

# *The* Dilwynner

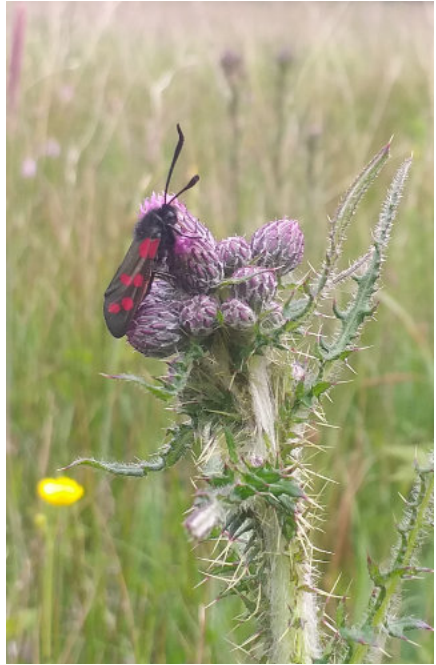


*July 2020*

**Dilwyn's Independent Parish Magazine**

*Free only to Dilwyn parish households*

# Nature Notes Images



The images above were kindly sent in by Emma Jordan to accompany her latest Nature Notes article on pages 23–24. Clockwise from top left: orchid in a local Wildlife Trust meadow, six-spot burnet moth, spotted flycatcher chick in its hanging-basket nest and a tiny froglet.

The front cover shows a magnificent specimen of an arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) – with thanks to Gill Okell-Price for her photo.

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### Conditions of Publication

The conditions of publication are published on the independent **dilwyn.com** website, <http://dilwyn.com/index.php/dilwynner/publishing-notes>.

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

## Now Open for Private Prayer



St Mary's Church, Dilwyn is now open for private prayer. You are now "allowed" to come into the church – and, of course, we look forward to welcoming you.

But regulations demand that, for your own safety, we ask you to follow these instructions (also available in the church). Please:

- **Use the hand sanitiser.**
- **Only use the pews in the back two rows.**
- **Wipe the door handles with the surface wipes as you leave (bin provided in the porch).**

## Zoom Morning Prayer

We are taking advantage of technological wizardry and you can now join Matthew on "Zoom" for Morning Prayer every Sunday at 11.00am. Details for joining the "Zoom" service can be found in the church and you can join either through the internet or by phone.

**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**

## Summer Visitors – The Sound of Summer Swifts at Our Church

You may have heard the cuckoos calling repeatedly throughout the village over the last month, but as we are now members of God's Acre, we have been asked to look out for swifts around the church.

Swifts are often the last avian arrivals each summer and the first to leave in August. Their screaming as they zoom (yes – you cannot escape "zoom") around the sky is one of the most iconic sounds of an English summer. Swifts



nest high up in tall buildings – under tiles, in holes in walls and under the eaves. Unlike the bats that get into the church, swifts are very clean and spend most of their lives in the air; juveniles, once they have left the nest, do not land for three years. They have tiny feet and cannot perch on wires.

Swifts pair up and breed for life and return to the same site every year. There are swifts in Dilwyn and it would be lovely to think that they were using our church.

*Anthea Alexander*

## July

A hot; hay turning, hare hiding, bale rolling day.  
 Buzzard keening: stubble screening, swift scooping sky:  
 Swallows racing, shadows chasing: red kite!  
 Ghost moon to my left: gold sun on my right.  
 A bat swooping, owl watching, honeysuckle night.

*Ellie Brown*  
 20.7.13



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# Messages

## **Personal Protective Equipment for the Community**

Eclipse Strategic Security is a Leominster-based security consultancy, providing CCTV, intruder alarm installation as well as security consultancy/protective security services; a number of the management team are based in Dilwyn. In the course of our business, we have been procuring face masks, face shields and other items of personal protective equipment for our clients. We would be happy to offer this support to the community by providing such items, at cost price. If you would like more information or costs, please email Ray Fellows on rf@eclipse.uk.net.

## **Dilwyn Footpaths**

To the numerous dog walkers/pleasure walkers that we now have in the parish – last year, we lost a couple of months' use of our local footpaths due to crops, nettles, grasses etc. encroaching on them and making it impossible to use, especially in wet weather. This year it could be worse as the crop adjacent to our main footpaths is rapeseed, which is not harvested until autumn. From mid-May onwards, our paths become increasingly difficult to walk along. We use Weobley for a walk – here they seem to actually CARE about the walking public, as paths are cleared and most gates have been replaced with kissing gates (far more dog- and senior citizen-friendly!). Such a shame for Dilwyn.

*AR*

## **Cleaner Wanted for Dilwyn Cedar Hall**

2½ hours per week; £9 per hour. If interested, please contact Richard Thomas (01544 318541) or Sue Thomas (01544 318886) for further details.

## **Scaffolding Boards Wanted**

Young couple trying to build a raised-bed garden, would like to buy some old scaffolding boards. Anybody who has some or knows where some could be available, please contact Abi on 07597 221449.

