

DERRY HILL AND
STUDLEY MATTERS

inSPIRE



February 2023

The Parish Magazine of Christ Church Derry Hill



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The deadline for inclusion of material in next month's magazine is the **20th of this month.**

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Cover photo: View from Studley looking east towards Cherhill Downs by Richard Aylen.

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Editorial

With Christmas decorations packed away and the rush of celebrations behind us, we move into a new month. February has historically been a cold, dry month but over the last thirty years or so there has been a switch to milder, wetter and sunnier conditions such that it can possibly lay claim to being the first month of Spring rather than the last month of Winter. At the time of writing, we are once again 'enjoying' a period of mild and very wet weather and no doubt the first welcome signs of colour in our gardens and hedgerows will soon be seen in the form of snowdrops, crocus and daffodils. The highest UK maximum temperature recorded during February was as recently as 2019 when Kew saw a high of 21.2C, the lowest being somewhat further back in 1955 when Braemar suffered a cool -25C. We too remember the 'Beast from the East' which affected much of Europe in February 2018 and as this month's Full Moon is known as the 'Snow Moon' perhaps we should be prepared for anything that nature throws at us.

February 2nd is Groundhog Day when our colonial cousins in Punxsutawney in Pennsylvania drag out a hibernating rodent (these days one kept in captivity) to predict the weather for the remaining Winter period. If the animal sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter to



come.....and 85% of the time he sees such a shadow. This is not surprising as that part of the US tends to enjoy stable atmospheric conditions resulting in sunny and cold days prevailing.

The first week of this month also sees the culmination of the Chinese New Year celebrations, this year being the Year of the Rabbit.

February 22nd also marks the anniversary of the last time that foreign forces invaded British soil, an event that seems to have evaded my history books. It lasted a brief two days in 1797. Whilst Napoleon was busy elsewhere in Europe. A rag-tag French force of some 1,000 was aiming to land at Bristol but weather conditions meant that landfall was ultimately made near Fishguard in West Wales. The invaders went into

neighbouring villages in the area, forgot the purpose of their mission, and soon took advantage of stocks of alcohol which came from a recently shipwrecked Portuguese boat, giving time for a small garrison force to be augmented by local workers who quickly rounded up the drunken invaders in the Battle of Fishguard.

A local hero was one Jemima Nicholas who gathered together a group of women to face the enemy wearing traditional red Welsh Dress. She also single-handedly rounded up twelve of the invaders and locked them in a local church. Her efforts earned her a pension of £50 per year which she drew until her death in 1832.

Assistant Editor

Government Emergency Alert system soon to go live.

The UK government's new Emergency Alerts system will be live early this year, and you should expect to receive a test message. The system will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone when lives are in danger. It will be used to warn you in the event of emergencies, such as severe flooding. Emergency Alerts are sent to all compatible mobile phones within an area of risk. They don't track your location, need your phone number, or collect personal data. Only the government and the emergency services will be able to send them. If you don't have a mobile phone, you'll still be informed through other channels. If you get an Emergency Alert on your phone, you'll hear a loud, siren-like sound. A message on your screen will tell you about the emergency and how best to respond. You'll be able to check an alert is genuine at gov.uk/alerts. If you receive an alert, read the alert carefully and follow the instructions. You can opt out of receiving emergency alerts; for more information on how to opt out please go to gov.uk/alerts. Find out more about Emergency [Alerts here](#).

(Extract from Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter)

Ed

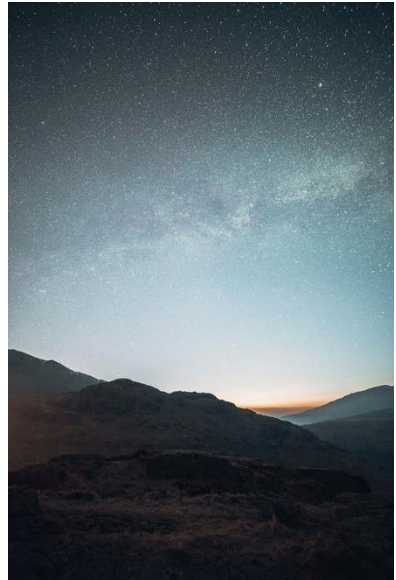
Dear Friends,

Candlemas falls on 2nd February. Along with blessing the candles in church, it is also when we commemorate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple; revisiting the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the infant Jesus, the one for whom they have been waiting patiently and faithfully, a light to lighten the Gentiles, the Light of the world. By the time you read this we will already have celebrated Candlemas (on 29th January, the nearest Sunday before). This marks the end of the season of feasting which began at Christmas and is the moment when we pause to look back at the wonder and glory of Christmas before turning our attention towards Lent.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on 22nd February and so begins the season of Lent, when we follow in the way of the adult Jesus, a way which will take us to the foot of the Cross. But we begin, on the first Sunday of Lent, in the wilderness. Do we see this as something negative, a barren place of desolation? Or might we see it as an opportunity to come closer to God, to be refreshed?

Horatius Bonar (C19th Scottish priest-poet and hymn writer), concerned about what he perceived as a reticence among church folk to make time to pray, wrote this:

“In one single quiet hour of prayer [the soul] will often make more progress than in days of company with others. It is in the desert that dew falls freshest and the air is purest. So with the soul. It is when none but God is nigh; when his presence alone, like the desert air in which there is mingled no noxious breath of man, surrounds and pervades the soul; it is then that the eye gets the clearest, simplest view of eternal certainties; it is then that the soul gathers in wondrous refreshment and power and energy.”



