

# THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 45

WINTER 2019

## From the Editors

Happy New Year to you all, even though it is quite late in the month. I feel we need some good wishes in this strange political climate we are in at the moment. Thank you to everyone who sent in a photo for this month's edition, obviously the next one is Spring, (seems a long way off) so if you would like to send in a spring photo, when spring arrives, or an article for the next edition it will be well received.

*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>



*Photo by Clare Wright*

## CHRISTMAS BAKE OFF

The event saw (and consumed) lots of fantastic food – pies, pastries, stews, tagines... Well done to everyone. £429.70 was raised from entrance and raffle for the Church.

The event also had a build a house out of ginger bread competition which was great fun, with most of the houses falling apart, some fast and some slowly. This was won by the team Dom and Barry.

The winning pie was from Simon Jameson with his Redlake Pie. Based loosely on the Shropshire Fidget Pie this was a (new invention) celebration of produce from our very own Redlake valley. Simon would like to thank all those that contributed ingredients for his Redlake Pie (incl. pheasant, venison, onions, chestnuts, wild garlic, eggs, Bramley & crab apples...)

Perhaps James would like to grow and mill some wheat for us for next time and then we would approach 100% home-grown.

Apparently Simon now thinks he's earned the right to tell his wife that he's not doing it all wrong!

The editorial team comprises: Becky Sherman, Pat Jameson, Christine Oakley, Jeremy Jameson, How to contact us: by mail The Redlake Editors, Squire Farm, Chapel Lawn, SY7 0BW by telephone 01547 530530 or by e-mail [theredlake@squirefarm.co.uk](mailto:theredlake@squirefarm.co.uk) Printing by Jim & Christine Rogers.



## COMMUNITY LED PLAN

A small group is investigating whether a community plan would have support. I volunteered to join them. The focus is somewhat centred on the town of Clun where the majority of members live. If the project progresses it is important that voices from more rural areas are heard. I would therefore welcome your views. You would not be committing yourself to getting involved but, if you would like to, that would be excellent.

Community Led Plans are produced by the community and cover those matters that the community feels are important. Transport, housing, environment, planning, community facilities and more. Importantly, from these broad issues come

smaller projects that can make a real difference to our community. The focus is on coming up with a plan to retain what we want to preserve, to change those things that we want to change and to ensure that the production of the plan is just the beginning.

What matters is that community aspirations are realised through follow up and action. Action, that is, by the community, using local government and other statutory bodies and any organisation willing to help us reach our goals. (Please see full article on web-site.)

*Carolyn Wilde*

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01547 530085

## FOOD AND FLICKS

By popular demand we are planning a Food & Flicks event to finish the Flicks season on Saturday 27th April. A delicious 2-course meal will be served at 6pm, followed by the Film **Bohemian Rhapsody** at 7.30pm. Please book tickets in advance Adults £12, Children £7. Contact Christine on 01547 530258. See the diary dates

on page 4 for the other films this season.

## PROFILE:

### COLIN MORRIS – POSTMAN



It is sometime since the Redlake News covered the work of the wonderful postal workers who serve us so well in this hilly terrain. Colin Morris is our postman, and Trudy Gough covers the round when required.

The Redlake Valley is part of the Hopton Castle round, one of eight Colin has knowledge of. I noticed that Colin's van had travelled over 105,000 miles. It is only 5 years old!

I asked the following questions.

#### What are the shift patterns?

Most postal staff work a 0700 to 14.30 shift, however for Colin his shift starts at 10.30am and ends at 6.30 pm. The day starts with collecting ready sorted mail items before starting a round. The deliveries have to finish by 4pm in order to do the collections by 6.30pm.

Each round has a book called a walk log which lists all places to deliver to and has a map in it, the posties can write in this any hazards at the various drops (delivery locations) and special delivery information and changes to the round.

