

THE REDLAKE

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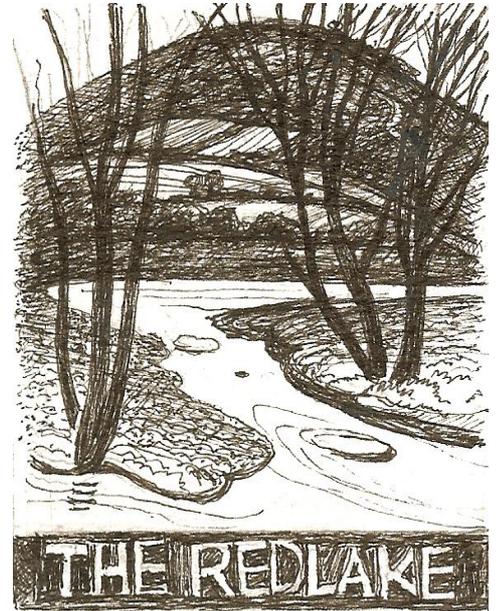
AUTUMN 2014

From the Editors Autumn colours.

I like this time of year for the turning of the trees to their amazing rusty colours. We are lucky to have Bryneddin, our ancient woodland. It has started to don its autumnal coat, and give the valley a lovely display. With Sudden Oak Death, Ash Dieback and other diseases blighting many English forests we can but hope our lovely wood will remain immune to such attacks and hope that other forests aren't too affected. We are fortunate in this country to have such magnificent forests left as most of them have disappeared due to manufacturing demands and sadly have not been replaced.

Jeremy J

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

The Mystery of the Bryncanbric Hand Bell



While metal detecting on one of Bob James' fields recently, Patrick Cosgrove found a small hand bell about ten inches under the ground – the sort that has a leather handle known as a tang and is used by hand-bell ringers to play tunes. This bell's tang had long since rotted away and the small iron clapper had become detached but was still inside the bell. When the clapper is used to strike the bell a perfect note sounds. How could it have got there? Bob has no recollection of a family member going hand-bell ringing (and when asked, he said "No, it doesn't ring a bell!") We'll probably never know the true story, but if Redlake readers would like to pen a short account of how it arrived there (maximum one side of A4) the winning entry will be printed in the next edition of *The Redlake*.

Patrick Cosgrove

The September Chapel Lawn Ramble and Lunch

This annual event, going now for at least 20 years, still attracts the excellent support of villagers and friends from far and wide.

It is a good meeting place for news and friendship, enjoyed even more by a lovely buffet meal with lots of delicious desserts.

The whole event would not be possible without the generosity of the locals who donate salads and puddings and their help with the serving and clearing up after the meal. My personal thanks go to all who helped on the day.

Walkers have found the many available routes around the village enjoyable year on year especially when the weather has been sunny and calm.

Autumn weather is usually reliable and we have had as many as 140 people to our lunches. We served 130 lunches this year and our contribution to St Mary's restoration fund after all expenses for meat and groceries were paid, was £900. We were also able to give a donation to the village hall of £99.00.

As long as people wish to enjoy this event we will continue to organise the walks and meal in the near future.

Beryl Palmer

The School Bell?

Back in late 2002 there was a big meeting of the villagers in the hall at which Jeanette MacTurk was presenting the book on Chapel Lawn School. She thought it would be a good idea to have something of the school there, so asked for the school bell.

Mona Owen said it was on the top shelf in the vestry and Vera Price went to collect it, only to find it wasn't there. It has been missing since then until I saw it on the cupboard in the vestry when I went in there on 17th August this year.

According to the locals it is much cleaner than they remember it and also has an inscription that must have been added after the school closed.

Does anyone know where it has been for 12 years?

Barry Palmer

Profile:
Becky & Peter Sherman.



A couple, who were recently married in St. Mary's Church, Chapel Lawn, provide interesting subjects for our profile this month and we wish them every happiness in their future life together.

Becky Whitton, now Mrs. Sherman, was born in Painswick in Gloucestershire, her sister was twelve years and her brother five years older so she was rather lonely as a child until she went to school. Becky's father worked away from home in Birmingham as an engineer and came home only at weekends and when Becky was three years old the family moved to Shipston-on Stour so that her father could live at home.

