

THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 33

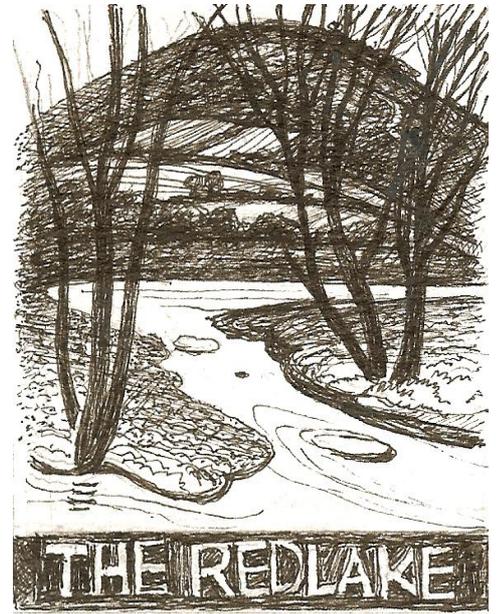
WINTER 2016

From the Editors

We have had the very sad news of two local people passing away recently, and we send our thoughts and condolences to their families and friends. Being such a small community, it is always sad when we lose somebody. On the other side, it is nice to see new people moving into the valley, and welcome them to join in with the varied events and clubs that the Valley has, and are very proud that such a small community has so many to choose from. We look forward to seeing you at future events this coming year.

Jeremy Jameson

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

A plea to Chapel Lawn drivers

In recent months, and particularly since the Chapel Lawn lane was resurfaced, several walkers/riders have noticed a definite increase in speed in cars on our road. If you are driving and see a walker or horse rider on the road, please slow right down to pass them and give them plenty of space. As well as walkers/riders, there are often other unexpected 'hazards' on our lanes around bends – sheep, pheasant, deer and other wildlife. The delivery drivers go at such a rate, that if you meet them on a bend it doesn't give you much room to manoeuvre. So please drive with care. You will only lose a few seconds of your time by doing so, but will help keep the valley a pleasant and safe place for everyone. Thank you.

The Meaning of 'New Invention'?

Everyone around here knows 'New Invention', a tiny hamlet on the A488 between Clun and Knighton. It comprises little more than four houses around a cross-roads, and a neighbouring farm called The Weir. One was a blacksmith's shop, one a pub

called the Stag's Head, and one a Methodist Chapel built in 1874. Humps and bumps nearby suggest that there may have been other dwellings at some time. There is a story that the village's unusual name came from a local farrier who hit on the idea of fitting horseshoes backwards to confuse the enemy in times of war. A variation of this story is that the farrier reversed the shoes on the horse belonging to Charles I to help him evade capture. An explanation may be found in the separate elements of the name. 'New Inn' within a place name is often a modern prefix to an older name. If that applies here, then the meaning of 'Vention' has to be explained. The first clue is that local people refer to the hamlet as 'The Vention', a nomenclature that could be older than the present name. The second clue is that many place names in the Redlake Valley, in which New Invention lies, are of Old English (Saxon) origin, and 'Vention' could have its origins in 'Fenton' or 'Fentone', a not uncommon Saxon place name meaning 'settlement in a marshy place' (Fen = marsh; ton = settlement). New Invention is low-lying between hills and a river runs through it. In the Middle Ages Welsh was the predominant language. 'F' in Welsh is pronounced

'V'. If correct, we may have a 'New inn' at a settlement in a marshy place'. A map from 1720 shows the existence of the Rose and Crown, which supports the inn theory and it might have become the Stag's Head at a later date. From this it appears to be a recently built house that bore the name 'New Invention' so not necessarily a place, although it could have been describing where a new house was newly built in The 'Vention'. This doesn't suggest that the house was an inn, but it might have been built as The Stag or have become it at a later date to replace the Rose and Crown which, according to the map, was on the other side of the road, although the road might have followed a different route in those days. So is that it? Well, maybe not. Place name experts tell us that the 'new in' element comes from *niwan*, the dative form of Old English *niwe*, meaning 'new' (dative because it would have frequently been preceded by *aet*, 'at'). This gives us the very straightforward meaning of *at the new settlement in a marshy place* – dull, but also quite possible. So, crafty farrier, new inn, house or settlement at a marshy place? You pays yer money and you takes yer pick.

