

THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 10

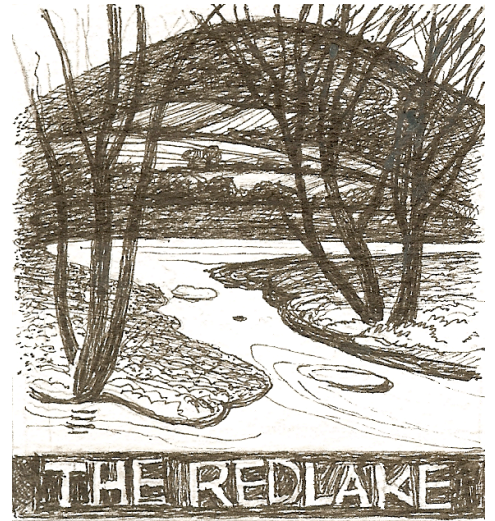
SPRING 2010

From the Editors

With Number 10 we have reached double figures and have been going for two and a half years. As we said last time we have had a long, hard winter and at the time of writing, it seems to have come back! Which may have surprised some of you, as the January issue (Number 9) was mistakenly labelled Spring 2010. It should have been Winter 2010 and this one is Spring 2010. We hope!

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.

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A bit of History...

MORE ABOUT THE SMITHY

Recently Karen and Mark Limbrick moved into the Smithy in Chapel Lawn. They realised the central role it and it's owners had played in village life well into the late 20th century and very kindly invited everybody for a final look at the Smithy, still with all it's fittings and tools, before it was transformed into a modern kitchen. It really does mark the end of an era for the community.

The good news is that you'll still be able to see all these artefacts at the Snailbeach museum since the Limbricks have donated them all to enable a full blacksmiths shop to be fitted out there.

We recounted much of the history of the Smithy in the Summer 2008 edition but James Middleton's interview with Fred Adams, which took place in 1972, when James was twelve, has never been published. Fred was the son of John Adams, who was the first Adams to come to the Smithy in the late 1860s. Fred ran the Smithy well into the third quarter of the 20th century and is still remembered by many locally.

Here is the interview in James' words:

How long have you lived in Chapel Lawn? *My family have been in Chapel*

Lawn for 103 years. My father was an apprentice blacksmith to Mr Tom Jones of Clun for which he paid Mr Jones £10 per year. When he finished he was called a journeyman. Then he went to London to a Mr Vennons for training under this famous blacksmith. When he finished his training he was paid 50/- a week.

Why did he leave London? *He met Mary Chandler and they were married and came to Chapel Lawn to live.*

How many children were there in your family? *Six boys and six girls.*

Did you learn your trade from your father? *Yes, my father said it would be as easy to pick up the trade as a dog would learn to bark.*



Rosemary Middleton, Fred Adams, Ann Connolly

What happened to your father? *He went to help someone with a load of timber because the back axle of the carriage was wrong. A large stick rolled off and crushed his leg. Blood*

poisoning set in and he died two days later.

Where did you go to school? *I went to school in Chapel Lawn. When I was ten years old some boys tried to hit the bell in the belfry with an air gun, but the pellet went through the window instead. My brother George, Charlie Harris and I got the blame for it, so we were sent to Clun to school every day.*

My father told me that you patented something during the war? *Yes it was the 'Morgrip' for the old Fordson tractor and it cost me £50 for the patent.*

How many horses did you shoe in a day? *Twenty, but there were four of us.*

What were the roads like when you were young? *The roadman had to scrape the road every Saturday morning from Hodre turn to the Woodcock Inn, about a third of a mile.*

How did you know how you could charm warts? *My grandmother told me that as I had two fingers of the same length on my hand, I could charm warts, but I could not accept gifts or do it on a Sunday.*

Fred died in 1974 when he was 86. His son, Jack Adams, lived at the Smithy with his wife Olwyn and daughter Ann. Ann continued to own the Smithy until it was sold recently to the Limbricks.

Taken from work by James Middleton

Profile

Beryl & Barry Palmer



Barry and Beryl live in the very heart of Chapel Lawn village, which in view of all they have taken on in their eight years here, to help keep the local community alive, seems entirely appropriate.

