

The Dilwynner



February 2020

Dilwyn's Independent Parish Magazine

Free only to Dilwyn parish households



THE CROWN INN

Valentines Menu



Rustic Lamb Soup, Focaccia Bread £5.50

Cjarsons alla Friulana £5.50

King Prawns in Tempura, Saffron Aioli, Sweet Chilli Sauce £5.50

Ham Hock & Pistachio Ballotine, Piccalilli & Toast £5.50

Fillet of Bass, Roasted Chorizo, New Potato, Red Onion & Mixed Greens £14.50

Sirloin Steak, Roasted Mushroom & Onion, Bois Boudrin Dressing, Chips, Salad £17.50

Seared Duck Breast, Celeriac Mashed Potato, Wilted Greens, Bigarade Sauce £16.50

Crispy Belly of Pork, Sweet Chilli sauce, salad, Potato Wedges £13.50

Aubergine Croquettes, Oven Baked Ratatouille, Saffron Aioli (V) £9.50

Apple & Blackcurrant Crumble with Custard £5.50

Chocolate Nemesis with Ice cream & Salted Caramel Sauce £5.50

Lemon Posset with Shortbread £5.50

Cheese Board £6.95



Menu available Friday 14th & Saturday 15th Feb

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Items in this magazine are normally published as received provided they meet the above conditions and, as such, may not reflect the individual views of the editorial team. If you have any objection to any item published in this magazine, please take it up, in the first instance, with the originating organisation or individual.

Remember, this is Dilwyn's magazine and it relies largely on the residents of Dilwyn to provide articles and information. So if you have something of interest to share, please send it in to the editors (email to dilwynner@dilwyn.com) or pass by hand to any of the team.

St Mary's Church

Services for February



2 nd	Evening Prayer	6.30pm
9 th	Choral Holy Communion	11.00am
16 th	Morning Prayer	11.00am
23 rd	Holy Communion	9.30am

**Holy Communion every Tuesday, 10.30am,
at the Old Forge, Dilwyn**
**Choir Practice Wednesday 5th February, 6.30pm,
in the Church**

(Please contact Marion Willcocks for further
details if you would like to join the choir)

Visit the Churchyard and Burial Ground this Spring

Our churchyard and burial ground are very special. These are places that have witnessed great sadness and joy and are a place for quiet reflection, an undisturbed area for plants and animals to flourish amongst historic monuments and memorials. Our church has become a member of Caring for God's Acre, a charity dedicated to the conservation of churchyards and burial grounds, which can offer advice and support to help us promote these areas.

Warm Church Thanks

And thank you to Graham Dyer for providing the huge blow heater in the church over the Christmas period. What a difference it made for all those taking part in the nativity play, the end of term service, the carol service, the crib service and, not least, Christmas Day services! Having a warm church makes such a difference and will hopefully inspire us to work even harder to raise funds to improve the current heating system.

CLERGY CONTACTS: Revd. Matthew Burns: 07817 747470

Gill Okell-Price, Churchwarden: 319378

Anthea Alexander, Diary: 318168; Tim Block, Fabric: 388939

Leominster Priory Office: 01568 612124

Baptist Church, Leominster: 01568 708247

Methodist Church, Weobley & Leominster: 01568 612406

Roman Catholic Church, Weobley: 01544 318325

Not Having a “Not the Dilwyn Show” in 2020? (Must be VE75 Day!)

Most of us probably still have diaries showing Monday 4th May as a bank holiday, the day on which we would normally hold our event on the school playing field; but not this year. For 2020, the bank holiday has moved to Friday 8th May to enable the celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe 1945).

It is envisaged that there will be a national celebration of VE Day and the team that normally brings you the May Day event is planning to make sure that our community plays an active part in these activities. We have enlisted the support of the Dilwyn Royal British Legion and are hoping to mount a host of activities on the village green and The Crown Inn from lunchtime through to late in the evening. We are still in the process of putting together the programme but we are hoping to have:

- Morris dancing
- Games and competitions
- A tea tent
- Participation in the National Toast at 3.00pm
- Maypole dancing by local children
- Live music and jive dancing from early evening
- A display of pre-1940 vehicles and displays including some military items

As part of the event, we are thinking of encouraging people to bring a picnic lunch, although food will also be available in the tea tent and at The Crown Inn. The aim is to try and recreate 1945 in Dilwyn and all activities will attempt to fit this and we very much hope that you will join in by dressing appropriately for the period.



If there are any village organisations that would like to be involved in this, then please contact me. There will be more details in the next Dilwynner. If you want to see what the national theme will be, please see <https://www.veday75.org/programme/>. We will be looking to incorporate as many of these national proposals into our event as we can.

