



The Parish Pump

A regular newsletter from Damerham Parish Council

Regular Village Events:

Mondays from 9.15am Pilates with Sandie

Contact: hello@sandiewillspilates.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 6.30pm – Damerham AFC training

Contact: Dylan – 07380 192020

Tuesdays from 7.30pm – Badminton Doubles club

Contact: m.walter@hotmail.co.uk

Wednesdays from 10.30 – Coffee Pot at the Village Hall

Wednesdays from 6pm Zumba with Carolina

Contact carolinatuc@gmail.com

1st Wednesday of the month from 2pm – Tea and Chat

Contact ellawhitcheer@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

Every last Wednesday – Fish and chip van at the Village Hall 5 – 7pm

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

****Please check with groups about meetings during summer holidays, as some may be taking some time out!****

Bingo!! Is on Thursday 7th August at the Village Hall.

£10 a book. Come along for a fun evening and to support your village hall. 7.15 for eyes down at 7.30. Please invite your friends, neighbours and relatives! The more people that attend the bigger the prize money. Bring your own drinks or have a cuppa at half time.

Damerham Village Hall

Exciting news from the Village Hall! We are thrilled to be relaunching our website soon, with a fresh new look and improved usability. The goal? To make it easier for people to book the hall, so more people get to enjoy what it has to offer! Plus more bookings will help us cover our ongoing running and maintenance costs, which is important too. As part of the relaunch, we would love to showcase local businesses that provide services for events held at the hall – think caterers, florists, photographers, local holiday accommodation, entertainers and more! We are building a Recommended Suppliers List to feature on the new site. If you run a local business that fits the bill, and would like to be included, free of charge, just drop us a message to info@damerham.org. We will ask for a few details and get you added.

-----August 2025

Damerham and District Horticultural Society Show

on 26th July

We are writing this 2 weeks before the Fair, so let's hope that by the time you read it you will know that everyone had a fantastic day, and that the weather was kind to us! A big thank you to all those who make the Fair possible, including the Committee, Horticultural Society, sponsors, volunteers, stallholders, suppliers and for all the donations received – a great team effort, and of course, without you, it just wouldn't be possible. Gilly and Steve, Co-Chairs. Chairdamerhamfair@gmail.com

August Cream Teas for St George's

Don't forget the delicious cream teams being served every Sunday in August at the Village Hall. We will be there from 2.30 - 4.30. Not to be missed!!

Email Catherine.godber50@gmail.com or ring 01425 650044 for more information, or if you would like to help out.

Royal British Legion

The Damerham and Western Downland branch of the RBL will have our next social meeting at The Compasses on Thursday 7th August from 7.30 – 9pm. Do come along and join us – everyone is welcome.

Tea and Chat

We had a lovely day out the Athlehampton House and Gardens back in June. 24 of us arrived at the hall, all on time, to travel on Herringtons' coach. The coach was fully air conditioned, which we were thankful for on such a hot day. We are very grateful to Phil and Carolyn for their kind donation to Tea and Chat from their open garden day, which went towards the cost of the coach hire. The house and gardens at Athlehampton were very interesting, and many folk are planning to revisit. There was plenty of shade, and benches in the garden and the house was cool, so no one overheated. The café provided a good range of beverages and food, and some lovely cake too! At our July meeting, we enjoyed hearing stories from people's holidays. Shirley told some especially funny stories about what her family used to get up to at Butlins! We seem to be a well travelled bunch!

In August, Mandy Robbins is coming to talk to us about her time working in a women's refuge in Buckinghamshire, which should be interesting and eye opening.

For more information, contact Ella Whitcheer on 07986 650123

Nature Notes from Paul T

Weather June

A very wet day early in the month is hard to remember now but it did make the month's total 37mm compared with the average of 53mm.

There were 21 dry days. The 12 month total is now 852mm. The warmest day was 21st with 31C. The coolest night was 9C on 7/8th and warmest night 20C on 27/28th. The lowest maximum was on 5th with 18C. Average maximum was 24C and average minimum 13C. All in all a very warm month.

