

# THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 38

SPRING 2017

## ***From the Editors***

Sadly we have lost two more of our number and we send our condolences to Carolyn Wilde for the loss of John and to Jane and Jo Williams for the loss of Paul.

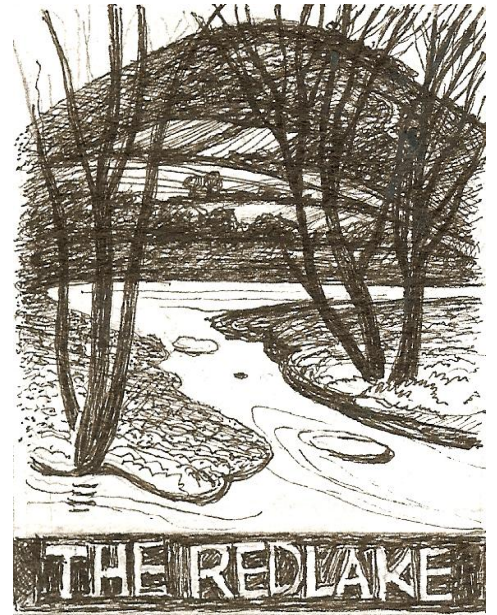
John didn't want any fuss made but he did go out with a bang, as his ashes were shot into the sky above Chapel Lawn in rockets amidst a fantastic fire work display. Way to go John.

Paul requested, 'Always look on the bright side of life' be played at his humanist service. They will both be missed by our little community.

*Jeremy Jameson*

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More information and photos of some of these articles are available on the website at <http://www.chapel-lawn.co.uk>



## **Community Woodland News from the Redlake Valley Community Benefit Society**

Although the oaks have yet to break leaf, primroses and wild daffodils have been flowering along the public footpath and bluebells are beginning to turn the ground blue.

RVCBS invited the Shropshire Council 'Wild Team' to help with conservation work on the quillet. We wanted to open up the canopy at the top of the steps to let in more light for plants to flourish. The 'Wild Team' has visited five times since November and they have taken down one or two trees. Residents may have heard the noisy banter of a chain-saw on occasions.

We have also been maintaining the steps on the quillet and putting up more bird boxes supplied by Bishops Castle Community College BTEC students. A grant from the AONB has part funded recent work to install a deer ex-closure to help conserve hazel coppice and encourage other ground flora. More about that at the Woodland Fair!

*Karen Limbrick*

## **Fast Broadband now in the Redlake**

We are delighted to report that several households in the upper Redlake valley are now connected and going live with the new fast wireless broadband service provided by Secure Web Services (SWS).

Further households will be connected in the next few weeks (those within direct line of sight of the mast now at Garn Farm). Those who wish to be connected but are not in line of sight of the mast will be dealt with very soon we hope.

If any household in the upper Redlake - including Pentre, Hobarris, New Invention, Purlogue, Treverward and Pen y Wern - wishes to receive a fast wireless broadband service and has not yet expressed an interest, please contact SWS on 0333 7000 227. Broadband vouchers are still available to cover the cost of installation.

## **Chapel Lawn Broadband Update**

After prolonged negotiations with BT and Shropshire Council, contracts were finally signed to install Superfast

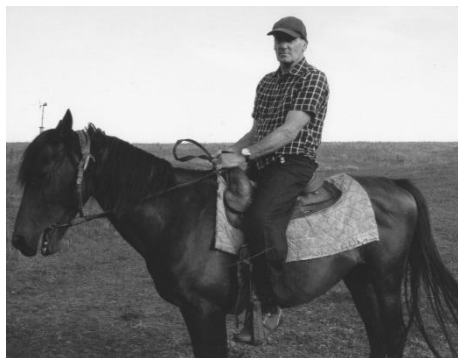
Broadband up the valley from Bucknell to Chapel Lawn. The scheme will provide "fibre to premise" for 20 properties and "fibre to cabinet" to a further 16 properties. The success of the application was achieved by residents applying for, and getting, 28 Basic Broadband Subsidies between them!

BT are contractually obliged to complete the work no later than March 2018, however it is hoped work will start shortly.

## **Hodre Pond**

You should have received a flyer about the pond at the end of February. In early March a small group of Redlake residents met Fiona Gomersall (Shropshire Wildlife Trust) and John Clayfield, both botanists, to look at how best to care for this important pond in the future. We did a little bit of pondweed removal but as it was almost spawning time, we were advised to leave further weed clearance until next winter. Fiona and John will produce a plant list for the pond in the summer and hopefully with gentle management over time, the pond's biodiversity will increase.

