

THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 47

SUMMER 2019

From the Editors

I was thinking there wasn't much to report, but record summer temperatures, 50 year celebration of the Moon Landing and don't mention the elephant in the room beginning with 'B', that is the wider picture. Recently we have lost four long standing residents and things are changing locally and globally; wow! suddenly the picture has got rather large. I also wish large and small companies would address the plastic issue as there are alternatives available now. Recyclable plastic, glass bottles, hessian and paper bags, loose fruit and veg etc. Strangely, if you go back 50 years, all these things were already in use and plastic wasn't. Maybe it's a case of taking a backward step for man, to make another giant leap for mankind.

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>



View from Bryncalled

Chapel Lawn Ramble and Lunch in the Redlake Valley



The above event will be held on Sunday 8th September 2019, assembling from 10.30 am in the Redlake Village Hall car park. There are six different routes to choose from, so walkers may select the one most

suited to their abilities. (Please note the paths are not suitable for prams/buggies)

A delicious home prepared buffet lunch will be awaiting the ramblers upon their return to the Village Hall. Lunches will be served from 12.00 noon to 2.00pm and will be available for all visitors whether you wish to meet with friends just for the meal or join one of the walks.

Tickets are £8.00 for adults, £4.00 for children (under 14).

Please contact Beryl Palmer (01547 530106) and/or Christine Oakley (01547 530585) for ticket information or you can purchase your ticket on the day at the village hall.

All proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church
Beryl Palmer

Redlake Valley Artists fourth exhibition



**Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd
September, Chapel Lawn
Village Hall
Special early preview for
Redlake residents!**

Everyone is invited to the fourth Redlake Valley Artists exhibition which takes place from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd September.

On Thursday 19th September, there will be a special Preview for all local residents -and this will start at 6pm.

There will be a unique chance to buy framed prints (some signed) from Graham and Ann Arnold, kindly being offered for sale by Tamsin Abbott (part of the proceeds of which will go to the church). We think these may be popular, so do come early!

There will be paintings, drawings, photography, stained glass, printmaking, jewellery, hand printed books, stone and wood carving, gift ideas and much more!

The exhibition is free and there will be the usual delicious home baking and teas and a warm welcome.

Everyone very welcome! Just come for a look around and a chat or a cup of tea!

See www.redlakevalleyartists.co.uk or contact Sarah Jameson

01547 528 546

images@sarahjameson.co.uk

Mary Elmona Owen



Mary Elmona Owen, or as we liked to call her - *Gran*, was born on Wednesday 20th July 1921 at Farr Hall, Dolau. Her parents were Evan Thomas Hamer and Margaret Jane Meredith. She was one of five children - Meredith Vernon, Edward Thomas, John Gilbert, Mary Elmona and Margaret Violet.

Life was busy on the farm and with staff employed by her father, there were always people coming and going. Gran recalled many childhood memories, including her 2-mile walk to school, with great fondness - except of course during a cold winter when icicles would hang from her coat. She spoke of the beautiful wood panelling in the house and the nanny who always looked out for her. During her days in school, she received the cane only once for not quite standing straight in line.

In 1924, the family had their first motor vehicle and Gran would sit in the front and pretend to drive it from a young age. With another Mary regularly visiting the farm, Mary was called Mona and that was how she was known for the rest of her years.

Two of Gran's brothers died young, which greatly affected the family. Vernon passed away of appendicitis in 1934 aged 18 years. Teddy who never fully recovered after contracting scarlet fever along with the rest of the family, passed away just 3 years later in 1937, aged 19 years. Surrounded by difficult memories, the family moved to Studd Farm, Bleddfa.

When the war came, Gran wanted to join the Women's air force. However, when her papers arrived, they said no as the family had suffered enough loss and she was needed on the farm. Gran spoke of the many guests staying at the farm during the Blitz, how she loved meeting them and learning of their glamorous

lives back in London. They were obviously a great inspiration to her.

Gran was also inspired by her favourite teacher and dreamed of becoming a domestic science teacher. She was quite the independent woman and would stay with cousins in London attending events such as Royal Ascot.

Gran met Arthur at a Young Farmers Dance in Knighton, and in October 1951 (the same year as the village hall was built) they were married. They lived together at Chapel Lawn Farm with Arthurs's mother Minnie. Gran worked incredibly hard to improve the residence often saying how much it needed it! She was very house-proud and liked to keep both the house and the garden well-presented.

