

The Dilwynner



May 2020

Dilwyn's Independent Parish Magazine

Free only to Dilwyn parish households

Page 2 Pet Pin-Up of the Month

This is Uhlan Bute, a twelve-year old thoroughbred, born in France, imported to England when he was 4 years old, and until this March, when racing ceased so abruptly, trained by Venetia Williams. He is shown here on her gallops at Aramstone.

Sadly he missed what was to have been his swansong in the final of a veterans race at Newbury at the end of March. So as of a few weeks ago, he is now retired from racing, and ready to start a new stage in his life, as an amateur, and so I hope qualifies as a “pet”. He already has a taste for polo-mints! I have a ‘leg’ of this lovely animal, who has given his four owners some wins, and great fun! He will now go on to a new private life as a hunter, we hope for many more years. His name is a mystery; Uhlan was a rank in the Hungarian army, but neither that nor Bute bears any relation to his ancestry!
HH



Our front cover this month is of St Mary's School Upper Juniors, with members of teaching staff Sue Thomas (Pirate) and Class Lead Teacher Simone Eckley.

See pages 38/39 for story and more photos.

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All emailed copy for the magazine should be sent ONLY to the dilwynner@dilwyn.com address. We cannot guarantee publication for copy sent to any other address or to individual editors' private email addresses. Emails addressed to dilwynner@dilwyn.com are received by ALL the editorial team, thus ensuring copy will always reach the appropriate editor(s).

Conditions of Publication

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

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

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

St Mary's Church



The Church remains closed at present but the Churchyard and Burial Ground are open spaces for Dilwynners to wander around. The Church itself is floodlit until midnight.

The walled area around the church has been holy ground for hundreds of years and has been relatively undisturbed for many many generations - if not from close to the times of William the Conqueror. It now looks very much cleaner, thanks to the efforts of the churchwarden in tidying up the gravestones, especially in removing the ivy to unveil Lacon Lambe's family tomb. In days gone by the churchyard would have had a much more natural appearance with wild flowers, wild-life and resonant with the sound of bird song. Many Herefordshire churchyards now offer rare glimpses of rare flora and it is the aim of the God's Acre Scheme to

preserve them. The area would have been fully enclosed by a drystone wall, part of which has collapsed through the passage of time - and suffered from a lack of money to repair it. At the moment there is a temporary and somewhat unattractive arrangement in place, but we would love to be able to repair this ancient and "listed" wall properly - and for future generations. **Is there anyone with experience of drystone walling who would be able to help?**

The Burial Ground on the other side of the road adjacent to the school is a peaceful spot, surrounded by trees and at this time of year full of birdsong. The ground is due to be extended in the near future and as usual funds will be needed for landscaping and iron fencing.

Calling all photographers! Whilst you are out and about exercising in the warm Spring sun please take your camera with you. We are looking for photographs of the churchyard and burial ground particularly with examples of flora and fauna. St. Mary's has now joined the God's Acre scheme - which promotes biodiversity in these areas.

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

St Mary's Church Summer Fete will now be a Grand Christmas Fayre!

Owing to the continuing Coronavirus Pandemic, the Church Summer Fete scheduled for Saturday 13th June 2020 will no longer take place.

Instead, we plan to hold a Christmas Fayre in the village hall on Saturday 28th November 2020. Please make a note of the date in your diaries and we will update you with further developments nearer the time.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuing support of our fundraising efforts and very much look forward to seeing you when we can all enjoy a glass of mulled wine in November!

Julie Hanson
Dilwyn PCC

Mary Helme



A special word about Mary Helme, who sadly died recently. Mary was special to me and will also be fondly remembered by many folks in Dilwyn for helping look after their dogs. She would often be seen walking dogs in her care. It was said by many, that the dogs enjoyed their time with Mary so much, they may well have chosen to stay longer. She was a very special person.

Tony Bullen.

In Fond memory of Mary

Mary was the very first person Gaynor and I met when we visited Dilwyn to view our eventual home at West View House. She was tending her garden and those of her neighbours, which was a passion of hers. We naturally struck up a conversation with this very amiable but quite shy lady. Mary became a dear friend from that first encounter six years ago and she would look after our dog, Toby and house sit for us as a trusted keyholder when we were away. Mary's other passion was caring for the many dogs entrusted to her over the years. This most unassuming, gentle and positive lady, even through her illness bravely borne will be most sadly missed by us and others with whom she was friends for many years. May she rest in peace and roam with the many dogs she dearly loved and cared for over the years.

Geoff and Gaynor Field.

