

THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 1

WINTER 2007/2008

From the Editors

Welcome to this first edition of **THE REDLAKE**, which we hope you will enjoy. Following our survey in October last year, it became clear that there was scope for a local Newsletter, covering the area of the Chapel Lawn ward.

The name **THE REDLAKE** was chosen because the river of that name connects most of the townships, bringing the communities together.

Although part of the Clun civil parish and ecclesiastically linked to Bucknell benefice, the Chapel Lawn area stands alone with its own personality and interests.

Our editorial policy is to be stimulating but non-partisan, report on local events that have happened and publicise those about to happen. But to be really successful we do need your input, whether as a letter or a short article on a local topic or just let us know what you'd like to read about.

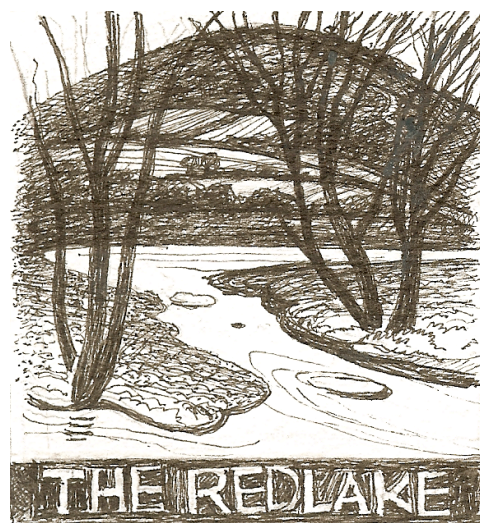
We will be linked to the Chapel Lawn website (www.chapel-lawn.co.uk) where some articles will be published in more detail and may include colour photographs.

THE REDLAKE will be distributed free to every household in the ward: however the odd contribution towards the cost of publication would be most welcome!

THE REDLAKE is published by The Redlake Valley Hall Committee and neither the committee nor the editors can accept responsibility for any opinions expressed by contributors in these pages. The editorial team reserves the right to edit contributions as it believes appropriate.

The Editorial Team

The editorial team comprises: Jane Kent, Christine Page, Becky Whitton & Michael Macturk
How to contact us: by mail The Redlake Editors, Squire Farm, Chapel Lawn, SY7 0BW
by telephone 01547 530 530 or by e-mail theredlake@squirefarm.co.uk



Parish Plan

The Clun & Chapel Lawn Parish Plan is an attempt to find out more about you, the members of the Parish, and your ideas about what is needed. Many of you helped with the consultation at the Village Walk in September which gave us many good ideas. The next stage will come early next year, when a questionnaire will go out to everyone in the community. This questionnaire will ask for your views on a wide range of subjects from work to the environment and community facilities. Please help the Parish Council to work towards what you want by having your say.

If you have any questions or would like to get more involved, please speak to **Kim Smith** on 01547 530504

WELCOME TO CHAPEL LAWN

For newcomers to the area we thought a very brief profile might provide an introduction to Chapel Lawn.

Chapel Lawn is a ward of the Clun parish and covers the six ancient townships of Hobendrid (Chapel Lawn and Pentre), Hobarris, Menutton, Purlogue, Treverward and Pentre Hodre. Chapel Lawn village is regarded as the mother village of this large and sparsely populated ward. In the next issue of this newsletter we hope to distribute a map of the area.

If you would like to know more about Chapel Lawn life and its history the book "The Life and Death of Chapel Lawn School" published by the community and available locally is well worth a read.

The village has a church, village hall, listed telephone box, letter box and a once a week bus service to Knighton. It is very quiet, and it is quite unusual to meet anyone as one walks or drives along the main street.

It lies in the beautiful Redlake valley, dominated on one side by Caer Caradoc and Stow hill and on the other by Bryneddin wood and Hodre hill.

The six townships have 149 voters on the electoral roll and with about 12 children under voting age we think we can assume the average age of the community is well above the national average!

Although we are part of the Clun civil parish, Chapel Lawn Church parish is part of the Bucknell benefice. Thus we have

the interesting peculiarity that Chapel Lawn's ecclesiastical administration is from Bucknell and politically it is from Clun, whilst our District Council representative lives in Newcastle on Clun!