Richard Kelly
yewtreemob@gmail.com
01544 319288

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Dilwyn WI

New members are always welcome

Possibly the best antidote to post-Christmas blues is the company of friends and home-cooked food, which is exactly what WI members enjoyed at the beginning of January. The evening was cold and wet, but Marion's workshop warm and welcoming, and the table festooned with appetising fare which was eagerly consumed. Jane Clarke is our guest in February when she will be de-baffling batiks and hopefully showing us how to make a useful little something to take home. Tuesday 4th February, 7.30pm at The Old Forge if you'd care to join us – you'll be most welcome.

Pat Isaacs

Neighbourhood Watch

Regular patrols take place around Dilwyn parish by our dedicated group of volunteers. Many of these groups are husband and wife teams, going out for walks, cycle rides or in a car and keeping their eyes open for anything suspicious (as good neighbours should do!). The patrol may be done at any time of day – criminals are often opportunists. New members would be very welcome.

I still have a marking kit, supplied by the police, which can help protect your valuables. Imagine trying to sell stolen goods, when they have the name and postcode of the true owner indelibly written on them!! I recently marked some Christmas bicycles for a local family and would be willing to mark any of your valuables too. Call me and arrange a time.

Alan Rudland (N W chairman) Tel 319262

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Cedar Club

Our expected speaker, Luke of Wye Valley Falconry, had cancelled a few days earlier but fortunately we managed to find a last-minute replacement for our meeting on 16th January. Dee White travelled from beyond Bromyard to be with us. She is an enthusiastic member of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, who also runs her own small charity looking after injured or orphaned animals. She currently has 24 hedgehogs in her care, a corn snake and various other creatures, many of them brought in by members of the public or the RSPCA. We heard about the care given to each animal before being returned to the wild. Dee also had an impressive array of skulls, all from British animals and ranging from deer to mice and rats, from a grey seal to a curlew and also including a wild boar. The crowd listened to her most attentively (sign of a good speaker?) and various questions were answered. As is the way with the Cedar Club, a delicious tea followed, with some really tempting morsels on both the sandwich and cake plates.

Following the usual raffle, members were reminded of the next meeting, which will be on 20th February at 2.30pm and brings Phil Morris from The Cart Shed (a local mental health charity), who is a most enthusiastic and interesting speaker. He will tell us about the work done by the charity and bring examples of items produced in the woods by participants on courses held there. Guests welcome (cost £2).

Alan Rudland (Leader)

Dilwyn Weather for Dec 2019

Our very wet autumn continued into winter, with plentiful rain onto sodden ground causing local flooding (and a fair amount of complaining about the weather!). Just short of 5 inches (125mm) fell (adding to 5, 6 and 6 inches in the previous months – all above average) to boost the total for 2019 to just below 42 inches (1043mm). Since 2013, the totals have been 41, 31, 43, 33, 29, 34 and 42 inches, so 2019 was by no means unusual.

Average day time temperature, at 7 degrees, was slightly below our usual December figure, while the night time average of 2 degrees was much what we would expect. Eleven nights had a frost, the lowest being minus 5, so nothing too severe. Not a good time for lovers of sunshine though – only 4 days could be classed as ‘mostly sunny’ and cloudy, misty conditions were our usual fayre. A few very breezy days helped clear away the mist and one gale blew through at the end of week one, without causing any real damage. In summary, it was a fairly average December.

AR

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Parish Council Matters

1. **The Dilwyn Parish Council Website:** This may be accessed from the Dilwyn Community Website (on dilwyn.com) by using the appropriate tag (*Parish Council*), or directly by accessing dilwynparishcouncil.gov.uk.
2. The full, approved minutes of Dilwyn Parish Council meetings, as prepared by the Parish Clerk, are published regularly on the Village Notice Boards and Website. What follows here summarises matters of particular interest and any decisions taken at a specific meeting.

The Regular Meeting of Dilwyn Parish Council held in the St Mary's CE Primary School, Dilwyn on Tuesday 3rd December 2019

At this meeting, 9 Councillors were present, with apologies from Cllrs. D. Brown, J. Booth and C. Fellows; the Parish Clerk, Mr. Gwilym Rippon, and Ward Councillor, Michael Jones, were in attendance; there was one member of the public present.

a. Public Participation

- a) To receive the Police report.
There was no police presence.
- b) To receive the Ward Councillor's report.
Update on the highway and drains issues in the village.
- c) Questions from members of the public.
The member of the public asked a question in relation to an untaxed vehicle.
The Council undertook to deal with the matter.

b. To approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday 5th November 2019 RESOLVED

The minutes of the Regular Meeting on Tuesday 5th November 2019 were approved.

c. Information arising from the minutes

There was nothing to report under this section.

d. Correspondence received

A promotional email regarding a Christmas concert had been received.

e. Finance

- a) To note the bank balances for October 2019.

