

THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 6

SPRING 2009

From the Editors

Initial funding for the Redlake came from a grant from the Bishop's Castle Marches Partnership Community Chest Scheme. Our application for which stated that our aim was to keep people informed about, and seek to involve them in, local activities and provide a vehicle for introducing people to each other. We hope we are achieving this. From now on we are funded by a gift from one of our editors, Becky Whitton, who donated the profits from her slide show on her journey from Portugal to England on horseback.

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 Redlake is funded by grants and donations and it is our policy not to accept paid advertising due to restraints on space. See last issue for editorial team & contact details.

CHAPEL LAWN HOME GUARD

Originally called the Local Defence Volunteers, the title Home Guard came later.

Giles Owen (Chapel Lawn), the grandfather of Graham Owen, was in charge. He had served in the First World War and held the rank of Lieutenant. Bert Moyle and Bill Price were sergeants: George Adams and Joe Robinson (Quarry Farm) were corporals. Bill was also a driver.

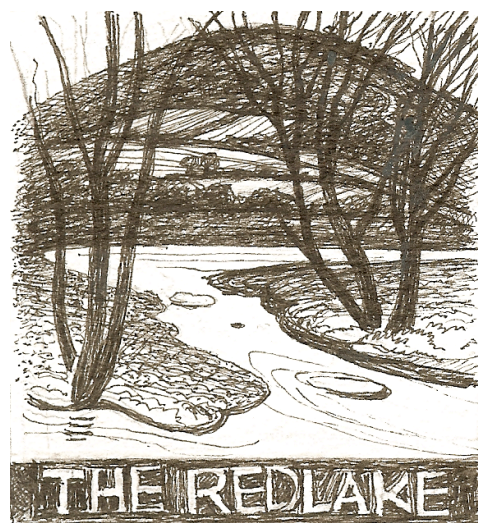
Other members were:

Wilfred Griffiths	Upper Lurkenhope
Clifford Moseley	Menutton
Ernie Thomas	Chapel Lawn
Jack Morgan	Llynaven

Harold Middleton	Chapel Lawn
Jack Richards	New Invention
Tom Harris	Hodre
Fred Adams	The Smithy
Jack Adams	The Bryn
Ted Hugh	The Garn
Jack Thornton	Chapel Lawn
Arthur Middleton	Chapel Lawn
Frank Huffer	Hodre
Bert Bowdler	Chapel Lawn

Parades were held twice a week in the granary at Charlie Owens' (Giles' brother) house, now the Well House.

Every night four men acted as lookouts at the top of Bryneddin wood – taking turns with two on watch and



two sleeping – at first in a tent and then in a caravan lent by Mr Moseley.

The nearest phone, the only one in the village, was in the schoolhouse and this was 'manned' by the schoolteachers, the two Miss Evans. When they were away, George Adams slept in the schoolhouse – on the floor. Contact between the lookouts and telephone would have to be made by someone scrambling down through the wood and running to the school and presumably the other way round if necessary.

There were weekly parades with instructions on guns and explosives. Army instructors would visit Bucknell and the Chapel Lawn Company would attend these meetings.

At first the men only had broom handles and their own guns, 12 bore with special cartridges, but eventually they were issued with rifles and, of course, everyone had a uniform.

There were parades and exercise trips on Sundays, locally as well as to more distant venues using live ammunition.

One night, about midnight, there was a call-out – a possible invasion – and George Adams, on his motorbike with masked lights, had to drive round and call everyone on parade for what turned out to be a false alarm.

Michael Macturk



Profile**Liz & Ian Campbell**

Ian and Liz Campbell moved into Lower Hodre six years ago, probably Chapel Lawn's first truly metropolitan couple!

Ian was born in Germany, his mother is German, but moved to Tarporley in Cheshire in early infancy, and then to Chester. He went to Leeds University, where he read chemistry and subsequently did a post-graduate teacher's certificate at King's College London, but 'hated it'. Meantime he was also leading another life, working as a DJ, and in various support roles in theatres. He was also playing bass guitar in bands, notably Barfroco, which got reviewed in the music press of the period, but sadly never quite made it commercially. Ian applied and got into the BBC. He worked firstly in film despatch, but speedily moved onwards and upwards, becoming a sound recordist and finally a post production supervisor. This role involves ensuring that all the technical requirements of a programme after it is shot, such as editing, sound etc. are organized and executed to a high standard. So if you watched and enjoyed Lovejoy, Hettie Wainthrop Investigates, The Vet, and many other programmes in the nineties you may well have Ian to thank for much of your pleasure! In his last five years at the BBC Ian worked on East Enders, an experience which seems finally to have driven him from London.