## OBITUARY: Doug Stead



Douglas Stead died in an accident in November 2016. This profile is taken from the obituary prepared by friend of the family Rachael Morris. Doug was born in Clun in 1951 he was the fourth of seven children and the family lived at this time at the Ridings, Church Bank, Clun. In 1967 they moved to the Lye (now called Rose Heart Kingdom). This is where Doug spent his childhood. He attended Chapel Lawn School and later Knighton Senior School. School wasn't Doug's favourite occupation and it was no surprise that he could often be found up to some sort of mischief, not least when he and his friends Bernard Evans and Jim Didalick painted white dots all over the headmasters brand new car!

Doug was happiest at home, hurtling down hill in tractor tyres with his siblings or on sheets of corrugated tin in the snow with only the hedge at the bottom to act as a brake. One evening after hearing his father Cliff telling his mother that he had ordered a new set of harrows to get rid of the mole tumps, Doug decided to help his father and recruited his brother John to help him after school the next day by doing some harrowing. Later that evening their neighbour Mrs. Grimes rang the Steads to say she had seen Cliff's landrover going madly round the field with no driver. Cliff ran out to see his brand new 12ft harrows which the boys had driven through the 10ft gate – imagine the scene!

Even at this young age Doug was a

talented mechanic and when given their first car by Pete and Beryl Sharp, towed it back to the Lye with an engine full of sand and round the back of the house. He stripped it down and rebuilt it, having it up and running by next morning.

Doug had a logical brain and could just see how things fit together; he could turn a box of bits into a fully functioning piece of equipment. However, to quote John Tranter “you could beg Doug to fix something and he would be too busy, but turn your back for 5 minutes and he would have it done”. Doug's love of driving led him to become involved in Autograss racing when it was known as bed steading. His first car was a mini and he then moved into 'specials'. As always Doug made them from whatever he could get his hands on, the only new part of his 'special' being the steering joint. When he wasn't racing himself he was always keeping others on track with his generosity and mechanical ability. Bruce Campbell on one occasion blew his engine in practice and Doug solved the problem by removing the Ford engine from his road car, a Morris 1000 pickup, fitting it into Bruce's race car and then swapping it back after the meeting so he could drive home.

Always being full of fun, the story goes that no one ever got one over on Ivor Williams except Doug! One day Doug turned up at James Middleton's to do some lime spreading, Ivor (Dukins) being helpful, opened the gate for him and trapped himself behind the gate. As Doug passed through into the field he turned on the spinner covered Dukins in lime!!!

Doug had a love of animals and many people will remember his faithful dog Toby who was never far from his side. He also had an affinity with horses having learned to ride at Lye and competed at the Teme Valley pony club winning many prizes on his pony Su.

Although many people would not know that Doug was a good horse man, he never lost his skill with them. One day, coming across the Tranters who had just taken delivery of a new horse, he discovered that they were nervous of trying it out being unsure of its temperament. Doug jumped onto the horse, dashed off towards the Garn and back, jumped off and told them it was OK. Doug met his wife Margaret in 1971 and they married in 1973 and in August that year their first son Matthew was born. Mr and Mrs Stead lived in Brampton Bryan until 1975 when they moved to Guilden Down. In March of that year their daughter Clare was born. In 1983 the family moved to Newcastle on Clun. Doug worked hard throughout these years and became well known in Herefordshire, Powis and Shropshire, harrowing and lime spreading. It's hard to see who will keep the hillsides in good order now that he is gone.

Doug's family had grown over the years and he was very proud of his grandchildren Kieran, Daniel, Callum, Seth and Eli. Doug loved his time with his family spending holidays in Ireland and Bulgaria. He especially enjoyed watching Kieran and Daniel Autograss racing. He packed a lot into his last year visiting Ireland with the whole family in March, the Dorset steam rally with Margaret, and on 15<sup>th</sup> October for his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday he did the Snowdonia Zipwire with Matthew.

Doug wasn't materialistic, he believed time well spent was more important than money and that upcycling was the way forward. He had a quiet way with things whether people, dogs, horses or engines; he was witty, funny and would help anyone in need, his whole family are incredibly proud of him and their only regret is that they were unable to tell him this, especially Margaret who was unable to say goodbye.

*Rachael Morris, Cath Stead.*

## Seasonal Gardening Notes



Lily of the valley has delicate bell flowers, the most delicious scent and a will of iron. Where it is content nothing will stop its progress, but many people find it will not grow at all for them.

