

THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 29

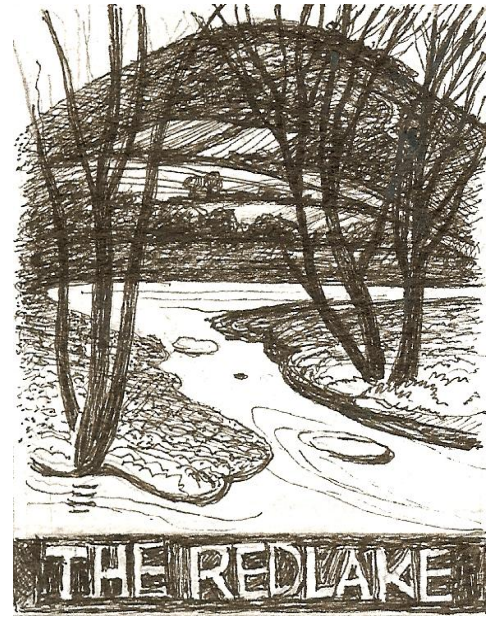
WINTER 2015

From the Editors **Happy New Year!**

In this edition there is a lot of summing-up of last years events for the local groups, and it just goes to show how many interests are out there for such a small community. There are films, live acts, talks and walks coming up, even a new Yoga class, so please come along and join in as you will be most welcome. Thank you to everyone who sent in an article, poem or recipe for this edition, I just couldn't squeeze them all in. But please keep them coming, as I'm sure we can find space in forthcoming editions.

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

Charles Henderson grins and bears it.

Many of the more established residents of Chapel Lawn will remember the Hendersons who lived in Well House (formerly Lower House) for forty years from 1967. Mike Henderson was an officer in the Gurkha Regiment who saw action in WW2. He set up home here in 1967 with his wife Christine and their three children Charles, Hamish and Colleen. After his wife died and his three children had moved away, Mike soldiered on into old age, before moving to Yorkshire to be near his daughter. Sadly, he died earlier this year at the age of 93. His wish was that his ashes be scattered in the Redlake Valley; so early in December, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and some family friends gathered at the river bridge to cast his ashes into the water to the sound of Uilleann (Northumbrian) pipes played by one of the grandchildren. After the ceremony, they were invited into Well House for a cup of tea and for a trip down memory lane. Charles, the eldest son,

was delighted to know that his old teddy bear still lived in the airing cupboard (you knew it was an ex army bear because it always slept beside the tank!). Di Cosgrove suggested that the bear should be reunited with its rightful owner, and Charles was happy to accept. The first thing he did, after the emotional greeting of old friends, was to turn it upside down and give it a hard thump it on its bum, at which it gave out a mournful moo, which it must have learned from the Middleton cows next door!

St Mary's Chapel Lawn. **Restoration of the church**



The scaffolding is down, the churchyard tidied, the builders' notices removed, the church cleaned. The restoration of the church is complete and it's looking wonderful!

The bell cote has been refurbished and the bell, which was taken away for repair, has been put back in position. It has already been rung for a wedding and Christmas services and sounds splendid. The internal roof has been repaired and the internal decoration completed. The east end external rendering is also complete, including new coping stones.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped to raise funds and given donations to enable this work to be completed.

There will be a special service on Sunday 31st of May at 3.00pm to commemorate the restoration of the church combined with The Voices of the Valley concert.

Invitations will be sent nearer the date but we hope you will all be able to come.

Di Cosgrove

Update on Community Quillet Activities.

We set ourselves the task of making it easier to climb up inside Brineddin Wood back in 2012. When we last reported on our progress in the Redlake we had achieved 52 steps and 2 benches. Pleasingly we have now managed 98(or is that 97?) steps and two more benches with help from Bob James and his chain-saw. The writer can just manage to reach the platform at the top without pausing for breath!! We are only still about a third of the way to the top. We have been pleased to be joined by many other volunteers this past year. They include a locally renowned botanist, a plant centre owner, and Shareholders from Clun, Bishop's Castle and Bucknell. We have also made further progress with hazel coppicing and are experimenting with various means of protecting the new growth from avaricious deer. Why not take a walk/workout, and have a look at what we have done?

Apart from the four practical conservation work parties last year, we held a successful AGM in May when we invited along a nationally recognised 'woodland' speaker Archie Miles, who as a fine photographer and gave a great presentation about ancient trees in the Welsh Marches. Anne Cummings from Bucknell, a BTO recorder, also led a bird walk, identifying birds by their calls along the way (when we had stopped chatting!). We also hosted a walk to the quillet as part of the village WWII commemorations.

We have new ideas for 2015, including an official opening for the new steps in the Spring - so look out for more details. We welcome anyone who has an interest in the wood to get involved.

