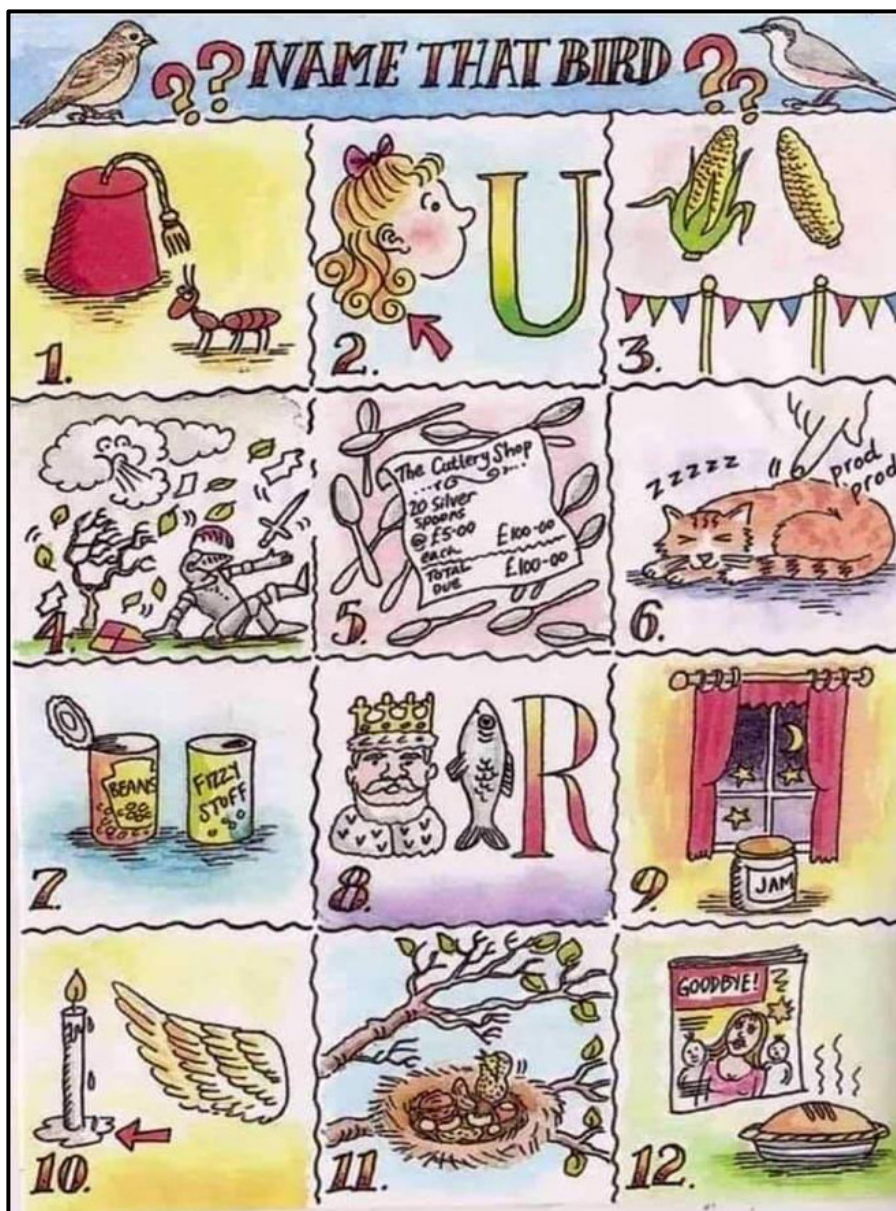


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Dilwyn's Independent Parish Magazine

Free only to Dilwyn parish households



The front cover shows the Dilwyn field name map of 1834, kindly submitted by Ian Elliott as part of his article on Dilwyn Common (please see pages 28–30).

Answers to the 'Name That Bird' quiz above can be found on page 37. Many thanks to Caroline Carter for sending this in.

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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

Bats In Our Belfry!

Sadly, our church has been locked up for more than two months with no admittance to anyone – not even members of the PCC. This doesn't mean that St Mary's has been unoccupied – wildlife is having a wonderful time – totally undisturbed. Bats in particular – not currently the most popular of species – will have been weeing and pooing all over the chancel floor. The church has been a safe bat haven with no human interference or hygiene grumbles from the congregation.

As the October 2019 edition of the *Church Times* highlighted, "*Why time could be up for bats in the belfry*"...

Bats are a protected species, but congregations have long sought to be protected from them. Now there are signs that a two-year-old scheme is managing to turn the relationship upside down.



