

DERRY HILL AND
STUDLEY MATTERS

inSPIRE



May 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.

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Derry Hill
Store &
Post Office
(opening soon)**

National Lottery

**Open every day
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Petty Lane Derry Hill
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Editorial

As April gives way to May, there's a noticeable lift in both the weather and the spirit of our community. After what has felt like a long stretch of grey skies and damp days, it's a real pleasure to welcome warmer temperatures, lighter evenings, and the chance to spend more time outdoors again. Gardens are beginning to bloom, and there's a renewed sense of energy across the village.

With this change in season comes an opportunity to come together once more. On 2nd May, we'll be joining forces for the Best Kept Village tidy-up—a chance not only to take pride in our surroundings but also to strengthen the community spirit that makes our village so special. We'll be meeting at Christchurch, Church Road, Derry Hill, from 10.00am to 12.00pm. Whether you're able to spare an hour or the full morning, every contribution makes a difference.

These moments of collective effort are about more than just appearances. They reflect the care we have for where we live and for one another. A well-kept village is something we can all take pride in, and it sends a welcoming message to everyone who visits or passes through.

I hope many of you will be able to get involved, and in doing so, enjoy the fresh air, good company, and shared sense of purpose that events like this bring. Here's to brighter days ahead and another opportunity to showcase our village at its absolute best.

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 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	DHANDSGC@outlook.com
Community committee	www.derryhillandstudley.org
Bowood Carving and woodwork group	bowoodcarving@gmail.com
Wellbeing Walks on Wednesdays	Colette Som 01249 736497

Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council



It's now almost a year since Calne Without Parish Council became Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council. Our annual Parish Meeting will be held on Saturday 16th May at 2pm in the Lansdowne Hall. This will be an opportunity for residents to hear about the Council's work over the past year and to share their thoughts and ideas for improving our community. We'll also be using the meeting to launch our consultation survey to help shape the Council's Strategic Plan. Please come along!

District judging for the Best Kept Village competition will take place between 11th May and 7th June, so we'll need a big effort for this year's village tidy-up. If you're able to help, then please come along to the church at 10am on Saturday 2nd May.

Following the resignation of one of our councillors for personal reasons, we now have another vacancy for Derry Hill and Studley Ward. If you're interested in applying to be a parish councillor and helping to make a difference to our community, then please contact our Parish Clerk at clerk@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk.

We have "Twenty is Plenty" wheelie bin stickers to reinforce the 20mph speed limits in Derry Hill and Studley. Thanks to everyone who's taken some so far. If you'd like some for your bins, then please email our Parish Clerk and we'll drop some round to you.



Derry Hill Traffic Calming Scheme

In 2021, the Parish Council engaged a highways consultant to undertake a feasibility study into traffic issues in what was then the parish of Calne Without. The brief placed a strong emphasis on the principle that, *"if you want drivers to behave as they should in a village, make sure it feels like a village."*

The study proposed enhancements at five locations on Church Road and Studley Lane in Derry Hill. The proposals were designed to reinforce existing traffic calming with additional measures, such as using contrasting materials, to enhance the presence of village features including the shop, school, church, war memorial and the village gateway from the A4.

We presented these proposals to a packed Parish Meeting in April 2023, where they were overwhelmingly backed by those present. We then put forward the scheme through Wiltshire Council's Calne Area LHFIFG (Local Highways and Footpaths Improvements Group). LHFIFG supported the further development of the scheme by Wiltshire Highways. Last year, we were successful in bidding for substantive highway scheme funding to deliver the project.

Wiltshire Council are now due to start these works soon. This will cause some short-term disruption in the village but will deliver long-term benefit in moderating driver speeds.

We are very conscious of the condition of the eastern end of Church Road and have been pushing, in conjunction with our Wiltshire Councillor, Ashley O'Neill, for this to be resurfaced for some time. I've been advised that some patching work will be done soon, and the area maintenance engineer is pushing for the resurfacing to be included within the major maintenance team's programme.

We're also currently awaiting the outcome of this year's substantive highway scheme funding process, to find out if we've been successful with a similar bid for similar traffic calming measures to highlight the entrances to the new 20mph speed limit covering Studley and Norley Lane.

Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme

The Government has rolled out this voucher scheme to help rural homes upgrade to full fibre broadband. The vouchers are worth up to £4,500 per eligible property but projects must include at least two premises. The application window closes in August. The scheme is aimed at difficult-to-reach properties, which would otherwise not be served by commercial rollouts.

