

DERRY HILL AND
STUDLEY MATTERS

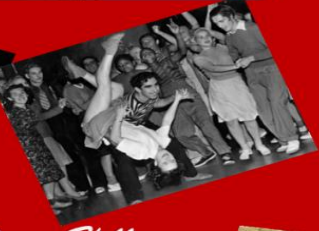
inSPIRE

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

1940's Themed Dance

Featuring Live Music from

The Hummingbirds Trio



At the Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill
Saturday, 3rd May 2025

Doors Open 19.30, Last Dance 22.30



£12.50pp Bar & snacks



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April 2025

The Parish Magazine of Christ Church Derry Hill



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

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Editorial



Lining up this month we have (or had if you got this magazine a little later) April Fool's Day on 1st, Easter Sunday 20th, St. George's Day 23rd and the London Marathon 27th. Also worthy of mention is the Sikh Festival of Vaisakhi.

There is a Gin and Rum festival in Birmingham in April but I'm not going to tell you any more than that because I'm sure it will be bad for you! However, if you want something less damaging to the liver and a little more local, the Chippenham Beer Festival is on 25th and 26th in the Olympiad.

As I write this, I think we have had the last frost of the year, but you never know. What is for certain is the daffodils are out and we can look forward to seeing the bluebells. What cheery, heart-lifting flowers they are, harbingers of the warmer weather to come. Another April delight is that Bowood house and Gardens will now be open from the first of this month.

Then we have the additional delight of the Woodland gardens open a little later this month, with their vast displays of wonderful flowers and trees. We are so lucky to have such jewels on our doorstep.

Talking being lucky where we live, don't forget to read the action plan for the Best Kept Village Competition in the following pages. Have a great April.



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

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

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 – inspireditor@outlook.com 01249 814632**

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

Rector's notes for April 2025

I've just clocked up 10 years since I took up running, as an attempt to stop my middle-aged spread from spreading any further. It's only ever first thing in the morning that I run, and in the winter it's always dark so I wear a lot of hi-vis, and a chest torch, and stick to street-lit pavements in Calne. Then as the mornings get lighter, I really love being able to get out into the lanes to the villages – or right across the Bowood Estate. I even made it to Foxham once last year, though that involved running up Wick Hill on the way home, which I've vowed not to try again!

In February each year something wonderful happens, which is that blackbirds start singing just before dawn while I'm out. If I ever had to choose my desert island discs, one of them would be a blackbird singing at dawn. I'm aware that it's really singing to attract a mate, and defend its territory from rivals, but to my ears it's the most wonderful and delightful sound and makes my soul sing! Not only that, but it speaks



to me of something truly amazing about God's created order: that a bird aged 25 – 60 days old can learn to sing, listening and practising, and end up singing the same beautiful pattern of notes all its forebears did.

The dawn chorus of birds is one of the things I particularly enjoy about our Easter Day dawn service, timed to start in the dark, and encompass this moment of creation coming to life as we mark the resurrection of Jesus once again. This year it will happen **at 5.15am** in the churchyard at St Mary's Church in Calne, and people from across all our parishes are very welcome – perhaps we might hold it at another church next year. It recalls the moment in John's gospel we read this 'Very early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, the women went to the tomb'. As we well know they went expecting to find Jesus' dead body but found instead the risen Saviour. In our service, we light a fire, and while the fire takes hold we simply listen, just as dawn is breaking, while all

sorts of different bird species are at their peak tunefulness – almost like they too are singing the praises of the one who has been raised from the dead.

Of course, we have a fair bit of Lent to journey through still, and the intensity and trauma of Holy Week - living again through Jesus's suffering. But the night will not last forever. May God be with us through whatever dark times we might be enduring at the moment, and in due time fill us again with the joy and life of Jesus' resurrection.

