

DERRY HILL AND  
STUDLEY MATTERS

inSPIRE



Digital Version  
February 2021

The Parish Magazine of Christ Church Derry Hill

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

Any opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writers and are not necessarily the policy of this publication or its editor. All articles submitted for publication are subject to editing. Deadline for inclusion of material in next month's magazine is the 10th of this month.

## ADVERTISING RATES

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

Size	Grayscale	Colour	Approximate size of advert (Width by height) (cm)
Quarter page	£30.00	£45.00	6 by 8
Half page	£60.00	£90.00	12 by 8 or 6 by 16
Full page	£120.00	£180.00	12 by 16

Cover Photo: Richard Ayles.

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## inSPIRE Magazine update

Sadly, we have been unable to produce a paper copy since last February 2020 in order to protect our distributors. It looks like we are still going to be digital in March as well. This prolonged period of limited movement / lockdown has, I guess, surprised us all in terms of how long it would take to get things back to some form of 'normality'.

So, when we can, we will be producing and distributing the paper copy. In more normal times we hope to produce about four paper copies a year with the rest being digital.

We are very conscious that many residents of Derry Hill and Studley may not be receiving the digital versions as we don't have their email.

If you know of somebody in that situation we'd be grateful if you could forward this copy to them and hopefully they will drop me an email at this address - [inspireeditor@outlook.com](mailto:inspireeditor@outlook.com). Details are also on the (new) parish notice boards in Derry Hill (by the phone box) and Studley (opposite the chapel) and on the Lansdowne Hall front door.

**Editor**

## Rachel is running for Charity

On three occasions while staying with our daughter and her family in Auckland, New Zealand, I have taken part in the annual ['Round The Bays'](#) fun run – a 8.4k run along the seafront road in Auckland, which in March 2020 attracted over 30,000 runners, including me!

Supporting

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

The coronavirus pandemic has prevented us planning a visit to our family this year, so instead I plan to run the distance locally, at the beginning of March, and will be raising money for [Macmillan Cancer Support](#).

My sister and I are both living with a blood cancer, and my brother-in-law is currently receiving chemo for cancer and being supported by Macmillan nurses.

If you would like to support this charity, you can donate via my [Just Giving page](#)

Thanks,

**Rachel Collins**

## Editorial

The year passes very quickly and by the end of February we will be knocking on the door of Spring. By the end of the month, we will be enjoying almost three hours of additional daylight compared with New Year's Eve 2020 – 1hr 19mins in the morning and 1hr 37mins in the evening with the promise of the switch to British Summer Time not too far away.



On warmer and sunnier days towards month's end the first bees will venture out to take advantage of the nectar contained within some early flowering plants before returning to the warmth and safety of the hive until more consistent temperatures arrive. With vegetation low at this time of the year there should also be opportunities to witness the antics of hares across our open spaces – always a delight. The month is also a good time to see barn owls and others making their hunting forays into the evening – we are well blessed with owls in these parts and if we do not see them, we will certainly hear them! There will be plenty of other harbingers of Spring to look out for this month. However, we can still be reminded of the proximity of Winter as the 'Beast from the East' reminded us towards the end of February 2018!

February 12 sees the start of the Chinese New Year, this year being the Year of the Ox. Chinese New Year follows the lunar calendar so the event can fall on any date



between 21 January and 20 February. Celebrations last for up to sixteen days, but only the first seven are considered public holidays. Although still in winter the whole period is also looked upon as a Spring festival. Traditionally, it is a time to spend with parents and grandparents, so the period sees a mass migration from the major industrial centres of employment to rural areas where much of the older generations still live.

There are also several notable dates in our calendar during the month, including St Valentine's Day on Sunday 14 February. This is closely followed by Shrove Tuesday, the traditional day for eating up all the rich foods before the period of Lent and its accompanying pre-Easter abstinence. Many parts of the world mark the day as 'Mardi Gras' (Fat Tuesday) with extravagant and colourful parades, though in this time of pandemic, many have been cancelled in 2021. Enjoy the traditional pancakes which were first recorded in a cookery book in 1439.



15 February this year sees the fiftieth anniversary of Britain (and the Republic of Ireland) switching to Decimal currency and the loss of florins, half crowns, ten-bob notes and other familiar currency. The banks were closed for four days over the period and there was much criticism at the time of retailers and others engaged in 'rounding up' as the new currency came into being. Having recently handled a couple of half-crowns (twelve and a half pence), I can confirm that they were pretty heavy – you would not want too many of them in your pocket – though you could still get change from one and enjoy your pint of beer. Cheers!

***Assistant Editor***

## Church Services suspended during lockdown period.

Following the Prime Minister's statement on 4<sup>th</sup> January we find ourselves in another period of lockdown. The government has not so far stated that churches should close for public worship. Statements from the Church of England at national and diocesan level indicate that local decisions about whether to remain open may be taken at parish level.

Members of the Marden Vale ministry team have met (via Zoom) for prayer and to consider the way forward. The clear message from the government is that, at the moment, everyone should remain at home and leave for only very limited and essential purposes. Given the vulnerability of many who attend our churches the ministry team feels that the right and pastoral thing to do is to suspend public worship across the benefice for the time being. Some of us are a part of households where people who previously have been shielding have been asked to shield again. In order to reduce the risk of transmission of the new and highly transmissible variant of Covid-19 it seems best to operate with maximum caution. The good news is that vaccines are now available and are being rolled-out and, hopefully over the next couple of months our lives will begin to improve and restrictions begin to be reduced. In the meantime, we need to keep people as safe as we can.

Whilst we won't be opening our churches for public worship over the coming weeks it is our intention to offer times when people can come into our church buildings for private prayer. We will also continue with online worship and do all we can to support people who feel lonely and isolated. The best thing we can all do is to support and keep praying for each other. We do hope you will support us in this decision as to how proceed in the coming weeks. Obviously, we will keep matters under review as the picture changes.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last few months, both in your understanding when we have had to close churches and your patience in following new guidance for booking and attending services when churches have been open.

Thank you also for your generosity in terms of financial giving, which is very much appreciated in these difficult times.

“Blessed be the Lord! For he has shown me his steadfast love when I was as a city besieged...Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait in hope for the Lord.” Psalm 31.

**Rev. Linda Carter** (on behalf of Marden Vale Ministry Team)

## Private Prayer at Christ Church Derry Hill

Due to the current government ‘Lockdown’ restrictions, Christ Church can no longer be open on a Sunday for public worship. However, it can remain open for private prayer and during the winter months this will be:  
**Thursday – Saturday:** 10am - 3pm **Sunday:** 12 noon - 3pm

***Please note only one household in church at any one time.***

### FAQs

#### **Q. Should I wear a face covering in a church building?**

A. From 8th August face coverings **must** be worn by all those attending a place of worship.

**If you do not feel it is safe or if you feel unwell** – please do stay at home and enjoy the online services from the Marden Vale Team.