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VE Day Project

‘My dear friends, this is your hour’

The children of Dilwyn are putting together a VE Day project and they need your help. If you have:

- memories of the war or VE Day
- stories that your family have told you about VE Day
- photos/newspaper articles we could photograph and return
- memories of past VE Day celebrations

• . . . they’d love to hear from you.

They’re hoping to collate the information and either make a hard copy file that will be kept at the school or put together a video where children will read out the stories that they have collected. You can get the information to us in a number of ways:

Email: karenmessenger.uk@gmail.com

Telephone: Tel: 01544 319008 (Karen)

Letter: Write a letter and then give us a quick call/text/email to let us know when you’ll be leaving it outside your home. One of the children will come to collect it.

Informal chat: Contact us and we’ll arrange for someone to chat to you (with a few metres distance of course.) They will do this during their permitted exercise outing!

VE Day Celebrations

It’s disappointing that the village VE Day celebrations will not be going ahead as planned. However, we don’t want the occasion to pass by unnoticed. On Friday 8th May we invite everyone to hang bunting outside your house to mark the occasion. At 2.45pm, take a chair outside with a tippie of your fancy for a long distance chat! At 3pm, we’ll join in the Nation’s Toast to the heroes of WW2. Hopefully, we’ll also be able to organise some music to keep our spirits up and celebrate in style. Take lots of photos and share them on our Facebook page so that we can add them to the Children’s project and still feel we’re celebrating together.



Poster for Children's Coronavirus advice project by Rosie van Eggermond (aged 8)

Dilwyn Coronavirus Support Group

We have over 35 volunteers in Dilwyn who are ready and willing to help when demand for support increases. There is no need for anyone vulnerable and self-isolating to put themselves at risk by venturing out for supplies such as food or prescriptions. Prescription collection has been the most common request, so volunteers are able to pick up several in one go. Many of our volunteers are also on hand for a friendly chat. We all know how important it is to keep talking as it helps break up the monotony of the day. So, if you would benefit from a natter . . . please let us know. It'll do the volunteer just as much good as you!

If You Need Support

Alan Rudland

Tel: 01544 319262 Email: arudland@hotmail.com

Supply your name, address and a description of what help you require.

Richard Kelly is the Taskforce's Volunteer Coordinator.

Tel: 01544 319288 yewtreemob@gmail.com

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Richard providing your name, address, and telephone number.

A REMINDER

Cases of Coronavirus are still increasing. Those who are vulnerable **should not** be venturing out. Instead make use of the support on offer. For everyone else, there are limited reasons as to why you should be leaving your home. They are for:

- Essential food and medicine but as infrequently as possible.

- One form of local exercise a day. This should be alone or with members of your household.
- Any medical need, including to donate blood, avoid or escape risk of injury or harm, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
- Travelling for work purposes, but only where you cannot work from home.

Outside your home, you should maintain a 2 metre/6 ft distance between yourself and others. It also remains essential to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds on your return home or after handling deliveries to your home.

‘Shielded’ or ‘Extremely Vulnerable’ People

The NHS have also identified another group of people who are at most risk from Coronavirus. These are referred to as ‘shielded’ or ‘extremely vulnerable’ people. The NHS will have identified and contacted this group of people by now. They include people who: have a severe lung condition (e.g. cystic fibrosis, COPD, severe asthma), have had an organ transplant, are having certain types of cancer treatment,

People most at risk/extremely vulnerable/shielded should STAY AT HOME AT ALL TIMES FOR AT LEAST 12 WEEKS. Extra advice for this group includes:

- preparing a hospital bag, including a list of the medicines you're taking, in case you need to go to hospital
- staying at least 2 metres (3 steps) away from other people in your home as much as possible
- cleaning a shared bathroom each time you use it, for example by wiping the surfaces you have touched
- cleaning objects and surfaces you touch often (like door handles, kettles and phones) using your regular cleaning products

Other Reasons to See Your GP/Go to Hospital

It is important that you continue to contact your GP (or go to hospital in emergencies) for any non COVID-19 related issues. Many people are avoiding doing this because they are worried about contracting the virus. However, the NHS has designated areas to treat non COVID-19 health issues and many consultations with doctors are being conducted over the phone, email or online. If people do not get symptoms checked out, there is a worry that further down the line, there will be an increase in people having such things as heart attacks, strokes and late cancer diagnoses because they did not seek help earlier.

Food Delivery Services

The Crown•Tel: 01544 318063

As well as their•take away•menu, you can also purchase a Community Box. Order a community box by 10am for next day delivery.

Green Bean Tel:•01544 318865 or 01544 318110•or
email:•thegreenbeanweobley@gmail.com

*Please place your order before 2pm for next day delivery or collection. •Visit their Facebook page for details on products.

