DERRY HILL AND STUDLEY MATTERS

inSPIRE

November 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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Editorial

Remembering Rahn

As we move into November, a month when we traditionally take time to reflect and remember, it feels particularly poignant to acknowledge the sad passing of Rahn.

Rahn leaves behind an incredible legacy in our village, one that will continue to be seen and felt by the community for many years to come. Through his work in replacing the village shop, he helped secure something truly special for Derry Hill, a place that is so much more than somewhere to buy our everyday essentials. Our village shop is a vital part of community life, bringing people together and providing a familiar, friendly face to so many of us.

The impact of Rahn's work will live on in the heart of our village, and he will not be forgotten by the community he has done so much for.

Our thoughts are with Rahn's family and friends at this very sad time, as well as with the team at the village shop. We hope they can take comfort in knowing just how much Rahn's contribution means to the people of Derry Hill and how lasting a difference he has made.

Sometimes the greatest legacies are not simply the things we leave behind, but the connections we create and the lives we touch along the way. Rahn's legacy is one that our village will continue to cherish.

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
	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
1st 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
1ST 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
Dayspring Church	Rosie Hoy rosiehoy@dayspring.org.uk

Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the outline planning application for 600 houses at Forest Farm (PL/2026/04823). There have been almost 100 objections now lodged on Wiltshire Council's Planning Portal, which shows the strength of opinion against the development. This is the start of what will be a lengthy planning process; I will use this column to provide updates in the coming months.

At our October Parish Council Meeting, we voted to award our 2026/27 budget of £5,000 for community grants across the following organisations:

- Derry Hill and Studley Youth Club – to support the club while it rebuilds its membership.
- Wilts & Berks Canal Trust – to purchase a 2" pump to support volunteers restoring the Pewsham Locks within our parish.
- St John Ambulance – to fund the delivery of community first aid training within the village.
- Lansdowne Hall – funding towards the replacement of the front doors, which have experienced weather-related problems. The replacement is part of a ten-year plan to improve the building and its energy efficiency.

Thank you to all the groups and organisations who applied for Grant Funding this year.

Next Council Meeting Dates
Monday 9th November 2026 @ 7:30pm – Full Council
Monday 7th December 2026 @ 7:30pm – Finance Committee
Monday 14th December 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

November 2026 Church Services

Details of the Church services for November 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.

Is this for you?



Have you got the skills, a couple of hours a week and would like to help a local organisation function?

Christ Church Derry Hill is in need of a part-time treasurer who could keep our books in order. This is a voluntary role but an honorarium could be available if required.

If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please get in touch with Ian Liddle (Church Warden)
derryhillpccsec@mardenvale.org.uk

A Day in the Life of the Lansdowne Hall

Lansdowne Hall is a familiar part of our community, even if only some of us visit regularly. Run as a not-for-profit with two part-time staff, it is a welcoming space with a great deal happening behind the scenes. Here is how a typical day unfolds.

5am
Our cleaner arrives early to clean, finding the alarm set and the doors secure. After restoring the Hall floor, she spots a broken toilet seat that will need attention.
With the Hall clean and ready for the day, she lets the Trustees know about the damaged toilet seat.

8am
Rub-a-Dub Preschool sets up after clearing the room for the previous evening's Parish Council meeting, then welcomes the children for a lively day of fun.

8.45am
The car park comes to life as parents and guardians drop children off at school and Rub-a-Dub Preschool.

9am
A Trustee checks the toilet seat reported earlier and confirms that it needs replacing. Fortunately, one of the Management Committee has time to pick up a new one from B&Q.

9.15am
Parents and babies begin arriving for the first Baby Sensory session at 9.30. The multi pitch is used most of the morning.

12 noon
Jane, the administrator, arrives with paper towels and turns to the online booking requests. A full-day Saturday party would give the Hall's finances a welcome boost and help fund the new front door. As she will be away, Jane checks which Trustee can open and close the Hall before confirming the booking.
Before leaving, Jane completes the monthly play-equipment inspection for the Management Committee. One bench needs replacing, and the grass has yet to recover from the dry summer. A new surface would cost £9,000, making it an important goal for future fundraising.