Mark Limbrick

Sky Notes from Offa's Dyke Astronomical Society (ODAS)

2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the launch of the Hubble telescope. If you

came to Andrew Lound's presentation in October 'To See the Beginning of Time', you will remember the stunning images taken by Hubble. The NASA website www.nasa.gov/hubble has more photographs and lots of information about each one. You can also keep up to date with the happenings in, and pictures from, the International Space Station (ISS) at www.nasa.gov.

On **Thursday 30th April** Michael Bryce will be coming to Chapel Lawn to talk on 'Space 2015' with up-dates on the latest space exploration missions. All welcome. £3 at the door. Chapel Lawn Village Hall 7.30 pm.

Look out for the following in 2015:-

- Total eclipse of the Sun on 20th March visible in North Atlantic but partial in UK including Chapel Lawn.
- NASA's Dawn spacecraft will arrive at the asteroid, Ceres, in April.
- June and July 2015; Venus will be at its very brightest in the Summer evening skies at -4.7 mag. Venus approaches the Beehive cluster around 12th and 13th June. Jupiter is also nearby and will be very close, visually, to Venus on 30th June.
- The New Horizons spacecraft reaches the remote Pluto and its complex moon system on 14th July.
- Continued findings from the Rosetta Comet 67/P mission – August 2015 highlight.
- The great meteor shower the Perseids peak on 12th/ 13th August and this year there will be no moonlight to spoil the show.
- 27th September a Total Lunar eclipse at 11 pm.
- Tim Peake from Britain scheduled to go to the ISS in December.

Each month or so ODAS publish a newsletter which has information about what to look out for in the weeks/ months ahead. If you would like to go on the list to receive this by email contact ODAS secretary Carolyn Wilde at cmwilde@btinternet.com.

Poets Corner Spirits of Christmas Past.

*Behind the doors of gentle homes
Another Christmas comes and goes.
A bright new year dawns, full of promise,
With buds asleep beneath the snows.
This year, a Christmas long ago,
Became entrenched within our hearts.
Across that frost-hard "in-between",
New khaki'd comrades shared a smoke;
Kicked a football, swapped a joke.
Just think what could have been....*

*A glimpse of hope in all that strife,
And hope for all held dear.
I raise my glass to each of you
And say "Happy New Year".*

Jem

What's been happening in Chapel Lawn WI?

We've changed a little recently as indeed the national movement has, by organising lots of activities that have been 'hands-on' and practical. We're learning new skills and spending time enjoying one another's company. As we have about 10 members now, we are encouraging everyone to get involved with organising our meetings instead of appointing a committee. Last May we learnt how to paint on silk and create greetings cards. Later in the year Christine told us all about the building of her holiday home in Spain. What a huge labour of love! We also did our bit for the Village Hall by spring cleaning all the chairs in February. We have also invited speakers along to talk on a range of subjects: beauty ideas and tips, dementia (when we welcomed back Jane Kent to speak) and Offa's Dyke Path. We have enjoyed a wide range of other experiences from learning to play a ukulele and finding out about Tower House Gallery's shop. We also held two of our meetings in local restaurants where any discussions about WI matters soon gave way to sampling the good food on offer!

April saw us Ten Pin bowling in Leominster with a large group of husbands and friends. We worked up a real appetite for the steak and chips meal afterwards! Three of us improved our skills by creating hanging baskets at the Ludlow Plant Centre in May. One member applied for a bursary from our funds which helped towards a bread-making course at a bakery in Ludlow. The skills gained were subsequently passed onto six others during a convivial bread making session at her home.

July and August found us hard at work planning and executing a shop window display for both the Clun and Knighton Shows. Although we were told we hadn't interpreted the title 'Best of British' effectively for our display in Knighton, having decided to concentrate on 'Shropshire', we were delighted to come first in Clun, having worked with 'Uganda' as our 'Country of choice'!

Members organised another Macmillan evening, fund-raising more than £170 over a cup of coffee and the Bring and Buy stall.

We have a wealth of talent and experience in our WI which has been shown through the many meetings' activities being led by members themselves. Chapel Lawn WI continues to owe its existence to members who have contributed over many years to its ongoing success. As our programme states 'Everyone's ideas and input are welcomed. Feel inspired to make it our WI'. We are always looking for other ladies to join us, so if you are inspired to do so, do let us know. We hope to continue through 2015, with a renewed emphasis towards learning new skills, which can be used in the service of the wider community, here in our village and beyond.

