

THE REDLAKE

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WINTER 2019

From the Editors

We have had some very successful events over the past couple of months. The Ramble & Lunch had a very good turn out which coincided with a very hot day which always helps the numbers. The RVA had more people than expected from far and wide coming along to see the art and crafts, which also saw the last of the hot weather with people having tea and cake outside on the wonderful picnic benches. Some of the Quillets have changed hands, houses changing residents, and half a month's rainfall in one day! For a small hamlet, Chapel Lawn has a fair amount going on, planned or unplanned. It continues with films and live events over the coming winter months, so hope to see you at one or more of the upcoming fixtures.

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>



Autumn Night Sky by Ken Bowen

An Unseasonal Note.

You've probably not walked around the back of St Mary's Church in early Spring. It's damp, dark, and not especially welcoming. But if you do, you'll be surprised to see a carpet of white and blue Dog Violets. These common wild flowers which are regarded as a nuisance in well-kept gardens, are, as I discovered from an interesting encounter this year, an important food plant and winter home for the caterpillar of the Silver-washed Fritillary, a large and graceful butterfly whose swooping flight is one of the most beautiful sights to be found in woodland during high summer.



I'd noticed the violets when chasing an errant party balloon that was caught in

a tree behind the church. Apart from mentioning the violets to Di, I thought little of them again until August, when Di told me she'd been chatting to an entomologist who was looking around the churchyard to see how many butterfly species he could find. She told him of my interest in the violets, so he returned the next day to introduce himself before continuing his search. Two weeks later he emailed me his findings, which included:

Meadow Brown - also known as Hedge Brown.

Gatekeeper - interestingly with either green or brown caterpillars.

Ringlet - newly emerged adults are beautiful insects with dark velvety wings edged with delicate white fringes.

(these last three species lay eggs among and hibernate in the grasses).

Peacock - unmistakable, with spectacular 'eyes' on the upperside of the hindwings, giving this butterfly its name; these must appear threatening to predators such as mice; these butterflies hibernating as adults in buildings.

Painted lady - a long-distance migrant, which causes spectacular butterfly migrations from the

Continent to Britain and Ireland; Eggs are laid on thistles and nettles, hatching after about a week. They are caterpillars for about 4 weeks and chrysalis for 2 weeks before the adults emerge.

None of these is particularly rare or endangered, although populations of butterflies have reduced significantly in the last four decades due to intensifications in farming and changes in woodland management. Therefore, churchyards are important to these insects, not only to lay their eggs and breed, but so that they can also drink nectar from the variety of wildflowers found there. Most churches nowadays leave areas uncut to help wildlife, and that's true of St Mary's, but it would be interesting to bring in some expert advice to find out exactly where and when is best to cut. I know that whenever I've helped, I've not given a thought to the violets, thinking it was just a damp area that needed keeping under firm control. If the church agreed, I'd be happy to raise the money for some expert consultancy. Anyone got a spare fiver?

Patrick Cosgrove

PROFILE

Marion and Tony Cox

Underhill, Bucknell



Marion was born in Reading and went to school in Wokingham, followed by University in Aston where she read French and Education and met Tony on October 1st 1973!

Tony was born in Bromsgrove, went to school in Stourbridge, read sciences at Aston and met Marion on her first day there. He was then in his third year at University.

For both of them it was instant attraction and they eventually moved in together.

Once Tony obtained his degree he started work for the West Midlands Weights and Measures dept. in Trading Standards, they formed shopper's shops where the general public could air their complaints and get help if necessary. Tony worked for local government for 18 months before becoming a medical rep, visiting teaching hospitals and G.P. surgeries in Birmingham.

Marion had now obtained her degree and worked for Walsall Council's Chief Executive's Department, living in Brownhills, before starting a family and moving to Armitage in Staffordshire. Tony obtained a Marketing position with a Danish pharmaceutical company producing mainly Insulin and based in Surrey, so they moved to Rudgwick where they lived for 5 years, with their children, two daughters and one son.

