

THE REDLAKE

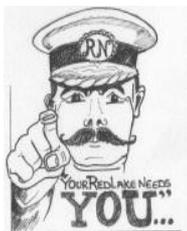
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From the Editors

YOUR REDLAKE NEEDS YOU!

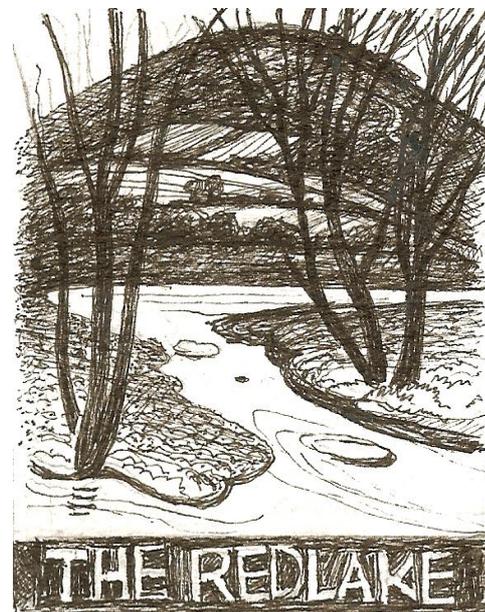
The new Editors of *The* anyone who might have an editions. These might be useful tips on building? *Redlake* is for the residents surrounding areas, and we articles from everyone who



Redlake, would like to ask article to put in future recipes, limerics/poems, Pretty much anything! *The* of the Redlake Valley, and will endeavour to incorporate would like to submit them.

The Redlake is published by The Redlake Valley Hall Committee and neither the committee nor the editors can accept responsibility for any opinions expressed by contributors in these pages. The editorial team reserves the right to edit contributions as it believes appropriate. The Redlake is funded by grants and donations and it is our policy not to accept paid advertising due to restraints on space

More information & photos of some of these articles are available on the website at www.chapel-lawn.co.uk



Teme Valley Hunt Meet at Steads' Yard

On 23rd October the first meet ever was held at Stead's Yard, and as Pam said, her words with him upstairs must have worked as it turned out to be one of the driest, sunniest days we have had for a while. It was organised by Pam Trewin in memory of her husband Pete who died just over 2 years ago of Motor Neurone Disease. Both Pam and Pete were extremely keen on all types of field sports and Pam said the support they both received during Pete's illness from members of the Teme Valley Hunt and United Pack Hunt was wonderful. She put on a wonderful spread at the meet as we tucked into sandwiches and nibbles, homemade cake and the obligatory tippie!

It was nice to see some of the Redlake readers out for the day either on foot or on horseback. I was most jealous as I am unable to hunt at the moment due to a foot operation but it was a wonderful atmosphere.

For those of you that are worried this was not a hunt to follow a fox but a

drag hunt. Where someone has taken a scent and set a specific course for hounds, horse and riders to follow. Therefore making sure that everyone has a thoroughly enjoyable day but no animals are hurt. In fact by the end of the day, as I'm sure anyone who has hunted will know, it is the riders who are aching and in much need of a soak in the bath and another nice glass of vino. So I for one am looking forward to the next meet at Steads' Yard.



Angela Ogden

Redlake Valley Artists

The Redlake Valley Artists got together for their second exhibition on the 12th – 14th September. Considering how many events were on that weekend, we were very pleased with the turn out. The evening was launched by a local poet, Colin Fletcher, from Clungunford, who read out a specially-written poem for the event. There were teas & cake sold over the weekend, and these along with donations, raised £175 towards the fabric fund for St Mary's Church, Chapel Lawn. We would like to thank everyone who came along to see the exhibition – and particularly those who made such delicious cakes!

Sarah Jameson

Poets corner:

by Jem

*Our Redlake River charts it's course
Past a Chieftain's hill, now crowned with
gorse,
Where bronze and green meet blue.
It skirts the copper quillet-trees
And end-of-Summer's sleepy bees
To dwindle out of view.*

Profile**Trevor Morris**

If you travel along the road back towards Bucknell after crossing the River you will see a little drive way to the right. This leads you to Woodside, the home of Trevor Morris. Trevor was born and brought up in this valley and has lived here all his life.

Trevor's family have lived in this valley for several generations. His grand-parents originally lived in The Quern before moving in with his parents, Charlie and Maisie, at Woodside, where they lived from the 1920's.

Trevor was born in the 1950s at Clun Maternity Hospital. He has a brother, Gordon, who lives Knighton, and a sister Eileen who is also not far away at Weston. Trevor lives at Woodside with his two dogs, Ben and Fly. He spent his first school years at Chapel Lawn School along with many of his contemporaries in the area. He remembers walking to school from Woodside, gathering his mates on the way including the Stead Boys from Upper Lye, the Grimes from Lower Lye and the Sherwoods from Little Bryncalled amongst some of them – approximately a 3 mile walk. Something mothers wouldn't allow these days, as they whiz off to the local schools by the dozen. Of course the traffic along the lanes then was mainly agricultural and local and they would have all known the children or been related to them. It is such a shame that this is no longer possible. The children then had such a freedom which I'm sure they didn't realise how lucky they were.

