



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

Mondays from 6 – 7pm Strong Nation with Carolina

Contact: carolinatuc@gmail.com

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

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

Contact: info@damerham.org

Bingo!! We tried doing the Bingo on the second Thursday of the month, but this didn't work, as the folk who expressed an interest in changing the date didn't come, and lots of regulars couldn't do the second week, so a decision has been made to go back to the original timing. Therefore, bingo will be on Thursday 2nd October, 7.15 for 7.30 eyes down. Please make every effort to come to enjoy a game of bingo! The more people who attend, the bigger the prizes! It is £10 a book, but you don't have to have a whole book, or you can share with a friend. Refreshments at half time.

Damerham Village Hall Harvest Quiz

Have you booked your place for the quiz yet? If not, you'd better hurry, as the cut off date is 5th October! The quiz is on Saturday 11th October at 7pm at the Village Hall. Teams of up to 8 people. £15 per person, to include a 2 course meal. Please bring your own beverages. Don't forget to bring any produce you wish to donate to the Auction of Produce to raise money for the Trussell Trust, and cash to buy a ticket or two. To book your place, email info@damerham.org.

Damerham and District Horticultural Society Centenary Year

The AGM is being held in Damerham Village Hall on Thursday 16th October at 7.30pm. There will be drinks and nibbles, and a talk by Paul Toynton about Martin Down, our local nature reserve of unspoilt chalk downland.

For more information, see www.ddhs.co.uk.

Nearly New Sale for St George's Church

There will be a fundraising nearly new sale on

Saturday 11th October from 2pm at the Village Hall.

Come along and pick up a bargain or two, buy a raffle ticket, enjoy a cuppa and some cake! Entrance is 50p.

Items for sale can be dropped off in the morning – no electrical goods and all good quality please!

100 Years of Horticulture

If you walk past the phone box, you will see it is now occupied! This art installation has been created by Alex Sutherland to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Damerham and District Horticultural Society.

It has been paid for by Culture in Common, a New Forest initiative funded by the Arts Council to promote artistic expression in the area. This installation is one of three that will be in the Damerham phone box over the coming months. It will be in the phone box until the end of October. In November, a new piece of art will be installed – more details to follow!

In the meantime, please visit, open the door and rotate the art!

Tea and Chat

We had a fun afternoon at our September meeting, playing board games. A few people learnt new games that they hadn't played before, which was challenging for the brain!

Our last trip this year was to Beaulieu House and Motor Museum and the coach was nearly full. We managed to stay mainly dry, but there was one heavy downpour! Everyone had a great day, and the house was fantastic now that the upper storey has been opened to the public.

There was a sculpture exhibition at the time of our visit, with sculptures on display both inside and outside, some of which were fantastic! A bit too pricey for my budget though! There was a ride on the monorail and the vintage bus, as well as the numerous displays of cars. As ever, many folk made good use of the café and treated themselves to the goodies on offer.

On Wednesday 1st October, we have a visit from Jonathan Cox, who will be telling us about his time policing in London

For more information, contact Ella Whitcher on 07986 650123

Royal British Legion

The Damerham and Western Downland branch of the RBL will hold its AGM on Wednesday 8th October at 7.30pm in Damerham Village Hall. Anyone may attend. If you are interested in learning more about how the RBL works, how it raises and distributes funds and how it operates locally, do come along and join us, you will be very welcome.

New fitness class at the Village Hall

Strong Nation by Zumba is a high intensity workout that combines cardio, bodyweight exercises and music. Unlike traditional Zumba, which focuses on dance, Strong Nation uses beats that match every move to help you push harder and stay motivated. It's designed to build strength, stamina and overall fitness.

Contact carolinatuc@gmail.com for more info

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

Village Hall website

Have you looked at the new Village Hall website? We are pleased to announce that it is now live, so take a look. www.damerham.org. If you offer accommodation in the village, or offer services like catering, wedding decorating, children's party entertainment or other services that people hiring the hall might be looking for, then get in touch so that we can add you to the local supplier link.

The Village Hall committee would like to say a massive thank you to Hayley Jordan for all her time and effort making the new site..

Damerham Cricket Club

Cricket in Damerham is over for another year, with Damerham Cricket Club finishing in in style as champions of their Hampshire Cricket League Division. They rounded off the successful season with an enjoyable albeit damp tour in East Sussex. The Lobsters once again had a hugely entertaining summer. A winter reminiscing and following England's fortunes in the Ashes lies ahead!

Nature Notes from Paul T.

