



The Parish Pump

A regular newsletter from Damerham Parish Council

August 2026



Welcome to the August edition of The Pump!

Happy August to you and yours! How the months fly by. I hope that you managed to get along to the Village Show and Fair, and might even have won a prize or two! Some photos to include for the September edition would be much appreciated, and of course give boasting rights! In this edition you can find out about upcoming events, including the August Cream Teas, an interesting talk with the Horticultural Society, pay as you go pilates and a sound bath to enjoy. There are updates from Tea and Chat, cricket and the Open Gardens for Marie Curie. Have a look around at home and see if you have any jumble to include in the Church jumble sale in September. There is also news from the Parish Council about how to get more involved in what is happening in the village.

More photos of your events or our beautiful village please to include for future issues!!! Please email them to me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com

Have a wonderful month, stay cool and see you soon!

(Thank you to Sarah Bealey for her wildlife photos)

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 Second 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 First 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

Every last Thursday of the month – Dam-Jam live music at the

Compasses.enquiries@compassesinndamerham.co.uk

Check if groups are running over the summer!

St George's Church is open every day during daylight hours – you are welcome to drop in at any time during the day for quiet contemplation or prayer.

Check out the Damerham Village Hall channel on Whatsapp – whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb8EtQX3QxS0csfXKR3L

If you would like to book the village hall for a gathering or event, please have a look at the website at damerham.org, where you can also see regular users, updates and fill in a booking form, or email the booking secretary, Stuart, at info@damerham.org.

From the Parish Council

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Village needs a new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. The current incumbent, Clive Bealey is retiring after a considerable period of service. We thank him.

The role involves communicating important information on threats and issues to village security and householders online who choose to register to receive this information. We also need individuals in East End, High Street, West Park Lane, South End and the Common who will report any threats to the Co-ordinator in their particular area.

If you feel you can help with these important tasks please contact: clerk@damerham.net.

VILLAGE WORKING GROUP

We are looking to set up a volunteer Working Group in the Village to tend and safeguard communal areas and footpaths with flora and wildlife on a regular basis. We can no longer rely on the Council to do the work required to protect our local natural assets due to cut backs in funding and lack of local knowledge. Other villages in Western Downland already have similar groups, it is about time Damerham did too.

If you wish to volunteer please contact:clerk@damerham.net.

Tea and Chat

We had our very own Robin Robbins as our speaker in July telling us about her time at the BBC. As expected, it was full of humour and very entertaining. Keeping it in the family, we have Mandy Robbins coming to do some craft for our August meeting on the 5th. Mandy will be doing her best to help us making something, but I am sure she will have to assist us as most of us aren't very good at following instructions!

I am still gathering names for our trip on the Watercress Line which is on Thursday 17th September. We had a very generous grant from last year's Village Fair to subsidise this trip. We are very thankful to the Fair for sharing some of the profit from all their hard work with us. Tea and Chat also added to the pot, so we are able to offer the trip at the amazing price of £10 for members and £15 for non members. Please get in touch if you would like to come on the coach with us, and then go on the train from Alton to Alresford, spend a bit of time wandering around this picturesque Georgian market town, and treating yourself to lunch, then the return train trip. Any age is welcome, but no unaccompanied under 16's.

For more information please contact

Ella Whitcher on 07986 650123 or ellawhitcher@hotmail.co.uk

Diaries and updates!

The Damerham and Western Downland branch of the Royal British Legion Your flourishing local RBL branch is keen to attract new members, and you are invited to join us. Our purpose is to contribute to the RBL's invaluable work of supporting servicepersons, veterans and their families when they are in need, throughout their monthly pub gatherings and occasional awayday visits. You don't have to be ex-services to join us – anyone can. For more detail visit britishlegion.org.uk or email Branch Chairman Mike Richardson at rbldamerham.chmn@btinternet.com.

The Damerham and Western Downland branch of RBL has it next social meeting at The Compasses on Thursday 6th August 7.30 – 9pm. Do come along and join us, everyone is welcome.

Damerham and District Horticultural Society

On 20th August, there will be a demonstration by Catherine Rounce showing us how to make beautiful terrariums. It will be held in Damerham Village Hall from 7.30pm.

Refreshments will be available. Non-members are very welcome - £3.

Pay As You Go Pilates – August at Damerham Village Hall

August is your chance to try pilates with no commitment! Classes are usually booked by the term, so if you've been thinking about giving pilates a go, now's the perfect time.

Build strength, improve mobility, move with more ease and feel better in everyday life.

Come and see what pilates can do for you!

Book your space at sandiewillspilates.co.uk/book-online.

The famous August Cream Teas!

There will be delicious Cream Teas served by the river at the Village Hall every Sunday afternoon during August, as well as a quality bric a brac stall. Drop by and enjoy a quintessential English afternoon!

Volunteers to help still welcomed, as are donations of bric a brac and home made scones please! This is one of St George's main fundraisers, so please do support it in whatever way you can.

Advance warning that the Church jumble sale is on 26th September from 2pm – hall open for donations from 10am (no electrical goods please), there will also be refreshments and a raffle.

Please contact John Godber at catherine.godber50@gmail.com. Thank you!

Reiki and Sound Healing Event

Relax, rejuvenate and restore with the healing power of Reiki and sound at Damerham Village Hall on 10th September from 7.30. All details and booking at forestvibrations.co.uk/event-details/reiki-and-sound-healing-event-5.



Damerham and District Horticultural Society's Summer Show, Fair and Tent Dance

Full reports will be in the September edition of the Pump, as it will take place after we go to print. I'm sure it will all be a huge success though, and thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen, donated, took part, entered their prize produce, had a stall, came along on the day, and generally supported the whole event!

Open Gardens – Saturday 4th July.