Along the way he says, especially on the way home, they got into many

scraps which their mums were left to sort out – who ripped who's shirts, hit who etc but all good humoured fun as they all remain firm friends. He remembers the Nissan Huts at the bottom of Pentre Hodre Lane where some of the agricultural equipment was kept and losing a hat to a prank with the baler – some very colourful bales and probably a cross mother!

He admits that his main thought at school was not to study as he couldn't wait to come home and get back out on the farm tinkering with the tractors or helping his Dad and family with cows etc. Now he says he should have paid a bit more attention as the maths might have helped him, but hindsight is a wonderful thing. He remembers being dropped off at Roselea and bringing the cows back along the road; Something we don't see these days. It was a truly rural community with many people not travelling far from home as there was no need. All the farmers just helped each other as necessary. He says the farms were much bigger then and many like Lower Lye and Bryncalled are now homes rather than farms and have a minimal amount of land. He went to Bishops Castle for his secondary education. One of the mums from Chapel Lawn would come and pick them all up in her car and drop them back to Chapel Lawn where a mini bus would pick them up. No such thing as health and safety and seatbelts then as they all piled in to her car.

He had to be on the bus by 7.20am in the morning. They then went all around the lanes picking up children until they were dropped off in the square in Clun for the big bus to take them on to school in Bishops Castle.

He also remembers the portable apple press that used to be stationed at the bottom of his driveway as they needed the water from the river to operate it. They also made their own cider up at Woodside. As he got older he and a mate, Derek Adams from The Smithy in Chapel Lawn, used to travel to Knighton to collect their 5 gallon barrel of cider. Much of which would be consumed, unbeknown to their

parents, out the back of the village hall with a puff off a few illegal cigarettes; Often hurriedly hidden as their parents came out to check on them. Things haven't changed!

One of the experiences he remembers which would be frowned upon now was their fun times with the .22 rifle. Setting each other challenges to shoot branches off trees amongst the more tame objects! Since Harvey & Roger Sherwood from Little Bryncalled were involved in this pursuit, I imagine it got quite lively. They also used to involve, Martin Sherwood, to get involved in sledging on pieces of tin. They would then use the tractor to pull them back up the hill. What they failed to tell Martin was that you must throw yourself off before you got to the river at the bottom. There was much cursing as he returned home soaking wet with the boys laughing their heads off. As my uncle used to say "Boys will be boys and so will most men" – how right he was.

Like many other boys in the area he also was involved in grass carts which helped him hone his mechanical skills.

When he left school he went to work for Wooleys in Bucknell (where Hornsey Steel are now). He stayed there for about 4 years. They were a tar spraying company and also responsible for tar haulage. His interest in engines continued here with the repair of the vehicles. The company tarmacked many of the little driveways around here that are not now in general use including the drive to Woodside which also gave access to The Vron, which did not have the driveway it has now. There was also a track from Stead's Yard which was the main access to Hagley Hall, this has also now been closed off but the hard surface is still there.

Trevor then moved on to Temeside in Ludlow. This was a Vauxhall dealership which had vans and trucks. Again his role here was on the mechanical side. He worked there for 4 years but thanks to the Thatcher Government he was made redundant. His interest in reconditioned and performance engines began while

working for a company in Hereford for another 4 years. Trevor was making lots of his own contacts during this time and decided to start up in business on his own. If anyone has ever visited Trevor's workshop you can see what a perfectionist he is. His workshop and the engines he builds are fascinating. Although he would like to do work on the house during the summer months it never seems so vital and as he says there is always money to spend elsewhere. The position he is in is one to be envied and has the most fantastic views over the valley. It is only when Winter draws in that Trevor says it might be nice to have done a bit more to the house as the weather gets colder it lets him know where it could do with some attention.

Trevor says he keeps meaning to attend some more of the events but doesn't know where the time goes, so I will keep reminding him of the Christmas Party and hope it will be the first of many events he attends.

Angela Ogden

Recent Events

At the end of August, Ian Campbell, his Badass Weed Band, their families and friends descended on the Redlake Valley to celebrate a major birthday and to put on a gig in the Village Hall. It was noisy and fun, plenty of beer and the most unusual site in the village- more than four children!! It was after this that James fell down his stairs in the night and broke his wrist- 'farmer' style he didn't go to the doctor until the following Friday!