I have read of success where the normally horizontally placed roots are buried vertically; also where the roots are simply laid on the surface of the soil and then ignored. It is also suggested that they should be planted to the south of where you actually want them to grow, as they invariably march northwards. They are woodland plants, favouring damp, shady leaf mould, but the best plants I ever saw were growing in a sun-baked, ant-infested gravel drive; worth trying then, in any situation in your garden.

There are several different forms now with flowers that are pink or double like tiny roses and with leaves edged or striped with gold, or 'giant' forms that stand a whopping 10 inches tall. All are perfectly beautiful and just one flower stem will scent a room.

*Hannah Willetts*

## Poet's Corner

**Haiku:** a Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, in three lines of five, seven, and five, traditionally evoking images of the natural world.

*Windmills stand at sea;*

*Runic meanings in their sails.*

*The Vikings are back!*

*Simon Jameson*

## Woodland Fair Bulletin

Chapel Lawn's second Woodland Fair on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 10.00 am-4.30 pm, is taking shape well with a great selection of stalls, demos and activities being lined up for the day, all with a woodland, tree or wildlife theme. We've secured an excellent speaker in Dr Andy Wigley for the

evening talk on our wonderful Caer Caradoc hillfort (7.00 pm) and he's now also agreed to return to the Redlake the following weekend (15<sup>th</sup> October) to conduct a guided walk on the ramparts. Both events are likely to be popular so make sure you book early!

One of the reasons the Redlake Valley Community Benefit Society is holding the fair is to create an opportunity for businesses/ self-employed people in the valley to promote their products and services. For example the Redlake Valley Artists will have a stand there with a selection of their work on sale. There will be no charge for this, so if you've not already been approached about it and might be interested, do get in touch with Patrick Cosgrove on 01547 530347 or [patrick@cosgr.plus.com](mailto:patrick@cosgr.plus.com)

## Five Hundred Year Commemoration Of A Chapel In Chapel Lawn.

It has been decided to plant a yew tree by the grave yard to commemorate 500 years of having a Chapel of Worship here in Chapel Lawn, 1517-2017.

The Yew will be planted in the autumn, as that is recommended as the best time of the year to plant a yew tree. Let us hope it has a long and fruitful life, as there is a yew tree in Discoed Churchyard that is thought to be five thousand years old!

Please see the additional piece on the history of a Chapel in Chapel Lawn.

## Recent Events in the Village Hall

Although there seems to have been lots going on in the last three months, I find that films are the only events I need to write about; other events are covered elsewhere. Oh – apart from the piano; finally delivered, installed, dried out (keys unstuck) and now tuned and tweaked to make it sound pretty. It is available to anyone who would like to play it and it really should be played.

The films, *Star Trek 'Beyond'*, *Deep Water Horizon* and *A Street Cat Named Bob* have all been well received and reasonably well attended. We need to have good numbers in the audiences,

because soon we are going to have to pay another £50 a year to Arts Alive to ensure their survival. Arts Alive subsidises the PR fees needed for us to show the films and also subsidise the live shows which we are able to enjoy in Chapel Lawn. It is essential in providing rural areas with culture and entertainment otherwise only available by making a long trip to Shrewsbury, Hereford, Birmingham or other big town. Please contact Christine Rogers (01547 530258) if there are any films about to be released which you would really like to see next season.

Our Food and Flicks on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April rounded off the film season for this year. Di and Peter cooked delicious spicy chicken, vegetarian and bobotie with couscous; an African theme to compliment the film 'A United Kingdom'. This was a delightful film about the first President of Botswana and his English wife and their fight for independence. We had a comfortably full hall and a really fun evening. Many thanks to everyone involved with organising this event and to those who have hosted all the other flicks throughout the season.

Another 'Doug' story: Playing tag at Upper Lye from Trevor Morris.

Trying to catch Doug to 'tag' him as he climbed up onto the apex of the stable roof, the others followed. All were crawling along the top of the roof. Suddenly Doug slid all the way down the roof, shot off the end and into the muck heap. Surprisingly no one else followed and Doug stood up shouting "I won!"

## **THE SULTANA BROTHERS**

Performing live in Chapel Lawn Village Hall

Friday 2nd June 8:30pm

Bar with real Ale.

Performance 9:00pm.

