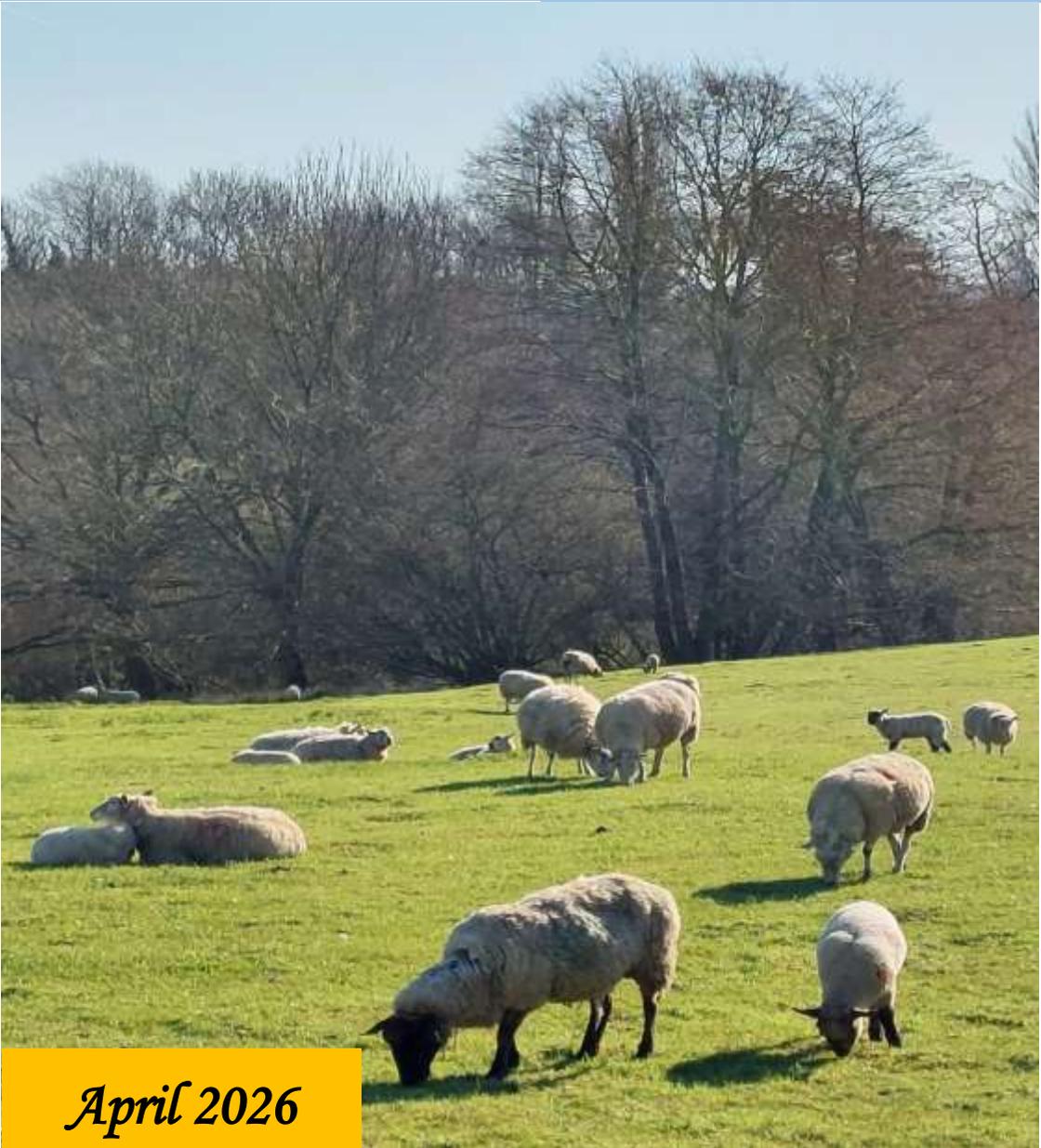


DERRY HILL AND  
STUDLEY MATTERS

inSPIRE



*April 2026*

The Magazine of Derry Hill & Studley Parish



# wec

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By submitting content, contributors warrant that the content they submit is not obscene, threatening, harassing, libellous, offensive, deceptive, fraudulent, invasive of another's privacy, or defamatory of any person.