## Whitehill Garage

Many thanks to my many valued customers over the last thirty plus years. I have retired, closed the business and sold up.

Gail and I have no firm plans yet, we have taken rented accommodation locally and will no doubt bump into you again. Our very best wishes for the future to you all.

*Jon Simpson*

As many of you will know, Jon has run the garage at Whitehill, placing regular adverts in The Dilwynner each year without fail. I am sure we all wish him well in his retirement.

*AR (Dilwynner Advertising)*

## August Dilwynner

The Dilwynner is normally published eleven times a year, with a combined issue for July and August. In light of the ongoing restrictions due to coronavirus, the Dilwynner Team thought it would be a good idea to produce a separate issue for August this year – hopefully to keep Dilwyn residents informed about resumption of village activities while also providing some light reading material.

Please do keep your articles, poems, photos, artwork, jokes, recipes and other interesting material coming in. The deadlines for submission for the August issue are 18<sup>th</sup> July for new and non-regular large items and 20<sup>th</sup> July for very small items and also regular items (see page 40).

We would also like to thank all those who have contributed over the past months – your submissions have been very much appreciated and enjoyed by us and our readers.

*The Dilwynner Team*



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# Dilwyn Coronavirus Support Group

As lockdown eases, we want to assure people that the Dilwyn Coronavirus Support Group will continue to offer help for the foreseeable future. Do not forget that this includes everything from picking up prescriptions to a friendly phone call. The contact details remain the same:

**Alan Rudland**

Tel: 01544 319262

Email: arudland@hotmail.com

**Abigail Hiester**

**(Volunteer Coordinator)**

Tel: 07587 7221449

Email: abigail.hiester@gmail.com

The best place to get the latest updates with regard to what you can and cannot do is: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. This is also where you can find information about Test and Trace.

Despite the easing of lockdown and the encouraging statistics, it remains vital that we stay alert to control the virus. If you or someone you live with has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus, you must stay at home. The main symptoms are a high temperature, a new continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell.

Remember that if you plan to use public transport, you will need to wear a facemask. Oh, and just in case you didn't know...wash your hands regularly!



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# St Mary's School

## Hooray – The School Re-Opens

You can't close St Mary's Dilwyn for long – just ask Herefordshire Council. This is our school's 175<sup>th</sup> year and, over the years, the school has been closed on a number of occasions for medical reasons. In 1882, the school was closed for 14 weeks when an epidemic of measles and scarlet fever occurred. In 1889, the school was again closed when measles hit the village and in 1907 when scarlet fever broke out. The last time the school was closed was in 1930 – another measles outbreak resulted in 50 pupils being ill and the school being closed for three weeks.

Thanks to Edward Jenner's discovery with smallpox (1796), vaccinations started in schools. In 1896, a group of 30 pupils were vaccinated against typhoid and cholera by Dr Hall (you had to pay). His son's name is on our memorial; sadly he died in World War I aged 20 years. The family lived in Townsend House.

### Coronavirus

The school closed on 20<sup>th</sup> March, a week before lockdown in the country. Well, we actually only closed for two days before the school underwent a deep clean. We then produced teaching and learning packs for all the children in the school and opened for the children of critical workers. We reopened on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. We currently have 11 pupils in the Infant's bubble and 7/8 pupils in the Junior's bubble. Groups are kept separate, daily temperatures are taken, hands are sanitised between six and eight times a day, shields are worn for close teaching and outdoor lessons are encouraged. We were never taught how to do this at college!



*Temperature and oxygen percentage  
being taken daily*



*Clear face shields being worn  
for close working*



*Infants' lessons outdoors*



*Social distancing*

The pupils in school are receiving excellent teaching and learning and those at home receive fortnightly learning packs. However, schools are more than simply places of learning, pupils' well-being and social development are also important elements that are often overlooked. At present, we are awaiting guidance from the DfE and, as yet, have no idea when all our pupils will be able to return. When Lacon Lambe founded our school, he entrusted it for the education of all within our community and we look forward to fulfilling his vision when all return to St Mary's.

*Peter Kyles*

*Andrew, Jane & all the staff  
look forward to welcoming  
all Dilwynner readers to*

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# The Crown Inn

Hi Dilwynners,

Again, we want to say THANK YOU! It is safe to say that the pub has pulled through this difficult time. The next stage is hopefully happening on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July. We are still waiting for the OK from the government, but so far it is looking like only pubs with outside open space will be able to open...well, lucky us Dilwynners! We have one big garden and outside space!

The only other problem we have is that the government still has not put out all the regulations we need to abide by. This means that we can't give you all the information on what it will be like for the new opening of The Crown. We will not be putting anything on Facebook about opening details, as we want to let the locals have first choice. Only around 50% of pubs will be able to open, and we know going back to a pub is what most people are looking forward to. So instead, we will be posting information through your doors when we know more.