And lest you are tempted to think this is an exercise in navel gazing, Bonar concludes:

“And so it is also in this way that we become truly useful to others. It is when coming out fresh from communication with God that we go forth to do His work successfully.”

Horatius Bonar is probably best known for his hymn ['I heard the voice of Jesus say'](#). It is a favourite of mine and I commend it to you. May you find rest, refreshment and time to pray this Lent.

Blessings,

Linda



Thursdays 10.30am to 12pm
at
Christ Church, Derry Hill
Drop in for a coffee, tea, biscuits
Everyone welcome

Image: Frank Leuderalbert on Unsplash

Church services for February		
Time	Church	Service
Sunday 5th 3 before Lent		
8am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Parish Eucharist
10am	Holy Trinity, Quemerford	Family Service
10am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Said Communion
10.30pm	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Family Service
12.30pm	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Baptism
6pm	Zoom*	Evening Prayer
Sunday 12th 2 before Lent		
8am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion
9.30am	St John the Baptist, Foxham	Parish Eucharist
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Parish Eucharist
11am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Parish Eucharist
6pm	St Martin's, Bremhill	Evensong
Sunday 19th Next before Lent		
8am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Parish Eucharist
10am	Holy Trinity, Quemerford	Family Service
11am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Parish Eucharist
12.30pm	St Mary's, Calne	Baptism
6pm	Zoom*	Evening Prayer
Ash Wednesday		
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion + Ashing
7pm	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion + Ashing
7pm	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Holy Communion + Ashing
Sunday 26th Lent 1		
9.30am	St Peter's, Blackland	Holy Communion
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Morning Prayer
10am	St Martin's, Bremhill	All Age Communion
10.45am	Holy Trinity, Quemerford	Holy Communion
6pm	St John the Baptist, Foxham	Evening Prayer

Coming to Church

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Guidance

At the joint PCC meeting on **8th April 2022** there was general agreement that it is time to move forward into a new phase of living with Covid and to amend PCC guidance accordingly

Social distancing Please respect the wishes of those who prefer a bit of extra space – ask before you sit.

5 coverings There are no legal requirements in respect of face coverings. However, please continue to wear a face covering if that is your preference.

Communion (intincted wafers/bread) may be received at the high altar (standing).

Congregational singing Hymn singing, Sung Eucharist and Evensong will be fully reinstated from Easter.

Ventilation doors and windows will be kept open during services as the weather permits.

Zoom services will continue.

If you are feeling unwell or test positive for Covid please stay at home.

Our Christian calling is to care for all our brothers and sisters, particularly those who are vulnerable; and there are times in our lives when every one of us (and those we have close contact with) is vulnerable. We ask that everyone continues to take extra care during our services and respects the wishes and needs of those around us so that everyone feels comfortable and safe.

Rev. Linda Carter on behalf of Bremhill, Derry Hill and Foxham PCCs 8th April 2022.

Church Contacts CHRIST CHURCH - DERRY HILL

Vicar:
(Day off Monday.
Urgent calls only that day
please)

Reverend Linda Carter
The Vicarage,
Church Road, Derry Hill. **01249 817926**
Calne. SN11 9NN
lindac@mardenvale.org.uk

Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA)

Please call if you would like a visit or chat - all in strictest confidence

Mrs Anita Uttley 01380 859433

Church Wardens

Mrs Deidre Lias 01249 822157 Mr Peter Rigby 01225 704356

PCC Treasurer (Tr) & Secretary (Sec)

Mr Peter Roycroft (Tr) 01249 660550 Mrs Lucinda Prater (Sec) 07882 469005

If you wish to discuss arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals or would like a pastoral visit or meeting arranged then please contact Reverend Linda Carter

Derry Hill and Studley Community Support

Has been operating since the beginning of lockdown and is continuing to help those who find it difficult to go out.

We offer a range of help from shopping, picking up prescriptions, dog walking or just a friendly confidential chat.

Please get in touch if we can help.

Email the dedicated email account: **dhsfriend@gmail.com**

Ring one of our coordinators:

Carol Rigby 01225 704356

Ian Liddle 01249 816229

Richard Gribble 01249 812018

Richard Aylen 01249 814632

Carol, Ian, Richard A and Richard G

Derry Hill and Studley Community Support

The Night Sky in February

The cold clear nights of Winter provide ample opportunities for sky watching - at a reasonable hour – and there is plenty to see this month. The gas giant Jupiter has dominated the skies since September and whilst its brilliance is diminishing, it continues to illuminate the southern sky, riding pretty high now until it sets at around 19.00h towards month's end. It will shortly disappear from our evening skies before reappearing in September. Jupiter's dominance is replaced during the month by the brilliant light of Venus, visible just after sunset in the western sky. A particularly good view of both planets should be available at around 19.00h on 22 February low in the western sky when the thin crescent Moon will lie between them. Should observing conditions not be good, the following evening will find Jupiter below the Moon with Venus a little lower towards the horizon.

Venus will also provide a good opportunity to identify faint Neptune on the evening of 15 February again at round 19.00, low in the western sky, though binoculars or a small telescope will be needed. Neptune is normally very difficult to see (it is the outermost planet in our system) but its proximity to Venus provides a rare opportunity to take a look as it will be just below and to the right of our neighbouring planet.