Early on in September, we had the Chapel Lawn Ramble and Lunch. This is such an established event now, people from all around keep asking when it is and do they have to walk! 120 people came to sample the simple cold meat and salad lunch, the weather held until mid-afternoon and we raised £887 which will go towards our Church Restoration Fund.

The Redlake Valley Artists Exhibition was the second event of its kind and was equally well attended as the first time the RVA exhibited. Beautiful pictures and art from skilled artists, both professional and amateur adorned the walls and floors of our village hall, which was turned into a thriving gallery for the weekend.

The end of September saw the start of the Air Gun Shooting season. Our little club with its ten or so members has started the 2013/14 season with hosting the first match against Churchstoke. Unfortunately our captain, James Middleton, with his broken wrist, couldn't shoot, so how he expected us mortals to beat Churchstoke (serious Air Gun enthusiasts), I am not sure! We've not done a lot better since...

Also at the end of the month was the annual McMillan Nurses coffee evening with a produce and cake stall, book stall and a raffle. We raised £250 for Macmillan Cancer Care.

The first Flicks of the new season was 'The Quartet'. It was very well attended and if you like Billy Connelly and gentle British humour, it's a good film. I loved the way they used real retired musicians and actors playing themselves

The second week of October is usually a reasonably safe time to hold a Harvest Service and Supper. Most of the farmers had finished harvest I believe, with the exception, perhaps of James (due to broken wrist mentioned earlier). The Church was decorated with the usual array of harvest produce for the service.

The five offerings of Soil & Water, Bread & Seeds, Fruit & Vegetables, Eggs & Milk and Cake were presented to Rev. Diana Hoare by Hannah and Haydn Lewis and Carl Price. An amusing summary of farming life in the valley was described by Bob James. Our thanks to everyone who contributed by decorating the church and providing the Supper afterwards.

The quiz night on 11th October brought in 44 visitors to our hall for the monthly South Shropshire villages event. It was our turn to host and thanks to our excellent team of helpers; we will probably be asked to do it again by the quiz organisers.

Many halls are not willing to host because of lack of helpers and the amount of organisation it needs; Chapel lawn never has this problem!

The annual Hodre Pond Sunny Picnic and Pond Clearing happened on 13 October this year (why? Nobody knows). Despite ominous clouds and mizzle, there was a good turnout of 8, plus James's son and tractor which, thankfully did most of the work – leaving us just the edges and less accessible bits. Surprisingly pleasant chatting & working, job soon done, newts free to frolic in there come Spring. Next year pond clearing will be on 17 August.

*(contributions from Beryl Palmer,
Di Cosgrove, Pat Hancock and Liz
Campbell*

Seasonal Gardening Notes

Extending the season is important in a successful garden. Long-flowering plants can easily become Mary Bennets- that have delighted us long enough. But late-flowering plants are always worth the wait. The weather can often spoil them, but in a good autumn their effects can be magical.

Among the best are cimicifugas (soft c, hard g), which make good clumps of attractive, and often coloured, vine-like leaves, with slender spikes of white, cream, or pinkish flowers. Some of them can grow very tall-up to 6 feet or more, and some are deliciously scented, with a sweet, rather bubblegumish perfume hanging in the air on still days. And they will always be plastered with bees and butterflies.

They have recently undergone a name change, now being lumped together with their smaller, early-summer flowering cousins the actaeas. These too are effective in the garden now as their rather bunchy cream flowers have turned into large berries-black, brilliant red, or white-the first is the native Herb Christopher, and the last is known colloquially as Doll's Eyes. All are extremely poisonous.

Hannah Willetts

Holistic Tips for Autumn

It's often when the weather becomes wet and cold that our joints feel swollen, tired and sore and our emotional spirits get low. Take Belladonna 30c Homeopathic Remedy to relieve the swollen, tired joints together with placing several drops of Lavender Aromatherapy Oil on your pillow at night to relieve stress, lifting your emotional spirits, ready for another day.

Jacqueline Cook-Molony

REDLAKE RECIPES

Red velvet beetroot cake

Red velvet cake was originally coloured with beetroot, just like in this recipe. This chocolate cake is moist and totally delicious. The cream cheese frosting, really is the icing on the cake! You can also prepare this recipe as cupcakes, if you prefer. Adjust the baking time accordingly.

Ingredients

Serves: 18

2 teaspoons lemon juice
 135g beetroot, boiled and grated
 310g plain flour
 1 teaspoon salt
 2 teaspoons bicarbonate of soda
 400g caster sugar
 50g unsweetened cocoa powder
 285g unsalted butter, melted
 4 eggs, beaten
 2 tablespoons honey
 125ml milk
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
 3 tablespoons cream
 75g cream cheese
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 pinch salt

450g icing sugar

Preparation method

Prep: 30 mins | Cook: 40 mins

- Grease one 23x33cm or similar sized baking dish. Preheat oven to 180 C / Gas 4. Sprinkle lemon juice over beetroot, set aside.
- Combine flour, 1 teaspoon salt, bicarbonate of soda, caster sugar, cocoa, melted butter, eggs, honey, milk and 2 teaspoons vanilla in a large mixing bowl. Stir in beetroot. Beat 2 minutes at medium speed of mixer. Pour into prepared dish.
- Bake at 180 C / Gas 4 about 40 minutes. Cool and frost.
- To make frosting: combine cream and cream cheese, 1 teaspoon vanilla and pinch of salt. Add icing sugar, beat until fluffy. Spread on cake. Add nuts if desired.

