

# THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 25

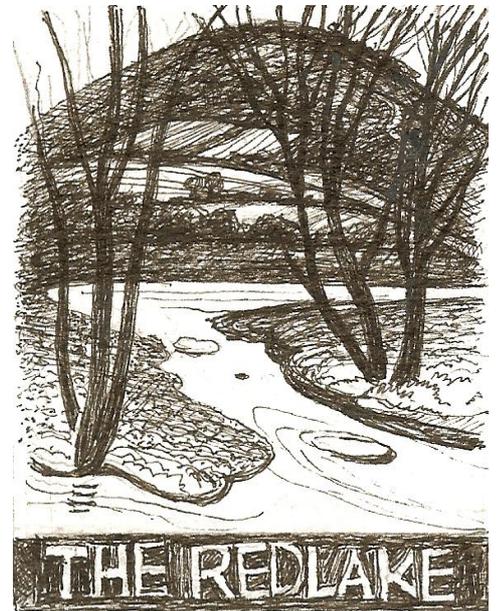
WINTER 2014

## *From the Editors*

### YOUR REDLAKE THANKS YOU!

We at *the Redlake* would like to thank you for submitting some marvelous poems in the last three months. It is great to know there are so many poets out there willing to come up with new verses. Obviously we can't publish all of these in one issue, so we are thinking of compiling a small poetry book at the end of the year, so please keep sending them in. Also if anyone has some tasty recipe that they would like to share, send them in too; we all know there are some super cooks in and around the Valley.

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More information & photos of some of these articles are available on the website at [www.chapel-lawn.co.uk](http://www.chapel-lawn.co.uk)

## **3 (+49) Steps to Heaven**

### **Latest quillet news from the Redlake Valley Community Benefit Society!**

If you are looking to take a walk as winter hopefully turns to spring, why not visit the quillet and climb the newly completed steps up to the bench within the wood.

The steps, made from locally sourced materials some from Brinnedin itself, were completed over three work parties between July and December. You may have heard the sound of sledgehammers on chestnut stakes as a small but dedicated work force completed the task on New Year's Eve. On that occasion we were joined by Ron Katzler who must qualify as our most distant shareholder – coming all the way from Uganda just to work on this project! The completion of the steps was celebrated with mince pies, coffee and Bailey's.

Whilst the steps are now finished and open for use, we hope to arrange an 'official' opening sometime in the spring – watch out for announcements!

We also have a new mere stone, expertly carved by Simon Jameson. Many thanks for your support in 2013; we hope to see you at the quillet!

*Mark Limbrick*



## **New Addition**

Congratulations on the birth of Edward Jack, born 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 to Wayne & Clare Davies of Purlogue.

## **Redlake Valley Village Hall.**

The Hall is now **free to hire** to local groups. W.I, ODAS, Gun Club, Flicks in the sticks, and a **new, Drawing Day!** **First one February 12<sup>th</sup>** & every 2nd Wednesday in the month.

Chapel Lawn Village Hall.

10am – 4pm

Anyone welcome.

Learn to draw or bring your own project in an informal and relaxed environment.

Come for an hour or all day!

£3 – includes materials and some light refreshments.

More details: Simon 01547 528546

*Simon Jameson*

## **Chapel Lawn Book Club**

Meet at the end of every month to have a fun and lively debate to discuss a nominated book, and would like one or two more members to join in. Please contact Beryl. 01547-530106

## Profile

### Ken and Vera Bowen



Ken was born in Shrewsbury in 1951 and has been a local all his life. He originally lived at Rose Cottage on the Mynd until 1958, when at the age of seven, he moved to his current home in Chapel Lawn. The house was originally all one and was only divided into two cottages some years later. Ken went to primary school in Chapel Lawn before going on to Bishops Castle for his secondary education. On leaving school Ken went to work for B & J Davies in Bucknell. The timber yard was a much bigger concern in those days and he was involved in the extraction and movement of the timber. Ken has a brother who also hasn't moved far, working in Llandrindod Wells. Sadly they lost their father just before Christmas last year, so there is just him and his brother left.

