

THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 7

SUMMER 2009

LET'S GET STUCK IN!

History Group

A number of residents aim to get together to plan how to research and write a history of Chapel Lawn, building on the work that was done for the Chapel Lawn School book. If you'd like to join, you'd be very welcome. If you don't wish to join the group, but are keen to support, there are other ways you could help by:

- letting us know of any historical facts that might be worth including
- lending us old photographs, pictures, maps or other documents to examine and maybe copy (we'd take good care of them and, of course, return them)
- agreeing to talk to us about your memories of Chapel Lawn in years gone by

If you would like to join or help in any other way, please contact Patrick Cosgrove on 01547 530347.

Pimms & Canapés

Chapel Lawn WI invites local ladies to an evening with Pimms and canapés on Wednesday 9th September from 8pm – 10pm

Do come along and have a fun evening with your friends and neighbours.

For more details contact Pauline Terry on 01588 640754 or Di Cosgrove on 01547 530347

Hodre Pond Clearance

Don't forget the annual gathering to clear Hodre Pond on Sunday 23 August. Starting at 11am. Bring a beer, your wellies and a rake, spade or fork.

Ramble & Lunch

On Sunday 13th September everyone is welcome to enjoy the beautiful scenery, wildlife and peace of the Redlake Valley by joining one of a choice of signposted walks in the morning, followed by a home cooked buffet lunch.

Assemble from 10.30am in the Village Hall car park in Chapel Lawn. There are six different walks to choose from, including two variations by permission of our local farmers. (Please note the paths are not suitable for prams/buggies). Maps will be available at the assembly point along with tickets for the lunch.

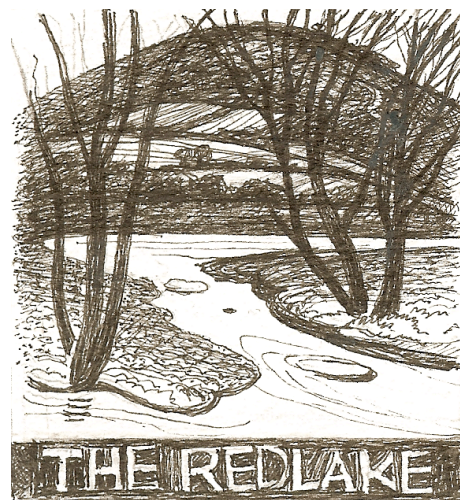
Freshly prepared food will be awaiting the ramblers upon their return to the village hall. Lunches will be served from 12 noon to 2.00pm and be available for all visitors whether you wish to meet friends just for the meal or join one of the walks.

Tickets £7 adults, £3.50 children under 14, under 5's free. £17.50 for a family of 4 (2 adults and 2 children). Please contact Beryl Palmer (01547 530106) for ticket information/sales or you can purchase your ticket on the day at the village hall.

Bryneddin Wood

At the well-attended AGM of the Redlake Valley Village Hall it was proposed and agreed that a sub-committee should be set up to discuss the future of Bryneddin Wood. A proposed name for the sub-committee is Friends of Bryneddin Wood, to match the very successful Friends of Hodre pond (see page 3).

Although the main part of the wood is divided in to quilletts, it is a



landscape feature that means so much to many of us. The general view is that the wood should be very gently maintained, perhaps by selective coppicing, as it was in earlier days. So an invitation is extended to anyone, especially quillet owners, to serve on this committee. If interested please contact Michael Macturk 01547 530302.

* * *

Vicar for Chapel Lawn

Two candidates applied for the post of Priest in Charge for the Benefice of Bucknell, Chapel Lawn, Llanfair Waterdine and Stowe.

On 29th June, after a whirlwind tour of the parishes, the candidates met parishioners from all four churches at Bucknell Memorial Hall. The meeting was open to all and over 80 people attended and had the opportunity to talk to each candidate and ask them questions. The interviews took place the following day in Ludlow.

After careful consideration of the candidates, and believing that both had many positive qualities, the panel came to the conclusion that neither was 'right' for the Benefice. And so the search continues....

Di Cosgrove

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Profile**Mona Owen**

Even if you have only recently moved into the area, you are very likely to have come across Mona Owen. Although a lady of some years she is still very active. You may have met her, always looking smart, at a local event, or seen her driving about in her little red car. You will certainly know her lovely and interesting farmhouse in the middle of Chapel Lawn, set back from the road, with beautiful barns on each side.

