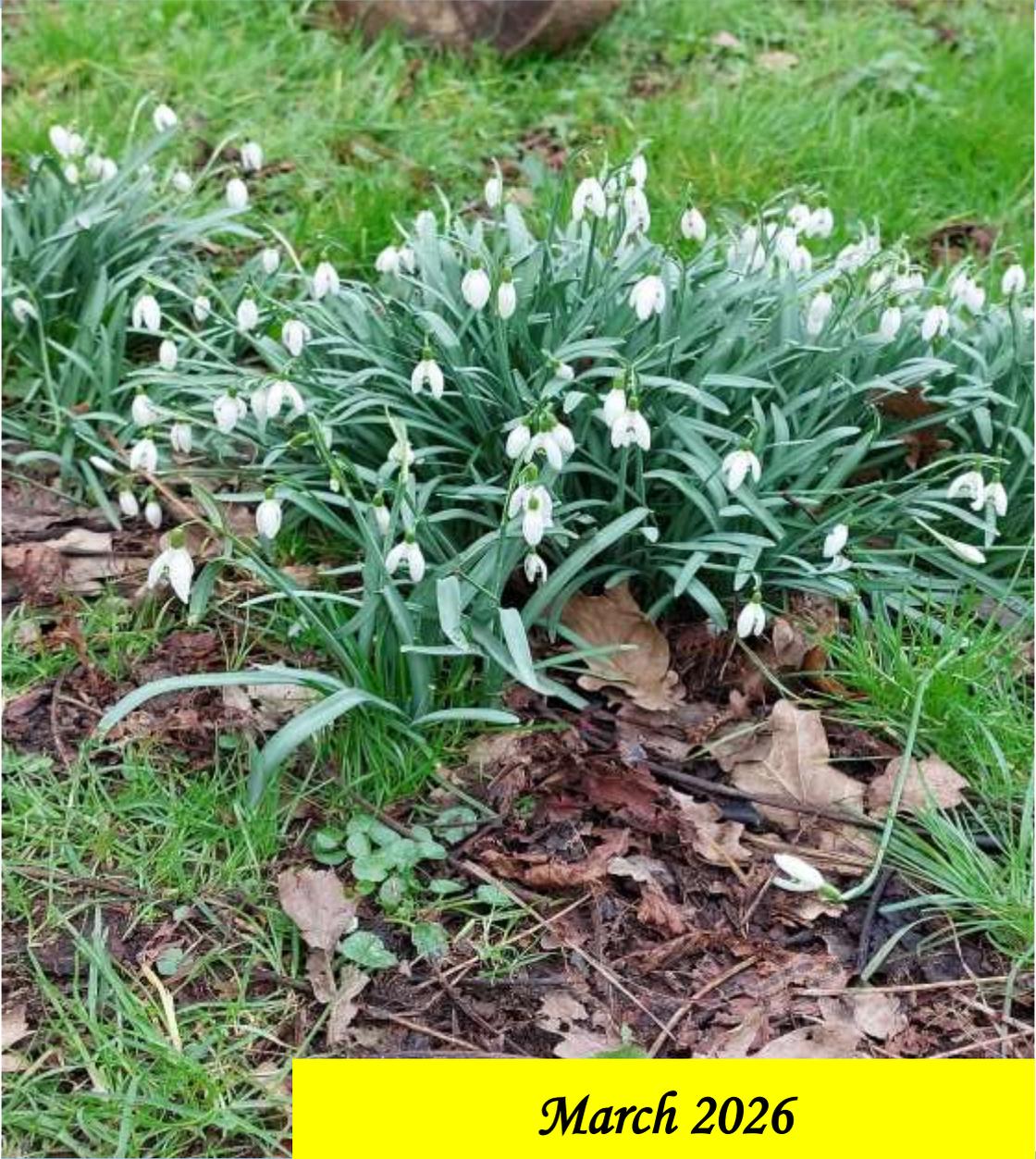


DERRY HILL AND
STUDLEY MATTERS

inSPIRE



March 2026

The Magazine of Derry Hill & Studley Parish



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MAGAZINE PRODUCTION TEAM

Editor	Katherine Checchia	07751 802761
Advertising Coordinator	Jacqui Bonardi	inspireadcord@gmail.com
Distribution Coordinators	Belinda Tanner	07856 656034
	Gavin McHale	gavin.mchale@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk
Webmaster/Compositor	Ian Liddle	01249 816229
Proof Reader	Cathy Liddle	

Please send articles and other correspondence to:

Mrs. Katherine Checchia inspireeditor@outlook.com

Please send advertisement copy and related correspondence to:

Mrs. Jacqui Bonardi inspireadcord@gmail.com

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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.

