

THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 15

SUMMER 2011

From the Editors

The lead articles in this edition demonstrate that engaging with local community life has been a focus of activity in Chapel Lawn for a long time. From 1730 with the setting up of the Sturchley Trust to current activities in 2011 to enhance the village hall as a hub of social and cultural activity, the local community is working hard to sustain itself and deserves our support. This publication is another spoke in that wheel. Readers can rest assured that the current editorial team needs no encouragement to champion the cause of the communities of Chapel Lawn and the Redlake Valley. As guest editor for this edition of my "newspaper of choice" my only problem was getting a word in edge-ways! *Mark Limbrick*

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.

THE STURCHLEY TRUST

The trust was set up in 1730 by William Sturchley and his wife of Hobendred (Chapel Lawn). They conveyed land in trust so that the rents could provide bread for the poor of the parish. The fund was administered by the vicar and churchwardens of Clun and we have been told that bread was delivered to Chapel Lawn church door right up to WW2. The land in question lies in the middle of Bryncambric Farm and the present tenant is Bob James. Until recently Chapel Lawn Church was a chapel-of-ease of Clun parish but is now in the Bucknell benefice. The account currently stands at about £8,000, which suggests that virtually no payments have been made for nearly 30 years.

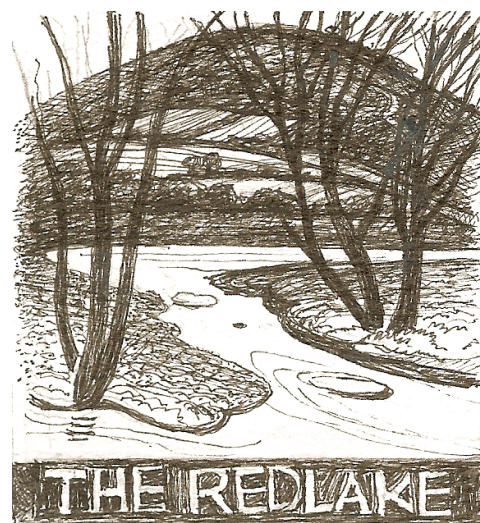
One suggestion is for the charity to be transferred to the Bucknell benefice and that terms should be modified, with the advice of the Charity Commission, to be more in line with today's needs. We would welcome other views. Unfortunately none of the original documents can be found, and since the retirement of the Revd Richard Shaw, Clun parish is without a vicar, which does tend to slow things up.

Michael Macturk

VILLAGE HALL BOOST

As pointed out by the Chairman at the recent AGM, the village hall continues to go from strength to strength and is a real hub of activity in the village, providing a welcoming space for social, cultural and educational events. The recent village BBQ was a wonderful example of local support with over sixty people enjoying a fun in-door event despite the torrential rain. During the past year over one thousand pairs of shoes, and the odd few Wellington boots, have been wiped on the mat as they traipsed into the hall, soon to come back out again, suitably invigorated, with a bit more spring in their step. Although many of those shoes belong to the same hardcore owners, it's always lovely to see those who can't make it so often, and the sheer number demonstrates the value of a small, traditional hall in such a rural location.

The hall has benefited from numerous grants over the years, most recently to have the wooden floor refurbished and a new set of entrance doors. However, it does have one major problem: it's freezing in the winter. It was closed for two months during last year's cold spell and suffered three separate



incidents of burst pipes. It is, therefore, timely that the hall has been successful in obtaining a significant amount of further funding to make energy efficiency measures, including improving the insulation, installing solar photovoltaic panels and doing something about the heating. The solar PV panels will generate an income for the hall to help with future running costs and the insulation, which will cover the internal walls, also provides an opportunity to repaint the hall. The heating options being considered include installing a wood pellet boiler. Please let us know of anyone with experience of these.

We would very much like to hear any other ideas you may have for improvements to the hall, large or small, and it would also be very helpful to know what you feel makes our village hall special and what we should endeavour not to change. Please contact any of the editors or village hall committee with your thoughts.

Please note: The hall will be closed for the refurbishment during August. A social event, to which all are welcome, will be held at 7pm on Friday 2nd Sept to celebrate the improvements.

Christine Page

The editorial team comprises: Jane Kent, Christine Page, Becky Whitton, Michael Macturk & guest editor Mark Limbrick. How to contact us: by mail The Redlake Editors, Squire Farm, Chapel Lawn, SY7 0BW by telephone 01547 530530 or by e-mail theredlake@squirefarm.co.uk

Profile**Michael Macturk**

Although Michael feels that it is entirely inappropriate for an editor to be interviewed for the Redlake, the rest of the team thought it was high time we profiled him and insisted that he subject himself to interrogation...