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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

All rates are for insertion in 10 consecutive issues of inSPIRE.

Size	Colour	Approximate size of advert (Width by height) (cm)
Quarter page	£50.00	6 by 8
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Cover Picture: Spring Lambs by Kate Checchia

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## Editorial

There's something wonderfully reassuring about this time of year. After what has felt like an unrelenting stretch of wet and dreary weather, it is such a pleasure to finally step outside and enjoy the garden again. The simple act of pottering, whether it's tidying borders, planting something new, or just soaking up a little sunshine, feels all the more rewarding after months of mud and rain.



As the villages begin to bloom once more, our thoughts naturally turn to the Best Kept Village competition. This is always a fantastic opportunity to showcase not just the beauty of where we live, but the spirit of the community behind it. Last year demonstrated just how much can be achieved when people come together with a shared sense of pride, and there's a real sense of excitement about building on that success this time around.

Of course, that community spirit has already been on full display. A huge thank you must go to everyone who took part in the recent Great British Spring Clean. Whether you gave up an hour or a whole day, every effort makes a visible difference. It's inspiring to see residents of all ages working side by side, taking care of our shared spaces and showing such pride in our surroundings.

It's these moments that remind us what makes our village special. Competitions and events are important, but it is the everyday willingness to lend a hand, to look out for one another, and to take pride in our community that truly sets us apart. When we work together, we create something far greater than the sum of our individual efforts.

As we move further into spring, let's carry that spirit forward. With brighter days ahead, there's plenty to look forward to, and plenty more we can achieve together.

**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 Warders 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 <a href="mailto:administrator@lansdownehall.org">administrator@lansdownehall.org</a>
Derry Hill Community Heartbeat	Julian Oliver <a href="mailto:Julesoliver3@gmail.com">Julesoliver3@gmail.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Derry Hill Rainbows Brownies and Guides	<a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a>
Friends of Derry Hill School	<a href="mailto:friends@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk">friends@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Rub a Dub Preschool	<a href="mailto:rubadubpreschoolenquiries@gmail.com">rubadubpreschoolenquiries@gmail.com</a>
Derry Hill School	<a href="mailto:admin@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk">admin@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Derry Hill United Football Club	<a href="mailto:admin@dhufc.org">admin@dhufc.org</a>
1 <sup>ST</sup> Derry Hill Scouts	<a href="mailto:waitinglist@1stderryhillscouts.org.uk">waitinglist@1stderryhillscouts.org.uk</a>
Derry Hill & District WI	<a href="mailto:derryhillsec@wiltshirewi.org.uk">derryhillsec@wiltshirewi.org.uk</a>
Derry Tots Toddler Group	<a href="mailto:engdhuf@gmail.com">engdhuf@gmail.com</a>
Derry Hill Hotshots walking netball	<a href="mailto:Pauline.Cooke2@btinternet.com">Pauline.Cooke2@btinternet.com</a>
Derry Hill & Studley Gardening Club	<a href="mailto:DHANDSGC@outlook.com">DHANDSGC@outlook.com</a>
Community committee	<a href="http://www.derryhillandstudley.org">www.derryhillandstudley.org</a>
Bowood Carving and woodwork group	<a href="mailto:bowoodcarving@gmail.com">bowoodcarving@gmail.com</a>

## Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council



Main construction on the Forest Gate Solar Farm is due to start later this Spring for approximately nine months, followed by commissioning and environmental works. The project included a commitment to establish a Community Benefit Fund, to support environmental, social and educational projects within the local area. This is moving forward and is expected to be worth around £18,900 per year, index-linked, over the life of the project.

I am pleased to advise that, in March, the Parish Council entered into a formal agreement with Eden Renewables to administer the fund, with the first payment expected within three months of the date of commissioning. We will be establishing an advisory panel to assist the Council with this and there will be opportunities for community involvement, with details to follow in due course.