1.30pm
One of the Management Committee fits the new toilet seat, leaving everything ready for the afternoon's users.

3pm
The car park becomes busy once more as families arrive for school pick-up.

4.30pm - 6.30pm
Stagecoach brings the Main Hall to life with a drama session for younger children.
After a busy day, Rub-a-Dub packs everything away and leaves the room ready for its evening user.

5.45pm
Meanwhile, another group arrive to use the Old Meeting Room. Their session briefly overlaps with Stagecoach; both groups accommodate the arrangement despite sound carrying between the rooms.

7.30pm
Yoga begins in the Main Hall, so the Old Meeting Room is kept free from noisy activities. A church group gathers in the new meeting rooms, bringing the day to a calm and peaceful close.

The Management Committee gathers for its monthly meeting. Renewing the insurance requires an annual inspection and cleaning of the solar panels. Attention then turns to funding a new front door and destratification fans as part of the ten-year plan to improve the Hall and move away from gas heating. With healthy bookings and grant support, these projects feel within reach, provided the old boiler keeps going.

9.30pm The Hall closes after another full and varied day. The regular users lock up and set the alarms, so no one needs to return.

The Hall is a really special facility with your help we can secure its future

Lansdowne Hall Management Committee

Community Committee

New Residents. We intend to launch a new initiative in the community in the New Year, but we need your help. It's quite difficult to know when new people join the community either through renting or buying a property but we would dearly like to be able to invite them to a "New Residents Welcome" event. You can help. If you become aware of someone moving into the community, please drop me an email with the address of the property in question and the Committee will arrange to drop them a "Welcome" card. Through this, they would have the opportunity to contact us and leave their details so that we can invite them to the event.

Christmas Lights Switch On. All things being equal, we hope you will join us from 4:30pm on Saturday 5th December at the Lansdowne Hall to celebrate the countdown to Christmas with illumination of our tree (5pm), some stalls selling useful Xmas gifts, maybe some carolling and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours over something warm and wet.

Xmas House Decorations. Last year, for the first time, the Committee travelled the length and breadth of the community and took in the sights and sounds of your wonderful front gardens and windows. We hope to repeat that again in the days leading up to Christmas Day and give out a few gifts to those that have made us feel extra Christmasy. Now, last year, we had feedback that asked what we were looking for. OK, here it is….

- Making the best use of what space you have got
- Is there a theme?
- Effort Involved
- Environmental impact – sometimes enough is as good as a feast, at least, I think that is what my mother-in-law used to say
- Overall Aesthetic

Community Fete 2027. A final date for your diary for now. The fete will be held on Saturday 10th of July

Do you want to run an event in the community? We know how daunting it can be. You have a great idea and know how successful it could be, but you just don't know where to start or are concerned

about the red-tape. We are here to help. We have the processes, we have the insurance, we have some willing volunteers. Do reach out to me and we will help you realise your ideas.

Join us! Lastly, we are always on the lookout for people with so much time on their hands that they don't know what to do with it (joke!). As you can see from the forementioned activities, we few try to organise a series of fun and educational events in the community for the many. We are a really inclusive team who meet in the pub and get a great deal of enjoyment out of putting things on. If that sounds like your cup of tea and you don't mind pulling your sleeves up and getting stuck in, then do please reach out to me and join us. Why not give it a year and see what you think?

Keep your eyes on The Hub, Inspire and the notice boards for details of all these things and more.

Peter Prater
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

Vicar's notes for November 2026

'Dream big dreams, pray big prayers, and then get on and do it'

No, that's not a quote from the Bible! It was a notice at the back of one of the churches I used to work in.

We all have dreams – circumstances in our own lives, in the life of our nation, around the world, and (for church members) in our churches, which we wish were different to how they are. This phrase reminded members of the church concerned that if we really wanted our dreams to come true, then we needed firstly to 'supersize' them, secondly to pray and ask God to bring about miracles, and then to do all we could to make those dreams come true.

