



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 2nd May

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

Damerham Village Hall will be holding another Table Top sale on Saturday 22 June, so start sorting out items that you might want to sell. This sale will be a general one, so you can sell anything that will fit on a table (as long as it's legal!). It is £10 to book a table, with payment on the day. Sellers can arrive from 10am and buyers from 11am. Bacon butties and refreshments will be served. Contact info@damerham.org to book.

----- May 2024 Issue

Your Village Hall Needs YOU!!

The Village Hall is looking for a new Caretaker. It is a job which would suit someone who wants to work approximately 8 hours a week. The role has the flexibility of choosing when you work, but will need to be based around when the hall is in use. If you are interested, please email info@damerham.org or phone Stuart Eastman on 07818 044509.

Damerham Fair

Volunteers and Supporters Drinks and Nibbles

Come along to the Village Hall on Saturday 18 May from 6 – 7.30pm to find out what we have planned for the most important village event of the year. The Damerham Village Fair and Evening Event, and find out how you can help to make it a success again this year. It cannot happen without volunteers, and we need your active help, please! Don't let Damerham go the way of so many other village fairs, which have had to cease through lack of volunteers!

There will be free drinks and nibbles and good company to make it worth your while!

If you cannot make the date, and would like to volunteer for the Fair, then please contact Steve or Gilly on chairdamerhamfair@gmail.com or 0777 4136211

Thank you in advance for supporting your lovely village!

Craft Club

On the last Wednesday of every month, at the village hall from 7pm. The next meeting is 29 May, when we will be making lots of fabulous decorations ready for D Day celebrations in the village. There are patterns for knitted poppies available, so do contact Jemma or Sharon if you would like one.

Village Garden Open For the National Garden Scheme

Our garden at Old Channel Hill Farmhouse, Damerham, will be open on Thursday 30 May and Saturday 5 June from 11 - 5pm to raise money for this charity. Please put the dates in your diary and we look forward to welcoming you. The money from sales of teas and homegrown plants will go to local organisations.

Carolyn and Phil.

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

A welcome pack is available from the Clerk – clerk@damerham.net for newcomers.

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

Tea and Chat Update

Wow! What a jumble sale we had in March! We want to say a massive thank you to all the helpers, donators and buyers, without you we wouldn't have been able to run the sale. Thank you all so much, especially those that helped to set up, serve refreshments, run the stalls and clear away. You were a brilliant team! We raised £655, which will really benefit the group by subsidising our outings this year.

Our first outing is to Sculpture by the Lake in Dorchester on 15 May. If there are any places left on the coach, we are happy for anyone to join is, so please let me know asap if you would like to book in. We will be meeting at the hall at 9.30 to leave at 9.5 and return at around 4.15/4.30.

We had an interesting talk from Julian Hewitt from the Fordingbridge Museum at our April meeting, and a previous speaker, John Pitman, is returning on 1 May to share memories of Radio Broadcasting.

For further information, contact Ella on 07986 650123.

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. Fancy dress is encouraged with a duck or lobster theme of course!



Damerham and District Horticultural Society

SAVE THE DATE – The Martin Plant Sale is on Saturday 18 May from 2 – 4pm at Reads Farmhouse, Martin. Lots of home grown plants at very reasonable prices, also teas, all set in a beautiful garden.

Royal British Legion

The Damerham & Western Downland RBL will be having a social drink and chat at The Cartwheel in Whitsbury on 9 May at 7.30. All members and non-members are welcome to come along and have a chat. Contact Jim.Eames@outlook.com

Chase and Chalk Landscape Partnership

The April – June programme of Nurturing Nature Opportunities has been released by the newly appointed Citizen Science Project Officer, Michael New. They are particularly looking for volunteers to help on 2 earthworm days and the Hedgehog Camera Trap Collection session. You can log into their volunteer portal to browse other opportunities or to register as a volunteer. Look at Cranbornechase.org.uk for lots of information about this and other activities.

The Compasses Inn.

Live music and a delicious Nepalese BBQ in the garden on 24 May. Music starts around 7.30pm. Come along, you'll receive a warm welcome!

Nature Notes from Paul T

Weather in March. Yet another very wet month, with 145mm of rain, compared with the average of 73mm. There were just 6 dry days and only 3 mornings when the sun shone! Only 3 frosts. The rainfall for the past 12 months is 1233mm compared with the long term average of 943mm. However, it does mean that the river is really lovely, and the Swans have been about in the upper reaches and perhaps will nest again this year. By the first 5 days of April, we had already had half the average monthly rain.

Wildlife. The Cherry Plum was in flower on 12 February this year, 2 weeks later than in 2023, and Blackthorn, which is usually a fortnight later, was not really out until the end of March. This is surprising, as it has not been cold, so what delayed it this year? On 21 March, a warm day brought many Hoverflies out, and by the end of the month, there were lots of Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs singing. I have seen several Kestrels, so hope that they are recovering from a slump, but I do wonder if the wet winter might have adversely affected the vole population.

No Mow May. Most of you will have heard about this, and have perhaps thought about doing it. I don't think that the title gets it quite right. I won't be completely abandoning the mower as I still keep the paths and the lawn where we sit cut this month, but I would encourage people to leave as much as possible uncut for at least a month. Then, see what plants are there, released from the mower and able to flower. When I worked for the MOD I persuaded one of the RAF experimental sites to delay the first mowing of a small landing strip which had been kept really short for many years. The result was an amazing display of hundreds of Green Veined Orchids which had been waiting for the chance to flower. Try it and see what you have. Then you might be persuaded to improve the area by adding plants which can thrive in longer grass, such as Birds Foot Trefoil, Devils-bit Scabious, Moon Daisy, Knapweed, Cowslips, Betony and many more. This will in turn, provide food for insects such as butterflies, and habitat for Slow Worms and young frogs. I grown many of these plants and each year add a few to my 'meadow patch' and can usual provide some for the cost of a donation to Marie Curie. If you can leave long grass until late summer before cutting, it will further enhance the wildlife interest enabling grass feeding butterflies such as Meadow Brown and perhaps even Marbled White to breed. If you can get Yellow Rattle to grown, this will keep the grass in check and encourage more flowering plants. Orange-tip Butterflies, which are on the wing from early April, lay their eggs on various Crucifers, particularly Cuckoo Flower, Garlic Mustard and Honesty, so if you have any of these, be sure not to cut them down until the caterpillars have fed and pupated. Happy Spotting. Paul.

Rubbish!!

Household Glass collection

All glass bottles & jars
Metal lids only
No loose or plastic lids
No broken glass
Tuesday 25 May from 7.00am



Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on 7 and 21 May. 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 June edition, please email me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com by Wednesday 15 May. Thank you!!!