Church services are twice monthly and after the service is a very good opportunity for socialising.

In Chapel Lawn village is the Redlake Valley Hall, which while extensively refurbished retains its old world charm and is popular with people both within and from outside the area. Frequent events take place in the hall to which everyone is very welcome. It also hosts the local W.I., Gun Club and Astronomical Society, all of whom would be delighted to welcome new members.

Profile**Vera Price**

Vera is one of the very few people who has lived in the Chapel Lawn area all her life. She was born at Big Purlogue, now known as Purlogue Farm.

In her primary years she walked to and from school at Chapel Lawn and later attended the old High School at Bishop's Castle. When she left school Vera worked at home on the farm, where she was kept constantly busy. Her mum did not approve of lazy pastimes such as reading. Herself an excellent craftswoman, she encouraged Vera to learn to knit, sew, and embroider. Vera must have been an outstanding pupil as anyone who has seen her beautiful craftwork will know.

Vera married Maurice, from Garbett just over the hill, in 1958 and moved to Green Farm at Purlogue, which, with Garbett, they farmed in partnership with Maurice's brothers. In 1969 they bought The Garn and branched out on their own. Here Vera helped on the farm, which was stocked with about 30 cows, a Hereford bull and Clun sheep. Vera's speciality was rearing geese. She sold the dressed geese to traders in the Midlands. The feathers and down, in great demand for their quality, she sold to a travelling dealer.

Vera and Maurice's three children, Christine, Robert and David, all grew up at The Garn and like their mum

went to Chapel Lawn and Bishop's Castle schools. When Vera and Maurice retired to the Pentre in 2002 the boys took over the farm. Christine (Oakley) now lives in Bucknell, but is still very involved in Chapel Lawn life, so happily all are still local.

What has changed over the years? Quite a lot thinks Vera. In the early days the Stag's Head at New Invention was still a pub. As well as the market bus to Knighton on a Thursday there was a bus to the Saturday cinema, beyond where the hotel car park is today. Before the Village Hall was erected regular whist drives and dances were held in the Chapel Lawn school, where the two classrooms could be opened up into one big room; and there were more, and busier, church services at St. Mary's. Although when young, Vera generally went to Sunday School at the Chapel at New Invention, which was in her field!

Before the 1960's the Chapel Lawn area was a close community of farming families and all the houses in Chapel Lawn were associated with farming, only two others being built until recent years. With the Adams family's smithy and corn bruising premises situated in the heart of the village, and used by all the local farmers, Chapel Lawn could be a very busy place at times.

When Vera was young the post was delivered on foot from Clun sorting office. The service was maintained right through the great '47 freeze up, there was even a delivery on Christmas Day! Bread and groceries were delivered by Mr Davies from Clun by horse and cart. In deep snow he would leave the cart at New Invention and finish the journey to Purlogue pack horse style.

Vera has always been extremely active in the life of Chapel Lawn in the past she has been W.I. President and Secretary and Treasurer to both the PCC and the Village Hall Committee.

Sadly, Vera's husband Maurice, also a community stalwart, died in 2007. Vera continues to be at the heart of

the community, an active WI member, very involved with the Church, a busy mum and grandma, and a good friend valued by all.

Jane Kent

SEASONAL GARDENING NOTES

Hamamelis, or Chinese Witch Hazel, is the star of the winter garden. It is an easy, hardy shrub that won't get too big and needs no pruning. It's not fussy about position, as long as it has some sun and soil that is not too dry. It blooms on the bare stems from Christmas until March in strong colours of egg-yolk yellow, tawny orange or gingery red. Its flowers look like the tousled ribbon bunches you add to gift-wrapping and they are richly scented - a Christmas puddingy blend of citrus-spiciness, which hangs in the air on still days. The foliage will colour magnificently in favourable autumn. The bruise-soothing liniment comes from the American witch hazel, which is not such a garden-worthy plant as its growth is straggly and its flowers small.



The National Collection of Hamamelis is held in Shropshire by Pat Edwards at Swallow Hayes, Albrighton, near Wolverhampton. The next garden open day is 20 January 2008. Telephone 01902 372624 for more details.

