

DERRY HILL AND
STUDLEY MATTERS

inSPIRE



February 2026

The Magazine of Derry Hill & Studley Parish



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All articles submitted for publication are subject to editing.

The deadline for inclusion of material in next month's magazine is the **16th** of this month.

ADVERTISING RATES

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Editorial

As we step into the early weeks of the New Year, I'd like to offer a slightly belated Happy New Year to you all. January often arrives quietly, giving us a moment to pause after the bustle of Christmas and take stock of the year stretching out ahead of us.



There's something encouraging about this time of year. It invites reflection on what we value and optimism about what we can achieve together. Our village has always shown that when people come together — whether through events, volunteering, clubs, or simply looking out for one another — we create something far stronger than the sum of its parts.

Over the coming months, there will be much to look forward to: familiar activities returning, new ideas taking shape, and opportunities for neighbours to connect, collaborate, and celebrate. It's this shared energy and willingness to get involved that continues to make our community such a rewarding place to live.

As ever, inSPIRE is here to reflect that life and activity. I hope this year will bring even more stories, updates, and voices into these pages, capturing both the everyday moments and the special achievements that define our village.

Thank you for your continued support of the magazine, and for all the ways — big and small — that you contribute to village life. Here's to a positive, productive, and connected year ahead, and to everything we will achieve together as a community.

Ed.

Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council



Happy New Year to everyone in the Parish.

In January, I had the pleasure of meeting the Chairman of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with them to support the Trust in the restoration of the canal along the northern edge of our parish, and particularly its ambitious Pewsham Waterside Project.

This ambitious project aims to regenerate the historic Pewsham Locks site, turning it into a community heritage resource for walking/cycling, education, boating, picnicking and more. Work has been progressing well, with the Carpenters' Workshop rebuilt, the dry dock restored and work underway on restoring the three locks. This is a great project for our area.

At our December parish council meeting, we were able to make a further £2,500 of grant funding available for local community groups who have not applied to us for a grant in this financial year. Applications must be received by 21st February for consideration at our March Council Meeting. For further information, please contact our Parish Clerk at clerk@derryhillandstudley.gov.uk.

On Monday 2nd February starting at 19.45 in the Lansdowne Hall we are holding an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting to discuss the proposed closure of Lower Compton Household Recycling Centre. An Extraordinary Area Board meeting has been called for 6:30pm on Thursday 5th February at Calne Town Hall. I would encourage residents who feel strongly about this to attend.

Next Council Meeting Dates

Monday 9th February 2026 @ 7:30pm – Full Council

Monday 9th March 2026 @ 7:30pm – Full Council

Keeping in Touch

Website: www.derryhillandstudley.gov.uk

Facebook: search 'derryhillandstudley'

Email: clerk@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk

Phone: 07751 802761

John Barnes, Chair

Church Contacts **CHRIST CHURCH - DERRY HILL**

If you wish to discuss arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals or would like a pastoral visit or meeting arranged or need to see a Vicar, then please contact the **Team Administrator**:

Mrs Ann Stiff Tel: 01249 816522

email: enquiries@mardenvale.org.uk

Team Office: 30 Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU

The office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 1pm

Church Wardens

Mr Peter Rigby 01225 704356

Mr Ian Liddle 01249 816229

PCC Treasurer (Tr) & Secretary (Sec)

Mrs Dorina Freeman (Tr)
07449 321199

Mrs Lucinda Prater (Sec) 07882
469005

FLOODLIGHTING THE SPIRE

This is a lovely thing to do to remember loved ones and to celebrate special anniversaries and birthdays. The Spire is currently lit between 7pm and midnight, though this varies with the time of year. Floodlighting the Spire can be arranged through **Ian Liddle – iliddle1@btopenworld.com 01249 816229**

A donation to the church for the cost of the lighting is welcome.

Rector's notes

I hope this newish year is unfolding OK for you so far. I always enjoy a new year getting properly underway, and the slight uncertainty of what excitements and new discoveries the year will bring, but that's because I am usually a bit of an insufferable optimist – so my apologies if that irritates you!

