

# *The* Dilwynner



*March Hare, Jane Clarke, Wednesday Art Group*

## *March 2020*

Dilwyn's Independent Parish Magazine

*Free only to Dilwyn parish households*

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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**

### **Services for March**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Evening Prayer	6.30pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Choral Holy Communion	11.00am
15 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Prayer	11.00am
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Holy Communion	9.30am
	Mothering Sunday	
29 <sup>th</sup>	Group Service at St. Mary's Dilwyn	10.30am

**Holy Communion every Tuesday, 10.30am, at the  
Old Forge, Dilwyn**

**Choir Practice Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm in the Church**

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

## **DONATE A LILY THIS EASTER AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, DILWYN.**

Would you like to sponsor a lily in memory of a loved one  
or to mark a special event?

The flowers will decorate our church from Easter Day  
and there will be a Record of Remembrance in the  
Church.

Please let us know if you would like to contribute as soon  
as possible and no later than Wednesday 8th April.

**Please be generous.**

If you wish to donate a lily please contact Hilary Herdman tel. 01544 319256  
or Anthea Alexander tel. 07747025077

**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**



**Save the date!**  
**The Dilwyn Wedding Dress and Flower Festival**  
**16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May at St Mary's Church Dilwyn**

Where is your wedding dress? We are looking for exhibits from 1930's and 1940's - up to today.

As well as wedding dresses - do you have brides maid and page boy outfits to lend to our Festival.

Please contact Anna Wellings  
01544 318329 or 07890365151



**Funds for St. Mary's Church....**  
**The Dilwyn Calendar..the result.**

I would like to thank all of you who supported this ambitious project by buying the Dilwyn Calendar for yourselves and for friends as far away as Australia and South America. Thank you.

My thanks also go to the sponsors – The Garnstone Estate, McCartneys LLB, Jonathan Bengough, Peter Prior and Mrs Jane Halliday – without whose generosity the project could not have succeeded. My thanks also go to Nicola Jane Designs who gave so much time, help and advice in its preparation.

I am pleased to report that monies raised beat expectations - the project raised a surplus after all costs, including printing, for St. Mary's Church of just over £1,000 on sales of over 130 calendars – all of which will go towards the much needed repairs and projects at the church.

Projects include, improving the poor heating, controlling severe damp as well as remedying the problems with that village amenity – the low-capacity loo. Thank you.  
**(Anthea Alexander).**

**Church Clock**

Time keeping on the church clock has long been slightly erratic. Cumbria Clocks' assessment is that it could be one of 2 things:

- 1) A problem with the hands.
- 2) A problem with the pendulum.

To try and establish which, the hands have been stopped at 12 o'clock and disconnected from the mechanism. The clock will continue running and striking for a period of 2 – 3 weeks while we assess timekeeping with the hands disconnected. So you will continue to hear it striking the correct time on the hour, but the hands will only show the right time at midday and midnight!



*"Here is the clock, the St Mary's clock. Telling the time, steadily, sensibly; never too quickly, never too slowly. Telling the time for Dilwyn".*

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## **Councillor John R Gerrish BEM**

It is with regret that we report the sudden death on 17 February 2020 of John Rudolph Gerrish BEM. John did a huge amount to help the village in just about every aspect of life in our community, including acting as the Dilwynner team co-ordinator for 6 years, from August 2010 until November 2016, and as the magazine's representative on the Parish Council. He will be greatly missed. A full tribute to him will appear in the April issue.

## **Parish Council Matters**

With the passing of John, understandably, no parish council report has been submitted. The full, approved minutes of Dilwyn Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th February 2020, as prepared by the Parish Clerk, are published on the parish council website. ([dilwynparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://dilwynparishcouncil.gov.uk)).

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, commencing at 7.30pm in St Mary's School.**

**Service for John Gerrish is 3pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> March at St Mary's, Dilwyn**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Acoustic Session**

February 20th 2020. After all the flooding problems earlier this week I was amazed to have 15 musicians/singers/percussionists join me at the session last night. Our gathering was tinged with sadness at the news of the death of our wonderful violinist Arthur Bancroft (The Worcestershire Legend) who until the autumn was a regular contributor driving over from the depths of Worcestershire at the age of 87. Arthur lost his brave fight with cancer on January 24th, shortly before his 88th birthday, and our condolences go to his family.

The night was also uplifted with happiness at the news of a wedding and an engagement. The day before two of our usual participants Lorraine Denning and Gerry Farrell tied the knot off the coast of South America, during a force 8 gale, and since our January session our hosts Maria and Max became engaged. Many congratulations to both couples from us all.

As usual the bar was filled with entertainers and musicians including Bob Evans (guitar/vocals) with Ellie Visagie (vocals); Jackie Lyness (vocals); Phil and Pam Brown (a capella vocals); Alison Harrington (percussion); Brian Addis (guitar/vocals); Katie Phillips (ukulele/autoharp/vocals); Phil Rowlands (guitar); Carl Williams (guitar/vocals); Phil Heinrich (vocals/guitar); Eileen Ludgate (Melodion/Vocals); Ashley Ludgate (guitar/vocals); John aka Ted Banjo (banjo) with Anna (guitar/vocals); & yours truly Valeryan (vocals/guitar).

Thanks as ever to our hosts Maria and Max for the usual warm welcome and perfect hospitality. Our next session is planned for Thursday 19th March starting around 8.00pm.

*Valeryan – February 2020*



# Messages



## Nature Notes

It was great reading the Nature Notes as always, and I'm so pleased that Emma & Jo have taken on Alan's mantle.