Pipistrelle bats

The scheme, Bats in Churches, is run jointly by the Government's conservation agency Natural England, the Church of England, the Bat Conservation Trust, the Government's heritage agency Historic England, and the Churches Conservation Trust. The project has tried to find ways in which to resolve conflicts between congregations, who wish to use churches as places of worship, and bats, who regard them as homes with indoor lavatories. Congregations involved report that there has been a "transformation" in the official attitude towards their plight.

Next year, a citizen-science survey will be launched to find out more about bats in churches across the country. Members of the public will be asked to survey churches for bats and input their data into a national study.

Should Dilwyn take part in this scheme and find ways of living more harmoniously with these creatures, long seen as a pest?

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

The Big Clean Up...

Meanwhile, look out for the big clean up once we are allowed back in our church. Things are beginning to ease: Hereford Diocese has advised that one nominated person is allowed into the church for prayer, live screening or to assess cleaning and disinfecting needs before the church is re-opened to the public.

Sunday Service

You can watch a Sunday Service arranged by Leominster Priory each Sunday after 8am by logging in to leominsterpriory.org.uk or sound only on 01568 609920.



Dilwyn WI

New members are always welcome



During the past few weeks, WI members have been busy making scrub bags for local care homes as well as the County Hospital. We made a total of sixty-two, which is a creditable number given that Dilwyn WI is a relatively small group. Like everyone else, we too are looking forward to the lifting of restrictions so we'll be able to reunite in the near future.

Pat Isaacs

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Dilwyn Weather for April 2020



A warm, sunny spring after all the clouds and rain of winter was most welcome – and especially so as we had to spend the whole month shut away in our homes and gardens. At least 20 days had more sunshine than cloud, the temperatures rose and pressure remained high until the final two days. The daytime average temperature of 20 degrees was well above what we would normally get in April, while the night-time average of 4 degrees was about normal. Only five frosts were recorded, none of them severe.

A couple of rainy days mid month and again at month end managed to give us just below 2 inches of rain (45 mm), taking the ongoing total for 2020 to 13.7 inches (342 mm). With the pressure staying predominantly high, the wind was little problem with mostly light breezes. All in all, a very pleasant time to be spent in the garden, with many a tidy lawn and immaculate vegetable and flower beds on display to those out taking their daily exercise.

AR



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Dilwyn Coronavirus Support Group

– Update

Lockdown was announced on March 23rd, which seems like a very long time ago now. As a community, we have coped well. The Dilwyn Coronavirus Support Group was set up to support those who are vulnerable or self-isolating and we will continue to help for as long as we are needed. The amount of people who have volunteered in Dilwyn exceeds the demand for help...something to be both grateful *for*...and proud *of*!

There is a slight amendment with regard to contact details for the support group. Village newcomer Abigail Hiester has taken the reins on the volunteer coordination front and has worked with Richard Kelly for a smooth handover.

If you need support, Alan remains the contact.

Alan Rudland

Tel: 01544 319262

Email: arudland@hotmail.com

Abigail Hiester

(Volunteer Coordinator)

Tel: 07587 7221449

Email: abigail.hiester@gmail.com

Government Guidelines

Government restrictions were eased on May 11th but the UK is ***certainly*** not out of the woods and for those in the extremely vulnerable categories, things remain the same. In fact, 30% of our county population is estimated to be at risk/vulnerable and Herefordshire seems to be a little behind on the curve...so we must stay vigilant. For those who are not particularly vulnerable, the COVID-19 recovery strategy means you can now:

- Meet one other person from a different household outdoors, staying 2 metres apart.
- Exercise outdoors as often as you wish, following social distancing guidelines.
- Use outdoor sports courts or facilities, such as a tennis or basketball court, or golf course – with members of your household, or one other person while staying 2 metres apart.
- Go to a garden centre, following social distancing guidelines.

Government has advised that schools can reopen to more pupils on June 1st (they have remained open to children of key workers and vulnerable children) but not all. Early years, reception, year 1 and year 6 will be the first ones allowed to return. However, this is up to parents and carers depending on the individual family situation.



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tom@tomhughescarpentry.co.uk.**

Advice for Different Groups of People

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (Shielding)

- Follow shielding guidance – stay at home at all times.
- Use voluntary and community group for help with essential supplies.

Clinically Vulnerable (those over 70, people with liver disease, diabetes, pregnant women)

- Stay at home as much as possible, take care if you do go out and follow social distancing guidelines.

For Everyone

- Do not go out for at least 7 days if you or someone you live with has any of the following symptoms:
 - a high temperature
 - a new, continuous cough
 - a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Non-COVID-19 Health Concerns

It remains important to seek help for non-COVID-19 related health concerns. There have been reports that whilst people are starting to contact their GPs and visit hospitals again, many patients are turning up in slightly worse states due to their delayed action. Remember, surgeries and hospitals are well equipped to keep you safe.