Liz was born and grew up in Tunbridge Wells, a place she says she has no particular affinity with. She went to secretarial college in Cambridge and then worked in a

variety of jobs for five years, before going to Greenwich University, where she read International Marketing with French. She chose this course with care as it involved living for eighteen months in France. She studied for six months at a business school in Compiègne, Picardy and worked for a year in Grenoble, which she really loved and which gave her every opportunity to improve her skiing! Liz returned to London to finish her course and, apart from a brief sojourn in Plymouth, continued to work in and around London in various marketing jobs. She finally became Web Editor for the Corporation of London.

Ian and Liz had mutual friends so their paths almost crossed several times before they actually met in 1998 at a wedding. They sat at the same table, Ian was wearing a leather jacket and was, according to Liz, by far the scruffiest person in the room which was part of his appeal. They got chatting, one thing led to another, and about a year later Liz moved into Ian's flat in Willesden.

Both Ian and Liz love outdoor activities, Liz was a keen scuba diver who used to dive on wrecks off the Kent coast, and also an enthusiastic horse rider. Ian says he is obsessed by 'scary' climbing, motor cycles - he has a classic Moto Guzzi - and mountain biking. Few of these activities are readily available in London. They stayed in London for a further three years, but were getting increasingly disenchanted with life there and decided to move out. Their families now lived in Swansea and Cheltenham, so they decided to find somewhere they would enjoy living accessible to both places. They had friends who lived near Ludlow and began to explore the area until finally they hit upon Lower Hodre.

They resigned from their jobs, sold both their homes and 'ran to the hills'. However, they did have a living to make. Ian's father is a retired builder living in Swansea and at that time property was very cheap there. So they decided to have a go, with the help of Ian's dad, at property

developing - initially dividing their time between Swansea and Lower Hodre. Their venture became a business, and they started to buy locally so they could live here full time. Since the housing downturn they have concentrated on improving their own property and Ian has retrained as an electrician: he completes the course in July.

Liz and Ian say they feel really settled where they are and have no plans to move. They are already involved in the community; Ian has been instrumental in installing the splendid 'Flicks' equipment in the hall. Both of them have also taken responsibility for maintaining the Hodre Pool, which, under their care, is a real asset to Chapel Lawn. There is every reason to hope they continue to enjoy Chapel Lawn life and remain here for a long time yet.

Jane Kent

The International Space Station

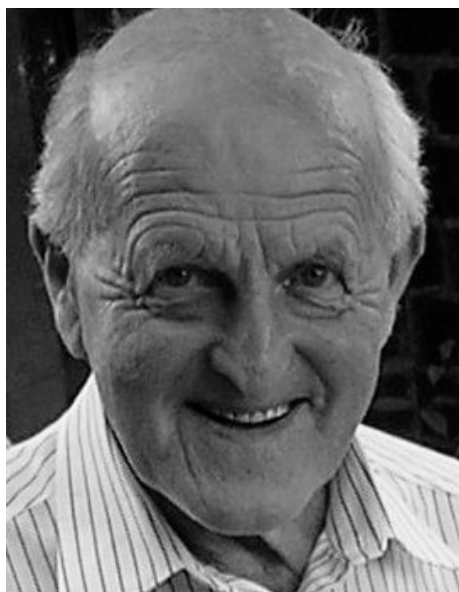
We at Chapel Lawn were treated to a wonderful sight as the International Space Station passed overhead on no less than five nights in March.

The ISS is one of the truly great wonders of our age, orbiting at a height of 200 miles above the earth's surface. Because of its huge size - its solar panels alone have an area of over 33 acres - the drag of upper atmosphere slows its speed and it requires frequent rocket burns to maintain the correct height.

Ten year's old last November it is supplied by Russian and American shuttles delivering around eight tonnes of supplies each trip. It is not yet complete; among many innovations is a machine that turns the crew's urine into drinking water. You can book a ticket for a three-day visit which will cost you just \$30,000.