We're pleased to be working with the Community Committee on this year's Best Kept Village entry. District judging will take place between 11<sup>th</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> June, so look out for details for village tidy-up activities over the first weekend in May.

Last September, the Parish Council stepped in to take over the publication of inSPIRE. The transition has been pretty seamless, with thanks to all the volunteers who have remained involved in producing and distributing the magazine. We recognise that the print format is preferred by many people, so, this year, we will be increasing the number of print editions from six to ten. I hope that you will continue to find it a useful source of local news.

### **Next Council Meeting Dates**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 @ 7:30pm – Full Council

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 @ 7:30pm – Full Council

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026 @ 2:00pm – Parish Meeting

### **Keeping in Touch**

Website: [www.derryhillandstudley.gov.uk](http://www.derryhillandstudley.gov.uk)

Facebook: search 'derryhillandstudley'

Email: [clerk@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk)

Phone: 07751 802761

***John Barnes, Chair***

## Rector's notes for March 2026

Even though there are wonderful signs of spring all around us, at time of writing the world is witnessing very grave and shocking events in the Middle-East, with the deeply unpredictable USA flexing its considerable military muscles against Iran. The fall-out is having consequences around the world.

It's an extreme example of events utterly beyond our control that have the capacity to make people's lives miserable. Some of these are political events, some are extreme weather events or other natural disasters. But you know it's a big one when even we in the comfortable West wake up with a sense of dismay. I'm sure Christians of many denominations have been consoled by Pope Leo's rebuke to the various justifications of this war 'War is never holy; only peace is holy'.

Some of the events of Holy Week have a similar capacity to shock us and cause us dismay. When we know how the story ends, it's possible for it to lose some of its impact. But Good Friday *imagined as it must have felt to the disciples* has some resonance with the tumultuous events in the Middle East.

The disciples had become convinced that Jesus was the Messiah, the one who would bring a whole new order of God's justice and peace to their world. So much life and light - the presence of God in Jesus bringing healing and joy even in a world under Roman oppression. Then in the space of less than 24 hours came his arrest, trial, torture and death. Hard to imagine the shock and horror, the bleakness and sheer emptiness the disciples must have felt, as their world fell apart, and they wondered what it had all been for.

That sort of darkness can affect any of us who are enduring really difficult times. Noticing the suffering of Jesus won't make our suffering go away, but it can be a real comfort that God knows what it's like for us.

And after Holy Week, something life-changingly wonderful is on the way! Easter Day is God's response to death and destruction. New, indestructible, resurrection life! Of course there are all sorts of signs

of it even today, in the lives of people motivated by compassion, kindness, love, joy and peace, and the love of Jesus.  
O God, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Happy Easter!

With my prayers and best wishes

**Caspar Bush,**

Team Rector of the Marden Vale Benefice.

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## April 2026 Church Services

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

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### 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](mailto:iliddle1@btopenworld.com) 01249 816229**

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

## Parish Clerk Notes

Following a recent councillor resignation. We currently have a Councillor Vacancy. If by 13 April 2026 a request for an election to fill the vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer at Wiltshire Council below by TEN registered electors from the Parish Ward of Derry Hill & Studley (Derry Hill & Studley Ward), an election will be held to fill the said vacancy, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

There are regularly roadworks in the locality, to get up to date information on planned roadworks please use [www.one.network](http://www.one.network) for all the information.

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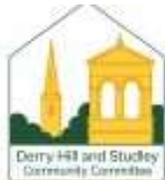
## Mothers' Union Prayer & Fellowship Group

We met on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March after our usual business and prayers led by Barbara, we discussed the upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary service planned for September. Everyone had brought along an item that holds special memories which led to a lively discussion. We then enjoyed tea and biscuits provided by Colette.



Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of April at 2pm in Christ Church when Dr Lizzie Rogers will speak about the connections between Jane Austen and Bowood House and Nan will provide the refreshments. All are welcome to join us.