Mental Health

Whilst we are taking care of those needing practical help in Dilwyn, we must remember the toll the pandemic can have on mental health. Herefordshire is well equipped with local helplines/online support and there is an abundance of national help. For those who just need a friendly chat with a fellow Dilwynner – please let the Dilwyn Support Group know. There certainly isn't a shortage of volunteers who are happy to talk and, as we've said before, a chat will do a volunteer just as much good as you!

However, nothing beats face-to-face contact to lift spirits. It is rare to pass someone in Dilwyn without a brief exchange but now, more than ever, it is important to say hello. It really can make all the difference if someone is having a bad day. Let's give a cheery wave to people in windows and have 'over the fence' chats/rants/moans (planned or unplanned) as much as possible. Maybe there are people in similar situations that you could introduce to each other? Whilst there are many who have lived in Dilwyn for some time, we must remember that there are lots of new faces amongst us. Don't be shy, introduce yourself!

VE Day Celebrations

Our scaled-back VE Day celebrations went very well. The village looked wonderful with its flags and decorations and we can safely say that the village has never eaten so many cakes and sausage rolls. The Crown did us proud producing 122 cream teas! Also, thank you to all those who got in contact regarding the children's VE Day project. Special thanks goes to Margaret who kindly told us her experiences of living through the war as a youngster. It's quite a story! Along with other contributions, it will be shared with local children.

Please see page 40 for some colourful photos of Emma Jordan and her family celebrating VE Day.

Weobley and Staunton Groups of Parishes

The churches of the Weobley and Staunton Groups of parishes are still currently without a new vicar because the interviews that were scheduled for March 25th had to be postponed. A Sunday Service is being broadcast each week at 10.30am on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81946640814>. The service will last for about half an hour.

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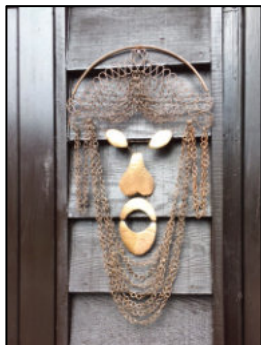


Messages

COVID-19

As a result of much travel, we have acquired these fearsome masks. So far, they have kept away the virus with the assistance of the kind people of Dilwyn.

Grateful survivors, M&R Flack



Father and Son

An elderly man was sitting with his 25-year-old son in the train. The train was about to leave the station to start its journey. All the passengers were settling in their seats. As the train started, the young man was filled with so much joy and curiosity. He was sitting by the window and put out one hand and, feeling the air, he shouted 'Papa, see the trees are going behind.' The father smiled and admired his son's feelings.

Beside the young man was a couple who were listening to the conversation between the father and son. They felt a little awkward with the attitude of the 25-year-old who was behaving like a small child. Suddenly, the young man shouted 'Papa, see the pond and the animals. The clouds are moving with the train.' The couple were watching the young man and felt very embarrassed.

It then started to rain and some of the water dropped on the young man's hand. He shouted again 'Papa, it is raining, the water is touching me, see Papa?' The couple just could not keep quiet any longer and asked the father 'Why don't you visit a doctor and get treatment for your son?' The father replied 'I have, and we are coming from the hospital today. My son was born blind, but today he got his eyesight for the first time in his life.'

Beryl Abley, via a friend in Canada

Mince Beef Cobbler

The editor of the May edition is deeply ashamed to find that she managed to omit the most important ingredient from the delicious beef cobbler recipe printed last month. Here, with her apologies, is the correct version, including the essential 500g of lean minced beef.

HH

- 500g lean minced beef
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 140g chopped mushrooms
- 2 tbsp plain flour
- 500ml beef stock
- Few shakes Worcestershire sauce
- 140g self-raising flour
- 1 tbsp chopped thyme
- 4 tbsp low-fat natural yogurt
- 140g frozen peas

Heat oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas 4. Dry fry the mince and onion in a large non-stick frying pan over a high heat. Stir frequently to break up the mince, until well browned. Add the mushrooms and plain flour, followed by the stock and Worcestershire sauce. Bring to a simmer, then gently cook for 10 mins. Meanwhile to make the cobbles, mix the self-raising flour and thyme together in a bowl. Stir in the yogurt with enough cold water to make a firm scone-like dough. On a slightly floured surface, roll out to the thickness of about 1.5cm and use a cutter to stamp out 12x 5cm rounds. Stir the peas into the mince mixture, then transfer to a baking dish. Place the cobbles on top of the mince and bake for 25 mins until the cobbles are risen and golden brown. Serves 4.