In our benefice churches we are welcoming a new ordinand, pictured here, named Gareth Lovell.



Gareth lives in Royal Wootton Bassett with his wife and three young children. An ordinand is someone in training for ordination; Gareth is doing a two year full time course based at Sarum College in Salisbury and in June 2027 (all being well) he will be ordained in Salisbury Cathedral and then go on to serve as a training curate somewhere else in the diocese. In fact the pathway of Gareth's training is the same as our curate Carly took, though hers was based at Canterbury.

So for the next 18 months, Gareth will be popping up in our various churches, experiencing church life and ministry with us. He'll be with us most Sundays, and usually one other day per week.

Gareth is a lovely example of someone God is calling into a new form of ministry. That's how God mainly seems to work on earth, using people of all ages and experiences and situations... in God's service. Ordination is one pretty full-on way of serving God, but every way in which we serve God whether in a role in church, or chiefly based in the community, is significant, and good to celebrate.

I'm enormously grateful to all those people who serve God in such a great variety of ways in the life of our benefice churches. But there is always room for others to be involved. Perhaps this new year might prompt you to think about a different way you might offer to serve God? Please have a word with me or one of my clergy colleagues if you'd like to know more!

With my prayers and best wishes

Caspar Bush,

Team Rector of the Marden Vale Benefice.

February 2026 Church Services

Details of the Church services for February are available on the Marden Vale Benefice Website (<https://www.mardenvale.org.uk/>)

Parish Clerk Notes

Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council are looking for community members to join our Climate Emergency & Environment Working Group.

Be part of positive change in our community – come along to an informal meeting at 7:30pm on Monday 16th March in the Lansdowne Hall to discuss ideas and new projects.

Please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

Message from Wiltshire Council.

Making the switch to e-billing gives you instant access to your council tax statements – no more waiting for the post. You can view your bills on any device, wherever you are. It's also simple to track and manage your payments, and you can choose to receive email reminders if you don't pay by Direct Debit. Digital delivery is secure and reliable, reducing delays and the risk of lost bills.

Make the switch today:

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-tax-online>

clerk@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk

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please contact the Parish Clerk for more information



Contact us: clerk@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk

Lansdowne Hall News

Support Your Local Groups

Most people know the Hall hosts the Rub a Dub pre-school in the week and the Dayspring Church on a Sunday, but the Lansdowne Hall hosts a lot of different activities and groups. So, if you are new to the area, newly retired or looking for something to keep your children busy then check out what's on offer locally before jumping into the car. From Badminton and Pilates to Singing and Art, Walking Netball to Toddler groups there is plenty to choose from.

If you and your children/grandchildren enjoyed a pantomime or show over Christmas, then perhaps you'd like to join a group or look at the Stagecoach classes for children of different ages now being offered at the Hall.

Helping Your Community

Volunteering is a great way of giving something back to the community. The badminton group at the Hall have not been able to offer a session for children recently as there is no one to run it. Do you have time to start this session up again? Maybe you and some friends/family could share the commitment, volunteering can help if you are looking for a job or changing career.

The Hall is managed by volunteers, so if you have a couple of hours to spare every month and are willing to share your ideas and skills, we'd love to hear from you.

Do you have a passion you want to share with others? Why not start your own group, the Hall has different sizes of rooms to accommodate all kinds of needs, check out the website for information about our facilities.

If you have any questions about a booking please contact the Hall Administrator, Jane Clark 07860 940323
administrator@lansdownehall.org

Lansdowne Hall Management Committee

Biphasic Sleep

Waking up in the middle of the night might not be abnormal after all. In looking at the history of human sleep, documented evidence shows that people would purposely divide their rest into

separate periods – segmented sleep. This was not unique to England either, it was common across Western Europe and was documented in the Odyssey and medieval records.



Biphasic sleep or “two sleeps” was the dominant sleep pattern in pre-industrial societies, involving a “first sleep” after dark, a roughly 2 hour period of wakefulness (“the watch”) around midnight for prayer, chores, socializing or work and possibly food, followed by a “second sleep” until dawn. With the advent of artificial lighting and the Industrial Revolution with regimented factory schedules, including shift work, people began compressing their shuteye into a single cycle. By the 1920’s all reference to segmented sleep had disappeared.