I'm about half-way through Isabella Tree's Wilding book, which is amazing. It really echoes with me as I studied landscape ecology and habitat fragmentation and know that hedgerows and 'wild' areas are so important for wildlife - for corridors and islands of sanctuary. We replaced an old leylandii hedge with a mixed, native woodland one along one side of our property and 2 years on, it's now nearly my height and starting to thicken.

I've noticed how much wildlife lives in the hedgerows as I walk the dog along a public right of way. I was very excited to see a stoat for the first time recently, who had a field mouse in its' mouth! Just near the kissing gate by Chapel Fields (near the new houses being built) down the Common way. Along the same walk I've seen swans flying over, red kites, and badger spoor. And in the hedges: dunnocks, hedge sparrows, robins, pheasants, rabbits and now the little stoat.

All the best and keep up the good work both!

**Maddy Spinks**

I read with interest Emma Jordan's article on hedges and thought she might be interested that whilst we haven't gone to the lengths that the Knepp Estate have, we have 're-wilded' our hedges.

We haven't cut our non-roadside hedges, about 100 miles in length, for nearly 20 years. They provide a good deal of food and habitat for all types of wildlife and whilst we haven't done a survey to compare with those cut annually, we are told we have a much greater abundance than the standard practice.

I know my father would turn in his grave at the sight of uncut hedges and many regard them as untidy but it works for us.

Assuming you persuade people to leave hedges uncut your next challenge is to persuade them not to cut their lawns! That way they will capture more carbon, retain more water and provide a better habitat for wildlife.

**James Verdin, Garnstone Farms**

## Wind in the Willows

Thank you so much for advertising our 'Wind in the Willows' event, it is much appreciated. We had several people from Dilwyn in the audience and who spoke to us after the event which was really nice.

**Many thanks, Wendy (Hereford – event organiser!!)**

## Free Beer

6th March 9am to 6pm free Tasting Day Swan Brewery HR6 0LX. In the spotlight: Black Swan roasted coffee stout; The Rotundas 12.30-2.30; Black Country food.

3rd April 9am to 8pm free Tasting Day Swan Brewery HR6 0LX. In the spotlight: brand new Bald Eagle 3.5% American Pale Ale; fund raising head shave 4.30pm; pizza.

## **Litter**

While travelling the lanes around Dilwyn Parish I regularly pick up a TOKEN amount of litter, i.e. 5 cans, a couple of pop bottles, a few packets a DAY is the routine. This is a drop in the ocean of rubbish that the good people of our area deposit in our verges.

BUT the sheer quantity of litter is getting worse. It is everywhere you look, which I would not have thought possible given media coverage of the problem. I am inclined to give up the unequal & self-inflicted task to save my sanity. Who out there cares? Certainly not the culprits & very few of the people who walk past it all. Apologies for letting off steam but I felt it needed saying. We all need to buck our ideas up.

***Val Davies***

## **Medieval Houses**

Wellington Parish History Society 26th March 7.30pm Wellington Community Centre  
Talk: Medieval Hall Houses in Herefordshire by Duncan James. 01432 839109.

***Gill Bullock***

## **Development at The Crown - Community Meeting**

Sadly, the Community Meeting planned for 24th February was postponed as a mark of respect for our Chairman, John Gerrish who was so passionate about this project. The Friends Committee will be meeting early in March to decide on a date for a rescheduled meeting to open up discussion on the draft plan and consider options and suggestions for future development at The Crown.

***Kate Albin***

## **Christmas Fund Raising**

Thank you so much for sending through the cheques from the Dilwyn Village Fundraisers.

Please pass on the gratitude of the MND Association to all those involved in raising these funds, as a charity we rely almost entirely on the kindness and generosity of the public for our funding and your gift of £2108.05 is absolutely fantastic and means a great deal to us.

Your gift will be used to help continue our work supporting people affected by MND across Herefordshire, our volunteers help families remain together and for those people living with the disease to live their lives in comfort and dignity and wherever possible in their own homes.

Thank you to all of you, it never ceases to amaze me the strength of community spirit and cohesion that small rural areas can generate that when called upon a small group of people can do so much.

***Richard Shackelford***  
***Regional Fundraiser (Wales & Northern Ireland)***  
***Motor Neurone Disease Association***





# Holiday Hitches



You plan to travel somewhere warmer, but the destination's far too hot;  
Inevitably, I get overheated and plastered in tiny, unsightly spots.  
Prickling, itching, irritating - all symptoms of bothersome heat rash -  
Make it nigh impossible to fall asleep, whilst trying desperately not to scratch.

I slather on high factor sun-cream, to prevent any sign of sunburn;  
I'd so love to flaunt a bronzed, even tan. Why will I never learn?  
I may as well keep completely covered – nature gave me fair skin, off-white -  
If I succeed in seeming brown, and not pale pink, it's because my freckles unite.

To stop unseen, marauding mosquitoes, I squirt on insect-repellent spray;  
But the blooming blighters still manage to bite me, whether it's night-time or day.  
They cause swelling, blistering pustules; sores that tingle and tickle so madly;  
Disfiguring, expanding, round, red patches, scabbing after weeping quite badly.

To exhibit some flesh to the sunshine, I pack some fashionable, new shorts,  
But I'm forced to wear long, cotton trousers, to hide blemishes of diverse sorts.  
Aimlessly reading romantic novels, my thoughts tend to casually wander,  
My head slowly starts drooping; eyelids dropping; it's too hot to focus or ponder.