Vera was born in Liverpool on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1944; a true Scorpio, as she admits, speaking her mind. Vera was only three when her mum died and as an only child she was sent away to be educated at the Sisters of the Good Shepherd where she stayed until about the age of 16. She then went back to live with her Grandparents in Liverpool.

Vera was married to her first husband in 1965 and has two children, Linda and Billy and four grand-daughters. Vera's nursing career started very early when her grandmother moved in with her and she nursed her for five years during breast cancer until her death. By this time both her father and grandfather had passed away as well.

In 1977 Vera herself contracted breast cancer and she also developed other health issues including osteoporosis which meant she had to give up her career in nursing, something she has really missed. She also suffers from COPD, but none of this seems to stop her. She is so full of energy and life you can only admire her approach.

Ken and Vera have one dog and six cats and this love of animals helped to bring them together in 1987.

Ken moved from B & J Davies and went to work for Chandlers based in Crewe. He worked there for 25 years and travelled all around the country, often working on big estates such as Blenheim Palace. It was during this time that he had to go to East Grinstead to help in the clear-up after the 1987 storms. While away he stayed in a caravan and would return home every few weeks. When he was made redundant from Chandlers he had a short spell of self-employment before going back to work for B & J Davies where he still works.

Vera worked in nursing with an expertise in burns, based at the Queen Victoria Burns Unit in East Grinstead, so she was often called to high profile accidents such as the train crash at Godstone in 1985. She says her size has been very useful over the years as at this particular accident she was asked to climb into the carriage to help someone who was imprisoned. She was the only one tiny enough to do this and probably mad enough knowing Vera! Or should I just say just extremely dedicated as just listening to her, the enthusiasm for her job shines through.

Vera has looked after some very prestigious people throughout her nursing career, she looked after Lord and Lady Stanley after his stroke and Sheikh Mohammad had her flown out to Dubai by private jet. I am sure there are many others that have been helped by Vera throughout her nursing career.

Vera then applied for a job advertised in The Lady for Whittington College in East Grinstead as assistant to the Matron. While working in this role

she met Ken; Ken appeared in the College looking for some help to rescue some ducklings that had become separated from their mother, so the relationship started.

Vera was due to come and stay with Ken when she woke up and discovered her house had been broken into. Among the things that had been taken were a ring and watch that Ken had given her, which was extremely upsetting. She continued to Ken's and he insisted she stay, so she moved in during October 1990. But, as Ken is very superstitious and it was a Friday, she says her furniture all had to be put into the garage as you cannot move house on a Friday. Something I found very funny as all removal companies seem to want to move you on a Friday. My mother must have never been told this as she was very superstitious and we certainly moved house on a Friday! (Editor)

Ken then went off to work leaving Vera in a little village on her own knowing no-one, but not for long. There was a knock on the door and some welsh cakes were handed over by Annie Middleton and an instruction that she was coming to WI; they were firm friends from then on. She remembers some wonderful times with Annie who obviously had a real mind of her own so it is obviously true that like minds attract. She said on one occasion they went to the post office and as no chair was provided for Annie she sat down in protest on the floor. The next problem was the cancellation of the bus to Chapel Lawn. Annie soon enlisted Vera's help and newspapers and television were contacted. Needless to say the bus was reinstated.

Vera was due to go and work for Onibury House as a nurse when she moved to Chapel Lawn but her osteoporosis got the better of her and for safety reasons she had to retire. Something she found very difficult as she is such an active person.

In 1992 they married but sadly were not allowed to marry in St Mary's, Chapel Lawn.

Vera's other love in her life apart from Ken are her animals but she also enjoys doing large, complicated jigsaws and reading. She has recently been given a Kindle but says it is still posing a few issues. In particular she enjoys reading autobiographies and reads anything to do with Diana, The Queen, and Lord Mountbatten – a real Royalist.

Ken said he didn't have any hobbies but Vera soon corrected him. She says when she first moved into the house and it was all one building they lived upstairs and he had a large German Railway that went all around the top floor. He has recently become interested in remote control helicopters and is very keen on the computer helping them keep in contact with some of Vera's relatives who live abroad.

