

THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 30

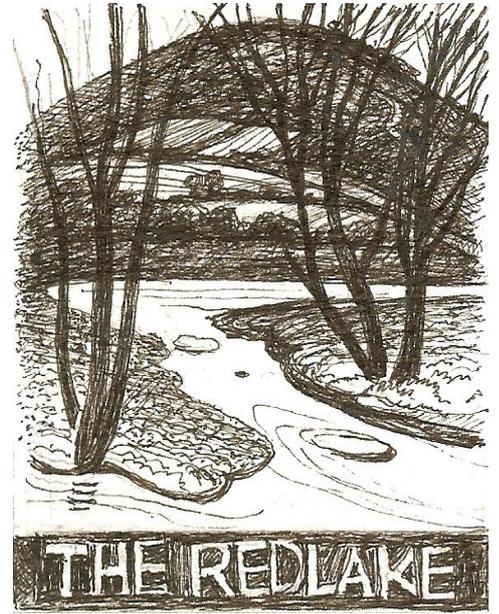
SPRING 2015

From the Editors **Feeling freshened up?**

The roads have had a face lift from the council and should help our dear old ageing suspension. (mine and the car!) The snowdrops and daffodils have had a good showing, and the weather has been fairly warm and sunny, bringing on the fruit tree blossom. A good start. With the elections coming up, let's hope things continue in the same way. Whatever happens, if the tomatoes have a good year, we can always throw them at the party that gets in that doesn't fulfill their promises! Which reminds me to water the tomatoes and make them nice and juicy.

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

Apotropaic symbols



When Patrick and Di Cosgrove moved to Chapel Lawn in 2007 and bought Well House, they assumed that a wooden beam in the oldest part of the house with 'IW 1714' carved on it simply meant that the beam had been erected in that year, maybe to celebrate the construction of the house, or the people who lived there, or both. A family of Williams had lived and farmed there for all of the 19th Century and probably right back to the beginning of the 18th Century as well. Further research unearthed

the fact that a John Williams, son of Stephen Williams of Beguildy, had married Jane in 1714 and they lived in Chapel Lawn, then known as Hobendred. There is no 'J' in Welsh, so 'I' is used instead. People spoke Welsh around here in those days. It all made perfect sense, or so they thought. Unbeknown to them, someone from Newcastle on Clun had seen it and interpreted its meaning quite differently. Patrick happened to meet that person recently and she asked him if he realized that it was an apotropaic symbol. Not only did he not, but he'd never heard the word before. Apotropaic symbols (from Greek *apotrepein* "to ward off" from *apo-* "away" and *trepein* "to turn") are mystical signs that are carved in such places as door frames, ceiling, attics, window lintels and above fireplaces. They are also found cast into iron firebacks and deep in caves such as Wookey Hole. They are a type of magic intended to turn away harmful or evil influences, as in deflecting misfortune or averting the evil eye. They are also known as 'witch marks' and their positioning is usually where the devil or evil spirits could enter the house. Many symbols and marks are

used, including capital letters. 'I', 'M', 'W', and 'V' are the most common letters used, often with small horizontal marks as well. When carved into wood, a knife with a curved blade called a 'rase knife' was used which gave an especially clean cut in green wood. The 'W' is, in fact, two inter-locking 'Vs' which represent the pre-reformation lament, "O Virgo Virginum", a prayer to the Virgin Mary. The 'I' probably stands for Jesus; as in Welsh, there is no 'J' in Latin.

But if it is an apotropaic symbol, what about John and Jane Williams? Is that sheer coincidence, or was the symbol intended to serve both purposes and protect a newly married couple in their new home?

Back to 2014, however. If, on a stormy night with the moon scudding through the clouds and the owls screeching in the woods, you happen to pass Well House and looking through the kitchen window you see a female form bending over a cauldron in the shimmering firelight, fear not; it's just Di dropping a newt's eye into Patrick's dinner!

Julian and Jane Kent, Upper Treverward.



Julian and Jane have lived in the Chapel Lawn area for 37 years and at Upper Treverward for 33.