**Colette**



# Derry Hill & Studley



## Best Kept Village Competition 2026



Derry Hill and Studley are entering the Wiltshire Best Kept Village competition again this year. In 2025, we came second in the North Wiltshire region - a fantastic achievement for our first effort.

 What do we need to show? 

- Community Spirit
- Attention to detail
- Tidiness and presentation of villages
- How we protect and enhance our local environment

 When do we need to be ready? 

**Initial judging:**

11<sup>th</sup> May- 7<sup>th</sup> June

contact: [martin.handyside@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:martin.handyside@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk)

# Lansdowne Hall News

## AGM 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

The Lansdowne Hall Management Committee and the Derry Hill and Studley Village Hall Trust will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

The Hall runs on a not for profit basis to keep its facilities affordable to local users. To expand the range of activities offered to the community we welcome enquiries from anyone that needs space for a group or class to meet. You can see all the facilities the hall has to offer and book online at [www.lansdownehall.org](http://www.lansdownehall.org)

If you have any questions about a booking please contact the Hall Administrator, Jane Clark 07860 940323  
[administrator@lansdownehall.org](mailto:administrator@lansdownehall.org)

*Lansdowne Hall Management Committee*

## Free CPR & Defib Training Thurs 7th May

8 in 10 cardiac arrests (outside of hospital) happen at home.



The NHS are increasingly telling 999 callers, with suspected Heart problems, to get one of our defibs out ready to use in case their paramedic or ambulance is delayed. Do you know how to do CPR and/or use the Defibrillator?

Can you tell the difference between a **Cardiac Arrest** and a **Heart Attack**? Come and find out and help protect your family by learning how to do CPR (Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation) and how to use a Defibrillator in just 30-60 minutes with our NHS paramedic – and its free!

To book your place on our special awareness/training session on CPR and Defibs on Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the New Meeting Room in the Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill  
email: [julesoliver3@gmail.com](mailto:julesoliver3@gmail.com) or text/call me on 07769 970401.

Believe it or not Heartbeat isn't funded by the NHS – we are entirely volunteers and rely on the generosity of the village to help cover the regular costs of replacing batteries and pads, so if you can help us with a one-off donation or a small regular standing order that would be great, our account details are:

Account Name:Derry Hill and Studley Heartbeat  
Sort Code:30-91-99  
Account No:52349360

**Julian** Derry Hill and Studley Heartbeat  
07769 970401 / [julesoliver3@gmail.com](mailto:julesoliver3@gmail.com)



**All Proceeds in Support of  
The British Heart Foundation**

Charity Number 225971



# **CRAFTS 4 HEARTS**

**Assorted Traditional Crafts**

**The Dumb Post Inn**

**Event Tent**

**Sat May 9th 2026**

**10:30am - 4:00pm**

**30 Craft Stalls**

**Free Entry**

**Community Bake off**

**CPR & Defib Awareness**

**Tea's / Coffee's / Cakes / BBQ**

**Cardio Challenge**

The Dumb Post Inn, Bremhill, Wiltshire, SN11 9JZ

## Sky at Night

April brings longer evenings and (hopefully!) milder conditions, making it a great month to step outside and enjoy the night sky.



One of the highlights this month is the return of the *Lyrid meteor shower*, which peaks around 22nd–23rd April. Under dark skies, you may spot up to 10–20 meteors per hour, with occasional bright streaks lighting up the sky. For the best chance of seeing them, look up after midnight, away from streetlights, and give your eyes time to adjust.

The planets also put on a good show. *Jupiter* remains visible in the early evening sky, shining brightly in the west after sunset, while *Mars* can be spotted higher up, with its distinctive reddish hue. Early risers are rewarded too—*Venus* continues to dazzle as the “Morning Star” in the east before sunrise.

April is also a lovely time to explore some deep-sky objects. The constellation *Leo* is prominent this month, and with binoculars or a small telescope you may be able to glimpse distant galaxies such as the Leo Triplet—a reminder of just how vast our universe is.