When a 1990’s study at the National Institute of Mental Health deprived students of light at night, their sleep became segmented after a few weeks. Is this a more natural way to rest? Should we do it again?

Heartbeat would like to thank all those villagers who have made donations over the last year to help us keep our village defibrillators in good order and available for emergencies. If you can help by either joining the team (just a few hours a year) or by making a small regular annual standing order payment it would help enormously:

Account: Derry Hill & Studley HEARTBEAT.

Sort Code: 30-91-99

Acct. No: 52349360

Many thanks

Julian

07769 970401 / julesoliver3@gmail.com

Sky at Night: February 2026

February's night sky is very much a story of the Moon — and a slow build towards a lovely planetary finale at the end of the month.



The month opens with a **Full Moon on 1 February**, glowing brightly as it climbs into the evening sky. Known traditionally as the *Snow Moon*, it lights up the winter landscape and makes late-night walks feel almost theatrical. Star-spotting takes a bit of a back seat for a few nights, but the Moon itself is well worth a look, especially as craters and shadows stand out along its edge.

As February moves on, the Moon shrinks night by night, rising later and leaving darker skies behind. This leads us to one of the best stargazing windows of the month: the **New Moon on 17 February**. With no moonlight to interfere, the sky feels deeper and richer, and familiar winter constellations like Orion and Taurus really come into their own. If you're only heading out once this month, this is the time to do it.

After mid-month, the Moon begins to return as a slim crescent in the early evening sky, hanging low in the west after sunset. Over the final week of February, it adds a sense of drama as it slips past the planets, acting almost like a guide.

And then comes the highlight. **On the 28th February**, patient sky-watchers are rewarded with a **planetary parade** — several planets lining up along the same stretch of sky just after sunset. Bright **Venus** and **Jupiter** are the easiest to spot, shining steadily like oversized stars, while **Saturn** and **Mercury** sit lower down, closer to the horizon and a little trickier to catch. On clear evenings, it's a wonderful reminder that our solar system is laid out flat before us, if only we take a moment to look.

By the final nights of the month, the crescent Moon joins the line-up, adding a delicate curve of light to the scene and rounding off February's sky in style.

Katherine Checchia

Book Club Review

Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

This month our book club has enjoyed reading ***Hello Beautiful***.



On the whole, everyone enjoyed the novel and found it extremely well written with a quiet, resonant beauty that stayed with us long after we finished. We especially appreciated how thoughtfully Napolitano handled the heavier themes—depression, grief, and the lingering effects of family history. These topics were approached with honesty and care, giving us plenty to discuss.

Most of us felt connected to the story and its emotional landscape, though one or two members mentioned they would have liked a bit more character development. Still, even those readers agreed that the writing itself was evocative.

In the end, ***Hello Beautiful*** made for a rich and heartfelt discussion—exactly what we hope for in a book club pick.

1st Derry Hill Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

All three sections meet at the village hall on a Monday at 6pm, we enjoy doing a variety of activities each week. We are looking forward to attending the pantomime this month and have enjoyed getting back to meetings after the Christmas break

If you are interested in volunteering or if your daughter would like to join us please do get in contact via <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk>.

Lucy, Emma, Erica, Emma, Jess and Lucy

Rub-A-Dub Pre-School



2025 Highlights

The end of term was full of festive fun and also festive fundraising!

The children enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party and celebrated the last few days of the term with visits from a magician and the man himself! The children delivered a spectacular Nativity performance, which was extra special this year as it was performed in the church, making it feel even more Christmassy!

Looking back on 2025, we must mention fundraising. The team all worked so hard to raise funds for the Nursery. It was a bumper year and we are so grateful to all those who contributed; either in helping organise the events or taking part. This money really does benefit the children going towards equipment and other enhancements to support a better learning environment for all those who attend.