Jane was born in Leeds and Julian in London but they met in Turvey, Bedfordshire. Jane's parents moved to Turvey when she was 7 years old. During the Beeching railway cuts Julian's journalist father visited Turvey railway station, and liked the village so much that he moved his family there when Julian was 11 years old. They actually lived in the same road, went to school on the same bus, were the same age but went to different single sex schools and never spoke to each other. Jane's sister Geraldine was friends with Julian's sister; they suggested Julian, a bellringer, record some church bells for a school production Jane was involved with, thus they finally got together. Their parents were also friends so when Julian asked Jane's father for her hand in marriage, everyone was delighted. However when Julian produced the engagement ring (found by Jane) her father was somewhat nonplussed, saying he didn't mean 'yes' right now! Even so at the age of twenty they were engaged. Julian was working for the BBC and Jane attended Goldsmiths College in London and at the age of twenty one they were married and honeymooned in the Inner Hebrides, then lived in London first in Clapham and then in Kentish Town.

They bought their first house in Bishops Stortford. Julian became disenchanted with working for the BBC. He worked in current affairs for the programme 'Nationwide' and

found the hours tedious as very little happened until the end of the day when the programme went out. Since Jane was now a qualified teacher and could take a job anywhere, they decided to fulfil a dream and move to the Shetland Isles. Now aged 25, Jane drove to Aberdeen to be interviewed for a teaching post and was soon installed in Unst Junior High School where 100 children aged 4-16 years attended. Julian would make a living by training to knit Shetland sweaters in Lerwick. Once settled in Unst, Jane was offered the post of head teacher in one of the two primary schools. Starting life boarding with a methodist minister and his wife, they had a house overlooking the harbour built for them. Julian having completed his knitting course, spent two years trying to make money by knitting woollen garments, not easy! He abandoned this occupation when he found a job on a dairy farm, learned to milk and became a farm worker and relief milkman. Both the farmer and the other farm worker became good friends and they still keep in touch. Julian and Jane spent five happy years on Unst, the only draw-back being the wind, which on one occasion reached 177mph.

They left Shetland when Jane's parents who lived in Henley in Arden became ill and to be nearer them, they found a house in Herefordshire. Jane worked in Ludlow and Julian worked for a year on a pig farm in Ashford Carbonel. In 1977 he went to work for Welsh Water in the new water works in Hereford, and then moved to Llandrindod Wells as an instrument technician.

In 1978 Jane came to be head teacher in Chapel Lawn School and they moved into the School House where they lived briefly whilst they built a house in Bucknell. Anyone who has read 'The Life and Death of Chapel Lawn School 1856-1985' will understand how idyllic life was at that time, parents and staff worked together to create a secure environment and there didn't seem to be the same pressures as today. The worst problems seemed to be things

like the loos freezing up in winter. Jane is especially fond of her memories of Joan Bowdler the cook who produced wonderful school dinners often using produce from the school garden and fruit brought in by the children and every child took school lunch. When Chapel Lawn School was about to close, Jane went to work for Ludlow Teachers Advisory Service.

While still at Chapel Lawn School Jane was very involved in the village life. When she and Julian heard about an empty farm house for sale in Treverward they fell in love with it, Julian said it only needed a bit of TLC! In Dec.1981 they bought Upper Treverward and moved in the following May having worked hard to create the lovely home in which they now live. Members of Chapel Lawn WI who have attended Jane's strawberry teas when she was president, will remember the beautiful garden and pool which she and Julian have created on the land around the house.

Julian left Welsh Water in 1988 and went to a company in Kidderminster as an electrical engineer and finally the quality manager. Jane was head of Bishops Castle Primary School from 1986-1996 and she retired at 50, but continued to work as a supply teacher for the county. After Julian retired he worked on the Police and District Council Standards Committees and became treasurer of the Chapel Lawn village hall committee. They have kept pigs, geese, ducks and hens. For a while they had two Large Black Pigs, both sows, which each had litters of 8 piglets once or twice a year, Jane worked for the health service from 2002-2006 as a Non Executive Director for the Primary Care Trust and she still works occasionally for the Mental Health Trust. Julian still keeps an interest in farming by helping a neighbour from time to time. They fill the rest of their time working on the house and grounds and having fun!

“Remembrance Stone”



“A remembrance stone, marking the anniversary, is to be placed on the site of the plane crash above Treverward that killed American Pilot Lt. Gale Carson on 25th May 1944. It will be located close to the footpath at the top of Park Hill.”

Simon Jameson/Steve Brereton

Poets Corner

A Purlogue Murmuration

We go out, reluctantly into the murky afternoon.