It's easy to get discouraged when nothing seems to change for the better. That's why we need each other, to share our frustrations and disappointments, to pray with us and for us, and to help us – whether we need patience as we wait for God to act, energy to do our bit, someone to join with us in doing it, or just the reassurance that we aren't alone, either in our dreams or in our difficulties. Mutual encouragement is one reason why Church families gather each week: as well as worshipping, praying and hearing God's word together, we can give and receive support to and from one another.

Of course, we're never truly alone. God is alongside us, encouraging us and helping us, whether or not we're aware of his presence. So don't forget him as you dream, as you pray, or as you work to make your dreams a reality. And when they do become a reality, don't forget to thank him for his part in it all, and to tell all your family and friends about what he's done for you!

With prayers and best wishes
Sarah Errington

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

Friends of Derry Hill School

We've already had a fabulous first term with our first cake sale of the year and a successful AGM on Friday 9th October.

We have also launched our website to showcase what your support and fundraising is helping bring to our children, keep you updated on our calendar of events, say thank you to those that support us, and much more. We also want to hear from you! Whether you can offer the occasional support or have an idea for our next fundraising event; head over to our website or scan the QR code below.

https://sites.google.com/view/fodhs/home

What's coming up?

6th November the children are invited to wear non-uniform in exchange for raffle prizes for the Christmas Bonanza (4th Dec), and

25th November we have our much-loved School Disco! Timings will be confirmed shortly and a ParentMail will be sent out ahead of time, or you can get an early steer by visiting the ***Upcoming Events*** page on the website.

We hope to see you soon!

Jo Chapman

FoDHS Secretary

COME AND HAVE A CHAT!

Community Engagement Morning
Tuesday 17 November
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

Parish Clerk Notes

Parish Steward

Each month we have the parish steward visit and help us within the parish, he can do most tasks highways related. I note people often put things on Facebook, but the algorithm isn't always kind enough to get these to me in time. Please feel free to send me pictures and locations of any tasks you might see, I'm happy to receive these via WhatsApp, the council number is 07751802761

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 ended, 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.

Community Engagement
Thank you to those of you who popped in for a chat and it learn a little more about the parish council and its work at its first community engagement session. We were able to help with a couple of issues on the spot which was exactly what we were hoping to do.

The next session will be held in on Tuesday 17th November in the **Old Meeting Room at Lansdowne Hall**, from **9.00am–12.00pm**.

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.


Derry Hill and Studley's
Christmas
Fayre
Saturday 14th November
11am – 3.30pm
Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill,
SN11 9QY
Café, Raffle and lots of stalls
A huge variety of stalls selling Christmas gifts including handmade silver jewellery, crochet Xmas gifts, local honey, jams & chutneys, Chocoholics, handmade glass decorations, Xmas cards & gifts, beaded jewellery, original art & prints, Xmas wooden signs and decorations, pyrography tables & cheese boards and Gardening club gin.
Organised by Derry Hill & Studley
Gardening Club

The Importance of CPR and Defibrillators

A fell runner who cheated death in the Lake District has just completed the Challenge he started 4 years ago.

