

DERRY HILL AND  
STUDLEY MATTERS

inSPIRE

March 2025



The Parish Magazine of Christ Church Derry Hill



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Any opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writers and are not necessarily the policy or opinion of this publication or its editor. All articles submitted for publication are subject to editing. By submitting content, contributors warrant that the content they submit to us is not obscene, threatening, harassing, libellous, deceptive, fraudulent, and invasive of another's privacy, offensive, defamatory of any person or illegal goods and services advertised within their statutory rights.

We accept no liability in respect of any content submitted by users and published by us or by authorized third parties.

The deadline for inclusion of material in **next** month's magazine is the **20th** of this month.

## ADVERTISING RATES

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

Size	Colour	Approximate size of advert (Width by height) (cm)
Quarter page	<b>£50.00</b>	6 by 8
Half page	<b>£100.00</b>	12 by 8 or 6 by 16
Full page	<b>£200.00</b>	12 by 16

Cover photo: New playground equipment in Petty Acre - Derry Hill  
Photo by Richard Aylen

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## Editorial

March brings the undoubted pleasure of seeing the awakening of nature, which seems to be earlier and earlier each year. We've certainly had a long and drawn-out winter, so I'm looking forward to being able to go out without reeling from the cold and having to put on so many layers.

Another joy at this time of year is being able to wander round the garden and plan what to plant and noticing what is already popping up. I'm a bit disorganised and often forget what I have planted where. It's always a joy to see familiar plants rearing their heads through the soil with vigour and freshness as well as established ones opening their buds and welcoming the new growing year

In this vein I have to say that looking beyond my garden, I remind myself, and no doubt dear reader you do too, of the wonderful place we live in; access to the countryside being such a blessing, and of course our vibrant community. Keep an eye out for news of more events especially the VE celebrations. Please notice also the efforts being made to make ours the best kept village and see what you can do to help.

**Ed**

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## Advertising in inSPIRE

If you are an advertiser with our magazine, and we thank you for supporting us, you may have noticed that our rates have not gone up for years. Sadly, our printers have put the cost of a print run up by £100, having kindly kept their promise to keep their rates the same for the last three years. So as a result, we are reluctantly putting our advertising rates up slightly from April and hope this will keep us solvent.

So, from 1<sup>st</sup> April a whole page for a year will go up from £180 to £200, half page from £90 to £100 and a quarter page from £45 to £50.

**Ed**

## Church Contacts CHRIST CHURCH - DERRY HILL

If you wish to discuss arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals or would like a pastoral visit or meeting arranged or need to see a Vicar, then please contact the **Team Administrator**:

Mrs Ann Stiff Tel: 01249 816522

email: [enquiries@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@mardenvale.org.uk)

Team Office: 30 Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU

The office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 1pm

### Church Wardens

Mr Peter Rigby 01225 704356

Mr Ian Liddle 01249 816229

### PCC Treasurer (Tr) & Secretary (Sec)

Mr Peter Roycroft (Tr) 01249 660550

Mrs Lucinda Prater (Sec) 07882  
469005

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### FLOODLIGHTING THE SPIRE

This is a lovely thing to do to remember loved ones and to celebrate special anniversaries and birthdays. The Spire is currently lit between 7pm and midnight, though this varies with the time of year. Floodlighting the Spire can be arranged through **Richard Aylen – [inspireeditor@outlook.com](mailto:inspireeditor@outlook.com) 01249 814632**

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

## March 2025 Church Services

Time	Church	Service
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Last before Lent</b>		
8am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion
10.30am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	All Age Holy Communion
4pm	St John the Baptist, Foxham	Family Service
6pm	St. Martin's, Bremhill	Evensong
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday</b>		
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion with ashing
7pm	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Holy Communion with ashing
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Lent 1</b>		
8am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion
9.30am	St John the Baptist, Foxham	Holy Communion
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion
10.45am	Holy Trinity, Quemerford	Morning Praise
11am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Holy Communion
6pm	Bowood Chapel	Evensong
6pm	St. Martin's, Bremhill	Holy Communion BCP
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup></b>		
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Lent 2</b>		
8am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion
9.30am	St. Martin's, Bremhill	Holy Communion
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion
10am	Holy Trinity, Quemerford	Family Service
11am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>		
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Lent 3</b>		
9.30am	St. Peter's, Blackland	Holy Communion BCP
10am	St Mary's, Calne	All Age Morning Praise
10am	St. Martin's, Bremhill	All age Holy Communion
10.45am	Holy Trinity, Quemerford	Holy Communion
6pm	St John the Baptist, Foxham	Evensong
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup></b>		
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion

## March 2025 Church Services (cont'd)

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday

10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion
9.30am	St John the Baptist, Foxham	Family Service
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Informal Holy Communion
10am	St. Martin's, Bremhill	Family Service
11am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Holy Communion

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## Rector's notes for March 2025

I write this with a smattering of snow drops appearing in various places, but when otherwise winter is still very much in charge, even if the afternoons are staying a little lighter for longer. Perhaps I might try to cheer you up with something about our new electoral rolls?!

You may have read about this elsewhere, but this is an important moment in the six yearly cycle of our list of what is effectively people who would like to be formally connected with one of our churches in this low-key way.

Every six years all existing lists of names are wiped clean and we're required by Church of England rules to make a new roll in every parish. I'm keen to encourage anyone who feels any sort of affinity to church at all to sign a new electoral roll form. The only requirements are that you are aged 16 or older, are baptised, and that you live in the parish (the ecclesiastical parish, that is) – if you're not sure which parish you live in you can look it up on the website [achurchnearyou.com](http://achurchnearyou.com). It's also possible to join the roll if you live in another parish but regularly come to the church whose roll you wish to be on. And if you are involved in two different churches you can be on the roll of both parishes, so long as you only vote in one.

One of the glories of being the established church in England is that everyone is a parishioner (whether you like it or not) of one parish or another – anyone can approach their local church to be baptised, married or for a funeral service. You don't need to be on the electoral roll



for those three things, but for the people who do all the work in our churches it's a real encouragement that others in the parish who we may not see in church very often none the less chose to sign up to join. If you choose to give us your email address as well as your postal address, then we can keep in touch with you about special events and services, and other things affecting the life of the church.

For all electoral roll members there's no cost involved, and it means you can participate in elections for church officers (or indeed, become a church officer or a member of the church council).