***Please check the [church website](#) for up-to-date details.***

**Rev. Linda Carter**

**Please see page 17 for full details of ‘Lockdown’ regulations**



## **Church Contacts CHRIST CHURCH - DERRY HILL**

**Vicar:**  
**(Day off Monday.**  
**Urgent calls only that day**  
**please)**

**Reverend Linda Carter**  
The Vicarage,  
Church Road, Derry Hill.      **01249 817926**  
Calne. SN11 9NN  
lindac@mardenvale.org.uk

**Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs)**  
**Please call if you would like a visit or chat - all in strictest**  
**confidence**

Mrs Averil Davis      01249 814411      Mrs Anita Uttley      01380 859433

### **Church Wardens**

Mrs Deidre Lias      01249 822157      Mr Peter Rigby      01225 704356

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

Mr Peter Roycroft (Tr) 01249 660550      Mrs Jennie Leddra (Sec) 01249 660550

*If you wish to discuss arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals or would like a pastoral visit or meeting arranged then please contact Reverend Linda Carter*

## Dear Friends,

There was a sense towards the end of 2020 that Christmas decorations were appearing earlier and in greater abundance than usual as we sought to bring some much-needed cheer into our lives. For my part, the memories associated with each ornament seem to become more precious with each passing year, and my favourite moment of each day during Christmas is turning on the Christmas tree lights first thing in the morning while it is still dark and quiet. In that moment I am transported to a place of comfort and security, a memory perhaps of simpler times. Taking down the Christmas tree is a melancholy time for me.

Every time we had a Facetime call over the Christmas period from our granddaughter Edith, she would ask to see our Christmas tree. Together, she and Richard would point out 'star', 'angel', 'red bauble', 'stripy bauble' and name the colours of the lights. It became a kind of ritual, guaranteed to bring comfort and restore calm to a fractious two-year-old. And then after Twelfth Night the tree was gone. The next Facetime call was a little more challenging as Richard showed Edith a bare tree waiting to be recycled. I had a cunning plan, however, and whilst all the other Christmas decorations had been packed away for another year, I kept out the star, the stripy bauble and a couple of snowmen so we could look at them when Edith called. Now, as Candlemas comes, they can be finally packed away, as her focus and our conversations have moved on to other subjects.

Truth be told, as Candlemas comes round on 2<sup>nd</sup> February and the Christmas Cribs are finally put away, I am ready to embrace the pared back season of Lent. As we turn our attention from the baby in the manger, recognised by Simeon and Anna as the Light of the world, we must prepare to follow the adult Jesus and the unfolding events leading to the Cross.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on 17<sup>th</sup> February. I wonder, what will Lent mean for you at a time when many have lived in isolation and feel they have had more than enough stillness and silence, and many others who feel their homes have become unrelenting 24/7 places of work, home schooling, study and busyness?

Instead of seeing Lent only in terms of fasting and abstinence, of 'giving up things', I wonder whether it is more helpful to think in terms of simplicity? Perhaps, in the midst of uncertainty we might consider more deeply what is life-giving and enables us all to flourish...and then to pray...for ourselves, for each other, for the world.



Lent is a tree without blossom, without leaf,  
Barer than blackthorn in its winter sleep,  
All unadorned. Unlike Christmas which decrees  
The setting-up, the dressing-up of trees,  
Lent is a taking down, a stripping bare,  
A starkness after all has been withdrawn  
Of surplus and superfluous,  
Leaving no hiding-place, only an emptiness  
Between black branches, a most precious space  
Before the leaf, before the time of flowers;  
Lest we should see only the leaf, the flower,  
Lest we should miss the stars.

Jean M. Watt

For me, Lent is a time of spiritual de-cluttering, which gives me space to breathe. Stripping away my comfort blanket and examining the habits I have fallen into is unnerving. But if taking this opportunity to see through bare branches allows me to see the stars, it is worth it.

As Janet Morley in her book 'The heart's time' says: "...we are invited to allow the intentional keeping of Lent to rearrange our habitual perspectives on life, to let ourselves be unsettled so that we do not miss God's wider vision."

Blessings on your Lenten journey,

**Linda**

Photo by [John Peters](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Your Heart is a Muscle – Exercise It!

Your heart is a muscle, but it is easy to ignore what that means for your heart health. Like any muscle, the heart gets stronger when it gets regular exercise, fuel and rest, and it is not subjected to unnecessary stresses or damage.



Unfortunately, the converse is also true, the heart gets weaker if it doesn't get regular exercise and is more prone to problems. Of course, the heart isn't just any muscle – it's the most important muscle in your body. So it's essential to give priority to strengthening the heart and the trick is to gradually increase the exercise **not suddenly try to run a marathon.**

Unlike other muscles, your heart is always working. However, sitting around for a long time provides no impetus for your heart to grow stronger. Even standing instead of sitting, or pacing around instead of standing still, will make your heart work a bit harder – and wear the carpets out quicker! Replacing a sedentary lifestyle with a more active one can help strengthen your heart and reduce your risk of heart disease - **but make the increase gradual.**

**From all at Heartbeat thank you for your generous support over this last difficult year. We wish you all a much brighter one in 2021!**

Keep safe.

**Julian** (Chair) 01249 814145 / [julesoliver3@gmail.com](mailto:julesoliver3@gmail.com)

## **An article by James Gray (MP) on the proposed Chippenham east by-pass, associated housing and the proposed solar farm at Forest Gate**

Most of us live where we live in North Wiltshire because we like it like it is. Or at least I presume that if we did not - if, for example, we craved the hustle and bustle of the city - then we would go and live in Bristol or Swindon. The reality is actually the opposite - more and more people want to live like we do and would give anything to come and live in North Wiltshire. The moral question at the heart of all planning is: "Do we have some kind of obligation to allow them to do so?"

Wiltshire Council are starting the long and tortuous process of trying to decide what the County will look like through until 2036. It's what is known as the Local Plan, and it lays out the broad parameters of planning into the future. For reasons known only to themselves, the County are proposing to provide some 5000 more homes by 2036 than the Government is asking for. That will mean a real change in the way a large part of our area will look. It will mean houses, roads, infrastructure, employment land. Do we really want it?