The Clerk reported the following:

Current Account	£16701.43
Hub Account	£ 2856.59
Deposit Account	£25000.00
Crown Account	£ 1311.98
Total	£45870.00

- b) To discuss and approve invoices for payment. Details may be seen on the Parish Council website and village notice boards. The Clerk was instructed to pay all invoices.
- c) To agree K. Pointon as Internal Auditor for 2019/2020.

RESOLVED

That K. Pointon be reappointed as Internal Auditor.

- d) To discuss the budget for 2020/2021.

RESOLVED

The budget was accepted as £24949.00 with a precept demand of £25000.

f. Highway matters

- a) Balfour Beatty
To ensure grips (drain covers) are opened up regularly.
Watery Lane: both sides are potholed.
- b) To discuss the footpaths
This was deferred.
- c) Work for Lengthsman
Ditch at Rose Cottage HR4 8JW.

g. Planning matters

1. 193863

Application for the conversion of an agricultural threshing barn to domestic use with accommodation on two floors and construction of detached carport at Threshing Barn, Luntley Court, Pembridge, Herefordshire, HR6 9EH.

RESOLVED

The Council supported this application.

2. 193864

Application for the conversion of an agricultural threshing barn to domestic use with accommodation on two floors and construction of detached carport at Threshing Barn, Luntley Court, Pembridge, Herefordshire, HR6 9EH.

RESOLVED

The Council supported this application.

3. 193341

Application for a general-purpose agricultural building at The Haven, Dilwyn, Herefordshire, HR4 8JB.

RESOLVED

The Council supported this application.

4. 193774

Application for an extension of a steel portal building to be used as a manure store at Alton Court Farm, Dilwyn, Herefordshire, HR4 8HD.

RESOLVED

The Council supported this application.

h. Update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Kyles gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan and requested that an email be sent to Samantha Banks at Herefordshire Council.

RESOLVED

The Clerk to send the email to Samantha Banks, which Cllr. Kyles has provided.

i. Carols on the Green

The itinerary for Carols on the Green was reported to the Council with a hope for good weather.

j. To discuss the Play-Area

The seesaw has been removed and is being repaired.

k. To discuss The Crown Inn

There was a requirement for a replacement thermo-couple for the cooker. It was agreed that the Council pay for this as the cooker was the property of the Council.

PLEASE NOTE: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 4th February 2020, commencing at 7.30pm in St Mary's School.



The Crown Inn

We hope the winter blues aren't getting you down! This month we have a few events happening. One of the major ones... Valentine's Day! Our Valentine's menu will be available Friday 14th and Saturday 15th. We are getting booked up fast, so please call to book your table as soon as possible to make your Valentine's special.

As it only comes once every four years and with it being on a Saturday, how could we say no to having a Leap Year Party. So, come and celebrate your rare birthday, maybe propose to your man in The Crown, or just come over and dance the extra day away! We have music by Steve Herbert...he loves to rock out with lots of favourites from the eras and, of course, dinner will be available.

Exciting news! Thursday night is now Fish and Chip Night. We will be offering a dine in or dine out option. Fancy a night on the sofa with no washing up? Well, look no further.

Vi aspettiamo numerosi!

Maria & Max

Pensioners Lunches are available at **The Crown Inn**
on **Wednesdays** from 12.00pm to 2.30pm:
one course £6.50 / two courses £9.50.

Sunday Lunch is served all day from 12.30pm until 6.00pm.



Village Market & Café at Cedar Hall, Dilwyn



There is no market in February
We will be back in March

Contact Richard on 01544 318541





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Heating Oil Syndicate

Hi Everyone,

20.01.2020 that's a set of numbers for you and we are now well into the year already. Unfortunately, we will just miss 20.20.2020 by a couple of days due to the Leap Year, i.e. the day, the week and the year, that's a quiz for you.

December orders were very good again, which is due to our fantastic syndicate of supportive and faithful members. We did manage over 14500 litres with some fill ups, at a price of 48.95p per litre. Delivery again from Beacon Fuels who unfortunately could not deliver before Christmas, although I did try by bringing the date of closing forward. All suppliers were very busy and Beacon was the earliest delivery before the New Year and by far the lowest in price.

We have seen an interesting graph on the price trend this last month. President Trump did his bit to help the increase, then the Iran accident flipped it back down. We started at £453 on the 22nd December and over a period of 15 days it dropped and rose to a peak of £454 on 6th January 2020. It has fallen quite considerably since, and at times, quickly, to £432 on 17th, when it stayed stable for two days and a slight rise to £433 on 20th. Soon the order will be done and fingers crossed it will not increase.