At one level this might all sound a bit dry. But at another level it's nothing less than a connection with the worldwide-and-throughout-history body of Christ – the tragically fallible, but also God-inspired collection of people who affirm the love of God, the presence of God with us, the saving grace of God in Jesus – all of which has the capacity to direct us into the way of peace, wholeness, forgiveness and mercy. Do get in touch with your electoral roll officer if you have any queries:

Derry Hill – Margaret Hogarth [j.c.hogarth@btinternet.com](mailto:j.c.hogarth@btinternet.com)

With my prayers, and very best wishes for a Happy New Year!

**Caspar Bush** (Team Rector)

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**Did you know** that the magazine comes out 10 times a year? All copies are sent out to subscribers electronically. Only the paper versions (about 6 a year) are delivered in hardcopy. If you want to keep up with all the villages news, and get all 10 copies, get in touch to be put on our email list, drop a line to: [inspireeditor@outlook.com](mailto:inspireeditor@outlook.com) **Ed**



## How to Save A Life (CPR & Defib)

It's really important we all know how to do CPR and use a Defib. The next session is:



7pm on Wed 26<sup>th</sup> March in the Lansdowne Hall

Its free and it's given by our own village paramedic Bruce.

At least 1 of our 6 defibs in Derry Hill and Studley is deployed every other month! Do you know how to use one to save a life? Why not come along to our free session.

If you can't make it that night then scan this QR code to watch a YouTube video.



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

## THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION IS GETTING CLOSER.....



You're probably aware that your Community Committee has been persuaded to enter Derry Hill & Studley for the Best Kept Village (BKV) competition this year. Judging takes place in May and July and so we are now ramping up our planning and actions and wanted to let you know how you can contribute.

First, to remind you, BKV is a Wiltshire-wide competition run by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) to:

- Foster and improve community spirit.
- Demonstrate attention to detail and inclusivity.
- Tidiness and presentation of the village.
- Protecting and enhancing our local environment.

It's NOT about the prettiest or most photogenic village. It's about us working together to improve Derry Hill & Studley's surroundings and its community feel and being able to demonstrate that. Find more details at <https://derryhillandstudley.org/best-kept-village>

DH&S has always been a Best Kept Village. Now we have three months to prove it to the judges. We would welcome your active engagement in this effort by:

- Checking inSPIRE, noticeboards and online and engaging in the many activities taking place already this year.
- Keeping up the good work in keeping the village tidy.
- Reporting highways issues etc to Wiltshire Council via the [MyWilts](#) app.
- Informing this committee of any issues you can see so we can address them.
- We have so many brilliant, regular, creative, innovative activities going on all the time in the village. Perhaps you could create a special BKV project in your group or collaborate with another and actively show how we enjoy coming together as a village.

The judges will be looking around the village and will hope to find it easy on the eye but equally they will be looking for evidence of community. They will be looking at noticeboards, magazines and The Hub for signs of life and so this is where you, in your groups, can play a

part by helping us to represent your activities as well as possible. Drop us a line with relevant information that we can add to The Hub. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, information or ideas to help us all to do the best we can to win Best Kept Village.

### ***Martin Handyside***

[martin@handysidess.co.uk](mailto:martin@handysidess.co.uk) 07802 475018

BKV committee is Jane Clark, Jo Calder, Martin Handyside, Peter Prater, Philippa Todd, Sarah Collyer & Steve Calder.

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## **Derry Hill C of E (VA) Primary School**



This Term we have had Diversity Day where each class learnt about a different religion and how they celebrated different festivals, we all learnt something new that day, even the grown-ups!

Key Stage 2 also enjoyed an Online Safety workshop run by One Day Creative, when they learnt about how to be safe online.

The sessions were a huge success and the children took part in a range of hands-on activities, including drama and quizzes.

On an exciting note, the school has reopened our Forest School area, we were lucky enough to have some parent volunteers to help get it ready for the children to use and the FODHS have funded the purchase of necessary tools. The children have loved being back outdoors and discovering what nature has to offer.

We have had a very busy and exciting Term!

***Mrs H Roberts.*** Headteacher

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## **Knitting, stitching & craft group.**

A group meets weekly, on Fridays 2-4 pm in Christ Church Derry Hill. Bring your crochet, knitting or needlework, all abilities welcome. Share tips, chat and enjoy a tea or coffee, £3. Any queries contact Christine 817780, Liz 812138 or Marcia 820196



## The Sky at night



During March, you can expect to see planets like Jupiter still visible in the evening twilight, though becoming harder to see as the days lengthen; however, Saturn will not be visible due to its ring plane crossing. Mercury may be visible very low in the southwestern sky during evening twilight, reaching its greatest eastern elongation.

There will not be a total solar eclipse in 2025, but the next best thing — a total lunar eclipse — will occur twice.

On 13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> March, the full Moon will travel through Earth's shadow to create a lunar eclipse – a spectacular lunar light show during which the Moon's surface turns reddish. This lunar eclipse will be visible in parts of Europe, including the UK, though observers here will only catch the early phases before moonset in the pre-dawn hours of 14<sup>th</sup> March.

The phenomenon, known colloquially as a 'blood moon', will last for over an hour and will unfortunately for us be best viewed from North and South America.

A second total lunar eclipse will occur on 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> September, this one best seen from Asia.

North Americans will miss out on the second total lunar eclipse entirely, though observers in the UK will glimpse it during moonrise on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

[You can find an interesting video on YouTube about Lunar eclipses here.](https://youtu.be/QFgUd8xRKY)  
(<https://youtu.be/QFgUd8xRKY>)

***Richard Aylen***



To Commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day  
Dress Up and Step Back in Time!



1940's Themed Dance and Supper

Featuring Live Music from



The Hummingbirds Trio



At the Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill

Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

Doors Open 19.30, Last Dance 22.30



£17.50pp Includes supper



For Tickets call or message Peter on: 07977 256756  
or email: Peter.prater@hexagon.com

## VE Day – 80 years on

The nation and the community will remember the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, the day that marked the end of World War 2 in Europe, on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. A full programme is still in the making but the current highlights include:



- A community tidy up event from 9am on Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> May. This is a really important tidy up event and we would really ask for your support and attendance since it will be the last opportunity to prepare the area for the Best Kept Village judging which will happen anytime after this date.
- A 1940s Fancy dress dance evening in the Lansdowne Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The Hummingbirds will lead our celebrations and tickets, priced at £17.50 each include a ploughman's supper (plus).
- Learn to Lindyhop in readiness for the dance at the hall during the early pm of the 3<sup>rd</sup>
- A community picnic on Petty Acre on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> with traditional games for the children
- Nationally, beacons will be lit on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> evening. Bowood Estate will be lighting a beacon and have offered the community a good number of tickets for this event.