Becky initially went to school in Stratford but when her parents moved to Eastham near Tenbury, she went to St. Mary's prep school in Rochford. Then at the age of eleven she spent the next five years at boarding school in Dolgellau, North Wales, particularly enjoying the good science department. After 'O' levels, on her mother's insistence, Becky reluctantly spent a year at secretarial college in Cheltenham. Her parents then paid for her to be apprenticed on a small farm in Snowdonia, where she learned dry stone walling, tractor driving and hand milking. While there, the owner of the farm wrote a book called 'Along Came a Llama' about their llama who lived as one of the family in the tiny kitchen and generally made a nuisance of herself.

Following this diverting hands-on experience, Becky went to Harper Adams Agricultural College to complete a three year Diploma in Agriculture. During her final year of this course Becky, fell off her friend's horse and fractured her skull. This

resulted in a week's stay in Shrewsbury Hospital where she met Prince Charles who was there to 'open' the hospital. Since Becky had two black eyes he asked her if she had been 'beaten up', upon learning the cause of her injuries his advice was to always wear a riding hat and to get back on a horse as soon as possible. In the final term of the final year at college, Becky met her first husband Chris. Together they moved to Sussex where Chris took a job on a farm and Becky did some lambing work. Six months later Chris was sacked and they moved to a Cumbrian dairy farm owned by a Mancunian scrap man who fancied farming but was too large to get into a tractor. The couple lived a bohemian life style on the top floor of the farmhouse with the two cowmen living on the ground floor. Silaging was beset by wet weather and Chris was again fired when he stopped work early after a trailer became stuck up to its axles in the mud. He then took a job as farm manager near Leighton Buzzard – part of the contract was that he and Becky should be married...and so they were! This was a dairy/arable farm and Becky kept hens, rabbits, Freiland sheep and helped at with silage and at harvest; she bought a computer and started a book-keeping business and had two boys, Edward and Thomas. In 1986 Chris was called back to the family arable farm in Lavenham, Suffolk as his grandfather was retiring. Though mostly arable they also reared cattle from Chris' parents' dairy farm. Jenny, their daughter was born there in 1987. During the twenty years spent at Lavenham, Becky was milking her sheep, selling the milk for cheese and yogurt; joined the local choir; bought a horse and started a livery yard and when the children's local nursery school closed down, Becky and Chris converted a barn and moved the school to Lavenham. It was around this time, in order to overcome her fear of speaking in public, Becky began to take singing lessons and continued for the next 17 years. When the council, on inspecting the school, decreed that

they should take only 16 children, the school was no longer viable and they sold the business to the Montessori Trust who kept it going until 2004.

In 1997 Becky and a friend went to Portugal to purchase horses and ride them back to England. They spent 4 months on the journey and raised £3000 for charity.

Over the following ten years Becky's marriage to Chris broke down and she moved out of Lavenham Hall and into a farm cottage with the children; they were divorced in 2005; Chris sold the farm and Becky was free to pursue a life of her own. She signed up to 'farm sales' on the web and almost immediately found her dream home. Squire Farm was bought in March 2006 and when Jenny left 6th Form College in the summer, they moved up to Shropshire. Jenny worked for Balfours before following in her parent's footsteps at Harper Adams and gaining a degree in land management. Since moving into Squire Farm with her sheep, horses, dogs, cats and hens, Becky has become a valuable member of the local community; she joined the Llanfair choir, is now chairman of the Village Hall Committee and is a familiar figure at local events and riding her horse around the lanes.

Peter came into Becky's life three years ago when they met on an internet dating site. They first met at the Riverside Inn, Wigmore where Becky intended to take her dogs for a walk. Peter arrived dressed in pink shirt and loafers and in his Audi R8 sports car, but after only a slight hesitation, Becky decided to give him a try anyway! Peter sportingly accompanied her on the walk and the next day went to Rochford to help her clear her mother's house (her mother had died earlier that year). Peter gallantly helped and in his low slung sports car, he followed Becky up the pot-holed track to Squire Farm - his first visit there! Peter says he was foot loose and fancy free and contemplating buying a yacht and sailing off round the world when he met Becky but through this meeting he realised how empty and

