



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 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

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

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

Contact: Jim.eames@btinternet.com

2nd Thursday of the month from 7.15pm – Bingo at the Village Hall

Contact: info@damerham.org

Bingo!! Is on Thursday 11th September 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. From September, bingo will be moving to the 2nd Thursday of the month. We hope that this will encourage more folk to attend, as we know the first week of the month is busy with lots of other activities – so we need to spread the fun!!

Damerham Village Hall Harvest Quiz

The Village Hall Committee is pleased to announce that we will be running a Harvest Quiz again this year on Saturday 11th October at 7pm in the Village Hall. The cost is £15 per person, which includes a 2 course meal. Teams can be up to 8 people. Please bring your own beverages! There will be an Auction of Produce, so if you have any fruit, vegetables, jam, preserves, wine etc to donate, please bring them along on the night. All proceeds from the Auction will go to the Trussell Trust. To book your place, email info@damerham.org. We will get back to you with menu choices and payment details. All places to be booked by 5th October.

St George's Nearly New Sale

Please start getting together your Nearly New items for the sale on Saturday 11th October. All good quality items are very welcome (although we can't accept electrical goods)

August Cream Teas

Thank you to everyone who came and helped out in whatever way with the Cream Teas – such a lovely way to raise some money for St George's, enjoy your beautiful village and some yummy scones!!

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

----- September 2025

Damerham and District Horticultural Society Show

On Saturday 26 July, Damerham and District Horticultural Society celebrated its 100th Summer Show in Collaboration with Damerham Fair. The Society would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped to make it a great success – the helpers, the visitors and most of all, everyone who entered.

As the saying goes, 'every little helps'! We hope people were inspired by the entries and eager to enter themselves next year, so that this wonderful village tradition will continue.

Beetroot, Nettles and Turmeric...

Can you guess what these three things have in common? And no, it's not about soup!

They were used by a group of folk at the Village Hall last month, to make vegetable dyes. Artist, Alex Sutherland, our tutor, then took the dyes away and returned a few days later with the fabrics our dyes had coloured. We settled down again to make bright butterflies and fabric models of fruit and vegetables.

All this is because the Lyndhurst based Culture in Common have given the village a grant to decorate our telephone box and make it our own. This first decoration is to commemorate the Damerham and District Horticultural Society's 100th Annual Flower Show. But it doesn't stop here! There will be two more opportunities for villages to take part in new displays over the coming months. So, if your artistic fingers are itching, there are two things to look out for – the first is the bright and cheerful telephone box, and the second will be the details of the next workshop so that you can join in and be part of it.

Thanks to Alex Sutherland, Pete Doherty and to Culture in Common for making this happy thing happen!

Tea and Chat

Mandy Robbins' talk in August educated us about how difficult it is for mainly women, but some men, to have the courage, support and strength to get out of abusive and coercive relationships. It is very easy for us to think we would not stay in that sort of situation, but Mandy showed us the many factors that contribute to women feeling like they have no way out. It highlights the importance of listening and being there for people without trying to fix their problems.. There are many organisations that can help – but friends and family who listen and don't judge are so important.

At our September meeting on the 3rd, we are having an afternoon of board games. If you fancy playing a game, come along and join in.

You are welcome to bring a game to share.

We are off on our last outing of the year on Thursday 11th September to Beaulieu House and Motor Museum. There is currently a sculpture exhibition in the grounds as well. We may still have a few spaces on the coach if you are interested, so do get in touch to see.

For more information, contact Ella Whitcher on 07986 650123

Royal British Legion

The Damerham and Western Downland branch of the RBL will have our next social meeting at The Compasses on Thursday 4th September from 7.30 – 9pm.

Do come along and join us – everyone is welcome.

Archery Coaching in Damerham

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at archery? Wessex Archery Coaching is offering 4 week beginners courses designed to introduce you to this rewarding sport.

Held in small groups in Damerham Village Hall, these courses provide a welcoming and structured environment in which to learn the fundamentals of archery. Perfect for all ages* - no prior experience is required, and all equipment is provided. Sessions are run by a registered Archery GB coach, ensuring safe and professional instruction throughout.

To find out more, including course dates and booking information, please visit the WessexArcheryCoaching.com website, or follow their social media pages for the latest updates.

*min 13 years old.

Keeping Bees in Damerham

Who doesn't like a slice of toast and honey? And there are plenty of flowers around here, so surely the bees won't need much looking after? All I wanted was enough honey for my toast and to give to family and friends. That was the thinking that led me to enrol on an evening course run by New Forest Beekeepers Association back in early 2023.