Mars has been a very visible feature of our evening skies in recent months identifiable with its reddish tinge. It is beginning to fade, though remains visible high towards the west until setting around 03.00h. On 28 February after midnight Mars will be found sitting immediately above the Moon low in the western sky.

Even lower in the sky and to the left will be Betelgeuse, one of the stars of the constellation of Orion and which also displays a reddish tinge.



	Sunrise	Sunset
1 February	07.45	16.58
15 February	07.21	17.25
28 February	06.54	17.46

Richard Carter

The Hub - serving Derry Hill, Studley, Old Derry Hill and Sandy Lane in North Wiltshire



What's on

www.derryhillandstudley.org

The Hub is our new village web site and is part of the legacy from the last years Jubilee and a platform to better communicate the plans for the Coronation in May. The Hub has the village calendar on the home page.

People can register their event for inclusion on the village calendar by using the contact tab on the website or emailing derryhillandstudley@gmail.com

If you would like to know more - or get involved then please get in contact with the Community Committee (Peter Prater, Alison Maddicks, Neil Hare, Liz Vaughan, Martin Handyside, Rosamund Millett or Steve Calder).

Steve Calder.

New knitting, stitching & craft group

A new group meeting weekly, Fridays 2-4 pm in Christ Church Derry Hill. Bring your crochet, knitting or needlework, all abilities welcome. Share tips, chat and enjoy a tea or coffee, £3.

Any queries contact Christine 817780, Liz 812138 or Marcia 820196



Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record Website

This allows you to search for information on the known archaeological sites, monuments and finds in Wiltshire and Swindon.

The [HER](#) holds over 35,000 monument records on a variety of sites and finds from the prehistoric to the 21st century. The data is updated daily.

This version of the [HER](#) is suitable for general interest only. Please contact the Archaeology Service archaeology@wiltshire.gov.uk for a fuller dataset, including archaeological events.

They would welcome your feedback on the website and any new or additional information that you may wish to provide.

Ed

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Calne Without Parish Council

What we've been doing in the last month

At the end of last year, we completed our budget setting process for 2023/24. As a council we worked hard to identify savings where possible. We are happy to report that our precept request has not increased from last year.

We've made a couple of changes to our website to hopefully make it easier to find the important information, we have added two new tabs [Council Meeting Documents - Calne Without Parish Council \(calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk\)](http://calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk) and [Parish Council Documents - Calne Without Parish Council \(calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk\)](http://calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk) The first tab lists all of our meeting dates and provides all the associated documents, the second tab lists all the up to date procedures and policies, including our grant application policies. We hope these two changes make it easier to find what you need to know.

2023 Meeting Dates

As a Parish Council we meet on the Second Monday of the month and our meetings are held at the Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill. The meetings are public meetings and members of the public are welcome to come and observe the meetings, there is a section for public participation at the start of each meeting.

Due to bank holidays the April 23 and May 23 meetings have been moved to the third Monday of the month.

Thermal imaging Camera Scheme

Over this winter, the Parish Council is running a free thermal imaging camera loan scheme. At the time of writing, we have completed loans to 25 households, helping residents of Calne Without to identify where their homes are losing valuable heat.

"If you'd like to sign up to the scheme, then please email Cllr John Barnes at john.barnes@calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk

Making Plans for the coronation?

The Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6th May 2023. As a council we acknowledge that there is likely to be a desire to mark this occasion in your communities. We have set aside a budget to be made available for community projects/ celebrations. If you are organising a community event or commemoration, please get in touch

and we can discuss how to apply for funds. Scan the QR code below to find our small grant application form (for applications less than £1000)



Do you have a Community Improvement Idea?

If you are in a local community group and you have a project looking for financial assistance, please get in touch and have an initial conversation. We will be able to talk you through the grant application process and give you an indication of whether the Parish Council may be able to support the idea.

If you need to get in touch with the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk clerk@calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk
07751802761

Katherine Checchia
Parish Clerk
www.calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk

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Contact: Dena 07736 839000.

www.dbpilates.co.uk

Email: denabray10@gmail.com



Wiltshire Residents urged to report issues through Wiltshire Council's updated app

Wiltshire Council has released an updated version of its smartphone app, MyWilts, and is reminding residents that it is the quickest and easiest way to report issues such as road defects, fly-tipping, trading standards issues and more.



The MyWilts app is available for [Apple](#) or [Android](#) devices and is also accessible through the Wiltshire Council website. This updated version offers improvements such as upgraded mapping technology for street scene and enforcement reports, plus improved email communication, so that people can receive more updates about their report.

Current app users are advised to update their app through the Apple App Store or Google Play as soon as they can; while anyone who downloads the app for the first time will automatically receive the new and improved version. On Apple devices, the minimum iOS version required is 12.0; while on Android devices, people must be using version 7.0 or above.

Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cabinet Member for Digital, said: "The MyWilts app is the quickest and easiest way for people to let us know about any issues they see while out and about in Wiltshire.

"People can use the app to let us know about issues such as road defects, fraud, fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles – and much more.

"This updated version also offers improved maps, so people can more accurately plot where any issues are, making it easier for our teams to find the reports. Also improved is the email communication, so when people let us know about an issue, they will receive more regular updates on the progress of their report.

