

THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 40

SPECIAL "WOODLAND FAIR" EDITION.

AUTUMN 2017

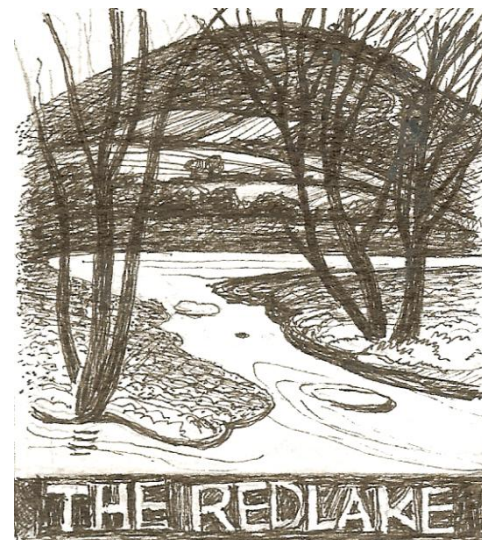
From the Editors

This is the 10th year that The Redlake Newsletter has been going and it can be celebrated along with a successful 'Woodland Fair' which involved a lot of planning. It paid off, with a very good turn out from the village and beyond. Well done everyone who took part and helped out. There have been some good responses that have been put on the website below. The Redlake was set up to inform of local news and upcoming events, and we hope we are continuing the tradition. Please let us know if you have news you would like to share.

Jeremy Jameson

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More information and photos of some of these articles are available on the website at <http://www.chapel-lawn.co.uk>



CHAPEL LAWN'S 2ND WOODLAND FAIR 2017



After a nervous week spent watching the weather forecast, Saturday 7th October turned out to be fine, which was a great relief to the Redlake Valley Community Benefit Society and its small army of local volunteer helpers who worked tirelessly to make the second Chapel Lawn Woodland Fair such a resounding success. With generous sponsorship from Shropshire Housing Group, the fair had been in the planning since November last year. It was a joint effort between the Society, the Village Hall Committee and St Mary's Parochial Church Council, with an agreement to split the fair's profits between the three. Over 450 visitors paid to attend the Woodland Fair (either at full or reduced price), over £900 was taken in the Village Hall by selling refreshments and just over £200 was

collected in selling raffle tickets. Taking into account the various costs of putting on the event and the grant received from Shropshire Housing Group, the profit amounted to £2,400 which will be divided equally between the Village Hall, St. Mary's Church and the RVCBS.

Not that making money was the only reason for holding the fair. The Society had been repeatedly asked to mount another since the first was successfully held in 2012. Another aim of the day was for local businesses to promote their services and products. Local firms represented included the Clun Log Company, Darky Dale Riding School, School House B&B, Bucknell Nurseries, Prince and Pugh with their log burners, some of the Redlake Artists and Dodds Logs Ltd. Learning more about woodland, wildlife and the countryside was also top of the day's agenda. "In a Nutshell" talks in the church covered topics as varied as the return of the Pine Marten, local history, tree-ring dating and mammal bones! Display stands on the importance of pollinating insects and bee-keeping attracted a great deal of interest, while live owls and baby hedgehogs drew visitors of all ages to the rescue stands like magnets.



Hedge-laying and wild food foraging were two more possibilities. Conservation bodies were well represented by Shropshire Wildlife Trust, The Forestry Commission, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership and Myndtown's 'Life on the Edge' grassland verges project. Back by popular request were Bob

The editorial team comprises: Becky Sherman, Pat Jameson, Christine Oakley, Jeremy Jameson, How to contact us: by mail The Redlake Editors, Squire Farm, Chapel Lawn, SY7 0BW by telephone 01547 530530 or by e-mail redlake@chapel-lawn.co.uk Printing by Jim & Christine Rogers.

James' *very* difficult tree ID quiz, Elsa the heavy horse, John Sankey and his traction engine and Keith Meredith's wonderful walking sticks. A clog maker, two chair makers and three woodworkers helped represent the craft section.



Also very popular amongst the stands in the hall were the sewn trees, the Marches Book Art Group and the bug hotels.



A day out for the family was another aim of the day and children were not overlooked. There was face-painting in the school yard, and story-telling and drumming over in the Society's woodland quillet.



