

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