Barry was born in Forest Gate London and reared in various places in East London until on leaving Hornchurch Grammar he went to Hull University to study mathematics. After graduation he returned to London to work in the computer industry. Here, in 1971, years before it became fashionable, he was made redundant. Barry seized the moment and decided to join the hippy trail, long hair and all, by travelling overland to India. He started the journey with a friend, but was abandoned by him when, in Istanbul, Barry was bitten by a dog. He had to stay for a course of anti-rabies jabs but really enjoyed his opportunity to explore Istanbul at length, particularly the amazing architecture and the melding of cultures. Barry spent eight months away from home, chiefly in India and Nepal, but also having a look at Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. With these experiences and the maths no wonder he does so well in the village quiz team! When he returned Barry went back to college in London to read for an MSc in maths, but left with no qualification. Why? Because he says he met Beryl at a party and she distracted him and "she has been distracting me ever since".

Beryl too was born on the London outskirts, in Hendon. After school she, like Barry, did a bit of exploring, in

Northern Europe before going to Teacher Training College. However she left, having decided teaching was not for her and got a flat in London, where she had a variety of admin jobs. These included posts in Barclays, Insurance, and eventually at M&S in Baker Street. Here she worked in the export department, from where clothing was shipped all over the world to be sold through franchises. Beryl says M&S was strict and rather regimented, but extremely supportive employers. When you married they provided a chauffeur driven car to take you home from your last day at work. Beryl was working here when she met Barry, eventually they moved in together to a flat in Acton and in 1974 Beryl called on the chauffeur service!

Barry continued to work in the computer industry, rising through the ranks of his company from programmer to methods consultant. Beryl meantime, started evening classes to secure qualifications in export management. In 1977 they moved out of London to High Wycombe and eventually to a little village in the Chilterns near Princes Risborough. Beryl found work locally while continuing to take marketing and management qualifications that would help her business career. Eventually she joined a company that became the subject of a management buy-out and she was appointed Marketing Director - all those evening courses had paid off! After nine years the company was again bought out and Beryl was left without a job. She was taken on as Sales Office Manager by an Office Furniture manufacturer where she stayed for 20 years, ending as a Project Manager. One of her last jobs was responsibility for refitting all the Job Centres south of Leeds. (Now you know where Beryl's organising skills originate). Her work took her all over Europe and much of the world. In the last few years Beryl got increasingly disenchanted with the company and eventually took early retirement. Was it just coincidence that the company folded the following year?

In the meantime Barry, having worked for his company for 17 years,

was made redundant. These were difficult times for the computer industry and in the next few years Barry worked in the field as a Test Analyst and on contract work, but in this period was made redundant five more times.

In 2001 Beryl was still working, but largely from home, so she and Barry decided that they would move to an area that was less costly and more peaceful than the South East. She would continue to work and Barry would become a House Husband. They searched the internet, which led them to Ludlow from where, they drove round villages. It was a cold wet day in December, none of the houses looked appealing until they saw Bryneddin. They made an appointment to view and bought it on the strength of the one viewing. Fortunately they love it. When they arrived Annie Middleton welcomed them with a bunch of flowers, which made them feel at home straight away.

Both Barry and Beryl really enjoy village life. They immediately got involved with the church, where Beryl is now Sacristan, a member of the Local Ministry group and a fundraiser. Barry is treasurer to both the PCC and the Clun Forest Deanery (thank heavens for the maths degree), the Deanery Synod rep. and a member of the Bishop's Council. When Beryl stopped work she joined the W.I., where she is now secretary. She is also the village hall booking clerk, emergency Kitchen Assistant for Clun School and has recently been appointed a Parish Councillor. Both she and Barry work for the Lib Dems locally, Barry as their treasurer and Beryl as secretary and chief fundraiser.

In their idle moments (!) Beryl is a keen walker and craftswoman. She felts with Marietta Alker and knits with the Knighton knitting group. Her scarves, berets and tea cosies have already raised over £300 for the Lib Dems. Although Barry is the chief cook and bottle washer, since her retirement Beryl has developed considerable skill in cake making as many of us know. Barry is a member of the Astronomicals, and while it is

in abeyance still provides an 'observational facility' (and coffee and cake) at Bryneddin. He is also a die hard member of the Chapel Lawn village quiz team. We all probably know him best however as the man who delivers, mostly on foot, everything that needs delivering round the Parish, including The Redlake - for which many thanks. With their many present roles we think Barry and Beryl would leave a large hole if they departed so we very much hope that they are planning to stay around for some time.