#### Have you had any difficult experiences in bad weather such as this last winter?

The decision to stop deliveries when conditions are bad is made by the manager at Craven Arms. Rather than cancelling the whole round the staff will do what they can such as covering low lying areas, if the snow and ice is just in the hills. Snow, ice and fog can be very localised so it isn't an exact science judging what can and can't be delivered. If a round

is cancelled the postie assists a colleague on another round that is able to get out. They help their colleague to deliver the parcels and try to save time when bad weather means longer walking times to properties and other complications. On the Redlake Valley round Colin has only got stuck once, up at Cwm Farm above Clunton where the farmer came to his help with a 4W drive vehicle. Elsewhere farmers have helped in bad conditions with tractors.

#### Most unusual thing found in a post-box?

Finding sweets and cartons of squash is common, placed there by children for the postie to have during a break.

#### How big is the round?

There are about 300 places to deliver to on the Hopton Castle round.

#### Anything customers could do to help?

Yes please!

1. Overgrown paths can be very hazardous with tripping hazards. Over hanging branches are a nuisance, especially when wet as brushing against them results in a soaking.

2. When you have a new door please remember to include a new post-box in your plans and have a word with the postie, warning them beforehand of the changeover and where you would like mail left. If there is going to be a period without a post-box the postie can't guess what your wishes are!

#### You must have to deal with animals. Any stories to tell?

Marian Bright, who used to do our round, opened up the back of the van to find a dog. It had jumped into van during one of the calls, she had driven some distance since the last call so had to go back to make a second delivery to the address, this time to return the dog!

Once Colin was going up to Hobarris and there was a cow in the road, it wouldn't move to the side of the road and walked slowly, stopping to graze every so often. Colin did his various

deliveries but each time he re-joined the lane the cow was still there, a little further along, he eventually managed to get past it at Pen-y-Wen crossroads.

#### Any stories about badly packed items.

Badly packed items are a rarity. When a package or parcel has burst open the item is taken to the manager at the sorting office who verifies the problem and the item is placed in a strong plastic bag so that no items within the parcel can go astray. Paperwork outlining the problem is completed and the manager signs this. The item can then be placed for delivery on the next round.

#### Anything else you think the community may not appreciate.

Colin has been doing postal work for 12 years and enjoys his job, he says, "always say Hello", to the postie, they like to be part of the community.

#### Has the nature of the job changed in recent years?

With the growth in internet use, letters have declined, people communicate now by email, social media and texting. Colin has also noticed a decline in the number of cards, even at Christmas. How many of us send postcards from our holidays these days?

Colin and I agreed that although there are other ways to communicate, receiving a letter is always rather special and that it's nice to receive a proper card. Colin says his motto would be "send a card and a smile". Whilst the internet has reduced the number of letters it has generated a huge increase in parcels, due to the growth of internet shopping.

I would like to thank Colin Morris for giving up his own time to be interviewed for this article.

No mail was delayed by the compilation of this article!

*Steven Oakden*

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

To Christine Oakley who had a fine party in the Village Hall to celebrate, and the band made the whole event go

with a swing. The Hall was packed with friends, and we wish her all the best for the future.

### 'Tales from the Hive'



#### THREE MEN AND A SWARM

Paul and I had caught the Bee bug. We had inherited some hives from old Mister Shirley Dodd down in Bucknell. A mix of Nationals, W.B.C's and something made of 1940's Fray-Bentos boxes. We had been on the Beekeepers Taster Course, bought a bee-suit and a hive tool each and we both had those empty hives. Nothing holding us back.

Now Dick, Shirley's old mate, knew about these things and reckoned that soon there would be plenty of swarms for the taking. We just needed a modicum of patience. And so we waited. Eons seemed to pass and then one morning we got a call. Dick had heard of a swarm in the vicar's garden. No problem as our village was presently without a vicar and we would be doing everyone a service by removing it. Soon we assembled, all kitted up, big box for the swarm and hearts full of hope.

It took us quite a while to find the swarm 'cos we weren't looking high enough, but when we did find it - wow! It was a huge primary swarm, as big as a beach-ball and on a branch over 35ft high. We looked at Dick who seemed unperturbed and who issued us with our tasks. I got our telescopic branch lopper and extended it by lashing on two lengths of roofing batons. Paul drove in four stakes and stretched out a quilt cover as a landing ground. Dick placed the cardboard box ready.