I may laze about idly, hour on hour, leisurely people-watching or day-dreaming;  
But too much sitting, leads to backache and stiffening and it's exercise I'm needing!  
I take a gentle stroll, to ease the pain, on dusty paths and slippery cobbles,  
Then get repaid with a throbbing, raised blister, causing ungainly limps and hobbles.

I go for a dip in the hotel pool, refreshing my body and cooling right down,  
But touching the bottom, I'm out of my depth – I can't tread water and almost drown!  
I just love the exhilarating sea-breeze on a boat trip, sailing all round the bay,  
But I get rather squashed, squeezed up too close to a sweaty, man-sprawling male.

I aspire to look smart and elegant, in my specially chosen holiday wear,  
But blustery gusts billowing soon create a face full of wanton, wind-swept hair.  
Once stopped, the ferry bobs by the quayside – I try not to fall, embarking on land -  
But to jump onto the jetty, with dignity, requires a steadying, muscular hand.

Before entering a shaded shop, stylish sunglasses appear truly chic;  
But to seek out postcards and cheap souvenirs, I must swap specs for a clearer peek.  
I struggle to pay, juggling my purse, an obvious tourist unsure of coinage;  
I glance at the till, to verify the cost, offer a note and wait for more change.

I like taking scenic photographs but strong sun makes the screen indiscernible;  
I hope against hope the vague blurry shadows produce images truly desirable.  
I believe in taking two pictures – the first view may be horizontal -  
And just to be sure of an absolute stunner, the other more to the vertical.

To venture beyond one's chosen resort, it's wise to book a few day excursions,  
But although there's allowed spare time roaming free, I dislike extraneous exertions.  
I can't relax and saunter calmly or do anything really worthwhile;  
I arrive back at the rendezvous early, not to chance getting left behind.

I perspire profusely, just standing still, till clothing is damp with stale, musty sweat; Stinging, salt droplets, trickling down, make fringe, forehead and neckline wet. Extreme heat makes feet and ankles swell; my comfy sandals no longer fit; My puffy fingers expand and double in size; my wedding ring won't budge one bit.

My stomach bloats from over-eating; I need waistbands containing elastic; Normal clothes feel too tight and restrictive. Go for natural fibres not plastic! The hotel room's too hot and stuffy, without the benefit of air-conditioning, But if left blowing full-blast, all night long, I'm bound to wake up shivering.

It'd be so much more straight forward, simply spending all summer at home; I'm honestly beginning to wonder, 'Why on earth do I continue to roam?' But as soon as I'm back in Dilwyn, unpacked, sorted, laundered and rested, I'll be busy browsing holiday brochures, deciding where my next flight is destined.

*Sue Thomas*

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DILWYN YOUNG FARMERS CLUB



# EASTER BINGO

**THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL**  
**DILWYN CEDAR HALL**  
**EYES DOWN 7.30 p.m.**



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spring\\_plant\\_fair\\_2020/](http://www.thecartshed.co.uk/spring_plant_fair_2020/)

# Weobley Branch, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

For our February meeting, Martyn Davies gave us a very colourful and informative talk about his visit to Bolivia to view the butterflies showing us over 100 spectacular slides. It is remarkable that Bolivia is home to over 3500 butterfly species (we have about 58 in Britain) and can be found up to 4000m high.

Martyn went in November staying in the jungle at around 1500m. He went out daily to sites, generally near water where the butterflies would come to rehydrate and take on minerals. Butterflies live longer in the tropics, sometimes up to a year, and hence, need to take on plenty of food. Some of the butterflies are similar to ours e.g. blues, hairstreaks and skippers and others are fantastic exotics.

The angle that a butterfly is viewed from is important as the light is refracted causing iridescence which can be dazzling from some angles, but dull from others. Typical is a Morphos with 8" wingspan flashing brilliant blue.

We were introduced to Batesian mimicry in which one harmless species mimics a harmful e.g. poisonous species such as hoverflies and wasps and Mullerian mimicry where harmful species all resemble each other.

A very enjoyable evening but tinged with some sadness as the habitat is fast disappearing along with the insects.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 5th March when Tony Norman and David Griffith will be talking about his work on re-establishing the Black Poplar. This is a tree species that became so uncommon that it stopped reproducing in the wild so most of the trees are over 150 years old and the species was heading for extinction in Britain. Tony's work is trying to reverse this trend.

*Graham Saunders*



Once again an excellent Burns Supper was enjoyed by Dilwynners.  
Grateful thanks to all involved with the event.



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# **New Opportunities at Weobley Village Hall**

Weobley Village Hall is a busy community hub hosting many activities 52 weeks of the year. The Executive Committee have identified four new volunteer opportunities to support the Hall.

These are:

## **Website Manager**

Weobley Village Hall has a newly designed website with booking options for private hire of the hall. We are looking for someone with an interest in the internet who would be willing to look after our new website for an hour or two a week.

## **Facilities Advisor**

Weobley Village Hall is a large multi-purpose building which needs constant maintenance to be at its best for the hall users. We are looking for someone with an eye for detail who is happy to carry out a visual check of the building's facilities and fabric and alert the Exec Committee and Chairman to any repairs or improvements to be made. It is anticipated that this would take less than one hour a week.

## **Health & Safety Coordinator**

Weobley Village Hall is committed to maintaining high standards of Health & Safety and a number of Committee members, past and present, undertake safety checks on a regular basis. We are looking for someone to coordinate these checks and raise any issues with the Exec Committee if needed. Again, it is anticipated that this would take less than one hour a week.