*Angela Ogden*

### Poet's corner:

#### RIVER REDLAKE

Rising rapidly from the earth  
 Increasing speed as I pass  
 Villagers waiting on the bridges that cross me  
 Elegantly flowing  
 Ravens cawing throatily as I make my way.

Ready to welcome my friends that follow into me  
 Enveloping furrowed rocks as I go  
 Developing silky, smooth rocks to throw  
 Leaping from lofty heights as I reach my final destination  
 Availing myself to the sea  
 Keenly widening to shape the river bank  
 Eventually I flow into the estuary: set free.

Maisie Edwards age 12  
 (Barrie Wilding's Grand-daughter)

### Recent Events

Flicks: The Hobbit and Anna Karenina were shown in November

and December respectively. Both had disappointing numbers in the audience, whether because of the choice of film or other events or commitments, we don't know. The January film was 'Behind the Candelabra' about Liberace, the piano-playing entertainer's affair with a young and attractive man and how it was kept very quiet. We had a good turnout for this film, in contrast to the previous ones. **If there are particular films you would like to see in the future, please get in touch with Peter Sherman 01547 530530.**

Mid December, the Village hosted the annual Christmas Party. Di and Christine organised everyone to do their bit, they bought food so no-one had to cook in advance. Guests were welcomed at the door with mulled wine; the food was plentiful and tasty; the drink flowing freely and good company. James recited a poem he had written about his and Richard's exploits a few years ago, when they dressed up in women's clothes and gate-crashed a WI evening! Bob James told a few very funny anecdotes and jokes and a poem about Ten Little Tiddlings (orphan lambs) and Christine Rogers' poem is included with this issue. The best entertainment of the evening was when John and Barry singing along to a karaoke version of 'I Can't Get No Satisfaction'! Oooh! It was a beaut! Apparently the singing and carousing (no names mentioned) went on until the early hours, but the author does not know much about that as she went home early to get out of the clearing up!

Mention should also be made of the lovely village sign being lit up now when events are held after dark in the Village Hall. It not only shows off the beautiful sign, but shows people where the hall is - essential to newcomers in the village!

The carol service was held in St Mary's Church on 22<sup>nd</sup> December in the afternoon. Due to our vicar having 'flu and not being able to attend the service, it was led by Pat Hancock and Di Cosgrove. There were the usual carols and readings,

with The Mudlarks singing 'O Come O Come Emmanuel' and Barry's Ensemble making their fine debut; the children did the readings beautifully and Wayne kindly played the organ for us. There was sherry and mince pies and another chance to natter afterwards.

18 members and friends braved Arctic conditions on 19<sup>th</sup> December to come to the ODAS Christmas Dinner. Turkey and all the trimmings and excellent puddings (Graham's Christmas pudding, Beryl's Pumpkin pie and Jonathan's mince pies) were enjoyed by all. The entertainment included poems with special significance read by members, a quiz from John Wilde and ended with very funny recollections from Graham Arnold of life as a National Serviceman titled "How a love of Astronomy saved my life". It was a lovely evening.

Again we held a DIY New Year's Eve Party. Arranged at the last minute, there were some people who didn't know about it until too late (for some). The principal is that anyone not otherwise engaged can turn up at the Village Hall with drink, food, music and games and share a fun evening with their friends and neighbours. It was a great evening with 12 of us celebrating the New Year in a dignified manner - well, some of us - next year, I promise, the invitation will be more widespread!

*Becky Whitton & Carolyn Wilde*

### Seasonal Gardening Notes



This is the time for evergreen shrubs to add punctuation marks to the garden page. Not only are their colours varied – they are rarely just green, but their textures differ widely too: think of the polish of winter sunlight on laurel, or sage leaves cut from suede.

Winter growth makes leaves and stems more susceptible to frost, so evergreens from kinder climates can show all degrees from browned scruffiness to black death. Our own

native famous five – holly, box, yew, juniper and ivy – are the safest in cold gardens, but safe doesn't mean boring as there are dozens of different forms to try.