Machinery enthusiasts were rewarded with displays of chain saws, log splitters, an extremely large, farm-based wood boiler, and a mobile saw bench. Brineddin Wood itself came under scrutiny with demonstrations of how deer fencing has already enabled coppiced hazel and oak to regenerate within the space of less than a year. Visitors to the Community Benefit

Society's stand signed the 2017 Tree Charter while 'sister bodies' in the form of the Knighton Tree Allotment Trust and Knucklas Castle Community Trust were kept busy explaining their work.



And finally, the food! Queues rapidly formed for Cob Oven Pizzas, Weobley Ash Lamburgers, baked potatoes from Beryl Palmer and her hard-working team, not to mention Beryl's thirty, rapidly vanishing cakes of all descriptions. For an afternoon treat, there was real dairy ice-cream from over the border in Herefordshire.

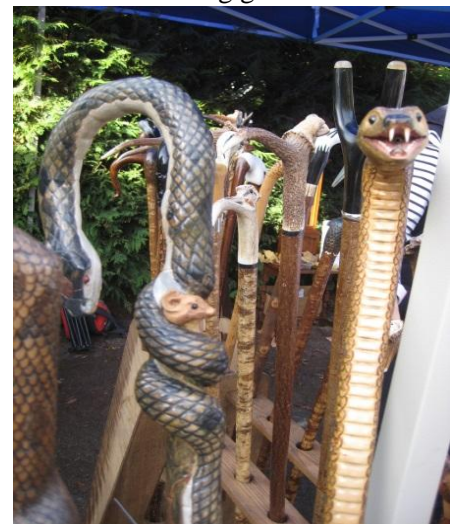


Two people managed to correctly identify all 25 specimens in Bob James' tree ID challenge. They were Philippa Allenby and Phil Blackburne (does anyone know Phil so that he can claim his £10 prize?). By answering all 15 questions correctly, Moira Knowles of Titley won the Tree Quiz that Mrs Eileen Davies had devised.



Throughout the day a musical backdrop was provided by our very own 'Mudlarks', a drumming workshop in the quillet, and roving minstrels in the form of two thirds of the HiJinx Ceilidh Band from Ludlow.

Clearly the day could not have taken place without so much volunteer help over and above the ten-strong planning team. Space prevents the inclusion of all the names, but particular thanks must go to Mrs Mona Owen and to James Middleton for making their fields available, and Sarah and Simon Jameson of New Invention for the formidable publicity and logistic demands. Donors of raffle prizes must be thanked. Some wish to remain anonymous but we're happy to name The Plant Centre (Ludlow) and School House B&B who gave vouchers, Jemima Jameson who gave a painting of St. Melangell and the hare, Dulcie Fulton who gave a pack of letterpress cards, the Clun Log Company donated two sacks of kiln-dried firewood, Teme Valley Tractors who donated chainsaw oil, and Powys Forest Horses who gave one of Elsa's massive horse-shoes, polished up ready to grace someone's front door and bring good luck.



Other activities were also taking place in the village that that weekend. On the Saturday evening 104 people squeezed into the hall for a talk on Chapel Lawn's Caer Caradoc hillfort by Dr Andy Wigley, Shropshire Council's head of Historic Environment. A little earlier to conclude the Woodland Fair, and by kind permission of Mrs Brenda Davies, there had been a showing of

home movies taken by her late husband of the workings of Bucknell Woodyard in the 1960s. The village hall bar was opened for this and made a healthy profit of £70. Throughout the weekend, there was a steady trickle of visitors to admire the stunning floral displays in the church assembled by Christine Oakley and friends, enhanced by over twenty large, model bugs made by local children. And on the Sunday afternoon the annual 'Voices of the Valley' concert in the church wowed the audience with their musical talents. Where else can you hear renditions of Nina and Frederick's 'Listen to the Ocean' alongside 'She'll be Coming 'round the Mountain', 'All things Bright and Beautiful' and accordion solos in the space of an hour?

It has been said that Chapel Lawn and the Redlake Valley punch above their weight. That particular weekend rather proves the point.

Patrick Cosgrove

More articles and pictures can be seen on the website www.chapel-lawn.co.uk

TO ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS.

