

# The Redlake

No 65

Winter 23/24

Welcome to the Winter 2023/4 Redlake newsletter: A Happy New Year to all!



## Redlake resident shares tea with Royalty

Monday 12th November 2023 is a day that Di Cosgrove of Chapel Lawn near Clun will always remember.

To celebrate his 75th birthday, King Charles put out a request for people born in the same year as himself who have put a lot back into their communities, to be nominated as guests to a celebratory tea party at Highgrove in Gloucestershire.

Di's name was put forward for her work in education, both as Chairman of Governors of the Blue Hills Federation of primary schools in South Shropshire and as co-founder of a charity, Redearth Education, which she and two friends had established in 2007, and works in rural Uganda to improve teaching and learning in primary education. Invitees were asked to take one guest, so Di took her very best friend of 50 years standing.

Di has yet to come down from her amazing experience. *"It was such fun to meet so many people the same age as me who have done so much to make the world a better place,"* she said, *"and it was a privilege to talk to the King for a short time who was clearly enjoying himself immensely."*

*Photos: Di talking to King Charles and with Jay Blades from BBC's Repair Shop*

A digital archive of over 60 past issues of the Redlake newsletter going back to 2007 is now available to read/download on the revamped

Village Hall website. Go to:

**[chapel-lawn.co.uk/the-redlakes](http://chapel-lawn.co.uk/the-redlakes)**

*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 Gweneth Francis Harris

Gwen Harris was born on the 22nd of November 1923 at the Vron Farm. She was the middle child of Herbert and Francis, Ivor being the eldest and Olwen being the youngest. She spent a very happy childhood helping out on the farm as well as in the dairy with her mum. She often talked about the horses that worked the fields, even remembering their names, Ruby and Star. Gwen, as well as Ivor and Olwen were often referred to by their nicknames, Olwen was known as Tiny, Gwen as Benji and Ivor as Obo.

Gwen attended Chapel Lawn School and enjoyed her time there, she used to tell us how they used to walk through the fields to school and on the way back stop at her grandparents at the Squires Farm.

As she approached teenage years and war was on the horizon, Gwen left the farm to come to work at an ammunition factory in Newport, South Wales. She met her first husband Ivor Morgan with whom she had two children, myself and my brother Gareth. My father sadly passed away leaving my mum thinking about moving back to Bucknell. She then met Trevor several years later and they were happily married for 40 years before he passed away suddenly. He also spent many happy times at the Vron Farm too.

My mothers final wish was to return home after passing away. Her ashes were placed next to my grandparents in the small cemetery. Sadly she was 5 months away from celebrating her 100th birthday, however, we all went back to the cemetery and the farm to celebrate her birthday.

**Glynis (Gwen's daughter)**



## Farming column: James Middleton



Winter is here with a welcome frosty spell followed by a couple of windy storms, but no major damage on the farm. After last year's challenging weather for harvesting, we did at least have plenty of grass with cattle looking better and in-calf and a back-to-normal lambing percentage scan in the sheep.

We had a lamb on January 16<sup>th</sup> this year out of an old ewe. You would have thought she would have known better. Or perhaps she did as she is the only one in the nice warm shed. Cereals in the area have established well but we are fortunate to have no blackgrass problems so can drill earlier than farms in the east and also mostly drilled into ploughed land on slopes giving drainage to the young plants. The now considered 'holy grail' is cover crops and direct drilling. A local estate is taking up this method but some of their crops will not be much of a challenge to harvest.

A lot of land further east in the UK remains undrilled. A farmer near Bury St Edmonds told me that he had failed to plant any wheat. This has led to a big demand for spring crops. After last year's harvest, I am unable to source any lupins which I grow to replace soya in the animal's rations, but the firm are hoping to import some from the continent.

A lot of land will be taken out of food production in the next few years. We currently only produce just over 50 percent of our requirements here in the UK, and yet the government does not seem to recognise the need for food security or food production as a 'public good'.

Given the current instability in the world, weather challenges and lack of profitability in producing food, attitudes may need to change. (I would like to meet the people who moaned at the 50p increase in the price of a 12.5kg of my cousin's potatoes to £6.50 or the price of a chicken in Aldi, now less than that of a pint of beer in the pub).



## Church News

### Christmas at St Mary's Church

Our 2023 Carol Service was organised by Di and Andrew led the service. Rev Martin was sadly absent as he had other Christmas commitments at other churches in the benefice. The Mudlarks, all four members coming from Chapel Lawn, sang reverently and beautifully, their songs interspersed between carols and readings. It is always great to have children taking part bringing up the offerings. Afterwards we enjoyed sherry/juice provided by James and mince pies from the cooks among us. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the service. Rev Martin was with us on Christmas Eve to lead us in Christmas Holy Communion while Mark and Karen, lay worship leaders, led a short service on Christmas morning.

**Prayer group** meets on the last Friday of the month at 2.00pm in the church, but not Good Friday. Join us as we pray together for the needs of our community, or drop a prayer request into the box in the church and we will pray for you confidentially.

**Contacts: Eileen 01547 530659 and Karen 530002.**

### Children's Good Friday activities from 2.00pm, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

All children are invited to spend Good Friday afternoon at St Mary's Church with their parents or carers. There will be an Easter egg hunt around the churchyard, Easter picture trail, gardens to make for the Easter Day service on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March and storytelling in church. Hot cross buns too!

The timetable of **Easter services in Holy Week** is yet to be released. All services will be publicised in the March Deanery magazine and on the church notice board.