Karen Limbrick
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Recent Events

Nov 14-Jan 15 2015

The Redlake Valley Artists and Friends put on a busy and successful Winter Craft Fair in the village hall on the afternoon of

Sunday 23rd November. An array of hand-made gifts from greetings cards to knitwear, painting to pottery and feltwork to scented soaps was on show and it all looked really festive, colourful, and inviting. Many thanks to everyone who came along on the day to browse or to buy, and particular thanks to Vera Bowen, and Pat (Jameson) for tirelessly helping with the tea and cake.

We held Christmas events during December. The first of these was the Shropshire Village Halls Quiz Night on Friday, 5th December. Decorations left over from Peter and Becky's wedding were augmented by more lights, a tree and some pretty stars covering the stage curtains. Section D covers South Shropshire and John and Carolyn Wilde are its Quiz masters. Teams from across Shropshire are entered by their village halls. In this current year there are 38 teams of four who compete once a month from October to March with a final held in March or April. As this quiz event was set up 30 years ago to promote village halls and encourage their use, the venues are always village halls. The villages sending teams are encouraged to invite the quiz to hold one of the rounds in their premises. Not all halls are large enough to host up to ten teams so some venues, like Chapel Lawn, may be used more often. Participants tell us that they very much enjoy the welcome and hospitality shown to them at the Redlake Village Hall as well as the excellent sandwiches and home-made cakes. The raffle too, is always popular. Each team of four pays £8 towards the refreshments and the income from the raffle and the bar help to make a small profit. The Chapel Lawn team is co-ordinated by Barry Palmer; although there are only four people in a team a larger pool of contestants is needed to allow for absences. It is also possible for a hall to sponsor two teams if there are enough volunteers. So maybe a second Redlake Valley team could be set up in time for the start of the next year of the quiz? To enquire about becoming a contestant, ring Barry Palmer on 530106. For more information about the quiz ring Carolyn Wilde on 530085.

The following night, we held the Christmas Party. This time, Christine and Di organised the delicious cold buffet and with the hall looking very pretty with tea lights and the new red checked table cloths on all the tables, we had a friendly and enjoyable evening. Paddy Claus turned up again (he came two years ago) having trouble with both his glasses and

his 'wind'! We had a surprise raffle, a round up of the farming year's events from Bob and 'How arguments with my wife start' from James. The evening continued with drinking and dancing.

During the following week, 22 members and friends of ODAS enjoyed a home-cooked Christmas Dinner in the village hall. This has become a popular feature of the ODAS year. As well as the meal, there was an astronomical quiz and member, Syd Crump, gave us a taster of his future talk 'Did the Vikings get to Clun?' We hope to hear the answer sometime in the summer...

The next weekend, the Church held its annual Carol Concert; with the vicar absent, Di and Pat introduced the singers and readers and carols and read a couple of poems. Many of the readings were done by our local youngsters who made a very good job of it and Barry's Restoration Singers and The Mudlarks both performed. The church was almost full so thank you everyone who came.

After the disappointment of the audience numbers at October's films, **Twelve Years a Slave** in November had a slightly better attendance of 12. **Le Weekend** in December was better attended however, with an audience of 20, but we were back to a very meagre 9 for January's **Captain Phillips** – an excellent film about a real drama involving the Somali Pirates we have heard so much about. Admittedly, the weather was freezing and roads dangerous, but does the film itself influence how many people come or is it the weather or the timing? Do Chapel Lawn residents **want** to see films in their Village Hall? As there are people who have, for one reason or another missed the films when they were shown, the committee have considered loaning these to residents of Chapel Lawn for a donation equivalent to the entry fee on the night. Please get in touch with us if you are interested.

2015 The New Year's Party seems to be becoming a regular event and is well worth attending. We provide our own entertainment, food and drink to share and this year, Christine and Jim opened the bar and served drinks at cost; it is a great way to welcome the New Year in the company of friends, without anyone having to shoulder the responsibility of hosting a party in their own homes. If you missed it this year -try again next year!!!

A few of us met to talk about Yoga Classes in the Village Hall. Although

there has been quite a lot of enthusiasm, we still do not know how many people are actually willing to commit. The result of our meeting is that we will have a trial run of 4 fortnightly lessons starting on Wednesday 4th Feb at 6.30 pm. These classes are taken by Clare Johnson, who has been teaching yoga for many years and has learnt much about how our bodies work in conjunction with our minds. Whether you know nothing about yoga and want to find out, or you have been doing yoga for years, but need direction and perhaps motivation (like me), Clare can help.

Seasonal Gardening Notes



Even the shortest days of the year can see flowers in the garden: not the hung-over roses and flea-bitten summer flowers that overstay their welcome, but the true flowers of winter. Many gardeners have viburnums and winter jasmine, hamamelis and hellebores – even the tricky Christmas rose, *Helleborus niger*, if you are lucky enough to be able to suit it.

