



# 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 6.30pm – Damerham AFC training**

Contact: Dylan – 07380 192020

**Tuesdays from 7.30pm – Badminton Doubles club**

Contact: m.walter@hotmail.co.uk

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**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

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from 7.15pm – Bingo at the Village Hall**

Contact: info@damerham.org

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

Contact: Jim.eames@btinternet.com

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month – sushi night at the Compasses**

**Last Thursday of the month – DamJam at The Compasses with Chris**

Pedley

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month – Donna's Bingo night at the Compasses from**

7pm

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## Village Hall News

Thank you to all residents and friends that supported the Quiz in January organised by the Village Fair Committee to raise funds for the Hall, the Church and the Sports Field. It was very well attended, and the Hall Management Committee wish to thank everyone who worked so hard to make it a success.

## Duck Race

Hopefully you all have Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April in your diary for the duck race from 12 noon. The grand finale race is scheduled for 3pm. We are busy organising the event. There will be a BBQ run by the Sports Field Committee and Pizza Pig will also be present. The bar will be open and there will be tea and cake as well. If you would like to donate some cake or offer to help on the day, please email [info@damerham.org](mailto:info@damerham.org). Thank you to those who are already signed up. We are having a duck themed drawing/colouring competition, so hopefully all children at Western Downland school have had the information via Parents' web mail. Please do get your entries in to school by 12 noon on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June. There will be prizes!

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## ----- March 2025

**Bingo!!** Sorry we had to cancel the February session, but we're back to the first Thursday this month, on 6<sup>th</sup> March from 7.15 for 7.30! £10 a book, £1 for the bonus round. You don't have to buy a whole book if you would rather spend less! There will be a small raffle, and complimentary teas and coffees at 'half time', come along for a good night out!

## FREE LUNCHES

The last free lunch is on

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March from 12.30 – 2pm at the Village Hall. 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.

## Western Downland Notice Board

Have you found the Notice Board on Facebook yet? It contains lots of news and updated information for the area, and a place advertise local businesses and events. Pop over and have a look.

## Snowdrop Sunday

*A much deserved thank you for all the effort, time and energy which everyone gave over Snowdrop Weekend at St George's. To Harvey for refreshments, to so many who donated cakes, jam and snowdrops, to Caroline and Marilyn for decorating the porch, to all of the helpers, and, of course, visitors from near and far. We have yet to reach a final figure (including from the card reader), but are hoping it will be in excess of £2,500! This all helps to meet the Church's financial obligations locally, to contribute to the wider church, but also enables us to fund maintenance on our beautiful building itself. But, it's not just about money; that St George's looked so loved and cared for and busy with so many visitors is truly wonderful. Words are not enough.*

## Village Quiz

The hall was packed, and judging by the noise level everyone had a great time! We raised a bit over £1,800, which was fantastic, and has been shared equally between the village hall, church and sportsfield. Thanks to the village hall for donating use of the hall, the fair for sponsoring food, and for all the donations of crumbles and raffle prizes.

## Tea and Chat.

Tea and Chat had a great jumble sale at the end of January. We want to say a massive thank you to all those people who helped set up, clear away, serve on the day, donated items and came to buy. It was hard work, but rewarding – we raised £654.64 to go towards the cost of coaches for our outings. The sign up for the first outing in April is full. We have managed to fill all 35 seats and we are looking forward to going to Kingston Mauward Animal Park and Gardens. We enjoyed our February meeting with a good explanation about the Green Gram shop and the ethos behind it. Wendy brought some tasty samples for us to snack on too! Our April meeting will be a talk from Gordon Lewis about Eurovision on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2pm. For further information, contact Ella on 07986 650123.

## Nature Notes from Paul T

**January Weather:** Yet another very wet month, with 131mm of rain compared with the average of 95mm. I don't think the river will run dry for a very long time. It was a cold month, with 20 frosts – more like the 'old days'. The coldest nights were minus 4C on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, and the warmest day was 13C on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The average maximum was 8C and the minimum was 1C.