Tickets for both the 40s dance and the Bowood beacon lighting can be secured by sending me an email at [peterprater@btinternet.com](mailto:peterprater@btinternet.com).

**Peter**

## A splendid afternoon of film music with the TfO Orchestra

At the beginning of February, the Film Orchestra threw open the doors of the Lansdowne Hall to invite us in, for free, to listen to their wonderful music.

I had no idea about this amateur orchestra which is the first to perform only original music from Film and TV. It was founded by Jane Whittle in 2012. There are now a family of 4 orchestras and one choir across the country. We are lucky enough to have one based in the Lansdowne Hall Derry Hill! Jason Hoult, the orchestra manager tells me they love the space of the main hall and are looking forward to entertaining us again in August.



The packed hall heard well known themes from Thunderbirds, Doctor Who, Downton Abbey, The Wombles, 633 Squadron and many more. In all a great afternoon. I felt that the orchestra looked and sounded very professional and enjoyed what they were doing and certainly gave a balanced and exciting sound under the watchful eye of conductor Alan MacRae. Alan gave quite a lot of interesting information about the various tunes before each piece was performed.

So well done to all who came and played so professionally and gave us a splendid afternoon.

**Ed**

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## Mobile library visits to Derry Hill

**Lansdowne Hall Derry Hill**

14.30 – 15.45

Tuesday: 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Kingston House Derry Hill**

10.10 – 10.30

10<sup>th</sup> March 2025





## 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 World Thinking Day in February, a time to look at guiding around the world. There is also a visit to the Steam Museum in Swindon. We are also looking forward to our new members taking their promises



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>. We have an urgent need for adult helpers for the Rainbows to ensure they can continue to run.

*Lucy, Emma, Erica, Emma and Jess*

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## UPDATE: FOREST GATE SOLAR FARM

We expect to start building the solar farm from September 2025. Construction is expected to take 6 to 9 months.

During the construction phase, there may be some temporary disruptions, including increased vehicle movement and noise. We are committed to keeping these impacts to a minimum and will share further details closer to the start date. This will include a mail drop to local residents who may be affected and the opportunity to register in advance for email updates. For further information please visit [uk.edenrenewables.com/forest-gate-solar](http://uk.edenrenewables.com/forest-gate-solar)



## Calne Without Parish Council

### **What we've been doing in the last month**

The Parish Council has continued to consider and respond to planning applications and requests for Highway improvement works.

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 the referendum was held on the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan. Thank you to all of you who took the time to vote. At the time of writing the election has not happened, but I hope by the time that you read this that the plan has been 'made' and Calne Town Council and Calne Without Parish Council have succeeded in getting the neighbourhood plan into local planning policy and now are in a stronger position to help shape local development. This point marks the end of many years of hard work from a number of people in the locality.

Many of you will have seen the recent installation of the play equipment on Petty Acre, as a parish council, we are very proud to have been able to provide this equipment for the children of the village. We hope all the young families enjoy using it.

Over the last month we hope many Studley residents saw the consultation on the proposed reduction in the speed limit to 20mph. Getting the reduction in speed limit in Studley has been a really important part of our Road Safety project over the last few years. Sometimes it feels like things take so long when we have to liaise with other agencies and follow their due processes. We are patiently waiting to see the outcome of the consultation and hope that swift implementation of the proposals will follow.

We continue the countdown to the start of the new 'Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council' This means that in May what remains of Calne Without Parish Council after the boundary changes becomes Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council. This is the biggest change to Parish Council structures for many years and we are looking forward to the opportunities these changes can bring to the locality.

A Parish Council is the voice of the community, they advocate for the wishes of the community within Wiltshire Council and with other groups that they work with. They cannot do that without people standing to be Councillors. This is not as intimidating as it sounds and can be a really rewarding way to have an input into the community.

On 1st May 2025, the local elections in Wiltshire will be held and all seats in the new Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council will be up for election (11 in total) If you think you might be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and helping continue all the good work listed above I would encourage you to come along to a Parish Council meeting (all Parish Council and committee meetings are held in public) to find out more about what Parish Councils do and how they make decisions. All the dates for Parish Council meetings can be found on our website. Further background info can be found at;

[www.nalc.gov.uk/campaigns/becoming-a-councillor.html](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/campaigns/becoming-a-councillor.html)

If you would like to stand to be a Parish Councillor nominations open on 12<sup>th</sup> March at 10am and close 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 4pm.

Locally there are two opportunities to find out more about what it means to stand as a Parish Councillor. On 5<sup>th</sup> March the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils are holding an information session online 6pm-7pm, please visit [https://www.wiltshire-alc.org.uk/council\\_events/your-parish-council-needs-you-march-5th/](https://www.wiltshire-alc.org.uk/council_events/your-parish-council-needs-you-march-5th/) to sign up.

Alternatively, if you want to attend an in-person event, we are holding our Annual Parish Meeting on the same evening, starting at 7.30pm in the Lansdowne Hall Derry Hill, the main focus of this meeting will be to provide information on becoming a Parish Councillor.

### **Reporting issues**

Most months we have the Parish Steward visit us to carry out jobs as required, he can do small jobs associated with the highways. If you have an issue that you think he might be able to help with then please feel free to email me with photos and details of the concern and we can see if he is able to help.

We regularly receive reports of works required that we pass onto Wiltshire Council for their attention. Did you know that there is a quick and easy way to report items such as potholes and issues with street lighting straight to Wiltshire Council? Search 'my wilts' app and follow the instructions. Once you have set up an account reporting is quick and simple.

### **The Next Council Meeting Dates**

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 7.30pm (hear what the Parish Council has been doing over the last year and gather

information on what a Parish Council does and how you can stand to be a Councillor.)

Full Council Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 7.30pm  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 7.30pm

All Council meetings are held at the Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill.

### Keeping in Touch

We have many ways that you can keep up to date with the work here at the Parish Council. Our website is kept up to date with meeting dates and associated papers, we use our Facebook page (search Calne Without) for quick updates and news about our work and you can always get in touch directly with the clerk with any questions you may have.

