

The Redlake

No 59

Summer 22



Welcome to the Summer 2022 Redlake newsletter—a right Royal edition you might say what with the Platinum Jubilee coming to Chapel Lawn and one of our residents travelling to Buckingham Palace. Thanks to Mark Duffee for the Jubilee photographs used in this issue.

Jubilee celebrations at Chapel Lawn—a letter of thanks

A much needed letter of thanks to all the people of Chapel Lawn and surrounding district who did so much work to make the Jubilee such a lovely occasion—something that Chapel Lawn does so well.

The opening event was the Caer Caradoc beacon which was enjoyed by so many (thankfully no fire engines this time!). It was lovely to see so many small children in Chapel Lawn again, all having a great time with arranged fun and games. The BBQ evening with the fantastic puds and childrens' jellies competition (almost impossible to judge) was a good evening also.

The Sunday church service was lovely. Mugs were presented to the children and posies to the older members of the community. Nice hymns and tea and cakes followed.

You all know who did the work, but no individual can be mentioned, because it was a group effort. Sincere thanks to you *all* for a wonderful Jubilee Party. The Queen would have been proud of you all and the party! Many thanks on behalf of all of us who just came along to enjoy everything.

Lilian & Rankin Lewis

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Chapel Lawn Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Chapel Lawn certainly celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee in a big way over the bank holiday weekend in June. On the Thursday evening over 100 people made their way to the camp on the top of Caer Caradoc. While some made their way on foot others took up the offer from James Middleton to ride on the trailer towed behind his tractor.

At the top of the hill, many enjoyed a picnic with friends and as dusk approached observed beacons being lit around the Marches. At 9.45 the beacon on Caer Caradoc was lit and blazed away keeping people warm as the hilltop air got cooler. As darkness came in, many other beacons could be seen, some people counting up to a dozen as far away as Church Stretton and Clee Hill.

On Friday afternoon a fun-day was held in the field behind the village hall. Events such as welly throwing, tug-of-war and egg and spoon races took place. A barbeque followed, with puddings from the "Jubilee Pudding" competition. Congratulations to winners Emma Davies and Claire Davies. The evening ended with music and dancing in the village hall. Again, over 100 local people attended the fun-day.

A Jubilee celebration service was held on Sunday afternoon in the church. During the service commemorative mugs were given to the younger members of our community and flowers to older members. Over the course of the weekend a good time was had by all.

Dave Wright



A Garden Party at the Palace

Barry Palmer was invited by The Lord Chamberlain, commanded by her Majesty the Queen to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday 11th May 2022. Barry and Beryl had been put forward by a local resident to the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire for their outstanding contribution to the community in Chapel Lawn. They were selected from a number of applicants. Sadly, Beryl passed away before the event, but Barry went nonetheless with his brother-in-law Terry.

The visit started by queuing in the rain at the Hyde Park Corner Gate for entry dressed in their Sunday best (suit and tie mandatory) with many others for over an hour. At this Garden Party just under eight thousand people attended. First impressions of the gardens were how beautiful they were with an abundance of red and pink rhododendrons. It reminded Barry of Waddesdon Gardens in Buckinghamshire where he and Beryl used to live. He was disappointed not to see roses, but it was too early in the year to see them. After looking round the gardens they made their way to the main tea tents to sample the amazing and delicious array of crustless sandwiches, small vol au vents, wraps and cakes. Barry not normally a cake eater, sampled the fruit cake which he said was excellent. Barry and Terry went searching for Royalty in the gardens. Barry said they saw Camilla and a lot of old grey men in top hats.

Barry described the afternoon as very interesting, enjoyable with an excellent tea! He said it was lovely to stroll round the gardens, see all the ladies dressed in their best frocks as if at multiple weddings and nearly bump into Royalty. The afternoon was only marred a little by the rain.

Congratulations Barry from your friends and neighbours in Chapel Lawn for such an honour.

Di Cosgrove



Feed, Fuel & Fertiliser by Bob James

Once again I write about the three 'Fs'. Last October a local farmer went on holiday. He asked me to keep an eye on his farm. Euphoria!! After fifty five years, promotion from farm worker to farm manager. Two days later, disaster! The farmer's bunch of prize heifers also decided to go on holiday.

"Oh F -" I uttered on discovering ten metres of boundary fencing had been flattened and the heifers had vanished into the bracken on the neighbour's hill. I was unable to contact the farmer with the news, he had not charged his phone ... I did contact the neighbour and explained the situation. His reply "Oh F -" I've got 40 cows and 2 bulls on that patch. Got hold of this farmer at night via a third party phone. His first observation, "Oh F -" I knew something would go wrong. Next day the neighbour parted the heifers out and we moved them to a secure location. PS we don't know what antics the farmers got up to, but 2 heifers came back from holiday with unplanned pregnancies.

Currently we are in a drought situation. The Elder Bretheren amongst us are comparing it with the Great Drought of 1976. It is certainly hotter. 35 degrees was the highest in 1976; over 40 degrees has been recorded now. We are a long way off the 56 days without rain then.