JP Catering•Tel:•07557 362600 or 01544 318983

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Jules Café Bar Restaurant

Tel: 01544 318206•www.jules-restaurant.co.uk

Monkland Cheese•Tel: 01568 720307 www.monklandcheesedairy.co.uk

You will need to make a substantial order for local delivery so•organise•a joint order with neighbours.



Messages



Tony and Beryl wish to thank all in the village who have helped them so readily in a difficult time, getting prescriptions and shopping (including Glyn and his wife in distant Pembridge!)

Tony Bullen.



The Dilwynner team thanks everyone who has sent in contributions this month. Especially in the current circumstances, when there are so few events going on, your interesting and varied pieces are hugely appreciated. If we have not got space for one month, they can be banked for the future, so please, keep writing.

Most of our adverts will remain as they always have. Please understand that some will not be able to fulfill their normal functions during the Covid 19 emergency.

Two fish are swimming up a river when they hit a concrete wall. One turns to the other, and says... 'Dam.'



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Dilwyn W I



New members are always welcome

Because of the Coronavirus, all WI activities in the County have been put on hold, so we won't be meeting for the time being. Naturally, our priority is to keep our older members safe, but we're on hand to assist in any practical way if required.

Dilwyn Weather for March 2020

After 6 months of above average rainfall, March brought us some relief at last. Two inches of rain (50mm) in the first 19 days then bright, sunny days took over, pressure rose, the wind dropped and temperatures slowly crept up. The daytime average of 14 degrees was slightly higher than normal, while nights were kept at just 2 degrees, thanks to 10 nights with a frost (minus 4 being the most severe). Eighteen days were mostly sunny, and we began to feel that spring really was in the air. Unfortunately, from mid March we had a certain virus to worry about, so the pleasant weather was doubly welcome. Gardens and lawns have rarely been so well looked after!

AR



Cedar Club

Let's hope we can all get back together very soon. Probably not until June or July but keep the fingers crossed.

Remember – smiling is such good medicine!

Alan Rudland (leader)



Neighbourhood Watch



Our Neighbourhood Watch group has now joined the national network (look on the site www.ourwatch.org.uk).

Patrols will continue, as long as they do not put those who are on patrol in jeopardy. Going for a walk should be fine and you can keep an eye open for anything suspicious - similarly a bicycle ride. It is to be hoped that neighbours will look out for and help one another in these difficult times.

AR

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Traditions in May and Oak Apple Day

Being that merry month that truly harkens Spring I thought the folklore around May Day and an unusual May festival associated with our village would be good topics for this month's issue. May Day is one of those traditions that seems ancient, a primitive custom steeped in nature but in reality most of what we associate with it can only be traced back to Tudor times.

Its roots are based in the Roman Floralia and Celtic Beltaine festivals as well as other early Spring festivals observing nature's cycles. So what exactly did 'bringing in the May' entail? In most places, people gathered flowers and branches of hawthorn, sycamore and more likely birch in the marches area where we are, to make garlands or wreaths. The flowers were then awarded as prizes or given as gifts to friends and neighbours and later this became the spring posy given by children. These branch and flower garlands likely morphed into the most widely known custom of May Day, the Maypole. The earliest mention of a maypole as we know them is from a mid 14th century Welsh poem from Llanidloes. It appears however, to be an English tradition which then migrates to the Marches area before heading into Wales. By the 15th century there are references to a number of English villages paying for platforms and ribbons to display and decorate maypoles, most commonly a tall straight birch tree. Other than this there does not seem to be any deeper pagan or Celtic roots for this time honoured festival attraction. The crowning of a May Queen and/or King, seems to have really taken off between the 16th and mid 18th centuries, but there is evidence of it earlier. The Bishop of Worcester complained about a May beauty contest that sounds suspiciously like such a ceremony in 1240.

The May Queen also appears to be a representation of nature bursting forth, the maid about to blossom, often thought of as the goddess Maia from Roman mythology and also likely where this month gets its name. A lesser known custom was washing your face in the morning with May Day dew (or fairy jewels as it is oft times referred,) this was supposed to bring 'youth and radiance to the complexion' and there are many rhymes, songs or chants to accompany the process. One such rhyme goes:

*The fair maid who, the first of May, goes to the fields at break of day,
And washes in dew from the hawthorn tree, will ever after handsome be.*

Often seen as pagan or wicca or tricks of the naughty fairies, old wives tales, folklore such as this and idols of the Green Man led to unrest within the Church and the monarchy.