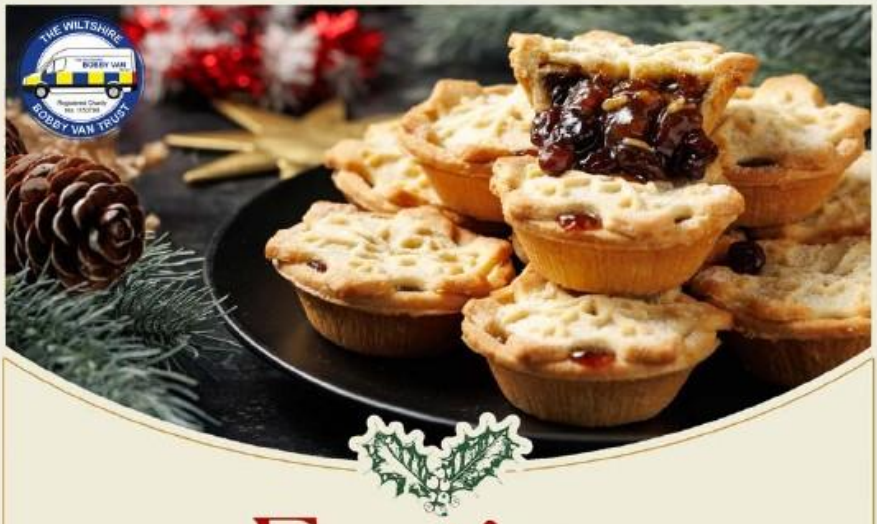
Running with a friend in freezing temperatures and snow, Tommy couldn't make the steep descent. His friend was unable to get a phone signal to call for help, so sheltered him in an emergency survival 'bivvy' bag before running down to raise the alarm.
Keswick Mountain Rescue Team found Tommy lying face down with no signs of life and a core temperature of 18C. It was touch and go for Tommy who suffered a cardiac arrest triggered by intense hypothermia.
Following continuous CPR and three attempts to restart his heart with a defibrillator on the mountain side, a Coastguard helicopter air-lifted Tommy to the RVI Hospital in Newcastle escorted by the Mountain Rescue Team doctor. In hospital Tommy was placed on an ECMO machine to take over his heart and lung function whilst removing his blood, warming it, oxygenating it and then recirculating it in his body.
After 5 days in an induced coma, Tommy finally came round and was told by doctors he had been clinically dead for up to 3 hours 20 minutes and that his recovery was a remarkable story of survival.
Tommy recovered well and went on to complete the London Marathon, raising £10,000 for Keswick Mountain Rescue Team. Then in September this year Tommy returned to complete his running Challenge in the Lake District fells.

A truly remarkable story that emphasises the importance of CPR and Defibrillators to keep a person alive until medical experts can take over and use their skills to affect a full recovery.

Both our new defibrillators, at the Lansdowne Hall and in the telephone box on Church Road, have gone out on calls already.

Julian

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



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Sky at Night

November brings longer, darker nights, making it a great time to wrap up warm and enjoy the wonders of the night sky. There's plenty to look out for this month, from shooting stars to a bright full Moon!

Shooting stars
The highlight is the Leonid meteor shower, peaking overnight on **17th-18th November**. Famous for fast, bright shooting stars, the Leonids are caused by debris from Comet Tempel-Tuttle burning up in our atmosphere.

You might spot 10-15 meteors an hour under ideal conditions, although this depends on the weather and light pollution. Look after midnight, when the Moon has set, find a dark spot and give your eyes time to adjust.

A bright Moon
November's full Moon falls on **24th November** and is traditionally known as the Beaver Moon. Its brightness makes fainter stars harder to see, but it's still lovely to watch rising above the rooftops or trees.

Planets and autumn constellations
Before sunrise around mid-month, look towards the eastern sky for **Mars and Jupiter**. Jupiter is especially bright, while Mars has a distinctive reddish colour. Both are visible to the naked eye.

In the evening, look for Cassiopeia's distinctive W shape and the large square of Pegasus. Later, Orion the Hunter appears, with its three-star belt an easy landmark to recognise.

You don't need a telescope to enjoy the night sky. Wrap up warm, find a spot away from village lights and see what you can discover. A clear November evening can be something rather special!

Ed

Rub-A-Dub Pre-School

October highlights
October has been a month full of pumpkins, crunching leaves and scary spiders at Rub-a-Dubs. The children have really enjoyed the autumn themed crafts and getting spooky for Halloween.

We had a lovely visit from a friend from Kingston House this month. The children were thrilled to see her and we look forward to many more visits in the future.

We closed the month with a Halloween Cake Sale on the last day of term. Thanks to all of those who came to support the Pre-school and enjoyed a cake in return!

Coming up in November
We will be doing lots of wintry crafts in November and of course celebrating fireworks night with our own fireworks (paint not gunpowder!).
You will find us at the Christmas Fayre on the 14th November with lots of prizes for the little ones to win. We look forward to seeing you there.