With my prayers, and best wishes

Caspar Bush (team rector)

APRIL SERVICES CHRIST CHURCH DERRY HILL	
Date/Sunday	Service
06.04.25 Passion Sunday	9.30 am Said Communion 10.30 All Age Service
13.04.25 Palm Sunday	11.00am Parish Eucharist
17.04.25 Maundy Thursday	7.00pm T.B.C.
18.04.25 Good Friday	2.00pm T.B.C.
20.04.25 Easter Sunday	11.00 am Parish Eucharist
27.04.25 Easter 2	NO SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH

***For other services in the benefice please go to the
Marden Vale Church's website***

APCM date announced

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Christ Church Derry Hill will be on Sunday 18th May after the 11am service. This is effectively the AGM of the church. All those who are interested in the workings of the church are welcome to attend. Only registered members on the electoral roll may speak or vote.

Derry Hill C of E (VA) Primary School

This month we celebrated World Book Day in style! Everywhere you looked you could see children dressed up in their favourite characters from their chosen book. Even the teachers got involved and looked the part, a great day was had by all.



Hedgehog Class had a trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park and enjoyed seeing all of the exciting animals they had on offer. They had such a great day and couldn't wait to tell us all about it when they arrived back to school! Both Derry Hill Tag Rugby Team and The Girls Football Team took part in tournaments alongside other schools in the area, the children displayed great teamwork and enthusiasm.

They thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the community, a great day was had by all.

Mrs H Roberts. Headteacher

Mobile library visits to Derry Hill

Lansdowne Hall Derry Hill

14.30 – 15.45

Tuesday: 1st, 15th & 29th April 2025

Kingston House Derry Hill

10.10 – 10.30

7th April 2025



Turn it off and on again!

What do we do when our phone goes on the blink? What do we do when our television stops responding to the remote? Or when the computer locks up? – We “turn it off and on again” and it usually fixes the problem.



Well strangely enough that’s exactly what a defibrillator does. If you have a cardiac arrest or irregular rhythm and a defibrillator is used on you it provides an electrical shock that stops your heart and restarts it again so that it can naturally return to a normal rhythm.



When someone suffers a cardiac arrest, every minute’s delay in restarting the heart results in a reduction of chances of survival. All villagers now have access, in minutes, to this vital life-saving equipment, the cabinet code is given by dialling 999 and requesting ambulance assistance.

Many thanks and keep safe.

Julian 07769 970401 / julesoliver3@gmail.com

The Sky at night

From 16th 25th April – try looking for the **Lyrid meteor shower**.

This will be visible and will peak on 22 April. It's not the busiest of the yearly meteor showers, but can still thrill and dazzle.

Around 22nd and morning of 23rd April the Moon will be below the



horizon until around 4 am BST, so won't cause light pollution, making it easier to see this occurrence.

The Lyrids are generated by debris from Comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher, which does a lap of the Sun once every 415 years. It's the oldest recorded meteor shower still visible today, and was first recorded in 687 BCE.

19th April – 28th May - The Eta Aquariid meteor shower

This is active, peaking between midnight and dawn on 5th May with possibly 40 meteors per hour.

You'd get a better view in the Southern Hemisphere and it will appear low in the sky in the Northern Hemisphere in the early hours, before dawn. Nevertheless, it should still be possible to see the shower in the eastern sky even when the radiant is below the horizon.

The source of the meteor shower is the famous Halley's Comet, which is visible from Earth about every 75-76 years.

Richard Aylen



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VE Day – 80 years on

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



- A community tidy up event from 9am on Sat 3rd 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 any time after this date.
- A 1940s Fancy dress dance evening in the Lansdowne Hall on the 3rd May. The Hummingbirds will lead our celebrations and tickets, priced at £12.50 each.
- Learn to Lindy hop in readiness for the dance at the hall during the early pm of the 3rd
- A community picnic on Petty Acre on Sunday 4th with traditional games for the children
- Nationally, beacons will be lit on Thursday 8th 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.

Peter

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 fun celebrating World Thinking Day in February exploring different cultures around the world. Some of the brownies and guides also took part in the Guiding area day at the Steam Museum in Swindon taking part in activities put on for us to try.



