

The Redlake

No 66

Spring 2024

Welcome to the Spring 2024 Redlake newsletter

A warm welcome to the Spring edition of the Redlake newsletter.
Let us hope that the rest of the spring and summer will bring some sunshine and warmth at last for all, but especially for the hard-working farmers in the valley.



Photographs of the very busy and well attended Easter celebrations in Chapel Lawn this year.

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.

Brineddin Wood update

It's a while since we've issued an update on the Redlake Community Benefit Society's activities – for the very good reason that we have been extremely busy.

In June 2023 the Society was granted a ten-year felling licence by the Forestry Commission to begin the process of rotational coppicing, our aim being to revitalise the biodiversity of the Society's portion of a long-neglected wood. Conscious of the potential visual impact of such work, and not being entirely sure how quickly coppiced trees would regenerate and ground flora appear, we proceeded with caution by bringing in a contractor to create a small clearing by removing about eighty densely packed trees. Hearts in mouths, we watched 100-year-old trunks being hauled down the steep hillside and then along the footpath to where a supportive landowner had let us install a gate that gave access across his fields to the road. Once the felling was completed and trunks removed, volunteer work parties created a deer enclosure around the felled area.

The felling and fencing were substantially funded by Shropshire Hills National Landscape's (the new name for Shropshire Hills AONB) Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) fund. There is still work to do repairing pathways and clearing brash and smaller branches left over from the felling, some of which will be used for dead hedging to provide shelter for wildlife, but now the interesting part begins while we wait and watch.

If all goes the way we think it will, shoots will appear from coppiced oak stools (trunks), seedling oaks which would previously have been shaded out or eaten by

deer will survive the summer months, and a layer of ground flora that was largely absent beforehand will begin to establish itself. Although a condition of the felling licence is to create a slightly greater variety of tree species as a safeguard against disease and climate change, we will delay decisions on exactly which species to introduce and where until we know where there are gaps from natural regeneration. We will also delay any decision on any further clearing until we know how quickly the young trees are growing.

Patrick Cosgrove, RVCBS



Footpath sign at Wheelbarrow Bridge

Keeping our Parish Paths open

Clun Parish Paths Partnership (Clun P3) is a small group of volunteers working with Shropshire Council to maintain some of the rights of way in our Parish.

The group gives priority to the Shropshire Way and the route of the Clun Valley Challenge. There are never enough volunteers for all the work it would like to do, and new volunteers are always welcome.

One of the paths that has been looked after is FP 62 from the Smithy in Chapel Lawn to the stile just after the footbridge over the Redlake (part of the Clun Valley Challenge).

Ollie Holder from Clun has looked after this path since 2014 but will be retiring this year. Thank you, Ollie, for all your work. You say that you have always enjoyed working on this path, especially with the view to Brineddin Wood when it is time to take a break. Here in Chapel Lawn we are considering how we can help with this path.

Thank you also to all the Clun P3 volunteers, many of whom have helped to produce the revised edition of the Clun Valley 33 walks book just published on the 25th March and now available from local shops for £7.95.



Progress in Brineddin Wood

Church News

The **Easter activities afternoon** held on Good Friday was very well attended by parents, grandparents and children - babies to eleven year olds. The weather was due to be wet so we had to resort to "Plan B" and set up activities in the village hall. Easter gardens were made for the church using primroses from the churchyard. There was colouring and sticking to decorate Easter baskets, then filled with chocolate eggs. Children could take a turn at making their own hot cross buns, although there were plenty of ready-made ones to go round too. The weather turned out to be sunny after all, so there was an Easter quiz to keep little people busy outdoors before the egg hunt in the church yard. The afternoon ended with a re-telling of the Easter story.

Thursday 6th June D-DAY CELEBRATIONS

We are marking the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings, on 6 June 1944, also known as D-Day. A beacon will be lit on the Camp (Caer Caradoc) after dark. Redlake Valley residents are invited to bring drinks and nibbles, folding chairs, etc. Some transport to the top will be organised. Look out for more details on Facebook.

Sunday 9th June AFTERNOON TEA in the village hall for elders in the valley. Children of the valley are invited to the village hall at 2.00pm to put together a scrumptious tea for grandmas, grandpas, elderly neighbours and friends, which will take place later. Guests to arrive at 3.30pm for tea. Donations towards the cost of the food will be most welcome. The afternoon will end with a very short service in the church, when children will hand out posies to their guests. Look out for more information in May.

The **BUTTY VAN** continues in May, June and July after the break for lambing. Watch out for announcements of farm venues on Facebook. **On Wednesday 29th May** the Beavan family will host the Butty Van at The Graig, Llanfair Waterdine, LD7 1TS. We look forward to seeing you there. All farmers and land workers are welcome from 10.30am for bacon/sausage baps, tea, coffee and cake! The morning winds up about 12pm. Come when you can and come dressed as you are. For more info, contact Janet Tudor on jetstream4000@gmail.com

The Famous RAMBLE and LUNCH! Save the date!