## **Supporters Club Coordinator for Hopelands (WVH) monthly draw**

Chris Harrison who lives in Weobley has managed the Hopelands Supporters Club for many years and now wishes to retire. We are looking for someone who is happy to manage the club which involves collecting and handling money, carrying out a monthly draw at a village event and recruiting new members. Chris has been encouraging members to switch to standing orders/direct debits to reduce the work involved. The Club gives half the annual subscriptions towards the village hall costs and the other 50% is given back to the members by way of the monthly raffle.

For all of the above roles support will be provided and there are generally no set times when activities need to take place

If you are interested in any or all of the above opportunities please contact Lyn Bruce (Chairman of WVH) on 01544 319143 for an informal chat or email [lynbruce7@gmail.com](mailto:lynbruce7@gmail.com). Visit our website at <http://www.weobleyvillagehall.co.uk>.

## **REMI HARRIS LIGHT & SHADE, JAZZ, BLUES, ROCK**

Sat 14th Mar 2020, 8:00pm (doors open 7:30pm) at Weobley Village Hall.

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# Dilwyn WI

## New members are always welcome

Jane Clarke patiently guided WI members through the process of batik painting on fabric in February. Starting with a pattern outline drawn with wax, we then filled in the design with coloured dyes and paints, dried the material with a dryer and finished off by ironing it to melt the wax. Hey presto - a beautiful piece of fabric to take home and make into anything we wanted. Simple, but very stylish and elegant.

In March Joanna Helme is going to show us how to up-cycle or recycle the odd bits of discarded jewellery we might otherwise throw away. If you'd like to find out more, do please join us, you'll be most welcome - Tuesday 3 March, 7.30 pm at The Old Forge.

## Dilwyn Weather for Jan 2020

Three and a half inches (85mm) of rain fell to begin the new year, which is about what we might expect. Temperatures, however, have been well above average. Only six frosts, none severe, helped keep the night time average at 3 degrees for the month (normally around zero). Day time temperatures averaged 11 degrees (more usually 8).

Sunshine was in short supply, with just seven days having mostly sunny conditions. A couple of gales in mid month included Storm Brendan. As the barometer rose after the last gale, pressure went up to 1048mb for a couple of days – the highest I have recorded – and brought settled but misty conditions. **AR**

## Cedar Club

20th February 2020, The Cart Shed, Phil Morris provided an excellent afternoon's entertainment for a crowd of 35 Dilwyn folk. He explained the workings of this valuable local charity and illustrated his talk with photos and items made by participants in one of the woodland settings. One of his beautifully made 'dibbers' which were on display, was donated as an extra prize to our raffle.

Phil has volunteered at The Cart Shed for over five years now and his enthusiasm must have helped a lot of people whose lives had not been running as smoothly as they would have wished. Indeed, his enthusiasm came across so clearly to today's audience, that many will surely be passing on some of his cheerful stories to family and friends when they get home.

A new hostess team ensured that we were all fed an excellent afternoon tea. This was followed by our usual raffle.

What a satisfying way to pass a cold winter's afternoon!

On 19th March, our next meeting will hear about 'Tourist Information' from Gill Ding (2-30pm in the Cedar Hall). Guests £2. Transport available – ring Alan on 319262.

**Alan Rudland (leader)**

## STUART HURDS

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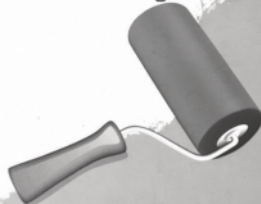
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# Village Vintage

It was thought that a bit of village history would be appreciated in our monthly publication and as I research family history in my spare time and professionally it means I come across a lot of fascinating articles from within our parish so I thought it might be interesting to include some of them here! For now I have decided to go with a bit of 'on this month in history' from local newspaper articles, I hope you enjoy them.

## **Hereford Times - Saturday 14 March 1863**

"Dilwyn.—The Princes marriage was celebrated with spirit in this parish. The committee (Messrs. Cranston, A. Rogers, Bray, Bruton, and Coleman) appointed to collect funds for the entertainment of the poor, obtained the sum of £36 18s. 2d, which was expended as follows:—150 poor families were supplied with 2lbs of beef a quantity of bread, and a pint of good ale, to drink the healths of the illustrious couple. The beef supplied amounted 1,010 lbs., the bread to 300 sixpenny loaves. £1 6s. was paid to the ringers. The list subscriptions included—D. P. Esq., £5; Lady Frances Harcourt £3, Rev. C. H. Morgan, E. W. Coleman, Esq., J. Burlton, Esq., and H. Moore, Esq., £2 each; Mr. T. Cranstone, £1 10s. ; Rev. J. Powell, Rev. S. Powell, Mr. Corfield, Mr. Winnatt, Mr. Pitt, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Bray, sen., J. Lambe, Esq., Mrs. Lloyd, and Mrs Higgins, £1 each; with many smaller donations, making total of £35 18s. 3d. The gentry and farmers also gave a substantial dinner to their workpeople. In the afternoon, the National school children of Dilwyn and Dorstone (upwards of 200) marched in procession through the village to the school-room, cheering and singing, with flags flying. There they were regaled with cake and tea, the day's amusements closing with rural sports, the ascent of a large fire-balloon, and the singing the national anthem."