Not so often seen is the exquisite *Iris unguicularis*, whose delicate purple or white flowers bloom from November to March, among clumps of shiny, evergreen foliage. It comes from Algeria, so grows best tucked up tight against a south-facing wall – to benefit from retained warmth and also from any crumbs of old lime mortar in the soil, which help to keep its toes dry.

The delicious scent of these flowers hangs in the air on still, sunny days, and reminds us that spring is on its way.

Hannah Willetts

Farming Column

Once again a year has flown by and 2014 can be remembered as one of the more stable years in the farming world, both with the weather and prices for livestock following their usual trends. Spring crops were planted and established very well and harvest was gathered in glorious weather conditions followed with a dry and warm Autumn so I find it hard to moan about anything which is a very rare circumstance for a farmer, as moaning is something that we are famous for doing. It was great to see seven different combines all

working at the same time on neighbouring farms when I was making some late hay during August. I am sure those combines don't owe any of those farmers a penny and are still doing their job even after all these years. However, back down to earth and as I write this column in the month of January, I look at the calendar and think only another couple of weeks until we get into February. January, I always think is a horrible month for sheep; wading in the mud around ring feeders with very little quality in the grass, that is if you have any in the first place. It is only my Welsh ewes that are still living totally off the land after leaving the 'Grooms Hill' to fegg up over the autumn and early winter. This provides enough feed for these low maintenance sheep until they are housed or bought nearer to the farm for lambing. The improved Welsh ewe is very well suited to the more marginal land here at Treverward and with this in the back of my mind, I smile to myself with old sayings about these sheep like "they thrive where the crows die" or "they will live off what grows at night". I read a lot in the farming press about farmers who are now keeping different breeds of sheep that they claim are supposed to be easy care but after trying a couple of these new breeds, I still stand by my opinion that there will only ever be one true easy care ewe – the Welsh ewe. The only downside however, being the lower number and quality of lambs they produce. The next big job with the ewes is scanning, with the 31st of January being the date set. Scanning is a simple and fantastic management tool for any sheep farmer as sheep can be bunched and fed accordingly to the amount of lambs they are to have, saving money on expensive feed and providing piece of mind, as let's face it, who really wants to be guessing how many lambs that ewe is going to have at 3 o'clock in the morning! I always think that you should never try to stand in the way of progress unless you want to end up like the dinosaurs and so two years ago with an open mind I started putting Aberdale rams onto my Welsh ewes and will be scanning the first crop of yearlings by these rams on the 31st. The Aberdale rams have been masterminded by a breeding firm from Aberystwyth. They are Texel rams that carry the Inverdale gene, which is expected to increase the scanning rate of ewes even when tugged late and on poorer quality grass. The theory being that if you have some marginal land on your farm and prefer to

lamb later in April then you can tup these Aberdale ewes on this system and still achieve a scanning percentage of 1.75 – 2 lambs per ewe. This then allows you to keep your better land for finishing any left-over lambs or to put other ewes you have on the farm, like my Welsh ewes to the ram. It all sounds good in theory but we will have to wait and see how they perform in a couple of week's time. If they do "do what it says on the tin" then I think they will be my preferred choice of breed to run alongside my Welsh ewes – watch this space!

I now write this column as a married man and no longer living in sin! We had a very enjoyable day followed by a wonderful party with all of our friends and neighbours. During the usual banter mostly from males before the wedding I took a lot of stick mainly directed at keeping the bride happy and in good terms. I laughed with these men but deep down I was a little apprehensive about the whole day and night going to plan and of course it did; however many of these men have long term girlfriends themselves or daughters that have been with their boyfriends for some time and so now as the tables have turned I get to laugh at them and say... ha ha you have it all to come my friend!!

I hope 2015 brings you all good health happiness and fortune...

John Phillips, Lower Treverward.

Diary

ROAD CLOSED!- Chapel Lawn- Bucknell 9th-12th Feb.

W.I. every second Tuesday of the month.

Yoga, wed, 4th Feb 6.30pm Village Hall, & then 18th Feb, 4th & 18th March. See poster on notice board for more details.

Live Act, Sat 21st Feb, folk Roots Gig with Miranda Sykes and Rex Preston. Village Hall

Food & Flicks-sat 7th March 6pm-food, 7.30pm-Film. **Kahaani**, Indian themed

V.H.Committee Meeting Tuesday 17th March at 7.30pm

Town Council Meeting Monday 23rd March at 7.30pm.

Film-Sat.18th April, 7.30pm **Mr.Turner.**

ODAS-30th April 7.30pm. **Talk on**" Space 2015", by Michael Bryce. £3 on the door.

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

ODAS on the last Thursday in every month. 7pm