If you need to get in touch with the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk [clerk@calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk)  
07751802761

### *Katherine Checchia*

Parish Clerk

[www.calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk](http://www.calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk)

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## The Hub - serving Derry Hill, Studley, Old Derry Hill and Sandy Lane in North Wiltshire

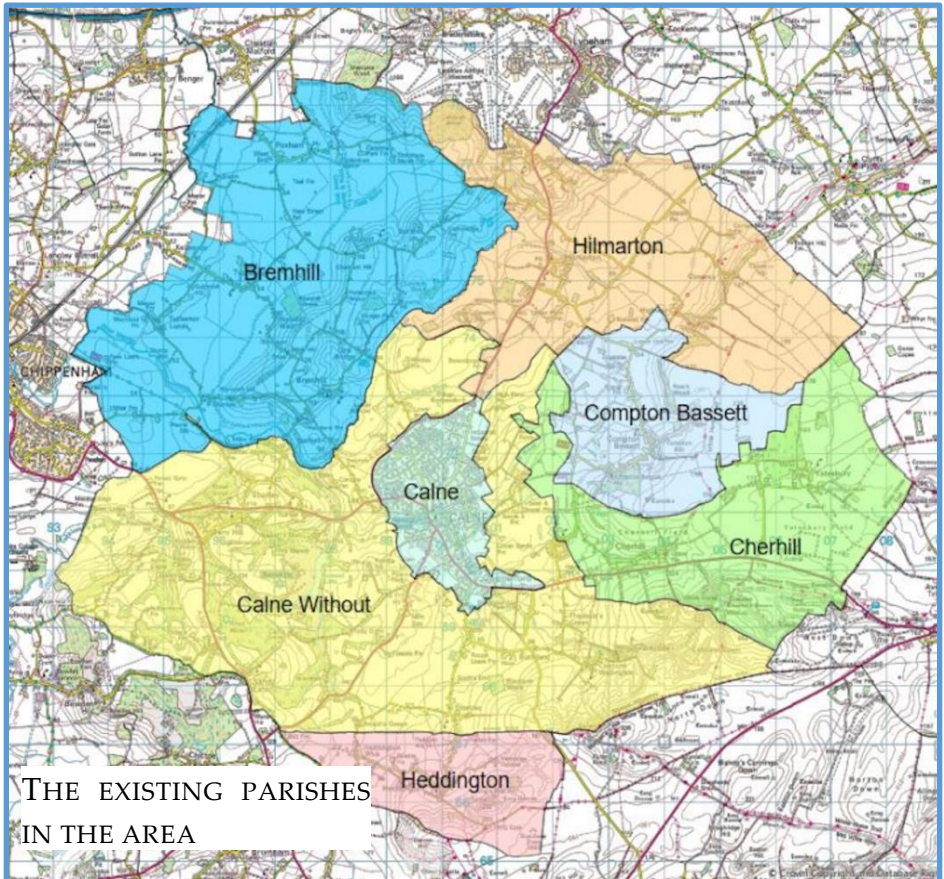


What's on



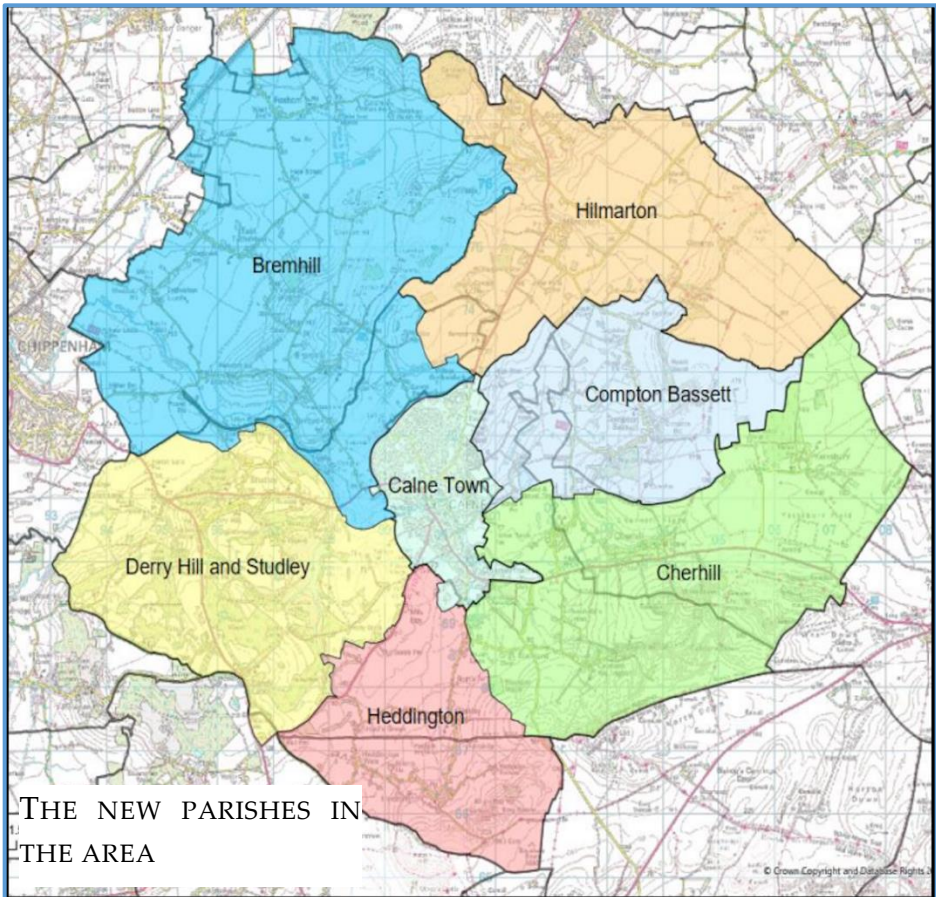
## Farewell to Calne Without Parish Council; hello to Derry Hill and Studley.

Calne Without Parish Council was founded in 1890 and currently covers the rural area around Calne, including Derry Hill, Studley, part of Ratford, Pewsham and Old Derry Hill, Sandy Lane, Mile Elm, Stockley, Calstone, Lower Compton and High Penn.



Following a governance review by Wiltshire Council in 2022, major changes will be coming into effect in May. Calne Without will be replaced by a new Civil Parish of Derry Hill and Studley, comprising Derry Hill, Studley, Pewsham, Old Derry Hill, Naish Hill, Sandy Lane and Bowood. The remaining parts of the current Parish will be transferred into Calne,

or the Parishes of Bremhill, Heddington, Cherhill, Compton Bassett and Hilmarton. We have been planning hard for a smooth transition to the new arrangements.