2026

We had several new starters in January and look forward to helping them settle into the Rub-a-Dubs family. Also, we can't wait to continue delivering a fun and interactive after school club for Children attending Derry Hill School.

In 2026, we plan to continue as we have been on the fundraising front. We have some fantastic events planned, so look out for more information in the coming months.

We are looking for a voluntary Treasurer. We are currently seeking a Treasurer to join our friendly Committee Team. If you enjoy working with numbers and would like to support the pre-school behind the scenes, we'd love to hear from you. This is a voluntary role and would require 2-3 hours per month. Contact Jenny Wright on rubadubchair@hotmail.co.uk

Megan Lee

(Committee Secretary)

Derry Hill C of E (VA) Primary School



We were lucky enough to arrive back to school on our first day to beautiful crisp snow, the children thoroughly enjoyed playing in it as well as making snow angels!

Key Stage 2 children were fortunate enough to take part in an Internet Safety workshop, learning all about how to stay safe online.

Also, some of our children have been taking part in rehearsals for a singing performance (Voices 4 Life), along with other schools in Wiltshire. This will be held at The Wiltshire Music Centre in Bradford on Avon.

Lastly, some of our children have been choreographing a dance to show to an audience at The Chippenham Partnership Dance Festival, good luck Derry Hill.

As you can see, we have had a very busy start to January!

Mrs H Roberts

Permanent & Casual MDSA Vacancies

Permanent 1.5 hours a day 11:30-13:00. 7.5 hours if 5 days a week.

Casual As and when required - 1.5 hours per day

Part time positions considered.

The Governors wish to appoint enthusiastic casual MDSA's to join our very dedicated and highly motivated team at Derry Hill School. The successful candidates will join our lunchtime team to ensure the safety, welfare and good conduct of children during the midday break period in accordance with the practices and procedures of the school and local authority. Experience of working with children is preferable.

Please send application forms to Mrs Kimberley Brown, School Business Manager at sbm@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk

Contract type: Casual

Salary: Grade B - £12.65 per hour

Commencement date: ASAP

Closing date: Ongoing

[Derry Hill Church of England School - Vacancies](#)

Derry Hill United Football Club



As we enter the second half of the season, we are really pleased to have healthy player numbers in all our squads from Hotshots and Wildcats to U18. And most importantly the players are enjoying playing football at our club, making friends and developing great skills on and off the pitch.

The committee is starting to plan for next season - this includes getting our youngest teams ready for entering the leagues. We will be entering U8 Girls Fusion (Y3 in September 2026) and U7 Blaze (Y2 in September 2026) into leagues. If your son or daughter would be interested in joining these teams please email joinus@dhufc.org for more information. If you have a younger child who is interested in playing football please also get in touch as we have thriving Hotshots and Wildcats training only groups for Reception and Y1 children.

Great coaches are what makes our club such a great place to play football. We are always on the lookout for new volunteer coaches to join the club and currently have opportunities in four of our teams. If you would like to find out more about the role, the training provided and the opportunities please email admin@dhufc.org and we will get in touch with more information.

Finally, our second girls football tournament is on 6 and 7 June 2026 at Bowood Sports Ground. We are looking for some sponsors to support this fantastic event. Last year we had 59 teams and 350 players and their families attend the event. Your support of the event would be shared across our social media and at the ground over the whole weekend. If you would like to find out more information about how we could work together to build your business while supporting girls football across Wiltshire please email admin@dhufc.org or call Claire Kennedy on 07801 056647.

Claire (Administrator)

Calne Neighbourhood Policing Update

Crime and incident updates

13/12/2025 at 01:30hrs, Police received a call to Old Derry Hill following a report that a male had fallen off an electric bike. When officers attended the male was sat at the side of the road next to his bike. He was breathalysed and blew over the prescribed legal limit. The male was then arrested for drink driving.



