

THE REDLAKE

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From the Editors Spring has Sprung!

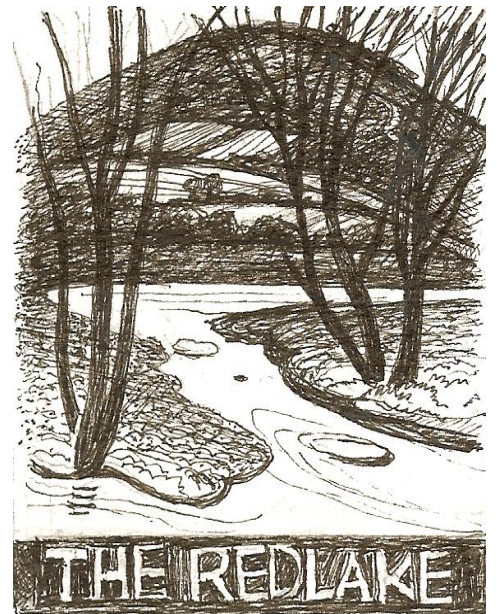
We have had a wonderful display of snowdrops & daffodils along the verges this spring, and a lovely burst of warm weather.

Lets hope the sunshine continues, and we have a long, hot summer where it gently rains at night. We will have to see what the Green Man Fair has to say about it in the coming weeks.

Thank you for all your articles, and please keep sending them in to us for the next edition in the Summer.

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



Connie's Birthday Celebration

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who joined me in Chapel Lawn Village Hall to celebrate my 90th birthday. It was a wonderful occasion made extra special by friends and family who had travelled far and wide and it was fantastic that Kath and Claire had flown from Australia to be there.

I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of you all and I am delighted to say that £700 was donated, which has been shared equally between St Mary's Church and Hope House.

I would also like to thank the village hall committee for kindly donating the hall and to Christine Oakley for the delicious afternoon tea.

I thoroughly enjoyed the church service on Saturday afternoon where friends and family again celebrated my birthday. The singing and kind words were lovely and the excellent tea afterwards was very much appreciated. I would like to thank everybody who was involved - it was very special. Thank you

Connie Adams

Spring is in the air

Get yourself started with the power of flowers!

Aromatherapy is seen as one of the simplest complementary therapies you can use. This ancient art has been around for thousands of years for people but, for animals only the last three decades.

The aroma works directly with the sense of smell travelling through the airways to reach the nervous system, where we all tend to hold our emotional issues; if left unattended these emotions can cause fear, insecurity, anxiety, nervousness, frustration, anger and many more emotional imbalances affecting our confidence often leading to even depression.

Some oils that can ease the heavy emotions within are; **Roman Chamomile** to release anxiety and nervousness, **Frankincense** will help to release those emotions of fear and panic, and let **Lemon** or **Orange** help you when you are feeling down as they will pick you up when you are feeling low, even when depressed.

Caution - Aromatherapy Oils should never be applied to skin directly

which may cause a skin irritation in some people.

Jacqueline Cook-Molony

Wartime Tragedy

Seventy years ago the Redlake Valley was the scene of a tragic accident. On 25th May 1944, an American P-47 Thunderbolt aeroplane from the 495th Fighter Training Group based at Atcham was on a training flight when it crashed at Treverward in bad weather. It hit trees close to Parkhill Cottage and disintegrated across the top of the hill. My father, John, witnessed the accident and rushed to the burning wreckage. Sadly the pilot, 2nd Lieutenant Gale E. Carsen, had died in the impact. Gale was 24 years old and hailed from Spokane, Washington State. Today he rests in the National Cemetery at Arlington, Virginia with such luminaries as President John F. Kennedy. Let us hope that future generations living in our peaceful valley will remember the young pilot who lost his life so far from his home and family.

Steve Brereton

Profile:**Jim and Christine Rogers,
Chapel Lawn**

Christine was born in Gosford in Northumbria moving to Purley when she was seven, due to her father's new job. She says Jim and her paths nearly crossed at this early stage as they almost bought a house in the same road as him, but in fact they did not meet until they were teenagers. She has two sisters and a brother and says she had a wonderful childhood spending much of it outside. They used to spend hours building dens and much of her best friend's kitchen equipment was sneaked outside to cook food in the dens. At school she says she was a bit of a swat and teacher's pet.