Wildlife

The warm weather does not seem to have helped the butterflies until very recently. During June there were a few Meadow Browns and Marbled Whites in our field but little else. In the garden we have seen a couple of Small Tortoiseshells which have become quite rare. Strange when the larvae feed on Stinging Nettles which are hardly rare! In the first few days of July numbers have picked up with lots of Brimstones, Peacock, Comma and Large Whites. The Nasturtiums have taken a pasting from the caterpillars of the Large Whites. I have not seen a single Common Blue even though the larval food plant, Bird-foot Trefoil is abundant. Lots of grasshoppers in our long grass, and although I can no longer hear them I can listen to them with my bat recorder. A very poor substitute for the wonderful sound of a meadow in full concert but better than nothing. On my bird surveys on Martin Down I heard Turtle Dove and several Cuckoos but I haven't heard either of these in the village. I was very surprised one morning to hear a Willow Warbler on Martin Down as I haven't heard one there for 20 years. Forty years ago it was the most abundant species and I used to record more than 30 breeding pairs on the small area of the reserve which I covered. They are still abundant in Scotland and further north and I have no idea why they have disappeared from this area. I have set the moth trap on several nights and after a very slow start have started to catch good numbers with over 40 species on some recent and very warm nights. Highlights have been the Hawk moths with Privet, Poplar, Elephant and Small Elephant plus the day-flying Humming-bird Hawk which we have seen several times feeding on Red Valerian and Phlox. I have been sowing arable plots with seed mixes for flowers and wildlife for a few years and this season has been a spectacular success. Many of these plants used to be weeds of cornfields before the use of herbicides. Poppies are the ones which epitomise this but there were also Cornflowers, Corncockle and Mayweeds amongst many others. I struggle to get poppies to do well for some reason which I have not yet worked out, but this year the plots are a sea of bright yellow Corn Marigold and white Mayweed with a sprinkling of Poppies and cornflowers. Earlier they were bright blue with Phacelia which has now gone over. For some reason, Corncockle has hardly shown itself. The insects feeding on these plots are abundant with small hoverflies particularly plentiful. It is really worthwhile sowing even a tiny patch in your garden.

Happy spotting! Paul

Open Gardens

The two gardens which were open on 5th July raised £484 for Marie Curie, which was very pleasing. Thanks to the team of helpers, to Mike, and to all the people who came to enjoy the gardens.

The Crick Crack Club Storytelling

The next Fairytales for Grown-Ups event at Cranborne Earthouse is on Saturday 6 September from 7.30 (gates open at 6.30). Lucy Lill and Liisa Wilkinson will be telling of the Queen of Between. Tickets are £13.90 (inc booking fee) from www.ticketsource.co.uk.

Damerham Cricket Club

Damerham CC have had a fantastic season so far, and are currently top of the Hampshire Cricket League Division 6B.

Damerham Cricket Club's fixtures for August

Saturday 2nd August: Home to Fawley III

Saturday 9th August: Away to Ellingham II

Saturday 16th August: Away to Lyndhurst II

Saturday 23rd August: Home to Beaulieu

Saturday 30th August: Home to Godshill

All DCC games start at 1pm

Lobster's Cricket Club fixtures:

Sunday 3rd August: Home to Hyde 2pm

Sunday 31st August: Home to Lobsters v Lobsters 12pm

Home fixtures are played on the Sportsfield – spectators very welcome. Why not grab a drink from the Compasses and enjoy the action!!

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 urgently 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.

An Appeal!!!

I'd love to have some different photos for our front page – do you have a good, black and white photo that you think represents Damerham that we would be able to use? Please get in touch – you could be famous!!

Rubbish!!

Household Glass collection

All glass bottles & jars

Metal lids only

No loose or plastic lids

No broken glass

Tuesday 19th August from 7.00am

Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on 12th and 26th August.

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.



Wheelie bins!

The new bins will begin to be delivered around Damerham between August and October, with the new collection beginning in October. You will get information about the change over in the post in the next month or two.

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? Do you have a great photo we could use for the next Pump? 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 September edition, please email me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com by Friday 15th August. Thank you.