Rural burglaries and acquisitive crime

Wiltshire Police are actively tackling a rise in rural burglaries and acquisitive crime through initiatives like Operation Ragwort, focusing on gangs stealing farm equipment, vehicles, and targeting residences, using proactive patrols, specialist teams, drones, and cross-force intelligence sharing with neighbouring forces like Avon & Somerset and Hampshire. They emphasize community reporting via 101, online forms, or 999 for immediate threats, and offer prevention advice through initiatives like Farm Watch to combat offenders exploiting quiet periods in rural areas, often traveling from outside the county.

Key Police Actions:

Specialist Teams: Rural Crime Team, Neighbourhood Policing Teams, CID, armed response, and drones are deployed.

Proactive Operations: Operations like "Ragwort" target specific criminal gangs involved in machinery theft, poaching, and hare coursing.



Cross-Force Collaboration: Working with other Southwest forces to share intelligence and coordinate responses against cross-border criminals, note Wiltshire Police and www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk.

Community Engagement: Running rural engagement events, offering crime prevention advice, and increasing patrols in vulnerable areas, say Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Police.

Common Targets: Quad bikes, trailers, diesel, high-value machinery, and agricultural equipment.

How the Community Can Help:

Report Suspicious Activity: Use the Wiltshire Police website or call 101 (or 999 in emergencies), even if unsure if it's a crime, say Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Police.

Join Farm Watch: Sign up for local schemes to receive alerts and share information, notes Wiltshire Police.

Key Takeaway:

Rural crime, including burglaries, is a priority, requiring a united police and community effort to combat organized criminals often traveling from other areas

For further crime prevention information please visit: Rural crime prevention | Wiltshire Police

Rogue Trader Warning – Calne, Chippenham, Corsham Areas

Two males from the Bournemouth area were arrested on suspicion of Fraud by false representation on Friday 9 January, following numerous reports of a company targeting elderly residents regarding repair work on their drainpipes.

The residents had received a phone call making an appointment for a routine check of the drains underneath their properties. Engineers would then arrive a day or so later, claiming that there were cracks in the pipes that need repairing. The company would then quote anything between £2,000 and £7,000 to repair it.

The males have been released on bail pending further enquiries and Trading Standards are now taking over the investigation.

Please be on your guard and share this advice with neighbours, friends and family, especially those who may be more vulnerable.

How to stay safe:

- Don't be pressured into agreeing to work on the spot. Be wary of anyone calling you and offering their services, for an issue that you were not aware of
- Always get at least three written quotes before agreeing to any job
- Check ID, business address and references. Genuine tradespeople won't mind waiting while you verify their details. Check the company details on the following website, which has been recommended by Trading Standards
- Never hand over large amounts of cash or go to the bank with someone you don't know
- Look out for elderly or vulnerable neighbours. If you see suspicious behaviour, check they're OK.

If you're approached by someone, you're unsure about, or feel pressured to pay for work, please report it to us via calling 101 or online: <https://orlo.uk/ZWvID>

If you believe a crime is in progress or someone is in danger, always call 999. You can also report rogue traders to Trading Standards through Citizens Advice on 0808 223 1133.

Mark Cook
Calne Neighbourhood Team

Social Media and Community Messaging



Regular updates for the Calne area can also be found on community messaging and Facebook page: Calne police



Derry Hill and District W.I.

By the time this is delivered I'm sure the weather will have improved and the days will be getting longer but this has seemed a very long winter and I know many of us appreciate the friendships that W.I. give us.



In December we had a most interesting morning touring the factory at Tracklements near Malmesbury on their open day. After getting suitably knitted out we saw the production line of their chilli jam, had delicious refreshments and a chance to buy gifts including chutneys and condiments in their shop.

Before Christmas we had a wonderful meal at La Flambé- definitely an excellent venue and so well organised by Alex. We also enjoyed singing carols and some festive fun in Marlborough and had a lovely drinks party at Tina's.

In January we have resumed knitting and nattering, playing cards and scrabble and as I write this we are looking forward to a good catch up at our coffee morning tomorrow at Whitehall Garden Centre.

The February meeting will be our members' meal. This usually involves the committee and a few recruits cooking a two course meal for us all to eat in the hall, often followed by a quiz. Hopefully we can all fit in now that we have our maximum 40 members! In March we will have a talk on the questionable history of the TV quiz show – sounds interesting.