Jim was born in Purley and is one of four brothers. He says that as a youngster he was also into dens as well as explosives!

It wasn't until a school friend of Christine's started going to the same youth club as Jim that his and Christine's paths crossed. They started going out together when they were both 17, when the friend invited them to a New Year's Eve party. By that time Jim's interests had moved on from explosives to motorbikes but even though Christine's brother had a motorbike, she was not allowed on Jim's bike. She says her parents never seemed to question the amount of layers of clothes she put on when going to meet him. Jim would wait for her at the bottom of the road and then she was off on the motorbike with him. Sometimes Jim was allowed to borrow his father's car supposedly

to watch the badgers he was monitoring for a science project. All went well on these 'badger' expeditions until the car's suspension went and his dad had to be called out to collect them from the pub they had been frequenting!

After sixth form Christine went on to York University for 3 years to study Chemistry. She had always wanted to be a teacher and so followed this up by doing her PGCE at the Institute of Education in London. Jim meanwhile was at University College in London studying Microbiology and Genetics. So for the last year of his course they were able to share a house. As they came to the end of their studying in 1980 and while at a party, Jim proposed. Christine was worried that it was the drink that encouraged him and in the morning he wouldn't remember or indeed regret it, but this was not the case and later that year they were married.

Jim began his working career with Whitbread as a graduate trainee and was to remain employed by them for several years. Initially the job took them both to Blackburn in Lancashire where he was involved in distribution. During this time he gained both his forklift truck and HGV licences. He then moved on to the pub side of the business as an Area Manager, which meant he had to sample many of the beers at the pubs. I'm sure we sympathise with him having such an onerous task.

Meanwhile Christine began her education career teaching science in Preston at one of the secondary schools. They lived in a village on the moors above Bolton and later in the Wirral. Christine then taught for a year in Ellesmere Port, which was a real challenge as the children were often very demanding. Halfway through the year she had to have her tonsils removed – probably due to all the shouting needed to keep these youngsters under control. She then changed jobs and taught at a far more civilised establishment working at Wirral Grammar School for girls, teaching A Level Chemistry.

During this time Jim's area won a nationwide competition for the best pubs. They won a wonderful prize of three weeks in St Lucia which included as many water sports as they wanted. Just before this Christine had found out she was expecting their first daughter, Kirsty. As Jim's job was becoming busier and busier, Christine took some time out from teaching to spend with her family. Three and a half years later Kirsty's younger sister, Laura arrived. By this time they were living in Buckinghamshire and Jim had been promoted to Operations Manager for Whitbread covering Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire. Jim thoroughly enjoyed his time with Whitbread and said they were a great company to work for, but the busier he became the less time he had to spend with Christine and the girls. They decided it was time to re-evaluate their life so that they could both spend more time with their family. This meant moving to a completely different area.

Jim had often visited schools during his time at Whitbread to do careers talks and had enjoyed working with the children. He had visited Herefordshire during his time at Whitbread and as he wanted to do his teacher training, they decided they would move to there so that Jim could attend the Teacher Training College in Hereford - the only problem being that the teaching college closed in 1965 and had become the Royal National College for the Blind! They moved to Eardisley but Jim had to travel to Worcester to do his training.

Jim's first teaching role was at a school on the outskirts of Hereford, which had quite a challenging clientele. He was a science teacher there for four years before moving to Lady Hawkins School at Kington. He progressed through the ranks there until he became Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Head. While he was head of the Sixth Form he built it up from only 23 students to 75. He laughs as he says one of the ways he encouraged students to want to enrol was to make it more difficult for them; introducing interviews and

achieving high enough grades. Soon students were fighting to enrol. Jim also ran the school computers, but then a technician was employed so his input was reduced. He started up a sideline fixing computers and six years ago decided he would take early retirement and make this his main business.

Christine meanwhile said that having her own family and helping out at their schools had made her realise that she would much rather work with younger children. Therefore once both their girls were at school, she retrained to teach primary school children. She taught science and ICT at Canon Pyon and Almeley.