Tickets £6

TICKET ONLY –To buy or reserve tickets please contact:

Christine 01547 530258 or  
Lillian 01588 640458

Raffle prizes gratefully received, please contact Lillian.  
Profits from tickets and raffle in aid of Cancer Research UK.

**Offa's Dyke Astronomical Society  
Community Events Team  
present**

**THE ANNUAL CREAM TEA  
AND  
PRESENTATION BY SYDNEY  
CRUMP**

Saturday 1 July 2017 at Chapel Lawn  
Village Hall

starting at 2.30 pm.

Tickets £6 for tea and talk

This year Sydney presents a biopic history of Chapel Lawn in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Who was the mysterious man who brought his family to the "Old House", who helped raise funds to build the bridge over the River Redlake? Where do pianos fit into the story and what has that to do with the planet Mars?

Joining Syd will be astronomers, Graham Arnold and Mike Bryce, to help tell the story behind this man of mystery.

Tickets £6 for tea and talk

To reserve your place(s) email  
cmwilde@btinternet.com\_or ring  
01547 530085

**DO JOIN US FOR THIS  
ENTERTAINING EVENT!**

### Farming Column

Another lambing season almost over, weather-wise surely one of the better ones. Ewes and lambs have been turned out to a bite of grass although the onset of blackthorn, winter and a cold northerly wind has slowed growth. It has taken fifty years to achieve, but finally the perfect lambing; no dead ewes, no prolapses, no singles, no tiddlings. I would like to say no dead lambs, but sheep have twelve commandments not ten. A couple of our girls adhered rigorously to the eleventh 'Thou shalt lie on the best lamb and suffocate it'!

With only fourteen ewes, when our graziers were scanning we ran ours through at the same time. New scanner man but same old technique; guess a number and

shout it out. When the first two Zwartbles ewes, which had both scanned twins, produced triplets I emailed scanner man ( he doesn't answer phone this time of year) for an explanation. Back came the reply 'Zwartbles lambs are black - job to see them in the womb'!

When I agreed to come out of retirement and do 'a piece' for the Redlake, I realised I no longer had the information supplied by the main roving reporter, Doug Stead. If Doug didn't know about it, it hadn't happened. Everyone will have anecdotes about Doug's escapades, here is one of mine:

I was following the weekly bus back from Knighton to Chapel Lawn, between New Road turn and the village. Suddenly there were two white flashes. The first was Doug in one of his infamous white vans hurtling past the bus at 60 mph. The gap was so narrow he had taken the ditch and was coming by me on two wheels. The second white flash was Doug grinning broadly as he dropped back onto four wheels as he passed me and sped away. The bus stopped at the top house for Annie Middleton to disembark. The driver helped her out with her shopping and the driver walked round to me and the following conversation ensued;

Driver: 'Did you recognise him?'

Me: (diplomatically) 'All I saw was a white roof flashing by.'

Driver: 'Yeah, must have been doing 70.'

Me: 'Maybe...'

Driver: 'Tell you one thing though, I'll bet he needs a clean pair of trousers!'

I smiled and thought to myself, I'll bet he doesn't!

The usual suspects in Chapel Lawn have had another car-tastrophe. The gentleman of the house decided the car needed washing, and the cheapest option was to

drive through the ford in Clun. Good job washing the outside of the car, sadly it did an equally good job of washing the inside of the engine. We gather they have bought another car now, let's hope it's not a ford!

Finally ten months after the vote to quit the EU, the formal letter to exit has gone in; let's just get on with it. Some people have already quit Europe - Mr Wenger took his football team out in no uncertain fashion!

Ah well back to the pipe and slippers.

*Bob James*

### **Diary**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April:** Work starts on the village hall car park. Approx time of work two weeks. Please note there may be disruption to the entrance hall and mess!

**Town & Parish Elections:**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May all day.

**Big Breakfast: \*Please note New Date!** Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 9.00am - 12 noon, with plant & cake stall.

**VH AGM:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30pm. Bar available & film:

**Britain On Film:** Rural Life 1904-1981. 75 mins long.

**Benefit Society AGM & Talk:** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 7pm. Richard Thomason speaking on 'Bringing woodlands to life - for people, wildlife and timber'.

**W.I. Planning meeting:** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May.

**ODAS AGM:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Sultana Brothers "Live music":** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. 8.30pm Bar & Raffle.

**PCC Meeting:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm

**General Election:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**ODAS Talk & Tea:** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 1.30pm to 5pm.

**Accordian Music:** Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Evening.

**W.I.- Meeting** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month 7pm.Village Hall

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