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STUDLEY MATTERS

inSPIRE



September 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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Quarter page	£50.00	6 by 8
Half page	£100.00	12 by 8 or 6 by 16
Full page	£200.00	12 by 16

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Editorial

What a summer it has been! The heat has certainly given us plenty to talk about, and while some of us may have been looking for a shady spot and a cool drink, our villages have continued to show just how adaptable and community-minded they are.

The village fete was a perfect example. With the temperatures soaring, plans had to change at the last minute, but thanks to the hard work and flexibility of the organisers, it was still a fabulous event. A huge thank you to everyone involved in making it happen, and to all those who came along and supported it. It is easy to take these events for granted, but they only happen because people are willing to give their time and energy.

We also have plenty to celebrate from this year's Best Kept Village competition. We were delighted to win our initial category and progress through to the second round, although we didn't quite manage to take the title of Best Large Village. Nevertheless, reaching the second round for the first time is a fantastic achievement. The judges' comments were particularly lovely to read, with the strong sense of community in our villages clearly making an impression. That feels like something worth celebrating far beyond any competition result.

As summer draws to a close, I'm looking forward to another year of producing inSPIRE. Over the coming months, I hope the magazine will continue to be a useful way of keeping everyone up to date with what is happening locally, from community events and activities to the issues and decisions that affect our villages.

Most importantly, I hope it continues to reflect the wonderful community spirit that makes Derry Hill and Studley such special places to live.

Here's to the year ahead!

Katherine

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 Lucinda 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



Many thanks to everyone who responded to the 2026 Parish Survey: we really appreciate the time you have put into providing your thoughts and feedback, which we'll be using to develop the Council's Strategic Plan, setting out our priorities and financial planning for the coming years.

A number of key themes emerged in the survey responses:

- Speeding, "rat-running", parking in the village (particularly during the school run), and the safety of key junctions (e.g. Studley Crossroads).
- The condition of roads and pavements, particularly the A4 footway.
- Requests for further play equipment provision for younger children.
- Support for more trees and wildflowers, protection of established trees and community allotments or growing spaces.
- A desire for more social opportunities.

The Survey highlighted many of the things we value about the parish, including the strong sense of community, local facilities and access to the countryside. These aspects were also reflected in the report from the Best Kept Village judges. In this year's final round, we came a strong third in the Large Village Category, behind Alderbury & Whaddon and Holt. Well done to everyone who helped get us through to this year's finals and a good position.

Finally, from 14th September, the Lower Compton Household Recycling Centre will be trialling a booking system, with bookings opening on 8th September. The pilot will initially allow residents to book a 30-minute slot up to one week in advance, with some same-day appointments available.

Next Council Meeting Dates

Thursday 3rd September 2026 @ 7:30pm – Finance Committee

Monday 14th September 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

September 2026 Church Services

Details of the Church services for September 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.

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the recent death of Margaret Hogarth.

There will be a Celebration of Life Service on Monday 5th October at Christ Church, Derry Hill, starting at 11am.

Please remember the family in your prayers.

Ian Liddle

Lansdowne Hall News

Renovations and Improvements

Those of you who visited our stand at the fete will know a programme of renovations and improvements has been put together to improve facilities and make the hall more sustainable.

Top priority this year is being given to smaller scale projects such as replacing the front door, installing destratification fans in the main hall to recirculate the warm air, and constructing a community garden in front of the New Meeting Room.

Large scale plans to replace all the doors and windows, install more solar panels and introduce heat pumps are also priorities but will require significant fund raising before they can go ahead.

Try something new

Want to try something new then why not take advantage of the Line Dancing taster session on 10th October. From October Get in Line are running weekly line dancing sessions at the Hall on a Thursday evening and have very kindly offered to support the Hall's refurbishment programme by donating all the proceeds from their taster session to the fund. Whether you decide to go alone or take some friends why not give it a go.

