



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

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

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

Contact: Jim.eames@btinternet.com

2nd Thursday of the month – sushi night at the Compasses

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

Pedley

2nd Sunday of the month – Donna's Bingo night at the Compasses from

7pm

Damerham VE Day Garden Party Monday 5th May

Residents and Village friends are invited to Crossways Farm to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of 'Victory in Europe' day, between 2 and 5pm. There will be teas provided, and Tea and Chat Club members have kindly agreed to make cakes. You can, of course, bring your own picnic and drinks if you wish. Music from the war years will be playing in the garden so expect some Glenn Miller, Vera Lynn, the Andrews Sisters and more. We hope for good weather, but we can move to the barn if necessary. Seating will be limited, so please do bring along chairs or blankets to sit on. Let's make this a special occasion, and celebrate the freedoms we so enjoy today in a truly British way.

Damerham Village Hall Tack Sale

There will be a tack sale for all things equestrian (not livestock!) at the Village Hall on Saturday 10th May. Sellers from 10am and buyers from 11am. To book a table, email info@damerham.org. Tables are £10 payable on the day. Teas, coffees and bacon butties available for purchase.

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.

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----- April 2025

Bingo!! Is on Thursday 3rd April at the Village Hall.

£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!

The Nature of the UK's relationship with India

Sir Richard Stagg

Thursday 1st May 7pm – doors open at 6.30pm

At the Village Hall

This will be a talk given by Sir Richard Stagg, who was the British High Commissioner to Delhi from 2007 – 2011. He was subsequently Ambassador to Afghanistan and then Chairman of Rothschild (India) from 2015 – 2022. He was knighted for his services in the Foreign Office over a very distinguished career.

He is now Warden of Winchester College.

Tickets will be £10 per head, and may be reserved by emailing Paul Nicholls at paul@pcnicholls.co.uk or purchased on the door on the night. However it would be helpful to reserve, so we have an idea of numbers!

A glass of wine and nibbles will be provided, for which a donation would be gratefully received. ALL the proceeds and donations will be divided between St George's Church, Damerham and the Baas Educational Trust, which runs a much-needed school in India. (betsinfo.org) Additional parking will be available on the Sports Field.

Damerham Duck Race

Not long now til the big day for the Duck Race –

Saturday 19th April. The Village Hall Committee are excited to be bringing the duck race back to Damerham in its new format of shorter races in the river adjacent to the Village Hall. Six races and a grand finale! A quacking good day out! Fun for all the family in our lovely riverside gardens (or our large hall if wet). BBQ, pizza, bar, teas, coffees and cake. Games and activities. Hope to see you there – invite your family and friends! **If you are reading the Pump before 4th April**, and you are a child at Western Downland School, then you still have time to get your picture in the drawing competition. Please take your artwork to school before 12 noon on Friday 4th April. Sorry, no entries on the day. Name and class on the reverse of the picture please.

Tea and Chat

We had a lovely meeting in March with the children from Maple Class joining us for bird bingo. The children interacted very well with the folk from Tea and Chat and were a credit to the teaching staff. We gave our pen pal letters to Mrs Kirkaldy and look forward to the children's replies.

Our April meeting is with Gordon Lewis telling us all about Eurovision – which is on 2nd April. Our first outing to Kingston Maurward Animal Park and Gardens is on 3rd April. The May meeting is entitled Pandora's Box, but if you want to find out what it is about, you'll have to join us! For more information, contact Ella on 07986 650123.

Damerham Cricket Club

Whilst summer still feels a long way off, the start of the cricket season is on the horizon. It begins with a friendly game on the Sportsfield on Saturday 26th April at 1pm, with a newly named fixture, The Graham Colbourne Memorial Match. The teams will be made up of members of the Damerham Cricket Club, the Lobsters, and those who knew Graham who sadly died in April 2024. It will allow us to fondly remember Graham and all he did for DCC for well over 6 decades, as a player, umpire and secretary as well as archivist, having a treasure trove of records and numerous stories to tell. It's fair to say that he was the backbone of cricket in the parish for many years. The Colbournes were once one of the most extensive and prominent families in Damerham, and there is a very interesting article that Graham wrote about them in the Damerham Domesday Book. All are welcome to pop along to watch or to take part.