Weather for August: Very dry until the last few days. There were 23 dry days and then in the last week 27mm fell so the total was 40mm, only 12mm below the average. The 12 month total is now 815mm. Another warm month with an average high of 25C and coolest night 7C on 21/22nd. Warmest day was 14th at 32C. Lowest maximum was 21C and highest minimum 17C on 2 nights. Average high was 25C and average minimum 12C.

Wildlife: In late August I went to Cardigan for a few days to join my daughter and family in a house on the estuary just west of Cardigan town. I drove there, leaving Damerham at dawn and by the time I reached Broadchalke over the downs as dawn broke I was pleasantly surprised by all the wildlife. A roe deer leapt out of a hedge only inches in front of the car nearly ending my journey then and there and another trotted down the road for a while. A Buzzard was already out hunting and 2 Red Kites swept overhead. I saw my first Rabbit in many months and there were dozens of Wood Pigeons on the road. Then I saw nothing else on the rest of the journey of nearly 5 hours. Nor did I see a single bird of prey in the next 4 days in Wales! Quite extraordinary. A boat trip in Cardigan Bay gave good views of a school of Bottle-nosed Dolphins and a few Grey Seals and pups. From the house as the tide ebbed and the mud was exposed we saw Little Egret, Heron, Cormorant, Redshank, Ringed Plover, and Oyster-catcher. Also Kingfisher, Grey and Pied Wagtails, lots of gulls plus all the more usual garden birds. I ran my moth trap in the garden hoping for some different species from my usual catch here but only caught the same ones as home. Back home we had an Old Lady Moth a very large and beautiful species which I rarely see. I was still catching Jersey Tiger moths at the end of September. Although the water in our new pond has been very low it has still been interesting with regular visits from Emperor and Broad-bodied Chaser dragonflies and I was surprised to find a large (but dead) nymph of the latter in such a new pond. There are lots of water boatmen and 3 small frogs were seen recently. On the last days of August we had dozens of House Martins over the garden and now by the time I write they have nearly all gone it seems. I did see a lone Swallow on 10th Sept and no doubt there will still be some around for the next couple of weeks before all have gone to warmer places for the winter ahead. Tawny Owls are beginning to set up territory now with marvellous calling in the woods around us at dusk and it is worth going out to listen just after dark in the next few weeks. Alec and I were very disappointed that we missed the recent eclipse of the moon as we did not know about it. Another two years to wait for the next one I believe.

Happy spotting!!

Bridleway Improvements

A couple of years ago, Annie Bellows was able to get a couple of the farmers alongside bridleway 46 between Damerham and Sandleheath to improve the surface and put in some drainage. She also had the Countryside Department out and they discussed further improvements. This year, they have been successful in obtaining a considerable grant to improve the bridleway, and will start work in October. It will take between 4 and 6 weeks to complete.

Local Government Reorganisation

Hampshire County Council has decided on its preferred option for how the new Unitary Authorities will be organised, which would see us joining with Southampton, plus Test Valley and Eastleigh.

The rest of Hampshire councils (including NFDC) have also now published results of their research, but no agreement has been reached on which of their 3 options is the best. That means it is most likely that 4 different plans will be submitted to the Government on 26th September, and it will be left to the Government to make a final decision. There will be a consultation taking views from the public on which option should be chosen, starting in November, with the final decision due by March next year.

New Look Damerham Parish Pump for November!

The Parish Council have agreed to increase their funding of the Parish Pump to give it a new look (and the chance to use a bigger font so it is easier to read!). Items for inclusion for November (and, shhhhh for Christmas!) are really welcome!

Rubbish!!

Household Glass collection

All glass bottles & jars
Metal lids only
No loose or plastic lids
No broken glass
Tuesday 14th October from 7.00am



Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on 7th and 21st October. 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 rollout in our area starts on 20th October. The changes being introduced are greater than many people realise, and although the phase 1 rollout has been mostly very successful, a few people have had some quite severe disruption to their rubbish collections. Therefore, we would urge you to check everything is as it should be in good time before the rollout, so that queries and problems can be ironed out in advance. The customer service team are still quite stretched, so there may be a delay in getting a response. In particular: If you think you have been missed off the wheelie bin deliveries ie if all your neighbours have them and you don't, then contact the Council without delay – don't wait until the new collection starts. Some businesses such as village halls and holiday lets may have had their waste collected along with the household waste collections (although that wasn't actually legal). Businesses will not be getting wheelie bins and will be expected to use the business waste collection in future. Do check if you think this applies to you, as you will need to register for business waste collections. You can check here www.newforest.gov.uk/findmyphase if your property will be receiving domestic waste collection.

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 November edition, please email me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com by Wednesday 15th October. Thank you.