

The Parish Pump January 2024

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 6.30pm – Damerham AFC training
Contact: 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 jkcoopershj@btinternet.com

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

1st Thursday of the month from 7.30pm Royal British Legion Social
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

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

No Craft Club or Bingo this month.

Damerham and District Horticultural Society

On Thursday 4th January from 2pm at the Village Hall. Simon Goldsack will explain the development of his garden at Holme for Gardens near Wareham. Simon has 30 years of experience in garden design and creating gardens, so it should be a really interesting and informative talk.

You can also renew your annual membership at this meeting, or come along and join the Society. A single annual membership is £8, a couple is £12, or just come along as a guest for £3.

St George's Church

It's a New Year, and the Church is looking for more Holy Dusters to go on the rota to help keep St George's clean! Elbow grease is not required, as Henry does most of the work! Interested? Please get in touch with Gillian Benfield on 01725 518429.
Thank you!!

Save the Date! Snowdrop Weekend at St George's is on the weekend of 10th and 11th February. If you have any good quality bric a brac and/or books for our stall, or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact catherine.godber50@gmail.com

New Classification

Please note that the AONB is now called National Landscapes, bringing it in line with National Parks.

Crossways Christmas Gathering

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to Crossways Farm for the Carols and Christmas songs, sing-a-long on 14th December. My special thanks to Tim and Lucinda from Crossways House who donated and served the seemingly never ending flow of mulled wine (plus additives), much enjoyed by everyone! Thanks too to my family for helping with the food, many mince pies and sausage rolls were also enjoyed, making it an altogether happy, festive and joyous occasion. It was such a lovely mix of village folk and some friends from the surrounding area too.
The sum of £265.83 was received in donations, which will go towards the upkeep of St George's Church.
Mike J.

Walking Group

The New Year and resolutions to get fitter are in most people's thoughts at this time. If you want gentle exercise with friendly people, we walk from the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of the month. We meet at 9.30am and usually walk for about an hour. After our walk, there is the opportunity to go to the Hall for coffee and cake at the weekly Coffee Pot. Anyone is welcome to join us, and there is no pressure to walk quickly! If you want to know more, please contact me at sarahings56@gmail.com.

Tea and Chat

Tea and Chat had a lovely festive meeting on 6th December with the children from Maple class from Western Downland School. There were 18 children, along with Mrs Tubbs, the Headteacher, Mrs Kirkaldy the class teacher, and the Learning Support Assistants. We were delighted with their performance of the nativity story and the songs that accompanied it. All the children were very enthusiastic, and the narrators were very comfortable using the microphone. After the performance, the children were paired up with their penpals for the year, and we look forward to receiving their letters next term. We then had festive nibbles and played party games. We were also pleased to see new folk joining us, and hope they will return in the New Year.

On 13th December 42 of us went to the Horse and Groom for our Christmas lunch. The food was excellent, and the staff were wonderful. We wish to say a grateful thanks to the Village Fair Committee for their very generous donation that enabled us to subsidise everybody's meal. This donation, together with money left to us by our dear Eddie Robbins made it affordable for all to be able to come.

We will be back at the Village Hall for Tea and Chat in the New Year on Wednesday 3rd January at 2pm with a new programme.
Don't forget to bring your £5 subs!
Ella and Jenny.

URGENT APPEAL

*Mike Jerrard has an irreplaceable archive of many precious memories of Damerham, including albums of photographs of village events, characters and more. But, 2 of the volumes are missing! Might you have borrowed them for a deeper look, or know of their whereabouts? The volumes missing are marked
Volume 1 – Late 1980's – early 1990's and
Volume 11 – January 2002 – March 2002. They are irreplaceable, and therefore it is really important that we find them if we can.
Please help – amateur sleuths welcome!*

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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Damerham Fair

Funding requests have been received and agreed with our independent reviewers and the committee. We are very pleased that the success of the Fair has enabled us to help a wide variety of organisations. We are part funding the school's new shaded play area; the Sportsfield's new boiler; Tea and Chat's Christmas meal; free lunches (see below); setting up a Sunday lunch club and helping the Horticultural Society with Fair running costs. In addition, we are funding some equipment for the Avon Valley Shed; materials/guest for the craft club and kickboard for the Damerham Village Kids. These are on top of funding the cleaning of the war memorials; purchasing the dog poo bin on the Sportsfield and a safer drinks hot water system in the Pavilion.