– Although this beautifully describes how we have always put on a good show for a National event and still do, such as supporting VE75 this year, I think it also powerfully illustrates exactly how poor a rural community we were at this time.

This next article is a fun one, during the late 18th century people were in awe of the spiritual and the occult and people often went around selling cures, lotions and potions and medical aid and were later referred to as quacksalvers (or quacks from a Dutch word meaning "boaster or hawker of salve"), and snake oil peddlers etc, and it would seem that we had one of our own here in Hereford...

## **Hereford Journal - Thursday 08 March 1787**

"HEREFORD, March 7 1787 - Another Cure performed by CHRISTIAN KREBS, Surgeon and Occultist, since his arrival in this City: A son of John Davis, of the parish of Church Dilwyn, near Leominster, in this county, aged 16 years, has been blind for three years, so as not to discern scarlet; can now see to pick up a pin from the ground.— This was done in the space of a fortnight. Mr Krebs is to be consulted with at his apartments at Mr Douglas's, Seedsman, High-Town. Letters, post paid, duly answered."

- A spring miracle of no mean feat! Poor Mr Davis I wonder how much he was charged for such a cure, proof that there were plenty of ingenious scammers even back then...

If you have any stories or local history of interest please contact me via email at - [astirlingheritage@outlook.com](mailto:astirlingheritage@outlook.com) or the Dilwynner editors direct.

**JSB**

# **Weobley Bowling Club**

## **EASTER BINGO, HOPELANDS VILLAGE HALL WEOBLEY MONDAY 23rd MARCH**

7.00pm for "eyes down" at 7.30pm. Many seasonal prizes.

The "short mat" bowling is going well and continues until Monday March 30th at Hopelands Village Hall Weobley 2.pm until 4.pm. It costs £2.50 to include a small raffle and 30p for tea or coffee so please come along, you will be made very welcome.

***Diane Rice***

# **Weobley History Society**

For the Weobley & District Local History Society January meeting members gave some very interesting and varied talks and information about topics of interest. Liz Holley enthused us about the building of the castle shortly after the Norman invasion in 1066. The new lords, de Lacy, had their main residence in Weobley and built the castle to control and defend the area. Liz highlighted the fact that this would have been a major operation requiring large movements of men and materials and it would have been a boom time for Weobley. Sue Hubbard related tales about contrary views of history and how stories are embellished by granny (where does the truth lie?). Maggie Waldman informed us of the resurrection of the Leominster Study Group as a local history publishing group which encourages members to research local history. John Simons described Woodchester mansion, a remarkable large Gothic building near Stroud which was never finished but remained in a state of suspended animation until taken over by a group of enthusiastic volunteers. The owner actually built and completed a monastery and a church. Bea Dennis described a tale of derring do. A friend of hers was ordered by king George V in 1917 during the Russian revolution to find the last surviving member of the Russian royal family, the grand duchess Olga and rescue her. Eventually and after much danger in the chaos of revolution, Olga was found in Crimea and escaped hidden in a cart of watermelons and was put on a British frigate. She spent her days of freedom as a farmer in Canada. Norman Haynes brought in a copy of the 1939 census which was carried out to find out who was living in the country as war loomed. It listed every family in every house so is fascinating for those people researching their house history. Weobley village had a population of 349 and the surrounding area 480. Brian Holley related some of his family history including an ancestor who was with Custer in 1868 when he was fighting the native Americans. Sandra Collins reminisced about her valuable work when setting up the Weobley museum. Thanks for all the speakers who provided such friendly entertainment.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 25th March in Weobley (Hopelands) Village Hall at 7.30pm which will start with a demonstration of the new App for the Ella Mary Leather folklore with members having the opportunity for hands on experience. This is followed by the AGM. We are looking for (willing) volunteers for Treasurer, Programme secretary and Publicity officer.

***Graham Saunders***



# Crown Inn News



Mother's Day is on Sunday 22nd March this year. If you would like to treat your Mother here at The Crown, please book your table as soon as possible, as this is always a very busy day. We will be cooking from 12:30pm until 6pm.

The marquees will be back up through summer, so if you have a special occasion you would like to celebrate with us, please get into contact for more details. Functions can also be held inside the pub.

We have Stevie Yeomans playing Saturday 21st March! We all know what a fantastic musician and singer he is, and for anyone one who hasn't come to hear him play, you don't want to miss out!

We will have a quiz night Thursday 26th March at 8pm. This is in aid of Friends of The Crown. Come along for a fun filled evening, you can have teams up to 6. Don't forget its Fish & Chips Night too! Why not enjoy some food before or during the quiz.

It is a very sad time in Dilwyn with the passing of John Gerrish. We worked very closely with John since starting at The Crown and he supported us immensely. He was driven and had huge passion in anything he did. He is someone a lot of us looked up to and most of all he was one of the kindest people we have ever met. We saw how much he did for the village and for the people in it. We will miss him tremendously.