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Editorial

As I sit down to write this month's editorial, it feels almost obligatory to begin with a mention of the weather. After all, we wouldn't be British if we didn't! The seemingly endless run of grey skies, persistent rain and sodden footpaths has certainly tested our patience. Lawns have become lakes, wellies have become daily footwear, and even the most optimistic among us have cast hopeful glances towards the sky in search of a little sunshine.

And yet, despite the damp and dreariness, there are unmistakable signs that spring is beginning to stir around our community. Snowdrops and crocuses have pushed their way through the ground, hedgerows are showing the first hints of green, and birdsong seems just a little louder. The days are stretching out, ever so gradually, reminding us that brighter times are ahead.

Spring always brings with it a sense of renewal and possibility, and this year is no exception. As a community, we are beginning to look ahead with excitement to entering the Best Kept Village competition again. Last year's efforts demonstrated what can be achieved when people come together.

This year, we have the opportunity to build on what we achieved before. The true strength of our village lies not just in neat hedges or colourful displays, but in the willingness of residents to lend a hand and take pride in the place we call home. It is in neighbours working side by side, community groups giving their time, and individuals quietly doing their bit to make a difference.

Over the coming weeks, you will hear more about how you can get involved. Together, we can show not only the judges, but ourselves, what a strong and vibrant community we are.

So, while the rain may still be falling as you read this, take heart in those small signs of spring. Here's to brighter days ahead.

Ed

Community Groups contact details

Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council	Parish Clerk clerk@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk
Christ church - Derry Hill	Administrator enquiries@mardenvale.org.uk
	Church Wardens Peter Rigby 01225 704356 Ian Liddle 01249 816229
	Treasurer Dorina Freeman 07449 321199
	Secretary Lucida Prater 07882469005
Derry Hill Art Club	Dani French 01249 806106
Lansdowne Hall	Jane Clark administrator@lansdownehall.org
Derry Hill Community Heartbeat	Julian Oliver Julesoliver3@gmail.com
1 st Derry Hill Rainbows Brownies and Guides	www.girlguiding.org.uk
Friends of Derry Hill School	friends@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk
Rub a Dub Preschool	rubadubpreschoolenquiries@gmail.com
Derry Hill School	admin@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk
Derry Hill United Football Club	admin@dhufc.org
1 ST Derry Hill Scouts	waitinglist@1stderryhillscouts.org.uk
Derry Hill & District WI	derryhillsec@wiltshirewi.org.uk
Derry Tots Toddler Group	engdhuf@gmail.com
Derry Hill Hotshots walking netball	Pauline.Cooke2@btinternet.com
Derry Hill & Studley Gardening Club	pdoel@live.co.uk
Community committee	www.derryhillandstudley.org
Bowood Carving and woodwork group	bowoodcarving@gmail.com

Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council



Many thanks to everyone who attended the recent meetings about the proposed closure of Lower Compton Household Recycling Centre. The strength of local feeling has resulted in a commitment from Wiltshire Council that Lower Compton will remain open until a new facility near Royal Wootton Bassett has been opened. This still means that we lose our local facility in two or three years' time though, so the campaign isn't over.

Residents will have seen work underway on the site entrances for the future Forest Gate Solar Farm. We understand that construction is due to commence in April for approximately nine months. Eden Renewables will be organising a drop-in meeting for residents ahead of construction. The Parish Council is currently in discussion with Eden Renewables about managing the Solar Farm's Community Benefit Fund, which will provide funding of approximately £18,900 per year towards environmental, educational and social projects within the local area. I hope to be able to share further details of this soon.

The Parish Council is pleased to be supporting this year's Best Kept Village Bid. Last year, Derry Hill & Studley came second for North Wiltshire in the Large Villages category. This was our first time in the competition, so a pretty good result. Let's go for gold this year!

Finally, our annual Parish Meeting will be on Saturday 16th May at 2pm. We'll be using this to help develop our new Strategic Plan and, in particular, inviting residents to bring along ideas that they have for improving our parish.