unsatisfying his life had become. Peter was born within the sound of Bow Bells at Primrose Hill in London, his grandfather was a Daily Express photographer and his father a photographer for the BBC as well as doing fashion shoots for the Empire Stores catalogue. He was raised in Twickenham with a younger brother who at the age of 11 went to Shotton Hall boarding school at Harmer Hill near Shrewsbury. Peter had an uneventful and happy childhood. On leaving school, he went into advertising on technical journals, running the sales section on Daltons Weekly for a time. He then had various jobs, driving vans and lorries around London until getting work with the Inland Revenue at the South West London Regional Valuation Office. His boss encouraged him to go to Reading University where he studied estate management. He then worked in the Islington valuation office before continuing his career as a chartered surveyor with Readymix and then Shell UK. Peter married in 1976 and he and his wife had three children and lived in and around Basingstoke. After many different assignments with Shell, Peter was asked to go and work in South Africa; his wife refused to go with him and this was the start of the marriage failing, they separated in 2004. Peter is well travelled having worked in Bogota Columbia, Lima Peru, throughout Europe, Qatar, and nearly every country in Africa. In Kinshasa in the Congo, he was in a hotel having breakfast when it was bombed and then was in a near fatal air accident when a bird strike exploded one engine of the plane and they had to make an emergency landing. Eventually he was asked to work and live in Nigeria where he took up residency for three years managing projects, land dealing and consulting. After Nigeria came a short project in Kazakhstan on the edge of the Caspian Sea. Temperature changes of plus 32°C to minus -20°C took a bit of getting used to but this was short-lived as the Company was wound down and Peter took voluntary

redundancy. He moved to Herefordshire and started planning his next life. Peter has ridden horses for many years and competed at County Level and he once met Princess Anne at Little Gatcombe Park where she was hosting a one day event. Peter has now rediscovered singing, (he was once head chorister in a church in Hanworth until his voice broke), now he has joined the Llanfair choir and become their treasurer.

Since moving in with Becky three years ago, Peter has become a familiar figure at village events, always willing to get involved and help where he can. On his horse, he often accompanies Becky when she rides and they obviously give each other great support in all their activities. Recently Peter became the Chapel Lawn representative Councillor at Clun Town Council.

Pat Jameson

Take it easy!

Relax and wind down with nature, as the year slowly comes to an end, nature begins to slow down too in preparation for the season ahead – winter – and for many people a season that can be the most difficult one to cope with as we work against the nature of our body's internal clocks.

We live in a society that demands us to work long hours and often working a week of not just 5 or 6 days even 7 days too, leaving very little time for anything else.

To cope with the stress that can often arise from pushing our bodies beyond the nature of their systems, it is important to learn how to de-stress.

Taking just 10 – 20 minutes each day at some point in the afternoon, either after lunch or mid-afternoon to put your feet up can be the equivalent of 4 hours night time sleep allowing your body and mind the chance to catch its breath before beginning the second half of the day.

Use natural remedies to relax and unwind (de-stress); **Lavender** aromatherapy will not only relax you but it will also relieve any muscles that have aches or pains from those long hours of working. Place a few drops on your pillow at night to relax you then rub some into any sore or achy muscles

to relieve the pain. **Arnica** homeopathic remedy will not only treat injuries but it will relieve you of shock and stress too. Take 3 tablets, 3 times a day for 3-4 days for relief. All can be bought from most health stores

Enjoy your seasonal rest!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas & Prosperous New Year.

Jacqueline Cook-Molony

Recent Events August, September and October 2014

One Saturday afternoon during the middle of August, Chapel Lawn took up arms and commemorated the First World War with a stroll through Bryneddin Wood, tea in the hall with various memorabilia and pictures of service men provided by local residents followed by the film 'Oh What a Lovely War'. The event was well attended, the tea delicious and the film fun and thought provoking.

The air gun season started with a practice on 15th September before the first match the following Monday; the team have won four out of five matches to date.

The film, 'Philomena', in spite of being the most requested, was shown at the wrong time and only five people attended; this was fully compensated by the turn out for 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' which had an audience of thirty. Both films were well worth watching. Hodre Pond was also cleared in September; in spite of a promise of a picnic lunch after, not many people turned up to help, though to be fair, we didn't have much notice.

And as the author of this article, I have to mention Peter and my wedding, held in St Mary's Church and afterwards in the village hall. The church finally got all its windows two days before the wedding. Saturday dawned dull and wet, nearly putting a stop to our plans to ride to and from the church, but at 12.30, the rain stopped and it was Peter's horse which held up the procession. However, without horse but with his life, Peter gallantly walked beside me through the mud to the village! The rest of the day went without a hitch; the Llanfair Singers and the Cezanne Trio added a musical touch to the service, the sun came out, peoples' faces shone with happiness and

we had a great party in the evening. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make it such a wonderful day and for being such good friends.