We are looking forward to the newer girls taking their promises in all sections at the end of term before some of the Rainbows and Brownies fly up to Brownies and Guides.

If you are interested in volunteering or if your daughter would like to join us, please do get in contact via <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk>. We have an urgent need for adult helpers for the Rainbows to ensure they can continue to run.

Lucy, Emma, Erica, Emma and Jess

Village Stores update

As you may have noticed, clearing the site and the first phase is now underway.

We expect that in due course we will be transferring the shop to the new premises sometime in the near future.

We will let you know nearer the time when this is about to happen. Then there will have to be a disruption to our normal services.

Please rest assured that we will keep this to a minimum – probably about 10 days – and then our new enhanced shop will be up and going. So please bear with us when this occurs, it's all for the good!



Rhan

Calne Without Parish Council

This is the last article from Calne Without Parish Council, from 1st May 2025 after the elections the 'new' Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council will start work.

This parish council will be smaller in size but will be at the heart of the community that it represents. One of the first tasks of the new council will be to create the new strategic plan to identify the work that the parish council wants to achieve. Keep an eye on the meeting minutes on our website for updates of this work.

By the time this article is published we will know how many people have nominated themselves for election onto the parish council. If enough people have completed nomination forms to trigger an election, then this will be voted for on May 1st. Please keep an eye out for information who is standing.

Next Council Meeting Dates

Full Council

Monday 14th April 2025 7.30pm (last meeting of Calne Without Parish Council)

Monday 12th May 2025 7.30pm (first meeting of Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council)

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

Keeping in Touch

Website; www.calnewwithout-gov.uk

Facebook; search 'Calne Without'

Email; clerk@calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk

Phone; 07751802761

Katherine Checchia

Parish Clerk

www.calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk

A Report from Wiltshire and Community Messaging

The third iteration of Operation Ragwort, led by Wiltshire Police, took place on Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 March across two of Wiltshire's major road networks, the A303 and the A419. Over the two days, officers from Wiltshire Police were joined by over 60 police officers and staff from Avon & Somerset Police, Devon & Cornwall Police, Dorset Police, Gloucestershire Constabulary, and Thames Valley Police, as well as partner agencies including vehicle examiners from the National Rural Crime Unit and Environment Agency officers.

Operation Ragwort is a joint initiative between the five police forces in the South West region, and the Police and Crime Commissioners for all five forces. The aim of this operation was to stop and check all vehicles towing trailers carrying quad bikes, livestock, agricultural equipment, and plant along two key Wiltshire Road networks, to prevent and disrupt the transportation of stolen machinery. This follows intelligence from Wiltshire Police which suggests the theft of agricultural machinery, plant machinery, horseboxes and farming tools has increased by 3% from 2023 to 2024. Over the two days of action, over 100 vehicles were stopped and checked. Two vehicles were seized, a suspected stolen trailer was recovered, and a vehicle prohibition was completed on a vehicle carrying a trailer containing a dangerous load. As a result of vehicle stops completed during the operation, the Environment Agency are following up on two cases of waste carrying breaches.

Superintendent James Brain, Rural Crime Tactical Lead for Wiltshire Police and Regional Rural Crime Lead, said: "The aim of Operation Ragwort is two-fold, to disrupt and deter the organised theft of agricultural machinery and plant across our county borders, and reassure our rural communities that Wiltshire Police is committed to tackling rural crime." He continued: "Wiltshire Police's message is simple – if you have been a victim of rural crime, including agricultural machinery theft, please come forward and report this to the police online or by calling 101. Reports of crime help build intelligence and enable the Force to target resources and dedicate future operations to specific locations. Rural crime is a nationally emerging threat, and Wiltshire Police are united with neighbouring police forces and partner agencies across the South West to prevent rural crimes from taking place."

Eloise Newman (Wiltshire Police, Communications & Engagement Officer, Force wide)

Update on Potholes and Speeding for Derry Hill & Studley

I thought it would be helpful to write and give an update on some of the common local issues that residents raise to me through e-mail or via doorstep conversations, particularly potholes and speeding traffic.

