



# 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

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month from 2pm – Tea and Chat**

Contact ellawhitcher@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 victoriawheeldon@hotmail.com

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from 7.30pm Royal British Legion Social**

Contact: Jim.eames@btinternet.com

## Damerham Village Hall

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

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!



### Village Hall Table Top Sale

There will be a baby and children's (clothes, toys and accessories) themed table top sale at the hall on 27 April. 10am for sellers and 11am for buyers. Tables are £10 and pay on the day. Refreshments including bacon butties will be served. If you'd like to book a table, please email [info@damerham.org](mailto:info@damerham.org)

### Craft Club

On the last Wednesday of every month, at the village hall from 7pm. The next meeting is 24 April, when we will be making lots of fabulous decorations ready for D Day celebrations in the village.

## ----- April 2024 Issue

### Damerham Dash

After a hugely successful inaugural event

last year, the Dash is back on Sunday 23

June with another 5km adult run and a

children's colour run. The format will be very

similar to last year, with a few tweaks after feedback from runners last

year. Please check out our Facebook page (and like/share too please!),

for full details and to enter, go to [sientries.co.uk](http://sientries.co.uk). Fancy dress is

encouraged with a duck or lobster theme of course!



### Damerham Fair

**Volunteers and Supporters Drinks and Nibbles**

**Saturday 18 May 6 – 8pm**

The Fair relies on great support from the community, without which it could not happen. We do not want to be like a lot of local fairs that are no longer going ahead due to lack of support.

The Fair provides a great day out for all and raises significant funds that are distributed to local organisations.

Volunteering for an hour (or two) ensures that the Fair continues.

Come along and let us know how you can help this year! If you can't make the get together and want to get involved, please contact Steve or Gilly on [chairdamerhamfair@gmail.com](mailto:chairdamerhamfair@gmail.com) or 0777 4136211

### Your Village Hall Needs YOU!!!

*Following last month's request for willing volunteers, I am pleased to say that a couple of people have come forward offering to help – so thank you very much to them! However, we still need more! Please, please come forward if you can help in any way – either by joining the committee or by helping in another way. Perhaps you would be willing to look after a couple of flower beds, or make and maintain some hanging baskets? Perhaps you could help out at some of the events organised to raise much needed funds for the Hall? This list is endless!*

*We had hoped to reinstate the Duck Race this year, but had to take the sad decision not to, as we simply don't have enough help. We want to make the Village Hall the heart of our village, but we can't do it without you!*

*Please contact either Stuart at [info@damerham.org](mailto:info@damerham.org) or phone Sue on 01725 518544 (evenings)*

### Damerham Church on Youtube.

A lovely video about the area, and the Salisbury Organist playing the organ in St George's. Have a look... Lent Music from a Stunning Ancient Village Church – St George's Damerham

For new residents: lots of information on the village is to be found on the Damerham website [www.damerham.net](http://www.damerham.net)

A welcome pack is available from the Clerk – [clerk@damerham.net](mailto:clerk@damerham.net) for newcomers.

The Parish Pump is printed by Time2Display, Fordingbridge. 01725 512021

## Village Garden Open for the National Garden Scheme

Carolyn and Phil's beautiful garden at Old Channel Hill Farmhouse will be open on Thursday 30 May and Saturday 15 June from 1 – 5pm to raise money for this charity. Please put the dates in your diary and we look forward to welcoming you. There will also be teas and home grown plants for sale.

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## Tea and Chat

We had great fun at our March meeting with the children from Maple class playing a game of bird bingo. Mike was our caller, and did a great job of saying all the unusual bird names. The children all seemed to enjoy themselves and each penpal got to know their partner a bit better.

At the time of writing, we are preparing for the jumble sale, which takes quite a lot of organising. We hope to use the money raised towards subsidising our outings this year. Jenny has been hard at work researching the suggestions and planning the trips. We have decided to go to Sculptures by the Lake near Dorchester in May, a boat trip around Poole Harbour in July and Marwell Zoo in September. If we have any spaces on the coach, we are happy for other folk to join us, so if you would to add your name to our list, let me know! This month we are having a talk by the Fordingbridge Museum, which should be good! Ella – 07986 650123

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## Royal British Legion

The Damerham & Western Downland RBL will be having a social drink and chat at The Rose and Thistle, Rockbourne on 4 April at 7.30. All members and non-members are welcome to come along and have a chat. Contact Jim.Eames@outlook.com

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

You can still join the Damerham Sportsfield 100 Club! The more the merrier – 50% of the income for the Club is returned each month in prizes – and you'll be supporting our wonderful sportsfield and pavilion.