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

administrator@lansdownehall.org

Lansdowne Hall Management 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



***“Do not worry about anything,
but with everything by prayer and supplication with
THANKSGIVING,
let your requests be known to God.”
(The Bible - Philippians 4:6)***

This verse is just one of many in the Bible which exhort Christian believers to give thanks to God for all the good things with which he's blessed us. Many of us find it much easier to worry than to give thanks! There's so much to worry about - the extreme heat of this summer, leading to wildfires, water shortages, potential food shortages as crops have suffered from drought, and the thought that this is all just going to get worse as the impacts of global warming become ever greater. There are so many forces in our world over which we have no control, but which threaten our lives and/or livelihood - not just the weather, but cost of living, world conflict, natural disasters; aspects of our own health and economic circumstances. I'm sure you can add all kinds of other issues and problems to the list!

But if we obey Paul's advice from Philippians, and make a point of thanking God for all that he does give us, and even for what we anticipate that he will give us, before it arrives, then we will experience the consequences, which Paul describes in the following verse: *the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

On a corporate level, Christians give thanks every time we celebrate Holy Communion together, because we use some form of Eucharistic Prayer, which is a posh phrase for a "prayer of thanksgiving". During the next few weeks, we'll also be holding our annual Harvest Thanksgiving services. Despite all the worries and concerns of our lives, we have much to thank God for - summer holidays, friends and family, food, clothing and shelter, to name but a few. Something I've discovered recently is that it is impossible to be anxious and thankful at the same time! So practising gratitude is good for us, mentally and physically, as well as spiritually!

With prayers and best wishes

Sarah Errington

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

Parish Clerk Notes

Community Engagement

Following feedback from our recent residents' survey, we're going to trial a monthly community engagement and coffee morning.

Residents told us they would like more opportunities to speak to the Parish Council informally, and there was also interest in having a community café. We've combined these ideas to create an opportunity for residents to drop in, have a cuppa and a chat, and speak to someone from the Parish Council if they have any questions, ideas or concerns.



The sessions will be held in the **Old Meeting Room at Lansdowne Hall**, from **9.00am–12.00pm**. We have three dates booked so far, with more to follow:

- **Thursday 10 September**
- **Thursday 15 October**
- **Tuesday 17 November**

The Parish Clerk and a councillor will be available at each session, and everyone is welcome to drop in, whether you have something you'd like to discuss or simply fancy a coffee and a chat.

We appreciate that morning sessions won't work for everyone, so we're also looking at the possibility of holding some evening events, depending on hall availability. We'll share details of these as soon as we can.

We're also hoping to invite local community groups to some of the sessions, giving them an opportunity to share information about activities and services that may be of interest to residents. We'll share more details once these plans are confirmed.

Footpaths

We're very lucky in Derry Hill and Studley to have a network of footpaths providing access around our villages and the surrounding countryside.

With the main nesting season now coming to an end, this is a good time to take a look at any hedges, shrubs or borders on your property alongside footpaths and check that they aren't starting to encroach on the available walking space.

If you have vegetation overhanging a footpath or the public highway, please take a few minutes to cut it back where necessary. Keeping our paths clear makes them safer and more enjoyable for everyone to use.

A message from Wiltshire Council;

The Big Conversation on Care has now launched, and you are invited to share your views on adult social care. Whether you use care services, care for someone else, work in the sector, or have opinions on how care should work in the future, you can have your say and help shape the future of care. Find out more: [The Big Conversation on Care | The Casey Commission](#)

THANK YOU

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed bottles and items for the Foodbank for the Church stall at the Village Fete.

We were able to take 7 large bags of food and hygiene products to Calne Foodbank,

We also raised £630 for Church funds at the Bottle Stall (this included some extra donations). There were also quite a number of bottles left over, which we will use for a future fundraiser. We are very grateful for all the generous support.

With best wishes,

Sarah Errington

(on behalf of the PCC and congregation of Christ Church).

Cardiac Arrest – 999 & CPR ASAP

If you see a person in cardiac arrest, call 999 immediately and start CPR. You will be told what to do by the 999 operator while you wait for an ambulance to arrive.

Time is critical and CPR is necessary to maintain an oxygen supply to the brain and other organs until the heart can be restarted by defibrillation shock.

You don't need to be qualified to do CPR or to use a defib, you are trying to save a life!



Scan below and watch the video it only takes 5 minutes:



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

Many thanks to all our financial donors without whom we couldn't keep our village defibs operational.

Julian

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

Sky at Night

September brings the first real hint of autumn to our night skies. With the evenings drawing in, there are more opportunities to look upwards and enjoy the changing patterns of stars and constellations.