The days are already getting longer, but the rain we have had has caused its problems, sharpen your forks and spades in preparation for a brighter Spring.

Thanks to all you faithful members, strength means discount!

Regards and best wishes,

Pete

***Minimum order 500 litres please by the 20th of the month
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mobile: 07774 112077, landline 01544 318528 or drop into my letterbox.***

Crown 3rd Thursday Review

Thursday 16th January 2020

Bad weather, inevitable winter bugs and starting out on a journey to the other side of the world for a fairy-tale wedding off the coast of South America kept a few of our regular contributors away last night. Having said this, there were still eleven of us filling the bar with music and laughter, and I didn't get to leave for home until almost midnight!

I was joined by **Johnny Boots** (guitar/vocals) with **Fiona** (vocals); **Jackie Lyness** (vocals) and **Adrian Belville** (guitar/vocals); **Phil and Pam Brown** (a capella vocals); **Alison Harrington** (percussion); **Jeremy Price** (guitar/vocals); **Nigel Tucker** (guitar/vocals); and a surprise drop in by guitarist **Phil Rowlands** who added some beautiful augmentation to many contributions along the way.

Here's to Lorraine and Gerry for their wedding and get well wishes to those under the weather who couldn't make it either! Not forgetting our thanks to our hosts Maria and Max and their staff for the usual warm welcome and perfect hospitality.

Our next session is planned for Thursday 20th February – usual starting time around 8.00pm – hope to see you there.

Valeryan

Sudoku

The aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1–9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3 x 3 boxes. Good luck! *The solutions can be found on page 37.*

Easy

8	3				1			
4		1			6	8	2	
	9						4	
3	4		2					
	5		3	7	4		6	
				9		5	4	
	1					7		
	6	8	7		5		1	
			9			8	6	

Hard

4			7					
		2				4	7	9
7	5					3	2	8
	9	3	4					
2				1				4
					5	6	3	
3	2	6				8	1	
8	4	7				5		
				8				3

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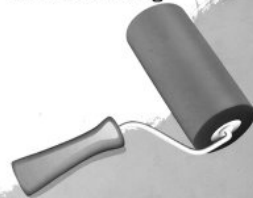
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Nature Notes Part 1

A Hedge Revolution!

As I prune back my unruly *Rosa* ‘Bobbie James’, I notice above me an audience of 26 house sparrows – what a cheerful sight on a foggy morning! How lucky we are to have these UK Species Category Red birds, which have declined more than 50% over the past 25 years. We feed ours here and have hedges with holly in (which is great for shelter and from predators), along with eaves to nest in.

The loss of our hedgerows and annual cutting has had a huge impact on all our wildlife and after visiting the Knepp Estate Wilding project in West Sussex last summer, I was truly inspired. It is a huge experimental conservation project where they have had outstanding results, with the return of nightingales, turtle doves and purple emperor butterflies in record numbers (the list is extensive) and I recommend all to go on safari!

If we could manage our hedgerows on a 3-year rotation (as recommended by the NFU, Defra and Wildlife Trusts) we could see the return of all our hedgerow species, but without this direct action the continued decline is inevitable – a devastating loss. The Woodland Trust offers free advice on planting new hedgerows, provides support and grants of up to 75% of the costs (minimum hedge length 100m) or if you would prefer a quick delivery,



discounted hedge packs are available on their website. Defra has grants that can pay up to 100% of costs along with hedge laying grants etc. – there is no minimum requirement and grants are awarded on a points-based system. If you are lucky enough to have a garden, then plant a small tree like *Crataegus monogyna* (common hawthorn) or if you have just a window sill, then a bird feeder and nest box will go a long way to help our New Year Revolution!

Emma Jordan

I am so pleased to welcome Emma Jordan at Hurst Farm to our team of regular contributors. She answered my plea last month and here is her first piece for us. Any interesting sightings should now be sent to dilwnner@dilwyn.com and marked FAO Emma. Many thanks also to Jo Stirling-Brown who has provided a nature update with some lovely photographs from the other end of the parish (please see page 22).

AR



Friends of The Crown (FOTC) Development at The Crown

Thanks to Maria and Max, we now have an outstanding pub in Dilwyn and the encouragement to develop the full potential of the site, including the long-promised 'Phase 2', namely the development of the currently unused outbuilding. In order to advise the Parish Council as to the possibilities, FOTC would like to propose, in one integrated scheme, the following changes:



- In the outbuildings:
 - a. Two en suite b/b rooms, upstairs;
 - b. A shop unit;
 - c. A small community-room.
- Behind the main bar in the back-yard:
 - a. A high-class restaurant;
 - b. A toilet-room with fully-fitted disabled and baby-changing facilities.