Wiltshire has concluded that Chippenham, Trowbridge and Salisbury should take most of the extra housing needed (Swindon is done separately), so I guess that we should be glad that Malmesbury, Royal Wootton Bassett, Purton, Calne and Box will be relatively spared unreasonable over-development as a result. The first step towards achieving their housing targets looks like a new by-pass to the East of Chippenham, swathing through unspoiled countryside. Do we need a new bypass? Not really - there's a perfectly good one to the West of the town. Nor must we be bribed by the £75 million the good old Government is shelling out for this road. It's a bribe, because with it comes 7500 houses. That's a new town the size of Calne, double the size of Malmesbury. It will mean 20,000 or so extra citizens of Chippenham; it will mean 10 or 15,000 more cars trying to weave their way to the supermarkets to the west of the town as well as to the station and motorway.

Now we do need some low-cost housing for local people. And no doubt some will be rather reluctantly provided by the profiteering developers.

But most of the houses will be lovely three and four bed houses designed to attract well paid commuters. Our population and employment is currently more or less in balance, so why do we need all these extra houses? They are houses for people who do not presently live here. So why, you may well ask, are we planning to wreck a great patch of countryside in order to block up our roads with thousands of cars, overstretch our schools and surgeries and infrastructure, to provide nice houses for people from elsewhere? There's no reason that I can think of.

The new road will sweep down from the Wavin roundabout (its already more or less completed from the Morrisons roundabout), round Abbeyfield School and the football ground, then across the meadows to the Lackham roundabout. Any land inside that curve will then be fair game for the developers - including large amounts of unspoiled farming and recreation ground.

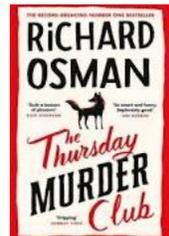
Add to that a wholly unnecessary and hideous solar farm down beyond where the road will cross the A-4, and you land up with significant urbanisation half the way to Calne. If we allow either, we will risk ruining the very fine environment which all of us who live here love so much. So now is the time for action. Take up cudgels on behalf of our countryside, our quiet market towns and villages and stop the onward march of philistine developers. Letters, petitions, protests, judicial reviews. Let's go for it. Let's keep North Wiltshire how we like it - green and pleasant.

*(Posted by James Gray MP on his website and reproduced with his kind permission)*

## Book Club

The book we are reading at the moment, which we will review in March, is **The Thursday Murder Club** by **Richard Osman**.

**Christine**



## Summary: what you can and cannot do during the national lockdown (From the government website)

You must stay at home. The single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

You should follow this guidance immediately. The law will be updated to reflect these new rules.

### Leaving home

You must not leave or be outside of your home except where necessary.

You may leave the home to:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home.
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- attend education or childcare - for those eligible

Colleges, primary and secondary schools will remain open only for vulnerable children and the children of [critical workers](#). All other children will learn remotely until February half term. Early Years settings remain open.

Higher Education provision will remain online until mid-February for all except future critical worker courses.

If you do leave home for a permitted reason, you should always stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live. You may leave your local area for a legally permitted reason, such as for work.

If you are clinically extremely vulnerable you should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential. You should not attend work.

### Meeting others

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone you do not live with or are not in a [support bubble](#) with (if you are legally permitted to form one).

You may exercise on your own, with one other person, or with your household or support bubble.

You should not meet other people you do not live with, or have formed a support bubble with, unless for a permitted reason.

Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household.

[More detailed advice](#)

## Parish Council News

### Gigaclear Fibre Broadband

The Community Engagement Manager for Gigaclear attended the Parish Council meeting in January to outline the plans in place for Derry Hill, Studley and Stanley. The project is part funded through the [BDUK scheme](#) in partnership with Wiltshire Online. The project will seek to bring fibre broadband to houses in the area. Many residents will already have received information from the company.

They hope to start work in the first quarter of this year and will keep the Parish Council updated on progress.



Find out more on the [Gigaclear website](#) and download a copy of the stakeholder brochure. Residents with detailed questions can contact [the build team](#) or call on 01865 591 137.

### Wiltshire Local Plan Consultation

Wiltshire Council are currently consulting on the Wiltshire Local Plan which will set the framework for development in the County until 2036. Calne is part of the Chippenham Housing Area and the current proposals suggest a development level of 360 additional houses and 4 hectares of employment land, although the plan does suggest that there is scope for a much larger amount of development if the community wished to see it



happen to provide an eastern bypass for the town.

The plan also sets out housing development for rural areas including large villages and suggests that Derry Hill and Studley should accommodate about 80 new dwellings.

The Plan also covers sustainability and climate change and identifies several potential development sites. All aspects of the plan are available for comment and residents are encouraged to look at the documents and respond to Wiltshire Council by the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Please follow these links to the various documents.

[Emerging Spatial Strategy](#)

[Empowering Rural Communities](#)

[Planning for Calne](#)

[Site selection for Calne](#)

[Planning for Chippenham](#)

[Site Selection for Chippenham](#)

[Addressing Climate Change and biodiversity net gain](#)

Each topic has an electronic response form which you can use to submit comments, or you can email your views to

<mailto:spatialplanningpolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk>

Wiltshire Council is keen to help those without access to the internet participate in this process. Please ring 0300 456 0100 for more information.

### **Future Chippenham**

Another Wiltshire Council consultation currently under way is about the Wiltshire Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Bid and the possible routes for a new distributor road to the south and east of Chippenham.



This map shows an indicative road route only, as the actual route has not been consulted on and determined.

Consultation on this runs until 12th March 2021.

The information includes a [public consultation leaflet](#) and a [video of the routes being proposed](#). There is also additional supporting

information available on the website and the [consultation response form](#).

The Parish Council will be considering its response to both consultations in February and March. If residents would like to share their views with the Council, then they are welcome to send them to the [Clerk](#).

Details of what will be considered at the Parish Council meetings and any reports will be published on the Parish Council website. Meetings are open to the public to attend and joining instructions for the meetings are on the Agendas.



### **Dog Waste bin for Studley**

The Council's dog waste bin in Studley Gardens, near the kissing gate which gives access to the public footpath is now in place and dog

owners are reminded to dispose of their dog's poo responsibly.

### **Playground Survey**

The Council's survey about the possibility of providing play and fitness equipment at Petty Acre ended on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and a report of the results will be presented to the Parish Council in February. The results will also be reported in the Parish Council news in the March InSPIRE. Thank you to all those who took part in the survey.