One of the easiest autumn constellations to spot is **Pegasus**, marked by the distinctive Great Square, four bright stars forming a large square in the eastern sky. Nearby are **Andromeda**, home to our neighbouring Andromeda Galaxy, and **Cassiopeia**, recognisable by its unmistakable W shape. Look towards the west and you can still see summer favourites including **Cygnus**, **Lyra** and **Aquila**, although they are gradually moving lower as autumn takes over.

September's **Full Moon falls on Saturday 26 September** and is traditionally known as the **Harvest Moon**, being the full moon closest to the autumn equinox. The equinox falls on **23 September**, when day and night are approximately equal in length.

The **New Moon is on 11 September**, providing darker skies around the middle of the month, perfect for spotting fainter stars and deep-sky objects.

For those willing to stay up late or set an early alarm, **Jupiter is becoming increasingly prominent in the morning sky**. By the end of September, it will rise around midnight and should be hard to miss as a bright object in the eastern sky.

If you have binoculars or a small telescope, Jupiter is particularly rewarding. Its four largest moons, **Io**, **Europa**, **Ganymede** and **Callisto**, appear as tiny points of light arranged around the planet. Their positions change from night to night, so Jupiter can look different each time you observe it.

As the nights get longer and autumn arrives, take a few minutes to step outside and look up. There's plenty to discover in September's night sky!

Ed

Rub-A-Dub Pre-School

September and the year ahead...

We step into September rejuvenated and with anticipation for the new academic year ahead. Rub-A-Dub will welcome 7 new starters to the Pre-school this month. We always enjoy the start of the new year, as we settle into the routine together.



The year ahead will be full of fun and plenty of play at Pre-school, and we will keep you posted on here about this and our upcoming fundraising events.

A reminder that Rub-a-Dub is a charity and relies on fundraising to supplement the offering we provide for the children. We ask that this year, if you are able, that you support your local Pre-school where possible at our events over the year.

Spaces available

We have some spaces available at the Pre-school. Please do feel free to get in touch if you would like to talk to us about what we offer at Rub-a-Dub we'd love to hear from you.

rubadubpreschoolenquiries@gmail.com

Kind regards,

Megan Lee

(Committee Secretary)

Mobile Library Visits to Derry Hill

Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill

14.30-15.45

Tuesday 1st, 15th & 29th September 2026

Kingston House Derry Hill

10.10-10.30

Monday 21st September 2026



COME AND HAVE A CHAT!

Community Engagement Morning
Thursday 10 September
9.00am – 12.00pm

📍 Old Meeting Room, Lansdowne Hall

Come along for a relaxed chat with members of
Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council or just chat
with your friends.



Enjoy a cuppa and a chat



Share your ideas, views and concerns



Find out what's happening in our parish

There's no need to book – just drop in when you
can.

Future dates will be advertised in inSPIRE magazine.

clerk@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk

www.derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk



Derry Tots Toddler Group

Derry Tots is a welcoming toddler group for children from birth to 4 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 Team Update

Crime and incident updates

- On 21/06/2026, a two-vehicle collision was reported on the A4 near to Derry Hill. Thankfully both drivers were not injured, and the road was re-opened after a short time.
- On 26/06/2026, several vehicles had made close passes of a cyclist on the A4 near to Pewsham. The helmet camera footage has been passed to us for progression.
- On 11/07/2026, a vehicle was stopped by officers on the A361 after showing no insurance. The driver only had a provisional licence. The vehicle was seized and the driver has been reported for the relevant offences.
- On 15/07/2026, a passing vehicle had captured a child not appropriately restrained in a vehicle. The dash camera footage has been passed to us for progression.
- On 27/07/2026, officers stopped a vehicle near to Otter Close on the A4. The vehicle failed to stop for police but did stop after a short pursuit. The driver was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs. A small amount of drugs was also located during a search of the vehicle.
- On 08/08/2026, a report was received of a close pass of some horse riders in Bremhill. Helmet camera footage has been requested so this matter can be progressed.

In Other News

Honouring 20 Years of Commitment to Community Policing

Twenty years of dedication, compassion, and commitment to others—today we celebrate Police Community Support Officer Mark Cook and his exceptional contribution to our communities.