The plan so far: we will have to have a booking-only system, so we can monitor the number of people who come. Even though we have purchased more benches, they are still limited. We will still be doing takeaways, but in a smaller timeframe and they will now have to be collected from the pub.

We will have the marquees up in case of bad weather and we will also be getting food and drink orders from outside, rather than going inside to the bar. There will be a one-way system for the toilets and the only way through the pub will be from the back. There will be plenty of hand sanitiser around and public areas will be cleaned regularly.

At the start, we will only be open Wednesday to Sunday. We will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays until further notice.

When we do have the regulations, we will be delivering a leaflet that will let you know what our new normal is going to be.

Hope to see lots of you soon!

***Maria & Max***

# Dilwyn Weather for May 2020



It seems a little hard to believe now, as the mid-June rainfall cascades past my window, but not long ago we had a record-breaking spring time. May had just three cloudy days and amassed two tenths of an inch of rain – the smallest amount for a single month in the 10 years that I have been doing this job. Twenty-eight days of glorious sunshine! An average daily temperature of 23 degrees was several degrees higher than previous years, while the night-time average of 5 degrees was as we might expect. Pressure remained high and winds were mostly light, apart from a couple of spells of gale-force wind which blew through overnight towards month end.

Of course, most of us were self-isolating at home, so the beautiful spring weather could be enjoyed by many, and gardens were lovingly tended!

*AR*

## 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**

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

**Hard**

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



## Dilwyn Baby & Toddler Group

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26a Broad Street  
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### Hay-on-Wye Office

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# Heating Oil Syndicate

Hi everyone,

The longest day has gone so make the most of your days, they do go so quickly, and the nights will draw in.

May was a good month considering the weather, we did a total of **14700 litres** which was much higher than April – I thank you all for your orders. The supplier was **Watson Fuels** at a price of **26p** per litre and delivery was stated as a 10-day window – I hope you all received it on time. They were again the contenders and competitive. It had been difficult to secure good prices due to the demand following COVID-19, with some companies not responding and others having extensive delivery times also with the price above 30p per litre. The market did settle a little and hopefully will settle down more now the lockdown has eased and we will begin to get back to normal.

We had new members again – welcome to you and enjoy the benefits. The price trend has fallen considerably since the 22<sup>nd</sup> May – it was £268 per 900 litres, then rose slightly to £269 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> for two days and, as if a stone dropped, went down in eight days to £247 on 1<sup>st</sup> June, dropping again to £240 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, then an immediate slight rise to £242 where it is now as I write. As long as it stays reasonably stable, we should get a good price again this month.

Take care everyone and enjoy the summer. Remember though, “there is no place like home”.

Keep safe.

*Pete*

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# Dilwyner Origins

For those who do not know its history, it may be of some interest to learn how our current parish magazine originated.

The Dilwyner came into existence in 1991. Until the spring of that year, the parish had been served by 'St Mary's', a free magazine produced by the church. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) decided to cease producing this and to replace it with 'The Link', the magazine of the Leominster Team Ministry.

Some members of the PCC were concerned that this would mean that the contact with every home in the parish would be lost. They called a meeting to discuss this situation. This inaugural meeting was attended by George Bray, Fairley Keeling, Molly Powell, Sheila Rees, Jill Thomas, Arthur Muffett and Joan Taylor.

That meeting decided that a free magazine for the whole parish should be produced. It should be, ideally, self-financing, with possibly some help from the Parish Council. The magazine would not be set up in competition to 'The Link' but rather be a parish voice with local information, including inter-denominational church service times. Joan Taylor, who had been editing 'St Mary's', was invited to take on editing of the magazine, with the editor having final decision on what to print.

The new Dilwyn parish magazine first appeared as 'What Name?' in September 1991, while a formal name was decided. It was two sheets of A4 paper folded, had four adverts and the editorial on the front page. It relied on a small group of people, operating on a very ad hoc basis, to get it launched. It rambled on like this for some time, but in the early years of the millennium, a more formal structure was adopted – but that is a story for another day. In 1991, the cost of paper and printing 312 copies per month was £20.50 for an 8-sheet issue, quite a difference from today's costs!

Many reading this article may have now realised that next year will be our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and, in the lead up to that, we hope to dig into our archives and offer some snippets from our past. We have digitised copies covering the last 13 years and some hard copies going back as far as 1995. However, we do have gaps in our back issues, and we will publish a list of these in a future issue in the hope that we may have some hoarders in the parish who have some of the missing copies.

Over the years, first Alex Whitfield and then John Gerrish lodged some copies of The Dilwyner in the Hereford Archives and these may fill in some gaps when we once again have access to these archives.