Gran was forward-thinking, and she was the driving force for the growth of the farm. She spent 3 years with Arthur before they had their first child in 1954. On the 31st May, Graham Giles Hamer was born and on 1st October 1957, they had another child, Janet Mary. Both children went to Chapel Lawn School. She would recall how Graham would happily play with his toy farm mimicking exactly what was happening outside. Janet would go for rides on her pony and play with the local girls and her cousin, Sandra.

Gran was not afraid to get her hands dirty and would do more than her fair share of jobs on the farm. She would pull lambs and prepare the Clun sheep for market by washing their faces, trimming their fleece, and marking them with an 'O'. She also kept poultry, selling the eggs to Evans at Bishop's Castle, giving her extra money towards the household budget and retaining some independence.

Gran was a strong character and had difficult times to deal with. Both her husband and her mother-in-law enjoyed a drink. She would tell us that no good would ever come of drinking and recalled a party in Knighton where she hid her glasses of sherry behind a curtain.

In 1979, Graham married Rosemary Lewis and they farmed nearby at Pentre Hodre. In 1982, Rachel was born, and in 1984, Jennifer was born. Gran was delighted to have grandchildren and had more time to show a softer side.

In 1986, Janet married Jonathan Benbow and they moved to Orchard Cottage. Shortly after, they moved to the farmhouse at Woodhouse Fields, Boughton and in 1987, Gran's first grandson was born, William.

In the same year Gran lost her husband to cancer. Arthur was a church warden for many years and after this Gran took on the role. She was a devoted member of the Church and would get up in the early hours to put the heating on and prepare the communion. She also hosted Sunday School in her kitchen for all the local children.

Another granddaughter, Charlotte was born in 1988. Gran loved to drive (despite never taking a driving test) and would go to visit family regularly. In 1990, her fifth grandchild, Emily was born. Gran was an exceptional baker and would always treat her grandchildren to hot welsh cakes, jammie dodgers and whimberry pie.

Unfortunately, Gran lost both of her children under very sad circumstances. Graham died in 2004 (aged 49) and Janet died shortly after him in 2005 (aged 47). She was deeply saddened by these events and was there to support her grandchildren through this difficult time. In 2015, Gran's first great-grandchild was born, Harriet, followed by Olivia in 2016 and Ellen in 2018. She loved having these children around and her mantle-piece was adorned with their photographs.

Until February this year, Gran was living independently at Chapel Lawn Farm with only Sue helping with cleaning and Ken picking up her weekly shopping. She loved having visitors (both family and friends) and her mind remained as sharp as ever as she recalled local farms, names, full family history, acreage and prices. She never missed a trick and still actively managed her farm.

In February, she went into hospital and had a brief stay at Stone House showing she was just as strong willed as ever. She returned home with full-time care but continued to fight on, attending Charlotte's wedding only this June. Unfortunately, a second visit to hospital took its toll and 5 days later she passed away peacefully in her own bed, in her own home, exactly as she wanted it.

Jennifer Owen

Thank you

Ruby, Ann & Linda Hughes would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of support and attendance at David's funeral service which took place at St. Stephens church on the 13th April, and also for the generous donations received for various charities that meant a lot to them both.

PARISH OF CLUN WITH CHAPEL LAWN - CLIMATE EMERGENCY

We try not to be political in the Newsletter, but there is a topic that is beyond politics, and it is Carbon Emissions that is driving climate change that will affect everyone. As wildlife is dramatically going down in numbers worldwide, Seas are warming, coral reefs are dying, ice caps & Glaciers are melting, plastic in the sea etc. There are groups forming worldwide to try and address the issue as best they can. These groups are just trying to see if there is something that can be done as individuals to help address this issue, as well as lobbying governments to try and change the big pollutants. I must make it clear that they are just advisory groups and do by no means enforce anything that they suggest, but are just trying to help those who want to make small or large changes. A small group from Chapel Lawn have been to the meetings with Clun town council, and they have written a piece about what has been discussed up to date. As it is larger than can be put in the Redlake Newsletter, it has been printed as an insert.

If you are interested in seeing your own Carbon footprint, look up, footprint.wwf.org.uk it is a simple way of seeing if there is any way one can make small changes.

Jeremy Jameson

Monica Hunnam



Sadly we have lost another of our oldest residents, Monica Hunnam.

Monica was raised in the Black Country and educated at a Convent School where, to her chagrin, she was forced to converse in French. During the war Monica worked as a statistician for the Government and then moved to London during the Mary Quant era. Here she met her future husband Phil, becoming

an accomplished pillion rider on his motorbike. Phil loved bikes having been a dispatch rider burning the war.