In the sixteenth century riots followed when May Day celebrations were banned. Fourteen rioters were hanged, and Henry VIII is said to have pardoned a further 400 who had been sentenced to death. Unfortunately, by the time of the English Civil War May Day festivities were all but removed along with our monarch. Oliver Cromwell is said to have described maypole dancing as 'a heathenish vanity generally abused to superstition and wickedness', and legislation was passed which saw the end of village maypoles throughout the country.

Dancing did not return to the village greens until the restoration of Charles II on 22 May, 1660. This date then appears to have taken over in many places as the 'true' May Day, and is rebranded as Oak Apple Day.

Townsfolk and villagers alike would gather and wear sprigs of oak leaf as the (*cont'd*)

adopted symbol of Charles II, in remembrance of his hiding in the Oak tree at Boscobel House after the battle of Worcester and evading capture. This is where some of the familiar May Day ‘traditions’ seem to have been reconstructed from vague memory and what people thought the past ought to have been like. With this in mind ‘The Merry Monarch’ helped ensure the support of his subjects with the erection of a massive 130ft high maypole in London’s Strand. This pole signalled the return of the fun times, and remained standing for almost fifty years. Finally, love it or loathe it, Morris dancing and the Dilwyn stick dance. We at least annually have the pleasure of a local or travelling Morris Troupe who perform this famous dance and the history of these troupes can really be said to run parallel with the history of the maypole. There is a reference to a troupe being paid a fee as far back as the mid 15th century but it does seem likely to have been an older form of dance originating in Europe. Our stick dance itself appears to originate from the early to mid 1800’s but I am happy to be corrected by our resident Morris men and women? According to Roy Palmer’s book on Herefordshire Folklore published 2002, until well within living memory sprigs of oak were sported on Oak Apple Day and if you were found without; your fellow villagers would sting your arms or legs with nettles. Furthermore, allegedly Fownhope and DILWYN are some of the few villages that still keep to this tradition, and I don’t know about you, but perhaps when all this is over, we should make a return to celebrating Oak Apple Day on 29th May as our village ancestors did for over 300 years, with garlands of oak leaves and spring flowers and Cider, but minus the nettles of course!



Morris dancers with maypole and pipe and taborer,
Chambers Book of Days JSB

ODE TO THE KIND PEOPLE OF DILWYN

The limerick form is complex,
 Its contents deal mainly with sex.
 It burgeons with virgeons
 And masculine urgeons,
 And a wealth of erotic effex.

“Vuln’able ancients” are we.
 Oh lackaday! Woe is me.
 Quoting the bard,
 “Life is terrible ‘ard”,
 But Dilwyn’s the best place to be.

Covid 19 forbids us to roam;
 Now we’re confined to our home.
 Kind people in Dilwyn
 Are bringing our food in,
 So we have no reason to moan.

RF



Crown Inn News



Dilwyn, yet again has pulled together to support one another; we are incredibly lucky to live in such a wonderful village. We especially want to thank everyone that has supported the pub since its closure. We now do around 20-30 meals per night! Check out our menu if you would like to order a meal, which can be for lunch times also. Some dishes may change some weeks to keep the variety. Because we are so busy, it is best to order before 5pm. Sunday Lunches are served between 1pm-4pm, if you would like a roast for Sunday, we recommend to call by Friday as Max only orders a certain amount of meat depending on how many bookings we have. We would hate to run out and have any disappointed.

We want to let you know what precautions we have put in place during Covid19 as we are delivering to lots of houses. We are not going to any shops ourselves; Lisa Franzen is kindly getting extra supplies that we can't get delivered. Maria wears gloves per delivery when opening gates/ringing doorbells.

We are still able to get lots of food supplies from our main supplier, the community boxes are still going well with a variety of fruit, vegetables, salad, milk, bread, pasta which are £20. We can add to your box if you need anything else... Butter, flour, cheese, or a particular fruit or vegetable you may want. Whatever it is you may need, please don't hesitate to ask us, we will do our best to help you.

We have been using our spare time to do a bit of refurbishment in the pub. The Main bar top is now back to natural wood, we are working on the piece of wood above the fire place, re-doing any paint work, re-upholstering the bar stools and getting the outside area cleaned up... all ready for when we can open again.

Stay Safe everyone and remember that we are here for you... even if you just want a chat to someone.

Maria & Max.

Email from office cleaner to the boss:

Sorry I can't come in because of restrictions, but don't worry - I attach instructions.