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

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

Hard

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

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Heating Oil Syndicate

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all safe and well, and enjoying the wonderful weather.

April was a very low month due to the hectic time in March and the prices just falling so rapidly, leaving me in a spin most of the month.

However, we did have some orders and thank you for them. We managed to catch a good price before the price started to rise – I said OPEC would intervene. We managed 2700 litres and I secured a good price from Watson Fuels, who were the contenders and very competitive at 20.5p per litre – a single order would have been 24p. The low order was due to, as I said, the rapid reduction of price and members taking the opportunity. I hope this month it will stabilise as I have already got a reasonable order.

I'm afraid not much to report in this issue, the trend has started to rise again. Per 900 litres it fell from £237 on 22nd April down to £213 on 6th May, which equates to 23.7p per litre. Some companies were charging quite a lot less, but not for very long – it was even 18p/litre just for a day or two. From 6th May, the price has risen to £272 on the 20th and it appears to still be changing day by day. I had a price this morning of 25p from Watson Fuels, tomorrow it could change again.

Short and sweet this month I am afraid – please take care and keep very safe within the guidelines.

All the very best,

Pete

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The Crown Inn

Hello Dilwynners!

We want to say thank you, your support has meant the world to us. Because of you, we have been able to keep the pub surviving and, with your continued support, we will thrive in the future. We love being able to offer you meals at home, to be able to offer you a night off or to be able to treat your loved ones. We are changing our menu on an ad hoc basis and as some of you know, we must be even more organised in these unprecedented times, so please try to order your evening meal before 5pm, food deliveries then start at 6.15pm Tues–Sat. Please see our current menu and if you do fancy a takeout lunch, please call us for more information. We are offering our Sunday lunches if you fancy a relaxing Sunday with the food delivered to your door. Please call us as early as possible, ideally before the Sunday in question. As you can understand, we cook and order to demand and want to make sure everyone is catered for.

We are still offering the community boxes, so please call us to enquire and ask if there is anything else you may need. We are more than happy to help, even if it is just a bag of flour!

We really cannot wait to have everyone back at the pub – we are already putting a plan together ready for when it is safe to open again. Creating and adhering to the ‘New Crown Inn Normal’ is going to be challenging, but we are so lucky that we have you to help us make it run smoothly and help us keep everyone safe and happy. Having the garden is definitely going to help us and we will utilise the space we have when the time comes.

Stay safe everyone,

Maria & Max



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Fillet of Salmon, Roast Vegetables, Tepanade £13.00

Beef Burger, Chips £8.50

Beetroot & Goats Cheese Burger, Chip (V) £8.50

Gnocchi Primavera, Side Salad (V) £9.50

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Nature Notes

In the autumn we went on an 'Ancient Oak Acorn Hunt'! We planted them up and then our Gloucestershire Old Spot pigs escaped and rooted out the acorns – it was carnage! Fifty trees survived so if I can keep them alive, once established we could give them to local landowners to plant.

Our spotted flycatchers have returned from sub-Saharan Africa and over the past week we have been watching them tirelessly bringing grubs and flies back to their new nest under the car port in the cladding, where they perch on the telephone wire in front to check that the coast is clear. This species has declined by 89% since 1970, so we were so delighted to see their return – along with the cuckoo.

We found a brimstone moth (which is yellow), a white ermine moth with no spots and numerous May bugs, which were doodle-bugging around the other evening, whilst we were out bat watching. We can now confirm there are 11 large bats living in the old woodpecker hole in the ash tree opposite our house on the roadside. I am still not certain of the species, but we are glad we know where they live. Pipistrelle bats flew out below my head from the barn cladding whilst watching the others. They use the hedgerow and barn as a feeding corridor – up and down they go!

The house martins returned around the beginning of May and have taken up their old nest, against the house sparrows' noisy objections! Our pigs are clearing an old pond and woody area of our garden and, whilst checking their fence, I looked up and there was perched the most beautiful fluffy grey/white ball of a tawny owl chick. It was amazing. The mother is feeding two chicks and that evening we had a silent fly by, right past us, straight to the nest. What a truly magical experience! We erected the tawny owl box a few years ago and are very pleased that it has some residents!



Since looking at the old plans of our house at the Herefordshire Archive, I have been dreaming of the opportunity to restore the old ponds and streams here and we decided during lockdown that this was the perfect project to keep us sane! We set to with the help of a digger and, a month later, we have completed them using the existing clay and are so excited to see what wildlife arrives!

