

The Redlake

No 64

Autumn 2023

Welcome to the Autumn 2023 Redlake newsletter.

In this issue we have a definite autumnal feel: apples, soils and flooding. Following on from last Summer's piece on flood mitigation in the Redlake Valley, we include inside an invitation to farmers in the Redlake valley to attend a soil aeration demo on farm at New Invention in November.



Rev. Martin & Fiona Quayle

National Apple Day in Chapel Lawn

Despite a dearth of apples for some people, an early crop for others, quite a few earlier apple pressing days in the locality, and floods the day before that had threatened to ruin the day completely, Chapel Lawn was able to celebrate National Apple Day on the 21st of October by pressing apples and turning them into 236 litres (or 327 bottles!) of delicious, pasteurised apple juice. As usual, the event was organised by the Redlake Valley Community Benefit Society for which the event raised just over £300. The pressing and pasteurising was carried out by the Kemp Valley Group, and the apple cake to keep people going was baked by Di Cosgrove. It was a fun day and one which seems to be becoming an annual event.



Simon Jameson at the press



All hands on deck

The Redlake is funded by Redlake Valley Hall Funds and neither the hall 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.

Memories of May Stead



Gladys May Stead was born on 6th May 1925 at Buckton, she was the second child of Gladys and Tom Jones and went to Brampton Bryan school. Her willingness to work showed from a young age as she would collect the eggs daily for Mrs Whiteman. For fun, May would swing the basket around in the air ending up with eggs on her face! May loved ponies and didn't see the need for a bridle or a saddle. She would happily ride around hanging on to the horse's mane. May met Cliff and married in Leintwardine, going on to have 7 children, Cynthia, Sheila, Trevor, Doug, John, Cath and Ian. In 1949 the family moved to the Riddings above Clun. It was at this time May began to drive lorries. She hadn't taken her test but later passed in a Landrover. Heading off to Oswestry in the early hours to collect lime before returning to take the kids to school.

In 1956 May and Cliff bought The Lye & moved there in 1957, May couldn't wait to have her own horses. In 1964 Cliff had his first accident, spending 18 months in hospital. May took over running the business, accounting, payroll etc, no mean feat with a young baby to look after as well. May was very active in Chapel Lawn school and village life, helping to run the rummage stall with Nell Sherwood and joining in with school trips. She fought many battles in her life, survived cancer twice, new hips, strokes & losing a son (Doug) but always had strength and love for her own children, 18 grandchildren, 33 great grandchildren and 7 great- great grandchildren. Sadly, May died on 27 March 2023 aged 97. She will be remembered in the Chapel Lawn valley as a hard worker, very kind & liked by all. **Christine Oakley**

(Free) Redlake Farmer Event: Friday 17 November

Are your soils working for you?

Landowners and farmers upstream of Bucknell are invited to attend an on-farm aeration demonstration on Friday 17th November at New Invention.

Soil compaction in fields leads to reduced grass growth and reduces the number of days fields can be grazed at the beginning and end of the year. Compacted soils cause grass to roots to be more shallow with water penetrating less deeply making them less resistant to summer drought conditions.

Field aeration has been shown to increase grass yields, allow livestock to be turned out earlier in spring and for longer in autumn and increase the amount of water that infiltrates into the soil reducing surface run off. Aerating the soil means there is less run-off and land doesn't get as waterlogged because, by opening the soil structure, surface drainage is improved with faster absorption of slurry and winter rainfall.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust have secured funding from the Environment Agency to trial some aeration in the Redlake Valley area.

Mike Edwards of Edwards Agricultural Supplies Ltd will demonstrate his aeration machinery and talk through the practice, followed by:

- Assessing the drainage signs of pasture
- Get an update on grants from the local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO)
- Hear about the science behind Natural Flood Management (NFM)
- Lots of opportunity for discussion and your questions!

This event is free and includes refreshments.

Places are limited, so please book through the Project Officer: Jess Nott:
jessn@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk or
Tel: 01743 284 280 or 07432 454 964

News from St Mary's Church

Congratulations to Huw and Jenny Williams on the birth of baby Max Edward Williams, born on 23rd September.

Congratulations to Karen and Mark Limbrick as they have been commissioned as lay worship leaders. We are really grateful for all the hard work they contribute to St Mary's.