Keep an eye out for the *full Moon* on 2nd April, often called the “Pink Moon,” named after spring wildflowers rather than its colour. Later in the month, darker skies around the new Moon (17th April) will provide ideal conditions for stargazing.

If you’re lucky, and solar activity remains strong, there’s always a small chance of catching the *Northern Lights* from the UK—particularly in darker, northern areas.

Wrap up warm, be patient, and take a moment to look up—April’s skies have plenty to offer.

*Katherine Checchia*

## Book Club Review

When the Fireflies Dance by Aisha Hassan

This month's Book Club choice was Aisha Hassan's debut novel. Set in Lahore, Pakistan; it follows the life and family of Lalloo all indentured to a Bhatti (an existing and ongoing form of modern slavery in which an estimated 2.3 million people still work). Conditions and poverty are atrocious; men, women and children expected to produce around 1200 bricks a day, labouring in intense heat and dust without adequate shelter and food. Failure to meet their target increases the debt which can never be reduced with the owners likened to the mafia. Despite these Bhatti's being unlawful since 1992 little is done to curb their existence.

After the death of his brother and only 7 years old, Lalloo's parents send him away to live in a garage learning to be a mechanic. His aim is to free his family from the Bhatti and provide a dowry for his sister. The author manages the huge contrast of wealth and poverty very eloquently and builds the friendships, loyalty and love through some cleverly portrayed characters together with evocative description of Lahore.

"How far would you go to save the people you love, knowing the system was never designed to let you win?"

---

## 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.

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



### March Highlights

Thank you to all those who came to the Easter Fayre, we hope you had a wonderful time. It was great to see so many families and villagers enjoying the activities. All the money raised will be going towards new furniture and equipment for the nursery and after school club, so your support really does make a difference to the children.

We would also like to say a big thank you Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council. We are very grateful to have been awarded a parish council grant, which will be going towards our furniture regeneration project. All those from Rub a Dub - the staff, volunteers and most importantly the children would like to say a huge thank you.

### Coming up in April

As we well and truly skip into spring, our activities will ramp up outside and we will be spending lots of time in the garden. The children will be planting up our raised beds and growing sunflowers.

Our Rising Stars, who will be going to school in September, will be entering their final term with us. We will be working with them to help this transition go smoothly and have lots of activities planned to promote growing independence.

*Megan Lee (Committee Secretary)*

## Derry Tots Toddler Group



Firstly, just a note on our memberships – we know that committing to a playgroup every week isn't always easy, so we've introduced a flexible, non-subscription option for parents and carers who need a bit more wiggle room. Our aim is to make the playgroup as welcoming and accessible as possible for everyone in the community, whether you can join us regularly or just drop in when it suits. If you'd like to find out more, please email the contact below.

### February / March Round Up

We've had a brilliant term at playgroup, with plenty to keep us all busy and imaginations buzzing. There's been a lovely mix of crafts, from Valentine's cards to Gruffalo hats and some wonderfully creative super-vegetable puppets. We finished things off in style with an Easter party, complete with egg collecting, baskets in hand, and lots of gentle encouragement to make sure the littlest ones got their fair share too. A busy, cheerful term all round!



### Looking Forward

One of the best things about Lansdowne Hall is that it works just as well for wet welly days as it does for sunny afternoons. After the Easter holidays, we're really looking forward to taking our playgroup outside and making the most of the warmer weather (fingers crossed!). Crafts and story time aren't going anywhere—they'll just be getting a breath of fresh air too. Expect the same mix of creativity and chaos, just with a bit more sunshine, space to roam, and the occasional grassy knee thrown in.

### Interested in Joining Us?

If you'd like to know more about the playgroup, please contact us at [enqdhuf@gmail.com](mailto: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

# Calne Neighbourhood Policing Update

## **Introduction**

Welcome to our 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 do contact me using my Email address: [mark.cook@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:mark.cook@wiltshire.police.uk)



## **Crime and incident updates**

- 13/02/2026, after a 3 vehicle Collison on the A361 one of the vehicles was seized for no insurance. The driver has also been reported for the offence.
- 13/02/2026, a vehicle was stopped on the A361 by officers where the driver was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs.
- 05/03/2026 at 18:56hrs, a male was stopped and searched in Derry Hill. No drugs were found, but the male admitted to having smoked cannabis a short time earlier.
- 11/03/2026 driver reported for the offence of using a mobile phone whilst driving on the A3102 near to Mile Elm.
- 11/03/2026, report received of a vehicle driving at speed and overtaking on corner and over solid white lines in Mile Elm. Submitted dash camera footage is currently being reviewed.