***SRW***



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## A Different Sort of Voyage

With the coronavirus sit-in continuing for the umpteenth week, I thought a story of a different type of voyage might be of interest. In 1968, I was Second Mate of the Clan Forbes and we were nominated to load a cargo for Ascension Island, St Helena and Mauritius. We loaded the cargo in the UK, finishing off in London – the last cargoes to be loaded were some pigs, sheep with two rams and four racehorses. The stables and sties were built on the highest deck above the water line and the animals were given their ample feeding provisions. Mainly the cargo consisted of agriculture and farming appliances, canned foods and trucks – and the animals were to be looked after by “Volunteers”, namely deck cadets.

We sailed from London in June, making full use of the daylight to keep an eye on the animals. They behaved well, even when we started to roll in the Bay of Biscay. The voyage continued south but about a week from Ascension, the pigs were looking uncomfortable and so the Old Man radioed ashore for a vet to meet us on arrival. It turned out that the pigs were constipated but a few fresh green leaves did wonders, although the deck cadets were a bit fed up.

Ascension Island, from what I remember, was a barren rock that had a green top because Green Mountain stuck through the cloud and the moisture made things grow. It had 2500 Cable and Wireless men working on the island for wireless communications and 3000 Americans there for the US Space Race.

There was no berth; you anchored half a mile off of Georgetown. When we anchored, we were met by a mass of blackish-looking fish about four to six inches long. One of the lads let go his orange that he was munching. This round orange hit the water and was immediately attacked by black fish. The orange revolved at a fantastic rate, shrinking in size until it disappeared. To the onlookers, we all thought piranha fish. Someone threw in an apple and whoosh, it disappeared. There was a dog on a launch that had come alongside and we watched in horror as the dog leapt into the water. Expecting the dog to be eaten, nothing happened. The dog was a living thing and the “piranha” left it alone. We caught some of these black fish and they had the most magnificent teeth, similar to a human and their skin was like leather. The flesh was white but we were advised not to eat it. Fishing by day was impossible as the blackies ate the bait.

I was suffering from a nasty boil on the side of my neck, so I went ashore the next day to see the doctor and his three English nurses to get it fixed. In the surgery, I saw that there were two white women nurses; one being about seven feet tall with legs that reminded me of Popeye’s girlfriend and the other who was five feet tall and round. I asked the doctor where the other,

apparently good-looking, nurse was and he told me that, with 5500 men on the island, she was in demand.

We sailed for St Helena with contented pigs and sheep. Again, no berth in St Helena, so we anchored half a mile off Jamestown. Whereas Ascension was a barren rocky island, St Helena was a wonderful world of colour and fauna. I had spare time so I, the R/O and two engineers ventured ashore. I can't remember too much of what we saw, but the roads were quite steep, lots of old cars were battling the gradients and there were some stores. We found a pub/restaurant and went in, a pretty basic set up. The girl serving said we could have a local beer (South African) and did we want anything to eat. I asked if she had a menu and she snorted. She said that the island had been awaiting our arrival because they were short of food and she would have to cook up what she had available. She came up with fresh fish and chips, not bad.

Discharging went on with the ship's staff and local St Helenian farmers chipping in. The sheep plus two rams and the pigs went in the first hour and then the tractors, trucks and canned foods were discharged. We were there for five days altogether and a great time was had.

I went to see where St Helena's most famous guest had lived. Napoleon Bonaparte had been exiled to St Helena after his failed Waterloo battle and the British were not going to allow him to escape as he had done from Elba. The house he lived in was comfortable and the views spectacular. I walked to the end of the garden and looked down the ravine that overlooked Jamestown. I could see the Clan Forbes lying there at anchor and I thought that if the French had tried to rescue Bonaparte, the British would have had cannons trained on the only anchorage available to the French wooden ships.

Bonaparte would have known that he would never get off St Helena alive, and he died six years after his incarceration. He was buried in a simple grave that is open to visitors – the grave is empty because the French took Boney back to France some 19 years later. I remember some tortoises, very old and very slow moving, that must have seen Napoleon on his walks.

We left St Helena and still had the racehorses. They were well behaved and seemed to realise that their time for shore had not yet arrived. We plodded on around the Cape and finally arrived off Mauritius. At that time, Port Louis had no berth so once again we anchored off. The owner of the horses was there and moaned to me that we were late. So, what was his problem? He said it was Saturday, and our horses were due to race that afternoon. I said that was impossible, but he just shrugged. "OK" he said, they will run badly today, but after some training can you imagine the odds he would have got the next time they ran.

*Mike Slayman*



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# Nature Notes

Time flies by and it makes me wonder – a lifetime researching a single species and you would not find out everything about it or indeed the complex ecological and symbiotic relationships between species. Everything we do has a cause and effect from the micro to the macro and so without fully understanding the ecological environment we are in, our actions can cause devastating effects to us all. Mother Nature is letting us know that she is not happy at the moment, I feel!

In these lonely times of isolation, nature really can help concentrate and cheer up our spirits – there really is so much to see and explore just outside our doors. We have been visiting our local Wildlife Trust meadows which are full of orchids at the moment, a true inspiration which makes me think; could we create some wildflower areas around the parish? Could be fun!