Last December, two crew members, from the 18 man resident crew, made a 5½ hour space walk to replace external scientific experiments.

Clearly seen in the early evening sky over Chapel Lawn, it was shining brighter than the very brightest star. Times to see it are posted on the village notice board.

Obituary**Charlie Morris**

People in Chapel Lawn were extremely sorry to hear recently of the death of Charlie Morris who lived at Woodside Farm Bucknell. Although Charlie was not strictly in the Chapel Lawn parish, he and his wife Maisie were very definitely part of the community.

Charlie's family originally came from The Quern although Charlie was born and lived at Woodside all his life, except for a couple of years on a farm at Llanbadarn, where he met and married Maisie.

When the Chapel Lawn school was open, Charlie and Maisie looked after its upkeep and so were in the village daily. They came to all the village functions and, after Maisie died, Charlie continued to come until very recently.

Charlie was a lovely, gentle man, fond of a chat and with a very dry sense of humour. He was very often to be found driving his old tractor on the Chapel Lawn road by the bridge below his farm and would always pull off for cars to go by, gave a cheery wave, or stop for a gossip. He will be greatly missed.

Sadly, his brother Stan, who also lived in Bucknell, died a few days after Charlie.

We send our condolences to all of Charlie's family.

RECENT EVENTS**February**

Food and Flicks: This year, the film **Arthur's Dyke** was quite different to what most of us expected. It was about three old university friends who walked Offa's Dyke 20 years after they did it the first time. With its very English humour and four great British actors, it was enjoyed by all, especially when the magnificent scenery of Shropshire (actually, mostly Herefordshire) was shown and we could all feel proud and happy to be **living** in it!! Before the film, of course, we had a delicious lunch which was pork casserole with dumplings, beef stew or a vegetarian dish – all good British stuff! Oh – and the puddings!!! Thank you. Oh – and of course we were using our very, very own projection equipment, purchased with Lottery money by Kim Smith and Ian Campbell, who also installed it. We are the **envy** of all the other villages in the area!!

March

Arts Alive funded a very enjoyable evening in early March, when Ben Osbourne came to talk about his work on BBC wildlife productions in Botswana as a photographer. He showed us his wonderful pictures; hunting dogs in the Okavanga Delta, elephants and lions in the north east of Botswana, shots of the film crew and their camps and gave us a very entertaining and funny commentary.

Becky Whitton

LOCAL NEWS**A Winner!**

Pat and Alan Hill from Pentre Hodre Farm were delighted when one of their young horses won its first race at Ross Harriers Point to Point held at Garnons in Herefordshire. The 5yr old bay gelding was bought by Pat last summer; was broken and started training at Pentre Hodre then sent to a race trainer in the autumn. Lori was taken to Bangor for his very first race early in March, but a horse fell in front of him at the second fence and brought Lori down. The following

week he was taken to Garnons, where Will Hill (Pat and Alan's son), rode him carefully, behind the leaders. Three quarters of the way through the race, Lori still had plenty of 'go' and Will thought he would try easing him to the front. Once there, with a clear field ahead, he settled into his element and comfortably jumped the remaining fences and finished eight lengths ahead of the next horse! And – to prove it wasn't just a fluke – both the horses he beat (the favourites) have gone on to win subsequent races.

April Fool Shock for Local Land Owners

Peter and Carol Round had a nasty shock last week when a letter came through their door issuing a compulsory purchase order on their newly acquired piece of land. Apparently, the council have been given a new EU directive to encourage people to grow their own vegetables and because of the interest shown by local people in the Parish Plan, their small plot had been highlighted for community use, being in the middle of the village with easy access and good fertile soil.



Peter and Carol who have been lovingly tending their garden for two years; digging, levelling, weeding, raking, stone clearing and sowing grass seed, were horrified when two local residents, Jeremy Jameson and James Middleton, turned up at lunch time with canes and forks, ready to claim their plots.

Mr Flowerdew of the council stated that all work on this land must stop as from 1st April 2009. Comments and correspondence were welcomed on this matter.