The eldest, Jenni, lives in Ludlow is married with two sons, Owen 8 and Tudor 5. She is a qualified nurse and midwife and is the Service Manager for HIV and sexual health for Shropshire and Telford

Ellie aged 39 is a cartographer working for Garmin, she lives and works in Tuscany with her partner and 3 cats.

Tristan aged 35 is currently single, a solicitor living in London and leads a life to match!

All three children are level headed and currently trouble free, they all went to school in Church Stretton which is where Marion and Tony moved after Rudgwick and where they set up their own very successful business researching products for pharmaceutical companies. They spent 13 very happy years there. Although working very hard and employing 5 people, they were very involved in the community and Marion was a guide captain and a school governor, Tony spent several years coaching junior football and life-guarding and had always had an interest in geology so found the area fascinating.

Despite all these positives they did become in need of a change after 13 years and with the girls away at Uni. and Tristan studying for A levels they decided to pack up and go to Wales for a change of life style, so in the year 2000, they moved their business, let their house and took on a dilapidated farm house in Pembrokeshire, ostensibly to start a B&B, but being unable to live in the house, they had to rent somewhere to live temporarily.

Tony was still in the pharmaceutical business and found himself travelling as far afield as Cambridge for work and they decided to cut their losses and move back to 'the Marches', moving to Mistletoe House in Combe.

Since the pharmaceutical business dried up in 2009/10, a result of the recession, they set up a gallery and tea room very successfully in Mistletoe House. They loved living there but ultimately Marion became exhausted providing the delicious cooking that she became noted for and so they closed the gallery, Marion took a job as Operations Manager at Lucton School and Tony, ever open to a new challenge started a new career in publishing and selling greetings cards. Marion worked at Lucton School for 4 years, until 2016, and in August 2017 they moved to Bucknell.

Since Marion had previously been a consultant for Slimming World in the Knighton area, they had an idea about where they would like to live and they chose Bucknell.

Tony loves his new career as it pleases his artists to have an outlet for their work and he is also welcomed by the shop and gallery owners who sell his

cards and look forward to his new stock. Marion too is very happy working alongside Tony without any pressure! and part time, so she has time for her other pursuits – walking with the East Radnor Ramblers, belonging to both Bucknell and Chapel Lawn WIs, working in her garden, and helping with her grandchildren when called upon.

Pat Jameson

Dave & Rene Evans.**Golden couple.**

They married in St. Michael's Church in Beguildy 50 years ago, and set up home in Dave's family farm; Field Farm in Purlogue. They have two children Sally and Allan and 9 grandchildren.

Many Congratulations to you both.

WELCOME

Welcome to Simon and Maggie Brown who have moved into the Quern.

We wish you many years of happiness in the valley.

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to Chapel Lawn Steve and Vi Sherring who have come back from the distant land of Bucknell.

Henry's Quillet

Many readers will know that two quillets in Brineddin Wood which belonged to the late Henry Richards of Pump House, Purlogue were recently put up for sale by Henry's son, John. This prompted the Redlake Valley's Community Benefit Society to mount a successful fund-raising campaign to secure enough funds to purchase the larger quillet, number 2880. Nearly forty people either in and around or connected with the area pledged

generous amounts. An interest free loan from an enthusiastic supporter made up the difference. This means that the combined area of the Society's existing and new quillet amounts to almost 7.5 acres.

The reasons for owning the quillets on behalf of the community are various. First and foremost, the Society is more than 'just a piece of woodland'. It wants shareholders, residents and visitors to the valley to enjoy the tranquillity of Brineddin Wood. A flight of rustic steps was built that leads people up the slope and deep into the trees (if you've not yet ventured up there, now's your chance). School children, young adults with learning difficulties and unemployed adults have helped work on woodland management in order to enjoy nature and learn new skills. The two woodland fairs in 2013 and 2017 promoted local businesses and brought people together. Friendships have been formed which otherwise might not have happened.

