

# The Parish Pump



# February 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

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday** of the month from 2pm – Tea and Chat  
Contact ellawhitche@hotmail.co.uk tel: 07986 650123

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday** of the month, Quiz Night at the Compasses Inn  
Contact: 01725 518231

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday** of the month from 7.15pm Bingo  
Contact victoriawheelon@hotmail.com

**1<sup>st</sup> 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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Monday** of every other month from 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting  
Contact clerk@damerham.net

## Damerham and District Horticultural Society

Our next meeting is on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the Village Hall. Our speaker is Gwynne Davies to talk all about daffodils.

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 we are looking for more Holy Dusters to go on the rota to help keep St George's clean! Thank you to those folk who already help, or who have already volunteered, but we really need some more help please! It is a lovely opportunity to give something back to our community, and to help maintain our beautiful, historic Church. 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!!

**Snowdrop Weekend at St George's** is on the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February – don't miss it!! 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](mailto:catherine.godber50@gmail.com)

## Damerham Village Hall

**It's back!!**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**  
Doors at 7.15 for a 7.30 start  
£10 a book, £1 bonus round.  
**CASH PRIZES & RAFFLE**  
**Refreshments Available**



It's great fun, come and have a good laugh!

## Coffee Pot

We are open to everyone every Wednesday in the Village Hall from 10.30-noon. A warm welcome is guaranteed, as is delicious coffee, tea and homemade cake. Come along and catch up with old friends and new.

## Craft Club

A friendly informal group that meets on the last Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall from 7 - 9 pm. Our first meeting of the year is 28<sup>th</sup> February. Bring along a current project to work on or share, an idea you'd like some help with, or to learn. The less than crafty, or not so confident are really welcome too.

Contact Sharon or Jemma

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

## Walking Group

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](mailto:sarahings56@gmail.com).

## Tea and Chat

Tea and Chat had a very quiet meeting in January, as lots of folk were still suffering with post Christmas coughs and colds. We had a good time catching up whilst doing some mandala doodling. We passed round a list of ideas for potential outings for later in the year for everyone to vote on, but a fair amount of cheating went on by a certain table of people who put several ticks on their favourite choice! Those who were not able to come will get their chance to vote on the outings this month (there will be some serious invigilation this time though, so no vote rigging will be allowed!! Hahaha!)

We are looking forward to welcoming our first speaker for 2024. We have Sandra Simmonds returning to share some more of her story.

We will also be making plans for our annual Nearly New and Jumble Sale which will be on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. If you have unwanted items that you wish to donate, please save them for us and bring them to the hall on the day at 10am. Sorry, no large items, or electrical goods please. For more information regarding Tea and Chat, please contact Ella on 07986 650123. If you haven't already paid your subs for this year, don't forget to bring your £5 this time.

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! Have you 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, both for Mike and his family, but also as a fascinating record of our village. 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](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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## Nature Notes From Paul T.

**Weather December 2023:** Very wet again, with the month's rainfall at 144mm compared with the average of 95mm. There were 9 dry days, and only one morning when there was no cloud. 28 days had complete cloud cover at 8am. The warmest day was on the 21<sup>st</sup> with 14C, and the coldest was -2C on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were just 3 frosts.

**Wildlife in December:** As a result of the dismal wet weather and the interruption of Christmas, I have no records for the month, apart from recording the first Goldfinches of the winter early in the month. I can't remember this happening before.

Alec and I visited the Somerset Levels earlier in January to watch the Starlings roost on the RSPB reserve at Ham Walls. Although there were an estimated 500,000 birds coming in at dusk, it was not one of the best displays I have seen. Birds went in as they arrived in large flocks, and never got together in the vast clouds you sometimes see. If you have never been to watch it, it is certainly worth a trip.

Even without the Starlings, it is still a great experience with Marsh Harriers constantly patrolling, Great White Egrets, Little Egrets and Herons to watch, and thousands of ducks. These were mainly Shoveler and Gadwall, but there were also Tufted Duck, Mallard and Teal. Lots of Coot, a few Great Crested Grebe and Little Grebe. We hear Water Rail squealing in the reed beds and saw Snipe, Stone Chat and Reed Bunting. There were Robins everywhere, and a Sparrow Hawk flew over as the sky darkened. The Somerset Levels and Moors as they are officially called, have a fascinating history. Covering about 160,000 hectare, most of the area is very low lying – just 3 or 4 metres above sea level, and Neolithic people lived here in raised villages with wooden trackways to aid getting about. The Sweet Track is the most famous and some of this is preserved by preventing it from drying out. In the Middle Ages some drainage was done by constructing ditches, but it was not until efficient steam driven pumps were available in the 1860's that large areas were drained with water pumped up to raised artificial rivers.

Digging of peat has been done for hundreds of years, but in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century the introduction of huge machines enabling vast amounts to be taken and huge areas of herb-rich grassland were consumed. In recent years, the extraction is much reduced, and now the area is a wonderful complex of open water, reed beds and grazing land. Willow growing was very important for basket making until plastic took over, and in the 1930's about 9,000 acres were in use. Now less than 300 acres are still actively managed.

Over the years, there have been disastrous floods, and in 1607, over 2,000 people were drowned and 200 square miles were under water. The most famous (or infamous, perhaps) of recent times, was in 2013/14 when over 600 houses were flooded and villages were cut off for weeks.

**Happy Spotting. Paul.**

## Restoring the Balance – Barn Owl Talk.

David Ramsden MBE gave a talk to the Chase and Chalke volunteers about Barn Owl ecology, decline and restoration efforts. There is a video of this talk, and information about how the Trust looks at Barn Owl conservation and the work of the Trust – what you can do to improve the situation for this magical bird. Have a look at the video on the Cranborne Chase National Landscape youtube channel, there is lots more to be found there about what Chase and Chalke does, and our local landscape.

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Cartwheel in Whitsbury on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7.3pm. All members and non-members are welcome to come along to join us and have a chat. Contact Jim Eames – jim.eames@btinternet.com.*

## Parish Council

### **BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR SAY!**

**Hampshire County Council are currently running a consultation on proposals to deliver budgetary savings for 2025. Your views on the possible options are being sought. Among these options is the possible closure of the Somerley Waste Disposal site!**

**Please visit the HCC website on Future Services Consultation 2024 to give your views.**

**Damerham Parish Council believes it is important that as many residents as possible respond to this consultation.**

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> February from 7.00am



## Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February.

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 **March** edition, please email me at [mandysrobbins@gmail.com](mailto:mandysrobbins@gmail.com) by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you!!!*