Next Council Meeting Dates

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

Monday 30th March 2026 @ 7:30pm – Finance Committee

Monday 13th April 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

Rector's notes for March 2026

I wonder how easily you can think back to the world before social media? I had to look it up, but the first mainstream platforms like MySpace and Facebook first appeared in 2003/4. Though some of us were rather later adopters than others.

There are elements of social media that are a bit like the Wild West, including content on or over the edge of criminal. And over the years some content has had utterly terrible consequences in terms of how it has influenced people into horrendous and tragic behaviours. Australia has banned it for under 16s, and many other countries are considering the same.

Yet we know it also can be a really positive thing. My own extended family has a Whatsapp group called Bush Telegraph of my own three siblings, and our combined fourteen children and ten in-laws - which is the most lovely way to share news and photos of new babies and other things.

Facebook now is famously 'only for middle-aged people', but is still a valuable place to go for community groups and local news. And it's here where only in late January this year a new page was created called St Faithful's, Havnot – a fictional parish church created simply for amusement, gently parodying the Church of England's local parish life. There are elements of Vicar of Dibley here, including the slightly chaotic world of the organist's woes, tea rotas, fundraising events, church council meetings, bell ringers, why the P.A. system doesn't work properly and many others. Plenty of irony, but often a lot of tenderness too.

And, in my view, it manages to create a space for some thoughtful input on real faith matters too, not least in its 'statement of doctrinal certainty' (available as a tea-towel – honestly!), which includes

- God is love – what this means in practice is under review
- Jesus is the Son of God – precisely how this works is a mystery we have decided not to simplify for administrative convenience
- Being right is not listed among the Fruits of the Spirit
- Doubt is not the opposite of faith – indifference is
- Questions are welcome – answers may be provisional

- St Faithful's remains firmly committed to humility, curiosity, generosity of spirit, and the belief that God is almost certainly doing something larger than our current explanations

It's really worth a look!

With my prayers and best wishes

Caspar Bush,

Team Rector of the Marden Vale Benefice.

March 2026 Church Services

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

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.

Use it or lose it?

We often hear that about facilities that are in danger of going under. On average a pub a day closes. 5% of respondents to a National Churches Trust survey said that their church would probably or definitely close in the next 5 years.



Here in Derry Hill and Studley we are blessed with two chapels and a church, two pubs, a village hall, a primary school and a new village shop. Not many villages can boast of so many facilities!

We use these facilities as and when we have need of them, but they all need to be financially viable to continue.

As a member of Christ Church Derry Hill Church's committee (PCC), I can tell you that we are under particular pressure to find sufficient income to keep the church going. We have to look after repairs, running expenses and fund the cost of having a vicar. For one reason or another, our congregation, which is the main source of income, has shrunk and therefore the onus of keeping the church going is falling on fewer and fewer loyal shoulders. Even if you don't use Christ Church regularly, I expect you would like to think it is there for births, marriages and funerals, not to mention helping such groups as Gardening Club, Coffee and Chat, Handbells, and Craft afternoons to meet there regularly.

We are looking at various ways of improving the income stream. One of the ideas we had at our last meeting was to make you aware that we are struggling and let you know in case you can help.

For our part we are, in the near future, hoping to install Wi-Fi in Church which will be available for all to use. This will be linked to a card payment station, which can be used for easy casual giving.

Other ways you can contribute, should you wish to, are:

Join the regular [Parish Giving Scheme](#)

- Make a one-off donation directly to Christ Church's account: PCC Derry Hill Sort: 30-91-99
A/c 01987210.
- Scan this QR code to make a donation.
- Please also consider, if you are donating, gift aiding your donation which boosts your gift by 25%. A form is available at the back of the church: Thanks for reading this and I hope you can help.



Richard Ayles (PCC Member)

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

Mothers' Union Prayer & Fellowship Group



Our small group met on Wednesday 4th February which, amidst all the rain we have been having, was a lovely sunny day and so welcome. After catching up on all the admin from before Christmas we then took part in the Mothers' Union Diocesan Wave of Prayer which was a simple but meaningful short service enjoyed by all. We then enjoyed a good chat over tea and biscuits provided by Barbara.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th March at 2pm in Christ Church when we will be bringing a possession that holds special memories which we will share. The meeting will begin with prayers and a short reading done by Barbara and refreshments afterwards will be done by Christine P and Colette. All are welcome to join us at this or any of our meetings.

Barbara M Parry

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



Be a part of positive change in our community

Come along to an informal meeting at 19.30 on Monday 16th March to discuss ideas and new projects.

please contact the Parish Clerk for more information



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

Lansdowne Hall News

Thank you!