Secondly, the Society wishes to encourage a greater variety of wildlife. From the exterior, the wood is beautiful with its canopy of oak cloaking the hillside. Internally, although visually attractive, all is not well. The hazel understorey is ageing and failing to regenerate and ground flora is sparse, resulting in a reduced volume and variety of invertebrate and bird species. By enclosing a part of the woodland to protect it from predation and with some very light thinning of weaker trees, coppiced hazel is already thriving and will encourage a greater variety of wildlife. A larger piece of woodland provides greater scope for this.

Third, the history of the wood is fascinating and possibly unique. The Society has traced its existence to medieval times as a probable extension of a hunting chase. It has also traced the practice of 'quilleting' to the early 17th Century, and the succession of quillet ownership to the early 1800s. There is probably more to discover. In that historical context, the Society has suggested to John Richards that the new acquisition shall be called 'Henry's Quillet' to reflect its previous ownership by an established family in the valley. John has readily agreed to this.

Of course, fund-raising is far from over because the Society must repay its loan. If more Redlake readers wish to contribute, either by donating or by purchasing shares, we're happy to welcome you aboard. For more information visit the Society's website at <https://rvcbc.wordpress.com/> or talk to board members:

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SEASONAL GARDENING NOTES



Flower arrangers have long appreciated the decorative value of hydrangeas – whether fresh and brightly coloured, or in their autumn-faded tints and winter browns. But their popularity tends to fluctuate with gardeners. The turquoise mopheads that fill West Country gardens on acid soil tempt many to try them, only to find them miraculously – sometimes, disappointingly – changed to pink in their own limey gardens. In cold gardens the problem is worse, in that the mopheads flower on stems made in the previous year, which are often killed to the ground in freezing winters. The plant will survive – the roots are hardy, even though the stems are not. But a hydrangea without flowers is not worth the large amount of space it can take up.

Some of the lacecap varieties behave similarly. But the hybrids bred from *Hydrangea paniculata* and *H. arborescens*, such as 'Vanilla Fraise', 'Annabelle' and 'Limelight', have the more helpful growth pattern of flowering on the current year's stems which, provided they are not too dry, should guarantee flowers. These can be even larger than the mopheads, but are more triangular – paniculate – in shape. There are no turquoise forms yet, but

plenty of white, creamish-greens and pinks.

Hannah Willetts

Birthday Boy!



I'm sure we would all like to wish James Middleton a Happy 60th Birthday, and say a big thank you for all he does for the community of Chapel Lawn. Vice chairman to our church, Captain of the airgun club, Village Hall member, neighbourhood watch, previous W.I. member!!! And always about for fund raising events. The church yard cutting is arranged by James, between shearing and harvesting, and now is our chance to thank him and everyone who turns up to help. We appreciate you all.

Christine Oakley

RECENT EVENTS AUGUST-OCTOBER

St Mary's Church Chapel Lawn. Thank you to everyone who helped, donated food and their time and supported our Ramble and Lunch on Sunday 8th September.

We were joined by a good number of walkers who enjoyed the good weather and were able to sit outside our hall with their lunch in the sunshine.

135 people piled their plates with our delicious salads and desserts and met friends old and new for a good get together over a meal. It was a joy to see so many friends and neighbours come down for this event.

It was a lovely village day and the money raised will help our Church pay its way for next year.

In addition we received several donations which will be put to the fabric fund for ongoing repairs. Total proceeds £1028.

St Mary's welcomes you to join us in Chapel Lawn for our Eucharist and Morning Prayer services.

The Redlake Valley Artists (RVA) held their fourth group art exhibition in the Village Hall in September 2019. We did

have our doubts about how it would go, since news from the HArt art trail (in Herefordshire) was that numbers and sales were down. However, somehow, we managed to have our best ever exhibition helped, we are sure, by the lovely late summer sunshine. So thank you to all those who came to have a look at what the local artists get up to and to all who baked cakes, helped with storage and lugged furniture. We would especially like to thank the Village Hall committee for the free use of the fantastic hall. Tamsin Abbott exhibited Graham and Ann Arnold's prints and donated 60% from their sales to three worthwhile causes, including St. Mary's church, which received £218. Tamsin also donated a beautiful original Ann Arnold painting to the Church on the opening night. It was lovely to have both Graham and Ann with us in spirit during the show in the valley they both loved so much.