Thirteen years ago they decided they would like to build a house in Spain and so they re-mortgaged the house in Eardisley, bought a plot of land in Spain and had the exterior of their wonderful house built; the interior took them another seven years to complete! Ideally they felt that they would like to be without a mortgage when Jim left teaching, so they decided to downsize and try to find a restoration project as Jim loved having something to work on. The house in Eardisley sold very quickly but they were struggling to find a suitable house to buy. Kirsty lives in Knighton and having initially searched around 20 miles from Eardisley they decided to move the search out another 5 miles. The house in Chapel Lawn came on the market and it was love at first sight. They knew the house was going to fulfil everything they wanted; the only drawback was having to tell Laura that there was no mobile reception.

Since moving to Chapel Lawn in 2008 they have become thoroughly involved in village life. Christine stopped teaching in December 2012 and is now offering computer tuition and spending time on the crafts she enjoys. She is making some lovely cards and jewellery so I think we will have another Redlake Valley Artist exhibiting at the next event.

Angela Ogden

Church Restoration- Good News

Restoration work on St. Mary's Church, started on 24th March and will continue for six months until 19th September 2014. Services will continue in the Church whenever possible and in the Village Hall if it is deemed unsafe to use the Church. Many thanks for all the support given to our money raising events which has enabled work to start on the Church.

Pat Hancock & Di Cosgrove

Recent Events Jan-April

Being surrounded by sheep in this valley one cannot help but notice the main 'recent event' – Lambing!

But as to events in the Village Hall, in February this year's Art's Alive, live show was 'A Crazy Little Thing Called Love' by a small theatre company called Kepow Theatre. It was side splitting comedy, all improvised, with a theme of 'love' running through the show. The audience were asked to contribute words from their favourite songs and things they loved, which were randomly woven into the dialogue; Kevin Tomlinson and Abi Hood kept us in fits of laughter the whole evening.

The Films have had a mixed reaction; 'Star Trek' in February and 'Mud' in March were both reasonably well attended, but not to capacity. Star Trek was beset with funny green lines streaked across the screen, which was not an alien take-over but turned out to be a damaged projector! After a lot of hassle with the makers, a borrowed projector from Arts Alive for Mud and a panic last week, the mended projector was returned in working order for the packed showing of 'Memoirs of a Quiet Life' about the artistic lives and the formation of the 'Ruralist Brotherhood' of our Chapel Lawn residents Graham and Anne Arnold.

Becky Whitton

Seasonal Gardening Notes



This should be a good season for rhubarb, following the wet winter – it is a thirsty plant. Greedy, too, so be lavish with muck if you want large and plentiful stems. There are so many ways of eating rhubarb, so don't restrict yourself to crumbles and tarts: Bake fish or chicken over rhubarb stems, puree it with tomatoes for a pasta sauce, steam it in risotto, churn it into a custard-based ice cream.

Few of us actually plant rhubarb as, in old gardens, it tends to just be there, so we are unlikely to know the variety. The Victorians grew dozens of named varieties, for different flavours, colours and length of season – for medicinal as well as culinary purposes. A few are still available commercially although, being very long-lived plants, many more will continue to grow contentedly, if anonymously, around the country. I grow three different varieties – one was here when I came, and I have added 'Crimson Victory', which has thin, dark red stems and another described as 'Strawberry-flavoured', which isn't particularly and has the annoying habit of needing to be cut, rather than pulled. It also has the habit of running quickly to flower, which I rather enjoy.

The edible rhubarb is not so glamorous in flower as its decorative cousin *Rheum palmatum atrosanguinum*, which has huge leaves lined with crimson and towering stems of raspberry pink flowers. This plant gives the same sort of effect as *Gunnera*, without any of the worries about tenderness.

Hannah Willetts

Poet's Corner

Hobendred, Hobarris, Hobgoblin,
Kettles, cooking, a Marches valley,
Hob-nob, by Bradford in New
Chappell.