Rags 2 Riches Clothes Donation <u>Wednesday 2nd December 9am</u>
A chance to clear some space before Christmas! Please bring any unwanted clothes and shoes in black bags to the Pre-school at 9am on Wednesday 2nd December.
Rub-a-Dubs will receive a payment based on the weight of the clothes collected. The more black bags, the more money for our Pre-school, so please bring as much as you can!

Kind regards,

Megan Lee (Committee Secretary)

Retrofitting Homes for Energy Efficiency

Monday 23rd November at 7:45pm, Lansdowne Hall

As we head into the winter months, we'll all be aware of the big impact of energy costs on our household bills. In November, the Parish Council will be hosting a talk by Kate Silvester, an independent volunteer Community Energy Advisor from Pewsey. The talk will cover practical ways to improve energy efficiency, from simple measures to eliminate draughts through to the installation of heat pumps.

Kate trained with the Centre for Sustainable Energy and will be drawing on personal and practical experience. She is fully independent and not selling anything. If you're interested in finding out more, then please come along to the Lansdowne Hall (New Meeting Room) at 7:45pm on Monday 23rd November.

DH&S Climate Action

Thanks to everyone who came along to see our screening of the People's Emergency Briefing film. The film was thought-provoking, setting out the impact of global warming on climate, extreme weather events, health, food production, national security and the economy. If you missed it, you could find other local screenings here: https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map.

It's easy to feel powerless in the face of this. However, there are things we can do, as individuals, families and communities, that can help avoid catastrophic climate breakdown and improve our resilience.

DH&S Climate Action is a group of parish councillors and local volunteers who are working to make a difference in our parish. We're working on four strands of activity:

- Raising awareness (e.g. the Energy Efficiency talk above)
- Practical nature recovery projects.
- Supporting the transition to net zero.
- Engagement with other groups in the area.

If you'd like to get involved, then please drop me a line at john.barnes@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk.

John Barnes

Derry Tots Toddler Group



Welcome to Derry Tots! We are a friendly, welcoming group for children from birth to 5 years old, running every Wednesday during term time from 9:30am to 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

Derry Hill Youth Club

Derry Hill & Studley Youth Club is run by a group local parents. We run one Friday a month from the village hall and provide a safe space for year 6-8 to come and spend time with their friends, playing games, getting involved with craft or just chilling out. We have a shop where snacks and drinks can be purchased, ranging from 50p to £1.
We have recently been very lucky to be supported by both the Parish Council and the Calne lions with grants to help us get back up and running properly after a changeover of committee.

We are all very grateful for the support shown by the parish council as this has enabled us to invest in some new equipment and we are planning a silent disco for our December session.

If your young person is in school years 6–8 and would like to join please just get in touch. Everyone is welcome.

Dates: 13th November, 18th December, 15th January, 12th February,12th March, 16th April, 14th May, 12th June, 16th July

Catherine Beswick
Get in touch; Derryhillyouthclub@hotmail.com

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 you daughter would like to join us please do get in contact via https://www.girlguiding.org.uk.

Lucy, Emma, Erica, Emma, Jess and Lucy

Mobile Library Visits to Derry Hill

Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill
14.30-15.45
Tuesday 10th & 24th November 2026

Kingston House Derry Hill
10.10-10.30
Monday 16th November 2026



Derry Hill and Studley Lunch Club

We meet every other Wednesday at 12.30pm at a local pub or café for a light lunch.
Why not join us for a friendly social event with some food?

Further details from Rachel 07851 062685.



Wilts & Berks Canal Trust

A History of Pewsham Locks

Pewsham Locks situated southeast of Chippenham, are an important historic feature of the Wilts & Berks Canal. Built during the late eighteenth century, they formed part of an ambitious scheme to connect the Kennet & Avon Canal at Semington with the River Thames at Abingdon, creating a valuable inland transport route.