Residents can see whether gigabit-capable broadband is available or planned to become available at their address through the new Gigabit Broadband Availability Checker: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-your-gigabit-broadband-availability>.

I've been sent a certain amount of information about the scheme from Wiltshire Council. If you'd like to find out more, then please drop me a line at john.barnes@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk.

Next Council Meeting Dates

Monday 11th May 2026 @ 7:30pm – Full Council

Saturday 16th May 2026 @ 2:00pm – Parish Meeting

Monday 8th June 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

Lansdowne Hall News

Front Garden Improvements

The Hall Committee are working with the Derry Hill and Studley Gardening Club to improve the front garden. The gardening club kindly agreed to suggest improvements that could be made and to tidy the current planting some of which has outgrown the space.

As soon as the detailed plans have been agreed we will be sharing them. To keep costs at a minimum the Hall would appreciate any donations of plants that local people are able to make, so if you are splitting plants or have more seedlings than you need, we'd love to hear from you.

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. In particular we will have a regular evening spot available in the main hall from September.

Now we have longer evenings, remember that the multi pitch is available to hire at a very reasonable rate whether it's for a one-off game or a regular club. You can see all the facilities the hall has to offer and book online at www.lansdownehall.org

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

Lansdowne Hall Management Committee

Sarah's Thoughts

I'm writing this a week after Easter, and a day after the crew of Artemis 2 returned to earth. As I watched reports of the space mission, and the fact that these four people travelled further into space than any human beings had ever been before, I was awestruck . . . and yet I was aware that, in the context of the universe, they'd hardly moved. There are about two hundred billion stars in the Milky Way (of which our sun is one), and about one hundred billion galaxies. The earth is just a speck of dust compared with the limitless dimensions of the universe which God created. And yet, this speck of dust and we, as its inhabitants, are important enough to the Lord of that universe that he sent his Son to live and die among us!

WOW!

. . . is one totally inadequate response to that thought. Amidst the vastness of the universe, the Lord created us, out of love, to live in relationship with him. When we messed up that relationship, he didn't give up on us. No, he sent his Son to live among us, to die for us, and to rise again for us too. He wasn't going to let us go our own way. He loves us far too much for that.

WOW!

I think we all know that we're not worthy of this kind of love. We live our lives, and even when we try our best, we mess up. When I realised that even my best efforts fell far short, the Lord intervened. Gently and lovingly he said to me, "I know you're not perfect. That's why I came and died for you. No matter what you've done, no matter what you might do in the future, I love you, and I'm not letting you go. I died on that cross so that you can be forgiven. All you have to do is to turn away from your sin and receive my forgiveness. I know that you'll go on messing things up. But I sent my Spirit to live in you and change you, to make you into the person I created you to be. If you allow me to, I will work within you for the rest of your life, moulding you and making you into that person. All you have to do is to receive my Spirit."

WOW!

I still mess up, every day of my life. But every day I am reminded of what God said to me all those years ago. And I pray that you will also know the assurance that you are infinitely precious to him.

With prayers and best wishes

Sarah Errington

(Team Vicar; email: sarah.errington@mardenvale.org.uk; tel: 01249 263430)

May 2026 Church Services

Details of the Church services for May 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.

Parish Clerk Notes

Following a recent councillor resignation. We currently have a Councillor Vacancy to represent the Derry Hill & Studley ward. An election has not been requested therefore the vacancy can be filled by co-option. If you are interested in finding out more about the role and what it entails, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or any of the councillors on the parish council. All their contact details can be found on our website. www.derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk

There are regularly roadworks in the locality, to get up to date information on planned roadworks please use www.one.network for all the information.

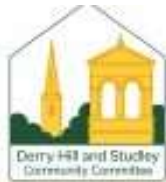
Mothers' Union Prayer & Fellowship Group

We met on Wednesday 1st April at 2pm in Christ Church and were delighted to welcome, by kind permission of Lord Kerry, Dr Lizzie Rogers who is the archivist at Bowood. We were also thrilled to welcome 4 visitors to our meeting; it was a pleasure to be joined by all of you and thank you so much for coming along to hear about Jane Austen.

After we had run through the regular admin we handed over to Dr Lizzie Rogers who gave us an excellent talk about Jane Austen and her connection with Bowood. It was fascinating, informative and above all very, very enjoyable. Dr Lizzie was an excellent speaker and everyone thoroughly enjoyed listening to her along with the discussions that it prompted. Thank you so much for joining us for what was a very special afternoon. This was followed by refreshments which Nan very kindly laid on, her homemade Easter biscuits were delicious. Thank you Nan.