I sowed a pond edge seed mix around the large pond and on our field I sprayed off the new growth of docks, couch grass and creeping thistle, and sowed a wildflower nectar and pollen mix along with cornfield annuals for

this year. The wildflower mixes you buy are quite general, so I have added quite a few more species to the mix to create a richer diversity, as adding seeds into a sward later does not work very well in my experience. It seemed best to get them in now. However, the mix did not include yellow rattle (as it needs to be overwintered). This is a semi-parasitic plant which feeds on the roots of grasses, so it keeps the meadow more flower rich. I shall add this in the autumn.

We have a comfrey corner here, which is now flowering to the bees' delight! It is an absolute magnet for them. If you have space for a patch, get planting – you can make a great fertiliser too with this truly wonderful plant!

Emma Jordan

The Flight of the Honey Bee



After Jimmy Symonds and I had taken a swarm which had landed in a compost bin in my garden, I thought readers might be interested in why this event occurs throughout the summer months. The queen bee in her hive is happy and content but the workers and drones are not! They are overcrowded and want to start another colony, so they begin to produce a rich nectar called Royal Jelly. This is fed to up to a dozen bee larvae in the comb which will turn into new queens.

As they begin to emerge, the strongest of the new queens has one thing on her mind – MURDER! She seeks out her sibling sister queens and stings all to death. She wants no competitors to compete with her on her maiden flight.

The virgin queen plus a third of the hive swarm on a hot day with the drones mating with her in flight. She has never flown before and after a mile the swarm will alight en masse. It is now that beekeepers will take the swarm. However, if not taken, the workers will scout the area for a suitable hive/hollow tree/chimney before returning to the swarm and performing a dance to show the distance and direction to their new abode.

And so they begin again to perform their work, which gives us honey and pollinates flowering crops grown by gardeners and farmers – something that science has not yet found a way to do better. The bees that swarmed to Grit Cottage were the black-bodied old English bee – much hardier and more vicious than the brown honey bee. So, if you have a swarm, do contact me and Jimmy and I will deal with them.

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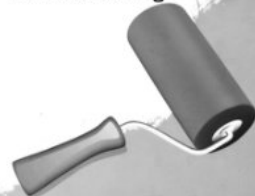
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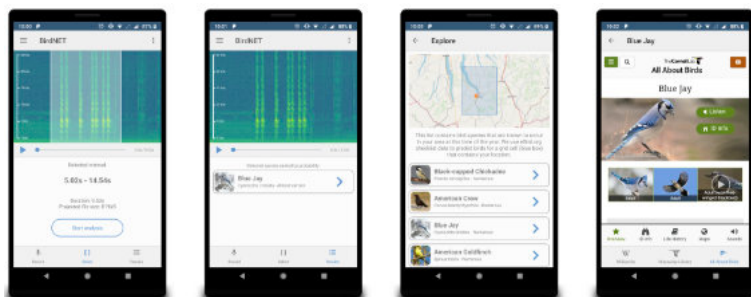
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BirdNET Smartphone App

So while out and about walking with the children, we have been collecting leaves and flowers and bringing them home to identify using some great Collins Guides. We have also been looking out for animals and birds and listening to all the birdsong, which made me wonder if there are smartphone apps that could help us with this. The answer is 'Yes!' – there are many. So I thought I would first review the birdsong identifier that we have been trialling – BirdNET.

The BirdNET Android app has been developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (<https://birdnet.cornell.edu>) and it works like this. The version that we are using is a demo that lets you record a file using the internal microphone of your Android device and an artificial neural network will tell you the most probable bird species present in your recording. It uses the native sound recording feature of smartphones and tablets as well as the GPS-service to make predictions based on location and date. Do give it a try!

In practice, I found this app brilliant and very simple to use. You simply press record when you are near a call you would like to ID and then, once you stop recording, you select the small recorded segment with your finger and click 'analyse'. It will then identify which bird species the call is likely to resonate from and direct you to the Wikipedia page for that species, which often includes a sample of the call. It will even register 'human' if you talk over the top of it, so try to be as quiet as you can!



Anyway, there have been times when I have not been convinced, but that is usually when there have been multiple sounds for it to differentiate, which it would obviously find tricky. But I would say that the majority of the time, it is spot on. It may not be a perfect app, but for a first go at bird watching/listening, it's a great starting point and, if you are not sure that the app has got it right, you can always check the recording at home!

Jo Stirling-Brown

So Where is Dilwyn Common?

Visitors to Dilwyn may be somewhat bemused if they set out to visit the Common. “I couldn’t see any Common, just a lot of old fields!” they might say. And of course they would be right, as the open common land in Dilwyn was “inclosed” in 1866.