### **Derry Hill Post Office and Shop**

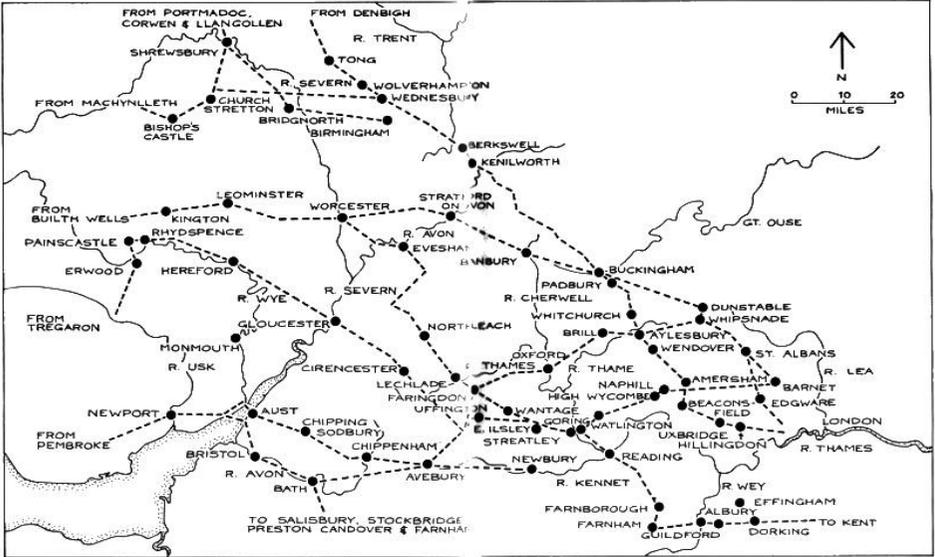
The Parish Council recognises the importance of the Post Office and shop to the local community, particularly for those less able to access other facilities. It shares the concerns expressed by residents about its closure and for the owners.

The shop is privately owned and therefore the Council's role is very limited however it remains in touch with the owners and when appropriate will seek to inform residents of any decisions.

[Sarah Glen](#) Clerk [www.calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk](http://www.calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk)

# Driving History

Drove roads and herd driving probably evolved from the hunter-gatherer peoples of Britain and Europe in prehistory who knew about the migration of the wild herds that they needed for sustenance. Then later in the New Stone Age with settled communities, agriculture and domestication of



cattle, droving developed as a part of society from across region for trade and barter as well as for great feasting at the religious points of the year at the great prehistoric temple sites such as Stonehenge, Woodhenge, The Sanctuary, and Avebury (the last being only twelve minutes' drive away from us).

Other stock fair sites in Wiltshire included Tan Hill, Yarnbury and White Sheet. There is evidence that tribes people travelled from as far away as Orkney to visit sites such as Avebury and Stonehenge, bringing with them their architectural and interior design house skills (as seen at Skara Brae prehistoric village) which some historians and archaeologists state predated these two sites by several hundred years.

Long after the religious and cultural practices of the Neolithic Age and Bronze Age were finished these sites continued to be used. They became the location of great trade and cattle fairs. Avebury stone circles

had a whole medieval village built inside of it. And in Thomas Hardy's novel "The Mayor of Casterbridge" it was at one such great trade fair at a prehistoric location that the main character Michael Henchard, drunk on rum laced furmity sold his wife Susan to a passing sailor for five guineas.

Some form of drovers' roads existed in Romano-British times and certainly throughout the Early Middle Ages. For example, the old east-west drovers' road connecting the Dorset/Exeter region with London and thence Suffolk is along a similar alignment to the Roman road of the same route. Many lengths of the Welsh Road through the English Midlands coincide with manorial or parish boundaries, suggesting that it predates them and probably had pre-Roman origins as an ancient trackway. The drovers made use of ancient trackways and some still bear names such as the Old Shaftesbury Drove and the Ox Drove leading from Shaftesbury and Blandford to Salisbury. Near to us is the great cross-country prehistoric track called The Ridgeway- this may well have also been used, in part, for droving from ancient times.

Then as the great cities such as London and Bristol rapidly expanded this skill at moving herds of cattle, pigs, geese etc was used to help feed the populations there and droving became a practice of great movement. Such movement could get out of hand, or lead to crime, or even property damage so laws and licensing gradually came into force. Expertise and authority were needed controlling herds of three or four hundred animals on narrow roads, keeping them healthy, and feeding them en route over several weeks or months. There was licensing under the legislation, introduced in 1563, intended to control "badgers" of grain and drovers of cattle, although it seems to have been less rigorously applied to drovers. They were also exempted from the Disarming Acts of 1716 and 1748, which were passed after Jacobite uprisings of 1715 and 1745 of James (the Old Pretender) and Charles (the Young Pretender) the son and grandson of exiled King James II and restore the Stuart monarchy. The drivers may not have been necessarily literate but were respected as experts in their trade.

The drover roads or tracks stretched all over England and one such passed through Studley coming from Wales via the Aust ferry and Chipping Sodbury then on to the stock fair at Avebury then onward towards London. And the regularity of the Welsh trade across Wiltshire

is proved by an inscription in the Welsh language on a cottage at Stockbridge, still visible in the twentieth century: "Satisfactory hay, sweet pasture, good ale and a comfortable bed" ("Gwair boddhaol, porfa felys, cwrw da a gwely cyfforddus").

What a welcome sight such a sign must have been to the weary traveller long ago. And were the villagers of Studley and Stanley happy with the passage of the drover men and their herds and flocks? It would have been a commotion for sure but tradition around the country suggests they might well have been most welcome. Life was hard in those days so the passing custom of the drover men to buy feed for their animals and food and lodging for themselves and their dogs, as well as beer, could have been a beneficial addition to their meagre income and existence. So, when you are next out for a walk from Studley Triangle down Studley Hill and along the lane towards Stanley picture to yourself the clamorous sight greeting you then as 300 or more sheep or cattle came towards you!

## **Stephen Ben Cox**

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[www.derryhillgardenservices.co.uk](http://www.derryhillgardenservices.co.uk)

# MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A LOCAL COUNCILLOR



**IF YOU CARE ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE  
AND ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR  
COMMUNITY, WE NEED YOU**

**Calne Without Parish Council  
Elections 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021**  
For more information go to the  
[Wiltshire Council website](#)

## A letter from Ioan Rees

My piece in the January edition of InSPIRE on the co-option of a new councillor has prompted welcomed support from residents but regrettably some quite venomous criticism from a handful of Parish Councillors. Those councillors accuse me of refusing to accept the outcome of the election, claiming the process was not followed, undermining the council and more.