Sunday 8th September in the village hall.

Come at 10.00am for rambles and 12 noon for a delicious lunch of meats, quiches and salads followed by our famous desserts.

Many congratulations to Ruth and Ted Griffiths!

Ruth and Ted Griffiths (Menutton) have been married for 70 years with a celebration on 24 May. They were married at St Cynllo's Church Llanbister, Ruth's home before moving back to the Redlake valley. We wish them all the very best!

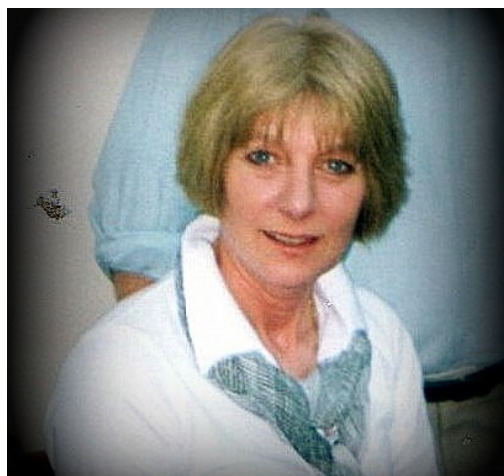


Photo credit Laura Morris (Grand Daughter)

Megan Tortoriello

Mum passed away peacefully at home on the 7th February surrounded by her family. Mum was the most down to earth person with a heart of gold always putting her family first. Mum's other passion was farming and her Texel sheep. She is deeply missed by her family and friends.

Tracey Morgan



Village Hall events diary 2024

Chapel Lawn Village Hall Annual meeting in the Village Hall

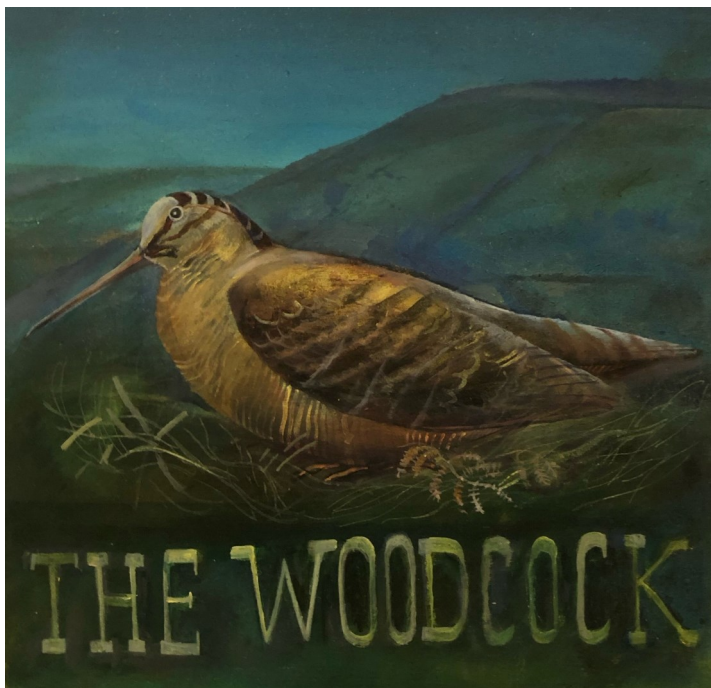
Mon 20th May 8.00pm

All residents of Chapel Lawn and Obley are warmly invited.

Come and hear what was achieved in the past year and have your say about plans for the future. And enjoy a drink and nibbles on the house!

Contact Di Cosgrove 01547 530347

deedee151@hotmail.com



Pub Night in the Village Hall

Saturday 8th June, 8.00pm

Join us for another of our popular Woodcock Pub Nights.

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

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

Chapel Lawn WI



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

14th May: Thirty Years as a Concept Artist Designing in Film - a talk by Dom Lavery

11th June: Summer Outing during the day

9th July: Flowers Arrangements from home grown and dried blooms – a talk and demonstration

Contact Christine Rogers 07780 728812 /

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*

Did you know we are about to lose our visiting Mobile Library service?

Shropshire's Mobile Library service has now ceased its routine stop at Pentre due to having only one user. However, Shropshire Libraries are willing to re-establish a stop in Pentre or Chapel Lawn if we can encourage more residents to use the service.

If you are interested in using the library, let me know so I can report back to the Libraries Service ideally by mid May (please also say if you'd prefer a Pentre or a Chapel Lawn stop).

The van would stop twice a month for around 10-15 minutes and upcoming dates would be: 8th & 22nd May, and 5th & 19th June between 1.40 and 1.50pm.

We would also need to re-establish a safe stopping/parking area for the van.

But—use it or lose it!

Let Sarah know on images@sarahjameson.co.uk or 01547 528 546.