

Diary Dates and Events

It's Christmas!!!! It's (nearly) all going on at the Village Hall!!

Bingo!!! On Thursday 4th December 7.15 – for eyes down at 7.30. Last chance to win before Christmas!!

Pulpit to Pub – Thursday 11th December at 7pm. The service will take place at St George's, to last about an hour, Les and the congregation will then walk over the fields to The Compasses (please wear appropriate shoes/boots!) for a short service with carols and music. Obviously, drinks will be available to purchase while at the pub!

Christmas Village Get Together is on Saturday 13th December from 12 – 3pm. Please bring along a plate of buffet style food to share, sweet, savoury or both! There will be teas, coffees, mulled wine and squash. This is a child friendly event, and we would love to welcome whole families. There will be activities for the children to do. This is a great time to meet up with old friends and new, and a good opportunity to deliver your Christmas cards and enjoy our wonderful community. The Sandleheath Band will be joining us to play some seasonal tunes to get us into the festive spirit. There will be a small raffle, so bring your £1s. Hope to see lots of you there!



Christmas Coffee Pot is on Wednesday 17th December, 10.30 - 12, with homemade cakes for sale, a Christmas raffle, and all profits going to Marie Curie. Any donations of cakes, raffle prizes etc gratefully received.

This is the last Coffee Pot before the New Year, we'll be back on 7th January 2026.

Crossways Christmas Gathering with Carols and Songs is on Thursday 18th December from 5 – 7pm, with a singalong with choir/artist recordings, Tim's infamous mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies! A few seats will be available, but you may wish to bring your own. All are welcome! There will be a collection plate for St George's Church.



Sparkly Seasonal Stroll! From Friday 19th December to Saturday 3rd January, you will be able to take a magical stroll round Damerham to admire all the Christmas decorations. There will be a map available on the Damerham Facebook page, and paper copies at The Compasses, the Village Hall and at Crossways Farm, showing all the houses taking part. You could decorate a window(s), a garden, a fence, or go full on Crossways Farm mode!! Everything to be viewed from the road. It would be wonderful to see Damerham sparkling in the Season, and to have a chance to walk off at least some of the Christmas pudding! If you would like your house to be included in the trail, please get in touch with me (mandysrobbins@gmail.com) by Wednesday 17th December. You can pop a bucket out for donations to a favourite cause if you wish, but this is all just for fun!



Damerham and District Horticultural Society

As we come to the end of the Horticultural Society's 100th year, we are looking forward to our last event of the year. On 4th December at 2pm at the Village Hall, we will be having a fun quiz, on a horticultural theme. There will be lots of tasty food, with drinks and mulled wine. Come along and join the seasonal fun!

Royal British Legion - Our next social meeting is at The Compasses on Thursday 4th December from 7.30 – 9. Do come along and join us, everyone is welcome.

Park for Free in NFDC car parks and support our local businesses on 6th December (Small Business Saturday) and the weekends of 13/14th and 20/21st December.



Paul T's Nature Notes

Weather October 2025

I was surprised to find that the rainfall was average for the month with 75mm (average 71mm) There were 16 dry days and the rainfall over the past 12 months is now 738mm. The long term average is 943mm! The average maximum was 19C and the warmest day was 22nd with 20C Average minimum was 9C and coldest nights were 25/26th and 26/27th at 3C. I did not record a frost but there may have been one those nights.

Wildlife

We still had no birds visiting the garden apart from 1 Blue-tit in mid October. However, I did a Winter Bird Survey visit mid month and recorded a lot of birds around Southend and Mill End including Siskin. I did at last see Lizard and Slow-worm in our field. I had a response to my last report as Mike Jerrard told me he found masses of hatched Grass Snake eggs on his compost heap. Hopefully many will survive hibernation and we may see more next year. Fungi have been abundant, and on a visit to Langley Wood we found the ground covered with hundreds of Boletus (the ones with sponge underneath instead of gills) of many species, and many other types including the beautiful Fly Agarics. A visit to the New Forest produced a list of 71 species. During lunch break at a singing workshop in Witchampton a female Sparrowhawk was seen to kill a Wood Pigeon and proceed to pluck and eat it in the church yard perhaps a bit gruesome for some, but quite exciting especially as we were able to get very close to it. We used to see hundreds of gulls flying south over the village in late afternoons but rarely see this now, presumably because we are no longer on the flight line from Blashford to the food source. The gulls that we see here in the village are usually either Lesser-black Backs, the large ones, or Black-headed Gulls which are much smaller with black heads in summer and no black on their backs. In early October in Charlton All Saints a recently cultivated field had about 300 Common Gulls feeding. They aren't common here and the name is misleading. Then in late October a flock of about 140 Common Gulls suddenly flew in to a grass field in the village in late afternoon. Probably resting on their way to roost at Blashford. A really surprising record was finding a Glow-worm larva in the pond in our field in October. I rescued it and perhaps I will see one glowing next summer. This is only the second record for the field in 12 years. Glow worms are actually beetles and larvae and adult females look a bit like ladybird larvae. During the summer the females spend the daytime down in the grass and then at night crawl up grass stems, switch on the light and wait for the males to arrive. The males are small black beetles and fly around looking for the glowing females. They are quite common on chalk grassland areas as the larvae feed on snails, particularly Banded Snails. They secrete a digestive fluid which turns the snail into a soup which they then ingest. We sometimes attracted dozens of the males to our moth light on Martin Down.

Happy Spotting!

Tea and Chat

We had a lovely afternoon celebrating 28 years of Tea and Chat in November. We have assigned each child in Maple Class a pen pal and all the adult pen pals will be writing a letter to bring to the December meeting to introduce themselves to their child. We are looking forward to meeting the children when they come to Tea and Chat on Wednesday 3rd December to perform the Nativity Play.

