



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

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 – 07380 192020

Tuesdays from 7.30pm – Badminton Doubles club

Contact: m.walter@hotmail.co.uk

3rd Tuesday of every other month from 7.30pm

Parish Council Meeting

Contact clerk@damerham.net

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

1st Thursday of the month from 7.15pm – Bingo at the Village Hall

Contact: info@damerham.org

3rd Thursday of the month – DamJam at The Compasses with Chris Peddley

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

Contact: Jim.eames@btinternet.com

Bingo!! We're back to the first Thursday this month, so 5th February from 7.15 for 7.30! £10 a book, £1 for the bonus round. There will be a small raffle, and complimentary teas and coffees at 'half time'. Don't forget, the more people that come the bigger the prizes, so if you've not tried it yet, give it a go, we would love to see you.

Royal British Legion

The next social will take place in our usual informal style at The Compasses from 7.30 on Thursday 6th February. All welcome!

Contact Jim Eames, Secretary on 07789 632691

FREE LUNCHES

The free lunches are back! They will be held in the Village Hall from 12.30 – 2pm on 19 February and 19 March. The first one on the 25th January was attended by over 30 people, with a brilliant atmosphere! The Village Fair is sponsoring the hall, bread rolls etc. Any donations of soup or crumble will be gratefully received. We will once again accept donations for the local food bank.

Contact Steve 07774136211 and Sarah 07974007245.

----- February 2025

Damerham and District Horticultural Society

Our next event is a talk on Thursday 20th February at Damerham Village Hall at 2pm (members please note the time because your membership card is incorrect). The talk is by Patricia Elkington entitled 'The Garden in Spring, including less well known perennials'. Patricia's garden is Little Court, Crawley, Nr Winchester, and first opened for the National Garden Scheme in 1984, and is a spectacular sight in the spring. This talk is not to be missed! Non-members are very welcome at £3.

Snowdrop Sunday

Is on 8 and 9 February this year. We could still do with a few volunteers to help out over the weekend – a range of jobs available, so get in touch if you would like to help. If you fancy making a cake, which would be brilliant – drop them off on the day, please – we'd prefer cakes we can slice if possible!

Contact 01425 650044 or email
Catherine.godber50@gmail.com

Star Gazing

(weather permitting) on the Damerham Sports Field on 26 February. Look for free tickets on Eventbrite via Cranborne Chase National Landscapes. See what you can spot, find out about dark skies, talk to some experts and learn lots about the skies above!

Tea and Chat.

January was a quieter meeting as lots of folk were away with various seasonal ailments. We hope everyone is recovered for the February meeting on the 5th, when we are having a talk from the Green Gram shop.

Jenny and I have been hard at work organising the programme for the year, and we are just about to book our outing dates. We are hoping to go to Kingston Mauward Animal Park in April, Motisfont in June and Beaulieu Motor Museum in September. Once Tea and Chat members have booked in, all outings will be open to anyone else who would like to join us. If you are interested in any of the trips, get in touch, and I will contact you nearer the time. Tea and Chat is on the first Wednesday of the month, at 2pm at the Village Hall. Why not join us if you are free?

For further information, contact Ella on 07986 650123.

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

Nature Notes from Paul T

December Weather: Another dull month with 25 mornings with complete cloud cover. December was quite dry, with just 47mm of rain, just half the average. There were 15 dry days and the wettest day was on the 5th, with 11mm. The wettest month was February with 162mm followed by March with 145mm. The total for 2024 was 1027mm and the long term average is 911mm, so a wet year, which won't surprise anyone, I am sure! Remember the flooded roads back then?

There were just 2 frosts recorded, and we had some very strong gales early in the month. The maximum temperature was 13C on 2 days, and the minimum was 1C, although lower temperatures were recorded at ground level in frost pockets I know. I have been thinking of looking at sunshine records for a while, and at last, I have done it. 2024 seemed very sunless, and this is supported by figures from Hurn. The total hours of sunshine were 1420 compared with 1778 hours in 2022, and 1580 hours in 2023. In December, there were just 27 hours! Our best months were May and July with 190 hours each.