The Hall's class "Yoga with Naomi, relax-pause-breathe" has made a very generous donation of £455 towards the costs of the recent roof repairs at the Hall. Naomi Seager ran free yoga sessions with participants invited to make donations towards the roof repairs. Derry Hill Tots has also kindly donated £50 from money raised at the Christmas Fayre towards the roof repairs. That's a total of £505, a huge thank you to both groups for their help.

AGM

The Lansdowne Hall Management Committee and the Derry Hill and Studley Village Hall Trust will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday April 23rd in the Lansdowne Hall starting at 8.15 pm. Notice of the meeting will be sent to all regular users, but other members of the local community are also invited to attend the AGM. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting; it would be helpful for making catering arrangements if you could let the Hall's Administrator know you intend to come.

Derry Hill and Studley Gardening Club lend a hand

We want the Hall to look attractive so it is something the community can be proud of. The Gardening Club have kindly agreed to help us achieve this by maintaining and suggesting improvements for the front garden during the coming year.

Visit the Hall website for information about our facilities. We are always looking for volunteers to help manage the hall, new ideas on how to meet the needs of our community or events and classes that could be offered are welcomed.

If you have any questions about a booking please contact Hall Administrator, Jane Clark 07860 940323

administrator@lansdownehall.org

Lansdowne Hall Management Committee

Twice Around the World

Did you know that there are 60,000 miles of blood vessels in the human body? If you could extract the blood vessels from a single adult (let's not) and lie them out in a straight line, they would reach more than twice around the world!



The heart and circulatory system is formed from stem cells in the first 10 days of life. The system needs to be flexible and stretchable to allow blood cells to pass through easily. As we get older and eat a Western diet (and/or smoke regularly) these vessels tend to clog up and become less stretchy. This plaque makes the vessels less slippery and stretchable which in turn causes blood cells to get stuck and clot.

There are two main solutions. Firstly, a stent can be inserted in the blood vessel to hold it open, but this reduces the stretchiness. Alternatively, statins can be taken to reduce the amount of plaque.

Is there another solution? The very latest scientific research suggests it is possible to reduce plaque build-up and restore blood vessel stretchiness without the need for stents or statins. Our bodies are designed to handle a plant-based diet which will improve our microbiome and restore the stretchiness to our blood vessels. It has now been shown that by reducing our intake of red meats, bacon, beefburgers etc and increasing vegetables and fruits it is possible to reduce some heart disease!

Julian Derry Hill and Studley Heartbeat
07769 970401 / julesoliver3@gmail.com

Sky at Night

March brings longer evenings and a sky full of treats for UK stargazers.

The month begins in spectacular style with a *total lunar eclipse on the night of 2–3 March*, when the Moon will glow a deep coppery red as it slips into Earth's shadow — a “Blood Moon” visible to the naked eye, weather permitting.

As winter fades, *Orion* and his brilliant companions begin to bow out in the southwest, while the stars of spring — including *Leo rising in the east* — take centre stage. Look out for *Jupiter shining brightly in the evening sky*, often close to the Moon during the month, making for lovely binocular views.

Around *20 March, the Spring Equinox*, there is also a chance — if solar activity and clear skies cooperate — of glimpsing the *Northern Lights* from parts of the UK. Strong geomagnetic activity can bring auroral displays much further south than usual, so it's well worth keeping an eye on space weather forecasts.

So, wrap up warm, step outside after dark, and take a few moments to look up. March can be one of the most rewarding months of the year for skywatching.

Katherine Checchia

Book Club Review

There are Rivers in the Sky' by Elif Shafak

Elif Shafak weaves an intriguing story spanning centuries, continents and cultures.

The story is set in modern and Victorian London as well as in modern and 19th century Iraq and Turkey. It is also linked to King Ashurbanipal's reign of the Assyrian Empire BCE and the Epic of Gilgamesh.

The main characters are King Arthur of the Sewers and Slums, whose fascination with Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire takes him from the shores of the Thames to those of the Tigris. There is Narin, a girl growing up in a Turkish Yazidi community next to the Tigris and there is Leila, her grandmother, a Yazidi seer and wise woman. The fourth main character is Zaleekah, who has just rented a boat on the Thames and works as a scientist to recover the lost rivers of the world.

They all have a story to tell and the characters are linked in some way to water.