THE CROWN INN



Takeaway Menu

Whitebait, Tartare Sauce £5.00

Seafood Cannelloni, Chip, £8.00

Hasselback Hunters Chicken, Chips £10.00

Confit of Duck Leg, Crushed Potatoes, Salad, Cranberry Sauce £10.00

Fish & Chips, Peas, Tartare Sauce £10.00

Homemade Lasagne, Chips £10.50

Chicken Caesar Salad £7.50

Beef Burger, Chips £8.50

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

Vegetable Lasagne, Side Salad (V) £9.50

Kids Meals –

**Fishfingers/Chicken Goujons
with chips, peas/beans £5.50**

Ciabattas £5.95

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Fishfinger and Tartare Sauce

Chicken Goujon

Cheese & Chutney

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(A different menu to include Roast Lunch will be available on Sunday)

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Heating Oil Update. Well everyone what a time this is and what a month I have had, I hope you are all safe and keeping safe too. March was a headache for me this year because of the COVID-19, it was so difficult to get a price from any supplier; they were all profiteering and would not give a price or a delivery date. That is something that I disagree with during a time of crisis when we should all be pulling together. I tried to get prices and failed, but I did manage to get an estimate from our usual supplier of 41p for the syndicate, the single delivery price would have been 44p. I found this extortionate, when the price then should have been about 35p, I would not order oil at that price. I was told to contact them again in two weeks, when they would be able to help. I explained by email to the members who ordered, that two weeks' delay was possible. This caused a panic I am afraid with some members for good reasons. They contacted our usual supplier who said that they would deliver, and that was the next day, but at a hiked price; you can imagine how miffed I was, when we have put many thousand litres through their meter over the years and we were not the priority at this time. I contacted Progress Fuels who are new to us, and they gave me a price of 38p per litre with delivery in 10 to 15 days, which they honoured within a day or two I believe. This price was more realistic although not quite as low as it should have been so the order was done. Since that the price has been changing day to day, and falling rapidly, with crude oil having nowhere to go and nowhere to store it, and it is actually now at -\$40 a barrel, yes a minus figure. We did get a second delivery because they could not complete the first order of 23,500 litres; the tanker only holds 20,000 litres. With only two left from the first order, the second delivery which was additional, was a lower price of 29p litre, it has since dropped again to somewhere around 22p litre, it was becoming difficult to keep up with. From 23 March to 20th April the trend has gone from £344 per 900 litres to £255, it's manic and needs plenty of Paracetamol. Apologies if the price changed so much for some of you who had already paid, but I have to buy at the time, and it took nearly three weeks to complete the first order, due to the circumstances I have explained and the speed of the price change too.

I do my best for you all, for the love of it, and our wonderful Parish of Dilwyn.
Take care my friends and please be safe, remember, There's no place like Home.

Pete

Minimum order 500 litres please by the 20th of the month.

PLEASE ONLY USE THE FOLLOWING EMAIL - MARK SUBJECT AS "HEATING OIL"-OTHERWISE ORDERS MAY NOT GET THROUGH

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Nature Notes May

All hail, the Nettle!



A sunny day here on the 24th March produced the first sighting of a peacock butterfly beating its wings amongst some old rose prunings. What a hidden surprise! Peacock caterpillars feed on the common nettle and last year a large patch of nettles in full sun had huge balls of caterpillars devouring them, reinstating to me how essential the nettle is for our wildlife. They support more than 40 kinds of insects and in late summer the seeds provide food for many seed eating birds such as chaffinches, house sparrows and bullfinches. A handy plant fertilizer for you: fill a bucket or bin half up with bruised nettle leaves then put a brick to hold them down. Cover with water and leave for 3 weeks. Use one part of this mix with 10 parts water to feed your plants. This also can be added to a compost to speed decomposition.

On the 2nd April I saw our first orange tipped butterfly (main caterpillar food source is cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). We built a small pond last May and to our delight spotted some frog spawn! On the 5th April, three common pipistrelle bats were out hunting in the evening light. On the 6th April a swallow appeared in the back garden and four different types of bumblebees. We saw some holly blue butterflies on the holly hedge. It was such a beautiful warm day that a lot of hoverflies were taking to the air. One in particular would not leave me alone - a European hoverfly (*Helophilus pendulus*, meaning dangling marsh-lover!).

On the 7th April we saw a red admiral butterfly (caterpillar food plant nettle) and a rather jolly looking dark-edged bee-fly (*Bombylius major*). They have a long proboscis and look very much like a bee and feed on spring flowers. The sparrow hawk is getting more confident and we keep spotting it in the ivy where the sparrows attempt to hide! By our stream, golden saxifrage - a jolly little yellow ground cover plant seems to have spread in abundance this year and it looks so beautiful along with ferns growing through marsh marigolds, yellow archangel, primroses, cuckoo pint and cowslips with speckled wood butterflies darting above. A true delight!