Michael was born at Hampton in Middlesex in 1922. His father died when he was only 18 months old and his mother took him to live in Bournemouth. With limited income he describes his early life as having no luxuries. However with family support he was sent away to prep school in Sussex when he was seven or eight years old. Michael says this was less rigorous than it sounds; the school had a farm associated with it and there were woods and fields where the small boys could "wander at will". Unfortunately Michael was 'not a scholarly child'. His mother, concerned that he was not working hard enough, decided to move to Bristol and sent him as a day boy to Clifton College. In 1939 Michael went to Bristol University to read chemistry. However, in 1940 he volunteered for the army, but was invalided out the following year on medical grounds. He returned to university and when he graduated joined ICI in Manchester as a research chemist. While there he "isolated a growth factor for Johne's Disease in cattle": this eventually led to a MSc from Bristol. During this time he

married his first wife and his son, Malcolm, was born in 1946. Later they moved to Bristol, where Michael took up a job of development chemist. In 1953 Michael and his family moved to Welford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire. Seeking a change of direction he went to work on the sales side for a Birmingham-based company making "fine chemicals". He stayed there for the rest of his working life, in later years as General Manager, Sales and Marketing, until he retired in 1986.

During his time in Warwickshire Michael's first marriage ended. He knew Jeanette, who many of us will remember well, and when she and her first husband divorced they would meet from time to time. Romance blossomed and eventually they got married. It was on a day out together exploring the countryside that they came across Pentre Hodre Cottage. Jeanette was looking for somewhere to live at the time, but the cottage was completely derelict, and not actually for sale. Those of you who knew Jeanette, will know such minor details would not have deterred her. She found the owner, agreed to part with £950 and the "cottage" was theirs. Then followed eighteen months of trying to supervise the process of rebuilding from a distance; Michael was by then living in Leamington and Jeanette in Cheltenham. In 1970 it was completed - sort of, and Jeanette moved in. Although they were married by this time and it was their number one home, Michael was also living in the Birmingham and travelling all over the world for his job, so was generally only at Pentre Hodre for weekends.

Both he and Jeanette loved living here, the community was very welcoming, Jeanette got involved with local activities and Michael feels he benefited greatly from the goodwill. On retirement Michael came to live full time at the cottage. Jeanette put him in charge of cleaning the brass and silver, and ground maintenance but Michael felt that retirement should offer more than this. He began researching family history

and later transcribed local census material to make it more accessible for all, but still had time on his hands. He applied to be Parish Clerk to the council in Clun which certainly kept him busy but he also found time to establish and edit the Clun Courier which sold for 10 pence and made a profit. Later he also edited the Parish Magazine. The skills he developed then, we are pleased to say, he is now putting to good use with the Redlake. Michael had developed an early interest in model railways. As a child he had a Hornby railway, but sold it to buy a chemistry set! When his son was born he set up a layout again, but it only really flourished when, at Pentre Hodre, he bought a shed devoted to his railway and now it is a very fine thing with grand scenery and, like our local railway service, still runs reliably when the mood takes him.

Michael became increasingly involved in the community. He argues that it was Jeanette who initiated things and he was "merely the go-fer" but in fact they were a team who together got things done. There are so many aspects of Chapel Lawn life now that started with Jeanette and Michael. Our beautiful pond at Pentre Hodre was a muddy, and occasionally flooded, rubbish tip until our intrepid duo decided it needed attention. Indeed Michael, although nearly 90, still gets busy with a pond rake at the yearly meet in August.

The Chapel Lawn School book arose because Michael and Jeanette believed that the local history was worth saving. They got together a small group to help and Michael edited and produced the final book which creates a lovely picture of our village school in the late 19th and 20th century (copies still available).

The annual village walk was started by Michael and Jeanette when they were both on the PCC. And this year Michael has joined the PCC again. Our splendid village sign was commissioned and erected by Michael in memory of Jeanette who sadly died in 2002. It incorporates a picture of the village by Ann Arnold and the

design of the blacksmith's work reflects aspects of the life of the local community

Despite his advanced years Michael continues to be active. He has only recently stepped down from the Village Hall Committee where he was Treasurer for many years. He keeps the rest of us in control at the Redlake meetings, is a lively member of the History Group and still attends most of the events that go on in Chapel Lawn. Michael still lives at Pentre Hodre Cottage with Henry, his exceedingly pampered cat. He says he "cannot think of anywhere else he would rather live". He sees his son Malcolm and his two step daughters Elisabeth and Anne-Louise regularly. Veronica Mellings from Hopton Castle, who has been helping the family for over 30 years, still comes every week. Michael says she is a very good friend and he "could not cope without her". But in fact he is a wonderful advert for aging gracefully and in his ninetieth year is still a real pillar of our community, indeed the phrase could have been coined for him - long may it be so.