Derry Hill W.I. meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except August and December) at 7.30pm in the Lansdowne Hall. If you would like to come along or find out more, please contact our secretary, Liz.

email: derryhillsec@wiltshirewi.org.uk

Sally



THE WILTSHIRE BOBBY VAN TRUST

Registered Charity No: 1153790

Bargains and bites to eat at Wiltshire Bobby Van's first nearly new fashion sale of the year

THE Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust's first event of the year will be more than just a sustainable fashion sale – it will be the perfect place to enjoy lunch and catch up with friends.

The ever popular Bag A Bargain event, at Wellington Farm Barn near Calne, will have a huge range of nearly new designer clothes, jewellery and accessories at bargain prices.

The event is open from 11am to 8pm on March 4, where tickets are just £7, and from 9am to noon on March 5, where entry is free.

New for this year is the café and licensed bar, offering light lunches and snacks as well as drinks that make it a perfect venue for saying hello to friends.

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust Director Jennie Shaw said: "Our sale is not just a timely opportunity to refresh your wardrobe, after finding the perfect outfit among rail after rail of beautiful nearly new designer clothes and jewellery, our guests can have a bite to eat with friends or enjoy an evening drink and canapé".

"It's a perfect excuse to clear out those wardrobes and make room for a brand new you. We have some fabulous clothes and some wonderful bargains, come and find the perfect outfit for the races, a wedding or something that just makes you feel good."

Organisers are still appealing for good quality clothes for the sale. Anyone wanting to donate items can contact them via email at jennie@wbvt.org or susanna@wbvt.org.

Tickets can be booked at wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/future-events

Find out more about the work of the charity at wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk.

Derry Tots Toddler Group

December / January Round Up

We finished up last year with a great Christmas party, welcoming the brilliant children's entertainer, Dave Hickory, and Father Christmas himself. A special thanks to the wonderful Father Christmas who took time out of his very busy schedule to bring some presents and festive cheer to the children.



As our group follows the Derry Hill School calendar, we took some time off over Christmas and New Year. Sessions started back up in early January by providing a fun, social (and warm!) space to run around, play and catch up. Our crafting genius, Leah, does a

wonderful job each week at designing fun, themed crafts. Some of the more recent activities include decorating Christmas tiles and baubles and creating fluffy snowmen. Jess, Susan and Anna pair the crafting theme of the week with a story at snack time, which the children love to listen to while scattering the floor with crumbs and raisins.



Looking Forward

The term ahead will be full of themed crafting, stories and play. We'll soon be looking ahead to our Easter party which takes place at the end of the school term.

Interested in Joining Us?

If you'd like to know more about the playgroup, please contact us at enqdhuf@gmail.com or join our Facebook group, [Derry Tots – Derry Hill Under 5s](#). We'd love to welcome you to a free trial session.



Alex Morgan

Derry Tots Committee Member

JAZZ CLUB

in Marden House, Calne

All meetings are at 7 for 7.30pm on the last Tuesday of each month except December (when the last Tuesday this year is actually the day before New Year's Eve!) So nothing in December!



Admission still only £10 please pay at the door (NB we have no posters, no tickets and no bar! So it's BYO refreshments. We have a longish interval for these!)

Please reserve seats by replying to this email or by phone to 07976 945055. Please say where you prefer to sit (front, half way, rear or in the balcony). It's easy to reserve seats thus, and equally easy and welcome to cancel if you can't attend.

You can now also reserve places for future shows in 2026! Info on these please see below. Please remember we have no show in December! (Especially as this time the last Tuesday would fall on the day before New Year's Eve!)

FUTURE PROGRAMS IN 2026!

Feb 24th DAVE NEWTON, piano + bass & drums

Mar 31st - NAT STEELE, vibraphone plus 2

APR 28th DORIAN'S TRIO, double bass plus 2

MAY 26th, JAKE LEG JUG BAND

SPECIAL FUTURE NOTE:

June 30th will be our Twenty First Anniversary!