Harvest Festival at St Mary's

The children took gifts of soil, water, seeds, fruit, bread and finally a cake to the altar during our harvest service in St Mary's. Thanks to everyone who helped in decorating the church, the readers, Karen and Mark for taking the service and those who helped in preparing supper.

Flowers

The altar flowers were amazing again with Clare Davies' home-grown display. I'm sure if you need Christmas wreaths or planning a wedding or funeral, we can recommend Clare or Jenny Williams.

Christine Oakley



Rosa, Edward, Abi, Henry and Huwie waiting patiently for their harvest supper



A memory from Easter: Ellie Marsh celebrating Easter at St Mary's

30th birthday Ramble and Lunch

Thank you for supporting St Mary's fundraising event by coming along for an amazing lunch, as so many wonderful people donated delicious salads and desserts! Thank you also to the many who helped set up and clear up or worked hard on the day to serve and wash up. It also proved to be a great chance to catch up with friends and neighbours. Despite the hike in food prices we raised £1,126.84.

MacMillan Morning fundraiser

We raised our highest figure to date! Thanks to all who donated bric a brac, books, clothes, cakes and other local produce. Thanks to Chapel Lawn WI members who ran the stalls and provided refreshments. A BIG thanks to all who came along and donated by purchasing items! Two local artists with work to sell came along and donated to the effort too. We raised a magnificent £558.34!

Upcoming events:

November Butty Van

The next Butty Van will take place on Wednesday 8th November from 10.30 to 12.00. Shenton Gwilliam has very kindly agreed to host us at Guilden Down, Clun, SY7 8NZ. We hope to see members of the farming community for a sausage/bacon butty and a mug of tea/coffee. Any queries please contact Janet Tudor 01547 520293 or email jetstream4000@gmail.com

Remembrance service will take place at 10.45am on Sunday 12 November led by James Middleton.

Prayer Group will meet next on Friday 24th November at 2.00pm in church. Come and join us as we pray together for the needs of our world, the church, our community, and the sick and bereaved, for half an hour. All are welcome to join in. Tea and biscuits afterwards. Contacts: Eileen 01547 530659 and Karen 530002.

Christmas Carol Service will take place on Sunday 17th December.

Karen Limbrick and Di Cosgrove

Village Hall events diary

Chapel Lawn Flicks in the Sticks Saturday 11th November 7:30pm (Film) Barbie (Cert 12)

Join us for the most hilarious film of the year – all you need is a sense of humour!

One of the best films of the year in cinematographic terms, probably the best comedy in a long time, and extraordinarily entertaining.

Adult £5 Child £3.50. Cabaret seating, bar and ice creams in the interval. Contact Christine – 07780 728812 / christine@techsyst.co.uk



The Chapel Lawn Christmas Party will take place on Saturday 9th December

Chapel Lawn Book Group

Chapel Lawn book group meets on the last Monday of the month at 7pm at Well House in Chapel Lawn. It's a friendly group and we always have lively discussions on the books chosen. If you are interested in joining contact Di Cosgrove on 01547 530347 dee-151@hotmail.com

Saturday 18th November, 7pm
The Taming of the Stew: Venison Casserole competition evening. See poster below for more information. Bookings to Patrick Cosgrove: 01547 530 347 or 07950 648 365

Bar available



THE TAMING OF THE STEW

VENISON CASSEROLE COMPETITION

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER, 7PM
REDLAKE VALLEY VILLAGE HALL, CHAPEL LAWN, SY7 0BW

Dine out on locally sourced venison, prepared by local cooks competing for first place. Followed by a talk on deer control measures for the protection of crops and woodlands.

Tickets £10. Advance booking necessary but pay in cash on the day.



Book now: 01547 530347,
07950 648365,
or pccosgrove@icloud.com

Chapel Lawn WI

We would love to welcome you to our small, friendly group. Your first 3 meetings will be on the house to give you a chance to find out whether you would like to join.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

11th November – Make Your Own Bag from fabric

12th December – Christmas Craft (afternoon meeting)

9th January – Air Ambulance Talk (TBC)

Meetings every 2nd Tuesday in the month at 7pm in the Village Hall. Contact Christine – 07780 728812 christine@techsyst.co.uk