*Max & Maria*

## The Crown Inn

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

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

## 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, & once in each of the 3 x 3 boxes. Good luck! *The solutions can be found on page 33.*

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

Easy

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

Hard

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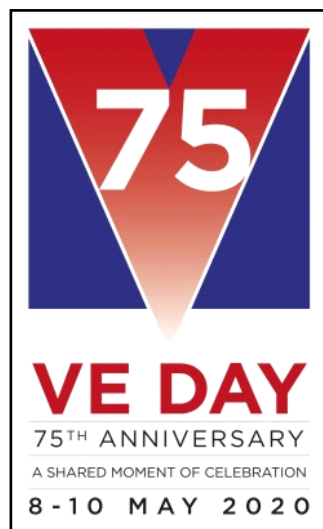


# VE75 Anniversary 2020

Planning for our village celebrations for the 75th anniversary of VE day are progressing well so please get the date in your diaries and look for further details in the April Dilwynner. But just to recap in case you missed last month's article there is to be a national celebration of VE day and the team that normally brings you the May Day event is planning to make sure that our community plays an active part in these activities. We have enlisted the support of the Dilwyn Royal British Legion and are preparing an event on the village green and The Crown Inn from lunchtime through to late in the evening on Friday 8th May.

Already planned with more to come:

- Jenny Pipes Morris dancing
- Games and competitions
- A tea tent
- Participation in the National Toast at 3.00pm
- Maypole dancing by local children
- Live music and jive dancing from early evening, including our own
- "Andrews Sisters" with your wartime favourite songs.

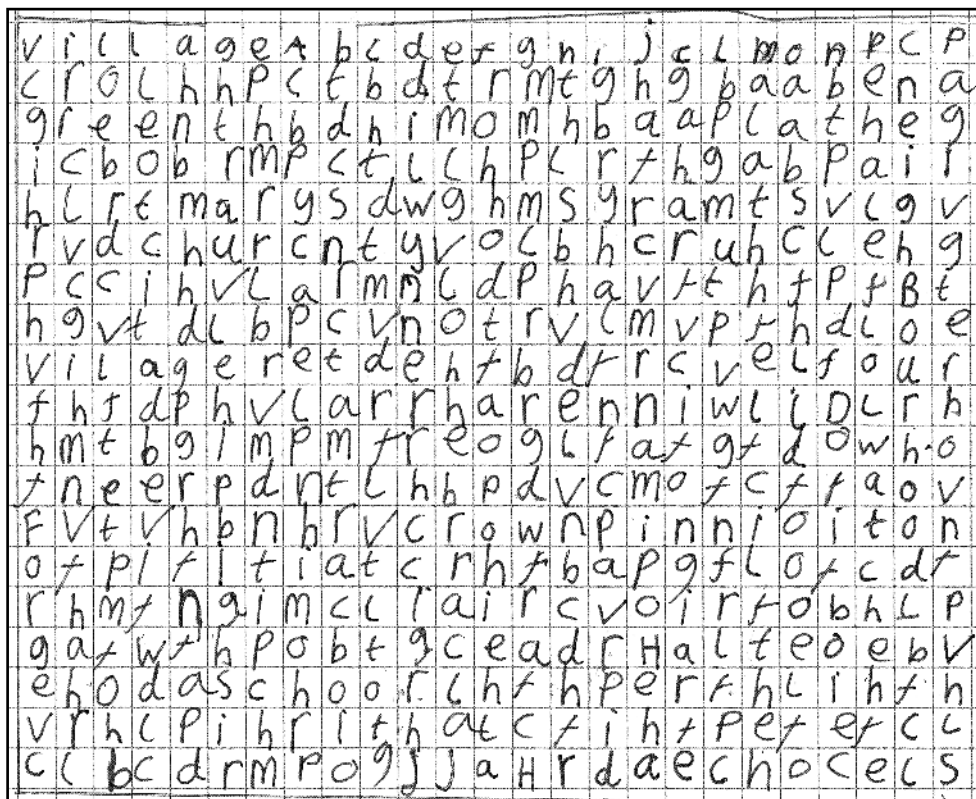


As we said last month, the aim is to recreate 1945 Dilwyn but this involves a big ask of you all. Please start planning how you will dress on the day that will be in keeping with the period. We are looking for military staff on leave, agricultural workers, including the land army, factory workers and perhaps the occasional spiv.

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

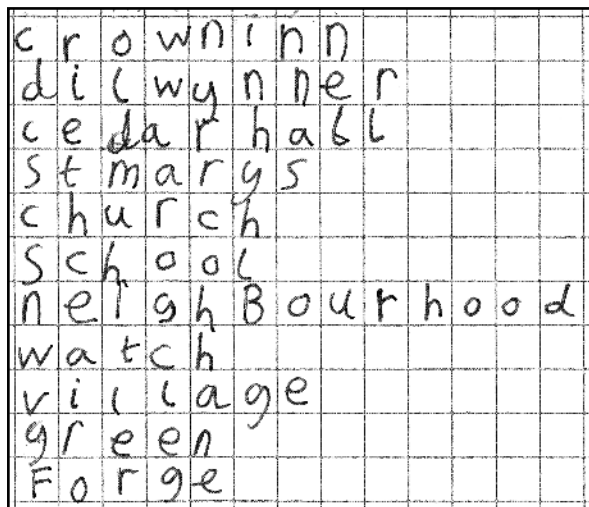
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## Heating Oil Syndicate

Hi everyone, what a start to February! Storm gales, heavy rain and floods, plus the loss of a dear friend and community stalwart, let's please hope that things do improve.

January orders were very good, excellent in fact with 17400, probably near to 18000 litres going through the meter with quite a few fill ups from members. The price was great too at 44.95 and delivery was prompt from our faithful Beacon Fuels, they surely are coming up tops with the price we have been having and also with the delivery so prompt too.

It was difficult to get as many price competitors, others were not responding and when they did it was not within the range. I have limited time to make orders and once the members have sent them to me I need to get it all complete in an hour and some suppliers only got back to me a day late.