For the avoidance of any doubt, I've never challenged the outcome of this co-option or the process followed, or the way the Parish Clerk administered the process. I have never had any criticism of Marcus Lee who received the majority of votes in a process that followed the council's rules. I am simply questioning the judgement of councillors who have selected a new councillor who is employed by Bowood, and who's ability to represent residents on some of the most important issues facing Pewsham residents is compromised. Marcus rightly recognises that as the Estate Manager he cannot take part in debates or votes on issues where Bowood has an interest. I make no apology for seeking accountability from those councillors that voted for Marcus, rather than any of the three other candidates that had no such conflicts of interest and would make very good councillors.

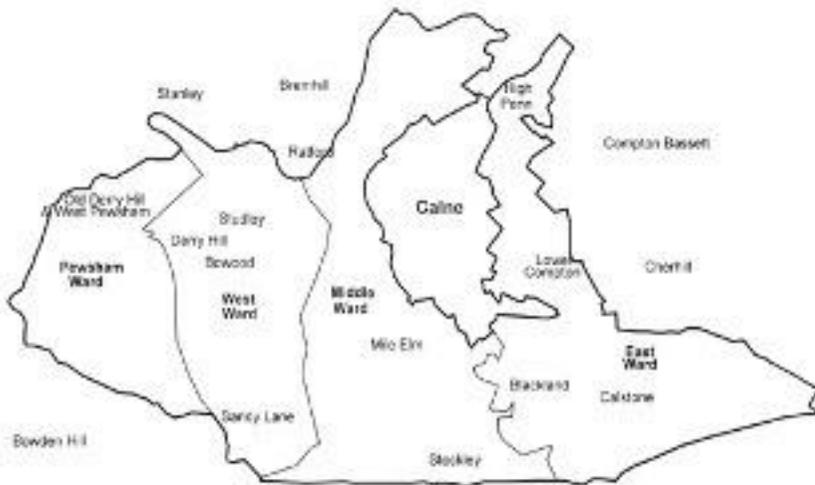
Accountability is one of the [7 'Nolan' Principles](#) that apply to all councillors, MPs and anyone holding public office. Councillors sometimes forget that they must be accountable to the public and don't always seem to understand what that means. - It means, that they are responsible for what they do, including how they vote and most importantly in this case are able to give satisfactory reasons for their decisions.

I regret that there is such division in the council but I believe it's my duty as a councillor to highlight this lack of basic accountability. I look forward to the opportunity for residents, particularly in Pewsham to choose their own councillors in the coming elections.

Calne Without Parish Council along with Wiltshire Council and many other councils across the country are due hold elections on Thursday 6th May. That date was recently confirmed by the Government but may

yet be postponed until the autumn, when hopefully Coronavirus will have much less of an impact on our lives.

The Parish Council election will be for all 15 council seats across all its 5 wards. The boundaries of some of the wards will have been adjusted for this election. West Ward will be considerably larger, and will now include all of Studley, and almost all of Derry Hill, as well as a further 40 or so houses in the rural area between Studley, Calne and Bremhill which were previously in a different ward. Pewsham Ward will then be smaller and based almost entirely on Old Derry Hill, and the surrounding rural area. The 17 houses on the south side of Devizes Rd will then be the only part of Derry Hill still to remain in the Pewsham Ward.



CALNE WITHOUT PARISH

[Click here for a more detailed up to date map](#)

Disappointingly, still only 6 councillors will be elected to represent the greatly enlarged West Ward, even though it's population would justify several more councillors. At the May election, Pewsham Ward will be smaller with fewer voters and will elect only one councillor instead of two that currently represent the ward. The change has been long overdue, the Parish Council seems to have been oblivious to this and other

electoral anomalies that should have been addressed long ago. Hopefully other electoral boundary anomalies and the underrepresentation of West Ward will be rectified as part of a second phase of Wiltshire Council's Electoral Review due to start after the May elections.

It's relatively easy to stand as a candidate in the Parish Council elections. You don't have to live in the ward, but candidates do need to submit a nomination form signed by two voters who do live in that particular ward. [Further details in this link](#). Wiltshire Council administer all the elections and will check the forms and confirm the candidate's nominations. It's almost unheard of for candidates in parish elections to represent political parties but it's good practice for candidates to make a statement or distribute a leaflet letting voters know their aims and views on local issues.

Voting is even easier, but unfortunately, many still do not vote. It's often forgotten that men and women died in long struggles to gain the vote for all of us. Please use your vote, either by visiting the polling station at the village hall or applying for a postal vote which can be done now by contacting Wiltshire Council on 0300 456 0112 or following this [link](#). Many thanks to those readers who contributed very stimulating articles in last month's InSPIRE on the proposed solar farm, as a parish councillor I really value hearing your views both for or against the proposals.

If you are considering standing as a candidate in the May elections or have views on any of the points I raise, I would be very pleased to hear from you and I'm happy to provide you with any further information you might require.

These are my own personal views.

***Ioan Rees*** 01249 819428 or [ioan.rees@calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ioan.rees@calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk)

## COVID-19 VACCINE FACT CHECK



The COVID-19 vaccine will always be available free of charge.



The NHS will never ask you to share bank details to confirm your identity.

### Alert - Coronavirus Vaccination Scams

Action Fraud have received over 1,000 reports nationally of a new phishing email scam sent on Monday 25 January.

It looks convincingly to be sent from the NHS but asks the recipient to click a link to confirm their coronavirus vaccination invitation, which then asks for personal information and bank details.

You will be contacted by the NHS when you're invited to receive the vaccine which is being offered in hospitals, pharmacies and hundreds of local vaccination centres run by GPs. Please do remember you will not be asked to pay for the vaccine and at no point will you be asked for payment details.

Report any suspicious emails by forwarding them to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) or text messages to 7726 free of charge. For any suspicious phone calls, hang up immediately. [Find out more](#)

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to [Action Fraud](#) as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

## Wiltshire Libraries

We're pleased to be able to offer an order and collect service, with bookable computers, at a number of libraries across the county during lockdown.

Aldbourne, Amesbury, Bradford on Avon, Calne, Chippenham, Corsham, Cricklade, Devizes, Downton, Malmesbury, Marlborough, Melksham, Mere, Pewsey, Royal Wootton Bassett, Salisbury, Trowbridge, Warminster, Westbury and Wilton will offer this service. You are not able to drop-in and browse at these libraries. Further information about order and collect, including how to place an order and book a computer, can be found on the [Order and collect service](#) page.



You are expected to use your local, nearest library to reduce unnecessary travel. Safety remains the priority and you will be asked to wear a face covering and use sanitiser before using a computer. Libraries are permitted, by a Government exemption, to offer access to the public computer network for essential use if you can't otherwise access a computer or the internet. Essential needs can include job applications, benefit applications, accessing public services, financial information, online banking, for educational purposes, to keep in touch with family members or to support mental health.