We all thought that the novel was beautifully written and that the author gave us some profound truths to examine.

Chosen by Christine

Our March novel chosen by Dani is 'When the fireflies Dance ' by Aisha Hassan

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 had great fun at the pantomime and are looking forward to celebrating World Thinking Day

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



February Highlights

We are now in full swing for 2026! The children have enjoyed the puddles after this wet start to the year and have made the most of the mud in the garden!

We have also been learning some Makaton at Rub-a-Dubs, which is a unique language programme using signs and symbols to support communication.

Coming up in March

After February Half Term, focus will shift to Easter and all the fun and crafts that come with this time of year.

We will also be holding our annual Easter Fayre at the end of the month on Saturday 28th March at the Lansdowne Hall from 11-3. We hope to see you there. All proceeds go the nursery, so your support really does make a difference.

How you can help - The Easter Fayre Saturday 28th March, at The Lansdowne Hall, 11-3

- Please come and support and enjoy the wonderful event.... there will be Stalls, Easter Bonnet Competition, Crafts, Used Toy and Book Sale, Bouncy Castle, Refreshments and lots more
- If you have any old children's toys or books that are ready for their next home, we would be more than grateful for donations. Please bring any donations to the Lansdowne Hall at 9am on either Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th March or Thursday 26th March
- Easter bonnet competition entries. If any children would like to enter the Easter Bonnet competition, please bring your completed bonnet to the Fayre on the 28th March

Megan Lee (Committee Secretary)



Rub-A-Dub Preschool invites you to their

EASTER FAYRE

SATURDAY 28th MARCH

11:00 - 15:00

Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill SN11 9QY

Stalls, Refreshments, Easter Bonnet Competition,
Children's Games, Crafts, Used Toy and Book sale,
Bouncy Castle, and lots more



Derry Hill United Football Club

In spite of what seems like months of rain we are pleased to have been able to play most of our home games. Our younger players play their home games at Bowood Sports Ground which due to its position, the soil and the hard

work put into the pitches by our ground's volunteers (Thanks - Grant, James, Dan and Aubrey) has weathered the rain well.



Our older teams (U15 - U18) play their matches at Beversbrook Sports Facility in Calne which has fantastic grass pitches, although they are more susceptible to bad weather, and a 3G pitch which is in high demand when 'the grass is off'.

We were pleased to have our two-star FA Accreditation renewed in January. The stars recognise the excellent player pathways we have for boys and girls, our committee structure and reporting and coach qualifications. We have girls' teams from 6 - 15 years old and boys' teams from 5 - 18 years old. Our committee meets every 6-8 weeks and is responsible for all aspects of running the club - pitches and clubhouse management, player membership, safeguarding, registrations with the leagues and the FA, volunteer recruitment and retention and funding and budgeting. All our lead coaches are well-qualified and hold a minimum of the Introduction to Coaching Football qualification, DBS, FA First Aid and Safeguarding qualifications. All supporting coaches also have the FA Safeguarding qualification and a DBS check. Thank you to all the volunteers involved in helping the club retain its Accreditation.

If you would like to get involved with the club as a volunteer, member or sponsor please email admin@dhufc.org for more information.

Claire -Administrator

Derry Hill United

Calne Neighbourhood Policing Update

Crime and incident updates

- On 14/01/2026, a vehicle was stopped by police for excessive speed on the A3102 in Mile Elm. The vehicle was travelling at 93mph through several national limits. The driver has been reported for careless driving.
- On 22/01/2026 at 17:20hrs, an unknown person has attempted to take a dog by calling it over to a vehicle. The dog was not taken. Patrols have been increased in the location due to this report.
- On 26/01/2026 at 16:34hrs, a vehicle was sighted travelling at speed and driving in circles on a grassed area to the Bowood estate in Derry Hill.
- On 31/01/2026 at 14:19hrs, unknown suspect/s have damaged a road sign near to High Penn farm in Calne.
- A community protection warning has been issued to a female in Studley due to her causing ongoing anti-social behaviour issues towards another resident of Studley.

Romance fraud

As February was the month of Valentines Day, we would like to take a moment to warn that romance fraud causes significant emotional and financial harm, with recent cases involving victims conned out of tens of thousands of pounds. Perpetrators build trust, often claiming to be working abroad or in need of funds, sometimes promising to pay it back via a non-existent inheritance.