Draft plans have been developed in close consultation with Maria and Max and it is now hoped that there will be wide-spread discussion on these ideas as to desirability, suitability of design and possibilities for finance, together with any other points of interest or concern. The overall aim is to improve the facilities of the Crown to a standard of excellence of which we can all be proud, now and in the future. To assist in this, detailed plans will be published on the village notice boards and on the Crown website; in addition, an invitation is hereby given to a general meeting, as shown. Please do come along!





FOTC COMMUNITY MEETING

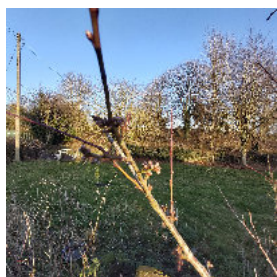
**Monday 24th February 2020
in the
Dilwyn Cedar Hall
at 7.30pm**

**Do please come along and take
part in this exciting event!**



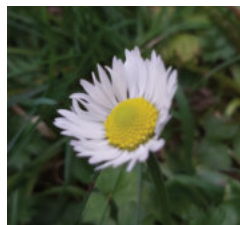
Nature Notes Part 2

Our first image comes from the Sandpits, just off the centre of the village. Although not an indigenous variety to this area, this early snowdrop (picture taken by Ellie Brown) on New Year's Day is a welcome reminder that spring is on its way and gives us hope for the coming year amidst this long wet winter we've been having.



The second budding image taken on 13th January is of a flowering cherry from Gravel Hill at the end of the Sollers on the common. A wondrous promise of the fruit to come, but a niggling worry that the February and March frosts will bite and damage the beautiful pink blossoms. We hope it is hardy enough to weather the predicted snow that the long-term forecasts predict.

The final image needs no explanation, except to say what a singularly brave fellow this lovely little daisy is that I spotted on the 11th January. I suspect he will not be joined by any other friends for quite some time.



The birds hereabouts have been very lively, also under the misguided impression that spring is in the air. The wood pigeons have been creating quite a kerfuffle in the ivy bushels within our tree lines and the sparrows and blue tits seem to be deciding whether they can squeeze in a quick brood before the weather changes. I hope their optimism pays off!

Finally, out the back is a feeder hanging from an aged apple tree. Here we have regular visits from the usual feathered characters with the occasional rarity for good measure – the high winds of Storm Brendan brought us a very brave and handsome fellow in the guise of a great spotted woodpecker! What an amusing sight he was, swinging wildly on the feeder determined to get a spot of dinner, and a most deserved prize for his daring do in such tempestuous circumstances. I hope he got his fill.

We have also heard tell of a lovely little stoat sighting at Boxers Castle in the third week of January. Have you seen any lovely creatures great or small in your part of the parish? It would be great to hear some of your little visitor stories. Until next time.

Jo Stirling-Brown

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Motor Neurone Disease Charity Fundraising

This year the whole community worked together to raise funds for charity. The major recipient was the Motor Neurone Disease Association which, as many of you are already aware, is close to our hearts as members of our village have already been affected and cases in general appear to be increasing. The charity requires much needed funds to provide support for patients and families affected by this terrible disease and to raise awareness about it. So please, if you have a few minutes, take the time to read the charity's website and recognise the signs:
<https://www.mndassociation.org/about-mnd/what-is-mnd/>.

First of all, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped to raise funds for this worthy cause. All the teams behind the events, big or small, the writer, actors and actresses, St Mary's Church Choir, St Mary's Primary School and Bugs Brummie for your musical performances and assistance, Dilwyn Young Farmers for your voices and your Bingo! The Jameses, Halls and Hansons for hosting your parties for the Choir to perform, the Prestons for your grotto, The Crown Inn for your venue and your assistance, the Parish Councillors and their team of trusted helpers for sleigh and road management, and finally George Austin, without you the grotto would have been empty!

- The Coffee Morning, Dilwyn Amateur Dramatics (DADA) and Carols on the Green (COTG) together raised £813.60
- St Mary's Church and Choir raised £569.45
- R. Taylor and G. Field cheque donations £200.00
- Dilwyn Young Farmers £525.00

So, a whopping grand total of **£2108.05** will be going to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

I think we can all agree that this is an amazing achievement from within our small community and one to be proud of. So, a final big 'thank you' to all those people who donated large or small to the charity itself, without your generosity, this could not have been achieved!

Jo and Lesley

The Future of Carols on the Green and This Year's Charity

So, moving forward on to this year's Christmas Charity. We believe that once again, in order to achieve a sizeable donation, it would be marvellous if all groups could again collaborate and support each other in this endeavour.