For the last three years, we have been able to keep the Parish Precept (raised as part of the Council Tax) unchanged at £21.72 for a Band D Property. This has been the lowest in the area by a country mile. Unfortunately, the Precept for the new Parish will increase significantly for two main reasons: firstly, we will have half the tax base; and secondly, we will no longer have Community Infrastructure Levy funds from developments around Calne, which we have been using to fund projects and grants. (This is why I personally voted against the proposed

changes.) On the positive side, the New Parish will be much more focussed.

On 1<sup>st</sup> May, we will have elections for the new Parish Council. This will have nine Councillors representing Derry Hill and Studley Ward, one representing Pewsham Ward and one representing Bowood and Sandy Lane Ward.

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be at 7:30pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March in the Lansdowne Hall. As well as reporting on our work over the year, we will be using the meeting to give a better understanding of what is involved in being a Parish Councillor. We will also explain the process of standing for election. If you're interested in finding out more, then please do come along.

I was elected to Calne Without Parish Council in 2021 and have had the honour of serving as Chair for the past two years. I believe we have got a lot done as a Council. This includes the new play equipment on Petty Acre, the community orchard in Studley Gardens and the reduction in speed limit through Studley Crossroads. We have delivered road signage improvements on the Devizes Road, Sandy Lane, Mile Elm Road and other places and have procured and operated two speed indicator devices. We have carried out footpath improvements, held a series of sustainability events, run a free thermal imaging camera loan scheme and delivered a free tree scheme.

More progress is in the pipeline, with a 20mph speed limit in Studley and Norley Lane recently going through the formal consultation process, plans for white gates for Old Derry Hill and Pewsham, and we are waiting on the outcome of bids for substantive funding to resurface the path between the A4 and the village hall carpark, and for further traffic calming measures on Church Road.

I have really enjoyed the last four years and would like to take the opportunity to thank our Parish Clerk and colleagues on the Council for their hard work and support. I very much look forward to helping to make the new Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council a success.

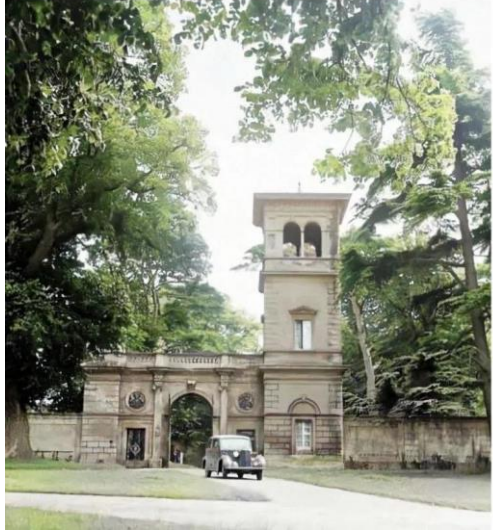
***John Barnes***

Chair, Calne Without Parish Council

## Derry Hill and Studley during World War II

As we approach the 80th anniversary of VE Day, we take a look back at how WWII impacted life across Derry Hill and Studley. **Gladys Daniels** gives us a glimpse of life in her book "Memories of Derry Hill Village".

Gladys says "in the years 1937 to 1945 the Reverend Basil Palmer became our Vicar. He was with us during the War years and was appointed the leader of the Home Guard. His parents and stepsister, Miss Westmore, also lived at the Vicarage with him. Mrs Palmer,



the Vicar's mother, and Miss Westmore were great workers for the Red Cross during the War, and regular weekly meetings were held at the Vicarage to make up bandages and knit socks and helmets for the soldiers. Mrs Palmer and Miss Westmore were very clever at producing plays and a beautiful Nativity Play was performed in the church, the



**THE HOME GUARD.**

stage being erected in the Chancel. They produced one play called *The Belles of Beaulieu*, when the cast included a great number of villagers wearing lovely Victorian dresses and with the children dressed as flowers".

"The war years were very difficult years for us all, especially with the rationing of food. Everyone was issued with a ration-book, clothing coupons, furniture coupons and many other things. Restrictions on buying anything were very severe, and every



person was issued with an identity card and a gasmask, which by law we had to carry with us at all times – the children carrying theirs to school. Families from the danger zones were evacuated to the village and all who had a room provided accommodation for them. The children attended our school, and many long-lasting friendships were made. Westonbirt Girls School was evacuated to Bowood House, and they almost filled our church on Sunday mornings. Lady Kitty Petty Fitzmaurice, later Baroness Nairne, elder daughter of Lord and Lady Lansdowne sold War Saving Stamps which cost 6 pence each (old money”).)

Gladys goes on to explain that “living so near to several important aerodromes often made us tense, especially at night, listening to the rumble of the aircraft overhead and sometimes hearing the thud of a bomb being dropped. They were really terrifying years. Great celebrations took place when peace was declared, and also great sadness for many who had lost someone very dear to them”.

The Derry Hill War Memorial remembers 6 men who gave their lives during the Second World War:

**Herbert H Fortune** lived at 45 Church Road and was killed in Action on 17th April 1943. He was a Sargent in the RAF Volunteer Reserve and stationed at Mildenhall, Suffolk. Herbert was the radio operator and gunner in a Stirling Mk III. They took off from Mildenhall on route for their target of Mannheim-Ludwigshafen Germany. Herbert was 25 years old. He was the son of Robert and Sarah Jane Fortune (buried at Christ Church, Derry Hill) and husband to Lillie Fortune of Chippenham. Herbert lies in the Rheinberg War Cemetery in Germany. His grave is inscribed – At the going down of the sun we will remember you.

**Pilot Officer Herbert George Haddrell** was born in 1913 and lived in Studley Lodge (Bowood White Gates) with his parents and went to Derry Hill school. On 15th October 1944 he was at the controls when his Halifax aircraft took off from Sandtoft on a night cross-country training flight. While flying at 12,000 feet, the port inner engine caught fire and the crew were unable to quell, or control, the flames as they spread towards the fuselage. Three crew members managed to bail out from the aircraft but four of the crew



**HERBERT GEORGE  
HADDRELL**

(including Herbert George aged 30) stayed with the aircraft as the rear gunner had difficulty in escaping from his turret. The Halifax smashed into the heavily wooded Copreston Fell on Glendhu Hill in Kielder Forest. His body was returned home to Derry Hill and buried at Christ Church.