In July, Mark was presented with his Long Service Award at the Force Awards in Devizes, recognising two decades of commitment, professionalism, and compassion as a PCSO.

Mark's dedication has been recognised with a number of prestigious awards, including the Calne Civic Award in 2017 for his outstanding contribution to the welfare of Calne, and the High Sheriff Award in 2023 for his valuable service to the community.

What stands out most to colleagues and residents alike is Mark's genuine passion for helping others. Whether supporting someone in crisis, mentoring newer colleagues, or simply being a friendly and reassuring presence while on patrol, he consistently embodies the very best of community policing.

Twenty years of service is an exceptional achievement, but Mark's true legacy lies in the trust he has built, the lives he has touched, and the positive impact he has made every single day.

PCSO Mark Cook
Calne Neighbourhood Police Team

Derry Hill & District W.I.

In September our speaker will be Amy Levin telling us about how artisan chocolate is made, I do hope it involves a tasting!



A group of us went to visit the beautiful Beggar's Knoll, Chinese garden at Westbury. This was our second visit there but it is such a beautiful place and they sell wonderful plants too.

We have had several coffee mornings and tea parties in gardens and homes where members gathered to remember Margaret Hogarth and to say goodbye to Annie. Both will be so much missed both in W.I. and in the community.



The main highlight of the summer was the village fete in July. Despite the fete being reduced due to the heat we had a very successful cake stall and enjoyed creating and entering our barrow in the parade. Alex and Dani had worked so hard to create the barrow and the wonderful masks and Janet and I dressed up to push it, assisted by a couple of our grandchildren.

In October our speaker will be the wonderful Ali Warren giving us a talk entitled Don't Whistle on the Stage, Mrs Robinson!

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 find out more or go on our waiting list, please contact our secretary.

email: derryhillsec@wiltshirewi.org.uk

Sally

JAZZ CLUB

Details of the Jazz Club's meetings at 7 for 7.30pm in Marden House, Calne for September.
(entrance £10 at the door):



Tuesday
September 29th:
Julian Costello quartet

Bookings: 07976 945055

Meditation – a contemplative space to be present

Why not join us for an introduction to meditation on any Wednesday evening during the coming months? 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



At our July meeting, we were treated to a flower arranging demonstration by Claire Satchell, the Derry Hill Florist. Claire also organised a flower recognition quiz which was won by Sally. Two of the floral arrangements were then raffled and won by Elizabeth and Peter. The Competition Table was a Wildflower Arrangement – joint winners were Roberta and Liz with Fran coming third.

On Saturday 11th July we had a stall at the Derry Hill & Studley Village Fete selling plants grown by our members, raffle tickets to win a hamper and 'Guess where Pooh had hidden his Honey' game. We must thank Roberta, Christine & Liz for putting together our fabulous entry for the Wheelbarrow Competition which we are delighted to say was awarded first prize.



On Sunday 12th July, 41 of us left at 9am for our Annual Outing. This year we went to the RHS Flower Show which was held at the Badminton Estate for the first time. A great day out was had by all.

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.

Paula Wheatcroft

DHANDSGC@outlook.com

07833 755232

Phew! What a Scorcher!

I hope everybody has had a fantastic summer and has made the most of the gloriously sunny weather.

However, in what looks on track to be the hottest summer on record in the UK, we should perhaps also bear in mind the impacts on:

- **Health** – sharp rise in emergency hospital admissions, dehydration, heatstroke, and thousands of excess deaths.
- **Farming** – significant drops in crop and milk yields, and farmers having to break into their stores of winter feed to keep livestock fed.
- **Cost of living** - the knock-on impact of this on food prices (especially as it also looks like we're heading into a super El Nino year).
- **Wildfires** – a record year for wildfires in the UK, at 1,017 so far, as of the middle of August.
- **Wildlife** – with ponds and streams drying up and the ground baked hard, many species are really struggling.

So, is this just weather or is it the long-term impact of man-made global warming from carbon emissions? Science predicts that CO₂ emissions from burning fossil fuels will result in increasing global temperatures making extreme weather events both more frequent and more severe.

The top ten hottest years recorded in the UK (mean annual temperature) so far are: 2006, 2007, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. When you consider that the records go back to 1884, this certainly looks like the climate modelling predictions are coming true.