It has already been provisionally agreed for the Carols on the Green team to book their event date a day or two before the Young Farmers Bingo so that they can attend COTG and boost our choir singers. In turn, COTG will promote the Bingo and the Choir's next charity dates throughout the event. We also suggest that the Coffee Morning team might promote DADA's shows (if indeed Tony H, you are penning another fine play this year?), and in turn, DADA promotes COTG etc. etc., ensuring the best support possible for each charitable venture.

Also, to ensure maximum charity donation, Carols on the Green received event sponsorship from numerous villagers towards the running costs of the event. We have M. Thomas, J. & T. Booth, T. Bullen, M. & R. Fenn, S. Boden and R. Fellows to thank for last year and it is hoped that we can again call on villagers' sponsorship support for this year's events, details of which will be posted in later editions of *The Dilwynner*.

Also, it has been decided that the Carols on the Green events team will hold petty cash of £100 only year on year, so that whatever happens, we have enough money to purchase our gifts for delivery on the night. Any sponsorship funds raised annually that remain unspent over this amount at the end of the year will go as charity donations.

We will be asking for sponsorship again this year to go towards other attractions at COTG and we hope in time to raise enough to buy some outdoor gazebos and equipment for hard standing so that we can hold the event outside, regardless of the weather.

Finally, we thank you once again and ask that if you have any suggestions or would like to help in any way, then by all means contact either me or Lesley on the email addresses below.

Jo and Lesley

Jo – stirling-brown@hotmail.co.uk

Lesley – thelesleyhay@hotmail.co.uk



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St Mary's School

An advanced notice that St Mary's School Mothering Tuesday will be held on 17th March at 9.15–9.45am in the church. This will be open to all. Rev. Matthew will take the service and the children will perform music and poetry. Many people can never make the Sunday Service due to family commitments, so please do come along to Mothering Tuesday!

Peter Kyles



Dilwyn Royal British Legion

*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them."*

Following our traditional Christmas break – no meetings in either December or January, our Spring programme kicks off on Tuesday 4th February. Dick Hallam's talk is titled "Man of God". Dick will talk of the extraordinary wartime ministry of a WWII Church of Scotland vicar whose motto could have been Compassion, Conviction and Courage.

The meeting takes place at The Crown Inn. We recommend you arrive a few minutes before 7.30pm to get your order in and find a seat. The meeting ends at 9.00pm. Everyone is welcome. You don't have to be a member, nor is it obligatory for you to join. There is no charge for visitors.

Thank you to everyone who bought our Christmas cards this year. We made £90 profit which goes into our branch charity funds (so it all stays in the village).

David Fowler

The Wind in the Willows

Professional Gloucester-based Rain or Shine Theatre Company are proud to present their own fast-paced comic stage version of Kenneth Grahame's classic tale *The Wind in the Willows* which is booked into theatres, village halls and other community venues across the UK. The tour includes a 'one day only' performance in Weobley Village Hall on Sunday 2nd February at 3pm. Tickets priced £10, child £7, are available from The Old School Shop, Weobley, also from 01544 319223 or direct from the Rain Or Shine credit card hotline: 01452 521575, email tickets@rainorshine.co.uk or online via www.rainorshine.co.uk.

From Our Arts Correspondent

Pantomimes

In December 2018, the girls were in need of culture. To London and the Royal Shakespeare Company, plus another theatre, which was so memorable I have forgotten what it was, we went.

Not having been to one since before Offa was building his dyke, my choice was for a pantomime. That was until I found that Julian Clary at the London Palladium would cost us £125 a ticket!

We went instead to the Regal at Tenbury. Tickets £19 a head. The pantomime was Cinderella. This was traditional old-fashioned fun – clean and brilliantly witty. The whole production was managed “in house” and I laughed until the tears ran down. The great secret of course is to use as many local children as possible, ensuring adoring audiences. Knowing not one of those involved, we still absolutely loved it.

In 2019, I thought we should try a back-to-back comparison: The Regal v. The Courtyard. Snow White and the 7 Dwarves v. Cinderella – the Hereford version.

Once again, Snow White was wonderful. When the “mirror on the wall” was addressed by the wicked stepmother, it replied: “Your call is important to us – please hold on. You are number 17 in the queue.”



Towards the end of Act 2, younger members of the audience were invited onto the stage and asked to say quickly the following: “One smart fellow he felt smart, 2 smart fellows they felt smart” etc. with the inevitable uproarious results. We booed the wicked stepmother. We “Oh no he isn’t-ed” for Herefordshire, and Nurse Brexit played her part. This was pantomime at its best and an absolute hoot.



The Courtyard was by contrast all rather boring. The sets and costumes were very well done, but it was more of a musical than a pantomime, which bore no relation to the story. At the end of Act 1 we had very little idea what was going on. I suggested we go for a curry but was persuaded to sit it out. The second half improved, but frankly none of it was a patch on Snow White.