With great surprise on Thursday 9th April at 7am we heard our first cuckoo. It was perching on the same tree from where it was seen last year. Male cuckoos usually arrive a week earlier than the females and apparently start singing as soon as they arrive on their retrospective breeding grounds. The cuckoo is the only species known to consume hairy and warningly coloured caterpillars (which normally are left well alone by other insectivorous birds) which they eat regularly and they capitalise on this unusual but abundant food supply. Its diet consists of many types of caterpillars along with other invertebrates such as beetles, spiders, ants, worms, bugs, flies, sawflies and dragonflies. Female cuckoos devour birds' eggs and even small nestlings, especially those of the host species and interesting to note they probably do this because the eggs provide nutrients (such as calcium) for the formation of their own eggs, materials which are not available in caterpillars.

On the 15th April we were very excited to see four large bats glide high above us in a straight line over to the woods below us. Then at the same time (8.20pm) on the (contd.)

16th April - a hot day - we saw one, then two, and then a group of seven flew over. It was amazing! So last night we sat with our bat detector charged up and ready (but not thinking we would see anything as it was freezing cold) and at 8.20pm along flew three of them! We detected a reading of around 85kHz so we shall keep watching and keep you posted! If anyone's a bat guru please get in touch.



Emma J



Flora spotted opposite Rose Cottages; I took a photo before it 'disappeared'; obviously not particularly rare or endangered, but worth remembering that 'the law forbids the uprooting of any wild plant.'

DG

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Nature sightings from Boxer Castle's end of the village

We have had some more migrant incomers; the willow warblers have joined the chiff chaffs, tree creepers have been spotted by Tyrells Court and yellow-hammers have been flitting about past the Tippetts Brook bridge near Bower House. Many butterflies are out at this far end of the village too and we have seen brimstone, orange tips, peacocks, commas, tortoiseshells and holly blues to name but a few!



From walking by Chapel Fields

No matter what the weather is, sun, snow, wind, rain, I go out and walk my two dogs. But I never really mind as this is when I get to see nature going on around me. Early morning walks usually have the signs of the nocturnal activity, from the scratch marks of the badger's claws, the pawprints from the sly fox or the deer prints as they silently pass through. We have been escorted by a flock of ten long tailed tits, flitting along the hedgerow ahead of us. Been guided by a magnificent red kite soaring just above us, so close I thought I could almost touch it. The dogs even stopped to watch. The amazing aerobatics of the sparrow hawk, appearing 10 feet in front of us, then flying two feet off the ground along the road before disappearing over the hedge to re-appear further down. Glad to say it was unable to catch any small songbirds. You never know what you are going to see by chance. I have been lucky on two occasions, a glance to the right and see a tree creeper descending a tree trunk. It was fantastically camouflaged; it was only its slight movement that caught my eye. A glance to the left, to see a pair of goldcrest, busily darting about the shrubs at Townsend. These delightful birds are Britain's smallest birds, about the size of a ping pong ball. On the 17th April I was pleased to hear the sky lark singing its beautiful song again. Just waiting now to see if the little white egrets return.

C C

And finally, a happy hedgehog from Westfield House



Photo by GF of hedgehog emerging from hibernation.



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The Stretford Bridge Inn

Before the days of the internet, or even Telephone Directories and Yellow Pages, if you wanted to find out who the butcher, the baker or the candlestick maker was in a particular town or village you looked in a Directory and Gazetteer, such as Jakeman and Carver's or Littlebury's Directory and Gazetteer of Herefordshire. These fascinating books are in local libraries and give detailed information not only of local tradesmen but also who was the Lord of the Manor, the school teacher, the Vicar, eminent private individuals and more obscure individuals as the School Attendance Officer and the Parish Relief Officer. In one such book dating from 1876 I saw mentioned the "Stretford Bridge Inn" and investigated further. In their excellent book "The Story of Dilwyn", Tony Hobbs and Andrew Stirling Brown devote a chapter to the pubs of Dilwyn. The Crown (currently doing a fantastic job keeping us all fed!), The Cross House or Dukes Head as it was sometimes known on the village green, The Old Dukes Head opposite the gates to the Great House and possibly The Plough on the main road at the junction with the lane to Plateau Farm and Bidney. Jo Stirling Brown also notes the Prince of Wales and the Bridge Inn in the April Dilwynner. The Stretford Bridge Inn, while only just in the parish, deserves a closer look.