Jane Kent

Not just a retirement area...

Dave Alker

Hi I'm Dave Alker and I live at The Quern. I've been in the central heating and plumbing business for about 45 years, man and boy as they say. I served an apprenticeship whilst attending Guildford Tech College to get my City and Guilds. As part of a little team we worked on various projects, large and small. It was the mid sixties and central heating was really only just becoming common. My son Harry joined the business five years ago and as we both have an interest in renewable energy we have been to Worcester-Bosch to train on solar hot water, ground source heating as well as the gas and oil heating. Our latest course was in Devon on wood chip and pellet boilers. These seem to be becoming more popular perhaps due to the RHI grants. Our latest project is to try to attain MCS accreditation but the paper work is a nightmare!

Farming Column

For sale – very cheap quantity of mesh panels, make ideal dog run. We spent half a day travelling to Hadnell to collect said panels. Turning into the yard on arriving back, someone run over the dog!

Maybe the Village BBQ should be held in May. The deluge which accompanied this year's event would have been most welcome then. Local Farmers need a lot more practice estimating the weight of both sheep and fleeces.

The following week people travelling through the village would have been surprised to see nine men walking a greenhouse up the road. Was this the "Chapel Lawn Morris Dancers" practicing?

On to skylark plots – we were very pleased to note that the Hodre farmers also took up the cudgel this year by leaving some unsprayed strips of land in their potato fields, even bigger birds than Chapel Lawn Farm's by the look of it.



This month's ingenuity award goes to a Chapel Lawn resident who fancied a cocktail (shaken, not stirred), but being unable to find his shaker resorted to throwing himself down the stairs with full cocktail glass in hand.

Too late for the last column was a report of the Five Turnings farmer, who boosted his income by turning the duck pond into a car wash. The local hairdresser from Knighton thought the price was a snip and booked in twice for a wash and tow dry.

One or two brave souls have dragged mowers out of nettles and started harvest. In fact, what I thought was a field of oilseed rape on New Invention bank has now been cut for a hay crop. Perhaps the owner should cooperate with his neighbour and go into business making dandelion and burdock cordial.

For sale – Labrador puppies, going very expensive any colour as long as it's black!

Bob James

RECENT EVENTS

The Royal Wedding Tea Party at the end of April was hosted by the WI and we celebrated the marriage of Katherine Middleton (surprisingly not related to our James) to Prince William. It was a quiet celebration; mostly tea, sandwiches, cakes and gossip. However, when the bucks fizz was brought round and Di Cosgrove toasted the royal couple, we all drank their health very enthusiastically!

'Voices of our Valley' Church Concert early in May has become a regular item in the church calendar. It is amazing that Chapel Lawn holds so much talent, young and old. Everyone sang beautifully and the St Mary's scratch choir, led by Di, sang a great round effortlessly. Thanks to the audience/congregation, the performers and especially Christine Oakley and her band of merry wives for providing a splendidly entertaining afternoon.

The Village 'Summer' BBQ in June; run as a joint effort by the church, WI and the village hall, true to form, was wet! Next year we'll call it 'Wet BBQ' and might be pleasantly surprised! In spite of the weather, we crammed together in the hall, not getting wet; consuming burgers, sausage and salad – and yes – puddings and beer and playing games, which somehow were well suited to indoors! Great event!

Becky Whitton

SEASONAL GARDENING NOTES

After the long winter, the spring drought and the late, damaging, frosts this is not - so far - a great summer for colour in the garden. But a week is as long a time for the weather as Harold Wilson claimed for politics, so we may yet have a colourful summer.

The words for colours have long derived from plants: poppy, buttercup, forget-me-not. Pink, as a colour, is rather less straight forward. It is thought to be short for carnation-pink, which is to say, flesh coloured. Pinks - the carnation-like garden plants - were named not for the colour but for the pinked, or crinkle cut edges to their petals. Both carnations and pinks are famous for their mercurial colours, with streaks and flakes, central rings and laced borders and, as Oscar Wilde showed, with his infamous green carnations, a supposed ability to soak up dye in their drinking water.