We are going back to the Old Beams at Ibsley for our Christmas lunch on Tuesday 9th December, so if anyone would like to join us, please let me know by 3rd December.

Ella Whitcher 07986 650123



Damerham and District Horticultural Society

Members will be receiving their membership renewal during Decembers, this starts from 1st January 2026. Joint membership is £12 and a single is £8. New members are always welcome, and the membership application is on our website (www.ddhs.co.uk). Non members can attend any of our talks for £3 per person.

Royal British Legion – Damerham and Western Downland Branch

We are delighted to inform you that our RBL Branch coffee morning on 8th November raised the splendid sum of £810, and we would like to thank everyone who turned up on the day and contributed so generously. The money will go to the RBL Hampshire Welfare Fund that supports members of the Armed Forces community in our own county.

Our branch is always delighted to receive new members, and you do not have to be an Armed Forces veteran to apply. To join online, go to www.britishlegion.org.net/get-involved/membership. To learn more about our branch, email rbl damerham.chmn@btinternet.com

Bridleway update.

I started the move to improve the Damerham/Sandleheath bridleway a few years ago so as to enable easy walking/riding/cycling for all between the villages. With the help of two local farmers, David Bryant and Rob Cobb and a small outlay, a surface was laid at the Damerham end. A Manager from the HCC Countryside Department came to view and was impressed with the efforts and we discussed the rest of the Bridleway and how the connection for the two villages would be very positive. From Sandleheath, the paths can be picked up to walk to Fordingbridge creating a great access network. He successfully applied for CIL funding from NFDC, and the work has started to improve the surface. The track from Sandleheath down the hill has been completed and is a great improvement. Work has now started along the bottom where the stepping stones were, and work is scheduled to be completed by April '26 if not before. There is no alternative route for horse and bicycle but there are various footpaths to still enable walks between the villages. The inconvenience will be worth the outcome. **Annie Bellows.**

Regular Village Events:

Mondays from 9am 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 (closed on 23rd and 30th December)

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 (closed on 24th and 31st December)

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 (but on Monday 22nd December this time)

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

Hymn Books

St George's have recently purchased 40 new hymn books to replace the old 1950's version. The new edition contains hundreds of favourites old and new and will serve the community for maybe another 75 years or so! If you would like to inscribe one in your name or in memory of a loved one, at the cost of £13 per book, please get in touch with Caroline Eastman at pccdamerhamtreasurer@gmail.com

Damerham Phone Box

From Loise Cordelia... As a freelance artist, I specialise in responding to unusual briefs, so when I saw the opportunity to create an art installation inside an iconic K6 phone box, I knew immediately that I wanted to submit a proposal. The more that I researched Damerham's history, the more fascinated I became. While working, I immersed myself in the British History podcast, which gives a brilliant account of Anglo-Saxon history, including King Alfred the Great and his daughter, sometimes known as Aethelflaed of Damerham. The legendary warrior queen presides over the whole installation. Interestingly, there is quite a lot of evidence to suggest that she actually led troops in battle, but more importantly than that, she was every bit of her father's daughter in her use of strategy and peaceful diplomacy. I was extremely grateful for the input and suggestions I received from local residents, who helped me work out which imagery to include in the rest of the design. On each tier of the rotating 'bookshelf' plinth, I added some low relief textural and 3D elements, to add tactile interest, especially with visually impaired visitors in mind. Creating a short film about the project has meant that many more people all over the UK and beyond now know about the installation and its significance, and I hope it will bring curious visitors to Damerham in the future. You can see the video at www.loiscordelia.com/damerham or come and visit the phone box itself.



Alice Louisa is the final artist working on the phone box commission with Culture in Common titled 'Still Connected'. She will be creating the work in Damerham between December and March next year. 'Still Connected' is a photographic and audio-visual installation exploring isolation, particularly during the winter months, when disconnection can often be most deeply felt. Rooted in the voices and landscapes of Damerham, she is hoping for the project to feature portraits and stories of local residents. The final work will be installed inside the Damerham Telephone Box, transforming it into an intimate listening space combining portraits and recorded voices. She is looking now for people to work with, talk with and take photographs of to include in the installation.

If you would like to be involved, or to find out more, contact her at alichelouisaphotos@gmail.com.

Stargazing event.

In November, we had a successful star gazing evening at Jubilee Farm after the clouds had cleared following a day of rain. Hot drinks, soup, and snacks were available. Thank you, Alison and Dave for your hospitality. Steve Tonkins and his astrologers provided all the knowledge and equipment, and we viewed some amazing star clusters, millions of light years away plus we saw some shooting stars and a meteor.

Rubbish!!

Household Glass collection

All glass bottles & jars

Metal lids only

No loose or plastic lids

No broken glass

Tuesday 9th December from 7.00am



Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on 2nd and 16th December.

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?

What do you use your Pump for? What would you like to see more (or less) of?? 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 December edition, please

email me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com

by Friday 12th December.

Thank you.

Lots of information on the village is to be found on the Damerham website

www.damerham.net and on the facebook page.

A welcome pack is available from the Clerk – clerk@damerham.net for newcomers.

The Parish Pump is printed by Time2Display, Fordingbridge. 01725 512021



The Parish Pump



A regular newsletter from Damerham Parish Council

December 2025



(Thank you to Elly Burke for this photo)

Welcome to the December edition of The Pump!

This one has taken some serious editing, as there was so much to squeeze in, so my apologies for the smaller fonts this time, but we needed some of the lovely photos that folk have sent in already. Thank you to everyone for their comments, items and photos!

Make sure you get all the dates in your diaries, and come along to all the wonderful events happening over the next month – we really do have a special community in our village – which is made up of every one of you! Wishing everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.