**Captain Geoffrey Kenelm Hood** Irish Guards was born in London on 21 Nov 1920 to Albert Oscar Hood (Agent to Lord Lansdowne) and Theresa Emily Marjory DIGBY. Geoffrey Kenelm Hood passed away on 24 Jun 1946 in Hammersmith, London, England.

**Lance Corporal Thomas Sandell James** Hampshire Regiment 5th Bn. Died 8<sup>th</sup> February 1944 aged 27 years old. Thomas is buried at Minturno Cemetery, Italy. He was the son of Edward and Louise James, husband of Vera James, of Derry Hill. Thomas and Vera Haddrell had married early in 1942. At dawn on 7 February 1944 the 5th Battalion repulsed another determined attack on Ornito, inflicting considerable losses on the enemy. That night, as part of a general attack by 138 Brigade, they attacked the neighbouring mountain, Cerasola, which was still in German hands.

**Charles Hope Fitzmaurice - 7th Marquess of Lansdowne.** Charles was a Captain in the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry. He was killed 20th August 1944 in Italy aged 27. Charles is commemorated on Panel 2 of the Cassino memorial. Cassino War Cemetery lies in the Commune of Cassino, Province of Frosinone, 139 kilometres south-east of Rome.

**Lieutenant Lord Edward Norman Petty-Fitzmaurice** was the youngest son of Lt.-Col. Henry William Edmund Petty-Fitzmaurice, D.S.O., M.V.O., 6th Marquess of Lansdowne, and his wife, Elizabeth Caroline Stanley Hope. He was the brother to Charles Hope Lansdowne. He was in the 3rd Battalion, Irish Guards and was killed on 11 Aug 1944 aged 22. He is buried at Tilly-sur-Seulles, Departement du Calvados, Basse-Normandie, France.

***Steve Calder***

## Future dates and performers for the Jazz Club

March 25th: The Jug Band

April 29th: Catherine Sykes

May 27th: Martin Kolarides (guitar) plus piano and double bass.

June 24th our 20th anniversary with Dave and Euan on 2 pianos...

July 29th: Medicine Creek

September 30th: Hendo's Washboard Kings

Bring your own refreshments for which there are some (24) little tables...Admission still only £10 Please pay at the door

Reservations please by phone to 07976 945055 and please specify where you would prefer to sit (front, mid or rear of rows 1 to 6, on the back wall or in the balcony).

Cheers,

**James**

---



## WI Walking Netball



We continue to play and have fun. We have a great bunch of ladies from the ages of 40 through to 70. You only need a pair

of trainers to come and try.

The outside court is being cleaned in March so we are looking forward to using it again in the spring. Also, our coach Nancy will be back with us after Easter.

If you would like to come and have a go it is £2 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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Even if you have never picked up a brush before, we will guide you through to make it easy and fun! On completion of the course you will have 12 pieces of original art to cherish forever. This is an extremely enjoyable way to develop your creative side, and really enjoy the next few months.

## STRICTLY LIMITED PLACES

Our classes are popular, and places are strictly limited to maintain high standards of tuition so hurry... don't miss out!

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in Derry Hill, Calne

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## Derry Hill & Studley Gardening Club



At our February meeting, the first of the year, we had an excellent talk on Pests & Diseases by Ray Broughton who is a highly qualified horticulturist, lecturer, teacher & examiner.

One of the tips that Ray gave us is that tomato ketchup is a great way to clean secateurs. Smother the blades with tomato ketchup, leave for three days and your tools will be sterilised, cleaned and lubricated. Only Heinz tomato ketchup works for this.

Ray very kindly donated his fee to the charity Perennial - Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March and we will be welcoming Caroline Sheldrick who will talk about 'A Year in the Cutting Garden'. The Competition Table is a bowl of spring bulbs.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month February to November 7.30pm at Christ Church, Derry Hill. New members welcome.

### ***Paula Wheatcroft***

[pdoel@live.co.uk](mailto:pdoel@live.co.uk) 0783 3755232.

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## TOWN HALL MOVIOLA

**Paddington in Peru** is our film coming up on **March 19<sup>th</sup>**

On hearing that Aunt Lucy has gone missing, Paddington sets out with the Brown family to track her down in the Amazon. What could possibly go wrong!!

Doors open at 7.00pm. Tickets £6 available from the Calne Community Information Centre or on the door (cash only please)

Lift and refreshments available.

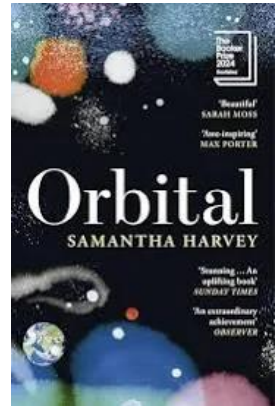
**Viv**



## Book Club Review

### **ORBITAL** by Samantha Harvey

Winner of the 2024 Booker Prize, 'Orbital' describes 24 hours in the International Space Station. Six international astronauts, 16 sunrises and sunsets and the routines followed in this unique environment, operating as a collective being. It provides a wonderfully descriptive insight into existing in zero gravity with all the challenges of being in such a fragile situation requiring the reader to observe man's place from outside our beautiful planet.



Orbital is a huge book with few pages but stunning imagery and exquisite language provide the reader with a thought-provoking experience that lingers long after the final chapter.

*Dani*

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## Mothers' Union Prayer & Fellowship Group

Mothers' Union Prayer & Fellowship Group. We met in Christ Church on Friday 7th February for our annual Wave of Prayer Service which took place in between Calne MU and Royal Wootton Bassett MU.



Following the short service, we made the final arrangements for our next meeting which is on Wednesday 5th March at 2pm in Christ Church when we are having a Holy Communion Service and have invited St Andrews, Chippenham and St James, Trowbridge MUs to join us. All are welcome to come along.

*Barbara*



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## Dick Wittington

The Derry Hill Theatre's Dick Wittington at the Lansdowne Hall was a splendid watch. Well, it was that time again, (oh no it wasn't! but it was)

There was a splendidly dressed cast who were full of energy and vim when I went on the closing night. The auditorium was packed and the crowd were eager to join in when nudged, particularly by Dame Dolly Dumpling (Linda Swann) who was just full of wit and zing.