There remain many patches of common land in this area, sometimes called waste, such as Ledgemoor, Pigmoor and Monkland Common. They were an important part of the older agricultural system, where cottagers with grazing rights could sustain a family with a cow, a few sheep and some geese to sell at Christmas. However, as populations grew and demand for food increased in the early 18th century, there was money to be made from this type of land.

Of course, it wasn’t the cottagers or working people of the parish who stood to gain very much from this, but the wealthy and influential landowners. By getting a bill in Parliament under the Enclosure Act, “...*for the Inclosure, Exchange and Improvement of Land...*”, common land could be legally parcelled up and distributed to individual landowners.

This process started in Dilwyn in 1862, when William Havard Apperley of Hereford was appointed by the Commissioners of Inclosure to be the Land Valuer for the enclosure of Dilwyn Common. He drew up lists of who owned land around the Common and who had rights to use it, and the enclosure area was split up in proportion to the estimated revenue or value of those pre-existing land holdings.

Naturally, there was a lot of argument and wrangling about who owned what, including a long-running fight between the Lord of the Manor of Dilwyn, Daniel Peploe Peploe of Garnstone, John Griffiths Beavan, Lord of the Manor of Tyrrel’s Court and John Hungerford Arkwright of Hampton Court, who claimed to have the trump card by being Lord of the Manor of Leominster Foreign. In the end Daniel Peploe Peploe won, but it was not until 1865 that the final Enclosure Document was drawn up and eventually enacted on 29th March 1866.

The area to be enclosed was Dilwyn Common, Broad Meadow and Rock Meadow. The Common started where the small stream that joins the Common Lane at Chapel Corner leaves the lane to the south and runs behind what is now Spring Cottage and Prospect Cottage, and was roughly triangular. Broad Meadow joined it behind Burnt House where the sewage pumping station now stands and ran over Tippet’s Brook towards New Mill, then called Tyrrel’s Court Mill. Rock Meadow was a strip of land running along the west side of Tippet’s Brook, opposite what is now the Tyrrells Crisps factory and up towards Perryditch Farm.

In a clever move on the part of William Havard Apperley, the first land that he allocated was the two acres between Prospect Cottage and the track that runs down to the sewage works, now the Beaufort bungalow property, *"...allotted to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor as an Allotment for the labouring poor of the said Parish of Dilwyn..."* but subject to an annual rent of Three Pounds. He then *"...sold the said Rent Charge of Three Pounds for the purpose of raising money to defray the expenses incident with the said inclosure unto George Bray of the Haven for the price of sum of Sixty One Pounds."* George Bray clearly thought in the long term and that over time he would get his money back and more, and the Commissioners of Inclosure were happy as they had a considerable cash sum in hand.

The next thing that Mr Apperley did was to award the Lord of the Manor of Dilwyn a parcel of land *"...which I adjudge and declare to be equal in value to one sixteenth part of the residue of the waste lands to be inclosed and to be in lieu and in full compensation for the rights and interest of the said Owner in the Soil of the said Dilwyn Common..."*.

The rest was handed out to the agreed list of landowners, mostly local but a few living as far away as Bognor in Sussex, Malden in Essex and Pontyperrydd. Cottagers generally got a small garden allotment, insufficient to have any livestock or feed a family, so most of them sold out to larger landowners and moved. A few of their cottages can be seen on the south side of Common Lane, but before enclosure would have been on the Common itself, possibly originating as squatters cottages. This was an ancient right such that if a person could between one sunrise and the next build a roofed dwelling and show a fire burning in the grate, then they could stay. Most of the locals were allocated small paddocks and fields along the south side of Common Lane, some of which can still be seen today. However, this probably amounted to about 10% of the total area, the majority becoming the property of a few large landowners.

The land did not come entirely for free. To access the new fields four *"...Private Carriage and Occupation Roads of the width of twenty one feet..."* were created that did not belong to any particular person, but the cost of maintaining them fell to the adjoining landowners. Two of these roads still exist; the track running down to the sewage works and the track opposite Apple Hill bungalow accessing a field set back from the lane with recently-built stables. The third at Venmore Cottage has disappeared and of the fourth, a short part remains behind Nos. 1 and 2 Rose Cottages. The latter was the longest, running down beyond the newly-dug drainage ditch and then turning through a right angle and continuing to Broad Meadow. The maintenance costs of the new ditches, fencing and hedges also fell to the new owners.

cont.

An advantage of the enclosures was the creation of miles of hedges using home-grown indigenous species of trees and shrubs. This has left a lasting legacy of hedges and verges for flowers, animals and insects, albeit at the expense of fewer open grass and moorland habitats. It is therefore ironic that, as time passes and more and more hedgerows disappear due to modern agricultural trends, parts of the old Common begin to reappear again.