Potholes

With the extreme winter weather that we are having in the UK, more and more roads across the country need investment to keep them maintained to a good standard and pothole free.

Significant extra funding for road maintenance has been put in the budget at Wiltshire Council and we have had some good success locally with the resurfacing of Church Road at the Lansdowne Arms end of Derry Hill as an example. Over the course of this winter, the other end of Church Road has deteriorated significantly and is now in need of repair. I have asked that Wiltshire Council undertake Bobcat patch repairs where clusters of potholes have opened up on Church Road as well as the large pothole that keeps reappearing on Old Derry Hill. The Bobcat machine is a better way of repairing potholes by cutting out a square section of the tarmac and then hot tarmac is used to fill the hole and the edges sealed, which results in a much more permanent repair. I am hopeful that these repairs will be undertaken over the next couple of months.

I drive our roads with the local highways engineer every few months and report potholes or other issues that need addressing, but if you do spot something that needs repair, either report it on the MyWilts app or let me know and I can report it on your behalf.

Speeding

Speeding remains a concern in the new 40/50mph on the A4 as well as on Church Road through Derry Hill, on the A4 at Pewsham and on the A342 Devizes Road at Derry Hill and at Sandy Lane. I am pleased that we have been able to lower the speed limit on the A4 at Studley Crossroads, but some drivers are not adhering to the new limit.

I am regularly in contact with Wiltshire Police and have asked them to undertake additional enforcement at all these locations which they have started to do more frequently. Hopefully, this continued enforcement will make more drivers think about their speed when they are travelling on our local roads.

Speed indicator devices continue to be rotated around different locations which help with driver awareness of their speed. These devices are used in 20/30/40mph zones and now that the speed limit at Studley Crossroads has been reduced to 40mph, the parish council will be able to place the devices at the crossroads to help with managing speed compliance.

I hope this update is helpful, and I am available to discuss any local concerns that you might have either by telephone on **07917 760712** or by e-mail at **ashley.oneill@wiltshire.gov.uk**

Ashley O'Neill – Wiltshire Councillor for Calne Rural.

Meditation – a contemplative space to be present

Why not join us for an introduction to meditation on any Wednesday evening during this time of Lent? Take a 30-minute break from your business and discover this gentle way of stilling your mind and body.



We meet in Derry Hill Church and all are welcome. Each time we sit down to meditate, we are all beginners, so all you have to do is just turn up!

And it is simple, we arrive in quiet and listen to a short reading before meditating together for 20 minutes. We end with a short reading and there are chairs not cushions for us to sit on!

We meet every Wednesday from 6.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

You can just turn up or if you need further information, please contact

Janet Robbins on **01249 814845** **WCCM.org**

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



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derryhillpccsec@mardenvale.org.uk 

This voluntary post could be filled by someone who is not a regular attendee at Christ Church.

Derry Hill & District WI

Our 'Quiz Evening' in February was good fun. We had six teams who answered 5 rounds of very different topics, plus 2 picture rounds. There was lots of laughter, some gnashing of teeth and cheering of correct answers.



Team 3 won the quiz closely followed by Team 2. There was only 1 point difference but a win is a win. Congratulations to Dani, Jo, Nicki and Angela, enjoy your prizes.



We have been collecting Trauma Teddies for the Bobby Van Trust and knitted hats for Chippenham Doorway. Our amazing ladies have knitted 40+ hats and nearly a dozen teddies. I am sure both charities will be very happy. We will continue to collect them until the April Meeting then deliver them to the charities.

The March Knit and Natter was at Andrea's house on Wednesday 12th at 7.30pm. Just to prove that it is not all nattering!!



Another successful coffee morning at The Pewsham on Friday 14th at 10.30am. 4 members managed to get there and enjoyed the company.