Also of note was the King Rat (Nick Roberts) who played a convincing roll of keeping his rat pack in order, and generally being threatening. (Does he always play the wicked part?!)



Tiddles (Nicola Taylor) played a particularly difficult role in the first half pretending not to speak and she carried it off particularly well and blossomed in the second half when miraculously she revealed she could after all speak.

Also of note was the sound quality and it's sequencing with the actors.

I just love we have something like this in the village and it's so affordable, £8 adults £4 children, added to which the refreshments are good value and a decent range.

So, keep up the good work Jane and the gang, and we look forward to the next one.

**Ed**



## Derry Hill Art Club

Would you like to learn to draw/paint/re-visit a hidden talent. Maybe play with clay?

If you have access to a tablet or computer on Monday evenings 7.30 -9pm join us on Zoom. Yes, it works! We are able to paint in the comfort of our own homes and share our work very successfully and have a lot of fun and chat with advice

happily given when needed. Once a month we get together in the afternoon either for a trip out to plein air (weather permitting) or to meet at a member's house for a tutorial and to look at work completed over a cup of tea.

Art Club is celebrating 25 years of being a village community facility, new members are always welcome and it is our ethos that it should remain a non-profit making group, so the only costs we have are the annual Zoom subscription which to date has been voluntarily split between us all.

We have plenty of supplies to get you started in whichever medium you would like to try. Some of our work can be seen on Instagram #derryhillartclub.

**Dani** 01249 816106



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## Children's Society boxes

It is that time of the year again to have your boxes emptied. Please take your box to church by **Mothering Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> of March.**



Since Covid people seem to have less small change to put in their boxes. There is less money to collect and sadly some box holders have passed away. Also, it is more difficult to pay the money into the bank. For these reasons I have decided that this is the last year I will be collecting the boxes.

Thank you for your support.

**Sarah Hooper.** 01249 658285

## Rub a Dub Pre-School

We hope you've all had a wonderful Christmas and would like to wish you a Happy New Year! Here is a date for your diary...our Easter Fayre is going to be held on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April** at the Lansdowne Hall.

Come rain or shine, we will have lots of exciting things on offer at the fayre such as: local artisan stores selling their finest goods, second hand toy sale, bouncy castle, face painting, Easter trail around the village with prizes for all entrants, cake and coffee stand amongst other things.



If anyone wishes to have a stall at the fayre, we would love to hear from you. Equally, if any local companies would like to advertise their business at this event, as well as sponsor our Easter trail, we would hugely appreciate it. Please email: [rubadubfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:rubadubfundraising@gmail.com).

### Good-bye Winter...

Good-bye snow  
Good-bye sled  
Good-bye Winter  
Spring's ahead!

Hello sun,  
Hello swing,  
Good-bye Winter,  
Hello Spring!

Hello Daffodils  
Hello Lambs  
Hello from Rub-a-Dub,  
And children's  
playful sounds.

Finally, Spring is here!



### New to the area and looking for a pre-school?

If you are new to the area and interested in looking around our pre-school for your child, please email: [rubadubpreschoolenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:rubadubpreschoolenquiries@gmail.com) where we will be happy to help.

**Leah Ryan**

[rubadubsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:rubadubsecretary@gmail.com)

## The Lansdowne Hall

The Lansdowne Hall needs fresh input to promote this exceptional village facility, so please consider joining the team.

The Hall has been open for approaching 25 years and is often very busy. An administrator deals with all enquiries, bookings and invoicing and a cleaner keeps everywhere spic and span.



If you can spare a little time on a voluntary basis to help us maintain our high Hallmark status, please contact:

***Richard French*** 01249 816106.

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## The Lansdowne Hall Annual General Meeting

The Lansdowne Hall Management Committee and the Derry Hill and Studley Village Hall Trust will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Thursday April 24th in the Lansdowne Hall commencing at 8.15 pm. Notice of the meeting will be sent to all regular users but other members of the local community are also invited to attend the AGM. It is hoped to serve light refreshments after the meeting and it would be helpful for making catering arrangements if the Hall's Administrator ([administrator@lansdownehall.org](mailto:administrator@lansdownehall.org)) could be advised of your planned attendance.



***Alan Rosekilly***

Secretary to the Management Committee and Board of Trustees.

## Derry Hill & District WI

Several of us attended a Wiltshire Federation Event called 'Secret Spitfires – Britain's Hidden Civilian Army'. Karl Howman, best-selling author and director of 'Secret Spitfires' introduced the event with an inspirational talk on his reasons for writing this book and producing the film. In September 1940 the Luftwaffe almost devastated the Spitfire factories in Southampton. Production was moved to secret locations in Wiltshire, staffed by the Women of Wiltshire, children and non-combatant men, who built a fleet of Spitfires in barns, sheds, bus depots and garages. The film was amazing and we all learnt so much about these brave people.

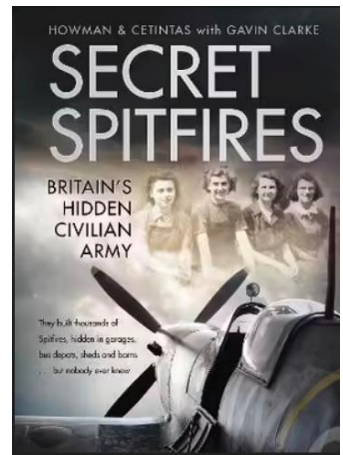


If you get the chance to see the film or read the book you should take it!

We had another well attended coffee morning at the Pewsham. There was so much chat and laughter, it was great fun. We were not the only WI there so you can imagine the noise levels!

Our speaker in March will be Alison Warren talking about 'What Lies Beneath'. A history of corsets, knickers and petticoats, with examples for us to see. Alison is an entertaining speaker so we are looking forward to hearing her.

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Lansdowne Hall, 7.30pm. If you are interested, please email our secretary, Liz, at [derryhillsec@wiltshirewi.org](mailto:derryhillsec@wiltshirewi.org)



**Tina**

## How to Tell If Your Older Relative Needs More Help

As we age, staying healthy, mobile and social can become harder for many of us. If you have an older loved one in your life, here is how to spot for signs that they may need extra support.



### **Has their appearance changed?**

If personal hygiene or grooming appears neglected, it may mean daily tasks are becoming difficult. Watch for signs including weight loss or small burns, which can suggest struggles with cooking.

**What's the house environment like?** An untidy and cluttered home can suggest housework is a challenge. Notice too if they're using fewer areas of the house, perhaps due to fear of falling.