Construction of the Wilts & Berks Canal began in 1795, and the canal reached the Pewsham area during its early development. The three locks at Pewsham raised boats by approximately nine metres, allowing them to negotiate the change in ground level. The site also contained a lock keeper's cottage and a lime kiln, with a carpenters' workshop, dry dock and saw pit being added in the early 1820's, making it an important centre for canal maintenance and operations.

During the nineteenth century, the canal carried a variety of goods, including Somerset coal, stone, timber and agricultural produce. These supplies supported local industries and businesses in Chippenham and the surrounding countryside. However, competition from the expanding railway network gradually reduced canal traffic. By the late nineteenth century, trade had declined considerably, and the Wilts & Berks Canal was officially abandoned in 1914 after which it fell into disrepair.

Today, Pewsham Locks are valued for their industrial heritage and their contribution to Wiltshire's canal history. Restoration initiatives led by volunteers of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust aim to preserve the surviving structures as well as restoring the canal and improving wildlife habitats.

Our website https://wbct.org.uk/ provides much more detail about our work. We are always looking for new volunteers so if you would like to find out more, please drop me an email.

Howard Wilson **(howard.wilson@wbct.org.uk)**
Chairman (Melksham, Chippenham and Calne branch, Wilts & Berks Canal Trust)

Calne Neighbourhood Policing Team Update

Crime and incident update

On 25/09/2026 at 16:44hrs, we attended a phone crash detection alert in Old Derry Hill. Thankfully there was no road traffic collision as the driver had left their phone on the roof of the vehicle which had fallen off when travelling out of the village

We will always attend incidents of this nature as these alarms could alert us to fallen horse riders, fallen cyclists, persons out walking alone or road traffic collisions. If you have one of these devices, please ensure its activated.

Autumn/Winter Reminder - Protect Your Heating Oil

As the colder months approach, rural communities often see an increase in heating oil thefts. Consider fitting a lock to your oil tank, installing security lighting or CCTV, and checking oil levels regularly. If you notice suspicious vehicles or activity around homes or farms, please report it to the police. A few simple precautions can help deter thieves and protect your fuel supply this winter.

A Message of Condolence

I was deeply saddened to hear the news that Rahn Heer passed away.

During my regular visits to the Derry Hill store, I had the pleasure of chatting with Rahn on many occasions. Those conversations were always a welcome part of my visits, and he was someone who became a familiar and valued face within the village community.

It is often the people behind our local businesses who make a place feel like home, and Rahn was clearly one of those people who made a lasting impression on those around him. His passing will undoubtedly be felt by many, both within Derry Hill and further afield.

As the new store ages, I hope it will stand as a lasting reminder of Rahn, his contribution to the village, and the memories he leaves behind. While buildings can provide a physical presence for years to come, it is the people who give them meaning, and Rahn will be remembered as part of the story of Derry Hill.

On behalf of the local policing team, I would like to extend my sincere condolences to Rahn’s family, friends, colleagues and everyone who knew him. Our thoughts are with them all at this very sad time.

PCSO Mark Cook
Calne Neighbourhood Police Team

Derry Hill & District W.I.

In November we will be having a craft session organised by our amazing programme team. These are always fun and imaginative but not too taxing for those of us who seem to have too many thumbs!

In August we learned about chocolate production from Amy Levin, a local producer and it was fascinating. Amy had plenty of delicious samples for us and also had some on sale. She will have a stall at the garden club Christmas Fayre on 14th November.

In September a large group of us enjoyed an evening meal at Vecchia Orsa which was great and we plan to do more evening events now that we are getting younger members who are still working.



Aside from our regular coffee mornings and knit and natter sessions we have several other events lined up, including a walk round the sculpture trail at Avebury. We are also busy planning for our 25th Anniversary when we will be having an afternoon tea party in the village hall on Saturday 28th November. Any previous WI members will be most welcome.

We do not have a formal meeting in December but will be looking forward to our Christmas party night at La Flambé.