## **Traffic congestion in Church Road.**

At the request of residents and the school, some small adjustments have been put in place in Church Road Derry Hill to help reduce traffic congestion during school drop-off and pick-up times.

We understand that these times can be challenging for parents and other road users, but we hope the temporary measures introduced will help improve traffic flow and make things easier for everyone.

We kindly ask that all drivers respect the adjustments that have been put in place. Doing so will help make passing through the village during these busy times safer and more manageable for all.

## **Closed fishing season 2026 - March 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>**

The coarse fish close season is approaching meaning it's illegal to fish for coarse fish in rivers until 15th June inclusive.

Don't forget, there are plenty of still waters or canal coarse fisheries where you can fish.

These rules are aimed at protecting fish stocks and making fisheries sustainable. Freshwater fish include salmon, trout, coarse fish and eels

Learn more here: Freshwater rod fishing rules: Overview - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

## **Social Media and Community Messaging**

Regular updates and details of our public engagement events can be found on Facebook page: Calne police

**PCSO Mark Cook**  
**Calne Neighbourhood Police Team**

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## **Mobile Library Visits to Derry Hill**

**Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill**

14.30-15.45

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April & 28<sup>th</sup> April

**Kingston House Derry Hill**

10.10-10.30

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April



## Derry Hill & District W.I.

The highlight of the last month was definitely our members' meal. We do have some talented cooks in our group and we enjoyed fish pie, lasagne, various curries and tagine, not to mention the wonderful desserts.



It was a great social occasion and everyone joined in to set up and clear away, in fact we had a job getting everybody out by 10pm.



We also had a coffee morning at the social centre in Bromham, a lovely new café in a super setting.



In April we will be listening to Nigel Linacre telling us about Wellboring, a local charity which builds wells to provide safe drinking water in parts of Africa.

We will definitely be looking forward to the Spring when hopefully we can resume our walks in Bowood and having our coffee and chats outdoors.

Derry Hill W.I. meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:derryhillsec@wiltshirewi.org.uk)

*Sally*

## JAZZ CLUB

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

with:

NAT STEELE'S MJQ

vibraphone plus piano trio exploring the MJQ repertoire

BYO refreshments, NO BAR !!



Entry: £10 at the door, Reservations and/or cancelations please to: [harphammusic@hotmail.com](mailto:harphammusic@hotmail.com)  
or phone: 07976 945055

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](http://www.WCCM.org)

## Derry Hill & Studley Gardening Club



The talk at the March meeting was 'For the Love of Roses.' We were joined by Gillian Taylor who is an enthusiastic gardener and plantswoman with a passion for roses. She told us the story of how she became a lover of roses. She had just 2 roses a few years ago and now has over 400!

The talk covered the different types of roses that are available, where to buy them, how to use them in various garden settings, where to see them, their care and suggestions for companion plants to use with them.

Gillian donates her fee to Perennial – the UK charity that supports people working in or retired from the Horticultural community.

Our first Competition Table of the year was A Saucer of Hellebores. There were some excellent entries – our winner this month was Alex.



The next meeting is on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Our speaker will be Ros Ford who will be talking about The National Garden Scheme.

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](mailto:DHANDSGC@outlook.com) 0783 3755232.

## **Derry Hill and Studley Community Committee**

We came a close second in our district last year. Let's see what we can do this year.

Judging for this district will occur between 11 May and 7 June and then again in July for the whole of Wiltshire. The purpose is to find the village which presents the best impression of a community which takes pride in itself and oozes warmth and fizz.