**Wildlife:** We did the RSPB Garden Bird Count and recorded just 11 species. Fewer than last year when we had 13 species. This time, we didn't see any Starlings, House Sparrow, or surprisingly, Collared Dove. I think our best year was 16 species. It seems that a much better place for birds than our garden is to back onto the West Park Meadow. A report from a garden there had a very interesting list; Goldfinch, Siskin, Greenfinch, Starling, Collared Dove, Woodpigeon, House Sparrow and more surprisingly a Firecrest. We had a Firecrest on our window sill a couple of weeks ago.

I have not been out and about much this month because of poor weather and sickness, so little to report. There have been Stonechats in Church Meadows, but although there has been a lot of water, it hasn't attracted much, and I haven't seen any Mallard or Coot, which we saw for a long time last time the meadows were so wet. Probably because it hasn't been cold enough. There are often Little Egrets there.

A recent report on the knock-on effect of flea treatment on pets is concerning, as many birds nests have been found lined with hair containing remnants of flea chemicals which can be damaging to nestlings.

I would be very interested to hear from anyone who sees a Little Owl in or around Damerham as they have declined so much. They are one of my favourite birds, and I really miss them. These tiny owls are the size of a Song Thrush and nest in cavities such as holes in stone walls, old buildings or hollow trees. Many years ago, I remember several pairs nesting in the corrugated iron roofs of Westdown Camp on Salisbury Plain, but new roofs never have holes in them nowadays. They maintain territory all year round and call a lot at dusk. Some years ago, we nursed an injured bird back to health, and released it on Martin Down, and for the next few days there was a tremendous amount of calling from our barn where there must have been another male already in residence. They feed mainly on insects and worms, especially large beetles, and the decline in dung beetles due to use of long last wormers may be a factor in their decline. I look forward (with hope) to hearing of sightings.

**Happy Wildlife spotting. Paul.**

## Clean Up with the Green Gram!

Not only do they sell a huge range of loose food items, but also cleaning and personal items too. Drop by and find out more – there are containers available in the shop if you don't have your own. There is a free Clean and Green event at Avonway in Fordingbridge on 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30. Book your place by emailing team@thegreengram.org.



**SPRING SHOW**  
**SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH**  
**2 – 4pm**

**Damerham Village Hall**  
**Entrance £2.50. Children and Members Free**

TEAS PLANT STALL RAFFLE

Entries welcome from Non-Members and Children

Schedules available on [www.ddhs.co.uk](http://www.ddhs.co.uk)

or from Jan Burnell, 2 Park Villas, Damerham

**Children's potato planting:** the resulting potatoes, grown at home, may be entered in the heaviest crop class at the summer show  
If not entering the show come along, enjoy the spring flowers, buy a plant or two for your garden and have a cup of tea and a slice (or two) of homemade cake

## The Little Green Bus

Do you know about the community bus which goes through Damerham to Salisbury on Tuesdays and to Ringwood on Wednesdays? Find out more from [www.ectcharity.co.uk](http://www.ectcharity.co.uk), click on Dorset Community Transport. It's a great service, a good way to avoid parking hassles and have a chat with friends old and new at the same time.

## Two Bridges

Two Bridges are a fine team of volunteers who provide transport for medical and health appointments for people in the Fordingbridge and Western Downland area who need it. They are looking for more volunteer drivers – could that be you? You don't need to make a regular commitment – just an hour or two here and there is appreciated, and your mileage will be paid. For more information, contact them on 07391 804222

## Royal British Legion

The next social will take place in our usual informal style at The Compasses from 7.30 on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Do come along and join our exquisite conversation!

Contact Jim Eames, Secretary on 07789 632691

## Rubbish!!

### Household Glass collection

All glass bottles & jars  
Metal lids only  
No loose or plastic lids  
No broken glass  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March from 7.00am



### Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March. For more information about collection days for household waste, recycling and more, see [www.newforest.gov.uk/recyclingandrubbish](http://www.newforest.gov.uk/recyclingandrubbish)

**Blister pack recycling** – take your empty blister packs along to the Repair Café at Avonway in Fordingbridge on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. A donation of £1 per 50 packs is requested please.

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

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.

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