To report something using MyWilts or download the updated app, people should go to: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts

(Extract from Wiltshire Council briefing)

Ed

Updating our Neighbourhood Plan: what's been happening?

Protecting our treasured 'Local Green Spaces'

We have been looking for opportunities to protect the green spaces which we all love, which give us room to breathe and get closer to nature, as well as somewhere to play or walk the dog.

The response to our survey was great and so many of you supported designating your local green spaces as part of the plan.

There are strict criteria for designation and we are currently hoping to include 28 in the revised plan. They range from small spaces with historic tree lines, such as the Calne Promenade near Holy Trinity Church and school, to the larger Castlefield Country Park, which includes the cycle path, the River Marden and open countryside close to the centre of town.

The support from landowners has generally been good, although there are some issues to resolve. We will keep you up to date as we progress this work.

Take a look on calnecommunityplan.com for a blog post about Local Green Spaces where we've answered some of the questions that came up from our community during the summer consultation.



OUR PLAN - YOUR SAY

Keep in touch with progress and get involved:

1. sign up for the mailing list or send us your questions to CCNPAdmin@Calne.gov.uk
2. keep an eye on the Plan **website** which is regularly updated (<https://www.calnecommunityplan.com/>)
3. follow the **facebook page** (3) [Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan | Facebook](#)
4. read regular updates in the village news letters and Calne connect
5. chat to local councillors who will continue to 'pop-up' at key local events and locations to share updates and give opportunities for you to have your say.
6. call Calne Town Council on 01249 814000 and ask that the Neighbourhood Plan Administrator calls you back.

In 2023 there will also be more opportunities for you to have your say on key topics such as housing, and on the overall draft Plan as work is progressed.



Bag a Bargain.



*Wellington Barn on Manor Farm,
Calstone, Calne, SN11 8PY*

28th February 2023, 4pm - 9pm, £6 entry

1st March 2023, 9am - 12pm, free entry

Bar will be open for tea, coffee & drinks

www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/events



The Spartan Diet



A New Year's resolution?

A man's guide to eating to get ripped.

The rules:

Eat every 4 hours! As much lean protein and 2-3 servings of green/orange vegetables.

Cheat as often as you like, but you can only eat within 1-3 hours after an intense workout! So, you will need to exercise several times a day if you want to eat.

Myth has it the Spartans were famous warriors revered for their ripped lean bodies, strength and fighting prowess. The warriors spent all day training with heavy weights and fighting one another. Even the women trained like the men – they just weren't allowed to fight. Interestingly the women could inherit property, own land, make business transactions and were better educated than Greek women. Spartan women were said to rule their men. So, what did Spartan warriors eat?

Spartan Black Broth:

A type of soup made by cooking pork with blood and salt and eaten with barley bread.

They also ate lots of raw fruits and vegetables, such as broccoli, leafy greens, mushrooms and carrots and fermented yoghurts.

Sparta deliberately used iron currency to make the amassing of wealth unwieldy. But of course carrying lots of iron around naturally would have helped their exercise regime. Sparta's economy relied on farming and conquering other peoples because they didn't have enough land to feed their own population, and they used captive slaves to do the work.

Perhaps we should think again before trying to copy the Spartans as a new year's resolution!

Julian (Chair, Derry Hill and Studley Heartbeat)

01249 814145 / julesoliver3@gmail.com

Derry Hill girl wins Tap Dance Gold at World Championships

At the age of four Amelie Smith was fascinated by the sound of performers' feet on stage at the Chippenham Folk Festival. When the stage wasn't being used, she hopped up and tried it out for herself. Her mum, Kathryn, says that was the start of her desire to tap dance and be on stage. She seemed to develop her innate ability to keep rhythm. Having seen a show at the Wyvern in Swindon when she was five, she was further inspired and this led to her going to Tap Attack in Swindon, which is the centre for tap dancing in Great Britain.

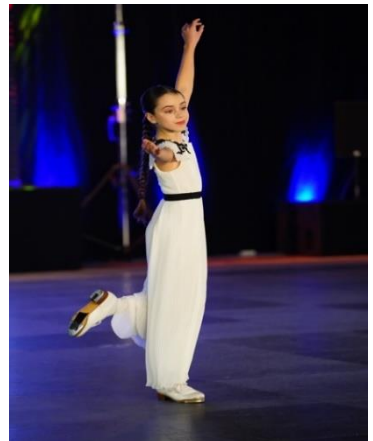


Amelie also travels down for a week-long training sessions at Stagebox in London four times a year to develop her acting and singing skills. Kathryn adds that Amelie takes singing lessons from the “incredible” Lisa House from Derry Hill.

At Derry Hill school she played Wendy in the Peter Pan production recently and has now moved on to Sheldon School, who are very supportive when she has to take time out to go to competitions. Amelie is a very active young lady; her mum says she is always on the go and attends twelve activities a week!

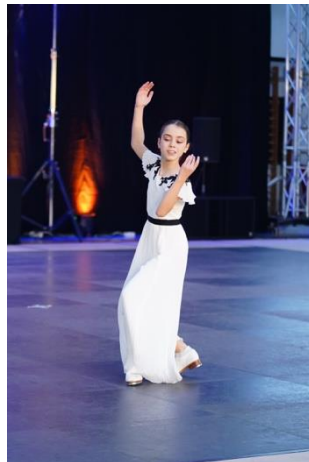
In June last year she competed in the International Dance Organisation's European Tap Championships in Prague, where she won the silver in the Children's Solo female category representing Team GB.