- We're currently planning a Village Tidy Up the first weekend of May for all those who would like to help.
- Meantime, take a look at your house and garden from the roadside and just ask yourself if it could do with a bit of tidying and/or smartening up. Perhaps it's about weeding between the slabs, cutting the grass, overhanging hedges or fixing that hanging basket bracket. Now is the time to address those things you have been putting off.
- We have noted the continual cry to clear up after our dogs and we would urge you to please always do this and if you witness someone not doing so then call them out if you feel confident enough to do so.
- Why not take a small bag with you when you go for a walk and if you come across any litter then pick it up and dispose of it at home or the nearest bin – search for your inner Womble!
- Your efforts, no matter how small, may help us to secure this marvellous accolade. And don't forget, being able to say that Derry Hill & Studley is the Best Kept Village may even add a bit to the value of your house! There, more blatant bribery.

Contact Martin and the BKV team 07802 475018 with any ideas, things you can help with or that we can help you with.

## ***Parish Council and Community Committee***

## 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](http://www.derryhillandstudley.org)



## Hot Shots Walking Netball

The weather has been very mixed! Lovely warm sunshine to bitter cold and more rain, but, netball has carried on. We have played outside and in, having lots of fun wherever we play.



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

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## 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](http://uk.edenrenewables.com/forest-gate-solar)

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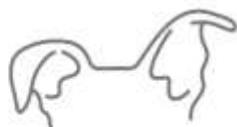
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# April 2026 Crossword



## ACROSS

- 4 ideal (7)  
 7 prayer ending (4)  
 9 heavy metal (4)  
 10 hard wood (4)  
 14 rely (6)  
 15 ancient Greek instrument (4)  
 17 doubt (11)

- 18 turn into bone (6)  
 19 stringed instrument (5)  
 20 fire raising (5)  
 21 sheet of Of glass (4)

## DOWN

- 1 relegate (6)  
 2 condiment (4)  
 3 hot pepper (6)

- 5 concentrate (5)  
 6 clergyman (7)  
 8 fondle (6)  
 11 ordinary shares (8)  
 12 extra (10)  
 13 configuration (7)  
 16 error (7)

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# Wellbeing Notes

## Cultivating wellbeing

In a local discussion group recently, we swapped notes about some favourite wellbeing practices. We began with a question: 'What was a notable wellbeing gift that you once received?' I loved the way everyone shared meaningful stories. Some of the gifts were unexpected treats, such as a bouquet of flowers, a couple of tickets to Bath Spa, and a voucher for Langley Nurseries. In other answers, the gifts cost nothing at all, but were full of kindness and love. These included handwritten messages, and practical or moral support at times that we needed it.



One of the subjects that came up quite a lot was mental health, and all the challenges around that. We shared our experiences of depression, anxiety and burn-out – how easy it can be to slide down the mental health slope and how challenging it can be to help ourselves out of it. Several mentioned the value of setting achievable tasks. “It gives structure to my day,” was one comment. “We all need a purpose, don’t we?” was another.

One member took us through a quick routine of chair stretches – fun to do, and a valuable reminder that simple movement can enhance mental as well as physical wellbeing. Finally, we talked about things we were looking forward to sunshine, friends and travel all featured here.

We finished with a question that I would like to share with you: how will you look after your wellbeing today?

*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 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

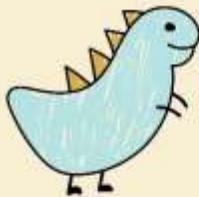
The group, run by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Wellbeing Programme, will offer local men aged 20-59 the opportunity to meet new people and build confidence through nature-based activities. During the 12 weeks, participants will visit local nature reserves and have the opportunity to engage in a range of 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 23<sup>rd</sup> March from 11am-2.30pm and will run for 12 weeks.

For more information on joining, visit the website [www.wiltshirewildlife.org/mens-wellbeing](http://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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3 hot pepper (6)

5 concentrate (5)

6 clergyman (7)

8 fondle (6)

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12 extra (10)

13 configuration (7)

16 error (7)



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