Our session in April will be led by Dani. We are making beautiful painted coasters. We always enjoy craft evenings so we are all looking forward to this one.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Lansdowne Hall, 7.30pm. If you are interested, please email our secretary, Liz, at

derryhillsec@wiltshirewi.org

Tina



THE VICARAGE

The 1-acre piece of land on Church Road was gifted by Angell of Rumsey House. The foundation stone for the vicarage was laid by Mr B J Angell esq in 1842. The vicarage was built in 1843.



The first vicar to move in was Rev Stafford Brown. In his diary, Rev Brown noted that life was very hard in 1830's Derry Hill and that he was determined to see Christ Church built and the light brought to those of the village. Rev Brown moved to Westbury, Wiltshire in 1845 –



replaced at Derry Hill by the Rev John Lowder. Rev Brown died two years later aged just 33.

The last vicar to live in the original vicarage was Rev Selwyn Swift (1983 to 1989). He was the 15th vicar of Derry Hill. Born in Yorkshire in 1941, Selwyn married Glenys Heys in 1966 in Hounslow. He was ordained in 1976. Selwyn passed away suddenly on 18th November 2012 aged 71 years - "And God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes".

In the 1980's the 1-acre plot was subdivided; the New Vicarage was built on half and the other half sold. Bethesda House was built in 1985/6.

Bethesda House was sold to a developer in 2024 and the building is to be converted to a number of independent apartments.

Steve Calder

p.s. I seem to remember that Selwyn was an architect before he was ordained and designed the present vicarage. Ed

Future dates and performers for the Jazz Club

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 have been lucky enough to hold a few sessions outside in the glorious sunshine! The sun certainly lifts the spirits and hopefully improves our play!!



We are losing one of our Hostesses before Easter. Suzie has brilliantly hosted for over 5 years. This is a sad time for us, but she has an exciting new job and will be working both Mondays and Fridays. We all thank you Suzie and wish you every success. Pop in and see us when you can.

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

JOIN US FOR 3 HOURS OF CREATIVE FUN AND NEW FRIENDSHIPS



YOUR NEW COURSE

ART CLASS

FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS TO IMPROVERS - JUST LIKE YOU!



LEARN TO PAINT AND DRAW PEOPLE AND PLACES

Over the **14 week** course you will explore at least four different mediums: **Pencil** or other sketching media, **Pastels**, **Watercolour**, **Acrylics**. Discover how to paint faces, figures, beautiful landscapes, animals, still life and much more! Learn artists' secrets needed to create beautiful pieces of original art.

HAVE FUN AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS

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!

PLACES LIMITED. PLEASE CALL NOW FOR MORE DETAILS AND A FRIENDLY CHAT.

NEW CLASS STARTS SOON

YOU DESERVE THIS TREAT



Lansdowne Hall
in Derry Hill, Calne

01249 736 494

Derry Hill & Studley Gardening Club



At our March meeting, Caroline Sheldick, a retired medical herbalist, talked about 'A Year in the Cutting Garden.' Caroline gave us tips on how to grow a steady supply of flowers and jobs for each season to get the most out of the cutting garden.

Congratulations to Liz for her Bowl of Spring Bulbs - the winner of our first Competition Table this year.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 1st April and we will be welcoming Nicola Hope who will be 'Talking Tomatoes'.

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 0783 3755232.

TOWN HALL MOVIOLA

Our film for April is '**Conclave**' 12A starring Ralph Fiennes and based on Robert Harris's best-selling novel about a papal election.

Cardinal Lawrence is tasked with running this covert process after the death of the Pope and uncovers a trail of deep secrets which could shake the foundations of the church.

Weds 16th April at 7.30. Tickets £6 from the information centre or on the door (cash only please)

Viv



Mothers' Union Prayer & Fellowship Group



We met on Wed 5th March in Christ Church and, as it was also Ash Wednesday, Rev'd Sarah Errington incorporated the Imposition of Ashes into our planned Holy Communion Service. We were delighted to be joined by MU members from St Andrews' in Chippenham and St James' in Trowbridge. Our thanks go to Rev'd Sarah for a lovely service which everyone enjoyed and said it was a nice way to start Lent. After the service we had refreshments home made by all the MU P&F Group members and all the visitors were given a short history on the church, it's origin and an explanation of the beautiful stained glass windows. Everyone left feeling refreshed, not so much in body, but definitely in mind and spirit.