A recent case of Romance Fraud in Wiltshire:

Recent Case (2026): Gemma Kingsley, 50, pleaded guilty in February 2026 to 13 charges of fraud after a Wiltshire Police investigation found she manipulated multiple men, resulting in tens of thousands of pounds in losses. She is awaiting sentencing on 25th March 2026.

Warning Signs:

Fraudsters often move quickly from dating apps to private messaging, avoid video calls, and soon ask for money for emergencies or, as in the 2026 case, to fund a lavish lifestyle.

How to Protect Yourself:

Never send money or share bank details with someone you haven't met in person.

Conduct a reverse image search on their profile pictures.

Be cautious of anyone whose profile feels "too perfect".

How to Report:

If you have been a victim of romance fraud, you should report it to Report Fraud or by calling 0300 123 2040. Alternatively, you can contact Wiltshire Police via 101.

Further information:

Can be found by searching 'Romance fraud' on the Wiltshire Police website.

Mark Cook

Calne Neighbourhood Police Team

mark.cook@wiltshire.police.uk

Social Media and Community Messaging

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

Mobile Library Visits to Derry Hill

Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill

14.30-15.45

Tuesday 3rd & 17th March

Kingston House Derry Hill

10.10-10.30

Monday 9th March



Derry Hill & District W.I.

This seems to have been a quieter month in W.I and although we have had a coffee morning at Rowde and some of us enjoyed the wonderful village pantomime, we don't seem to have any photos to share! I'm sure we will remedy that at our upcoming members' meal which we are all looking forward to.



In addition to our regular events, we have also formed a quiz team to take part in the excellent quizzes which are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Lansdowne Arms.

Our January speaker was Victoria Nye, the owner of Cadenham Manor at Foxham who gave us a wonderful talk on the history and development of the gardens. Many of us hope to go there when the garden is open for the National Garden Scheme.

Our March Speaker will be telling us about the "Questionable History of the TV Quiz Show" which sounds rather 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 or go on our waiting list, please contact our secretary, Liz.

Email: derryhillsec@wiltshirewi.org.uk

Sally

Review: *Sleeping Beauty* by Derry Hill Theatre Group

Derry Hill Theatre Group's *Sleeping Beauty* was an irresistibly funny, warm-hearted and wonderfully chaotic pantomime that showcased everything brilliant about true



community theatre. With a cast and crew spanning all ages, the production sparkled with enthusiasm, creativity and a shared sense of joy that filled the hall from the moment the curtain rose.

From the village scenes to Ivy's ominous castle, the staging and hand-painted sets transported the audience straight into the heart of the story. The performers clearly relished every moment — none more so than **Prince Geoffrey**, whose outrageous swagger and magnificently flamboyant

codpiece stole the spotlight each time he strutted onstage. His theatrical vanity, and over-the-top posing were pantomime perfection.



Comedy came thick and fast thanks to **Billy and Benny**, the ever-chaotic **Two Poops**, whose hilariously shambolic magic show had the audience roaring. Their slapstick timing, colourful costumes and good-natured silliness were standout highlights.

Adding extra sparkle was **Edna**, the frisky party planner who's larger-than-life personality dominated every scene she breezed into — full of cheek, charm and unstoppable confidence. On the other side of the moral spectrum, **Poison Ivy** brought delicious wickedness to

the stage, supported brilliantly by her wonderfully slithery, mischievous **creepers**, who added texture, humour and just the right amount of menace.

Among the heroes, **Ralf** delivered a stella comic performance, fiercely guarding his beautifully wrapped gift and enlisting the entire audience to prevent anyone from “wrecking his wrapping.” His near-calamity with the **Wrapomatic**, in which he wrapped *himself*, was one of the evening’s biggest laughs. Balancing all this chaos was **Crystal**, the elegant good fairy whose gentle magic, rhyming wisdom and steady presence kept the story — and the characters — on the right path.

At the heart of it all, **Princess Rosetta** charmed the audience with her innocence, curiosity and warmth. Her blossoming romance with **Felix**, the kind-hearted servant she met in the village, provided the fairy-tale core of the production. Their final reunion and happily-ever-after ending delivered exactly the feel-good glow a pantomime should.

With colourful costumes, clever touches, energetic choreography and an ensemble clearly having the time of their lives, Derry Hill Theatre Group delivered a *Sleeping Beauty* overflowing with charm, laughter and love. It was a true celebration of local talent — and a reminder of why community pantomime remains such a treasured tradition. If you would like to join us, please contact our Facebook page - all welcome.