Angela Ogden

Farming Column

Rampaging Rams & Tarmac Tups

Autumn is traditionally the start of the sheep farmer's year with the introduction of the rams to the ewe flock. At this time there are two types of sheep farmer. Ram sellers & ram buyers. The Sellers have spent the last 18 months stuffing their

charges with corn & Cabbages, & by now desperate to recover costs, they trawl the rams around various markets setting a high reserve price. Running the bids up to one short of the reserve & hoping some fool will put a bid in & buy an expensive ram. The buyers, having brought their stock rams in from the field where they have been languishing for the last 10 months discover only 2 have survived the winter & one of those is lame on all five feet. Desperate to replenish rams, they attend all the sales but don't want to spend any money, so loudly proclaim "don't need any rams, just looking, might buy one as a standby if it's cheap enough" The game is now firmly on, the question is whose nerve gives out first.

When Ram Friday dawned we loaded 10 rams in the trailer & set off for Ludlow, one dreaming of a new tractor & the other of a new horse. With the sheep penned we deftly fielded the usual enquiries; no, they hadn't seen bucketful's of corn this was true, they'd had their corn by the bagful. No, they hadn't seen any cabbages. This was true, it was a dark night when they broke into Smiling Tree Farm's garden & devoured Christine's Cabbages.

Eight weary hours later we set off for home with 11 rams in tow; 10 not sold... but we were lucky enough to buy the most expensive ram in the sale!

The young farmers from the top end of the valley decided it was time to start breeding their own mule ewes & set off for the Hereford market to buy a Blue Faced Leicester ram. Said ram duly purchased was loaded in the back of the chicken delivery truck for the journey home. We don't know if it was the standard of driving or the speed, but on reaching Walford, the ram had had enough & jumped out of the truck to continue the journey on foot. Luckily the driver glanced in the mirror & saw the ram in the road waving goodbye. After much trauma counselling the ram was persuaded back into the truck to continue the journey home.

After much deliberating & heart searching we have taken the decision to give up keeping cattle. Old age (the cows & me & dodgy hips, me) were 2 considerations. The main factor was the continuing debacle of the TB situation. Between the 5th Feb & 1st July we had to undergo 6 TB tests ranging from 1 animal to whole herd tests. The icing on the cake was the state veterinary service deciding to carry out a re-test on a single animal themselves. 2 employees turned up in separate vehicles, 1 to do the test the other to watch. Sure

enough 72 hours later the whole process was repeated. This is the same government agency who now want farmers to undertake cost sharing in the battle against TB. Four years ago farmers in Wales were invited to sign up for stricter TB control measures. The carrot dangled was a cull of Welsh badgers. The last general election saw a change in the ruling party & the cull was abandoned in favour of a vaccination costing the taxpayer £640 for every badger vaccinated. This repeated annually & does not work on badgers already infected with TB.

Finally on a lighter note with the cattle gone, plenty of cheap hay & a grass keep for sale.

Bob James

Diary

Chapel Lawn Flicks in the Sticks
 We have a good selection of films lined up for this season. Please join us in the Village Hall - everyone welcome! The bar is stocked up, ice creams are ready in the freezer and we even have popcorn! Adults £4, Children £3.

Sat 16 Nov - The Hobbit (12) at 7:30pm

Thurs 28th Nov. - Relativity part 2 with Barry Palmer at 7.30pm

Sun 8 Dec - (afternoon) Anna

Karenina (12A) at 4:30pm

Sat 18 Jan Behind the Candelabra (15) at 7:30pm

For more information contact Peter Sherman 01547 530530 or Christine Rogers 530258

Otherwise regular Gun Club every Monday evening;

ODAS on the last Thursday in every month plus their Christmas dinner on 19th December

W.I second Wednesday but this may change so hold on advertising. Se VH notice board etc,

W.I. workshop on Friday 8th November.

VH Committee meeting Tuesday 12th November at 7.30 pm

Clun Town with Chapel Lawn Council Meeting Friday 22nd November at 7.30 pm.

W.I. and VH Christmas party Saturday 14th December 7.30 pm.

St Mary's Church Carol Service 3.00 pm Sunday 22nd December

Christmas Day Service 9.30 pm St Mary's Church.