If you would like to find out more about the likely impact of climate breakdown on public health, food systems, the economy, and national security, we'll be screening the **People's Emergency Briefing** film in the Lansdowne Hall on **Thursday 8th October** at 7:30pm. You can book your free tickets here:

<https://buytickets.at/derryhillandstudleyparishcouncil/2361605>.

John Barnes

Chair, Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council

People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

**Derry Hill &
Studley**



Film screening and discussion

Lansdowne Hall, Petty Lane, Derry Hill,
SN11 9QY

Thursday 8th October 19.30

16

To book your free ticket scan the QR code

www.nebriefing.org



UPDATE: FOREST GATE SOLAR FARM CONSTRUCTION DELAYED

Thank you for your patience while we completed the resurfacing of the site entrances in June. We're grateful for your understanding during the temporary traffic measures which were needed to get this work done safely and efficiently.

Due to circumstances outside our control, the start of full construction has been delayed.

We remain committed to minimising disruption and to keeping our neighbours informed as the project progresses. When the construction timetable 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

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



EDEN
RENEWABLES

Hot Shots Walking Netball

What a hot summer! The holiday break will soon be over and Walking Netball will be starting again on Friday 4th September.



Allie hosted a wonderful Walking Netball social in her back garden in August. We spent the afternoon sitting in the shade drinking a glass of Pimms! There was lots of conversation and laughter in the beautiful surroundings. The company was amazing. Allie you are the perfect hostess. Thank you for having

us all.

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. You only need a pair of trainers and a bottle of water. An excellent way to socialise, have fun and keep fit.



Tina

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 all enjoyed the fete and had great fun designing and making our wheelbarrow. Thanks to everyone who came and had a go on our Lego fire walk. We ended term with an all-unit campfire and songs - inside due to the heat but still great fun with many parents also joining in the singing.

The Guides had a fantastic 5 day summer camp at Berwick St James near Stonehenge. We visited Salisbury and paddled in the river, had a go at tomahawk throwing and made our own soup for lunch. Along with arts and crafts and a campfire with the Brownies also staying on site, great fun was had by all.



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>.

Please do sign up your daughters even if they haven't yet reached 4 so they are first in line for a place - Rainbows will have spaces available after Christmas.

Lucy, Emma, Erica, Emma and Jess

Book Club Review

Amma by Saraid de Silva

This story follows the different perspectives of three women from different generations of the same family.

It deals with childhood trauma and how it can be passed down and impact the subsequent generations.

The novel skimmed across the surface of the traumas which meant it wasn't too harrowing to read but also left some of us wanting more of a deep dive into certain aspects of the story.

The immigrant experience is highlighted throughout the book and shows the realities of always being "different" from the people around you and the difficulties of always having to make yourself fit in with a new community. The book does jump across continents and back and forth in time which not everyone enjoyed.

Kay

Bobby Van Abbey Concert



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A STIRRING evening of music amid the splendour of Malmesbury Abbey will raise money for the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.

Music at the Abbey on October 10 will also support the Wiltshire Concert Band, which will perform popular classics and new interpretations of favourite pop standards alongside the Cantanti Choir.

Bobby Van Director Jennie Shaw said the performers have put together a programme that features something for everyone, with popular classics like Goff Richards' brass band March and songs by The Beatles, Leonard Cohen, Neil Diamond and Boston.

"We will also have a wonderfully rousing Last Night of the Proms finale, with Rule, Britannia!, Pomp and Circumstance and Jerusalem, complete with Union flags waving and the audience encouraged to sing along, it promises to be a truly memorable and uplifting end to a wonderful evening," said Jennie.

The concert band, which changed its name from the Wiltshire Police Band in April, has been performing all over the South West since its formation in 1985 at charity fundraisers, community festivals and civic events, led by musical director Martin Perry

Cantanti is a mixed voice choir based in Royal Wootton Bassett. Since its formation in 2010 it has earned a reputation for its lively and engaging repertoire, from classical and madrigals to songs from the shows and contemporary pop. Led by musical director Lisa Williams, it performs at choral competitions, festivals and community events.

They will be joined by soprano Kristina Takashina, who has sung with the British Youth Opera and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, as well as working as a voice over artist for Japanese gaming companies and in commercials.