Patrick Cosgrove

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A Memory of Ann Arnold



People in the Chapel Lawn area were deeply saddened to hear of the recent death of Ann Arnold. Ann and Graham moved into the Redlake Valley nearly 30 years ago and Ann immediately took it to her heart. One of the great delights of knowing Ann was the way she constantly showed her enormous pleasure in village life, the local people and the physical surroundings. Many of her pictures celebrated the beauty of the valley, encapsulated its special qualities and made your heart lift to look at them. She also recorded various aspects of village life; fetes and shows, the village bonfire, a local wedding, and her own lovely donkeys. Her pictures somehow drew the local people into her vision of the Redlake Valley and it's community, made us feel more strongly a part of it and reinforced our sense that the valley and it's community were special.

While Ann was greatly admired for her talent, she was loved for her warm and generous nature. It was almost unknown to see Ann without a smile. We all felt valued by her. When you were in conversation with Ann, she was interested and was never hurried, whatever the subject. She had a knack of making one feel special. Steve Sherring found she was the only person in the valley with whom he could discuss such abstruse subjects as shipbuilding and repair and dry docking! Ann had a Naval Architect father - and Steve says the he learnt a lot from her. He remembers too that they had a go at dowsing for her drains when the tank got blocked - "even emergencies were fun".

Together, Ann and Graham supported local activities whenever they could.

Although Ann was extremely modest about her talent, she was extraordinarily generous with it, to the great benefit of the community. She helped develop the village map, a large textile project which incorporated pictures of local houses. Ann led a group of children in painting two flanking panels of the local hills and bird life. She was a very active member of the W.I. and would contribute backgrounds or pictures for the W.I. "Shop Window" competitions. When, as occasionally happened, she was not awarded the marks she deserved by the local judges, she would just laugh: for her, taking part was what mattered. When Michael Macturk wanted to put up a village sign in memory of his wife, Jeanette, Ann offered to paint a scene for it, which we can now all enjoy. The Editors of The Redlake asked Ann if she would draw a logo, she did several, so they were spoilt for choice and her artistic addition continues to give the newsletter distinction.

If Ann and Graham were not on their travels in Europe then you would certainly see them both fully taking part in local events. Ann, reqlently in her distinctive bright yellow mac, would be helping to plan, run and enjoy the many celebrations we have had over the years. Whether it was village shows, anniversaries, jubilees, bonfires, village walks, Christmas parties, Church fund raising or latterly Redlake Art Shows, somewhere there would be Ann's calm and gentle presence and smiling face.

Ann has left a huge impact on Chapel Lawn, in her pictures, the thousands of trees she and Graham planted above the Pentre, but most especially in her lovely personality, which has enhanced the life of our community and which has warmed so many of us. The large number of local people at Ann's funeral and the many memories and conversations held about her locally are measures of the deep admiration and affection she inspired, so that we feel proud to have known her.

Her Chapel Lawn Friends.

Advance notice:

The Redlake Valley Artists will have their third exhibition at Chapel Lawn Village Hall from Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th September 2016. More info: www.redlakevalleyartists.co.uk or Sarah/Simon – 01547 528546.

Other news

Newcomers

We are delighted to welcome recent newcomers to Chapel Lawn. Firstly and belatedly, are Mark and Cuddy Ritchie who moved into The Quern in 2014.

More recently Dave and Claire Wright moved up from Surrey and now reside in the Schoolhouse next to the Village Hall. They are planning to convert part of their new home into Bed and Breakfast accommodation and we all wish them every success in their new venture.

Welcome too to Kate and Keith Fraser who have recently moved to the better end of the Redlake Valley from Bucknell to Rock Cottage at the Pentre. Kate is a very keen vegetable grower and Keith runs a carpet cleaning business... more about that in a later edition.

'An engraved memorial stone was placed on Park Hill in October in memory of Lt. Gale Carson who's plane crashed there in May 1944'



Lost somewhere in the Redlake Valley last year - Brasher walking pole! Purple with rounded black handle. Much missed! Please let Sarah Jameson know if you find it! (01547 528546)

Chapel Lawn Book Group

The group meets on the last Monday of each month, 7.30 pm at Well

House. Books are chosen by the members and there is always a very interesting and lively discussion. A few places are available. If you are interested contact Di Cosgrove: 01547 530347

An Offa's Dyke Astronomical Society Community Event

Come with us on a voyage of discovery to

“Pluto and the Outer Worlds” including images taken by the New Horizons spacecraft

Andrew Lound returns to give another of his dramatic presentations at Chapel Lawn Village Hall SY7 0BW on **Thursday 25 February** Starting at 7.30 p.m.