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

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 Christ Church Derry Hill 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 Mothers' Union Prayer & Fellowship Group

We met in Christ Church on Wednesday 7th October and Barbara opened the meeting with prayers. We had quite a bit of admin to get through before being able to start the main event of the afternoon which was a quiz all about garden flowers. Judi was the winner and was given a small pack of Mothers' Union Notelets. She then provided the refreshments with the help of Christine P who also helped her wash up. Thank you.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th November when Judi will be doing the opening prayers, Robyn is organising a Beetle Drive and refreshments are being done by Nan.

Barbara Parry

Derry Hill & Studley Gardening Club



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At our October meeting Richard Cripps talked about the pruning of trees and shrubs.

Our final meeting of the year is on Tuesday 3rd November and our speaker for the evening will be Adam Alexander talking about The Adventures of a Seed Detective.

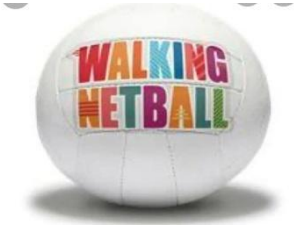
The Derry Hill & Studley Gardening Club Annual Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 14th November at the Lansdowne Hall 11am – 3.30pm. There will be lots of exciting stalls, a raffle to win one of our hampers, teas, coffees, mulled wine, mince pies etc.

New members are always welcome. Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month (February to November), 7.30pm at Christ Church, Derry Hill.

Paula Wheatcroft
DHANDSGC@outlook.com
07833 755232

Hot Shots Walking Netball

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







Useful info:

- We play Mondays and Fridays (Term time) – you don't have to come both days unless you want to.
- Location – Derry Hill Village Hall (SN11 9QY)– Outside if weather permits – Inside if not.
- Time – 1.45pm – 2.45pm
- Cost £3 per session – 1st session is free!
- We also have a social side – afternoons teas, meals out, coffee catch ups.



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

For more information contact
Pauline.Cooke2@btinternet.com

Or on Facebook Hot Shots Walking Netball Group

1st Derry Hill Scouts

The Group has been back into action over the last few weeks. The Scouts have been on the water earning their Dragon Boat badge with a day trip to the Wokingham Water Activities Centre. They have also made fires from scratch, undertaken night hikes and been working on their communicator badge. That included a village wide game of manhunt using walkie talkies.

The Cubs have been working on their Naturalist and Navigator badges, hiking in the local area to observe and identify animals in their habitats and noticing the changes in landscape. They have been learning the basics of navigation, from using a map and compass to understanding the essential information in a map's key.

Trivia Question: Using the OS Explorer map 156, what sport would I be playing in grid reference ST 80,82 – answer in next month's edition.

The Beavers have been identifying and treasure hunting Autumn things from the environment. They have learned how to play conkers and invented a new 'cone' game. They have learned how to use coordinates for map reading and been making paper helicopters, inspired by falling sycamore seeds. We have also invested 4 new members.

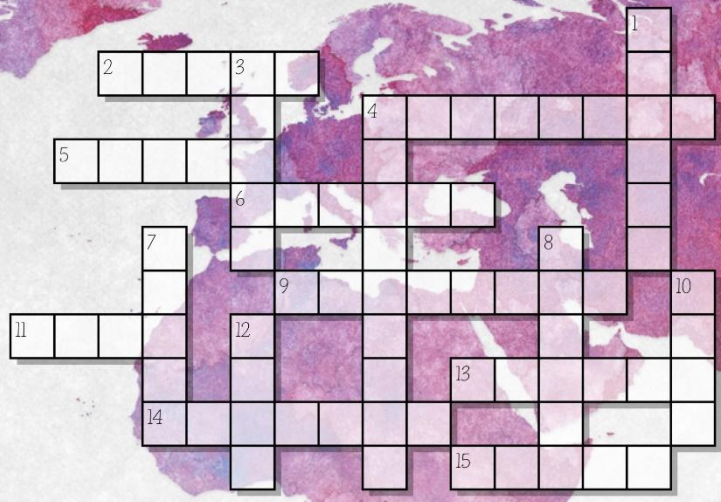
Spotlight on



Jane Clarke. Our Beaver leader. Jane has just celebrated 10 years in Scouting. She was presented with a certificate and badge at the recent AGM. A fantastic achievement. The Scouting movement would not exist without people like Jane and all the other volunteers who give our young people such excellent opportunities.