Their natural shapes are not often seen as they lend themselves so well to clipping. Leaving box to grow freely will give you a thick windbreak, shelter and roosts for birds, and deliciously scented flowering shoots in spring. Diversification being so important in farming these days, I must warn that box is poisonous to camels.

*Hannah Willetts*

chance to rebalance itself just as nature does.

Go to bed earlier, get up a little later, when and where possible, use these very wet, dark nights as an excuse to just relax more, your body will appreciate it. Why not assist all those aches, pains and stresses with some Chamomile Aromatherapy oil on your pillow at night to relieve nervous anxiety and stress. For your sore joints that the damp can often get to at this time of year use Rhus Tox 30c Homeopathic remedy.

Happy New Year,

*Jacqueline Cook-Molony*

large amounts, in preference to our own products)

*James Middleton*

## Diary

Chapel Lawn Flicks in the Sticks has 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.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb.** 7.30 Arts alive: 'Crazy Little Thing Called Love.' Tickets Adult £8, Child £5, Family ticket £25.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.** Film: Star Trek – 'Into Darkness.'

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.** Film 7.30 'The Dish' Australian Comedy based on a true story. ODAS members £3.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March:** Film 'Mud' drama.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March:** ODAS Speaker on Variable Stars Revisited. Non Members welcome.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April:** Food & Flicks: 'The Worlds End' Comedy. Food 6pm - film 7,30pm.

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

Otherwise regular Gun Club every Monday evening;

**Drawing Day** 10- 4, every second Tuesday of the month, in the village Hall

**ODAS** on the last Thursday in every month.

**W.I** second Tuesday of the month.

**Town Council Meeting** in our Village Hall, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm

## REDLAKE RECIPES

### Sticky Pears

4 fairly ripe pears,

Finely grated juice and zest of half a lemon,

500ml champagne or dry white wine,

175g light muscovado sugar,

Half a vanilla pod split lengthways.

Peel, halve and core the pears. Put the lemon zest, juice, vanilla pod, sugar and wine into a medium sized pan. Heat gently to dissolve the sugar. Add pear halves and simmer for 10-20mins depending on the ripeness of the pears.

Transfer the pears to a bowl with a slotted spoon. Boil the cooking liquid for 15 mins or until it is reduced by at least half to a syrupy constituency. Pour the syrup over the pears and leave them to cool to room temperature.

Serve the poached pears with crème fraiche and a generous drizzle of syrup.

*Sarah Harding*

## Holistic Tips for Autumn

### Stay Healthy with the Seasons

By nature, winter is the season of 'Rest & Recuperation' allowing our body the chance to recharge itself after a hectic Spring, Summer & Autumn. Many perennial flowers, trees and animals hibernate for that very reason. We too should take it a little easier giving our body the

## Farming Column

The very fine and mild weather of late autumn came to a halt mid- December with rain and yet more rain. Autumn sown crops have established well, much better than last year.

On a recent trip to Yorkshire I noted how good the fields looked, and my older cousins thought it would be a good idea for me to see Swaledale sheep and more farming from the Pickering to Whitby steam railway, but we would ALL be travelling as OAP'S; there was one problem with this plan, it worked! I did not think that last spring had aged me so much.

The badger cull debate continues with the latest figure of £1.4 million the cost of policing it in Gloucestershire. Another interesting official figure is that there are now over 40,000 acres of special wildlife seed crops being sown in England. I would be interested in hearing from anybody who could identify the types of birds in my 2 acres that are going to benefit from this winter feed!

At the local agricultural discussion group and forum (the pub) it has been alleged that two supermarkets joined forces and sent their lamb buyers to New Zealand to bring a load back home and save transport costs. They returned empty handed as the numbers are down due to drought and exports to Asia. I wonder what Margaret Beckett would have said to this? (she was in favour of importing

## Shropshire & Marches Campaign for a Better Rural Broadband.

Winner of the Christmas caption competition was a Mr. Alan Tippett from Knucklas, with "This is the best BT said they could do at the moment"

Please find the latest news by going to the link <http://tinyurl.com/SWMCBB>