Have you ever seen pictures of the monument to the US Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima? That was the three of us trying to get 35ft of combined pole and lopper into the air. It swayed alarmingly in the air for a while and then struck the branch with a clout. Nobody breathed for 30 seconds. When the buzzing died back down to a murmur Dick said 'Go on, cut it'. As I pulled the cord for the cutter the whole assembly began to bend like the one string fiddle. 'Go on' said Dick 'don't be a wimp, cut it'.

Lots of things seemed to happen at once. There was a loud crack as the roof battens snapped, the branch swung from horizontal to vertical, and the bees lost their grip. 'RUN' shouted Dick causing the three of us to defy the laws of physics by occupying the same space on the narrow path.

The bees now started to descend at an acceleration of 32ft/sec/sec and covered 30ft in a blink of an eye. After 32ft they changed direction, formed a reverse mushroom cloud and passed over our cowering heads with inches to spare, buzzing alarmingly.

We slowly got up and walked back. Paul's duvet was impaled by the branch and a jagged piece of batten, but there was not a single Bee to be seen. All was silent. We looked at Dick. 'You don't always get them' he said.

*Steve Sherring*

#### SEASONAL GARDENING NOTES



The Christmas decorations are stashed for another year and the greenery composted, but The Holly and The Ivy are not just for Christmas carols – they are wonderful, hardy shrubs and decorative enough in shape, form, leaf and colour to earn a place in every garden.

Ivy clings by means of fibrous holdfasts. These are not roots and they do not penetrate sound mortar or

tree bark. Yes, ivy can lift roof slates, but that is our fault for planting it on too low a building and for not keeping its long, questing shoots out of mischief. And its weight can pull down a rotten, or too slender tree. But mostly, ivy is a benign and sheltering coverlet for both wall and bark, particularly when it has outgrown its support and morphed into its arborescent form. At this point it changes everything about itself, growing shrubby, rather than climbing, shoots; ovate, rather than fingered leaves; even flowers and fruits – beloved of wildlife. If cuttings are taken from these shoots, the plant will stay shrubby and can be clipped almost as tightly as box.

Holly has even more surprises up its sleeve. It will also change its foliage – once above the browsing line, its leaves become paler, softer and prickly-free. It will flower and fruit then more splendidly too, always supposing you have provided it with a husband. Holly is dioecious, which means that plants are not self-fertile. You need to plant a male holly within flirting distance of your females. Good nurseries will label accordingly, although this can also confuse as holly names are notoriously gender-fluid: 'Golden King' is a female, whereas 'Golden Queen' and 'Silver Queen' are both male.

*Hannah Willetts*

#### RECENT EVENTS OCTOBER-DECEMBER

The festive season brought opportunities to get together in the Village Hall and enjoy each other's company whilst having a lot of fun and some excellent food too! There was a huge turnout for the "Christmas Bake Off" on 1<sup>st</sup> December which was billed as a "Fun evening for all the family" and it certainly was. Watching the 6 contestants attempting to construct gingerbread houses was highly entertaining and with hindsight the 1st prize should have been awarded for the house that stayed standing the longest! The "Cake Off" contest was followed by a most delicious spread of savoury food supplied by the

menfolk with the competition for the best savoury dish being awarded to Simon Jameson for a really impressive raised game pie that looked and tasted amazing. The Christmas Party followed a couple of weeks later, another fun filled evening with good company, a very tasty bring and share supper, a great film - Finding your Feet, rounded off with music and dancing. We finished the year on another high with a really enjoyable party on New Year's Eve. This was the third gathering in a row where the food was brought along by everyone there and it seems to be the perfect way to ensure a delicious feast. We chatted, ate, drank, danced and made merry into the early hours of 2019!

The Autumn season of Flicks in the Sticks has been a huge success and it was very heartening to see the Village Hall packed with people for the screenings of 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society', 'Edie' and 'Finding Your Feet'. Everyone on the mailing list is invited to have a say and the films are selected by popular vote. We seem to attract really friendly people and there is always such a warm and sociable atmosphere.