Jane Kent

SEASONAL GARDENING NOTES

After the bitter start to the New Year, many gardeners will have been shaking their heads over plants that look as dead as proverbial doornails. Even now, when they should be putting forth new growth, there is no sign of green. What to do?

In most cases, nothing – yet, wait a while and many will recover. But it will be slow and painful for them, so be patient! It may take until June or later, to grow any new shoots. These may then appear only at the base of even large shrubs or trees, so you may need to perform some careful pruning to give the plant a chance. Wait, and don't worry. Plants want to grow, and in most cases will – despite our help.

Hannah Willetts

How's Your Medieval Latin?

The Chapel Lawn History group is currently cataloguing all the records held at Shropshire archives that have relevance to the six townships of the Redlake Valley. This is a major undertaking, and made more difficult because the older documents are hand-written, and many are in Latin. The proceedings of the ancient Court Leet and Court Baron of Clun, known as Tempsiter (named after the Celtic Teme Saetan tribe, we think) are a particularly hard nut to crack. If anyone is skilled in deciphering old documents of this nature, we would love to enlist your help. Please contact any of Patrick Cosgrove 01547 530347, Michael Macturk 530302 or Jim Rogers 530258.

Farming Column

The grey and brown colour of the valley is rapidly disappearing as soil temperatures rise and grass starts to grow again after a very long, hard winter. Most of the autumn sown cereals have come through the winter without too much plant loss; the constant covering of snow helping to limit frost damage. They are also responding well to their first application of nitrogen fertilizer, the price of which is rising rapidly, but grain prices still remain very low.

This year I shall be growing a few small patches of kale and quinoa for a neighbouring pheasant shoot.

Calving is almost finished with few problems to date. I wish I could say the same for the sheep! The run up to



lambling always has problems, mostly ending with a trip to Caines (the abattoir) in Knighton. I was explaining this to my non-farming neighbour and told him that I always keep my 'two-two' handy for the worst cases. He looked very puzzled as he could not work out how a tutu ballet dress would help?!... I meant my .22 rifle.

In 'Cowshed to Cottage', my barn conversion will be open for people to view on Sunday 6th June 10.30 to 4.00 to raise money for the Air Ambulance and church repairs. £2.50 donation with a free drink included.

James Middleton

Local Dialect Words

More words from the Clun valley:

<i>Bleg</i>	To tidy up a hedge bank or other grassy patch
<i>Yarb</i>	A lout
<i>Taro</i>	A bull

RECENT EVENTS

We have had a couple of films in the Village Hall since the last Redlake, both of them part of the Borderline Film Festival. Bright Star, a film about the romantic relationship between the poet, John Keats and Fanny Brawn, his neighbour was the first. The write-up promised a 'subtly told tale' with a 'lightness of touch', which it was. The second film, 'Rumba', was a semi-silent 'slapstick' about a couple of school teachers whose lives centred around the dance – the rumba. I had a couple of young French students staying with me and I persuaded them to come to the film, explaining that as there was not much speech involved, they wouldn't have too much trouble understanding it, only to find that the film itself was French and dubbed for us 'English'!

There was an excellent turnout and consequently profits, for both of these films and the popcorn, choc-ices and bar were all greatly appreciated and make the experience of film-going in our own village hall so much fun.

Since then there has also been a Mother's Day service in the Church complete with a spring lamb courtesy of Christine Oakley; a Good Friday service with hot-cross buns and a well-attended Easter day service at 8am. In addition there has been good weather, bad weather, new lambs, calves, snowdrops and daffodils.

Becky Whitton

A Warm Welcome To...

Gretchen Ind who has recently moved into Wax Hall with her daughters Lydia and Darcy.

John Phillips and his partner Jill Davies at Lower Treverward Farm. Jill works in a bank in Knighton and John is kept busy with his 900 Lleyrn sheep.

Karen and Mark Limbrick at the Smithy. Karen is a self-employed landscape designer working from home as a school grounds adviser. Mark's work is top secret, we'd like to tell you what he does but then we'd have to kill you!

W.I. 40TH BIRTHDAY

In May 2010 Chapel Lawn Women's Institute will celebrate its 40th anniversary. The W. I. started in Canada in 1897 and in the U.K. in 1915. It aimed to help educate women, expand our horizons, encourage mutual support and develop an effective role in our local communities.