Grey skies bruising black

Shouldering clouds

Dropping careless fistfuls

Of winter rain.

The yellowed ground sodden.

Littered with overnight pools

Unblinking eyes.

We take the gate to the meadow

As the light fades.

And follow the river down.

She flows swift and sleek, the Redlake,

fat with recent rain.

Foaming in seething cul de sacs

Where cornered crab apples

Jostle and bob.

A sudden whoosh overhead

Makes us look up.

A black scarf of starlings

Throws huge coiling arcs above us.

They switchback fast and curve

Dive, part, reform

Then volte face.

In acres of sky

An endless joyful

Aerial arabesque.

A Purlogue murmuration!

Three times they fly over

And in the parchment light

Of this unpromising afternoon

We stand and stare.

Sarah Jameson

Your local summer bus service running soon!

The Castle Connect shuttle bus will start running again on **Saturday 2nd May**, connecting Bishops Castle with Clun, Knighton, Bucknell, Bromfield and Ludlow. Buses run three times a day on Saturdays and Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays until Sunday 4th October.

Not everyone knows about the service. It's great (I've used it) – regular, reliable, friendly, punctual and comfortable! It will stop en route if you flag it down (you don't need to be at a bus stop). It's good for walkers or for going to the shops, visiting friends, attending events etc.

The service does not currently go through Chapel Lawn, so the nearest stops would be New Invention or Bucknell.

Please let your friends and neighbours know about Castle Connect – the more we use it, the more secure its future will be!

We are enclosing a leaflet with this newsletter.

SKETCHBOOK



Redlake Recipes

Chapel Lawn Peruvian Causa

Ingredients:

1½ kg of potatoes that mash well

Teaspoon turmeric

Juice from 3 lemons

1 very finely chopped onion

1 cooked chicken breast cut into fine strips (or 6 oz cooked prawns)

1 cup of mayonnaise

1 avocado sliced

3 boiled eggs sliced

2 tomatoes sliced

Lettuce, black olives and parsley
salt, black pepper, olive oil or butter
Need; rectangular metal loaf tin
Preparation

1. Boil the potatoes.

2. Mash well and mix in a little oil or butter, turmeric lemon juice and salt/pepper to taste.

3. Oil the tin.

4. Put half the potato mixture in the tin and press down well.

5. Place strips of chicken or prawns on the top, then onion, then avocado, then mayonnaise

6. Put the rest of the potato mixture on top and press down well.

7. Carefully turn the Causa out onto a large plate.

8. Garnish with, egg, tomato, olives parsley and lettuce

To serve.

Cut slices from the Causa

Di Cosgrove

Seasonal Gardening Notes



Colour is of primary importance in the garden. The three primary colours – blue, yellow and red – do not often occur together in one genus.

The blue-flowered *Corydalis flexuosa* is a very popular plant in magazines (it is very photogenic) and in garden centres (it is easy to propagate and sells on sight), but is not a good doer. A safer bet is *C. elata*, which is taller, summer flowering, and an even brighter blue.

Just as attractive, and with a longer period of flowering, are the lemon-yellow *Corydalis lutea*, which sows itself in dry-stone walls and broken paving, and the similar *C. ochroleuca*, in white and green.

Corydalis solida is even more delicate, growing its feathery leaves from a nubby tuber and flowering in shades of pewter-purple, rose pink and rich tomato-red. A mixture of these colours looks spectacular in the bright spring sunshine.

Hannah Willetts

Farewell to Diana

At the end of April we will sadly say goodbye to Diana Hoare who has been the vicar for The Middle

Marches Benefice including our church St Mary's in Chapel Lawn, for over five years. Our thanks go to Diana for the huge amount she has done in the Benefice during her time here. I'm sure the image of Diana riding Toby her horse in the Redlake Valley and stopping to chat to her parishioners will be well remembered. We wish her all the very best for the future and her new life in St David's.

Di Cosgrove Churchwarden St Mary's Church

Recent Events Feb to April 15

Early Spring in Shropshire is often a quiet time for events and social gatherings and this year is no exception. Two films and a music gig in the Village Hall, Easter service in the church and that is about it! Of course Lambing with a capital 'L' traditionally takes over the farmer's lives in March and April and the weather generally puts people off going out in the evenings.