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.

JAZZ CLUB

at Marden House, Calne, 7 for 7.30pm on 31st March

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if possible say where in the audience you'd like to sit if possible! : front - middle - back or in the balcony.

James

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

Hot Shots Walking Netball



Ladies are you looking for an activity that will give you both exercise and a fun social time too. We are a group of Ladies that come together twice a week during School Term time to play walking netball. You don't have to worry if you haven't played for years or perhaps never played, we do drills, shooting games and finish with a game just come and have a laugh and get some gentle exercise.



Useful info:

- We play Mondays and Fridays (Term time) – you don't have to come both



days unless you want to.

- Location – Derry Hill Village Hall (SN11 9QY)– Outside if weather permits – Inside if not.
- Time – 1.45pm – 2.45pm
- Cost £3 per session – 1st session is free!
- We also have a social side – afternoons teas, meals out coffee catch ups.

Come and give it a go what do you have to lose!!



For more information contact

Pauline.Cooke2@btinternet.com

Or on Facebook



Hot Shots Walking Netball Group

Derry Hill & Studley Gardening Club



Our first meeting of the year was on Tuesday 3rd February. Our speaker was Paul Jupp who talked to us about 'A Meadow in my Garden'

Members were invited to take a packet of seeds to grow in preparation for our stall at the Derry Hill & Studley Fete in July.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 4th March. Our speaker will be Gillian Taylor who will be talking all about roses. Our Competition Table will be a 'Saucer of Hellebore Heads'

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.

New members always welcome.

Paula Wheatcroft

DHANDSGC@outlook.com 0783 3755232.

"Bond, Just Bond"

The Wiltshire Film Orchestra treated us to a very enjoyable concert of James Bond film soundtrack music last month in the Lansdowne Hall. The music was fantastic and featured the wonderful West End vocal talent of "Samantha."

I look forward to the next concert which hopefully will be in August.

Ian Liddle.

Derry Hill and Studley Community Committee

With 2026 well and truly underway now the Community Committee held its first meeting of the year at the Lansdowne Arms on 10th February. We'd like to draw your attention to 3 things.



Firstly, Judging for Best Kept Village will be between 11th May and 7th June and we will be seeking your support as we look to present the best version we can of our lovely community. Watch out for notices please.

Other planned events include a first “Get to Know Your Community” event which is directed at those of you who may be new to the community and want to be more engaged with it. More on this event via Facebook and the Hub in due course; The Fete on Saturday 11th July; a new Derry Hill & Studley Weekend which we hope to schedule for early September and include the increasingly popular village picnic and Single Wicket Cricket competition; and, the Christmas Tree Lights Switch On at the Lansdowne Hall on Saturday 5th December.

Secondly, we are looking for a person in each street to act as our point of contact as we prepare for the Best Kept Village. If you feel you can help us coordinate things at that very local level, then please drop me a line.

Finally, and we just love this idea.... Have you ever felt that you would like to organise a community event but just didn't know where or how to start or just felt it would be all too difficult? Maybe you want to organise a 40s Dance or a rounders competition? Well, we can help. Drop me a line and we can help you make it happen! We have the processes, insurance, communication channels, funds and policies and willing volunteers. Together, we can take this community to new heights.

Peter Prater- Committee Chair

peterprater@btinternet.com

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

Click below to access lots of information in our villages

www.derryhillandstudley.org



UPDATE: FOREST GATE SOLAR FARM CONSTRUCTION

Pre-construction work has been progressing on site. This has included building the site entrances on the A4, hedge and tree maintenance on the boundary and within the site, and test piling.

We currently expect to start the main building works later this Spring.

We remain committed to minimising disruption and to keeping the local community fully informed as the project progresses. When full construction information is confirmed it will be shared:

- Directly with nearby residents and businesses via a mail drop
- On our website uk.edenrenewables.com/forest-gate-solar