The price trend really has been interesting with a start on 22nd January at £426 per 900 litres, then we had a dramatic fall to £401 on the 28th, it steadied for a few days with slight ups and downs then wow! Another dramatic fall to £383 on 6th February, again staying stable but increasing slightly to £386 on the 9th. It has been the same for 11 days now and has started to fall slightly to £385, I am hoping we can catch even a lower price when I order.

Don't put your sou'westers away yet guys and keep your waders by the door we are still in for a rough ride.

Thank you to everyone again for your orders, it really is great to have you faithful members to give our syndicate the buying power, we must be one of the best going locally with great quantities each month.

**Pete**

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# Nature Notes Wonderful Willow

Last March, we were surprised to see bumblebees completely covering a willow tree – it was truly an unusual sight. Pussy willow (*Salix caprea*) is an invaluable pollen and nectar source for queen bumblebees when they emerge from hibernation. As there is not much else flowering at this time, having a food plant near to where they emerge prevents them having to burn essential energy foraging.

Willow can provide a wealth of wildlife benefits (it is the food plant for the purple emperor butterfly) and is especially effective in flood-prone areas as it slows down water, provides carbon sequestration and can be used for renewable energy, soil stabilisation and weaving – the list is endless. It is a truly wonderful plant!

With the loss of damp wetland habitat and other factors, the willow tit has declined in number by 94% from 1970–2012. So, you can imagine how excited I was to see a willow tit feeding on the fat balls in our garden on the 15th January! Feasting alongside were nine long-tailed tits and two great spotted woodpeckers. All winter we have been graced by a beautiful flock of 50+ fieldfares performing flypasts over the house, along with starlings – the swoosh above is quite breathtaking.

Last year, I decided to rotavate a two-metre square patch of our garden lawn to sow some seeds of teasel and evening primrose (great for moths). In early January, to my delight, three goldfinches arrived and have been feeding on them constantly ever since. Well worth rotavating up the lawn!

Every winter, I look forward to scarlet elf cap (a bright red fungus) springing up in the garden and a visit to see the snowdrops at Sarnesfield Church. What a beautiful sight.

On the 5th February, I spotted at least 60 swans grazing on the winter crops near Credenhill. What an unusual sight to see. That night at midnight, a tawny owl flew across the road by the Garnstone Estate. A barn owl was also spotted flying up our lane in January, so I persuaded my dad to build a barn owl box (it took him two hours). I just need to get it up now before it's too late.

The majority (97%) of modern barns are unsuitable for barn owls unless a nest box is installed. This is a great time to get nest box building and erecting (don't forget about bats too!). You can download box designs from the Barn Owl Trust, RSPB or Wildlife Trusts websites (or ask my dad)!

*Emma J*



Goldfinch on Teasel





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## Sudoku Solutions

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

Easy

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

Hard

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## The Cider Barn

Cafe, Bar & Restaurant

Fembridge, Herefordshire HR6 9ED

## Sunday Lunch

We are offering a set price Sunday Lunch, for sample menu please visit our website

1 Course £14.00, 2 Courses £18.50, 3 Courses £23.00

[www.the-cider-barn.co.uk](http://www.the-cider-barn.co.uk)

Reservations 01544 388161, [info@the-cider-barn.co.uk](mailto:info@the-cider-barn.co.uk)

# Trappist Brewery Film

## Outside The City (PG)

The Courtyard's Studio Theatre  
Sunday 29 March at 7.30pm.

To book tickets, or for more information  
contact the Box Office on 01432 340555  
or visit [www.courtyard.org.uk](http://www.courtyard.org.uk).



A feature documentary about the monks of Mount St Bernard Abbey. A community of 25 men who are opening the first Trappist brewery in the UK. For their historic, counter cultural lifestyle to survive the venture must succeed.

The films director, Nick Hamer, will introduce the screening & lead a post-film Q&A.

The Courtyard's intention is to have Tynt Meadow English Trappist Ale (7.4%), "Beer should be liquid bread, not coloured water", available to sample from their bar.

*(this could be an "immersive cultural film experience" appealing to your editor)*

## The Old Forge

### Craft Centre & Tea Room



#### Classes & Courses



Monday: Spinning 10am - 12pm  
Art Class 2pm - 4pm

Wednesday: All Crafts 2pm - 4pm

Marion Willcocks

Tel: 01544 319306

Email: [mail@dilwyn-crafts-teas.co.uk](mailto:mail@dilwyn-crafts-teas.co.uk)

Website: [www.dilwyn-crafts-teas.co.uk](http://www.dilwyn-crafts-teas.co.uk)



## Babysitting Services

Responsible 14-year old

£4 per hour

Lucy Hall, Bidney Farm, Dilwyn  
Telephone: 01544 388221  
Mobile: 07768 715901





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**If you would like further information or to request a quotation, please contact us.**

### Hereford Office

14 Broad Street  
Hereford HR4 9AP  
T: 01432 353481  
E: [hereford@gabbs.biz](mailto:hereford@gabbs.biz)

### Leominster Office

26a Broad Street  
Leominster HR6 8BS  
T: 01568 616333  
E: [leominster@gabbs.biz](mailto:leominster@gabbs.biz)

### Hay-on-Wye Office

1-2 Chancery Lane  
Hay-on-Wye HR3 5DJ  
T: 01497 820312  
E: [hay@gabbs.biz](mailto:hay@gabbs.biz)



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# The Curse of Potholes 5

**Venmore Lane C1091.** To try and get improvements to Venmore Lane I have written once again to Clive Hall at Highways Hereford Council with a copy to Bill Wiggin MP. They all tell me in a roundabout way that there are worse roads in the county than ours, and there is nothing in the 20/21 budget to carry out any surfacing.