Thesp.



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Dr Oli's Uganda Fund

Many of us will remember the wonderful care Oliver and Rachel Penney gave during their many years of GP service here in Weobley and Staunton. I expect you also know that they are ending their medical professions as they began, by practicing in third world areas of need.

They now regularly travel to Uganda and freely give their time and skills to a small Mission Hospital. The patients there receive very little state aid and frequently die for the want of an intervention costing only a few pounds which their families cannot afford.

The idea of the fund is to enable Oli and Rachel to intervene at their discretion and give money where they feel it will be most useful. It also means that any donations you may contribute will be kindly and wisely spent.

Collection boxes will be in the Weobley CostCutter and many other conspicuous venues; any cheques can be made out to 'Dr Oliver Penney' and will go into a dedicated account. The appeal will continue for the duration of their service in Uganda and Parish Magazines will receive regular updates.

Alan Jones

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Weobley & District Bowling Club

Short Mat bowling started on January 13th (in spite of the bad weather) with seventeen players. We would like to invite new people to join us, it is great fun, nothing too serious. We charge £2.50 for a 2-hour session, with tea or coffee and biscuits for 30p. So, if you wish to try out a new sport and meet new people do come along on Monday afternoons at 2pm until 4pm to Hopelands Village Hall, Weobley. You will be made very welcome.

Diane Rice

Pancakes in the Pews

Back by popular demand is our annual celebration of 'Pancakes in the Pews' held in Weobley Parish Church on Shrove Tuesday, 25th February, from 11.00am until 12.30pm. Once again there will be hot drinks at reasonable prices and our incredible 'As many as you can eat for only £1 each' offer. Don't miss it!

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St Michael's Hospice

Big Spring Walk & Black Mountains Trek

Blow out the cobwebs this Spring by joining St Michael's Hospice as we explore our green and pleasant land.

Whether it's a gentle Sunday morning stroll, or an all-day mountain hike, we've got a walking adventure for you.



The Black Mountains Trek on Saturday 7th March is a challenging 30-kilometre walk taking in the remote, dramatic scenery of this renowned mountain range. Marshalled by the Longtown Mountain Rescue Team, you'll reach the prominent central ridge of the Black Mountains offering superb views across the Brecon Beacons National Park. End the day at Longtown Village Hall where a two-course meal awaits.

For something more gentle, try the Hospice's Big Spring Walk on Sunday 22nd March.

Choose from a gentle Sunday morning stroll, or a longer meander. Set off from Hereford Rowing Club on either a 2.5k, 5.5k, 12.5k or 17.5k walk. Each route will head west towards Breinton, returning to the Rowing Club along riverside paths. It's free to enter in advance but we ask those taking part to get sponsored for St Michael's.

To sign up for Black Mountains Trek or Big Spring Walk, visit www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/events.



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Virtual Tour of Britain

A year-long exercise challenge taking a group of St Michael's Hospice patients on a virtual tour of Britain has been successfully completed.

The Hospice's Physiotherapy team devised the virtual Tour of Britain which allowed patients to take it in turns using exercise bikes or treadmills to help complete a 7,723-mile journey around the British Isles – all without leaving St Michael's.



Starting and ending in the Cornish town of St Ives – a favourite place for one of those taking part – the journey lasted throughout 2019, ending just before New Year's Eve. Rose Livesey (pictured second left) said: 'I've really enjoyed taking part. You really feel as though you are contributing to a worthwhile cause.' The exercise helped improve the cardiovascular system and strengthened legs and arms.

Sudoku Solutions

Easy

8	3	5	4	2	1	6	9	7
4	7	1	5	9	6	8	2	3
6	9	2	8	3	7	1	4	5
3	4	6	2	5	8	7	1	9
1	5	9	3	7	4	2	6	8
2	8	7	1	6	9	3	5	4
5	1	4	6	8	3	9	7	2
9	6	8	7	4	2	5	3	1
7	2	3	9	1	5	4	8	6

Hard

4	3	9	7	8	2	1	6	5
6	8	2	1	5	3	4	7	9
7	5	1	9	6	4	3	2	8
5	9	3	4	2	6	8	1	7
2	6	8	3	1	7	9	5	4
1	7	4	8	9	5	6	3	2
3	2	6	5	4	9	7	8	1
8	4	7	2	3	1	5	9	6
9	1	5	6	7	8	2	4	3

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*Evening Party £70
Children's Party £30
Village Group Meetings £15
Wedding Party £100*

Hire items

*(Tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery etc.)
Set of: 1 table & 4 chairs - £5
4 cups, saucers and cake plates - £1
4 dinner plates and cutlery - £1*