And recently we had an Arts Alive funded, Two Gentlemen's production of Shakespeare's 'Taming of the Shrew'. Two actors, Dilek and Isaac between them played all the different characters in this classic play, using members of the audience to represent non-speaking parts. It took a lot of brain power to keep up with who was who, but it was also very funny, beautifully acted and great fun to be part of.

The names of those people who had put forward suggestions for future films to be shown were drawn at the last film; Pauline Terry won two free tickets to her choice of 'Flicks'.

Becky Sherman

Seasonal Gardening Notes



This is a good time to be assessing your borders because the top growth is beginning to drop its leaves and open up, showing you where neighbouring plants are encroaching too much upon one another or, much worse, where any perennial horror-weeds are infiltrating. If the latter – leap on them now, as another mild winter will encourage them even more.

It will probably mean digging out favoured plants along with the weeds and pulling the clumps apart to remove the errant roots. Then chasing every evil scrap left in the soil, before replacing the clean plants with plenty of muck or compost – weeds are greedy, so will have elbowed-out the border plants from the refectory queue.

It sounds like a lot of hard work, but can be pleasurable if you are not too hurried about it: I have heard of a distracted gardener rushing the job, getting muddled and finding, the following spring, that she had carefully replanted the refuse pile of ground elder roots.

Hannah Willetts

Farming Column

After a mild winter, this spring and summer weather has given excellent growing conditions for both livestock and crops. Land over 1000ft looking into the valley had a wheat crop that averaged just over 4 tonnes per acre. This must have been very pleasing for the owner using his brand new combine, although the current price of wheat is only just over £100/ tonne (£118 in 1982). This is well below the cost of production and it may take some time to pay for the machine, which I note has a basic spec list price of £235,265, less a bit of discount on a good day from Graham at Teme Valley Tractors. They together with Morris Corfield at Craven Arms do a sterling job keeping the older 'classic' combines working in the area, cutting small acreages of cereals to feed to livestock. The oldest of these combines completed its 50th harvest without a breakdown; the driver of which still has to see a few more summers before he is 50!

After last year's horse meat farce (no prosecutions to date), supermarket pledges and promises, this year seems to have disappeared with a 'race to the bottom' price war. With plentiful supplies, the beef price has dropped week after week. We export a large proportion of our sheepskins to Russia, so the import ban has made them more or less worthless, knocking several pounds off a lamb's value.

But, even with low prices, it has been one of the most enjoyable spring and summers to have been farming with the weather on our side.

James Middleton

REDLAKE RECIPES

Christmas Mincemeat

This recipe is so easy and tastes much nicer than bought mincemeat. They say that if you make it you will **never again** go back to buying mincemeat. I haven't!

500g dried mixed fruit (sultanas, raisins, currants, candied peel)

225g cooking apples, peeled and finely chopped

100g vegetable suet (reduced fat suet can be used)

115g dark soft brown sugar

2 tsp mixed spice

2 tsp cinnamon

Grated zest and juice of half a lemon

Grated zest and juice of a satsuma or half an orange

70 ml brandy or sherry (or orange juice)

100g halved glace cherries (optional)

50g whole almonds chopped into halves or chunks (optional)

Mix all the ingredients in a large bowl and stir well.

Cover and leave for at least 12 hours or up to a week, stirring regularly.

Place in sterile jars. Use within about a month.

Notes

The mincemeat can be used 12 hours after mixing, but improves if left to mature. If you store it for longer than a few weeks it might start to ferment. Mine did once, but it still tasted good – maybe it was more alcoholic!

Christine Rogers

Diary

ROAD CLOSED!- New Invention-Chapel Lawn 17th December for 3 days!

Town Council Meeting-Thursday 6th November, 7.30pm.

W.I. every second Tuesday of the month.

Film-15th November-12 years a slave 7.30pm

Redlake Valley Artist Christmas Bazaar- 23rd November 12-6pm.

V.H.Committee meeting-2nd December 7.30pm

VILLAGE Hall Christmas Party 13th December. (To be arranged)

Film-6th December-"Le week-end" 7.30pm

ODAS Christmas Party-18th December.

Carol Service-21st December.

Impromptu New Years Eve Party-31st December-(To be arranged)

Drawing/Craft Day-10am- 4pm, every second Wednesday of the month, in the village Hall

ODAS on the last Thursday in every month. 7pm