The four gardens that opened for Marie Curie on 4th July raised £560, and had lots of visitors (and cake!) Thank you to everyone who was involved – a lot of hard work, but a lot of fun!

Damerham Dash – 28 June

The 4th Dash was once again a great success. Fortunately the temperature was a bit cooler. There was a big turnout for the kids' colour run with both kids and adults being covered in a variety of colours.

There were a lot of entrants for the 5k and 10k event, with everyone completing the course and getting a medal. The winner of the 5k men was Zachary Armitage (21.58) and the ladies was Kimberley Irving (27.16). The winner of the 10k men was Ethan Young (37.10) and the ladies was Sharon Stewart (51.51).

A big thank you to the Bryants for letting us use their land, and for cutting the grass for the route – without them, there wouldn't be a Dash. Also many thanks to all those who helped and to Carolina for doing the warm up.

The event raised over £1,000 which was shared between the Sportsfield and The Friends of Western Downland.



The Damerham Sportsfield Lottery

Dennis White - £52

Si White - £31

Eric Thompson - £21

As the other less famous lottery says 'You've got to be in it to win it'! The more subscribers there are, the bigger the prize pot and the more funds raised to help maintain the village sportsfield, a prime asset for our community. You can join in scanning the QR code on the posters dotted around the village, or get in touch with Mat Holden via email – mathew.holden@sky.com. The draw is usually made at the end of the pub quiz at The Compasses on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

Cricket News

Damerham Cricket Club's matches in June were not a great success with three defeats and one cancellation. July's result, as at time of writing, include a comfortable win away to Farley CC, the league leaders and the hosts' first defeat of the season with DCC's bowlers restricting Farley to a modest 98 all out, Ben Bealey getting an excellent 4 wickets for 20 and Howard Thompson 3 for 13. The most recent game away to a strong Laverstock team ended in defeat after DCC being obliged to field first on a scorchingly hot afternoon.

Do come and watch either DCC or the Lobsters – your support is most welcome!

Sat 1st – DCC – Home to Breamore II – 1pm

Sun 2nd – Lobsters – Home to Hyde – 2pm

Sat 8th – DCC – Away to Broadchalke – 1pm

Sat 15th – DCC – Home to Winterbourne – 1pm

Sat 22nd – DCC – Away to Steeple Langford – 1pm

Sat 29th – DCC – Home to Dinton - 1pm

Sat 25th – DCC Away to Shrewton II – 1pm

Sun – 30th – Lobsters v Lobsters - Home – 12 noon

Do you have some spare time and would like to do some flexible volunteering?

Two Bridges are keen to recruit new drivers to meet the increasing demand for transport to medical and health appointments in our area, and would love to hear from you! Please get in touch!



Paul T's Nature Notes

Weather June 2026

Surprisingly, we had above average rainfall with 62mm. Average is 53mm. All early in the month. There were 17 dry days The average maximum temperature was 25C Warmest day was 35C on 26th. Average minimum was 14C and the coolest night was 7C on 10/11th.

Wildlife

Lots of people have commented on it being a very good year for butterflies but that hasn't been the case in our garden or field. Nothing like the summer of 2021 On 30th

June 20121 a butterfly count in our field recorded: Meadow Brown 44 and Marbled White 1 and on 17th July Meadow Brown 93, Marbled White 14. On 10th July this year it was Meadow Brown 6 Marbled White 1. There have been a lot of a few species, notably Brimstones which are still on the wing at the beginning of July. Amazing to think that these would have emerged last summer nearly a year ago. A few of us ran a moth light in Martin one evening and had a great catch; dozens of



Scarlet Tigers, several Elephant Hawks and a Small Elephant Hawk. Other nights, I have run a trap in the garden here and had some interesting catches with Striped Hawk, Elephant, Hawk and Poplar Hawk the most spectacular. I had a report of 4 Nightjars heard on Martin Down one evening and I am pleased to report that there are Turtle Doves back again. The survey last year recorded 4 breeding pairs so I hope that there are at least that many again this year. Further south in their range Turtle Doves have recovered a bit. Sarah Bealey has sent me some photos of butterflies seen on Martin Down recently.

This spell of such hot and dry weather made me think about the various ways that animals cope with extremes. Desert Tortoises burrow underground where the temp is just 20C and when it rains they can drink 40% of their body weight and store it in the bladder for months. African Wild Dogs have huge ears to help lose heat, hunt by night and can regurgitate water to supply pack member if necessary. Kangaroo Rats can survive at 45C and never drink. They get sufficient water from the seeds they eat. Then of course there are camels. Both species can survive in extremes, Dromedary in heat and Bactrian cold but in both cases it is the lack of water they need to overcome. they have oval blood cells which reduces the danger of them sticking and they can drink prodigious amounts of water at one go. Up to 200 litres.

On a more dismal note, it is sad to see the recent woodland management in Ashridge carried out with so little regard for wildlife. Scrub and ground flora cleared during the bird nesting season. Our wildlife is under enough threat without this sort of thing.

Happy spotting, and do let me know what you see. paul.toynton@hotmail.co.uk

Rubbish!!

Household Glass collection

All glass bottles & jars
Metal lids only
No loose or plastic lids
No broken glass



Tuesday 18th August from 7.00am

Garden Waste

Collection for existing customers will be on Tuesday 11th and 25th 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.

Do you have any ideas, comments, or suggestions for the future of The Parish Pump? Photos of past or upcoming events, or just lovely views of Damerham? 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 September edition, please email me at mandysrobbins@gmail.com by Saturday 15th August.

Space permitting, Do you run a business or service from the village – would you like more people to know about what you do? Please get in touch, and we could run a small advert for you – to go in 250 copies of the Pump – every household, the village hall and the Compasses and Church.

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