Hire of staging £25

Email Bookings

*lrthomas541@gotmail.co.uk
Chair: Richard Thomas
01544 318541*

Organisations & Contacts

Cedar Club	Alan Rudland	Leader	319262
Cedar Hall	Bookings Richard Thomas	Bookings Chair	07772 796718 318541
Community First Responder	Gerry Duncan		318504
Crown Inn	Maria Franzen & Max Evilio	Tenants	318063
Friends of The Crown (FOTC)	John Gerrish	Chair	318633
Dilwyn RBL	David Fowler	Secretary	01981 541058
Dilwyn Support Group for St Michael's Hospice	Anna Wellings Carol Lewis	Chairperson Secretary	318329 318255
Dilwyn WI	Pat Isaacs	Secretary	388744
Dilwyn YFC	Beth Mills	Chairperson	07917 616457
Neighbourhood Development Plan	Peter Kyles	Committee Manager	318277
Neighbourhood Watch	John Abley Alan Rudland	Coordinator Chair	318670 319262
Playgroup	Laura Scrivens Louise Lewis	Chairperson Playgroup Leader	07779 729876 07975 994309
Police Community Support Officer	Emma Dunne		07971 051474
St Mary's Church	Rev'd M Burns Gill Okell-Price Anthea Alexander Tim Block	Vicar Churchwarden Diary Fabric	07817 747470 319378 318168 388939
St Mary's School	Peter Kyles	School Head	318277
Friends of the School	Steph Kyles Beth Richards	Joint Chairpersons	07779 279705 07973 664684

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Gwilym Rippon

email:
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Ian Brown	Julian Lewis
Cole Fellows	Peter Stilwell (Chair)
Raymond Fellows	David Stirling-Brown
John Gerrish	Joanne Stirling-Brown
Julia Hall (Vice-chair)	Stephen Thomas

Parish council website: www.dilwynparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Michael Jones
Phone: 01981 590418

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michael.jones@herefordshire.gov.uk

Local MP

Bill Wiggin
Phone: 01568 612565

officeofbillwigginmp@parliament.uk
Westminster 0207 219 8175

Any errors or omissions, please contact the editors



Community website: Dilwyn.com

You can read this magazine and back issues online.

www.dilwyn.com/dilwynner

Pet Pin-Up of the Month

Here you see Jake, our springer spaniel, who is 10 months old. He has a lovely nature and just wants to be friends with everyone. He is not terribly obedient yet – turns a deaf ear to our calls when food or a chance to play presents itself. We still love him!

AR

Do you have a pet or farm animal who is very special – even worthy of being a pin-up in The Dilwynner? Do send them in, together with a few words/sentences explaining who they are and what makes them special.



The Dilwynner team is always keen to hear readers' views on The Dilwynner. What would you like to see more (or less) of? Do you have ideas for new features/content? Do drop us your thoughts at dilwynner@dilwyn.com. As always, we rely on contributions from the community, so do please keep your stories, poems and photographs coming in!



Many thanks to Lucy Hall at Bidney Farm for sending in her photograph of Dilwyn's carol singers in action. For details of Dilwyn's fundraising efforts for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, please see page 25

Events Diary

Date	Event	Time	Place
Tue 4 th	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	St Mary's School
Tue 4 th	WI Meeting: Batty Batiks	7.30pm	Old Forge
Tue 4 th	RBL Speaker Meeting	7.30pm	The Crown
Fri 14 th	Valentine's Day Meal	6.00pm–9.00pm	The Crown
Sat 15 th	Valentine's Day Meal	6.00pm–9.00pm	The Crown
Thu 20 th	Cedar Club: The Cart Shed	2.30pm	Cedar Hall
Thu 20 th	Acoustic Session	8.30pm	The Crown
Mon 24 th	FOTC Community Meeting	7.30pm	Cedar Hall
Sat 29 th	Leap Year Party	7.00pm–12.00am	The Crown

St Mary's Church services can be found on page 4

Cedar Hall 100 Club Draw

There was no draw in January to allow for subscriptions to be processed, but there will be a double draw in February.

Absolute deadlines for March Dilwynner copy are:

18th February for very small items and also regular items

16th February for new and non-regular large items

Normally we expect to receive copy much earlier than these dates.

If you wish your event to be published in more than one issue, please send in a reminder for each month it is to appear.



To report anything or anyone behaving suspiciously in or around the village, please ring in confidence PC Dean Wall 07773053846, PCSO Emma Dunne 07971051474 & PCSO Felix Rawlinson 07971051480 (or to report non-urgency crime, ring 101)

John Abley

Neighbourhood Watch

01544 318670

Alan Rudland

Neighbourhood Watch

01544 319262