Most rural inns started out as a side line for farmers, or rather their wives who would be in charge of cider and beer making for the farm, and one can imagine that the Stretford Bridge Inn was part of the Stretford Bridge farmhouse knocked down some years ago by an overturned lorry, or at least an earlier version of it. The 1861 census shows George Richards born 1832 in Montgomery as the "Innkeeper", and presumable also farmer. His wife Elizabeth was born in Dilwyn, as were all their children although at this stage there was only their first new born Anne Elmore Richards. The business must have been reasonably prosperous as also living there was a young servant from the village, Sarah Jones, and George Milward, a carter from Lyonshall. By the 1871 census there were more children, Fanny, Matilda and Flossy and George's 70 year old father was also now living there, presumably a widower.

Littlebury's 1876 Directory describes George as a "Farmer and Beer Retailer of the Stretford Bridge Inn", but the 1881 census does not mention the Inn, 50 year old George being a "Farmer of 34 Acres". By now the couple also had two sons, George junior and Charles born in 1872 and 1878 respectively. Charles Pritchard aged 18yrs from Dilwyn was the "Farm Servant". However, on a more sinister note, Matilda who would have been 15 yrs old at the time of the census was not mentioned, and it must be assumed that she died young. So sometime between 1876 and 1881 either they gave up the Inn to concentrate on farming or perhaps, as was not unknown in census data gathering at this time, the Inn if it was still open it was overlooked or just not mentioned. Either way, Littlebury's 1890 Directory shows that Stretford Bridge Farm as in the hands of Charles Haynes, and by the 1891 census George, wife Elizabeth, Flossy, George junior and Charles were farming in Staunton on Wye, at Rhydur Farm. There are always a lot of loose ends when digging in to census data. Who was George's wife Elizabeth, born in Dilwyn? Some of their daughters may have married locally, but to who? Did Matilda really die young, and if so was she buried at Dilwyn Church? These are more difficult to answer, and so must be left for another time. IE

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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

As mentioned last month, the draw that was due to take place on April 1st will be rescheduled once current restrictions requiring self isolation of the over 70's have been eased. If that occurs prior to the cut off date for the June Dilwynner, you will be advised of the revised date in next month's issue.

Just to remind you, some great prizes have been donated this year. A big THANK YOU to all our generous members and supporters. First prize 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 (last year there were over sixty!). Raffle proceeds stay in the village supporting the branch and our local welfare work. Once current restrictions requiring self isolation are lifted, we will make sure there is a little further time for the purchase of tickets.

David Fowler, Secretary RBL Dilwyn
01981 541058

Gardening Tips for May.

Plant runner bean, dwarf bean seeds the 2nd week of May. These can be planted straight in the ground if you have your supports up, or start in pots to plant out later. If you do not have much space, plant in a large tub, with sticks in a wigwam for support.

Start some green winter veg. Fill 6" / 9" pots with compost and firm down. Sprinkle with cabbage, leek seeds, sprinkle with a topping of compost. When well established transplant into prepared ground.

For a supply of lettuce through to Autumn, sow a row of mixed lettuce seeds. When ready to pick do not pull up but cut what you need with a sharp knife and they will reshoot.

Plant Foxglove seeds for a lovely show next year. Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils.

Trim evergreen hedges, such as Box, Yew, Lonicera.



The Carter Family

Organisations & Contacts

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Cedar Hall	Bookings Richard Thomas	Bookings Chair	07772 796718 318541
Community First Responder	Gerry Duncan		318504
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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

Some Recipes for housebound cooks

MINCE BEEF COBBLER

Serves 4

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

Heat oven to 180c / 160c 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 yoghurt with enough cold water to make a firm scone-like dough. On a slightly floured surface, roll out to the thickness of about 1.5 cm 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 25 mins until the cobbles are risen and golden brown.

MIXED FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CHUTNEY

There is no need to throw away any fruit and vegetables that are going over. Use them to make some tasty chutney for later on in the year. You can use what you like, pears, apples, peaches, mangoes, plums, tomatoes, courgettes, peppers. Makes 4lb.

1 ½ lb (700g) mixed fruit and veg.,
chopped, not too small
½ lb (225g) Onions, chopped
1 clove of garlic, crushed
½ tsp salt
½ tsp mixed spice
½ tsp Chilli powder
(optional if you like it a bit hotter)
½ pint (285g) malt vinegar

METHOD: Place all the ingredients, except sugar in a heavy based saucepan. Bring to the boil then stir in the sugar. Simmer, stirring frequently until thick. Meanwhile wash some jars thoroughly in hot soapy water and rinse. Place on a baking sheet and put in a hot oven to sterilize. Ladle chutney into hot clean sterilized jars, cover and seal. Label when cooled and store for a couple of months,

MEAT LOAF

1tbsp olive oil 1 onion diced 1 garlic clove, crushed 500g pork mince 240g fresh
wholemeal breadcrumbs 1 tsp dried oregano ½ tsp sea salt 1 tsp black pepper 2
eggs, beaten 500 ml stock

Preheat the oven to 190 / gas 5

Heat the olive oil in a large pan and fry the onion until softened, stirring occasionally. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute.