December Wildlife: On a walk in Damerham in early December, we saw a Kingfisher – the first I have recorded here for several years, although I know they are about. There was just 1 Redwing feeding on the flooded meadow, and this is the only one I have seen so far this winter. Even more surprising, I have not seen a single Fieldfare. At Blashford Lakes on 18th December, we walked to Lapwing hide and on the lake in front there were thousands of Pintail, with dozens of Wigeon, Gadwall and Coot, and a scattering of Tufted Duck and Shoveler. Quite a contrast with another visit on 31st December when there were no Pintail, but hundreds of Wigeon, Coot and a few Goosander, Pochard and Tufted Duck. There was also a Great White Egret and a Rabbit! That was the first Rabbit I have seen for many months and they must still be severely affected by disease.

In the garden, the birds have been erratic, with large numbers some days, as on 20th December when at lunchtime I recorded 32 tits of 4 species, visit the sunflower and fat in the space of 1 minute, and then other days when the feeders were hardly used. I mentioned roosts last time, and since then I was shown a video of a huge flock of Jackdaws in flight over the playing field in Fordingbridge. There must have been thousands of birds creating the sort of display we associate with Starlings, a dense black cloud one second, as they turn in unison, and then spread out again before the next wheel.

Here's hoping for more sun this year!

Happy Wildlife spotting. Paul.

News From the Village Hall

The Damerham Duck Race is believed to be one of the oldest Duck Races in the country, and sadly has not run since covid times... but it's back by popular demand this year! There will be a new format with several smaller races and a Grand Finale. It will be held from 12 noon on the Saturday of the Easter weekend, so please save the date – Saturday 19th April. We would welcome any offers of help to revive this long standing tradition with a special plea for cakes from all you bakers out there. Please contact any of the Committee members, or email info@damerham.org if you are interested in helping.

The Compasses Inn

Don't miss our Quiz night on the first Wednesday of each month – 5th February this month, as well as the popular DamJam with Chris Peddley on the third Thursday, which is the 27th this month. Our Pub Classics and Gurkha menus are available Mon-Sat and a traditional Sunday roast, alongside a few selections of curry available on Sundays. See you soon!

A Massive THANK YOU

To all who came and supported the Crossways Christmas Gathering on Thursday 19th December!
Your generous donations amounted to £430 for St George's Church.

Our special thanks to Crossways House for supplying the mulled wine which made the evening go along extra swimmingly!

News from New Forest District Council

To help us recycle more and throw away less, we will be introducing a new waste collection service. It will be rolled out in 3 phases for different areas of the district from this summer.

Once you're using the new service:

You will be able to recycle your food waste – we'll collect it every week
Recycling and rubbish will be collected on alternate weeks – we'll collect rubbish one week and recycling the next.

Households will use wheelie bins for recycling and rubbish, and caddies for food waste. If you live in a flat, you may use wheelie bins or share communal bins instead. As an exception, a smaller number of properties will use sacks instead of wheelie bins. Before the changes are due, we will write to all properties explaining what waste containers they will use for the new service.

Glass collection will remain 4 weekly, using your current black glass collection box.

Before the changes are due to start in your area, we will send you information in the post. This will explain what phase you are in, how the service will work for you, what support we can offer with collections, when bins and caddies will be delivered, changes to collection days and your start date.

We'll also have more details on our website, social media and other communication channels. Have a look at newforest.gov.uk/wastechanges.

Rubbish!!

Household Glass collection

All glass bottles & jars
Metal lids only
No loose or plastic lids
No broken glass
Tuesday 4th February from 7.00am



Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on 11th and 25th February. 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, updates or a village event to publicise? We're looking for a new header photo for the Pump – do you have a favourite photo that represents the village? Please send it over to me, and you might be included in future editions. Please get in touch!

If you would like to be added to the emailing list, or you have anything you would like to include in the March edition, please email me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com by Saturday 15 February. Thank you!