Instead of Flicks in the Sticks in February, we had a folk/jazz group from Somerset – quite a coup I believe – for a really good and entertaining night of good music for over 50 people. Miranda Sykes and Rex Preston are following an extremely busy tour of the country and were mightily impressed with our humble village hall and its warmth and friendliness!

'Kahaani', an Indian thriller, accompanied by curries and a bar proved to be a great success. A little bit of patience from the audience was needed while the subtitles were raised sufficiently to be read by most people, but it was worth it and more than 40 people had a really good evening. The latest and last film of the season, 'Mr Turner', also had a good audience; this was very encouraging as Llanfair Waterdine was also showing it, which just shows how little traffic there is over Offa's Dyke! Next year we will be collaborating with LW to try to alternate our Flicks nights and co-ordinate our film choices.

Finally, the Air-Gun season has finished and Chapel Lawn has had a good year, coming runner-up in the Clun Valley League and runner-up in two other matches. Only one team stand between us and complete victory and they don't even come from the Clun Valley!! We have a strong team now, but always welcome more members; perhaps we can entice enough shooters to form a 'B' team again? Please contact James Middleton on 530247 if you are interested.

Farming Column AMERICAN PIE

"February made me shiver, with every dead ewe I'd deliver"

We have always called the two weeks just prior to lambing, "Fatal Fortnight". This year fatal fortnight lasted a month. Frequent trips to the knackers yard often with multiple corpse's ended up with the mortuary trailer being nicknamed "Noah's Ark", the dead ewes went in two by two.

When lambing actually started for the first time ever we got through without losing a single lamb.

The one which disappeared down a vertical rabbit hole was found and safely reunited with mum. Even the one which burrowed into the middle of the straw stack **was found safe and well**, although I had to move half a bay of quadrant bales at 3am first.

The vet student who has helped us for the last four seasons was not able to come this year with the pressure of final exams, and not wishing to risk the unknown quantities of a novice, we decided to cope unaided. For three weeks we were ships that pass in the night, communicating via notes on the kitchen table about medical condition of various sheep, and no arguments!

Just as lambing started my one good Hip joint gave way totally. Absolute agony, couldn't stand, couldn't sit, couldn't kneel, couldn't drive. 10 minutes to get into position to get a sock on, 5 minutes to get a wellie on. My suggestion I could save 15 minutes by going to bed in socks & wellies was not well received.

Rosa Cania (Dog Rose to you Graham) has once again come to the rescue. Three years ago when I first started getting hip pain, Claudia did extensive internet research and came up with extract of the fruit of Rosa Cania was excellent for the treatment for treating joint ailments,

increasing the daily intake has brought some relief. The pain has lessened from chronic to acute sadly still cannot stand up long enough to do the washing up.

Defra once again in the spotlight; we had the introduction of the S.F.P. in 2006 this replaced A.A.P.S., B.S.P.S. & S.A.P.S.; absolute chaos. Eight years on, the system was finally working and jobs for the boys were under threat. The result: Let's introduce a new system; the S.F.P. state of the art system, applications online, no paperwork. The future of farming complaints from early users that the system was unworkable were brushed aside. A few teething problems easily ironed out before the 15th May deadline. Guess what? At the eleventh hour the RPA admits the system is unworkable! The deadline is extended for a month and we all have to revert to submitting paper applications. Wow progress!

Back to the usual spring. Lambing season is finished, grass growing season not started. Last year offers of post-lambing feed were met with studied indifference. We cannot get through the gate now for the melee on the other side. Don't know who has the more bruises, Duke (sheepdog) or me. Some of our Texel ewes are better scrummagers than the England Rugby pack. Drama in the orchard this morning, our resident pair of bullfinches had to defend their territory against another breeding pair. Swallows and house martins have arrived but alas no mud for nest repairs.

Bob James

Diary

W.I. silk painting 5th May.

Election Day 7th May Village Hall.

Town Council AGM 6.30 pm 22nd May (maybe 22nd May?)

ODAS AGM. 28th May. Village Hall.

Church Fund raising cooked breakfasts, Saturday morning 30th May. 10-12am

A music celebration for the restoration work to the church. Sunday 31st at 3pm. Tea & cake afterwards.

RVCBS meeting July 9th.

W.I. 14th July

Dance, Sultana Brothers 18th July

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

ODAS on the last Thursday in every month. 7pm