It was the dream of Florrie Middleton to have just such a group in the village and on May 6th 1970 the first meeting was held. For 40 years we have met monthly to enjoy fun and friendship, share ideas and learn new skills. Our scrapbooks record past pleasures and glories which includes rounders championships and numerous 'window displays', cookery, craft, creative writing and flower awards at local and county level.

We believe that the W.I. plays a valuable role within the community supporting local institutions, such as St Mary's Church and the village hall, and charities - notably Macmillan Nurses. We also run various events including the annual Village Christmas Party. We are happy to be able to say that such an organisation still flourishes in our small and dispersed community 40 years on. Long may it continue.

Jean Price (Founder Member)

Precept Rise

You may have noticed on your council tax bill that the Clun & Chapel Lawn precept has increased by 13%. This may have caused the odd eyebrow to rise in these fiscally challenging times. However, the extra £3.32 to you (the average band D increase) gives the parish a much needed extra £2,000, bringing the total precept to £14,900.

This is not a tax you pay and see no benefit. The average fixed costs over the past three years have been approximately £12,000. Provision and maintenance of basic amenities, like street lighting, grass cutting, the cemetery, town hall and public liability insurance makes up nearly 60% of this. The remainder goes to the payment of

the parish clerk, audit fees and other administrative costs.

The parish also gives grants on a discretionary basis, recent beneficiaries include the village halls in Clun and Chapel Lawn, St George's Church, the Town Hall, and the newly formed youth club.

However, in addition to the annual fixed costs and grants, there are one-off costs and investments that the parish is either expected or would like to meet. These might be necessary items, like replacing a street light or two, or 'nice to have' items like heritage trail signs and benches or the complete refurbishment of the Town Hall.

In the past the parish has itself been able to obtain grants to meet many of these one-off costs. These grants have come from the old South Shropshire District Council, the Community Council of Shropshire, as well as Lottery funding, and, precisely because of the current economic climate, are unlikely to be forthcoming in future.

Nonetheless, known and unavoidable future one-off expenses already include the repair of the cemetery wall in Clun, which is estimated to be £15,000 over the next five to six years. The parish also has over 30 street lights each of which costs £1,000 to replace.

You may not expect one of the two street lights in Chapel Lawn to need replacing in the next few years, or plan to be buried in the Clun cemetery but your contribution to the precept is needed by the whole parish and we all benefit in the long run. Your extra £3.32 this year may mean a small community project gets the funding it needs, it may mean the cemetery wall doesn't collapse into the A488 and inconvenience us all, or it may just mean the lights stay on. Whatever the case, be assured the precept rise was needed and we will do our best to ensure it is wisely spent.

If you would like further detail on the finances, or any other affairs of the Parish Council then attend the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm on Thursday 13th May at the Hazelhurst Community Centre in Clun.

Christine Page (Parish Councillor)

DIARY DATES

Further details can be found on the Chapel Lawn website:
www.chapel-lawn.co.uk

Every 2nd Wed of the month
WI 7.30pm in village hall

Sunday 9th May
Church Concert 3pm

Sunday 16th May
Italian themed Food & Flicks:
Lunch at 12.30pm; Film **Mid-August Lunch** 2pm village hall
Contact Christine Rogers 530258

Sunday 6th June
'Cowshed to Cottage' Open Day
10.30-4pm donations to charity
Contact James Middleton 530247

Tuesday 8th June
Village Hall AGM 7.30pm

Sunday 13th June
Progressive Lunch around the village, ending in the village hall.
Watch out for more information

Saturday 10th July
BBQ & Flicks: BBQ at 6pm; Film **Beyond The Pole** 7.30pm in village hall. Contact Christine Rogers 530258

Sunday 18th July
Timbercroft NGS Open Garden
1-6pm Contact Cynthia Wall 530719

Sunday 22nd August
Hodre Pond Clearance 11am
Contact Liz Campbell 530535

Village Hall AGM

The annual general meeting of the Redlake Valley Village Hall will take place in the hall on Tuesday 8 June 2010 at 7.30pm, open to everyone.

The Committee of Trustees consists of up to twelve public members elected at the AGM. Nomination forms for election to the committee together with details of the trustees' responsibilities can be obtained from the secretary, Christine Page 01547 530955, who will be happy to answer any queries.

Nomination papers should be returned to the secretary no later than 5pm on 28th May 2010.

Next issue in July