In November 2022 she was again in action at the IDO World Tap Championships in Croatia and was crowned the Children's Solo Female World Champion.



Only the second British girl to win this category! At the same event she won silver with her children's group and sixth with her duo partner.

Amelie's mother, Kathryn and her father Chris, are quite overwhelmed with the success their daughter has achieved, getting to her goal in three years. "It's terrifying as parents to watch. You are completely powerless to help your child in that moment. She was up on the world stage and danced like a dream," said Kathryn. In the future Amelie is looking to be a professional music theatre performer. Look out for her name in lights!



In the meantime, you can enjoy her winning dance by following this link to [YouTube](https://youtu.be/YZHHbUazrFA) (<https://youtu.be/YZHHbUazrFA>)

Ed

(Photos by www.pineapplemedia.pl)

Jazz Club Presentation

Silent Film Night with live piano accompaniment

Buster Keaton in his film **The General** in **Calstone Church** with **James's** live piano accompaniment.

7pm for 7.30pm on Saturday 28th January

Donations please - all going to the church's fabric fund!

Please also let us know if you're coming!

James and Brigid 01249 812300 or 07976 945055

Local Police Update



Welcome to my latest Neighbourhood Policing update for Derry Hill and surrounding villages. If there is anything you wish for me to add to these updates, or concerns you may have, please contact me using my Email address: mark.cook@wiltshire.police.uk

Crime and incident updates

On 29/12/2022 12:15hrs a black Mercedes was stopped on the A361 near to Derry Hill. Upon officers conferring with the driver, they smelt the scent of cannabis emitting from within the vehicle. The officers conducted a search of the vehicle where a small amount of cannabis was located. The driver has been advised to attend a police station to be interviewed regarding this matter.

On 16/01/2023 02:40hrs, a black Renault Megane was stopped by officers on the A361 near to Derry Hill for showing no insurance. The vehicle was seized and recovered. The driver has been reported for that offence, and for the offence of having a tyre under the legal required limit.

On 14/01/2023 04:15hrs, police attended a report of a vehicle collision in Hazeland, Bremhill. Upon officers arriving at the location, they found a blue ford Fiesta which had left the road and collided with a garage. One passenger in the vehicle suffered very minor injuries. The driver was not injured.

Speeding

We have recently received a few reports of vehicles travelling at excessive speeds through the village.

Due to the concerns raised, we will be conducting speed checks and taking any enforcement action required in the area over the next few weeks.

Driving in adverse weather conditions

We are responding to ever higher numbers of vehicle collisions during this time of year.

We urge drivers to take extra care on the roads around Wiltshire, with ice, snow and flooding in some areas leading to hazardous conditions.



Please avoid unnecessary journeys and if you must drive, reduce your speed - it can take 10 times longer to stop in icy conditions, and do not attempt to drive through deep flooded routes.

Always ensure all windows, any snow-covered surfaces are clear before moving off.

The Highway Code provides more information about driving in adverse weather conditions.

Social Media and Community Messaging



ON THE BEAT



Messages are sent by:
• Wiltshire Police
• Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue
• Wiltshire Road
• Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch

Community Messaging is a free way to keep up to date with what's happening in Wiltshire North CPT. Get real time updates on crime activity in your area. You're in control – choose what and how you receive your updates – by email, text or voice message

www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk



Regular updates for the Calne area can also be found on Community messaging and our Facebook page: [Calne police](#)

PCSO Mark Cook Calne Neighbourhood Police Team
mark.cook@wiltshire.police.uk

MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP GROUP



We met for the first meeting of 2023 on Wed 4th January at 2pm. We had prayers read by Jean and after a small amount of admin work our main event was to organise the programme for the whole year. This we did very successfully and once everything agreed we had refreshments kindly laid on by Judi.

Our next meeting is at Christ Church on Monday 6th February when we take part in the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer. We take over from Heytesbury at 11.30am followed by the rest of the Deanery, ie Calne and Wootton Bassett, before handing the baton over to Lyme Bay. If anyone wishes to join us for the short service, they are more than welcome and we would look forward to seeing you.

Barbara M Parry. POC: DH MU P&F Group

Mobile library visits to Derry Hill

Lansdowne Hall Derry Hill

14.20 – 15.45

Tuesdays: 7th & 21st February 2023

Kingston House Derry Hill

10.10 – 10.30

Mondays: 13th February 2023



Studley Poppy Collection

Poppy Collection November 2022 - Studley village, Stanley Abbey Farm and surrounding residences.

I have just heard that our collection raised £312.60. This is a great result and I'd like to thank everyone who contributed.

Mary Emmerson



Friends of Derry Hill School (FODHS)

Parents, guardians, staff and pupils raising funds for Derry Hill School together.

Happy New Year to everyone from FODHS. We ended a very active Christmas term with one of our favourite annual events, The Christmas Bonanza and Raffle where we raised £2000. Thank you to all who helped in anyway and all that attended, making this event a great success. A group of pupils also enjoyed carol singing at Phoenix club Christmas Dinner and we would like to thank the Phoenix club for their kind donation. Bags2school - Thank you to all who supported us. We raised £44 by donating your unwanted saleable clothes. Moving forward our fundraising efforts will continue to be used to raise funds for school events and activities, but we are also strongly focused on raising funds for additional furniture and books for our school library.