**Are they taking their medication?** Look for signs like excess stock of medication or blister packs with missing doses and consider encouraging a discussion with their GP or specialist.

**What's their social life like?** Ask about who they have spoken with recently. Reduced social contact might signal isolation.

**Do they call more often?** An increase in the frequency of their calls could mean your loved one is feeling anxious, forgetful, or lonely. Realising that your older loved one is struggling by themselves can be difficult. However, the sooner help is in place, the better. Remember to give yourself lots of grace and reach out to professionals for support.

And you are always welcome to give our team at Kingston House a call on 01249 471 516 for a no-obligation chat or visit.

### **Catherine Beswick**

**Home Manager at Kingston House care home**



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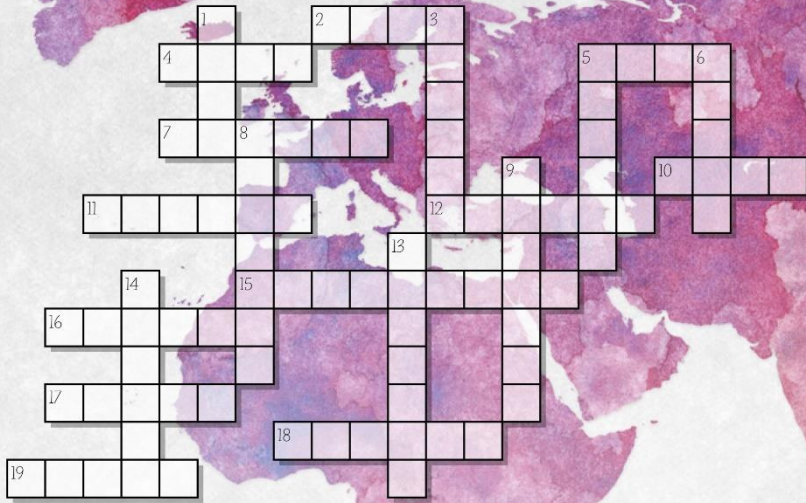
e: [sportsclub@stmaryscalne.org](mailto:sportsclub@stmaryscalne.org)

63 Curzon Street, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 0DF

FOLLOW US



# March 2025 Crossword



## ACROSS

- 2 Planet(4)
- 4 Wharf(4)
- 5 Sediment(4)
- 7 Cunning(6)
- 10 Strong wind(4)
- 11 Pot belly(6)
- 12 Char(6)

15 Scottish city(9)

- 16 Pampas cowboy(6)
- 17 Observe(5)
- 18 Come out(6)
- 19 Scottish landowner(5)

## DOWN

- 1 Male pig(4)
- 3 Large scissors(6)
- 5 Songs words(6)
- 6 Young pigeon(5)
- 8 Public sale(7)
- 9 Abandon(7)
- 13 Courage(7)
- 14 Golf club(6)



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Image: Frank Leuderalt on Unsplash

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Sunday 30th March

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£49.00 per adult | £20.00 per child - aged 12 and under

[www.bowood.org](http://www.bowood.org)



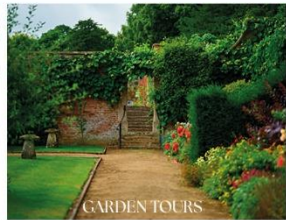
## What's on at Bowood House & Gardens Open 1st April - 2nd November 2025



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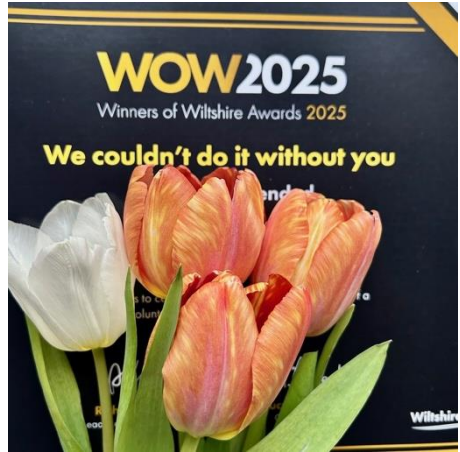
**Call 01249 471 516**

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## Wellbeing notes

### The importance of saying 'thank you'

A few days ago, I was invited to dinner at Trowbridge County Hall, as a 'thank you' for some voluntary work that I've been doing. There I met an interesting man called Brian who, for the past decade, has been bringing library books to housebound residents. When I talked to him, I realised that what he did wasn't really about books, or not entirely. It was about the conversations he brought to isolated individuals. He was a lovely person: good at listening; non-judgemental and he fully understood that his volunteering didn't just benefit others, it made *him* happy too. At the event he was given a well-deserved award.



I came away afterwards with three impressions. First, that volunteering matters. When we offer our time, goodwill and energy, warm and wonderful things happen around us. Not least, volunteers can and do foster mental wellbeing in the individuals they help. Second, that every volunteer deserves a 'thank you'. There's nothing quite like someone recognising the effort that you are making and third, making those 'thank you's' public from time to time can inspire and encourage a host of other people to do their bit for the local community.

If you are interested in volunteering – and I do recommend it [Wiltshire Council](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community-environment-volunteering) (<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community-environment-volunteering>) is a good place to start. You might also find something to suit you at [Wiltshire Together](https://wiltshiretogether.org.uk/) (<https://wiltshiretogether.org.uk/>)

**Suzanne Askham**

# Derry Tots

toddler group



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## February 2025 Crossword



### ACROSS

- 5 Find(6)
- 6 Perspire(5)
- 9 Uninteresting(4)
- 11 Hives(9)
- 13 Courageous(4)
- 14 Hawthorn(3)
- 16 Convent(7)
- 17 Thicket(5)
- 19 Noon(6)

### DOWN

- 1 Under(7)
- 2 Death notice(8)
- 3 Eye part(6)
- 4 Golfer's assistant(5)
- 7 Woes(8)
- 8 Strong fire(5)
- 10 Oak fruit(5)
- 12 Canopy(6)
- 13 Male rabbit(4)
- 15 Accumulate(5)
- 18 Couch(4)



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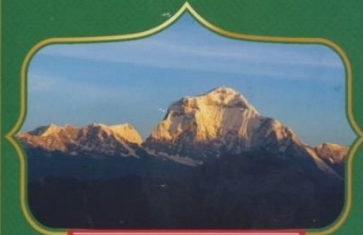
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