(Note – fascinating items such as the Dilwyn Enclosure document and many more on local history can be studied free of charge at the Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre at Rotherwas – or rather, will be able to be viewed when the world returns to some semblance of normality.)

Ian Elliott

Recruitment to the Family Bench

The Staffordshire and West Mercia Advisory Committee (Staffordshire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire) is recruiting new magistrates from June 1st. During the current public health emergency, advisory committees are continuing to encourage applications and to accept and sift them as planned, but in order to comply with social distancing and travel restrictions, candidates will not be interviewed until it can be done safely. For more information see www.gov.uk/become-magistrate.



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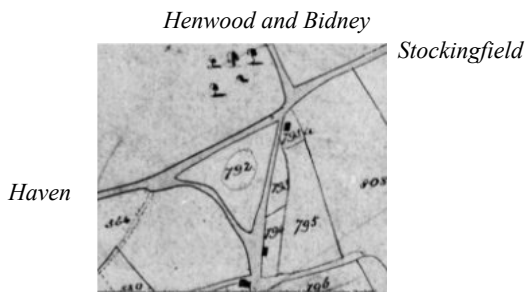
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Fields and Farms

As we are all still in the midst of pandemic and confined to our local area, I thought it might be interesting to take a closer look at our surrounding countryside, in particular our parish fields and familiar places. Their given names can tell us a lot about the history and landscape within our area. Some of these names are still used by the farms and families that have lived and worked the land here for generations, while others have long been forgotten or shortened to just meadow or orchard. But always, somewhere, they have been documented. Most of this month's history section will focus on the 1837 tithe map of Dilwyn and give you a brief glimpse into our field names and their history.

As many of you may know, before the bypass the A4112 basically came through the village. The triangle of grass (792) that is adjacent to the underpass and the slip road appears to be all that is left of the aptly named Three Corner Plock that extended across to meet the road opposite leading to Haven, Henwood and Bidney.



‘Plock’ (plot, pick etc.) is a term not that familiar to us today but, according to the 1994 Survey of English Dialects, it is basically another word for paddock or “a small enclosed piece of pasture near the farmhouse where you might put a sick cow or pony”. As you can see in the image above, there are three black squares denoting dwelling places, although the plock itself cannot be attributed to any one of these. It is likely that, much earlier when the village was less populated, a farm was closer to the centre boundary than it would be now. For example, the village green itself was a former farm and Karen Court its farm buildings. As the village grew, the farms migrated further out.

‘Croft’ also features heavily within field names in our village. A croft is basically (as the terminology is still used in Scotland) ‘a small enclosure’ often associated with a dwelling house, representing the family plot to provide for the needs of the household; usually tenanted but can be owned. The use of the word ‘croft’ as a surname goes back to pre-6th century according to some evidence, so it can be assumed that this would come from

the word 'Crofter' being someone who works a croft – as with many surnames, they came from your profession. Locally within our parish boundaries there are a number of fields with croft incorporated in their names – towards the Tyrrells end of the village, behind Bower House, virtually all the fields leading up towards Sollers Barn are attributed to Towny Croft. The field opposite The Firs Farm and next to Boxers Castle is called Three Corners Croft, just off the left turn at Luntley you have Walls Croft and slightly further on near Tibhall you have Winyard Croft. Below is taken from an area near Bagleyhead that has two crofts very close together: field number 364 below Bagleyhead Cottage is Pesterns Croft and 409, just above and to the left towards the Headlands, is Hadland Croft as this whole area then was known as the Hadlands.



Many places were also named for what they had been used for in the past. For example, in the tithe map section of the centre of the village (below), you can see Brick Meadow (820) and Sandpits Piece (527), named according to the industry that took place there – brick making and sand quarrying, respectively, for building in the village.



Sometimes hamlets and places were named after their surrounding environments, such as Stockingfields along the A4112 towards Leominster and the Stocking, the latter being situated on the back road towards Weobley at the end of the stretch of Roman road. According to 'A History of Field-Names' by John Field, these words could come from the Old English 'stoccing' meaning clearing and 'stocc' meaning stump or log, which is

intimating at a wooded or forested area that has been cleared. So we can imagine that these areas would have been fairly wooded 100 years earlier than these records. It would also seem that this rings true from the Stretford end of the village, as the majority of the fields between The Firs, Stretford Bridge and The Grove all appear to be named either 'Elm Field' or 'In Elm Field', suggesting that that whole area would have been Elm woodland. What a lovely sight that would have been!