In 1981, on their retirement, Monica and Phil moved to the newly built 'Holly Lodge'. Monica had worked in the Inland Revenue whilst Phil had worked for the Midland Bank but then continued working part time for them at the newly rebranded HSBC branch in Knighton until his death in 1988. They had both been very active in the Village Hall, and the South Shropshire Quiz.

Soon after, Monica's Sister Kath, mother of her nephew Anthony, joined her at Holly Lodge until she became frail, moving to a Residential Home in Leominster and who passed away at the grand old age of 101.

Monica was a very independent Lady but after a few falls became frail herself and was frustrated at not being able to continue to manage the house as she wished- she had up to then been laying patio slabs and doing all her garden. Friends and neighbours rallied round and she was always grateful to Christine, Ken, Karen, George, Beryl, Kelly and ourselves for helping her to maintain her standards.

She loved living in Chapel Lawn.

Vi and Steve.

SEASONAL GARDENING NOTES



January and July are the two months for pruning wisteria, so if you haven't done it yet, this is a gentle reminder.

If your plant is well established and flowering well, you probably only need the July pruning date for action: to shorten all the long wayward new growths back to just one bud away from the T-junction with the old wood.

If your plant is new – by which I mean five years or less (wisteria are very long-lived plants) – so you will still be training it for shape as well as flowering, then cut back now to five buds on the new growth, tie those in well where you want them to go, then cut back again in January, if necessary, to three buds. You should repeat this double-prune until your plant has built up a strong framework of growth, and is flowering well, then reduce the pruning to just the July cut.

If your plant has not been pruned lately and has got out of bounds – go for the double-pruning dates again, with harder cutting in summer. Then you can tidy up in the winter when the foliage has all fallen, so you can see more of the skeleton, and see where complete branches are dead or simply surplus to requirements. Retraining, like this, is a slow business though. Take your time over several years and the plant will repay you well.

There are, sadly, many wisterias that never flower. This is usually because they are not old enough yet, because you have – knowingly, or otherwise – been sold a seed-grown plant, rather than a grafted one. Those grown from seed are, obviously, cheaper to buy, but will take a minimum of ten, and often fifteen, years before they flower. Even then they often disappoint, because the seedling plants will be very variable, in growth habit and in flower – both colour and length of the individual trusses. It is much better to buy a named plant that has been properly grafted, so it will be identical to its parent plant in flower-length, scent, colour and habit. Naturally, these are more expensive because of the years of work necessary in their development, but you will have flowers within a couple of years of planting and, with careful pruning and training, a plant of great presence and beauty for generations yet to come.

Hannah Willetts

RECENT EVENTS APRIL-JULY

Redlake Valley Strawberry Tea – 23rd June 2019

Chapel Lawn WI put on a most enjoyable spread for the valley residents, friends and families. Over 60 people came along, just about a full house! A huge thank you is due to all the WI members who decorated jam jars for the flowers, brought along flowers, made cakes and scones, shopped, cut up strawberries, sold tickets, served guests and washed up – but most of all, thank you to everyone who came and made it such a lovely afternoon. We were all shattered by the end of the day but I think we'd all be happy to do it again. Just give us 11 months or so to recover!

The unpredictable weather meant that we weren't able to use local strawberries so we may make it a little later next year, and yes, we think we will do it again next year. So

if you missed out this time, look out for the notices next summer and spread the word.

The afternoon has boosted WI funds so that we can keep on providing learning and fun for our members, but the real purpose of the Strawberry Tea was to bring people together for a chat and a little bit of luxury. For me, the best things about the day were catching up with old friends and seeing so many smiling faces in the Hall.

Thank you to everyone who came – see you again next year?

WI organised a silk workshop at the end of May, with a choice of painting a silk scarf or silk greetings cards. Being creative with the colours on the silk was very relaxing and the finished results looked beautiful.

In mid June WI members plus other friends enjoyed another very creative day designing and making hanging ornaments from stained glass. It was great fun and inspiring with everyone creating pieces of leaded glasswork to be proud of.

A concert to celebrate the new organ at St Mary's church Chapel Lawn, took place at the beginning of May. It was a memorable evening with a variety of different and interesting pieces played by Sean Farrell and some wonderful singing by the Llanfair Singers and soloists Graham Trew and Becky Sherman. We were delighted that Lawrence Firth who donated the organ was able to join us and say a few words at the end of the concert about the organ.

