



The Parish Pump

A regular newsletter from Damerham Parish Council

Regular Village Events:

Mondays from 9am Pilates with Sandie

Contact: Sandie.wills@hotmail.co.uk

3rd Monday of every other month from 7.30pm

Parish Council Meeting

Contact clerk@damerham.net

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 victoriawheeldon@hotmail.com

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

Contact: Jim.eames@btinternet.com

Damerham Village Hall

Thursday 6th March

Doors at 7.15 for 7.30 start

£10 a book, £1 bonus
round.



CASH PRIZES & RAFFLE

Refreshments available

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

Last of the Three Free Lunches!

The final free soup and crumble lunch is on Wednesday 20 March from 12.15 at the Village Hall. You are welcome to make a donation to the local foodbank if you wish. This is sponsored by Damerham Fair together with the kind offers of soup and/or crumble for us to share. If you would like to donate, please contact

Steve 0777 4136211 or Sarah 07974 007245

----- March 2024 Issue

St George's Church – Spring Clean!

On Saturday 9 March, a small team of volunteers intend cleaning our lovely church. If you could spare an hour or so to help in the morning of that day, it would be lovely to see you. Thank you!

Snowdrop Weekend

A very big thank you to everyone who made cakes, gave books, bric a brac, decorated the Church and then came up over the weekend to support us. We were blessed with fine weather over both days, which really brought the crowds to see the snowdrops, especially having seen a photo of them at St George's in one of the national papers. Also, Katie Martin mentioned us on Solent on Saturday morning. At one point the queue for tea was halfway down the Church. We raised over £2,000 (which will pay for the insurance and a bit left over) plus a lot of good will over the weekend, and St George's Damerham will be remembered for its friendly welcome. Please consider whether you could join our team of volunteers, as there are always things to do! Please don't be shy, get in touch with me Catherine.godber50@gmail.com. Next year's Snowdrops at St George's is planned for 9 – 10 February, so please save the date! **Please note – Mothering Sunday** events are only on Sunday 10 March, and Damerham's will be All Age Worship for Mothering Sunday at 11am, - not as shown in the Courier.

Village Hall

As you are all probably aware, there have been some changes at the Village Hall and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Chairman. My name is Sue and I have lived in the area all my life, and in Damerham since 2009. Myself and the other Committee members are very keen to keep our beautiful Village Hall at the heart of the village, and we would love to hear from you if you have any great ideas for fundraising or how the Hall can better serve the community.

We have vacancies on the Committee and would be very happy if you would like to join us. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available! If you do not feel that being a committee member is for you, but would like to help out in another way, please do get in touch, as there are plenty of other jobs such as helping at fundraising events, flower beds, general maintenance – the list is long! Help us to make the Village Hall how you would want it to be.

Please speak to any of the Committee members email us at info@damerham.org or phone me on 01725 518544 (evenings)

Damerham & District Horticultural Society

On Saturday 23 March, the DDHS are having their annual Spring Show in Damerham Village Hall from 2 – 4pm. For the £2 entry fee (Members free on production of their membership card), you can enjoy the wonderful displays of spring flowers, cookery and children's entries. Also meet up with friends and enjoy tea, cake and buy a plant or two as a memory of the day. We will also have the very popular children's potato planting.

The Show is open for everyone to enter, and the schedules and entry form are available online at www.ddhs.co.uk, from Damerham Garage, Crossways Farm or any committee member.

We are always grateful to receive donations of cakes that can be delivered to the village hall on the morning of 23 March.

Tea and Chat

We had a great speaker at our February meeting with Sandra Simmonds telling us more about her life when she lived in Iran. It was quite an eye opener into life for women in that culture at the time she was there.

This month the children from Maple class are coming to play bird bingo with us and we have had our homework to do as those who signed up to be pen pals need their replies to the children's letters that were given out. Don't forget to save your unwanted items for our nearly new and jumble sale which is on 16 March.

Royal British Legion

The Damerham & Western Downland RBL will be having a social drink and chat at The Compasses, Damerham, on Thursday 7 March at 7.30. All members and non-members are welcome to come along and have a chat.

Jim.Eames@outlook.com

Join THE 100 Club - Win £££s - Help the village

The Damerham Sportsfield is a central part of the village, used by local sports teams, kids, dogwalkers and for village events like the annual fair. Run by volunteers, the field and buildings cost a staggering amount to maintain, and spiralling costs don't help – but YOU can help – and win! 50% of the income of The 100 Club is returned in prizes every month.

Damerham Sportsfield 100 Club is a Registered Charity NO 207382 JOIN NOW! WIN £££s! Mathew.holden@sky.com. 07748 110989

New Pump layout!

You might have noticed by now that the Pump has a bit of a different look for the Spring! We were given a free consultation by our printers, Time2Display in Fordingbridge, and have some ideas to consider, as well as this new layout. We hope you like it, and we'd love to hear not just what you think, but also what you would like to see included in the future, bits you like, announcements you'd like to make and more – the Pump is about our community, so talk to us!

mandysrobbins@gmail.com or the Damerham Parish Councillors.

Nature Notes from Paul T

Weather: After an extremely wet start with over 50mm of rain in the first 4 days, the rest of February was mostly dry with 19 days with no rain. There was a very cold snap mid-month with 13 frosts and temperatures down to -4C on several nights. There were 3 days when the temperature reached 13C.

Wildlife: A trip to Blashford Lakes on 1 January was rewarding. There were masses of ducks, particularly Wigeon, whose lovely whistling call draws them to your attention and Gadwall, identified by the black bottoms of the drake. Also Tufted Duck, Shoveler, Mallard, Teal and a few Goosander and Goldeneye. There were several Coot, Mute Swans, Cormorants and Great Crested Grebes. A Green Sandpiper, A Grey Heron and 3 Great White Egrets completed the water birds. There was a Song Thrush singing.

Closer to home, the flooded meadows in Damerham have attracted quite a lot of birds. A pair of Mute Swans, Herons and Snipe were among the most interesting with occasionally a Little Egret. A Stonechat spent most of the month there and Pied Wagtails are frequently seen. There is often a Kestrel sitting on the wires.

A walk in the woods, especially damp ones, at this time of year, may be brightened by bright cup-shaped fungi growing on dead wood and often in large numbers. These are Scarlet Elf Cups. Well named, they are indeed right scarlet in the inside of the cup and whitish outside, usually between 1 and 5cm across. They are surprisingly easy to overlook in spite of their bright colouring. Another cup shaped fungus is the Green Elf Cap, also found on dead wood, particularly oak. This fungus stains the wood bright green and this stained wood has been widely used in decorative furniture making under the name of Tonbridge Ware.

As the mornings get lighter and days grow longer, more and more birds start singing, and over many years I have tried to record the first date on which I hear them. A few can be heard at any time of year. Robins are the obvious, as they hold territory all year with male and female both holding their own territory in winter. I heard the first Song Thrush on New Year's Day, and my first Chaffinch on 3 February. Another early one is Mistle Thrush and several of these have been singing since the end of January. This species tend to sing high up in the tree tops and often in windy and even wet weather, hence its old name of Stormcock. I have not seen or heard a Great-Spotted Woodpecker this year, or had a Nuthatch in the garden and in previous years they have both been frequent visitors.

Happy Spotting (and listening!) Paul

Rubbish!!

Household Glass collection

All glass bottles & jars
Metal lids only
No loose or plastic lids
No broken glass
Tuesday 5 March from 7.00am

Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on 12 and 26 March. 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 **April** edition, please email me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com by **Friday 15th March**. Thank you!!!