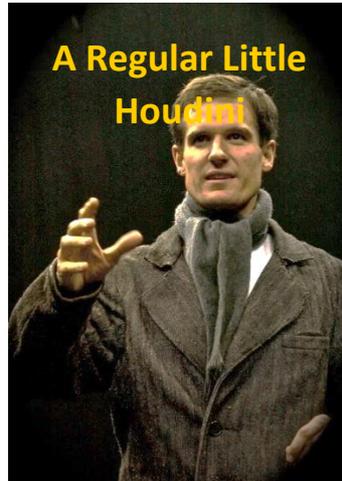
Chapel Lawn hosted the South Shropshire Village Halls Quiz Night in early December and everyone involved pulled together to make it a very successful evening, although sadly the home team were not the winners. Although varied in topic, the questions were consistent in difficulty but the atmosphere remained light-hearted and fun throughout.

The Carol Service, was well attended, with some lovely Carols sung, and it was nice to see the local children taking part. It was all finished off with some delicious home-made mince pies & washed down with Sherry.

A few extra local ladies joined the December meeting of the WI and we all made very festive looking Christmas wreathes to hang on our front doors. We enjoyed a good chat and a glass of wine or two as we

worked. An interesting and varied Programme of WI meetings for 2019 is underway and we welcome visitors to come along and meet us and see what we have to offer. A talk on hot air ballooning, an evening of indoor kurling and a talk on chocolate making, with tasting, are coming up over the next few meetings.

*Christine Rogers*



A wonderfully evocative one-man play set in Edwardian working class Newport, South Wales, as seen through the eyes of a young boy who idolises Harry Houdini and dreams to emulate him as a star escapologist. The story incorporates social history, real life industrial events, family relationships, gripping drama, humour, pathos, hopes and dreams - all delivered charmingly and with great humanity and vivacity by Daniel Llewelyn-Williams. A beautiful play about hope and magic!

Adults £10 Children £5

Contact: [marioncox89@gmail.com](mailto:marioncox89@gmail.com)  
07964-710983 to book.

### NEW ORGAN AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CHAPEL LAWN

A magnificent new organ was recently installed at St. Mary's church. It sounds wonderful and to celebrate its installation there will be a concert on **Saturday 11th May**.

There will be local organists playing, The Llanfair singers, Graham Trew and Becky Sherman singing.

**Drinks and canapes** will be served in the village hall prior to the concert at **6.30pm**. The concert will begin at **7.30pm**. Please come along with

your friends and neighbours. For further details contact Di Cosgrove 01547 530347,

[deedee151@hotmail.com](mailto:deedee151@hotmail.com)

### ADVANCE NOTICE:

The fourth Redlake Valley Artists exhibition will take place in Chapel Lawn Village Hall from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd September 2019 (with an evening preview on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>), showing paintings, drawings, jewellery, hand printed books, photography, printmaking and much more! Guest artist: Tamsin Abbott (stained glass). Keep an eye on our website for updates -

[www.redlakevalleyartists.co.uk](http://www.redlakevalleyartists.co.uk)

or contact Sarah on 01547 528546 / [images@sarahjameson.co.uk](mailto:images@sarahjameson.co.uk)

### DIARY

**ODAS:** Thursday 31st Jan

**APCM Church AGM** Tues 5th  
February 7.30pm

**ODAS:** Thursday 7th Feb

**W.I.** Tuesday 12th Feb. 7pm

**Flicks:** Saturday 16th Feb 'The Children Act' 7.30pm.

**V.H Committee Meeting:**  
Tuesday 19th Feb 7.30pm

**ODAS:** Thursday 21st Feb

**ODAS:** Thursday 28th Feb

**ODAS:** Thursday 7th March

**Flicks:** Sat 9th March 'First Man'  
7.30pm.

**W.I.** Tuesday 12th March 7pm

**ODAS:** Thursday 28th March  
8pm

**Arts Alive:** Saturday 30th  
March 'A Regular Little Houdini'

**W.I.** Thursday 9th April 7pm

**Food & Flicks:** Saturday 27th  
April. Food 6pm film 7.30pm.  
'Bohemian Rhapsody'

**Church Organ & Choir**

**Concert:** Sat 11th May, in St.  
Mary's Church, reception in  
village Hall at 6.30pm