Damerham Sportsfield 100 Club is a Registered Charity No 207382 Contact Mathew.holden@sky.com. 07748 110989 for more info.

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## St George's Holy Dusters!

Thanks go to all the Holy Dusters, Scrubbers and Sweepers who gave St George's a really good spring clean recently. You could smell the polish on Sunday morning! As we are now on BST, the Church is open for prayer every day. Once again, thank you. John and Cathy Godber – Church Wardens.

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## Concert At Salisbury Cathedral to Celebrate St George's Day

John and Tiggy Underhill are putting on another concert, including the Band of the Coldstream Guards and The Salisbury Plain Military Wives Choir, in Salisbury Cathedral to celebrate St George's Day on 23 April at 7.30pm. Tickets from the Cathedral box office – 01722 656555. A free coach is available, collecting from St James in Alderholt, then the Village Hall Bus stop in Damerham and the Post Office in Fordingbridge. If you would like a seat on the coach, please call Tiggy or Caroline on 01725 514655

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## Nature Notes from Paul T

**Weather in February:** Yet another wet month with 163mm of rain compared to the average of 68mm. There were only 6 days without rain. The wettest day was the 18<sup>th</sup> with 29mm. There were just 3 frosts. The warmest day was on the 17<sup>th</sup>, with 15C, and the lowest on the night of the 14/15<sup>th</sup> the minimum temperature was 9C. Average highest temperature was 12C, and lowest 6C.

**Wildlife:** I have few records for February, partly because it was so wet, but also because I have mislaid my notebook! There was frogspawn in our pond early in the month, the second year running after a gap of over 20 years. However, I have seen no tadpoles and the spawn seems to have hatched. I saw a Barn Owl in Damerham for the first time in many years.

A highlight of the month was a trip the Allen Valley near Wimborne St Giles. I had heard that there were Short Eared Owls there, so one afternoon we set out to look for them. This species hunts by day, so this was an afternoon trip, and we were rewarded with views of one owl hunting over an area of rough grass and scrub, looking for the voles which are their main prey species. We then moved on to look at a very wet field with rough grass and rushes, hoping for a Barn Owl. On the way, we saw Kestrels, Buzzard Kit and Raven, and, as dusk fell, lovely views of a Barn Owl quartering the field.

Short Eared Owls breed widely across northern Europe and in Britain mostly in the uplands of northern England and Scotland, but have been recorded in most countries. They are an unusual species, as they are nomadic, moving from place to place depending on the abundance of prey and this winter has seen a big influx from the Continent. Only a couple of days after seeing the Short Eared Owls, an article on this species appeared in Bird Study magazine, and I will pass on some of the most interesting finds.

Birds have been ringed in Scotland and fitted with tiny solar powered radio trackers weighing only 11g. Of two females nesting in Scotland in 2021, one went on to breed in Norway the following year, and the other to breed in Arctic Russia. Another female ringed in Scotland in 2017 bred in Scotland again in 2018, but that same year went on to breed again in Norway. She then flew to Ireland, Cornwall and Norfolk, before perishing on a further journey towards Norway. Another female tagged in The Isle of Arran in June 2019 flew south to Devon in July and then on 9 November, she flew 500km south into France in just 6 hours, at an average speed of 82km per hour (with a tail wind). She then went on across the Straits of Gibraltar to Morocco.

An amazing amount of travelling, and what impels the birds to go where they do?

**Happy Spotting. Paul**

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## **Rubbish!!**

### **Household Glass collection**

All glass bottles & jars  
Metal lids only  
No loose or plastic lids  
No broken glass  
Tuesday 2 April from 7.00am



### **Garden Waste**

Collection for existing customers will be on 9 and 23 April.

For more information about collection days for household waste, recycling and more, see [www.newforest.gov.uk/recyclingandrubbish](http://www.newforest.gov.uk/recyclingandrubbish)

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***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 **May** edition, please email me at [mandysrobbins@gmail.com](mailto:mandysrobbins@gmail.com) by **Monday 15th April**. Thank you!!!*