Tip the mixture into a bowl, add the mince, breadcrumbs, oregano and seasoning. Mix everything well with clean hands, then add the beaten eggs and mix again.

(cont'd.)

Form into a rough ball.

Place the ball in the centre of a sturdy roasting tin and shape it into a long loaf, about 4cm high.

Pour 300ml of the stock around the base of the meatloaf and bake in the centre of the oven for 20mins, add the remaining stock and cook for a further 15 mins.

Test it's cooked by placing a skewer through the middle, if juices run clear, it's cooked.

CC

PENNEYS IN UGANDA

Here is an extract from a “day in the life”...

The short walk to the hospital never fails to lift our spirits - I cannot think of a more beautiful ‘commute’.

I go into the ward. It is dark and two ‘attendants’ are asleep on the floor. The patient lying on the bed came in last week with ‘lockjaw’ – tetanus - two weeks after cutting his finger. He could not remember having any vaccinations; women are immunised at ante-natal clinics, but men often miss out. Tetanus is usually fatal: every year about 800,000 people die of Tetanus world wide. This man could not afford the antiserum, but thanks to generous donations from home we were able to spend £196 to get some sent overnight by bus from Kampala and he had 6 vials injected. Within 24 hours his condition was improving, and now he has other things to do and is desperate to get home. I am delighted to discharge him. It feels like a miracle.



Oliver Penney. Kagando Hospital.
March 15th 2020.



Note: Oliver and Rachel are now back, but plan to return to Uganda in October, conditions permitting.

Ed.

St Mary's School Update

Reading is a big thing at St Mary's and in 2018 many of you can remember we had a letter from Nick Gibbs (School Minister) congratulating us for finishing in the top 1% in the Reading SAT nationwide. Although the SATs have been cancelled this year we were expecting a 100% pass rate again and another letter. Yes we celebrated World Book Day with gusto. The pupils all dressed up as favourite characters and Ted, Freya and Daniella won the best dressed in their class categories. The prize was of course an Easter egg. The day's activities raised over £135 which will go to buy books for the less privileged. Part of our Christian ethos is to support those who are less fortunate in the world.

It's been a busy term in the classroom. The Lower Juniors have been studying India and the plight of the Adivasi people. Chembakoli houses were constructed. Also an impressive India display can also be seen on the classroom wall.

HELP! The Infants have had an attack and can be seen protecting the baby penguins from those hungry Skuas. Having moved away from the Antarctic this last half term they have been looking at Peter Rabbit and 'Hey Presto!' a rabbit appeared in school courtesy of Mrs Goad.

In the Upper juniors classroom Hindu pilgrimages, sustainable farming and SAT preparation have been the order of the day. Mrs Eckley keeps them working.

Good news we have 11 reception admissions for next year and one pupil who will be coming into Year 1. This means we will start next year with 68 pupils. Our recommended capacity is 70. So a big thanks to all in promoting the school, your word of mouth is greatly appreciated.

Coronavirus is worrying, however the school is still open to the children of critical workers although as yet most families feel safer home educating. The teachers are producing home packs which are sent/delivered regularly to families.

Illness is not a new phenomenon, in 1882 when an outbreak of scarlet fever occurred in the village the whole school was quarantined for 15 weeks. Hopefully this will not reoccur and we will be back up and running soon. If not, we will have to say farewell and (Contd)

'Reading is to the mind what
exercise is to the body'

Richard Steele (1710)



thank you to Year 6 for their contribution to our school. A great group that have worked their socks off. Well done.

Finally, I forgot to include Mike when I referred to the group that worked at the school when we started.

All will tell you, we could not have survived without his efforts throughout the years.

PK



May Events Diary

Date	Event	Time	Place
Thu 7 th	Clap for NHS staff and key workers (and weekly thereafter.)	8.00pm	All Village
Fri 8 th	VE Day National Toast	2.45pm	All Village



**No St Mary's Church services,
for the time being; see page 4**

Cedar Hall 100 Club Draw

April	1 st	Denise Powell	£20
	2 nd	Derek Smith	£10
	3 rd	Jane Voogd	£10

Absolute deadlines for June Dilwynner copy are:

20th May for very small items and also regular items

18th May 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