This has by no means been a complete and full study of the local field names within our parish. But I hope that it encourages you to look at our surroundings in a different way and perhaps see what went before and notice how our village has evolved and where its roots began. You might surprise yourself at how differently you see the fields around once you know their names and how the little tumps and bumps might be the remains of a croft, brick kiln, copse or marshland. We even have a couple of Barrow Fields within the parish boundary!

If you are interested in looking at the village using the tithe maps of 1837, you can purchase copies from Geoff Gwatkin Maps (www.geoffgwatkinmaps.co.uk) or contact the Woolhope Club History Society (www.woolhopeclub.org.uk) which also has some other great historical resources!

Jo Stirling-Brown



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Our current projects are adult mental health, men's health, falls prevention and social isolation and reasonable adjustments. Surveys for these can be found on our website along with a whole host of other information. We're aware that many people aren't online so if you'd like a hard copy version posted out to you, call us on 01432 277044. We really would value your opinion.

We know that the coronavirus pandemic is a difficult time and it is important that you seek help if you are struggling. We have created a list of free national helpline numbers along with some local ones in case you need them.

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CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably – for men aged 15–35)	0800 58 58 58
Childline	0800 11 11
Marie Curie Support Line	0800 090 2309
Samaritans	116 123
Cruse Bereavement Care	0808 808 1677
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Victim Support	0808 168 9111
NSPCC (for children)	0800 1111
NSPCC (for adults concerned about a child)	0808 800 5000
Alcoholics Anonymous	0800 917 7650
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Herefordshire MIND (Safe Haven Service)	01432 372407
Herefordshire Mental Health Support (24 hours)	01905 681915
Citizens Advice Herefordshire	0344 826 9685

Name That Bird Answers

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Pheasant | 2. Curlew | 3. Corn bunting |
| 4. Nightingale | 5. Spoonbill | 6. Kittiwake |
| 7. Toucan | 8. Kingfisher | 9. Nightjar |
| 10. Waxwing | 11. Nuthatch | 12. Magpie |

Sudoku Solutions

Easy

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

Hard

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

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
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Stephen Thomas

Parish council website: www.dilwynparishcouncil.gov.uk

Weobley Ward Councillor

Michael Jones
Phone: 01981 590418

Westlands, Mansel Lacy, Hereford, HR4 7HQ
michael.jones@herefordshire.gov.uk

Local MP

Bill Wiggin
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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-Ups of the Month

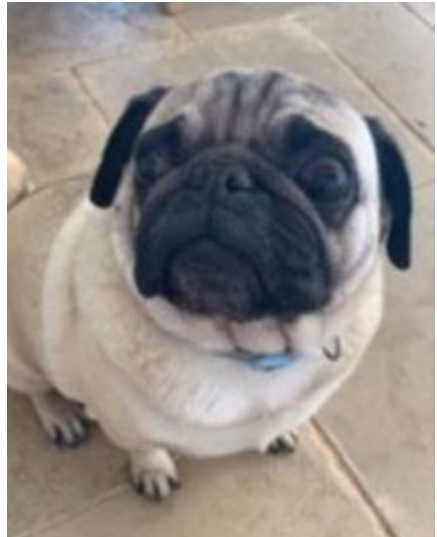
This is our special friend Tizer. He loves life! Spending days at a farm with me and my horse, he even has his own high-vis vest that he wears when I go riding and he comes along. He loves being in the garden playing catch with his ball and teddy. He has always got his head under the hedge or in the shed trying to catch a mouse. Tizer has taken this self-isolation in his stride! We hope he is wrong, thinking it will last till Christmas.

Julie & Ron Carpenter



Below on the left is Disco – she belongs to Charlotte Berry but lives at Bagley Head Cottage. She is a Polish bantam with an awesome headdress. Then on the right is Jeff, our little pug. Super friendly and loving, he has a penchant for eating pegs.

Katie Fellows



VE Day in Colour

As Dilwyn village events are currently curtailed during the lockdown, we are instead sharing the lovely photos below sent in by Emma Jordan of her family celebrating VE Day, complete with vintage tractor dating from the time of the war. The Events Diary will return when village activities resume.

Please do keep your Dilwynner submissions coming in – stories, poems, photos, artwork, jokes, recipes etc. are all most welcome! Whatever cannot be fitted in one issue will be held over for inclusion in the following one.



Cedar Hall 100 Club Draw

May

1st Alex Bennett £20.

2nd Edward Lewis £10. 3rd Karen Hoare £10.

Absolute deadlines for July Dilwynner copy are:

20th June for very small items and also regular items

18th June 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

Alan Rudland

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch

01544 318670

01544 319262