Becky Whitton

Farming Column

The clocks have moved forward, with days lengthening and grass starting to grow at last. Lambing is almost finished here with the run of fine weather through March helping a lot and keeping lamb losses to a minimum. Several ewes were lost on the run-up to lambing and the vets report that this is the case generally this year. It is of some comfort when taking deadstock to Caines to see your neighbour's names in the book as well. Prices for lamb and cull ewes have been very strong this spring, with a few breaking the £100 barrier, but sheep numbers have declined nationally by 7% in the last 12 months.

Calving is also nearly finished and prices have again remained very firm since Christmas. Bovine TB has hit my herd and put it under restrictions once more along with others in the valley.

Last year, the positive prices for farm produce resulted in the best sales of new farm machinery for over 12 years as farmers replace old and tired kit. A downside of the weak pound is that proteins like soya are now over £300/tonne, so lupins are making a return this spring in a field at The Pentre – well – they look nice if nothing else!

I have just finished the sheep feeding round this morning, finding a dead ewe with no apparent cause of death. I am sure that if sheep could write, you would only get a suicide note!

James Middleton

Vicar Retires

The Revd. Eileen Tavernor retired on 19th April 2009 after fourteen years as our vicar. Eileen took a final service at Bucknell followed by a presentation, celebratory lunch and thanks from parishioners.

Until a new vicar is appointed the Rural Dean, Richard Shaw, will organise retired clergy to take services at Chapel Lawn. We wish Eileen and her husband, Francis, a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.

Di Cosgrove

SEASONAL GARDENING NOTES

Windflowers, or wood anemones, are blooming now in my garden as well as in local woodlands. With bluebells and primroses they are the classic flower of the gale-blown English spring.

Anemone nemorosa is the botanical name for these pretty, starry-white, carpeting plants. Often you will hear people mix up the N and M in anemone: a friend once told me that her Wooden Enemies were flowering! White isn't the only colour – pink, purple, blue, even green-flowered varieties, singles and doubles, are available. There is one called 'Pentre Pink', which should do well in this valley.

One of the Rothschilds once remarked that no garden, however small, should be without its three acres of woodland. Wood anemones look marvellous grown by the acre, but are just as happy planted beneath a shrub or a rose – anywhere where they can be left to flourish undisturbed.

Hannah Willetts

** Invitation to All **

Come and have some refreshments and a chat about village activities at the Redlake Village Hall AGM on Tuesday 16th June at 7.30pm.

Parish Plan

At the beginning of March open evenings were held in Chapel Lawn and Clun to discuss the preliminary findings of the Parish Plan. The next stage is to combine all the results into the final written plan which we are intending to launch at the Clun Carnival. The feedback from all those who commented has been very useful and a number of the issues raised have already generated some action.

One notable example is the significant interest in getting hold of fresh **local produce**. To find out more on how to sell your excess produce or what you can buy locally and where, contact Christine Page, who has been following up on this particular point, at thesmilingtree@mac.com or 01547 530955.

Kim Smith

DIARY DATES

Further details can be found on the Chapel Lawn website:

www.chapel-lawn.co.uk

(remember the hyphen)

Last Thursday every month
CL Astronomicals.

Every Tuesday

Yoga for ALL 6.30pm. Contact

Liz Campbell 01547 530535

Saturday 2nd May

Astronomicals talk 6pm at Village hall, Henry Crump will

talk on **Total Eclipse of the Sun** as seen from Chapel Lawn in the year 1715 with the history of Chapel Lawn from 1715-1840.

There will be supper or 'refreshments' before the talk which will begin at 7.30pm

Sunday 10th May

Musical Entertainment & Afternoon Tea at St Mary's

Church at 3pm. £4 entrance to incl refreshments, sandwiches and cakes. Children free.

Saturday 16th May

Flicks in the Sticks: Changeling (15) 7.30pm Village Hall

Sunday 21st June

WI Village BBQ 12 noon

Everybody Welcome: A good time sure to be had by all, do put it in your diary now

Tuesday 16th June

Village Hall AGM 7.30pm

Sunday 13th September

Village Ramble & Lunch -

walks from 10.30am, lunch 12.00 - 2.00pm

Council Matters

There is nothing to report which affects the Chapel Lawn ward. The parish council's precept has gone up from £12,900 pa (£25.48 at Band D). We do not know how the precept is allocated between Clun and Chapel Lawn.

Thank You

Many thanks to Jemima Jameson for her cartoons and to Ann Arnold for her sketches, featured in our newsletters.

Next issue in July.