My first bees were a swarm found in a dustbin in Beaulieu and they settled in well to their new home in my garden, and set about building the comb needed in their brand new hive. This always takes more effort than making honey, so I wasn't surprised that they didn't give any honey that year.

They survived their first winter, and things were looking good until I heard a roaring sound, and looked outside to see a mist of bees rolling down the garden as they swarmed off into the distance! Something that they repeated until I was basically left with no bees!

So this year, I bit the bullet and bought some bees, and what a difference – super calm and they really were (and are) busy as bees! Early June came and 25lbs of honey had to be taken off to give them more room, followed by a similar amount 2 weeks later, and then over 50lbs in July – that's a lot of toast to eat!

I've found there is so much more to beekeeping than I expected at the start, lots of new terminology, new kit to buy and most of all, so much to learn about bees themselves; why did they swarm last year (not enough space?), why do they get grumpy later in the season (wasps?) and much, much more.

With the bees so productive, I'm selling my honey, so if you'd like some local honey that has simply been extracted and strained and to see the bees themselves, then come up to Hilltop Cottage in South End, or email me at richardwalter@hotmail.co.uk. I'm buzzing to hear from you!!!

Special News!

Robin and Linda Isaacs celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Thursday 18th September 2025. Wishing you many congratulations and many more happy years together to come. Sending you both our love and we hope you enjoy your special day – with love from Sharon and Mia, and best wishes from all of Damerham xx

Damerham Cricket Club

At the time of writing, Damerham CC remain top of the Hampshire Cricket League Division 6B and when the September issue of the Pump is published, their league campaign will have finished, and hopefully promotion gained. If the current winning streak continues, this could be as champions! Before putting away their kit for the winter, the club is embarking on a three match tour from the 12th – 15th September in East Sussex from a base in Rye.

Lobsters Cricket Club has had another enjoyable season with most of their fixtures played on Sunday afternoons on the Sportsfield. They have just one final game scheduled for September, which will be away against our neighbours in Rockbourne on the 14th.

Nature Notes from Paul T.

Weather: July was yet another very dry month with just 16mm of rain. There were 21 dry days and the only significant fall was the 7.2mm on 20th. The 12 month total is now down to 814mm. It was also a very warm month with average maximum of 27C and average minimum of 14C. Highest temperature was 31C on 1st and 10th. Lowest maximum was 23 on two days.

Wildlife: I have very few records for recent wildlife, partly because I haven't been out much and partly because this is a rather quiet time of the year for the birds which have mostly finished nesting and are not singing. We have made a couple of visits to Blashford Lakes which are always worthwhile. There are a lot of Sand Martins using the holes which have been provided and on one visit we had good views of a Hobby. These raptors are late breeders as one of the important food items for their young is young Martins. The Wildlife Trust have recently installed a Swift Tower to try and get this species to nest there. It looks a bit like a flying saucer on a pole with Swift nests all round and House Martin boxes below. They have been using a "caller" to try and attract birds especially the younger birds which are not yet breeding but might explore the sites ready for next year. I spent a night in Exeter recently and it was wonderful sitting in the garden with dozens of Swifts screaming low down around the house. I used to love that, years ago when I lived in Melksham, and the birds would dash through the narrow gunnels between the buildings. I recently happened on a podcast about an annual Bird Race in USA which featured an unusual group. This was an all-woman team and their aim was to count only female birds. Quite a challenge as they are generally much less conspicuous. This was on Cape May in New Jersey where there is a huge movement of birds on autumn migration and the winning group gets nearly 200 species. In 24 hours. They were aiming for 32 species to better last year's total and did get 36. However, what really interested me was to find out that the majority of female song birds sing! I have mentioned before that in this country female Robins sing and hold territory in winter but that was the only species I knew of. In the tropics it seems that the majority sing and also tend to be much more brightly coloured than most females here. Why was the question and it is suggested that it is linked to migration. In the tropics where there is not a summer/winter divide migration is not much called for, but in the north it is. It is suggested that it takes more energy to produce bright colours and so females in our migratory species have become duller. The males have often maintained brighter colours and better songs as sexual selection has called on them to compete for mates. I found this really fascinating.

Happy spotting!!

Thank you to Annie Bellows for her photos of the village!! One of which we have used this month – more in the future. Do let me have yours if you would like to have them included.

Rubbish!!

Household Glass collection

All glass bottles & jars
Metal lids only
No loose or plastic lids
No broken glass
Tuesday 16th September from 7.00am



Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on 9th and 23rd September. 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? 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 October edition, please email me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com by Monday 15th September. Thank you.