Hannah Willets

Village Socials

Following the success of the recent events, such as the men's pudding competition, the Village Hall Committee is planning regular social evenings to include games, talks, food and a bar. The next social, on 21st February, includes Becky's talk and slideshow about her adventures riding from Portugal to Suffolk with a friend, two horses and a dog.

Profile

Carole White & Peter Round



Carole and Peter moved into Quince Cottage in July, 2003. Peter retired from Jaguar as a Senior Engineer in 1999 and Carole in 2006 as Senior Receptionist at Country Baskets, a leading wholesale florist supplier. The move to Chapel Lawn from Halesowen was unexpected as Carole and Peter were looking for properties near Bewdley, close to family and friends. Not having found a suitable property it was decided to look further afield. Peter knew the area around Ludlow having spent long weekends coarse fishing in the area for many years staying at local pubs. While on a tour of the area looking at various possibilities Quince Cottage was initially considered to be too far out but Carole's intuition encouraged Peter to travel that little bit further. On the journey from Bucknell to Chapel Lawn the breathtaking view of Bucknell Hill and the beautiful countryside convinced Carole that this was the place where she was destined to live. On arrival at Quince Cottage the then owner invited them in for coffee and home-made cakes. Neither wanted to leave. They were home! The house felt right and the views of Caer Caradoc and Brineddin Hill were uplifting.

Carole and Peter have now been at home in Chapel Lawn for four and a half years and would not consider going back to the traffic, fumes, noise or pace of city life. From the outset they were welcomed into the community by neighbours and local people. They feel it is a beautiful place with a sense of being in the

middle of nowhere but close to amenities – a place where people care about and help one another – with, as Peter well knows, a friendly pub at Bucknell that serves a mean pint. They feel privileged to have found Quince Cottage in such an idyllic place and they enjoy the tranquil lifestyle in Chapel Lawn which Carole describes as “a very special place”. They have worked hard at renovating their home including most recently clearing one part of their land which culminated in a huge bonfire and party enjoyed by neighbours. Peter also finds time to be a member of Chapel Lawn the Air Rifle Club.

Carole was told by a clairvoyant over twenty years ago that she would live in a happy valley similar to the Cornish countryside, and milk a cow. It seems that the former has certainly come true. Any offers on the latter?

Di Slater

LOCAL DIALECT WORDS

In 1980 Sheila Hamer, made a record of dialect words still in use in the south Shropshire area for the Women's Institute Domesday Project. Like her, we feel it important that these words and phrases are not lost, as might happen with the increasing number of people from 'off' arriving in the area. Among our favourites are:

<i>Conna</i>	Can not
<i>Dunna</i>	Do not
<i>Beethy</i>	Limp and cold, as vegetables left too long after picking
<i>Boughten</i>	Having been bought from a shop as distinct from the home-made item
<i>Daggley</i>	Wet and dirty as of sheep and dogs
<i>Daggley weather</i>	Persistent drizzle or wet fog
<i>Laipsed</i>	Covered with mud splashes
<i>Oonts</i>	Moles. Oonty tumps or toops (mole hills)
<i>Tidy</i>	Upright, decent (a tidy person)
<i>More in the next issue</i>	

FARMING COLUMN

Farmers in the area will be pleased to see the end of 2007, a very trying year on many fronts. Last summer was the complete opposite to the scorching temperatures of 1976, the year I started work at Chapel Lawn.

In most of England, movement restrictions on livestock are in place due to the blue tongue outbreak. So, most farmers are using Ludlow market instead of Knighton, which is in Wales.

I, like many cattle farmers in the valley, now have problems with bovine TB in the cattle, which is ongoing with no easy solution. At least cattle prices have remained reasonable during the last year.

Following a year of low prices for lamb, largely due to the ban on exports, the weakening pound against the euro is now helping prices rise as exports regain markets lost during the foot and mouth outbreaks in the summer. About one third of the lamb crop is exported, mainly to France and other European countries.

Sheep flocks are currently being pregnancy scanned and some housed ready for lambing, with higher numbers of lambs predicted than last year due to better autumn grass at tugging time.