Our cuckoo is still here and we saw three together one day, which was a first. Also, a pair of nuthatches with three fledglings as well as chaffinches, greenfinches, thrushes, blue tits, great tits, long-tailed tits, wrens (who have nested in the ivy), robins (nesting in the workshop) and lots of wood pigeons this year. A great spotted woodpecker has been feeding its baby in the ash tree. A male blackbird was feeding its fledgling the other day from the fatball slop my daughter concocted and they loved it!

Bees have taken up residency around our house, so I am relieved we did not re-mortar the whole house in one go! The house martins were building four nests but then I don't see them for days until the sun comes out and then I see them again, so maybe they are in the nests the whole time or the house sparrows chase them away? A group of five swifts are nesting on the north-facing fascia. They are like fighter planes swooshing above your head and swooping straight into the hole – how they don't crash at that speed is beyond me! I was so upset to find the spotted flycatchers nest had disappeared but then we have just discovered a new nest in the hanging basket, with one chick and parents feeding non-stop!

The new ponds and streams here are bursting into life and already we have spotted new species never seen before by us – a moorhen was very exciting and, on the 11<sup>th</sup> June, a broad-bodied chaser dragonfly, wagtails, little red worms of the (non-biting) midge fly twitching in the water everywhere, along with lots of great diving beetles. Goldfinches congregate above the pond but I think it's the wildflower meadow that they are interested in, which I sowed last year. This is flowering beautifully and has lots of yummy seeds in! After gaining permission from the Wildlife Trust, we collected some local yellow rattle seed along with a few other species from our local trust meadow and added these to the mix. I feel it is important to include local

seed to keep the local gene bank surviving and I also collect seeds from the wildflowers I have and add this as we go through the year.

The new meadow we sowed this year has struggled to get going with the hot weather, so keeping the sprinkler going was a mission... Crocs and slippery mud was quite a challenge on the slopes! The cornfield annuals are finally getting their feet in. I found a really useful website: The National Biodiversity Network lists all the wildlife and plant species recorded for the Ordnance Survey 10km square where you live, so why not try it out – [nbnatlas.org](http://nbnatlas.org).

No more mowing for a quite a while here as on the 10th June the grass was alive! Thousands of froglets descending on us! This annual event is quite a sight and you cannot go anywhere without having to watch every step you take. Our girls find great delight in collecting them in buckets and distributing them back into the pond from which they have probably fled!

**Emma Jordan**

*Please see page 2 for some colourful photos that Emma sent in to accompany her Nature Notes article this month.*

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# Pl@ntNet Smartphone App

In June's issue I reviewed BirdNET – Pl@ntNet is its plant-based relative available on iOS and Android platforms. An excerpt from their press pages on <https://plantnet.org> reads:

*“Pl@ntNet is an identification system that helps you identify plants through images. It is a research and a citizen science project, initially supported by Agropolis Foundation, and developed since 2009 within the framework of a consortium bringing together Cirad, INRA, Inria, and IRD.*

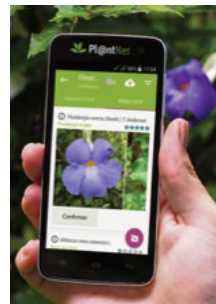
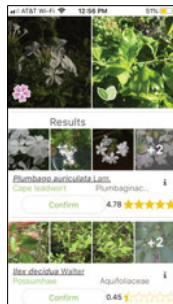
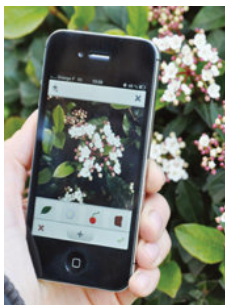
*The Pl@ntNet system works by comparing visual patterns transmitted by users via photos of plant organs (flowers, fruits, leaves ...) that they seek to determine. These images are analyzed and compared to an image bank produced collaboratively and enriched daily. The system then offers a possible list of species with its illustrations.*

*This system currently works on more than 20,000 wild plants (26 projects: Amazonia, Canada, Caribs, Central America, Comores, Eastern Mediterranean, Hawaii, Mauritius, New Caledonia, North Africa, Polynesia, Reunion, Tropical Andes, Tropical Africa, USA, Western Europe, etc.) and ornamental and cultivated plants (Useful plants project).*

*This research is at the frontier of several fields (botany, ecology, computer science, citizen science) and aims in particular to contribute to the monitoring of plant biodiversity on a global scale, thanks to the involvement of the citizens of the planet. They are every day more than 140,000 users of the application around the world.*

*The collaborative aspect does not stop only with the contributions of images. Users with an account can also vote on image quality, vote or suggest a new name for an observation, report identification errors.”*

In practice, as with BirdNET, I found this app to be simple to use and largely pretty accurate. To use, you basically open the app, select ‘new observation’, take a picture of your chosen plant for identifying and then you select the most likely culprit from the list of possibilities, the most likely according to your image being at the top.