The [Home library service](#), providing books to the vulnerable in their own homes, will also continue. Items will continue to be renewed automatically, currently to the end of February, so there is no rush to return items currently on loan.

### **New library app for renewing and reserving books**

Download the new Solus library app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play store](#) to quickly renew and request items on your phone or tablet. The Location ID is WILTS.

## Mobile Library service

Please note! The North/South Mobile Libraries are not currently able to operate due to the Covid-19 lockdown. The Residential Care Homes Mobile Library will continue to make deliveries.

If you have an enquiry about the mobile libraries, please email [libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## Gardening Steve



Hi to all gardeners.

This month, February, is the time in the garden when the evenings slowly start getting longer. You can now prune wisterias. Prune the long ends to about 2 buds. This will ensure good flowers in the spring when any dead stems can be cut out. Tie in any loose branches to the wall or framework. Shrub and floribunda roses can be pruned now. Be very vigorous on pruning; cut out any unwanted stems in the middle of the plant and prune down to about 2 to 3 ft. Hybrids need to be a little taller, around 4 ft. When pruning roses clear away all leaves from the stems and around the ground, this will help prevent rust and black spot in the summer.

This is also a good time to prune medlars, apples, pears, currants, autumn raspberries and gooseberries.

Get ready for March as this is when the garden starts to come alive! See you next month.

**Stephen Starr** Bowood gardener

# GET CONNECTED:

## Try our NEW tablet loan service

Are you a disabled or older person living in Wiltshire?

Would you like to try joining a virtual club or group?

Would you like to try internet shopping?

Do you have friends or family that you have not been able to see: would you like to video call them?

**Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living (WCIL)** can lend you a computer tablet FREE for one week at a time so that you are able to connect with your local community.

You will get basic instructions on using the tablet. We can also support you to look at ways you may be able to purchase a tablet of your own.

You do not need to have internet at home to use the tablet.

\*\* All tablets are cleaned and sanitised between loan periods\*\*



Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living  
11 Cough Lane, Devizes, Wiltshire SN19 1EB  
Charity no. 1120611 Company no. 5490761

Contact WCIL to find out more:



[info@wiltshirecil.org.uk](mailto:info@wiltshirecil.org.uk)



0300 1233 442

## **Walking Netball**

Unfortunately, due to the latest Lock Down restrictions we have had to stop all our Walking Netball sessions, like so many other sports.

We are however looking forward to the time when we can get back on court and play again.

Very sad seeing our brilliant court standing locked and empty.

## ***Barbara***

## **Derry Hill and District W.I.**

Our first coffee and tea afternoon get together of 2021 on the 8<sup>th</sup> January was big success with 13 members joining in our Zoom session. Everyone had survived their Christmas and was pleased to have the chance to chat to each other. We once again split into chatrooms bringing smaller groups together.



Some good news was passed around was that some of the more senior members were all just about to have their vaccinations for Covid 19.

At the moment, the Committee are making plans for the coming years' programme 2021 / 2022. All the speakers we hope to book will be able to deliver their subject either in person or using Zoom. One of the big events we are about to plan is the Derry Hill & District WI 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This will be in the summer when we hope to all be back together again!

For any other information please contact our secretary Sally Hole on 01249 817945 or [sallyhole@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sallyhole@hotmail.co.uk)

## ***Barbara Barnard***

## The Night Sky in February

In terms of planetary activity, Mars has the dark evening hours to itself this month. The planet, with its reddish tinge, is visible in the south-western sky until it sets at around 01.15h. At around 23.00h on 18 February, low in the western sky, Mars can be located just above the crescent Moon and above Mars itself, the Pleiades, small cluster of stars also known as the Seven Sisters, can be identified. These are around 440 light years away from Earth.



The following evening the cluster will be to the right of the Moon with Mars below it. To the left of the Moon the star Aldebaran can be seen shining a little less brightly than Mars.

Jupiter and Saturn are too close to the Sun to be visible for most of the month until they can be viewed early in the morning towards the end. On 27 February at around 06.30h brilliant Jupiter can be seen low in the south-eastern sky with Saturn just above and to its right. Almost between them and slightly higher, elusive Mercury can be located – a pair of binoculars will help.

Binoculars will also help when looking at the moon too. Whilst the surface of the Moon is always impressive to observe, when the Moon is full the reflected light is fairly flat and definition can be poor. However, looking at it with the aid of a telescope or binoculars when it is at first or

third quarter will reveal the shadows of mountains cast across the surface or across the inside of craters by the sun's light.



This month, the Moon will be at its quarters on 4 and 19 February and will be full on 27th.

The Plough (or Big Dipper) always looks good on dark Winter night at it is easily visible looking towards the north this month, when it almost appears to be 'standing on its end'. Following a line made by the two stars at the 'cup' end towards the horizon will enable you to locate bright Polaris or the North Star which was an invaluable aid for maritime travellers in times gone by.

The constellation of Orion remains clearly visible in the southern skies and following a line towards the horizon drawn by the three stars which forms his belt, bright Sirius can be clearly seen.

	<b>Sunrise</b>	<b>Sunset</b>
1 February	07.45	16.58
15 February	07.21	17.23
28 February	06.54	17.46

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**Friday 11.30 am–1.00 pm** Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill

**Suzanne Green** email: [info@yogawithsuzanne.co.uk](mailto:info@yogawithsuzanne.co.uk)  
tel: 07732 545715 [www.yogawithsuzanne.co.uk](http://www.yogawithsuzanne.co.uk)

MIXED ABILITY | BEGINNERS WELCOME



# AVON NEEDS TREES

A [December report](#) has revealed a shocking 27% decline in the UK's woodland birds since the 1970s. Worse, it appears that this decline has been accelerating, with a 7% drop in just the last five years. This is a devastating loss of species, caused by habitat destruction, and increased threats from human activity.



Having only bought the land last August, we still don't know exactly what is living at Hazeland, but we are scheduling a wide range of surveys for the coming year – from lichen, ferns and fungi to birds, bats and butterflies. We have several recordings of [Marsh Tits](#), which are named as one of the most endangered species in the woodland bird report. We intend to collect bird data frequently throughout the year, using citizen scientists, and we're particularly keen to hear from you if you have bird-ID expertise or want to improve your knowledge. To get involved, please contact Susan, our Project Coordinator, via [Hazeland@avonneedstrees.org.uk](mailto:Hazeland@avonneedstrees.org.uk).