Nor are other colours exactly as they seem: Robert Burns compared his love to a red red rose, but red roses - as we know them - were not developed until well after Burns' death. The nearest to a red rose he could have known would have been the old Apothecary's rose *rosa gallica* which is a deep pink. Indeed, Burns' red rose may have been simply the wild dog rose, whose variability of pink colours would correspond to a poetically blushing cheek.

So with red, red roses meaning blush pink and hunting pink meaning blood red, colours are anything but candid.

Hannah Willetts



REDLAKE VALLEY ART SHOW

16-18 September 2011

The Redlake Valley Art Show is coming together surprisingly well considering it is being organised by a bunch of artists! It's going to be an exciting exhibition of varied and diverse artworks in the lovely new-look Chapel Lawn village hall (which will have undergone major refurbishment a month before).

There will be an opportunity to see and buy art and crafts that have been produced and inspired by our beautiful Redlake Valley - from paintings, textiles, hand-printed books and drawings to jewellery, sculpture, ceramics, photography and calligraphy. Entry is free. Fri 10am-8pm; Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 10am-4pm.

There will be a preview of the show on Thursday 15th September, between 6-7pm, when we would like to give all who live in the valley the opportunity to see the show before anyone else. Put it in your diary!

Delicious refreshments will be available throughout the show. More information will be available soon on our new website:

www.redlakevalleyartists.co.uk

Or phone Sarah & Simon Jameson on 01547 528546, or Sarah Harding on 01588 640875 or email: images@sarahjameson.co.uk

Birthdays Girls!

Congratulations to two Chapel Lawn residents who celebrated special birthdays in July.

Beryl Palmer, an active member of the village, was sixty. Beryl was delighted to receive a surprise cake after a service at St Mary's church.

Mona Owen, whom we all value as one of the matriarchs of the valley, was ninety. Mona shared a birthday cake after a service and received a lovely bouquet from the WI, of which she is a founder member.

DIARY DATES

More at: www.chapel-lawn.co.uk
 2nd Wed of month 7pm WI
 Sun 14th Aug 11am annual
Hodre Pond clearing
 Fri 2nd Sep 7pm *Celebration of refurbished village hall. All welcome, bar & music*
 Sun 11th Sep *Village Ramble & lunch walks start 10.30am, lunch at noon*
 16-18th September from 10am *Redlake Valley Art Show see left for more details*
 Sat 24th Sept 7.30pm *Flicks: The Adjustment Bureau - see flyer*
 Thurs 29th Sep 7.30pm ODAS
Talk on Viking Astronomy
 Fri 30th Sep 10.30-12noon WI
Macmillan coffee morning at Well House, Di Cosgrove
 Sat 1st Oct 10am-12noon
Harvest Workshop, Church
 Thurs 6th Oct 7pm *Harvest Festival & harvest supper*
 Mon 10th Oct 10.30am-12noon
WI coffee morning at Bryncalled, Sharon Barthram
 Wed 12th Oct 8pm WI 2011Talk
by Graham Arnold
 Sat 22nd Oct 7.30pm *Flicks: The King's Speech - see flyer*
 Thurs 27th Oct 7.30pm ODAS
Andrew Lounds on the "Titanic"
 Sat 5th Nov 7pm *Live Gig: Dredd & the Badass Weeds double bill with Bang Bang Romeo: see flyer*
 Wed 9th Nov 8pm WI 2011Talk
"From Lisbon to Lavenham on Horseback" by Becky Whitton
 Sat 19th Nov 7.30pm *Flicks: Bridesmaids - see flyer*
 Thurs 1st Dec 7.30pm *Wine & Puds (made by the chaps!)*

WANTED

If you have any copies of Chapel Lawn News, which was produced around 2000 and was the precursor to the Redlake, we would like to borrow them to copy for our archives.

We are researching the history of Caer Caradoc and if you have any memories of events on top of Caradoc like the Jubilee 1977, the 50th anniversary of the war in 1995 or the millennium party 2000, then could you please share them with the History Group. Contact Patrick Cosgrove 530347 or Michael Macturk 530302.

New in the Valley

Yvonne and Nick Gillman and their two labradors, Poppy and Sandy, moved into the School House in July 2010 from Worcestershire where they had lived for 14 years. They run a model railway accessory business.

Carolyn and John Wilde and their three cats moved from Cheshire into Cwm Hither in January this year. John has joined CL Astronomical Society and Carolyn is now a member of the WI and enjoys pottery and gardens.

Next issue October (copy deadline 10 Oct)