You can double check by taking various images of the same plant as it prefers you to separately input the leaf, flower, fruit etc. to help in an accurate reading. Again, it is simple and clear to use and you can always then double check either online or in reference books if you are not convinced, but at least you may have some clearer idea towards the identity of your chosen plant once you have scrolled through the list. It also has a massive database of flowers and plants that you can search independently at your leisure. This also includes fruit, vegetables and herbs, so if like me, due to helpful children you are pretty much playing veg roulette this year and have no idea what you are growing where, then this will be a great help to you!

You can also access this app via a website version and basically repeat the process through your computer using a digital camera or scanned images, as long as they are clear. The home page also has links to other activities and information including 'The Plant Quiz' for all you budding botanists out there!

If nothing else, this is a great resource and if you are already knowledgeable enough on your flora and fauna, then log in and help them with identifying and broadening their research – what's not to like!

*Jo Stirling-Brown*



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# Springwatch

Spring is almost over. I am writing this on the last day of spring and tomorrow, 1st June, it will be summer. Last year we missed spring because we were lucky enough to be in New Zealand between Easter and the end of May, so a year with no spring and two autumns.

The Covid crisis has encouraged many more people to get out and walk in the lanes and on footpaths, and it is quite noticeable that the footpaths are much more well-trodden than before, and of course, the weather has been stunning. Being out more regularly allows us to notice things that we may have missed before.

In the first week of April, the perry pear trees were in full bloom, a mass of white blossom, well before the apple trees. Most of the old orchards around here have perry trees in them, clearly distinguishable from apple by their greater height and size. It is also noticeable that whereas apple trees are being overwhelmed by mistletoe, it does not seem to grow on perry pear trees.

It has been a good spring for primrose, stitchwort, anemones, speedwell and bluebells, and there seemed to be many more along the verges and hedges than previously. Similarly, some of the meadows have been carpeted with dandelions, and after they went over replaced by buttercups. A very common wild flower to be seen all along verges and hedgerows is red campion, also sometimes called Robin Hood or adder's flower, possibly because the crushed seeds were once used to treat snake bites. It has five petals, each of which is notched at the end so that the petals look like little hearts.

A close relation of red campion is ragged robin, but in the wild this is very far from common and getting rarer as wet areas disappear. So, it was good to find it growing in our locality this spring. It is a softer pink than red campion and each of the five petals is deeply split into four, giving it a feathery, ragged appearance and hence its name.



More wild flowers are already on the way for our summer walks. Dog rose, honeysuckle, foxglove, elder, yellow iris and dogwood are beginning to bloom and soon others like wild hop, hedge bryony and willow herb will join them. Hedgerows and verges are a huge habitat for wild flowers, so the less mowing and spraying that is done, the better.

*Ian Elliott*

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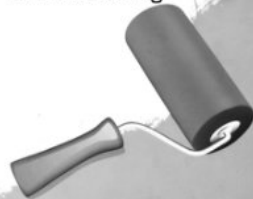
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# Village Vintage

Busy month in the garden at the far end of the village here, so thought that we could have another 'on this month in history' snippet for this issue. The following are just a quick handful of advertisements in various local papers for Dilwyn in July. This first one from Tibhall is a firm favourite!

*Jo Stirling-Brown*

July 1837

**TAKEN UP.**  
**A**T TIBHALL, in the parish of DILWYN, in March last, A YEARLING EWE SHEEP of a cross breed; the owner may have it by proving it to be his property and paying for this advertisement and other expenses, on application to JOHN JONES; if not claimed before the 17th of August. it will be sold to defray all expenses.  
Tibhall, July 17, 1837.

July 1839

**HEREFORDSHIRE.**  
**To be Sold by Private Contract,**  
**A**BOUT 30 HOGSHEADS of Prime Tankard and Family CIDER, at Prices varying from 6d. to 11d. per Gallon.  
For particulars apply to Mr. James Price, Newton, in the Parish of Dilwyn.

July 1916

**DILWYN.**  
The children attending the local schools have been given a fortnight's holiday from Monday last to assist in the hay fields as they did not have the usual holiday at Whitsuntide.

July 1940

**DILWYN**  
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# What Shall I Do Now?

## A Suggestion for This July

OK, so the government has eased lockdown a bit, we can go out to exercise when we like, but there is more to life than physical exercise...we need creative exercise too. So now is the perfect opportunity to do something both physical and creative...and beneficial for the wild environment in your garden too...build a pond!

A pond gives focus to any garden. It is the magnet that draws your friends and visitors before any other garden feature. If we cannot have friends round until a vaccine is available, well a pond that is 12-months old will look established and all the more beautiful next year. If you live with children or grandchildren, get them to help you plan it. I built my first pond fifty-five years ago, and have never been without one since.