A big 'thank you' to everyone who helped with the flower arrangements in the church for the Harvest Festival, Woodland Fair and Voices in the Valley. They were much admired and made the church look and smell wonderful.

Christine Oakley

A Warm Welcome.

We would like to welcome Sarah and Stephen Oakden, who have recently moved into Chapel Lawn and Tony and Marion Cox, who have moved into the west end of Bucknell. Sarah and Marion have already joined the WI and have joined many of the events in the village.

CHAPEL LAWN WI

During the year we have enjoyed a variety of speakers covering some diverse topics - Mason Bees, Wade Pottery and The Mennonites. Some of our speakers have also provided practical activities ranging from

Christmas cracker making to painting silk cards, making small books (Zines) and Marmalade making with a preserves expert. Our outings included a fascinating guided tour of historic Shrewsbury and a trip to Hereford combining lunch, cinema and shopping. We also had a wonderful Damson Day making damson jam, damson chutney and delicious damson ice cream.

In early summer our president Jean Price rallied us on to produce group entries for both Clun and Knighton Shows. Our efforts were rewarded with 2nd prize at Clun Show and 1st prize at Knighton, winning the Tref y Clawdd Cup for best overall display. We were doubly thrilled to learn that Jemima Jameson's painting of St Melangell in our display won the Nancy Jones Perpetual Memorial Cup for the best item in the WI shop windows.

This year it was our turn to host the Group Meeting for Clun Valley South WI's in September. We had a really enjoyable evening in the Village Hall, with a very tasty buffet followed by a most entertaining and humorous talk by wildlife photographer Michael Leach, sharing his expertise on the amusing secrets of photographing wildlife. We ended the evening on a real high on hearing that Chapel Lawn WI were the overall winners for the competition entries at the meeting.

Our membership has been growing steadily during the past year. We are a very sociable group and it is always lovely to welcome visitors and potential new members. Our AGM is on Tuesday 14th November at 7pm, we will be serving a buffet supper and you will be made most welcome if you would like to come along and meet us.

Christine Rogers

SEASONAL GARDENING NOTES



Autumn was always considered to be the best time for planting. This became garden-lore at the time when all acquired plants were bare-rooted – potted plants were not generally available for sale until the 1960s. Autumn planting also became the norm because the spring months were

already so busy with seed sowing and bedding-out. The old head gardeners needed to keep their work-force fully employed throughout the twelve months, so borders were cleared, manured and replanted in the autumn. While the weather remains open and the soil still holds some warmth, autumn planting is fine for most herbaceous plants and deciduous shrubs, but hold fire on evergreens until the spring: they do not shut down over winter so need to feed all those leaves. New plantings must establish their root systems before they can begin to feed properly, and if the ground freezes around them they cannot do this.

Personally, in the autumn, I prefer to clear out the plants that are no longer required and wake up the worms by replenishing the tired soil, but leave it empty until the spring for replanting. This gives more time for consideration about what the replanting will be as, if it is to be plants from elsewhere in the garden, lifting and splitting will be far kinder to them when they can get their toes down into warming, rather than rapidly cooling, soil.

Hannah Willetts

POETS'S CORNER

She had some Terramycin

And a bottle of dope

A pint of Penicillin

And a canny bit of hope

The vet was optimistic

She'd worked miracles before

But the Ewe was quite determined

And died at half past 4

The vet was very sad indeed

She thought she might have lived

And I was disappointed too

Cos she charged me fifty quid!

(from a book on Bettws-y-Crwyn from Vera Price)

RECENT EVENTS AUGUST TO OCTOBER

With the wonderful 'WF' dominating this issue of The Redlake, I don't have much space for other recent events! Our Flicks season has started with *The Lion and Their Finest*; turnout was good at both. ODAS also showed *Hidden Figures* at one of their meetings which was well attended. Jacqueline organised a ceilidh in September, this too went very well; signs for the event were spotted as far afield as Brecon and Bromyard – I think Jacqueline wins full marks for advertising! Also in September was the annual church Ramble and Lunch; I believe the weather held fine and as usual there was a good turnout, raising £744 for the church.

Becky Sherman

The annual Macmillan coffee morning organised by Chapel Lawn WI was held this year in September at Well House. Besides a delicious array of cakes there was Asian food for sale which sold out, bric-a-brac, books, plants and a raffle. It was a friendly occasion where friends and neighbours met for a good chat but also to support such a good cause. £259 was raised.