We Thank you all for your ongoing support and look forward to all of the exciting events that we have coming up. Our next committee meeting for Friends of Derry Hill School is on Wednesday 22nd February.

Thanks as ever for your continued support, from FODHS.

Email: friends@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk



The easiest way to keep up to date with news is to follow us on FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Derry-Hill-School-331876237627884/



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Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 9QY

Tel: 01249 818974 / 07894 073865

www.rubadubpreschool.com



Here at Rub a Dub preschool term has started with gusto and the children are busy having lots of fun and learning as they enjoy themselves. We have welcomed many new children to the preschool and its lovely to see the setting getting busier again.

Our Rising Stars sessions on a Friday afternoon are continuing to help prepare the children for school, working on their independence and introducing letter sounds among many other fun activities.

This term we have amended our opening hours and can now provide childcare from 8.30 – 17.30 Monday to Friday term time only. We still have spaces for new starters so please do get in contact with the team to discuss your childcare needs and how we can help you.

I would like to thank everyone who attended any of our fundraising events last year, we worked hard to put on a number of events that we hoped would appeal to the community and it was lovely to see so many familiar faces at our events and have an opportunity to have a chat to familiar faces and new friends.

We managed to raise more money than we hoped prior to Christmas and this has helped us feel more positive about the future of Rub a Dubs than we were back in September, we do still have more fundraising that we need to do to be in a more comfortable position.

Our just giving page is still open for donations and can be found by scanning this QR code or visiting:-

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/saverubadubpreschool>



At the time of writing our fundraising total on the page stands at £1400, we would truly love to reach our fundraising page target of £5000 and would really appreciate if anyone felt able to donate to the preschool.

I write this article fresh out of a meeting planning our fundraising events for the next few months. We're in for another busy few months, but we are really excited about the events that we have planned and we hope that the community will enjoy our offerings. We have plans for an 80's disco (fancy dress optional!) An Easter Eggstravaganza and (by popular demand) a Pig and Jig. Dates are still be finalised, but please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates as we have them.
<https://www.facebook.com/rubadubpreschool>

Kate Checchia

Chair of the Committee,
rubadubchair@hotmail.co.uk

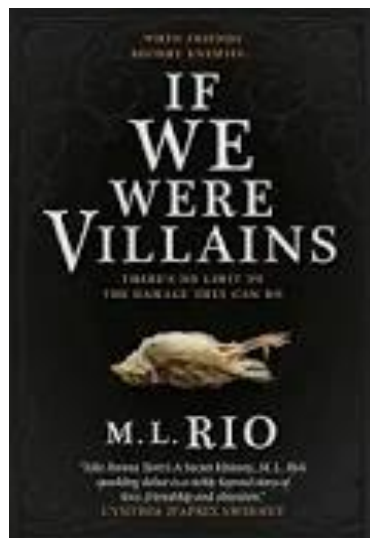
Book Club Review

If we were villains by M. L. Rio

This is the debut novel by M.L. Rio which concerns a murder mystery surrounding Oliver Marks. Oliver has spent 10 years in jail for a murder he may or may not have committed.

The story is split between Oliver 'now' returning to the scene of the crime with the detective and Oliver 'then' during his final year at college with his 6 friends who are all obsessed with Shakespeare. Drama is what they all live for and they are living their lives through the lens of Shakespeare. They even have their real-life conversations by quoting the Bard to each other. The book had an intriguing ending, for once not all tied up in a neat and tidy conclusion.

The book had a mixed reception from the group, with some finding it suffered by comparison with 'The secret history' by Donna Tartt, but if you are a lover of Shakespeare and dark academia novels, this may be one for you.



Kay

Nearly Nuclear Armageddon in Bremhill and Derry Hill - Convair B36 crash

Atom bomber crash at Derry Hill 7 February 1953



70 years ago, in February 1953 people were still talking about the floods in the East of England when the North Sea storms had broken through the dykes and hundreds of people had been killed and even a submarine and naval ship had sunk in Sheerness dockyard. For me February 5th was a great day as the rationing of sweets introduced during WW2 finished. For my Dad, he was pleased that petrol had also become more plentiful with the ending of pool petrol earlier in the week.

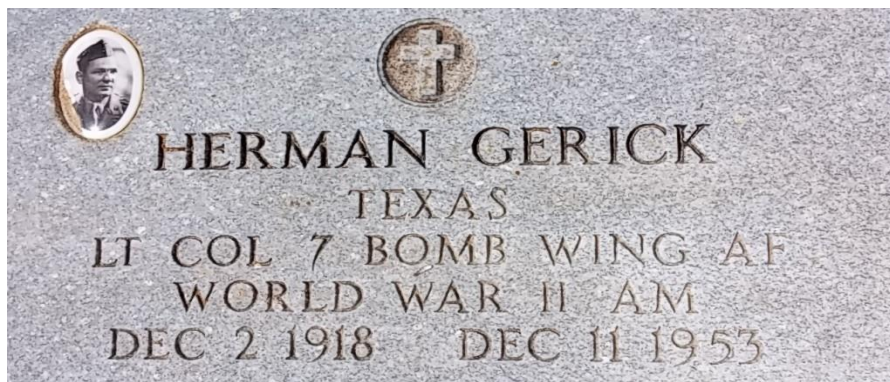
On 7th February people in Bremhill and Derry hill were going about their normal early Saturday morning routine on what was a rather wet and foggy day when just after breakfast time the rumble and roar of a massive aeroplane passing very low overhead caused many villagers to look up and wonder why it was so low. Mr J P Hollick who lived at Pitters Farm along Sandy Lane thought that it might be on fire inside with a bright glow piercing through the gloom. A few moments after passing. A few moments after passing overhead a loud thump was heard which resounded across the hills of the parish as the aircraft crashed, disintegrated and caught fire in Nethermore Woods. Just lower down, the north side of the hill, than the current mobile phone masts which are clearly visible. Looking at a Google satellite view you can today clearly see the neat rows of tree planting which took place after the crash to replace the destroyed trees and resultant fires.