More information from Carolyn Wilde 01547 530085 £4 at the door including light refreshments. **All welcome**

Ron Chambers

(26/8/28 – 23/11/15)



The Forge, New Invention.

Ron Chambers was born on 26th August 1928 in Kingston Upon Hull. His father was a private chauffer working at various country estates during Ron's childhood. Due to disruption in education as schoolmasters were called up during the War and Ron not being of a studious disposition, he left school without any qualifications before turning fourteen.

As he had always been good with his hands, he decided that tool making sounded like an interesting job and started work at an engineering company; a profession he continued and enjoyed throughout his working life. He later took a correspondence course in mathematics to master trigonometry and log tables.

His career was briefly interrupted by National Service for the RAF working on aircraft engines. He was stationed at Cannock Chase, enduring the harsh winter of 1947.

After being demobbed, Ron resumed work in engineering specialising in jig boring, a specialised and skilled job involving the ultra-precise positioning of holes. In 1964 he married Jacquie, the daughter of his boss at the time! They bought a house in Stanwell near Heathrow airport, a major strain on joint income.

As well as engineering Ron could turn his hand to almost anything. He designed a large extension, doubling the floor plan of the house in Stanwell. He singlehandedly put up the roof timbers and tiles, installed central heating, the kitchen, bathrooms, much of the electrics and did all the joinery himself. He also found time to maintain a large garden planted with azaleas, rhododendrons and hydrangeas.

After Jacquie died of ovarian cancer in 2000, Ron decided that there were too many memories in the house they had built together. He eventually moved to New Invention in 2002. Once again he designed the renovation and extension of the Forge though this time employing the talented Rob Price to do all the building work. This involved spending the first year sleeping in the cold and draughty barn with washing and cooking facilities in the annex to the house.

Ron described himself as a 'Happy Recluse', looking after the wild birds in the garden.

Phil Chambers

Seasonal Gardening Notes



There were 56 different species of plants flowering on Christmas Day in my garden, including snowdrops, daffodils, violets, celandines, primroses, pulmonarias, and various other plants that should not be in flower until March or even later. Of course the frosts browned and pulped most of them so their brave,

unseasonal show did not last long. Winter-flowering shrubs, even though working correctly to their timesheet, suffer similarly from frostbite.

Some gardeners avoid this disappointment by sticking firmly to evergreen effects to carry the garden through winter, breaking up the plain greens with intermittent use of variegated and golden foliage, which can act like a spotlight in dim corners or beneath taller shrubs.

Euonymus fortunei varieties can be startling when seen en masse at the garden centre, but can become the best plants in your garden with a bit of careful positioning. They are nicely slow in growth, so won't swamp their neighbours. They will grow in the least congenial soil and outlook. They clothe the ground but also have useful holdfast stems, which will climb tidily without damaging mortar or needing support. They can be trimmed at any time, and are hardy enough for the coldest garden – blushing prettily crimson when it gets really chilly. In warm gardens they will flower and set berries, which show that they are unlikely cousins to the hedgerow spindle.

Hannah Willetts

Recent Events Oct –Jan 2016

The Autumn/Winter season started at the beginning of November with the Village Hall hosting the county quiz night. The Chapel Lawn team came second (well done to them) and all the arrangements, co-ordinated and led by Beryl, were perfect. They will be back!

The 'Flicks' this winter have been reasonably attended and have been quite diverse including 'Slow West', a western with a twist; 'Spy', a fun spoof on James Bond, with a female lead and most recently, for our Food and Flicks, 'Local Hero', accompanied by the inevitable Burn's night Haggis, neeps and tatties, and a wee dram of whisky for those that needed. Many thanks to Peter for organising and cooking and to all the other people who helped to make a very good evening. At the end of November, ODAS provided us with another film 'Interstellar', which

made a change from star gazing and learned speakers!

The Christmas Season began with our Carol Service, featuring Dave and his Granddaughter Jess, The Mudlarks, Jemima and Eileen and of course the congregation, who all sang and played instruments. The service was led by Di and Beryl and with Wayne at the organ, the church was filled with lusty carol singing.