"We need to raise £400,000 every year to maintain our essential services, and we receive no statutory funding. By joining us, people will also help ensure we can continue supporting those who need us most."

Tickets are £35, including drinks and canapés, available from wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/future-events.



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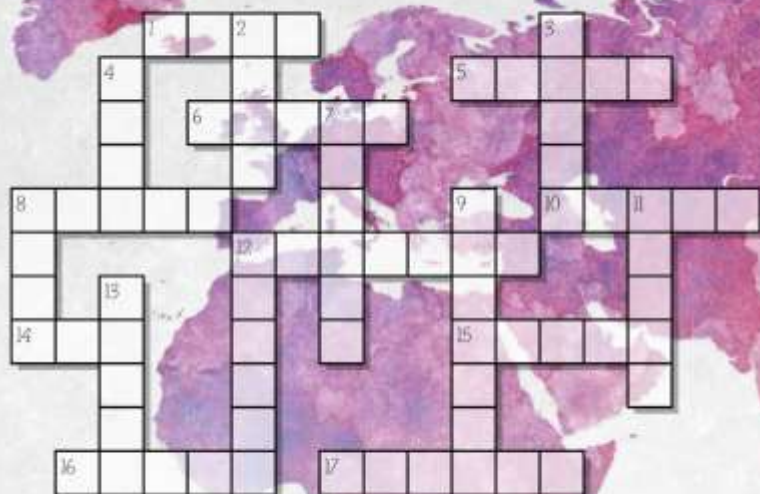
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September 2026 Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Weapons(4)
- 5 Less(5)
- 6 Freight(5)
- 8 Brag(5)
- 10 Quick(5)
- 12 Lap(7)
- 14 Enemy(3)
- 15 Lorry(5)
- 16 Pale-faced(5)
- 17 Cure(6)

DOWN

- 2 Honey drink(4)
- 3 Go in(5)
- 4 Continent(4)
- 7 Attic(6)
- 8 Meat(4)
- 9 Error(7)
- 11 Hooded jacket(5)
- 12 Ravine(6)
- 13 Planet(5)

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Wellbeing notes

How to thrive through arid times

There's a lawn outside the village that stayed green through our heatwave summer. It's bordered by old

woodland, and until recently was watered by a stream. The grass is allowed to grow taller here, although it is still occasionally mown, and the lawn is studded with a few small trees that give plenty of additional shade.



There are powerful lessons here, both in how we look after a garden – and how we look after ourselves. This can be as simple as staying hydrated. It can also be about finding ways to feel uplifted, through those wellbeing practices that speak to us. I have one friend, for example, who consciously seeks out beauty, in the form of open gardens and art galleries. Another friend is part of a small, supportive group that meets up regularly for coffee and conversation. Looking after yourself can mean planting a tree, or helping the Woodland Trust. It can also mean sheltering yourself from things that could scorch you – anything from an excess of sun, to scare-mongering social media.

On a metaphorical level, looking after ourselves can be about growing strong roots that are able to draw on deep sources of life-giving water. What are the spiritual beliefs that nourish you? *'The universe has my back'* can be a surprisingly comforting mantra. Beliefs that are kind and supportive can make a world of difference to our ability to flourish.

Suzanne Askham

Wellbeing notes from Old Derry Hill

Wellbeing Walks on Wednesdays

What time do the group meet?

9.30am at the Lansdowne Hall next to the bench under the tree.

What sort of walks does the group do?

The most appropriate to the group that meets. Get in touch and join the WhatsApp group for more info.

What sort of footwear would be appropriate?

ANY but most importantly suiting the weather and your feet!

Is there a plan of walks?

The WhatsApp group will provide more information.

We're sorry but strictly no dogs can join the walks.

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July 2026 Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Planet(6)
- 3 Perch(5)
- 5 knight's title(3)
- 6 Tact(9)
- 9 Coal mine(8)
- 10 Dry(4)

13 Abandon(7)

15 Take out(7)

17 Culinarily herb(5)

18 Napkin(9)

DOWN

2 Month(5)

4 Church

room(8)

7 China(9)

8 SMS

message(4)

11 Golf club(6)

12 Box(6)

14 Lustre(5)

16 Beverage(3)



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