Village Garden Open for the National Garden Scheme

Carolyn and Phil's beautiful garden at Old Channel Hill Farmhouse will be open on Thursday 22nd May and Sunday 8th June from 1 – 5pm to raise money for this charity. Admission is £4 – paid via contactless or cash. Please put the dates in your diary, and we look forward to welcoming you.

There will also be teas and homegrown plants for sale.

Damerham and District Horticultural Society

The next event is on Thursday 10th April at 7.30 at the Village Hall. It is a talk by our vegetable judge, Peter Whiting, about 'Growing and Showing'. A good talk to attend at the beginning of the growing season to pick up some hints and tips. There will be refreshments, and non members can come along for £3, or you can join or renew your membership at the meeting.

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

Nature Notes from Paul T

Weather

Rainfall was 80mm above the average of 68mm and the 12 month total is now 994mm. The wettest day was 24th with 16mm. There were 9 frosts with the coldest night on 27/28th which was the only one when my thermometer went below zero at minus 1C. It was a rather gloomy month with a lot of overcast days with what is now termed "anticyclonic gloom" I can't remember hearing this term before this winter. From Sept to end of Feb total sunshine hours at Hurn were 391. The previous winter it was 519 so it really was very sunless.

Wildlife

I know that a lot of people feed Hedgehogs, hopefully with special food or cat food. I have recently been told that mealworms, which they love, are very bad for them. Apparently this can affect bone growth. So please pass this message on to anyone you know who might be feeding them. The first flowers on the Cherry Plum were out on 27th Feb last year it was 12th Feb. Our Greengage came into flower on 27th March, but I haven't seen any Blackthorn yet (13th March). At the beginning of February we had masses of birds feeding in the garden and then mid-month they mostly disappeared and since then we have just a few Great Tits and Blue Tits and the feeders are lasting a week instead of a day. We have been having a pair of Greenfinches which is nice after they have declined so badly. We saw our first Brimstone on 3rd March and a Peacock Butterfly on 9th March. We have seen several Barn Owls in the Ebble Valley, including one on a wet night which was surprising as they are loathe to hunt in those conditions. It must have been very hungry. Last year there was frogspawn on our garden pond on 16th Feb but I haven't seen any this year so perhaps there won't be any. On 5th Feb I found a very attractive fungus growing on a bit of dead Elm on The Green Close. It was in a big clump and is called Velvet Shank. On a lovely sunny afternoon we decided on an "Owl watching outing" Toward the end of the afternoon we went to the Allen Valley (the Dorset one) and were rewarded by lovely views of Short-eared Owls hunting over the rough grassland. These are winter visitors from further north although a few do breed this far south in some years. A Barn Owl appeared too and the contrast between the two species is quite striking. Barn Owls hunt in a very slow buoyant flight with lots of turning back and hovering and the Short Eared Owls hunt in low level flight on long wings which are raised very high at each flap. Both feed mainly on small mammals, particularly Field Voles. Later on before dusk we saw a Goshawk fly right overhead. On the river there were Mute Swans, Mallard and Teal. Altogether a very enjoyable outing. Happy Spotting!

Rubbish!!

Household Glass collection

All glass bottles & jars
Metal lids only
No loose or plastic lids
No broken glass
Tuesday 1st & 29th April from 7.00am



Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on 8th and 22nd April. For more information about collection days for household waste, recycling and more, see www.newforest.gov.uk/recyclingandrubbish

Blister pack recycling – take your empty blister packs along to the Repair Café at Avonway in Fordingbridge on the 3rd 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 May edition, please email me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com by Tuesday 15th April. Thank you!