## **The Ups and Downs of Birds in Wiltshire – An Online Event**

On February 4th, in partnership with Friends of the Marden Valley, we will be hosting an online event that will give an overview of how different species are faring in Wiltshire, and the impact of game birds in particular. Details of the event, the two expert local speakers, and how to sign up, can be found on [Eventbrite](#). The event is free, and all are welcome.



### **Tree Planting Continues at Hazeland**

Thanks to the help of dozens of local volunteers we have almost 2,500 trees planted at Hazeland!

Each tree planting day is now restricted to a group of six, all local, plus a trustee. We are planning two or three planting days per week through till the end of February, but we have another 6,500 trees and shrubs to plant so it's likely we will be working into March. We are not currently looking to recruit any more volunteers, but when lockdown is lifted, we may have more opportunities for people to get involved.

### **Monthly Giving Helps Bring Stability**

We are enormously grateful to the growing numbers of individuals who have chosen to set up monthly direct debits to Avon Needs Trees. These give us increased stability and particularly help our long-term planning. If you have been thinking of setting up a regular payment the easiest

way to do so is through the [donate page](#) on our website - just select 'monthly' on the first page above the amount you wish to donate. If you still have questions or need help, please contact us via [contact@avonneedstrees.org.uk](mailto:contact@avonneedstrees.org.uk).

## **Free online talk: Are we losing the opportunity for a Green Recovery?**



Nikki Jones, Chair of Avon Needs Trees and writer/researcher on energy issues, will be giving an overview of what has changed under Covid and what still needs to happen, on Monday 15th of February.

Our economies will come out of Covid radically altered. The fossil fuel and finance industries are moving towards decarbonisation goals faster than most of us know. New technology is being funded and some old industries are collapsing. But are these developments taking us in the right direction and are they enough?

Tickets are free through [Eventbrite](#) or [Facebook](#), but donations to Avon Needs Trees are requested. There will be plenty of opportunity for Q&A.

***Nikki Jones*** Chair of Avon Needs Trees

## Derry Hill and Studley Community Support

Has been operating since the beginning of lockdown and is continuing to help those who find it difficult to go out.

We offer a range of help from shopping, picking up prescriptions, dog walking or just a friendly confidential chat.

Please get in touch if we can help.

**Email** the dedicated email account: **dhsfriend@gmail.com**

Or

**Ring** one of our coordinators:

Carol Rigby	01225 704356
Ian Liddle	01249 816229
Richard Gribble	01249 812018
Richard Aylen	01249 814632



### **Prayer support is also available:**

Prayer is an important part of our spiritual life ask for prayer. If you have a particular prayer request, you can ring Rev. Linda Carter 01249 817926 or email [lindac@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:lindac@mardenvale.org.uk) or one of the co-ordinators above and they will write out your prayer and put it on the prayer tree in church. Linda will use these in her daily prayers in church unless you wish it to be kept confidential.

## ***Carol, Ian, Richard A and Richard G***

**Derry Hill and Studley Community Support**

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difference in your  
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If you could spare some time, or for more  
information please contact us: 01380 722 241

**Email: [linkproject@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:linkproject@communityfirst.org.uk)**

## Electoral Roll - Christ Church Derry Hill

The Electoral Roll has to be revised every year prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This year the meeting takes place on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March** directly after the 10am Zoom service.

Anyone whose name is already on the list will remain but anyone who wishes to be added to the Roll needs to complete an application form. This will be available [via the Pew Sheet \(notices\)](#), and can be completed and returned by email to [jjleddra@talktalk.net](mailto:jjleddra@talktalk.net)

**To be entitled to be included on the Roll a person must be:**

Baptised.

Over 16 years of age on or before 7th April 2019.

A Member of the Church of England resident in the parish.

A Member of the Church of England not resident in the parish but attending Christ Church regularly.

A Member of a Roman Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, URC church who are prepared to declare themselves a member of the Church of England and have attended worship for at least six months in the parish.

In order to serve on the Parochial Church Council or vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting you need to be on the Electoral Roll. This is an ideal opportunity to have an input into the running of the church and its life within the village.

The closing date for completion of the Roll is **6<sup>th</sup> March 2021**.

**Jennie Leddra** PCC Secretary



## Wellbeing notes

### Message from a stream

There's a simple walk near my home that takes you over a brook. If you were to follow the brook's flow you might discover that all the interlacing streams in the neighbourhood bear the



same name, Cocklemore Brook, and you would eventually find that the water from the many branches of Cocklemore Brook flows into the River Avon. And the Avon would carry you through the cities of Bath and Bristol until you reached the sea.

On this particular morning I am walking beside the brook thinking about various personal projects – things relating to work and family and home. And suddenly I see that the interlacing flow of these projects is somehow the same in principle as the flow of tiny tributaries that join together into a river leading eventually to the sea. The details of my life are small and insignificant. And yet when combined with the countless tributaries of other people's endeavours, an ocean is maintained.

What we collectively put into the ocean of our endeavours matters. If I approach my day with kindness, creativity and love, then that is what I contribute to the ocean of humanity.

The name 'Cocklemore' comes from the old English words 'ock' or oak tree, and 'more' – a wild, unfarmed place. There are many oak trees here, and the brook flows through boggy, unfarmable land. Like its name, the insights I receive from the brook appear wild, eternal and true.

**Suzanne Askham** author of [This One is Special](#)

Photo caption: renowned composer Sir Michael Tippett used to sit on this humble bench by the Cocklemore Brook, creating his later works such as 'The Rose Lake'. It's amazing to listen to this shimmering music while visiting the stream today.

You can hear 'The Rose Lake' on Spotify or listen to the first movement [here.](#) "

## Age UK Wiltshire's free-to-access service

- Advice on what equipment to use and how to better use it as well as the best ways for you to access the internet.
- Support you to achieve the things you want to do with technology.
- Help you if you have no friends or family who can assist.
- Make technology equipment more affordable by checking your entitlement to welfare benefits and grants.

Click & Connect is not a training course but it will provide 1-2-1 support to help you achieve what you tell us is important. We cannot lend or give out equipment, but we can advise on whether your equipment is suitable and suggest options for equipment you may need.

We can't provide you with help indefinitely, but we can provide support until you are confident in performing the tasks you want to do.

If you feel there is something you want to do but don't know how, then Click & Connect could help!

### How to access the service

If you would like to find out more, please call our team on 01380 710 296 and we will be delighted to speak with you. Or email us [click@ageukwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:click@ageukwiltshire.org.uk)

## Rub a Dub

Like many other pre-schools, RAD remains open for key-worker children at present. We're now looking for bank staff to help cover staff leave and sickness. If you would like more information about this role please contact Natalie on 07894073865.