## Notes from Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn – January 2024

- November 2023 saw two organisations from the parish winning the King's Award for Voluntary Service: Clun Valley Good Neighbours Scheme and South Shropshire Engineering Ambassadors. Only 262 awards were given out across the nation, so for two to come from our corner of the country is outstanding.
- Council has been concerned with budgeting for the next financial year. Our assets have been significantly increased by the addition of the closed graveyard at St. George's. We are still trying to work out how this additional responsibility will function but there is likely to be a monetary impact on the Town Council. We are fully scrutinising any decisions that may impact on the precept.
- The Council has been successful in its grant application from the Community Ownership Fund. This money, c. £53,000, will go towards the much-needed renovation work to the Town Hall

**Mark Duffee**

### Welcome

Welcome to Francis and Alex Turner who have recently moved to Treverward. May they enjoy much happiness in the valley.

### Knighton Tractor Run in memory of David Thomas

Large tractors, small tractors, all kinds of decorated tractors (nearly 130 in fact) did a lap of Knighton on the Wednesday night just before Christmas.

The number of people on the streets in Knighton & Clun was UNREAL and passed many lining the roads to Clun, Bicton, Newcastle, Anchor and over the hill to Felindre. The tractors took a route via Brydrinog farm (David's home in the Teme valley), where fireworks were let off. Then, with people lining the roads, we returned to Knighton.

Representing the Redlake Valley driving tractors were John Tranter, Huw Williams, John Philips and myself with other young farmers acting as stewards.

A total of £9000 was raised for the Welsh Air Ambulance and Young Farmers charities. A night to remember by all!

**Carl Price (photographed opposite next to his splendidly illuminated tractor)**



## Village Hall events diary 2024



### Saturday 3 February, 7.30pm Flicks - A Man called Otto

Based on the comical and moving *New York Times* bestseller, *A Man Called Otto* tells the story of a grumpy widower whose only joy comes from criticizing and judging his exasperated neighbours. When a lively young family moves in next door, he meets his match in quick-witted and very pregnant Marisol, leading to an unexpected friendship that will turn his world upside-down. PG-13 Comedy/drama 2h 6m **Tickets Adult £5 Child £3.50. Cabaret seating and bar, plus ice creams served in the interval** Contact **Christine 07780 728812 / [christine@techsyst.co.uk](mailto:christine@techsyst.co.uk)**

### Saturday 17 February, 8.00pm Pub Night in the Village Hall – with pub games: Bring your favourite pub games along!

### Saturday 9 March, 7.30pm Flicks – The Lost King

In this inspiring true story, amateur historian Philippa Langley believes she has made the archaeological find of the century: the lost burial site of King Richard III. She takes on Britain's most eminent historians, forcing them to rethink the legacy of one of the most controversial rulers in English history. 2022, PG-13 Comedy/Drama, 1h 49m

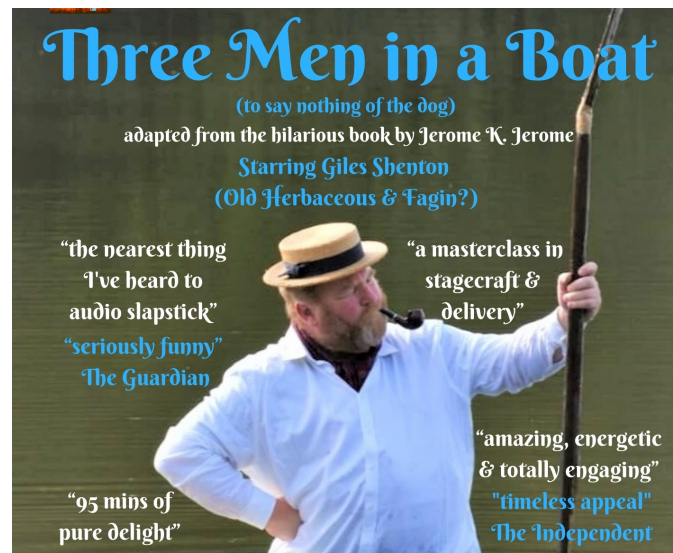
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### Saturday 23 March, 7:30pm Three Men in a Boat (Live show)

Join Jerome as he recounts the hilarious story of his boating holiday along the magnificent River Thames with his two companions and Montmorency the dog. Skilfully distilled from Jerome K. Jerome's comic masterpiece. "Pitch-perfect comedy" (*The Telegraph*). **Tickets £12/£8 Bookings: Marion 07964 710983 [marioncox89@gmail.com](mailto:marioncox89@gmail.com)**

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### Saturday 6th April, Food and Flicks Operation Mincemeat

Film will be preceded by a delicious 2-course meal. Adult: Food £8 Film £5, Child: Food £4 Film £3.50 Doors and bar open 5:45pm. Meal served 6:00pm Film starts 7:30pm. **Contact Christine Rogers 07780 728812 / [christine@techsyst.co.uk](mailto:christine@techsyst.co.uk)**

### 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 [deedee151@hotmail.com](mailto:deedee151@hotmail.com)**

### Chapel Lawn WI

We meet in the village hall the second Tuesday in the month at 7pm. We would love to welcome you to our small, friendly group, with your first 3 meetings on the house.

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INSPIRING WOMEN

**Tuesday 13 February** - Our talk is about Clun WI's Days for Girls group. We will also be making pancakes! **Contact Christine Rogers 07780 728812 / [christine@techsyst.co.uk](mailto:christine@techsyst.co.uk)**

Contributions for the Redlake newsletter should be sent to Sarah Jameson on [images@sarahjameson.co.uk](mailto:images@sarahjameson.co.uk)