- **Is it difficult?** No, just a bit of digging and simple common sense measuring.
  - **Is it expensive?** Less costly than you might imagine.
  - **Does it need specialist knowledge?** No more than any other bit of the garden. But it will benefit wildlife, add enormous interest to your garden and will exercise your creative side too.
  - **A pond can be any size.** I have one that is just a fifteen-litre washing-up bowl. A miniature waterlily has grown in it undisturbed for sixteen years – it flowers, sets seed and produces baby miniature lilies. A half wooden barrel makes a good pond, sunk into the garden or free standing, though it is best to line it with a waterproof liner. I have seventy such barrels...but mostly people think of a pond as a more natural looking feature in the ground, whether formal or informal in shape and style. So, if that is you, this is how to do it...
1. **Choose a site/position in your garden.** This should be somewhere where the pond gets plenty of sunshine...so not under trees. At least half a day of direct sunshine is best.
  2. **Dig the hole.** How big? As big as will look good in your setting. Try to avoid too many bays and narrow bits...make it rectangular or oval. How deep? Two feet (60cm) is perfect, I never go more than 70cm even in a large pond because it is not necessary and because the inside leg measurement of my pair of waders is 75cm. The pond should have several horizontal shelves at a depth of about nine inches (22.5cm) below the surface level. These will be for emergent “marginal” plants, in large pots or baskets. While digging, use a plank and a spirit level to ensure the edge is the same level all the way round.

3. **A pond should hold water – reliably.** People used to use concrete but it is very hard work and cracks and leaks develop. You should either invest in a pond liner or you can line the hole with fibreglass resin. Personally, I have always used flexible pond liner. Never use polythene...it cracks in sunlight and even so-called UV-stabilised polythene lasts only a few years...and you do NOT want to redo a pond. It is something to install once only... So PVC is a false economy in my view and not as easy to work with as the slightly more expensive rubber. EPDM rubber and butyl rubber are both excellent and I recommend 1mm thick. I always use rubber, it can last for more than fifty years, though a wooden wine barrel could be lined with PVC as both last only about fifteen years. Whether or not you buy from a garden centre or by mail order, be sure to order the right size. Liners are sold in rectangular shapes...and to be sure yours is big enough, the recommended formula is to get one that is as long as the length of your pond PLUS twice the maximum depth, and as wide as your pond PLUS twice the maximum depth. This will ensure you have enough liner to account for the sides as well as the main area of the pool. In practice, this always leaves a bit of overlap because the pond sides will always slope a little bit. The overlap is useful in order to anchor the edge of the liner, either by paving or turf or whatever you choose.
4. **Do I need to buy underlay?** Well, garden centres want to sell it to you...to “prevent stones puncturing the liner”. I have never bought underlay, and in fifty-five years I have never known a stone to puncture my liners even though I walk around in the pools. However, there is nothing lost if it gives you peace of mind...and if you have an old carpet to dispose of, that will do the same job as special underlay.
5. **Do I need a fountain or waterfall or filtration?** No! Splashing water is nice but not necessary for a pond.
6. **Do I need a supply of rain water?** No! But you will need a hose. Fill the pond from the tap. If tap water is healthy for you to drink, it is most certainly healthy for your plants and animals. On first filling, the chlorine will dissipate within hours...and in future, topping up can be done with tap water with no harm ever coming to the wildlife.
7. **What plants do I need?** Ideally, a nice waterlily or two and some attractive emergent plants at the edge. A small pool should have smaller growing plants and lilies, while a big pool can have larger plants with a greater spread. Any lily will grow in 12–18 inches (30–45cm) of water and with a pot/basket and 6 inches of soil. I like a variety of plants to give some flowers in different months of the season, from marsh marigold in March and April through irises in May and June to *Pontederia* in August. “Oxygenating plants” do not oxygenate the water...but the term makes them sound essential, and thus retailers sell more. A better term is “pondweeds”. They grow very quickly so you do not need numerous bunches, but they are desirable for the variety of other aquatic life that make their homes among the fronds. Get a little of several kinds...from friends or a wild pond or from a garden centre...and spend the money you save on a really nice waterlily, if possible one that you have seen in flower and bought with the flower on it.