Our next meeting is on Wed 2nd April when we are all bringing an item that provokes memories for us. Opening prayers and reading will be done by Robyn and refreshments are kindly being done by Jean and Nan. All are very welcome.

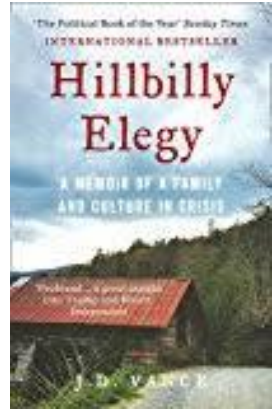
Barbara M Parry

Book Club Review

Hillbilly Elegy, A memoir of a family and culture in crisis. By J D Vance

This book was chosen when Mr Vance was to be inaugurated as Vice President of America a position often described as a heartbeat away from the White House.

It is an autobiographical account of His life to the age of about 30 years. Mr Vance makes it clear that he identifies as a Hillbilly but the book reveals that his connection to this culture and way of life is through ancestry rather than experience since his grandparents left their community as newly married teenagers. They worked hard in industrial Ohio to give themselves and their children a more comfortable lifestyle than the one they grew up in.



The use of Hillbilly slang and by constantly writing of the culture as his own, Mr Vance reinforces his right to speak for and about a community in which he has only ever been a visitor. The use of incidents which suggest a feckless and workshy way of life and extrapolating from them to generalities leads Mr Vance to suggest that state help is a wasteful use of public money. In doing so he fails to notice the plight of people in areas where paid employment is hard to come by and the absence of such aid must lead to greater misery.

His own rise from a difficult beginning as the son of an alcoholic mother, who provided him with a succession of stepfathers (6), to a graduate of Harvard law school via a four-year stint in the public relations department of the Marines in Iraq is an impressive achievement. But we felt the book reveals a lack of empathy for others less able to overcome adversity.

The overwhelming feeling of Book Club members was that the book presented a picture of JD Vance at variance with the person we saw at the recent White House press conference with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy.

Andrea



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Best Kept Village 2025 (BKV)



We've been asked by several of you "What is happening and how can we support this idea?" OK, so here it is...

A number of villages across Wiltshire will vie for the title of Best Kept Village 2025. Covert judging will occur in May and then again in July. The purpose is to find the village which presents well giving the best impression of a community which takes pride in itself and oozes warmth and fizz.

While this competition is not about having the prettiest village, we don't think it will hurt us if the village is shown off at its best. To that end, while the Committee will work with other community groups to prepare our communal spaces and facilities all of us can do our bit:

- Join the Area Tidy Up morning on Saturday 3rd May – a part of the VE Day +80 activities. Assemble at the hall at 10am armed with anything you can think of to brush or otherwise clear curbs, cut back overhanging growth in hedges and small trees, pick up litter etc. You will be generously rewarded with butties and hot drinks!
- Take a look at your house and garden from the road-side and just ask yourself if it could do with a bit of tidying and/or smartening up. Perhaps it's about weeding between the slabs, cutting the grass or fixing that hanging basket bracket. Nobody is asking you to plant lots of pretty little flowers or getting stuck into a bit of topiary but let's at least avoid creating a negative impression. Now is the time to address those things you have been putting off.
- Cut back hedges so they are no closer than 6" from pavement edges or overhanging public footpaths.
- We have noted the continual cry to clear up after our dogs and we would urge you to please do this at all times and if you witness someone not doing so then call them out if you feel confident enough to do so.