Please get in touch with our Group Lead Volunteer Hamish MacBean via email hamishmacbean@icloud.com or click on the QR code to join our waiting list

November 2026 Crossword



ACROSS

2 Damp(5)
4 Spine(8)
5 Ice house(5)
6 Zero(6)
9 Eaten(8)
11 Baby's biscuit(4)
13 Flat fish(6)
14 Arms(7)
15 Mild curry(5)

DOWN

1 End(6)
3 Tea cake(5)
4 Start(9)
7 Awry(5)
8 Mend(6)
10 Sob(4)
12 Calf meat(4)



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Golf image above credit: Andy Crook

Wellbeing notes

The first and most important step

When I was in my 20s, living and working in London, I wasn't great at handling finances. I didn't budget, I got overdrawn, and I avoided thinking about the implications of my overspending. Letters from the bank remained unopened. My debts got worse.



For some reason I was thinking of this just the other evening as I made my way to Lansdowne Hall, along the winding road that always seems longer in the dark. We were gathering to watch a film – *People's Emergency Briefing* – and discuss climate change. Like my long-ago debts, the effects of climate change can be a depressing and scary subject that many people prefer not to face up to. And yet, there are practical steps that can and are being done – that *we* can do.

The first and most important step is always awareness. I had to face up to opening my bank letters. Once I'd got over the shock, I took practical action that eventually sorted my finances. I absolutely believe that we can do the same for nature and our planet. We are so lucky to live surrounded by nature; why wouldn't we cherish it? All we have to do is face up to the facts, then break the challenge down into achievable steps. A great start is to join the DH&S Climate Action Group, a friendly group of like-minded people who are already making a world of difference. For further details contact martin.handyside@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk or Clerk@derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk

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.

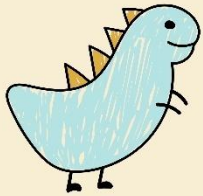
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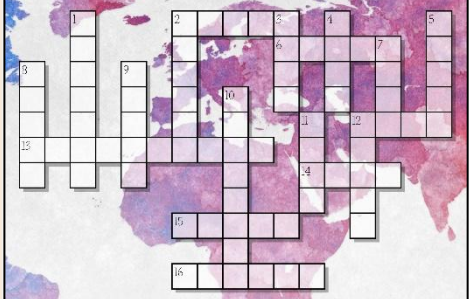
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October 2026 Crossword

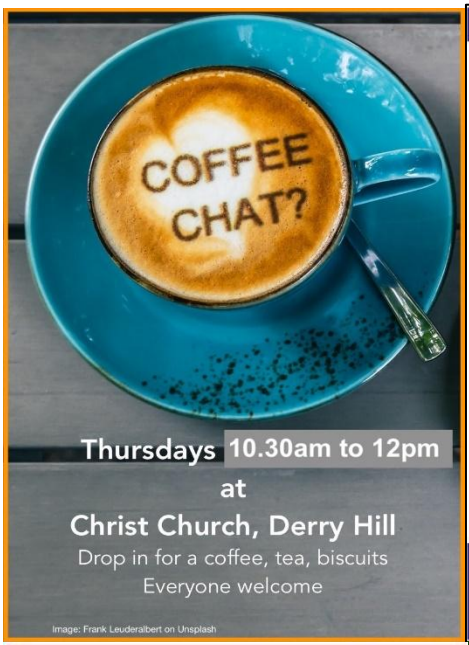


ACROSS

2 Coral reef(5)
6 Pinny(5)
12 Agitate(4)
13 Not moving(10)
14 Dutch cheese(4)
15 Alloy(5)
16 Light wind(6)

DOWN

1 Cheese(7)
2 Aft(6)
3 Idle(4)
4 Dry(4)
5 Say(5)
7 Bird's Home(4)
8 Stop(5)
9 Killed(5)
10 Buy(8)
11 Charges(4)
12 Mollusc(5)



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