Next month we meet on Wednesday 6th May at 2pm in Christ Church when Judi will be doing the opening prayers, Nan will be speaking about floral matters and Barbara is on refreshments. All are very welcome to join us.

Barbara M Parry



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:

11th May- 7th June

contact: martin.handyside@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk



Derry Hill and Studley
Community Committee

**COME JOIN US
FOR A**



VILLAGE TIDY UP



10.00– 12.00

SATURDAY 2ND MAY 2026

**MEET AT CHRISTCHURCH,
DERRY HILL**

**HELP GET THE
VILLAGES READY
FOR BEST KEPT
VILLAGE JUDGING**

**FREE CUPPA &
BUTTY FOR YOUR
EFFORTS**

martin.handyside@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk

Free CPR & Defib Training Thurs 7th May

A cardiac arrest (when the heart suddenly stops pumping blood around the body) claims the lives of tens of thousands of people each year. It doesn't have to be like that. Just one hour of training on how to perform CPR and use the defibrillators in our village can make a difference and save a life.



Book your place on our special awareness/training session on CPR and Defibs on Thurs 7th May at 7.30pm in the New Meeting Room in the Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill. It is a free event and all are welcome to attend. This event can only be put on once a year so come along. email: julesoliver3@gmail.com or text/call me on 07769 970401.

With well over 38 deployments since our six defibs were purchased the original units installed in 2014 have reached the end of their life and need replacing. With the great funding support we have received from the community in Derry Hill and Studley plus the Parish Council we have been able to replace the 2 units at the Lansdowne Hall and the Studley Methodist Chapel with the very latest automatic units and new cabinets.

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



**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

May brings a rewarding mix of celestial sights for UK stargazers, with meteor activity, striking lunar displays, and some lovely planetary pairings.



The headline event this month is the *Eta Aquariid meteor shower*, which peaks in the early hours of *5–6 May*. Caused by debris from Halley’s Comet, this shower can produce up to 10–30 meteors per hour from the UK, although it is best viewed just before dawn when the radiant is higher in the sky. This year, bright moonlight may reduce visibility slightly, so seek out darker skies for the best chance of spotting these swift “shooting stars.”

The Moon itself puts on a show this month, with *two Full Moons*—a relatively rare occurrence. The first, on *1 May*, is known as the “*Flower Moon*”, and in 2026 it is also a *micromoon*, appearing slightly smaller than usual as it lies farther from Earth. A second Full Moon on *31 May* is a “*Blue Moon*”, making this an unusual and visually interesting month for lunar observers.

Early May also offers a beautiful pairing on *4 May*, when the nearly full Moon passes close to the bright red star *Antares* in the constellation Scorpius—an eye-catching sight low in the southern sky after dark.

As the month progresses, the evenings grow shorter but warmer, making May an ideal time for relaxed stargazing. While meteor activity drops off after mid-month, the Milky Way begins to edge into view in darker skies, hinting at the richer summer skies to come.

Wrap up warm, find a dark spot away from streetlights, and take a moment to look up—you never know what you might catch.

Katherine Checchia

Book Club Review

We have been reading *Dream Count* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. This was a fascinating insight into the lives of 4 single African women in their 40s. 3 of them were wealthy Nigerians and the other was a maid from Guinea. All of them lived at some point in the USA and the book explored their struggles as black women to navigate an alien culture. Although not a linear story, their lives did connect and many issues were explored including rape, FGM and corruption in Nigeria. The title, *dream count* refers to the number of “dreams” or potential husbands that the women encounter and subsequently reject. The author is very much a feminist!

I felt I learned a lot and the book was beautifully written with plenty of humour to offset the more serious topics. Some of our group found the characters irritating and thought it was overly long but it led to a very lively and long-lasting discussion. So, I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it, particularly to other book groups.

Sally

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



April Highlights

Quite unbelievably, we entered the final summer term of the year. The year is flying by. We enjoyed what April had to offer, with the joys of spring flowers, some sun and Easter celebrations.

Coming up in May

We are running a Bag2School collection on **Friday 15th May**. Please donate any unwanted clothes and shoes by dropping them off, outside the nursery at the Village Hall at around 9am on the day.

Bag2School is a fundraising scheme that helps schools and community groups raise funds through textile recycling - they pay per kg of donations. The items are then exported to countries around the world.

This is a great opportunity to have a spring clear out and at the same time, help the pre-school with our fundraising.