The Village Hall then hosted the annual Christmas Party, joined by 'Paddy Christmas' and his reindeer. After a scrumptious buffet supper, various local entertainments took place; James and Bob telling jokes and anecdotes, Peter reading a new take on the Christmas story and the prize draw, all washed down with a barrel of beer and *very* reasonably priced drinks! And Christine did her utmost best to get us all to dance.

Carol singing on the Monday night before Christmas did not seem so festive this year with the weather being unseasonably warm. A good number of people turned up to sing, though a couple of them cheated and only joined at the last house, having been offered a drink or two in advance!

Chapel Lawn Village Hall now has a New Year tradition, where it plays host to a DIY Party. This year was no exception and a good number of people came with or without their own booze; lots of delicious party food, music and fancy dress (or not). Was a great evening and thanks in particular to those people who cleared up afterwards. Again Christine encouraged the dancing – with a little more success this time!

And finally... The Middle Marches Benefice has now got a new Vicar, Annie Ballard. Her Induction and installation was held at Llanfair Waterdine on 20th January and we would like to wish her all the best with her new parishes. There will be a concert on Sunday 12th June. Details in next edition.

Becky Sherman

Farming Column

What a difference a year makes. The heady days of 2014 and good weather,

improving prices and optimism for the future soon became a distant memory.

A cold start to 2015 saw a return to the norm. The lambing season arrived before the grass growing season, consequently grass was scarce all through summer.

Early June saw a spell of fine weather. The wise farmers took a light crop of good hay, the rest of us tut-tutted and sat back to wait for the crops to bulk up. Three weeks later, the crops were ready, the weather had turned and making hay was impossible. Stacks of wrapped bales began appearing in every field. The die-hards remained unmoved and waited. Some were still waiting in September for hay making weather.

Driving into the village early one July morning I noticed a hedge row had been flattened and a car was parked in the river Redlake. My first thought was the neighbour had diversified and opened a drive in car wash, my second thought was the villager renowned for hedge demolition was back from holiday.

We then had the saga of the RPA (Really Pathetic Agency) trying to change from single payment, to basic payment scheme. With chaos and confusion everywhere and having been touted by every land agent in the country, for the first time ever I employed one of them for help. Two weeks later their invoice arrived at an hourly rate most farmers would be pleased to earn in a week. As I write this, 8 months later we still await our payment. We keep getting phone calls from RPA officials wanting to clarify a point. During one of these calls I did enquire if I might get a job at the RPA. Apparently I do not have enough qualifications, not having a degree in stupidity!

Throughout the year the pound has strengthened against the euro, current exchange rate is one euro to three refugees. Great fun for holidays in Europe and imported goods, bad for exporters. All sections of the farming industry have experienced a downturn in returns, yet none of the suppliers ever reduce prices accordingly, in fact

they seem to add 10% per annum regardless.

Our decision not to renew the farm Assurance scheme annual subscription (Same old questions same old rigmarole, 10% more money) was justified when the first draw of 100 lambs made the best price of the day at Ludlow Market.

A good autumn, mild weather and plenty of grass has been tempered by the wettest December and January on record. All field work ground to a halt as even walking on it was causing poaching.

Not all doom and gloom. In the summer a large bunch of escaped cattle made their way into Chapel Lawn, having heard the grass was greener. We have reports that the lady of the household on a farm in the Purlogue area, chasing said cattle around the Lawn in her nightdress, and speculation as to what the gentleman was wearing is that he was in his birthday suit + wellies.

Late News! Just sold a load of sheep in Ludlow to our next door neighbour, so hopefully they will find their way back home and we can sell them again next week.

Bob James

Diary

Flicks in the sticks: Ex Machina, sci-fi thriller. Saturday February 13th 7.30pm. Adults £4.50 Children £3.50

ODAS: "Pluto & the outer worlds" Talk,

Thursday 25th February 7.30 £4. V.H.

Live Music: Eduardo Niebla, Flamenco Jazz guitar duo. Saturday March 5th 7.30pm. Adult £8, children £6. "Highly recommended".

Flicks in the sticks: The Martian, action/sci-fi. Saturday March 12th 7.30pm Adults £4.50, children £3.50

Flicks in the sticks: The Lady in the van. Comedy/drama. April 9th 7.30pm Adults £4.50, Children £3.50

Flicks in the sticks: Spectre. Action/thriller. Saturday May 14th 7.30pm.

W.I.- Meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month 7pm. Village Hall

ODAS on the last Thursday in every month. 7pm Village Hall