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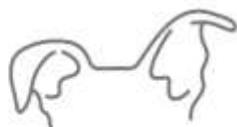
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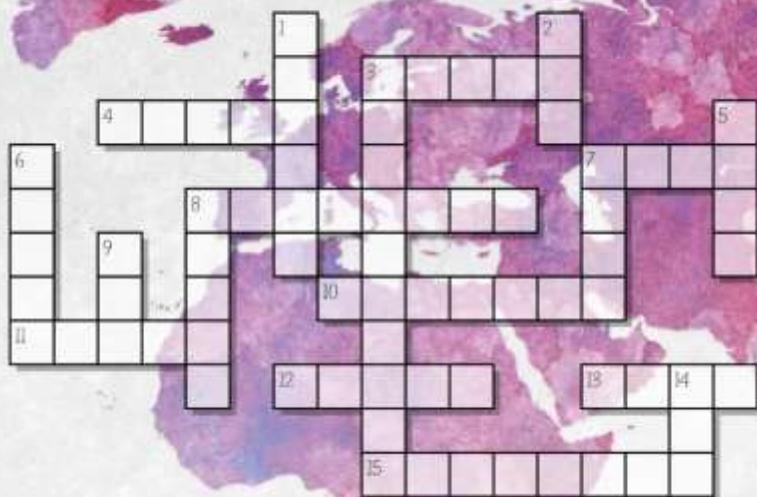
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March 2026 Crossword



ACROSS

- 3 Main artery(5)
- 4 Humorous(5)
- 7 Slightly open:(4)
- 8 Eat(8)
- 10 Spouse(7)
- 11 Male singer(5)
- 12 Play(5)
- 13 Floating marker(4)
- 15 Surround(8)

DOWN

- 1 Airborne(6)
- 2 Taxi(3)
- 3 Amass(10)
- 5 Ship's company(4)
- 6 Begin(5)
- 7 Dry(4)
- 8 Snake(5)
- 9 Play on words(3)
- 14 Be in debt(3)

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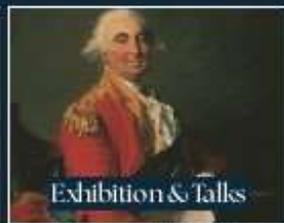
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Wellbeing Notes

Embracing chaos

It was one of those mornings. Nothing was going to plan. I was supposed to be having a quiet cup of coffee at my place with a friend. Instead, it was as if I'd put a sign on the door inviting everyone in. A stream of random visitors turned up, including the window cleaner, a slightly lost horse and sundry builders. My dog was beside himself. Chaos ensued.



After all the visitors had left, the air felt unexpectedly fresh and clear, as though a storm had blown through – as though all the loose branches and detritus of the neighbourhood had been swept away. It occurred to me then that chaos can actually serve a purpose, of sorts. Although my morning had *not* gone as planned, I was buzzing with fresh ideas for my writing. The mayhem had somehow cleared away a mental stagnation that I hadn't even been aware of.

Chaos is a fact of life. By definition, we can't control it or even predict when it'll come our way. But it seems that we can survive and possibly thrive when chaos suddenly appears. So, next time your plans collapse, why not embrace the feeling of not being fully in control? Whisper a welcome to Storm Chaos. Put aside your 'to do' list and open your mind to new possibilities. Remind yourself that mayhem never sticks around for ever. And the peace that follows can truly be appreciated.

Suzanne Askham

Wellbeing notes from Old Derry Hill

New Men's Wellbeing Group launching in Calne

A new 12-week nature-based programme supporting men with their mental and physical wellbeing will start in Calne on Monday 23rd March.

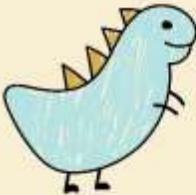
The group, run by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Wellbeing Programme, will offer local men aged 20-59 the opportunity to meet new people and build confidence through nature-based activities. During the 12 weeks, participants will visit local nature reserves and have the opportunity to engage in a range of activities including practical conservation, habitat management, nature walks, green woodworking, and bushcraft. Participants will also benefit from learning techniques to help manage anxiety, stress, and depression, all within a small, supportive group run by qualified staff and volunteers.



The Trust has been running the Men's Wellbeing Programme since 2024, thanks to funding from Wiltshire Council, and has supported dozens of men across Wiltshire. A previous participant commented: "I was slightly hesitant to join at first, but I've thoroughly enjoyed all the sessions. Getting out and meeting new people has been great, and it's given me a good sense of wellbeing."

The programme is free to join and there will also be a minibus pick-up and drop-off from a central location in Calne, free hot drinks, snacks, and a friendly chat. The group will start on Monday 23rd March from 11am-2.30pm and will run for 12 weeks.

For more information on joining, visit the website www.wiltshirewildlife.org/mens-wellbeing and download the referral form, or contact the team on 07849 090 862 for more information.



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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)

DOWN

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

ACROSS

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



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