Times do change; soon we will be into the Autumn sales of breeding sheep. A sale today at Knighton Market will attract 2000 entries. Back in the 1950s sales on two consecutive days (Wednesday and Thursday) would see 11,000 sheep offered on each day. Auctions were held on what is now the Rugby Club field. Buyers would turn up from the Eastern counties. The railway line runs along the Northern edge of the field and the rail company would lay on special trains to transport the sheep eastwards to be put to Suffolk rams to produce "fat" lambs. Breeds would be Clun Forest or Kerry Hill, no "mules" in those days, no Land Rovers and trailers either. Sheep would be walked to Knighton, with farmers joining together to drive communal flocks. All roads to Knighton would be choc-a-block with sheep which on arrival would be sorted back into respective flocks for sale. As a young pre-school child, I would be allowed to "help" as far as Chapel Lawn, but then sent home being deemed as too small to walk to Knighton.

Back in the winter, traffic hold ups occurred in Chapel Lawn when a local farmer's red tractor conked out in the road. Seems he had been experimenting with

running the tractor on fresh air, not diesel. A board member of the RVCBS has spotted nipples in Brineddin Wood. Correction mis-read email. He had spotted a plant called Nipplewort.

Stop Press: the drought is over, it is raining. Amazingly only 22 days after heavy showers were recorded on 30th June. Oh well, back to lawn mowing.

Chapel Lawn Diary

Chapel Lawn Pub Night in the Village Hall Saturday 27 August, 7:30pm

Everyone welcome. Plus BBQ - weather permitting! Please let us know if you're coming for the BBQ and bring a pudding to share. Contact Di by Thurs 25 Aug - deedee151@hotmail.com / 01547 530347

Ride & Stride, Saturday 10 September

A national fundraising event run locally by the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. The church will be open for visitors who will arrive on foot and by bicycle.

Ramble & Lunch: Sunday 11 September

Self-guided walks from 10.30am from the car park in Chapel Lawn. A delicious home-prepared buffet lunch served from 12.00 noon to 2.00pm. *This will be available for all visitors, whether you wish to take one of the walks or just meet with friends over lunch.* Raffle and bar. Tickets: £9.00 (adults), £4.00 (children over 5). As this is our biggest church fundraiser, we are counting on your support!

Macmillan Coffee Morning, Friday 30 September, 10.00am – 12 noon, Village Hall. Come and browse a variety of stalls; raffle. £1.00 entry with a coffee & biscuits. Please come and support this worthy charity! More info: Di Cosgrove 01547 530347 or Karen Limbrick 01547 530002

Apple Pressing: Saturday 1st October

Harvest Service & Supper: Friday 7 October 7.00pm, followed by supper in the Village Hall. Contact: Christine Oakley 01547 530585 or Karen Limbrick 01547 530002

RVCBS AGM and talk on Trees by author Peter Thomas, Thursday 20 October. AGM starts at 6.45; arrive at 7.15 for the talk. Village Hall. Tickets are free to shareholders, £5 to others. Contact: Patrick Cosgrove on pccosgrove@icloud.com / 01547 530347

Remembrance Service: Sunday 13 November

Talk on coppicing: Thursday 17 November.

Village Hall. Organised by RVCBS. More information closer to the date. Contact: Patrick Cosgrove on pccosgrove@icloud.com / 01547 530347

Chapel Lawn WI

Meetings 7pm in the Village Hall every 2nd Tuesday of the month. We are a small friendly group and would love to welcome you. Talks on calligraphy, bee keeping and forensic psychology coming up. Contact Christine on christine@techsyst.co.uk / 07780728812

Art Classes

Every Wednesday in the Village Hall from 10am - 12 noon, £12/session. You are welcome to work in any media (apart from oil). Come along to improve your art and make new friends! Contact: gretchenind@gmail.com / 07904 977206

Crafts and Kits Workshops with Constance

All workshops 9.30am - 4.30pm in the Village Hall, Fee: £40/ person. Relaxed courses, with an emphasis on learning a new skill without pressure.

Saturday 3 September - Gold Embroidery taster:

A heritage craft, using solid silver and gold threads, experience of embroidery helpful.

Thursday 27 October - Silk Painting taster: Experimental techniques and a final piece to take home

Tuesday 15 November - Embroidery taster: Traditional stitches or with a contemporary twist (all abilities). More info: www.craftsandkits.co.uk / 01588 640781

Chapel Lawn Book Group

A friendly group that meets on the last Monday of the month, 7pm at Well House in Chapel Lawn. A variety of books are chosen by members and there is always an interesting and lively discussion. Contact: Di Cosgrove on 01547 530347 / deedee251@hotmail.com.

Donation to RVCBS

The latest beneficiary from the Riverside Inn at Aymestrey's fund to support environmental projects is the Redlake Valley Community Benefit Society which owns and manages two quillets of woodland in Brineddin Wood. A generous donation of £250 will greatly help the Society to repay the interest-free loan which, alongside donations and additional share purchases, was made to enable it to buy 'Henry's Quillet' in 2019. The directors of the Society are extremely grateful to George and Andy at The Riverside.

Contributions for the newsletter should be sent to Sarah Jameson on images@sarahjameson.co.uk