Planning for the 2024 event is progressing well. The Black Eagles (a fantastic gymnastic display) being the main arena attraction and the evening band will be performing music from the 60's, 70's and 80's. We will also be putting on the popular free bus service from Fordingbridge again.

Nature Notes From Paul T.

Weather in November: Another wet month with 115mm of rain compared with the average of 85mm. We have had 948mm in the past 12 months. There were just 8 dry days, a 'mini drought' in the middle of the month, with 5 successive days without rain.

There were 3 days when the temperature reached 15C and the average maximum was 12C. I recorded just 3 frosts although I know other places in the village had more. The lowest temperature here was zero on 26/27th and 27/28th. The average minimum was 6C. The river is really high, lovely to see it flowing so well.

Wildlife: Alec and I went to Blashford Lakes one evening to look for a Starling roost and there were several thousand birds coming in at dusk, although they did not perform for long, going quickly in to roost. It is well worth a visit. There were as usual thousands of gulls roosting with a river of Lesser Black Backs coming in as dusk fell as well as lots of Black Headed Gulls and fewer Common Gulls. I have found a lot of fungi including Shaggy Parasols and some really huge mushrooms which have recently been named Macro Mushrooms. As the vegetation died down, I found 2 summer nests of Harvest Mice in our field. The first I have seen for a few years. I was very pleased to find that they are still there. There have been very few birds in the garden until right at the end of the month, when masses of Blue Tits and Great Tits started on the sunflower seeds with a few Coal Tits and very rarely a Marsh Tit. No Gold Finches yet.

I have seen 2 articles recently about dead leaves in the garden one by the curator at Wisley and the other by James Wong in the New Scientist. They remind me of a piece I wrote a few years back in The Gate. I mentioned then how the decline of Blackbirds in urban parks was linked to the clearing away of leaves, from not just the grass, but from flower beds as well, which has become popular with the advent of the dreaded leaf blower. Blackbirds in particular spend a lot of the winter foraging among dead leaves for worms and other invertebrates, and clearing them away takes a lot of their food away. Both these articles highlighted how research has shown that no harm would come to your tulips or other dormant plants under a cover of leaves as they are all taken down into the ground over winter by worms, with a huge increase in the worms and an improvement in the soil as a result. Even on lawns, it has been shown that a 50% cover is fine, and that the best way to manage the leaves is to break them up with the mower and leave them for the worms. This is, after all, just a natural mulch. The Wisley curator also mentioned that he had given up digging the beds in winter, and thus spared his back! So resist the temptation of the leaf blower and leave the leaves for the wildlife.

Happy Spotting. Paul.

Three Free Lunches are Back!

After the success of last year, we are once again having a free soup and crumble lunch (you are welcome to make a donation, with all proceeds going to the local foodbank). This is sponsored by the Damerham Fair together with kind offers from anyone who wishes to donate some soup and/or crumble (please let Steve 0777 4136211 or Sarah 07974 007245 know if you wish to donate). The lunches are on Wednesdays 17 January, 21st February and 20th March at 12.15pm in the Village Hall, all are welcome.

Royal British Legion Social

On the first Thursday of every month rotating in the area. The next social meeting will be at the Rose and Thistle in Rockborne from 7.30pm on Thursday 4th January. Everyone is welcome to come along to join us and ask questions. Contact Jim Eames – jim.eames@btinternet.com.

TABLE TOP SALE

27TH JANUARY

DAMERHAM VILLAGE HALL, SP6 3HN

SELLERS FROM 10AM

£10 PER TABLE

BUYERS FROM 11AM

ENTRY FREE £1

REFRESHMENTS

PROCEEDS IN AID OF HALL FUNDS

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 9th January from 7.00am



Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on 3rd, 16th and 30th January.

For more information about collection days for household waste, recycling and more, see www.newforest.gov.uk/recyclingandrubbish

Real Christmas trees (with all decorations removed) can be recycled by the Council up to 14th January – nearest drop off is the A338 Sliproad car park in Fordingbridge.

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 **February** edition, please email me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com by **Monday 15th January**. Thank you!!!*

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