To make use of the Balfour Beatty defect reporting system, I walked from the A4110 to the Crown and photographed 22 significant defects each with its GPS reference, then emailed these to BBlivingplaces. I have since been notified and have also observed that just 2 of these defects have been rectified. Merely to get us off their backs, the more people who complain to the council and their contractor, BB, the better. Please drop them an email to the contacts below.

Clive Hall Acting Assistant Director Highways and Transport  
cwhall@herefordshire.gov.uk

Tomas Szuketi at Balfour Beatty. herefordshireliaison@bblivingplaces.com.

The lack of funds to bring roads up to a reasonable standard is partly Government cut back, but significantly council allocation of funds. If Hereford is paying £200,000 in gagging orders\*, then the road budget must inevitably suffer. Intriguing that 98% of railway fare money goes back into the railways, but only 23% of road vehicle taxation goes back into roads. At least (at the moment) Hereford has not like Shropshire appointed a "Pothole Consultant" at £1000 a day for a six month stint.

\*[www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/regional/17354431.huge-cost-of-public-sector-gag-clauses](http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/regional/17354431.huge-cost-of-public-sector-gag-clauses)

*Tony Wilcox, Venmore Lane*

The official guidance is that any defects that require inspection, including emergencies, can be reported on the Herefordshire Council website: <https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole>

The system allows different people to click on them and re-report the defect. So if everyone who drives Venmore Lane does this, then we could motivate the council & make Tony's day (**ed**).



## Village Market & Café at Cedar Hall, Dilwyn



**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am–12.00noon**

*All tables free of charge*

*Contact Richard on 01544 318541*

**BACON ROLLS   TEA & COFFEE   CAKES**







# Dilwyn Royal British Legion

## RBL Speaker Meeting @ The Crown

### Tuesday 10th March, 7.30pm

### "The First Ten Years of the RAF"

**Speaker: John Scott**

John will illustrate the inter service rivalry that nearly doomed the fledgling RAF after its formation on 1 April 1918 as the Army & the Royal Navy tried to take back their elements of the Service.

**Everyone Welcome, Free Admission,  
Optional Food Platter £2**



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

On Wednesday 1st April we hold our annual social at The Crown during which we draw the many winning tickets in our Annual Prize Draw.

Great prizes generously donated by members and supporters. Last year there were sixty in total. If you bought more than a couple of tickets you would have been unlucky to have not had a winning ticket!

First prize this year is a double magnum of Tanner's Douro Red 2015 (300cl); 2nd prize an "all line Severn Valley Railway Family Day Ticket" + many, many more.

Draw tickets are available from any member, at our March 10th meeting or from draw promoter Gill Thomas. Raffle proceeds stay in the village supporting the branch and our local welfare work.

**David Fowler, Secretary RBL Dilwyn**

## 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)	TBA	Chair	TBA
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](mailto:clerk@dilwynparishcouncil.gov.uk)

James Booth  
Ian Brown  
Cole Fellows  
Raymond Fellows  
John Gerrish  
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 name is Alfie and I love living in Dilwyn. My Mom takes me on long walks although sometimes I pick up things I shouldn't and she uses long words she shouldn't to make me drop them!!

I am a seven year old gorgeous black Labrador according to Mom, Dad however often calls me many different things non of which are gorgeous. I have met lots of you and have lots of doggy friends in the village.



Basil isn't really Marjorie & Colin's cat! Seven years ago he came to stay for 2 weeks when their daughter had no-one else to look after him. 3 months later he went back to her house in the concrete streets of Manchester, but he wasn't impressed or happy after enjoying the wonderful countryside of Dilwyn, so demanded to return back to where he had fully trained staff to wait on his every need.

He really thinks he rules the roost too! As you can see he is quite a handsome chap but has such a hard life he has to chill out whenever and wherever he can.

# March Events Diary

Date	Event	Time	Place
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	St Mary's School
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup>	WI Meeting, up-cycle & recycle	7.30pm	Old Forge
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	Village Market and Café	10.00am–12.00pm	Cedar Hall
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	RBL Speaker Meeting	7.30pm	The Crown
Thu 12 <sup>th</sup>	Service for John Gerrish BEM	3.00pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	Remi Harris, Jazz, Blues, Rock	8.00pm	Weobley VH
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>	Cedar Club, Talk	2.30pm	Cedar Hall
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>	Acoustic Session	8.30pm	The Crown
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	Live Music, Stevie Yeomans	9.00pm	The Crown
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Bowling Club, Easter Bingo	7.00pm	Weobley VH
Thu 26 <sup>th</sup>	Pub Quiz	8.00pm	The Crown
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	Trappist Brewery Film	7.30pm	Courtyard
<b>April</b>			
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	RBL Social & Annual Prize Draw	7.30pm	The Crown

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

## Cedar Hall 100 Club Draw

**January** 1<sup>st</sup> Len Beach £20.

2<sup>nd</sup> Alex Bennett £10. 3<sup>rd</sup> Yaz Madeley £10.

**February** 1<sup>st</sup> Elaine Stilwell £20.

2<sup>nd</sup> Jenny Boden £10. 3<sup>rd</sup> Alex Bennett £10.

### Absolute deadlines for April Dilwynner copy are:

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

18<sup>th</sup> March 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