The aircraft was a top secret American 10 engine nuclear bomber, 6 propellers facing backwards and 4 jet engines, a Convair B36 peacemaker number 51-5719 of the 492 Sqn of the 7th bomber wing of the USAF. At the time the largest bomber in service anywhere in the world, which had just flown across the Atlantic via Goose Bay, Newfoundland from its base at Carswell, located North-West of Fort Worth Texas on a training flight to RAF Fairford with 15 other B36 bombers. The crew, under the command of Lt. Col Herman Gerick, a WW2 veteran but still only 34 years old, all bailed out and survived. It was stated at the time that the aircraft was low on fuel and could not get permission to land therefore the decision was made to leave the aircraft. Later, on 11 December 1953, another Convair B36 again under the command of Lt. Col Gerick crashed at 7000 feet on Mount Franklin, El Paso Texas with the loss of all the airmen on board. At the board of enquiry pilot error was given as the cause of the crash. Back to the crash at Nethermore Woods, the press association released a short statement to say an aircraft had crashed near Lacock and this

appeared in several newspapers as a brief note. Nothing appeared in any of our local newspapers until 2 weeks later a reader's letter to the Gazette and Herald asked why did the crew bail out and leave the massive bomber to fly another 30 miles unattended. Clearly it could have resulted in a major loss of life had it landed in a large village or town. The Gazette did write an article 20 years ago on the 50th anniversary - a bit late.

The mystery deepens as I have been unable to find any official recognition of the incident or crash enquiry reports either here or in the USA apart from a 1953 Texas newspaper article saying that



unusual secrecy surrounded the crash. The crew were apparently told not to discuss the crash.

I have no proof apart from that of omission and can only surmise that the aircraft carried a thermonuclear weapon at the time and it was decided to keep all news of this all under wraps so as not to alarm the British public. Several other B36 incidents involved thermonuclear weapons but they were all ditched at sea - maybe!

I have details of all my research with the appropriate references should anybody like to follow this up. Please reply in the first instance via the editor: inspireeditor@outlook.com

David Wood

Avon Needs Trees and Friends of Marden Valley

The next free online talk from Avon Needs Trees and Friends of Marden Valley:

Wiltshire's Woodland Biography: a new Ancient Woodland Inventory
Wednesday 15th February 7pm



With Euan McKenzie from Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre.

Join Euan to explore the historical and ecological value of ancient woodland and the approach to this significant piece of landscape history research. Find out how the new Inventory will capture ancient woodlands that are currently undesigned and help to protect them for future generations.

Euan will be including information about Avon Needs Trees' Hazeland Wood on the River Marden, and its place in the inventory.

For more details and to register your free place follow the link:

[Wiltshire's Woodland Biography: A New Ancient Woodland Inventory](#)

Join Avon Needs Trees for tree planting in February.

We are planting woodlands to combat climate change, improve biodiversity, create natural flood management and provide public amenity space.

Plenty of volunteering days coming up at our Pudding Brook Wood site throughout February.

Sign up and find all the details here:

[Volunteering Opportunities - Avon Needs Trees](#)



Susan Barker

Hazeland Project Coordinator

Avon Needs Trees



Wednesday 15th February at 7 pm

Wiltshire's Woodland Biography **A New Ancient Woodland Inventory**

**Free Online Talk hosted by Avon Needs Trees and
Friends of the Marden Valley.**

The Ancient Woodland Inventory is a catalogue of woodlands in existence since at least 1600 AD. As part of a Natural England-led project, WSBRC is recreating the Inventory from scratch, capturing ancient woods that are currently undesignated and unprotected.

Join Ancient Woodland Inventory Officer **Euan McKenzie** to explore the ecological and historical value of Wiltshire's ancient woodland and find out about WSBRC's approach to this ambitious piece of research.



Book your place at <https://tinyurl.com/3evcp7jt>



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Derry Hill and District W.I.



November's meeting was brilliantly led by our very own Dani French. Some of us painted empty wine bottles



and others used the 'decoupage' method to decorate theirs. We added some lights, and the results were spectacular! Thank you, Dani. We hosted a 'Christmas' themed cake stall at the School Bonanza in December. This was a very festive evening. Well done everyone.



Our Christmas celebrations concluded with a delicious meal at the Rowdey Cow. We were well looked after and had lots of fun. Sally composed a very funny WI version of the 12 Days of Christmas which we all sung heartily.

Our president hosted a 'Knit and Natter' evening on January 11th. Some knitted all evening while talking. Others talked all evening, no knitting. I only managed 2 rows of my bobble hat. Not sure what group I belong too!