Mona was born just over the border at Far Hall in Dolau. She was the fourth of five children. Her father worked a large mixed farm and, in addition to the family, three workmen lived in the farmhouse. There was also a maid and a washerwoman, so there were always people around. Mona makes light of the work responsibilities that she had, even as a young girl. Everyone, she says, had to develop farmhouse skills. There were jobs for every day; making butter, constant cooking and cleaning, and caring for her brother, all needless to say without electricity.

At five, Mona went to school at Llandewi, three and a half miles from her home. She and her brothers and sister walked there and back each day along stone roads and across fields. They came from the furthest distance and so picked up others on the way and walked in a large group. When she was nine, a new school was built at Dolau, so now there were only two miles each way to walk, "it was

nothing"! Even though Mona passed the eleven plus to the local High School, she stayed at Dolau until she was fourteen. She loved school and would have liked to become a Domestic Science Teacher, but she was needed at home and so she stayed to work on the farm without a wage as was traditional.

Life was not all work. Every summer the family went to Aberystwyth, which Mona loved. Aber was the farmers' holiday place, where you always met people you knew and saw each year. Mona's mother did not drive, she was a horsewoman who used to ride side saddle. She also had a governess cart in which she would take the children about, particularly to visit her parents, twelve miles away.

In 1938 Mona's family moved to Stud Farm near Knighton. Then it was an unusual, very tall, nine bedroomed four storied house with external chimneys, which made it a rather unsound building. Mona received her call up papers and was excited by the possibility of serving in the WAF. When she went for an interview, because one of the farm workmen had already been called up, she was told she was needed in a reserved occupation and that she had 'better go home and plant potatoes'. Her family took in evacuees, a family from Wolverhampton and another two boys.

After the war they took in paying guests. They never advertised; word passed from mouth to mouth and they found it a good way to make some money. The only regulation was that you had an indoor bathroom.

They still had no electricity. Mona did all the cooking, her sister Vi, a keen horsewoman, would take visitors riding, while one of her brothers, as well as helping to run the farm, bred horses. In between the demands of work, Mona had fun. Every Saturday she would go to the cinema at the Norton Arms and then on to a hop in the Drill Hall, price one shilling. Mona says one good thing about working at home was you could get away from time to time. She would stay with cousins in Surrey and from

there get the Green Line bus to London, where she could 'live it up'. She loved it. She explored London, went to shows, and even got caught in an air raid, when she retreated to the packed Underground.

Mona married Arthur, who she met at Young Farmers in Knighton, in 1950 when she moved to Chapel Lawn. Like most farms in the area it was mixed. Mona kept poultry; she had about two hundred layers in deep litter. The eggs were sold to Evans at Bishop's Castle. Hen money was regarded as the housewife's money and made all the difference to managing the household budget. Mona had two children, Graham and Janet, and so was very involved in School life. She helped to run the nursery started by Annie Middleton. She was also a founder member of the W.I., and is still a member, and has been both Treasurer and Church Warden at Saint Mary's. She and Connie Adams, finding the church was short of money, started monthly Whist Drives in the hall. The hall could be packed as people came to play from 'all over'.

Very sadly, Arthur, and both of Mona's children have died, but her grandchildren are an important part of her life and she is very proud of them. Rachel and Jennifer are teachers in Shropshire, William works for Savilles in Estate Management and Charlotte and Emily are both still at University. Mona still gets a great deal of enjoyment from life. She says you have to adapt; she goes shopping and visiting and has recently been on a trip to Aberystwyth, her 'second home'.

We very much hope that Mona will continue to frequent Chapel Lawn events and that she continues to have an active and happy life for many years to come.

Jane Kent

Local Dialect Words

More words from the Clun valley:

<i>Pishty</i>	Sheep dog puppy
<i>Crowsty</i>	Bad tempered
<i>Ratchy</i>	Dry, poor soil
<i>Mixon</i>	Manure heap

A bit of History...**Hodre Pond**

Soon after Jeanette Macturk moved into her newly-renovated Pentre Hodre Cottage in 1970 she came upon a derelict pond not far from the cottage. It was practically dry and smothered with nettles and Yorkshire fog grass and it was used as a dumping ground for rubbish. Making enquiries she discovered that the site of the pond lay on parish land, scheduled under the enclosure act of 1845 as a 'public watering-place', so more than likely the adjacent lane was one of the old drovers' roads. She also learned that the pond was man-made and possibly 400 years old.