As you can probably imagine, fundraising has proved to be a little tricky for the last few months. However, our fundraising committee are busy coming up with lots of new and exciting ideas. Watch this space!

**Sarah** RAD Fundraising Committee

# STUDENT MANAGER ROLES

## At the Stephen Cox Garden Trust

Being an educational charity, (registered charity 1174239) part of the ethos of the Trust is to help in giving responsibility to and empower young people. To this end three of the Board of Trustees seats are given over to young people/students. And now to further expand on this policy, the SCGT is creating specialist managerial roles. This would offer individuals the chance to take full responsibility for a year or 6 months part-time (often studying/working from home) for a particular aspect of the work of the Trust.

As most of these roles will operate as remote volunteering it means the student is not restricted by any requirement to travel to/work on site (although an occasional meeting may be beneficial). It also offers them greater flexibility to work when they please and when time permits. Throughout the time of the post the student manager will be supported and offered guidance and also give their feed-back and take part in analysis and discussion by means of virtual meetings (such as Whatsapp, Zoom, Teams etc).

These posts will be available to students at British Universities and to students in countries in which we have a Trustee/student representative to monitor the roles to local students in the Calne Without parish area and in Chippenham and Calne areas.

The posts can be undertaken in any one of several ways such as:  
As an individual initiative.  
Via student union volunteering portals.  
For an internship.  
As part of university course requirements.

Such managerial volunteering involvement supports the SCGT but brings benefits to the individual such as:  
enhanced cv, developmental skills in a chosen area possibly connected to a career choice, learning marketing/presentation/communication/research etc skills.

When recruiting new staff employers often favour applicants who have done volunteering work.

The Manager posts currently available are:

1. Journalism/newsletter/media releases.
2. Creating wildlife homes, habitats, and writing information sheets.
3. Digital platforms/social media.
4. Research/write public conservation guides.
5. Contacting business for stock/sponsorship
6. Film & photography. YouTube channel.
7. Research/liaison with schools & colleges in the UK and Europe
8. Promoting the Trust to likely client audiences. Attracting group visits.

Full guidance is of course given as to what is expected and a detailed specification document is provided for each managerial role. The student thus has clear objectives and a means of measuring their achievement and progress. The goals and reasoning behind each post and how it operates in the context of what the Trust work entails and seeks to achieve is also given.

The age range is usually 18-25 (but this is not exclusive). It is possible for those age 16-18 to also apply subject to parental or guardian agreement,

On conclusion of their post session student managers:

- (i) Will produce a final report on their achievements.
- (ii) Receive a testimonial from the Trust.
- (iii) Be able to list the Trust as one of their References for job applications.

To enquire about the scheme overall or about a particular post please send an introductory email together with brief details of yourself (or c.v.) to the Trust.

## ***Stephen Cox Garden Trust***

[stephencox.gardentrust@gmail.com](mailto:stephencox.gardentrust@gmail.com)

[stephencoxgarden.simplesite.com](http://stephencoxgarden.simplesite.com)

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# Derry Tots!

## Derry Hill under 5's play group

Join us at the Derry Tots babies and toddler (under fives) playgroup, located at the Lansdowne Hall in Derry Hill village halfway between Calne & Chippenham

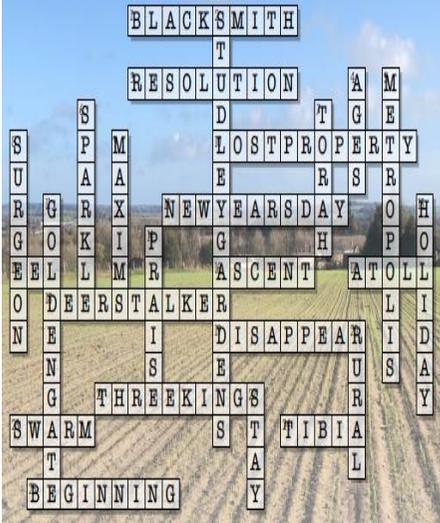
Every Wednesday during term time from 9:30 to 11:30 am.  
From ages 0 - 5.

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For more details please email: enqdhuf@gmail.com



# January 2021



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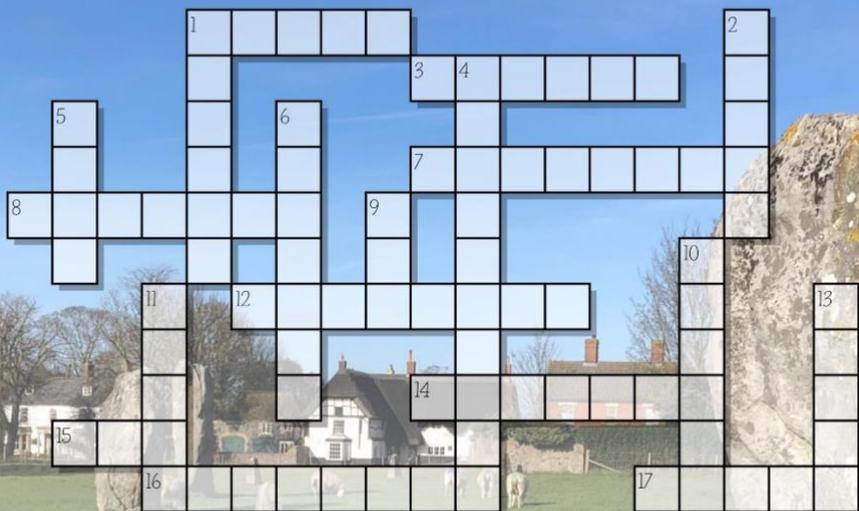
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# February 2021



## ACROSS

- 1 German beer mug
- 3 Yell
- 7 Type of publication
- 8 Large ape
- 12 Many
- 14 Tooth
- 15 Vase

- 16 Day local cycle track to us is sometimes closed
- 17 Magical spirit

## DOWN

- 1 Lithe
- 2 Desert animal

- 4 White wine
- 5 Frozen precipitation
- 6 Aquatic bird
- 9 Pastry dish
- 10 Rough
- 11 Odour
- 13 Neighbouring town to us



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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 **Reverend Linda Carter**, The Vicarage, Church Road, Derry Hill. Calne. SN11 9NN  
[lindac@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:lindac@mardenvale.org.uk)

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

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### ALTAR GUILD

*Flowers in Church:* The Flower Guild are inviting flower sponsorship for the single pedestal in Christ Church, Derry Hill each week. If you would like to do this or sponsor part of a pedestal, in memory of a special occasion then, to find out more contact Claire Satchell, on **07968 091217** or email [newleaffloristry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:newleaffloristry@hotmail.co.uk)



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