Cheers, Best Festive Wishes and thanks.

James

Hot Shots Walking Netball

The Hot Shots' Christmas meal was a huge success. We all went to La Vecchia Orsa in Chippenham. The food was excellent and the company very entertaining! Thank you Allie for organising this for us all. We need to play a lot of netball now to sort out the Christmas excesses...



so, if you would like to come and have a go it is £3 per session, Monday and Friday at 1.45-2.45 pm, term time only, on the outside multi-pitch next to Lansdowne Hall. An excellent way to socialise, have fun and keep fit.



Tina



Mobile Library Visits to Derry Hill

Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill

14.30-15.45

Tuesday 3rd & 17th February

Kingston House Derry Hill

10.10-10.30

Monday 9th February



Derry Hill & Studley Gardening Club



Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month February to November 7.30pm at Christ Church, Derry Hill. The annual cost is £25 per household.

Our first meeting of 2026 is on Tuesday 3rd February when we will be listening to Paul Jupp give his talk 'A Meadow in my Garden'

New members always welcome.

Paula Wheatcroft

pdoel@live.co.uk 07833 755232.

Meditation – a contemplative space to be present

Why not join us for an introduction to meditation on any Wednesday evening during the coming winter? Take a 30-minute break from your business and discover this gentle way of stilling your mind and body.



We meet in Derry Hill Church and all are welcome. Each time we sit down to meditate, we are all beginners, so all you have to do is just turn up!

And it is simple, we arrive in quiet and listen to a short reading before meditating together for 20 minutes. We end with a short reading. And there are chairs not cushions for us to sit on!

We meet every Wednesday from 6.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

You can just turn up or if you need further information, please contact

Janet Robbins on 01249 814845

www.WCCM.org

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www.derryhillandstudley.org



Mothers' Union Prayer & Fellowship Group



We have not met since we had a lovely Christmas meal at the Lansdowne Strand in Calne in December. It was a lovely way to start the Christmas celebrations and a good time was had by all.

Our next meeting is on Wed 4th February at 2pm in Christ Church when we will be having our short Wave of Prayer service arranged by Salisbury MU. All are very welcome to join us.

Barbara M Parry

SWINDON & DISTRICT SAMARITANS TURNING THE BLUES INTO BREWS IN 2026



As we move into 2026, Samaritans remind everyone to reach out for a cuppa and a catch up with the people you care about.

On the day you put the kettle on, the day small talk can turn into big talk. This can be the day you break open the biscuits and the taboos.

On this day, and every day, you can remind everyone how good human connection feels. How easy it is

and what a difference it can make.

At Samaritans we know there's no such things as a 'Blue Monday' and that feeling low isn't something that happens on Mondays or any random day of the year. So, we're saying *out with the blue and in with the brew* as there's always time for a catch up over a cuppa, reaching out to let someone know they're valued and that someone cares.

As well as reaching out to family and friends for a cuppa and a chat it's also possible to raise vital funds for Swindon & District Samaritans to help ensure there's always someone there for anyone who's going through a tough time.

People can donate whatever feels right to them. If they want to, they can bring their own cuppa & cake whilst donating what it usually costs. A donation of £5 is all it takes to cover the costs of Samaritans answering a call for help.

If you need to know more – please reach out to: swindon@samaritans.org – and if you brew up to chase those blues away and can support Swindon & District Samaritans at the same time, please donate via our website: <https://samaritanscommunity.enthuse.com/swindonanddistrictsamaritans/profile>

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UPDATE: FOREST GATE SOLAR FARM CONSTRUCTION

We expect full construction of the solar farm to begin in **Spring 2026**.

In the meantime there may be other activities continuing on site including improvements to the site entrance on the A4, further site investigations, ecological and landscaping work. We are committed to minimising disruption and to keeping the local community fully informed as the project progresses. You can find the latest updates on our website: **uk.edenrenewables.com/forest-gate-solar**

We are compiling a register of local suppliers, particularly for accommodation and transport services. If you are a local business that would like to be involved please let us know. Once full construction dates and details are confirmed, we will notify nearby residents and businesses directly via a mail drop.