'Fisherman's Friends' proved to be another successful 'Food 'n' Flicks' event. A straight forward, heart warming British film which drew in a full audience. Many thanks go to all the people who helped make it such an enjoyable evening. Including those who provided the really delicious food. Many of us stamped our feet and sang along merrily to the end credits concerning that hapless drunken sailor!

Thank you to everybody who came along and made our Macmillan fundraiser such a resounding success! We raised £560!! That's about £200 more than last year's record! There were thirteen of us in the team, who worked hard and put it all together. We had loads of donations of homemade cakes, raffle prizes, plants, bric-a-brac and lots of books! Thank you for all your contributions and especially if you made a cake, set up the hall, manned a stall, enticed people to spend or donate, cleared up afterwards or added up takings.

So, thank you for helping us raise such a grand sum for Macmillan; "By playing your part you've helped people with cancer live life as fully as they can"

Karen Limbrick, Di Cosgrove, Beryl Palmer, & Sarah Jameson.

FARMING COLUMN

To 'B' or not to 'B' that is the question, who knows the answer. Yes, No, maybe. Oh! Surprise another extension. I will make no comment as my views in the last column started a firestorm of emails, so much so I ended up seeking political exile in 'Mashers Barn'. Not the holiday let but one without any wi-fi signal. A good job the editor cut out my more caustic comments.

The farming world continues rain or shine, mostly rain lately. The Beef sector have joined their dairy brethren with returns below the cost of production. All down to processors ignoring British Beef and sourcing cheaper imports.

The finished lamb trade bumbles along yet Autumn sales of breeding stock have seen very strong demand and prices. The threat of massive export tariffs after 'B' has been no deterrent.

Harvest went well, both hay and corn. Not many silage bales about, but plenty of good hay made. Recent wet weather has made potato harvest difficult. Some crops have floated out of the rows. 'Mud on the road' signs are popular once again. Planting of Autumn crops has also been hindered.

Local News. An over zealous contractor in Bucknell trimmed not only the hedge but also a telephone pole cutting off the whole of Chapel Lawn, apart from one resident, but BT had already cut them off the previous week.

A local farmer suffered slight injuries in a settee attack. Tests are ongoing for mad chair disease.

Chapel Lawn resident challenges farm vehicle to a dual. Results in, resident 0 farm vehicle 1.

Chapel Lawn residents wedding plans make headlines in National press.

The stories behind these headlines will be revealed at the Christmas get together.

Lewis Hamilton has stated everyone should go vegan to save the planet. What is the carbon footprint of the formula one entourage? Seems he and the speaker of the house would make an ideal couple. Que sera sera.

Bob James



The late October downpour turns the Redlake road into a river!

DIARY

Flicks Saturday 2nd November, 'Rocket Man'.

W.I. Tuesday 12th November.

Sultana Brothers Saturday 23rd November (all details from Marion Cox)

Flicks Saturday 30th November, 'The Favourite'

Village Hall Committee Tuesday 3rd December 7.30 pm

W.I. Tuesday 10th December

Village Hall Party Saturday 14th Dec at 7.30 pm

Carol Service in Church Sunday 15th Dec at 11.00 am. All welcome. Mince Pies and sherry after the service

Flicks Saturday 21st December 'Yesterday'

Christmas Day service in Church Wednesday 25th Dec at 9.30 am.

New Year's Eve Party Tuesday 31st Dec

Flicks Saturday 11th Jan

W.I. Tuesday 14th Jan

Arts Alive Saturday 25th Jan 'George Egg'

W.I. Tuesday 11th Feb

PCC/APCM Church meeting Tuesday 18th Feb 7.30 pm