At home all the cattle are now housed. So work is mainly feeding and bedding and farm maintenance, plus shooting the odd pheasant or two!

James Middleton

Renewable Energy

Liz Campbell and Patrick Cosgrove recently attended a meeting in Ludlow where the possibility was floated for grants of up to £150,000 for renewable energy schemes for landowners or communities (or both). This money, from the Regional Development Agency, could support feasibility exercises on projects based on bio fuel crops to support farm diversification, wind power, water power or biomass digestion.

For further information contact: **Patrick Cosgrove** on 01547 530347 or **Liz Campbell** on 01547 530535.

Chapel Lawn Astronomicals

The Chapel Lawn Astronomicals has now reached its fourteenth year. It began as the Offa's Dyke Astronomical Society, which met each month in Knighton Observatory.

Following a few years of decline, it was decided to move the meetings to Chapel Lawn Village Hall. Not only was the hall a user-friendly place but it had a large car park and it was blessed with very dark skies – except for three street lights!

Today it is an informal group of friends and acquaintances with one great interest – the stars.

A source of wonder rather than knowledge binds the group together. They enjoy hands-on experience of telescopes to view the heavens and it's wonders.

Excellent speakers help to expand their interest and knowledge: Subjects have included 'The Birth and Death of Stars', 'Saturn – Lord of the Rings', 'Mars and the Belief in Canals' and 'The Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence'.



The Astronomicals meet on the last Thursday of every month at Chapel Lawn Village Hall at 7.30pm. Members number around twenty but on most evenings ten would be a good number. Between them the members have at least five good astronomical telescopes. Special days and nights are arranged for viewing. At midsummer a supper for members and friends is held, and each Christmas

there is a splendid Christmas dinner in Knighton.

If you are interested in the stars or would like to look at the planets and the moon magnified 450 times, then do please come along or telephone 01547 530205 for more help and details. If this has caught your imagination then more information can be found on the Chapel Lawn website at www.chapel-lawn.co.uk

Graham Arnold

Chapel Lawn Gun Club

The Air Gun Club has been running in Chapel Lawn for over a 100 years. Two Chapel Lawn teams shoot in the Clun Valley League, with a match every Monday from September to March at different venues, and a practice on most Thursdays in the village hall. Read a potted history of the club in the next newsletter. If you are interested in joining, please contact **James Middleton** 01547 530247.

Chapel Lawn W. I.

During the past year the W.I. has expanded greatly and is an extremely lively group, very involved in many of the village's activities. It meets at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month in the village hall for fun, gossip and informative talks.

Do come along, or if you'd like to know more ring **Pauline Terry** 01588 640754 or **Jane Kent** 01588 640642.

Council Matters

The Clun with Chapel Lawn (CL) Parish Council meets nine times a year in Clun and once in CL. Three of the twelve councillors represent CL: Councillors K. Smith, S. Sherring and K. Terry. No matters of major significance affecting CL ward were discussed recently.

Planning applications from Little Bryncalled, Brook House at Pentre, land at Pentre Farm and Lower Hodre were all either supported or voted 'no objection'.

DIARY DATES

Compiled by Becky Whitton. To include your event here email theredlake@squirefarm.co.uk or tel 01547 530530

Every Monday

Gun Club. 8pm. Contact James Middleton 01547 530247

Last Thursday every month

CL Astronomicals. 7.30pm. Contact Graham Arnold 01547 530205

Every second Wednesday of the month

13th February WI meeting. 2.30pm. Topic 'Colour in Your Garden'. Contact Jane Kent 01588 640642

Sunday 3rd February

Food & Flicks. 12.30pm lunch followed by Ratatouille. Contact Kim Smith 01547 530504

Thursday 21st February

Village Social: Food, Bar & Slide Show. 7.30pm Lisbon to Lavenham on Horseback, a talk by Becky Whitton. Further details on notice board and website nearer the time

Thursday 6th March

Village Hall Cleaning. 2pm All welcome! Contact Beryl Palmer 01547 530106

Thursday 19th June

Village Hall AGM. 7.30pm

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

We are planning to bring you a free map of the townships, more profiles, news, reviews of events and interesting articles.

Please let us know what you'd like to read about.



Illustrations by Ann Arnold