Some members had brought along their puppets, so we looked at those and discussed what had brought us to Derry Hill. This was very interesting, so many different reasons for coming here. But we all agreed we wouldn't want to live anywhere else!

In February we will experience 'A Right Royal Evening!'. Wonder what this could be - we will have to wait to find out...

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Lansdowne Hall, 7.30pm. Why not come along and give it a try.



Tina

Calne Town Hall Moviola

A belated Happy New Year to everyone. We are continuing our films in February with **The Lost King**.

This is the story of amateur historian Phillipa Langley who took on the historians to prove that the body found in a Leicester carpark was Richard 111.

This will be shown on **Feb 22nd at 7.30pm**. Doors open at 7.00pm (please use the entrance around the side nearest to The Lansdowne Hotel)

Tickets £6 are available from the information centre, Refreshments available. We cannot get the short films that we used to show anymore so there will be no interval.

Viv



WI Walking Netball

We had 3 fun sessions before Christmas. One turned into 'Coffee at the Pub' when we couldn't use the hall. The second was our delicious Christmas meal at the Dumb Post, and thirdly, was our last session before Christmas when Suzie had planned silly games for us all.



We are now back to normal enjoying the exercise and hoping it may cancel out the excesses of the festive season.

If you would like to come and have a go it is £2 per session, Monday and Friday at 1.45-2.45 pm on the outside multi-pitch next to Lansdowne Hall. An excellent way to socialise, have fun and keep fit.

Tina (01249 814145)





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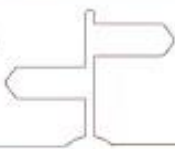
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Wellbeing notes

Putting the 'fab' into February

February can be a challenge. Winter is hard, and in the Northern Hemisphere we've already slogged through two months of it. We've had illness, snow, and floods. We've had storms, and the odd power cut. As I look out of my study window and into the garden, all I can see are bare trees and endless mud. So how on earth can we start to feel better in February? Here are some ideas...



Bathe in bliss

February is named after an ancient Roman festival of purification. The original version involved making offerings and sacrifices. In the 21st Century, the month becomes an invitation to practise self-care. For example, you might enjoy a cleansing, candlelit bath, with salts. Adding a few drops of lavender oil fits in with the theme of wellbeing.

Go on a bud walk

The best thing about the month before spring is seeing signs of new life. A country walk may take you to snowdrops, and green shoots that will soon explode into a yellow froth of daffodils. And if we simply look upwards, we may spot the first soft brushes of blossom against a cool, clear sky.

Be kind in unexpected ways

Random Acts of Kindness Week runs from 12th to 18th February this year. Write a note of appreciation, or phone a friend or relative. Give a compliment or a bunch of flowers to a perfect stranger. Kindness benefits everyone, and it all starts with a good deed.

Suzanne Askham

suzanneaskham.com



Calne & District Community Link Scheme

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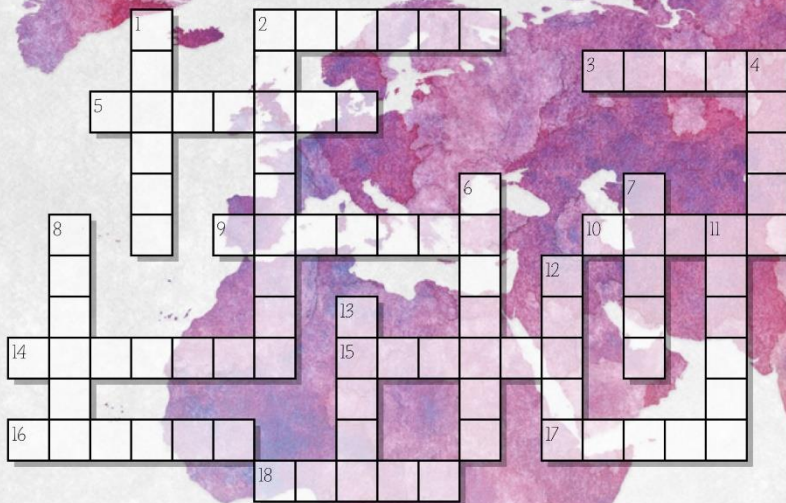


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February 2023 Crossword



ACROSS

2 Penalise (6)

3 Flinch (5)

5 Memory
loss (7)

9 Three
pronged
spear (7)

10 Bet (5)

14 Farm
vehicle (7)

15 Cure (6)

16 Colour (6)

17 Soil (5)

18 Marsupial
(5)

DOWN

1 Woody
grass (6)

2 Rump (9)

4 Senior (5)

6 Pupil (7)

7 Underwear
(5)

8 Sparse (6)
11 Sufficient
(6)

12 Simple
poem (5)

13 Scent (5)

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December 2022 / January
2023 Crossword



ACROSS

- 3 Loud noise (3)
- 5 Colour (6)
- 8 Hard wood (4)
- 10 Bodyguard (6)
- 11 Harsh (6)
- 12 Spice (8)
- 14 Stew (6)
- 15 Arena (7)

DOWN

- 1 Trick (7)
- 2 Kitchen tool (7)
- 4 Lazy (4)
- 6 Gael (6)
- 7 Cargo (7)
- 8 Sledge (8)
- 9 Roof edge (5)
- 13 Smear (4)

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