- Why not take a small bag with you when you go for a walk and if you come across any litter then pick it up and dispose of it at home or the nearest bin – search for your inner Womble!
 - Particularly, during May and July if you are wandering the village and you come across people you are unfamiliar with, especially if they are carrying clip boards, why not give them a cheery “G’ day” or similar?
 - Your efforts, no matter how small, may help us to secure this marvellous accolade. Don’t forget, being able to say that Derry Hill & Studley is the Best Kept Village may even add a bit to the value of your house! There, blatant bribery.
-

Parish Council continues its support for inSPIRE

We are delighted to be supported, once again, by the Parish Council in our work to bring their news, and that of the community, to the residents of Derry Hill and Studley.

As you may know, the magazine is run by volunteers with the paper copy being distributed by a wonderful band of residents.

The only cost we have is the printing of the paper copy which is paid for by the advertising and grants from the Parish Council and the Fete.

We aim to continue to support the Parish council, Fete Committee and many other organisations in their work by communicating their excellent efforts to make Derry Hill and Studley the great place it is to live in.

Editor

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

Mobile library visits to Derry Hill

Lansdowne Hall Derry Hill

14.30 – 15.45

Tuesday: 1st, 15th & 29th April 2025

Kingston House Derry Hill

10.10 – 10.30

7th April 2025



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.

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) could be advised of your planned attendance.



Alan Rosekilly

Secretary to the Management Committee and Board of Trustees.

Rub a Dub Pre-School



Thank you!

We would like to start by saying a big **thank you** to everyone involved in our Easter Fayre this year. Thank you to the stall holders for supplying the village with your artisan goodies and thank you to the local businesses who sponsored our fun Bunny Trail. Thank you to all those who bought coffees, teas, delicious burgers and toys from the stands and to the children who put their all into making some impressive Easter Bonnets. The funds raised will help to purchase some much-needed new furniture for the preschool.



We are hiring!

We are looking for an afterschool supervisor to assist in our afterschool club. If you are interested in finding out some more information about this role, please contact the preschool admin assistant, Linda Jennings by emailing rubadubpreschool@outlook.com.

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 where we will be happy to help.

Many thanks for reading.

Leah Ryan

rubadubsecretary@gmail.com



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Set in the idyllic grounds of St Mary's Calne, the modern contemporary building houses a cutting edge gymnasium and swimming pool facilities as well as the recent Sports Complex development. We now have a County sized sports hall, multi-purpose room, larger dance studio, additional changing facilities and disabled access.

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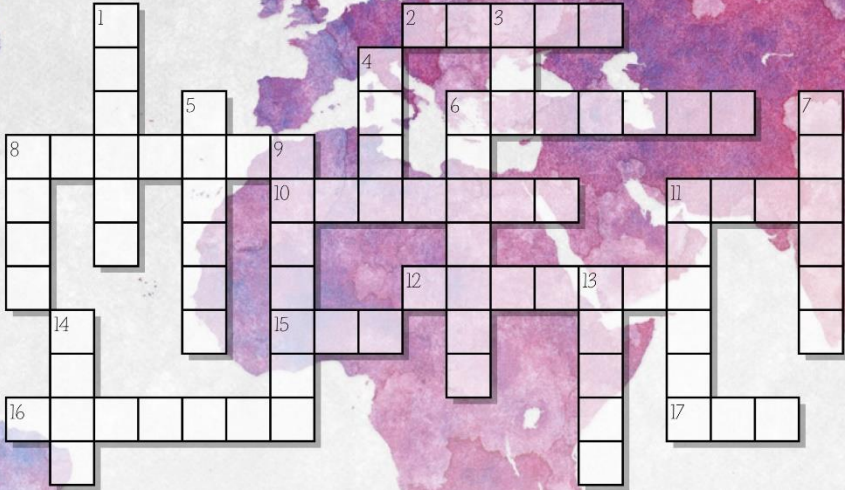
e: sportsclub@stmaryscalne.org

63 Curzon Street, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 0DF

FOLLOW US



April 2025 crossword.