October was a busy month for St Mary's Church with varied and interesting events:

Harvest Festival Service was held at the beginning of October and was well attended by the local community. A traditional service was used with readings and well-known harvest hymns followed by a light supper with cider which was much appreciated by all.

A Flower Festival was organized by Christine Oakley and friends during the Woodland Fair weekend. There was a superb variety of imaginative displays; the church looked wonderful.

The annual "Voices of the Valley" concert was a winner. Interspersed with well-known hymns were fascinating poems read by Pat Hancock, Mark Limbrick and Beryl Palmer; Beryl even wore a purple hat for one of her poems! Wayne Davies not only played the organ but gave the audience some tunes on his accordion. Dave Evans entertained us with his country and western songs and guitar playing and he managed to get us joining in with several songs. Becky sang, Jemma and Eileen sang and played guitar duets and "The Mudlarks" sang a variety

of songs in harmony. Andrew Gibbs expertly compèred the concert and a delicious tea was provided afterwards. Thanks to all who have made our church events in October a success.

Di Cosgrove

We send our condolences to Ken Bowen, for the passing away of Vera who will be much missed for her amazing energy and enthusiasm for village events, so many of which she took part in and was always ready and willing to help out in any way she could.

(Obituary to follow next edition)

FARMING COLUMN

Autumn mellow fruitfulness? Not really. Late frosts took all the plum and damson blossom, magpies took all the cherries before they had even started to turn and the few apples around were decimated by wasps.

It was a very good season for sheep farmers, above average prices and plenty of grass. A very mild October means grass is still growing at an amazing rate. One wonders how much is left to come up next spring when it is really needed. By contrast arable farmers have not fared so well, indeed many spring crops became a salvage operation. Record sales of Propcorn (a chemical applied to damp grain to prevent mould) have been reported. When we went on holiday the neighbour had one third of a field left to combine, two weeks later on return he still had a third of a field left! We don't know if this was weather conditions or the combine having a nervous breakdown.

30 years on from the great storm, forecasters were predicting similar destruction, however very little damage was done in this area, although there is physical evidence of a local farm vehicle being blown off the road into a deep ditch. We must mention the woodland fair; a lot of time and effort by a few people, especially Patrick Cosgrove, but well worth the effort. A wonderful day enjoyed by all and sundry.

New technology has arrived in the area, with a farmer from Obley, trialling the driverless tractor concept. It worked very well on the downhill, but getting back up was a big problem.

Bob James

DIARY

Live Music: Saturday 11th Nov 7 pm. Live Music with flamenco guitarist supported by Jack Brett

Tickets £10. Call Christine 530258 for details or to reserve tickets.

W.I. Tuesday 14th November 7 pm

Woodland Fair Planning Group.

Thursday 16th November. Meeting for a debrief at 7.30

Flicks: Saturday 18th November. Film 'Lost City of Z' 7.30 pm.

ODAS: Thursday 30th November. 7 pm

Town Council Meeting: Thursday 7th December 7.30 pm.

Arts Alive & Chapel Lawn Christmas

Party. Saturday 9th December 'The Churchfitters Christmas Cracker' with the village party 7.30 pm. Tickets: Adults £10, Children £5, Family ticket £28. Contact Jacqueline on 01547-530871/ 07721-739973

W.I. Tuesday 12th December 7pm

ODAS Christmas Dinner. Thursday 14th December. 7 pm Contact Carolyn Wilde 01547-530085

Flicks: Saturday 16th December 'Tomorrow' 7.30pm.

Carol Service: Sunday 17th December 11 am in the church followed by mince pies & Sherry.

Christmas Day Church Service: 9.30 am.

New Years Party 30th/31st Dec. Pub evening or a 'do it ourselves party'. To be decided.

Flicks: Saturday 20th January. Film to be decided.

ODAS: Thursday 25th January 7 pm

Town Council Meeting. Thursday 1st February 7.30 pm

Arts Alive: Saturday 10th February 'Outside the box' A live show about death. 7.30pm £8. Contact Jacqueline for tickets on 01547 530871/07721 739973

For more information about Flicks or Live Events, please contact Christine Rogers 01547 530258

christine@techsyst.co.uk