Kind regards,

Megan Lee (Committee Secretary)

Mobile Library Visits to Derry Hill

Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill
14.30-15.45
Tuesday 12th & 26th May 2026

Kingston House Derry Hill
10.10-10.30
Monday 4th May 2026



Derry Tots Toddler Group

Derry Tots is a welcoming toddler group for children from birth to 5 years old, held every Wednesday during term time, 9:30–11:30am at the Lansdowne Village Hall.



Run entirely by volunteers, our group offers a warm, friendly space for little ones to play, explore, and learn — and for parents, grandparents, and carers to connect with others in the local community.

Each week features themed crafts, stories, and a fun rhyme time, along with a variety of toys, role play activities, and a cosy reading corner. Babies have a safe area to enjoy, and in the warmer months we make the most of the outdoors, while our large, bright hall keeps us cosy through the winter.

We provide healthy snacks for the children and hot drinks and biscuits for the grown-ups. If you'd like to join us regularly, the cost is £2.50 for the first child and £1.50 for additional children. We know that committing to a playgroup every week isn't always easy, so we've also introduced a flexible, non-subscription option for parents and carers who need a bit more wiggle room - just email the contact below if you'd like more info.

Whether you're new to the area or a familiar face, Derry Tots is a lovely place to spend the morning — full of friendly chatter, happy play, and community spirit.

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

Calne Neighbourhood Policing Update

Crime and incident updates

- 05/03/2026, officers stopped a male smelling of Cannabis in Chapel Street. Derry Hill. No drugs were found.
- 17/03/2026, report of a single vehicle collision into a property in Silver Street in Calne.
- 22/03/2026, female driver of vehicle as arrested for failing to provide a breath sample on the A4 in Cherhill.
- 24/03/2026, unknown persons have gained entry to a vehicle in Studley Gardens and attempted to 'hotwire' it.
- 27/03/2026, officers attended a single vehicle road collision in Church Road, Derry Hill. The driver of the vehicle was arrested on suspicion of driving over the prescribed alcohol limit.



Damage caused to Golden Gates lawn.

Two individuals have been arrested on suspicion of offences of criminal damage and perverting the course of justice due to their involvement in causing damage to the lawn of the golden gates.

One suspect admitted the offence and will receive a police caution for criminal damage and making a false report to the police, the conditions of which are to repay the £150 to Bowood and to attend a victim awareness course.

No further action was taken against the second individual.



Driver fails to stop at two vehicle collision on A4 Derry Hill.

On Thursday (26/03), there was a two-vehicle collision on the A4 near the junction of Old Derry Hill. One driver sustained a neck injury after their vehicle flipped on impact and was taken to hospital for further

treatment by the ambulance service. Fire crews also attended to assist with extraction and to make the vehicle safe.

The driver of the other vehicle failed to stop at the scene. Following a search of the area, the vehicle was located abandoned in a nearby car park.

Wiltshire Police Dog Section attended to assist in locating the driver, a male who alleged to be the driver later attended Monkton Park Police Station to speak with officers. This investigation is ongoing.

We would like to thank members of the public who stopped to assist at the scene, and motorists for their patience while traffic was managed.

Court Result

On Friday, March 13th 2026, Cameron Josephson, of Studley Gardens, near Calne was sentenced for driving offences. The 20-year-old pleaded guilty to driving while disqualified and driving without insurance in Studley Lane, Calne on August 16th 2025 Josephson was banned from driving for seven months and 14 days, fined £120, and was ordered to pay cost of £85.

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

Social Media and Community Messaging

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PCSO Mark Cook
Calne Neighbourhood Police Team

Derry Hill & District W.I.

Last month we were entertained by Jeff Evans telling us about the history of TV quiz shows which brought back so many memories and was very amusing.



In May we will be hearing from two local authors about their work.



We had our first walk of the year at the Woodland Gardens in Bowood. It wasn't the beautiful spring day that we had hoped for but those of who did manage a walk enjoyed the bluebells and the rhododendrons.

In the future we are looking forward to a walk round the wild flowers at Sutton Meadows, coffee at the Pewsham and a garden visit to Cadenham Manor at Foxham.

We were very pleased to welcome four new members to the committee, all to be having various secretarial roles and securing the future of our group.

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

JAZZ CLUB

Our next concert at Marden House,
Calne, will be on
Tuesday May 26th:
7 for 7.30pm....with:



JAKE LEG JUG BAND

Admission still only £10,
please pay at the door as usual....

Reservations please to this email and say where you'd prefer to sit in
rows 1 to 6 - on the back wall or in the balcony...

BYO Refreshments please as there's
NO BAR!