The evening was made special by a reception in the village hall prior to the concert where delicious canapes were served with bubbles.

Thanks to all who helped with the organisation, the performers and everyone who came. The concert raised £460 for church Funds.

Arts Alive funded a very successful film showing last year for the children from St Marys school Bucknell held at Chapel Lawn village hall. We were very fortunate that Arts Alive agreed to do the same again this year so at the beginning of June 52 excited children arrived in Chapel Lawn to watch "The Railway Children." The film (and ice creams) were enjoyed by children and staff.

Marion, Christine, Di

FARMING COLUMN

I'm not really sure if I qualify as a "proper farmer", but I have been asked to write this column this quarter! I have about 150 ewes, mainly Texel x Welsh Mules, but also a small flock of around 25 Clun Forests. However unfortunately sheep farming on that scale doesn't make much

money so I also work as a Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer and part of that job is visiting many different farms each year in Herefordshire and Shropshire, so I see quite a lot of farming, even if I'm not always doing it myself!

One thing you notice about visiting other farms is that there are no two that are the same. Every farm has varying land, buildings, soil types, etc, although often the main difference is the ambitions of each particular farmer. One of the best bits about the job is meeting such a wide variety of people, from hill livestock farmers to the large arable businesses in the lowlands.

With all the talk of a new payment system being introduced over the next few years I think one of the most difficult things will be finding a way of making it work that will suit such varying farming systems, and making the payments fair so that they help those that need them most. Whatever you think about subsidies, the reality is that most upland and family farms would not exist without them in some form, mainly because the general public, encouraged by supermarkets do not seem prepared to pay the real cost for their food. There is currently a lot of talk about basing future farm payments on the public benefits that farming produces that are not paid for through returns on food. This might include things such as clean water, wildlife, high animal welfare and the landscape we are lucky enough to live in, all of which depend on farming and are important to us all. The current Basic Payment Scheme is in many ways confusing for both the farmer and the taxpayer, and seems unfair to the smaller farm and new entrant who are those that need support the most, so I think a change could be a good thing provided it is well implemented. But with no hard details out at the moment, we will have to wait and see.

On a proper farming front there has been a lot of activity recently with the grass harvest. The saying goes "Wet May, full bay", well this also seems to apply to a wet June as well, with most crops being good, and with the sunshine at the right time a lot of good quality silage and hay has been made. As I was turning hay I could see a lot of neighbours also busy harvesting and as the fields slowly change colour it's nice to feel part of the ongoing cycle of life in some small way. Winter Barley is also starting to be cut and straw baled, with more ready to do if the sun would shine again!

Even though it doesn't seem long since lambing, we will be weaning the lambs before long and putting them onto some

better pasture to grow on (hopefully!). It's a nice to be able to sort out the sheep and know where you are with ewe numbers etc. Lambs seem to have done pretty well with a fair bit of grass about this year and we've started selling a few, which have made reasonable money straight off grass. The lamb trade seems to have dipped just lately though, and beef prices are in a real rut. Hopefully it might be a blip, but with the looming possibility of a "no-deal" it all seems fairly uncertain, especially with sheep this year.

Many farmers I meet (especially in the lowlands) seem to be reducing their ewes or even getting out of sheep altogether. Apparently the wise man says to look what everyone else is doing, and then do the opposite, so I hope he is right because up here in the hills there are not many options other than sheep farming! Anyway, I'm sure Boris will sort it all out soon... or maybe not... you decide!!!!

Wayne Davies

DIARY

W.I. Tuesday 13th August 7pm

Pub night Saturday 17th August

V.H. Committee meeting
Tuesday 20th August 7.30pm

V.H. Beetle Drive Sunday 1st
Sept 3pm

P.C.C. Meeting Tuesday 3rd Sept
at 7.30pm

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday 4th Sept 7.30pm

Ride & Stride Saturday 7th Sept
all day

Ramble & Lunch Sunday 8th
Sept. Walks from 10.30am lunch
from 12-2pm in V.H.

W.I. Tuesday 10th Sept.

Flicks Saturday 14th Sept

Redlake Valley Artists from
Thursday 19th Sept to Sunday
22nd Sept

Arts alive Celebration.
Saturday 28th Sept. **Food &**
Flicks: Fish pie meal, followed
by film: Fisherman's friends

Harvest Festival & Supper
Thursday 3rd October

Live Band Saturday 26th Oct
'Wild Willy Barrett's roaring
touring' Tickets