- 8. Do I need to buy special aquatic soil?** Absolutely not. In my experience, this is the worst planting medium...specially formulated to contain no nutrition (so the water doesn't go green) but why would anyone plant flowering plants in soil that has no nutrition? So many books and magazine articles are written by people who have little experience of creating ponds...they just repeat the mantras they have read elsewhere. The best soil for pond plants is the top six inches of the soil you dug out to make the hole! This is the advice I gave to all the customers when I was the manager of Latour-Marliac, home of the French National Collection of waterlilies and the oldest water-gardening nursery in the world, where most of our hardy coloured lilies were first produced. I did trials with aquatic soil, and I refused to stock it because garden soil is so much better and I wanted the customers' plants to succeed.
- 9. What if my water goes green?** Don't worry, green water is healthy water! Fish actually seem to prefer it! It is green because microscopic green plants are floating happily in it. As your other plants grow, they will compete for the nutrients, lily pads will absorb much of the sunlight, and a new balance will establish. The water will reach an equilibrium and go quite clear in a couple of weeks. Do not replace green water with fresh water...just wait for the cycle to complete or you will just generate more green water. I recently saw a TV garden makeover programme which created a pond, planted it up and then added black dye to the water!! Apparently, this is quite popular, particularly with the manufacturers and retailers of black dye. But if light is prevented from entering the water, your submerged plants will die, the pond may smell bad, life will be suppressed and the joy and mystery of staring into the sub-surface microcosm of life...tadpoles, beetles and various larvae and fish...all of that interest will be lost. Madness! The surface of a pond is perfectly reflective without adding black dye.
- 10. Should I buy fish?** A "wildlife pond" is fine without fish. You will have more of the other creatures mentioned in the previous paragraph. However, fish are great fun to feed and to watch. Ordinary goldfish come in various bright colours and are excellent and inexpensive. Comet goldfish are similar but with elongated fins. Golden Orfe in a bigger pool or Golden Rudd in a smaller pond add action and variety. I do not recommend Koi carp...they will uproot all your plants and suck and blow the soil so that the water is always cloudy. They are better suited to a specialist Koi pond, 4 or 5 feet deep and with pumps and filters. They are also actually less colourful than standard goldfish, unless you can afford the most expensive specimens.

So, there you are. Easy. Get creative and help the environment this month.

If you have any questions, you can contact me and I may be able to offer further advice.

***Rev Charles Overton, 07775797016  
Chairman, Weobley Branch of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust***



## Hilltop Cattery

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# WISH

Have you heard about WISH Herefordshire? It's a free online wellbeing information and signposting service, providing details for over 950 different services and groups across the county, along with promoting over 350 activities and events every month.

It currently offers a comprehensive list of over 100 local suppliers, which are providing community food boxes, groceries and hot meals during the coronavirus lockdown, alongside a great range of local and national online exercises and activities to keep you active and entertained, whilst you're staying at home.

To find something for you and your family, take a look at [www.wishherefordshire.org](http://www.wishherefordshire.org) or follow WISH on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter by searching @WishHereford.

## Sudoku Solutions

### Easy

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

### Hard

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

## Cedar Hall Hire Rates

*Daytime sessions £30  
i.e.: Coffee Mornings,  
Fundraising Events,  
Funerals. 4Hrs*

*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)	Cole Fellows	Chair	07464 485371
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

Where no code is shown, use 01544

## Dilwyn Parish Council

**Parish Clerk:**  
**Gwilym Rippon**

**email:**  
clerk@dilwynparishcouncil.gov.uk

James Booth  
Ian Brown  
Cole Fellows  
Raymond Fellows  
Julia Hall (Vice-chair)  
Peter Kyles

Julian Lewis  
Peter Stilwell (Chair)  
David Stirling-Brown  
Joanne Stirling-Brown  
Stephen Thomas

**Parish council website:** [www.dilwynparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dilwynparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Weobley Ward Councillor

Michael Jones  
Phone: 01981 590418

Westlands, Mansel Lacy, Hereford, HR4 7HQ  
[michael.jones@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:michael.jones@herefordshire.gov.uk)

## Local MP

Bill Wiggin  
Phone: 01568 612565

[officeofbillwigginmp@parliament.uk](mailto:officeofbillwigginmp@parliament.uk)  
Westminster 0207 219 8175

**Any errors or omissions, please contact the editors**



**Community website:** [Dilwyn.com](http://Dilwyn.com)

You can read this magazine and back issues online.

[www.dilwyn.com/dilwynner](http://www.dilwyn.com/dilwynner)

## Pet Pin-Ups of the Month



My donkey is called Clyde and we've had him for years and years. He can be a grumpy man at times, but always open to a cuddle and the odd carrot!

I've had my chestnut pony (called Biscuit) going on for six years now. After a couple of years of being the cheekiest pony at Pony Club, he is now retired and was 22 years old this April (hence his teeth being worn down with age).

***Lucy Hall***

*Do keep sending in photos of your pets or farm animals who are worthy of being a pin-up in The Dilwynner. Please include a few sentences to explain who they are and what makes them special.*





## NEED A READING BOOK?



The Cedar Hall now has almost 200 (mostly modern) reading books. Throughout July, it will be open on Mondays and Fridays from 10am–12 noon

Bring books to swap, donate finished books, browse and borrow books (safely)

*Please observe social distancing at all times  
Hand sanitizer is available*



This is a free service



## Cedar Hall 100 Club Draw

**June**

1<sup>st</sup> June Chase £50.

2<sup>nd</sup> Emily Beach £25. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sue Rowe £25.

### **Absolute deadlines for August Dilwynner copy are:**

20<sup>th</sup> July for very small items and also regular items

18<sup>th</sup> July 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