She asked Clun Parish Council for help in restoring the pond, but got a lukewarm reaction at first, but the position changed when The County Planning Officer wrote saying he thought Odre Pool [sic] was worth saving under the Save the Village Pond campaign and that a party workers is prepared to spend a weekend and restore the pond. The workers were British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) volunteers from London, acting on behalf of the Save the Village Pond Campaign and in fact they made several visits, funded by local donations and various grants. A report of one visit was featured in the May 1975 issue of *She* magazine under the title *Passing the Muck* - an apt description in the circumstances.

Local interest was maintained by the formation of Friends of Hodre Pond in May 1989 with a building society account, funded by an annual subscription and topped up by various grants. The local support was more mental than physical, but the Telford branch of the BTCV continued to supply the muscle on an annual basis.

In 1995 Jeanette signalled her wish to give up management of the pond and Clun Parish Council agreed to take over this work through its Rights of Way and Environment Committee (ROWEC), the Friends cash balance being handed over for pond maintenance and general environmental work. One of its first actions was to

commission an ecological study and five-year plan which was managed by Peter James, Rowec member and founder member of the Parish Paths Partnership, who arranged grants and organized the BTCV working parties. Under his regime the pond was brought to a highly satisfactory state, but after his five year stint Peter wanted no more and the parish council declined further responsibility in its maintenance.

There were now decisions to be made as Chapel Lawn was back in charge of the pond. Step forward Catherine Humphreys and Jane Kent who took up the mantle. As an accomplished fund raiser, Jane found that money was available to continue with BTCV until it was decided that, after going 'commercial', they did not offer value for money. As a result 'Pond Days' were organized with up to 20 local volunteers doing a great job maintaining the pond in its satisfactory state. In 2006 Jane handed the reins over to Ian and Liz Campbell.

Liz now takes up the story...

In 2003 - our first summer here - Ian and I noticed the pond clearing posters and thought we'd go along and see what it was all about. This was our first Chapel Lawn event and we were made to feel very welcome! We enjoyed the event's community spirit (cider, anyway - and cakes).

I think it was that same day that Jane Kent first floated the idea of Ian and me taking over the pond responsibilities from her and Julian, but it took a while to actually happen - we all seemed to go through a busy phase but it made sense for us to do it as we live so close to the pond - much easier for us to mow, strim and to keep an eye on things. The first pond clearing we organised was in 2006. That year it was in September, following advice from a local wildlife expert who had pointed out that the clearing is best done out of the newts' breeding season to minimise disturbance.

Since then we have compromised slightly by organising the clearing for mid-August, in the hope of catching

some warm weather and attracting a good turnout. This seems to work as the last two years have been well attended and we haven't seen many newts - at least no adults. By that time they should have dispersed into nearby stony hiding places.



"I don't object to them clearing the pond, it's just that I can never find anything afterwards."

The other useful advice from the newt expert was that we should try to let as much sun as possible onto the pond. Michael organised a pollarding of the willow trees and he and I burned the debris whilst Ian mended the wooden bench. This winter we plan to re-coppice one or both of the sycamores on the southern side of the pond - they appear to have been coppiced in the past but are now quite big, blocking light as well as shedding a lot of leaves into the water. Some smaller trees will also need cutting back but the oak and the black poplar will be left as they are.

Michael Macturk & Liz Campbell

Council Matters

A new website for the Clun & Chapel Lawn Parish Council is available at www.2shrop.net/clunandchapellawnpc.

There will be vacancies for Parish Councillors in the year ahead. If anyone is interested in being involved in local democracy and representing the Parish's views, please contact Kim on 01547 530504.

Final thought - what do we get for our parish precept? In the last year, Chapel Lawn Village Hall received a grant of £1600 to help complete the refurbishment of the toilets. If you can think of other projects that would benefit all the community then don't sit silently by - let your voice be heard!

Councillors

Our Shropshire councillor is Nigel Hartin (01547 530400). Our parish councillors are Kim Smith, Steve Sherring and Keith Terry.

Kim Smith

RECENT EVENTS

Sunday 10th May

St Mary's Church Concert

Chapel Lawn church hosted an afternoon of entertainment by local talent, both young and old, with contributions from Amber and Shane Davies, Pauline Terry, Di Cosgrove, Eileen Lloyd, Becky Whitton and Wayne Davies. Joce Williams, ex-infant school teacher, was serenaded by a group of former pupils. The entertainment was followed by tea and cakes.