Barry Palmer

Redlake Recipes

Shropshire lambing cake

Ingredients

4 oz margarine or butter

4 oz sugar

2 eggs beaten

8 oz self raising flour

2 level teaspoons of mixed spice

½ level teaspoon of cinnamon

½ level teaspoon of ground ginger

Pinch of salt

4 oz of currants or sultanas

3 fl oz of milk

- Set oven to 325°F /170°C
- Grease and base line a 2lb loaf tin
- Cream the fat and sugar until light and fluffy
- Beat in the eggs a little at a time
- Sift together the flour, spices and salt
- Fold into the mixture
- Add the fruit and sufficient milk to produce a soft dropping consistency
- Turn the mixture into the tin and smooth the top
- Bake for 20 minutes and then turn the oven down to 300°F / 150°C
- Bake for a further 40/50 minutes
- Cover the top with a piece of foil if it browns too quickly
- Cool in the tin for 5 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack
- Serve sliced, plain or with butter

Di Cosgrove

(This is delicious – Ed.)

Farming Column

For those of you that don't know, my name is John Phillips and I farm at Treverward at the top of the Redlake Valley having been here for just over four years. I and my fiancée Jill moved here from Montgomery, just over the border, having sold some land to enable ourselves to farm a larger parcel of land with a house and buildings here at Treverward. I had only ever been through Clun once before to look at a piece of machinery at Teme Valley Tractors in Knighton, and little did I think when I drove through this quaint little place called Clun, that it would become my local village and that the White Horse public house would be responsible for a few to many 'late getting up this mornings'!!

Back in the farming world and as I walk to the lambing shed with a few less layers than last year, I smile to myself thinking about some wise words given to myself which went like, 'no two years are ever the same' and how true that is. It is such a relief to have had a very good spring for us livestock boys, as it makes the job of bringing all these new lives into the world so much easier and to be honest a lot more enjoyable! I always think that the true measure of how well lambing is unfolding is when you're able to turn ewes and lambs out from the sheds and into the fields in your boots (not wellies) and, after not being able to do this during the previous two years, it's been great to wear my boots for most of the main lambing period! I can speak for most farmers in saying that it comes as a huge relief that this year's feed and vet bills are greatly reduced and livestock are being turned out onto plenty of Joe Green, even in these hills at the top of the valley. Who knows what the next few months will bring, but roll on the summer I say, as it's my favourite time of the year. The next big job is to plant the forage crops; swedes, turnips and rape etc. in order to provide feed for the sheep in times when food is less plentiful during the late autumn and winter. This places less reliance on expensive, bought in feeds, which is a major factor of profitability on these upland farms in my opinion. Let's hope that the weather keeps to some kind of normality over the next few months to enable the crops to establish.

Finally it comes with great joy to announce that Jill and I are getting wed on August 1st this year after 6 years of being together (or should I say her putting up with me)! We are having a small family wedding in a local hotel and the wedding party is going to be here at Treverward at night. I feel very proud to be celebrating our marriage with all our friends and family at our home. I have however been strictly informed that it is a celebration of our marriage and

Diary

Wednesday 21st May @7.45pm in the Village Hall. Redlake Valley Community Benefit Society (RVCBS) There will be an illustrated talk by renowned author and photographer Archie Miles, entitled "Heritage Trees of the Welsh Borders" Admission free for RVCBS members; £3.00 for non-members. Books for sale.

W.I second Tuesday of the month.

Drawing Day 10am- 4pm, every second Wednesday of the month, in the village Hall

ODAS on the last Thursday in every month. 7pm & **Thursday 29th May** 7.30pm Village Hall. Talk on "Space 2014 & Beyond" by Michael Bryce. £3

Saturday 31st May 9-11am. Back by popular demand Christine Oakley & Patrick Cosgrove will be serving big breakfasts in the village hall £5.

1st June 3pm. Voices in the valley in the church, followed by cream tea £5 Proceeds to St. Mary's Church.

Thursday 24th July 2pm, Village Hall, "Getting the best from your telescope"

not a barn dance!! Needless to say, I am learning very quickly what to say and what not to say when it comes to women and weddings; I am sure all the men that have been through it will know what I mean!

Good luck and fortune to you all!

John Phillips

Produce Stall still thriving

The community produce stall continues to thrive despite the ongoing thefts of produce, which are still running at around 10%. We hope this doesn't put sellers off. Anyone is welcome to sell their spare produce on the stall but nothing high value please. The stall is now run on a double honesty basis, with sellers keeping track of their own sales, and buyers putting their money in the honesty box. Any new sellers please let Christine Page know so that she can contact you on pay day. (thesmilingtree@mac.com or 530955)