ACROSS

- 2 Lubricated(5)
- 6 Tuneful(7)
- 8 Dried
grape(7)
- 10 Sunshade(7)
- 11 Hairless(4)
- 12 Face veil(7)

- 15 Young lion(3)

- 16 Cargo(7)
- 17 Unwell(3)

DOWN

- 1 Wan(6)
- 3 Untruth(3)
- 4 Just(4)

- 5 Expel(6)

- 6 Error(7)

- 7 Passionate(6)

- 8 Halt(4)

- 9 Fruit(7)

- 11 Swimsuit(6)

- 13 Less(5)

- 14 Planet(3)

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Image: Frank Leuderalt on Unsplash

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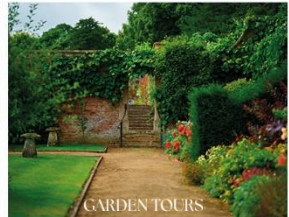
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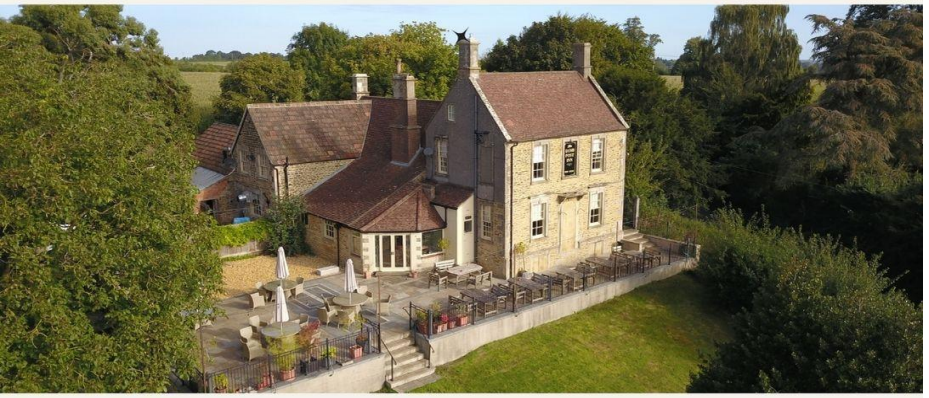
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Wellbeing notes

Quietly appreciating what we're good at

Last spring a visitor fell totally in love with our local bluebell woods. Through her, I realised how privileged we are that these fragrant flower drifts are such a familiar part of our neighbourhood.



According to Kew Gardens, over half the world's population of bluebells, or *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, grow in the UK. They're native to Britain and other parts of Western Europe. But Britain is their citadel,

and we protect them through legislation. Bluebells are often found in woodland that is over 400 years old, so a bluebell-rich landscape is a healthy landscape that encourages all sorts of native wildlife. Some of my favourite spring moments include seeing roe deer meandering along flowery banks in dappled sunlight. Our bluebell citadel is definitely something to appreciate.

Now, as it happens, the visitor who enjoyed our local woodland is not so great at appreciating her own, personal attributes. She is a kindly person, who is quick to help others. However, she doesn't value these things about herself. Compliments embarrass her and yet in her own way she is a citadel for a practical form of kindness.

I wonder how many of us are not very good at appreciating the special things about ourselves. Each one of us can be said to be a citadel for a unique blend of skills, talents and other qualities that enhance the lives of others around us. So, my question to you is: what will you appreciate about yourself today?

Suzanne Askham

Derry Tots

toddler group



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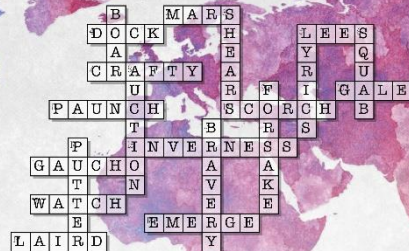
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March 2025 Crossword



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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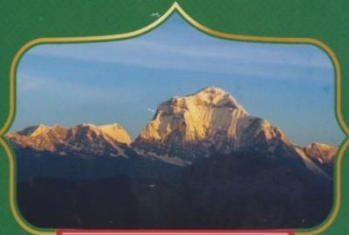
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