One Tuesday evening a large proportion of Chapel Lawn men armed to the teeth with garden tools to clear and tidy the church yard. I noticed that beer was also included in the arsenal! The result is that we have a very smart looking churchyard; a credit to the village.

At this year's village hall AGM drinks and nibbles were provided to make the occasion more sociable. Nearly 30 people came to a very successful meeting in spite of the secretary not being there! Thank you to Beryl for volunteering at the last minute to take the minutes after the stand-in failed to turn up as well. Minutes of the meeting will be available to view on the website.

The following Sunday, a little warmer than last year thankfully, the WI held their annual BBQ. I believe the turnout was a little disappointing, but this could have been due to there being two other Chapel Lawn events happening on the same day (see below). James M put on his usual conglomeration of party games – no-one tried to ride his wobbly bike – we all know it's impossible! There was 'Throw the Concrete Block' and 'Carrying Stones in One Hand' (It's funny how there was a definite building theme this year!) Richard Barthram and Pauline Terry won both games – they must have been practising, or building. Fred Lewis won the biggest thistle competition and Bob James had the tallest nettle and dock leaf. As usual there were scrummy sausages and beef burgers and a heap of creamy, fruity, chocolaty puddings to finish.

On the same day, Cynthia and Gary Wall opened their garden for the

afternoon and served cream teas. They raised £500 in aid of The Air Ambulance.

In addition, Graham and Ann Arnold's painting exhibition opened in Ludlow. Both Ann and Graham paint with a feeling of fondness and importance towards their subjects. Ann's paintings, mostly of landscapes are almost like faded tapestries as if time had softened and merged their original bright, jewel-rich colours. Graham's work seems to recite a fable, leave clues to some mystery or he creates a 'montage' to a life; they are strong, colourful images and some pencil drawings.

Becky Whitton

SEASONAL GARDENING NOTES

Daylilies are no-trouble plants. Their long grassy leaves make strong groundcover to discourage weeds and are tough enough to compete with grass in less formal areas. They tolerate shade, but will flower better in good light. They are completely unfussy about soil – some of mine are in quite dry soil, others in heavy damp conditions. They range in height from less than one foot to over five feet, so there is a Daylily to suit every garden.

The flowers are more or less trumpet-shaped, although they vary from a narrow bugle to a wide trombone to an enormously splayed phonograph horn. Individually, the flowers last for only one day, hence their name, but the long stems each carry several buds, so they follow on for weeks on well-established clumps. By planting different varieties and species, you can have them flowering from early May until late September.

Originally you could have daylilies only in yellow or orange, but breeders have been busy, particularly in America, so you can find them now in every colour, including wine-red, mauve, brick-pink, white and scarlet. Often they will have contrasting bands or star-shaped markings, or tonsillitis-red throats.

Mynd Hardy Plants at Diddlebury has a large range of daylilies, as does Aulden Farm, near Leominster.

Hannah Willetts

DIARY DATES

Further details can be found on the Chapel Lawn website:

www.chapel-lawn.co.uk

Last Thursday every month
CL Astronomicals.

Sunday, 23rd August

Hodre Pond clearance 11am

Liz Campbell 01547 530535

Restarting 8th September, then every Tuesday

Yoga for ALL 6.30pm

Liz Campbell 01547 530535

Wednesday 9th September

WI Pimms & Canapes 8pm

Di Cosgrove 01547 530347

Sunday 13th September

Village Ramble & Lunch

walks from 10.30am, lunch

12.00 – 2.00pm

Friday 25th September

Macmillan Coffee Evening

7.30pm – stalls & fun, do come!

Farming Column

Douglas Stead is innocent!

Forget Watgate, Chapel Lawn has the 'Waterpipe' incident. I mentioned last time one chap cutting a water pipe whilst topping. Some people put two and two together and came up with Douglas (much to his amazement). For the record, I wish to state that Douglas was in no way, shape or form involved in this incident. Alas, the true identity of the perpetrator must remain confidential.

Another wet summer with lots of poor forage being expensively wrapped. Supermarkets yet again are driving down beef and lamb prices, sourcing cheap foreign meat, processing it in the UK and deluding the public they are buying British food.

Fortune in the best weed competition was thanks to the neighbours. They had gone on holiday so I was able to sneak through the hedge to obtain some good exhibits. The winning thistle was a grand specimen. How fortunate the owner had a good pair of oven gloves to carry his trophy.

Have a go Chapel Lawn neighbour is topping; I need to check the water pipe.

Bob James