To receive email updates or register as a local supplier, please contact **ForestGateSolar@edenrenewables.com**

Scan the QR code for the latest information.



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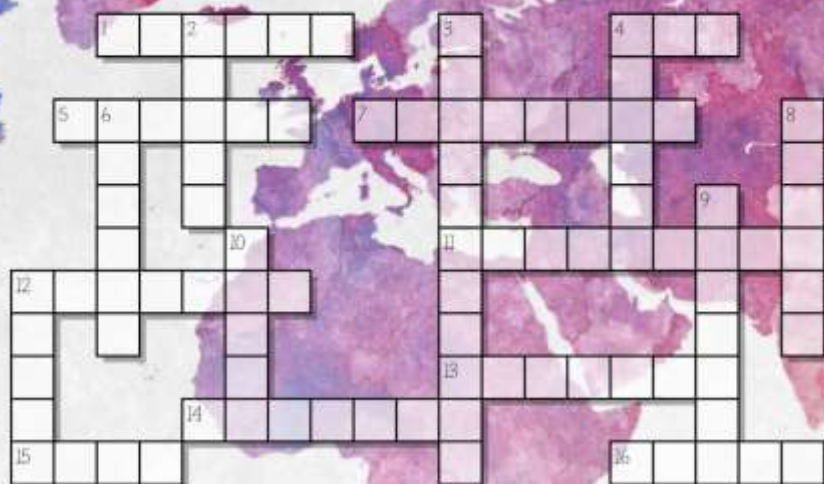
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February 2026 crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Husky(6)
 4 Large(3)
 5 Mystery(6)
 7 Puddings(8)
 11 Dear(9)
 12 Dried
 grape(7)
 13 Fill with
 air(7)

- 14 Pagan(7)
 15 Handle(4)
 16 Turning
 tool(5)

DOWN

- 2 Heathen(5)
 3 Upsetting(11)
 4 Clothing
 faster(6)

- 6 Almost(6)
 8 Blood
 vessel(6)
 9 Illness(7)
 10 Male
 relative(5)
 12 Light meal
 (5)



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Wellbeing Notes

Three uplifting things to do in February

There's a tree in my garden that has been shaped by south-westerly gales, like those wind-twisted trees you see in places like Dartmoor. But my tree is not as hardy as its native cousins and might not have survived this long except for one simple fact. One year, somebody hung a bird feeder in its branches. Then another, and another, until that tree became a feeding post for countless winged visitors who by way of 'thank you' regularly fertilise the ground below. As a result, the tree is strong and healthy and gives a glorious display of flowers and fruit each year (the fruit being its own 'thank you' to the birds).



So that's the first of three uplifting things to do in February: hang a bird feeder, or another bird feeder, in a favourite tree.

Second is to go forest bathing, aka walking in local woodland. In February we get to see the first shoots of wild garlic, while heavenly drifts of snowdrops are at their peak. If you're looking for walking companions, [The Ramblers](#) are a good resource across the county.

Third is to apply nature's seasonal messages to yourself, on the basis that we are, of course, as much a part of nature as those early spring flowers. What, in you, is just beginning to bud or unfurl? Perhaps in your heart of hearts there's something you'd love to create, but self-doubt has held you back? According to nature's calendar, now is the perfect time to take that vital first step.

Suzanne Askham

Wellbeing notes from Old Derry Hill



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December 2025 Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Hunting dogs(6)
- 8 Scent(9)
- 9 Dark wood(5)
- 11 Obscure(7)
- 14 Memory loss(7)
- 15 Additional(5)
- 17 Hire(6)
- 18 Chairs(9)
- 19 Betrayal(9)

DOWN

- 2 Male duck(5)
- 3 Clad(7)
- 4 Mistaken(5)
- 5 Culinary herb(5)
- 6 First rate(5)
- 7 Clever(11)
- 10 Edible tuber(6)
- 12 Soapy froth(6)
- 13 Sweet(7)
- 16 Loft(5)



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