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

Derry Hill & Studley Gardening Club



The speaker at our April meeting was Ros Ford who is the Wiltshire County Organiser of the National Open Garden Scheme.

There are over 3,000 private gardens in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands (including over 60 in Wiltshire) that open on various dates and raises money for nursing and health charities such as Macmillan Cancer Support, Hospice UK & Parkinsons UK through admissions, teas and cake. In 2025 Wiltshire raised over £125,000.

Details of all gardens open can be found at ngs.org.uk.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 5th May. Our speaker will be Ray Broughton who will be talking about vegetables.

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.



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



Hot Shots Walking Netball

Easter has come and gone! We are looking forward to lots of warm sunny days

to play our netball outside. We always plan a fun session for our members and people do as much as they can. The aims of walking netball are to socialise whilst keeping fit. Indoors or out we have 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 in late Spring/early Summer.

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
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£10 per ticket (non-refundable)
Demonstration flowers will be entered into a raffle

Please contact Vicky Goodship on 07846 903017 for a ticket.



Flower Demonstration Fundraiser

In January last year, our daughter Evie was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. Since then, she has undergone various chemotherapy treatments and, thankfully, is now in remission. Throughout this difficult time, the Children's Oncology Team at Great Western Hospital have provided outstanding care, showing not only expertise but real kindness to Evie, her sister Grace, and our family.

To say thank you, I am organising a fundraiser to support the team who have done so much for us. The funds raised will go towards a much-needed piece of equipment that the unit currently cannot afford. This will allow nurses to practise accessing Ports and Hickman Lines in children, helping them to deliver treatment and take blood samples with greater confidence and care.

We chose to hold the fundraiser in Derry Hill, a village that has always meant a great deal to us. I grew up there and, although I no longer live in the village, I still feel a strong connection. Many of you may know my parents, Lyn and Mike Jarvis, and my grandparents, Leonard and Gladys Jarvis, and Rita and Phillip Crabb, all of whom were part of the Derry Hill community. My husband and I were married in the church, and both Evie and Grace were christened there, making it a very special place for our family.

The evening will feature a flower demonstration by Michael Bowyer, who also has close ties to the village as my dad's cousin and spent much of his younger years here. It promises to be an enjoyable evening, with Michael creating beautiful arrangements while sharing stories from his travels.

It would be wonderful to see some familiar faces from Derry Hill—do come along, enjoy the evening, and help support a very worthwhile cause.

Vicky Goodship



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May 2026 Crossword



ACROSS

2 Young child (3)

4 Trainee (5)

5 Bike for 2 (6)

7 Wall

painting (5)

8 Mend (6)

11 Low dam (4)

12 Health

resort (3)

14 Region (8)

15 Annually (6)

16 Pen part (3)

17 English

county (5)

DOWN

1 Repast (4)

3 Large sea (5)

4 Neutral (9)

6 Upright (5)

7 Planet (4)

9 Sled dog (5)

10 Emphasise (6)

13 Italian wine (4)

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Wellbeing notes

From stress to bliss, by stepping outdoors

Recently I returned home after a month of travelling through some quite extreme climates. North Wiltshire, in spring, struck me as the very nicest place to be: the woods were greening, and many of the flowering hedgerows were postcard-pretty. The air seemed fresh and sweet – the perfect temperature and humidity. I couldn't help thinking that we're lucky to be far from wars here; and the most dangerous creatures are probably the adders that live peacefully at the bottom of a neighbour's garden. Why would anyone ever want to leave?



Roll on a few weeks, and the demands of everyday life have started piling up, like they do. Every task demands time and energy, like attention-hungry children saying, “*Look at me!*” “*No, look at mee.*”

How on earth can you continue to appreciate the beauty of your neighbourhood when you're feeling completely stressed? One simple strategy that I'm trying at the moment is to do something physical every day, preferably outdoors. Walking or running, yoga or swimming, spring-cleaning or gardening... there's plenty to choose from. Physical exercise can be as basic as taking one step at a time, or even a few stretches on a bench. The key thing is that it literally removes you from cycles of negative thinking, right into the actual, amazing landscape that stretches out all around us.

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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April 2026 Crossword



ACROSS

4 school (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 horns (6)

19 stringed instrument (5)

20 five string (5)

21 sheet of Of glass (4)

5 concentrate (5)

6 clergyman (7)

8 for die (6)

11 ordinary shares (8)

12 extra (10)

13 configuration (7)

16 error (7)

DOWN

1 relegate (6)

2 condiment (4)

3 hot pepper (6)



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