

The Redlake

No 68

Autumn 2024

Welcome to the Autumn 2024 Redlake newsletter



Late Autumn in the Redlake Valley (S. Jameson)

Lost words of the Marches, Part 1: “Plock”

When Di and I moved to Chapel Lawn in 2007, I was immediately struck by the similarity in dialect with my workmates in Herefordshire back in 1971 where I'd moved to from Hampshire to work on a farm for a couple of months - and after that working for Woodcemaier in Pembridge which some older readers will remember.

A hedgehog was an *oont* and a small hill or mound was a *tump* (presumably *twmp* closer to the Welsh border), so, yes, a molehill was an *oontytump*. But language never stays still, and good words are too easily lost - not helped by the standard English of television and radio. Which is where *plock* comes in. It's a fabulous little word of the Marches meaning 'small field'. You won't find it in the Oxford English Dictionary, but members of long-standing families will know and still use it.

A good example is the 'Lodging Plock', the triangular field opposite the gates to Squire Farm that down the years has been variously part of the Brincambric, Lower House (now Well House), and Bryncalled estates as well as Squire, although in 1848 it was known as *Pike* because of its pointed end. My Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary tells me that *plög* means depending on the type of soil, so as well as being the ancestor of *plough*, I'm assuming that in its local shorter form it's the same word as plock that's little changed in well over a thousand years. Therefore, my challenge to readers who've never heard the word is to immediately build it into their vocabulary and use it regularly at social events. If present, I will be eavesdropping. Then, if there's room in the next Redlake, I'll suggest another word. Soon we'll all be speaking proper.

Patrick Cosgrove

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Farming Column: Steve Roberts (Purlogue Farm)



Hello there everybody! I'm writing this on a wet (just for a change) October evening....however there's a certain sense of romance in the air...no no, nothing to do with anyone who might be reading this...but autumn on the farm generally means releasing the ever so keen tups/rams into the ewes for them to introduce themselves and do what needs to be done in preparation for lambing season 2025.

A little bit of thought needs to go into this job, so that the desired tup goes to the correct breed of ewes to hopefully produce a mixture of lambs that will both grow well, and fatten nicely, but also produce nice ewe lambs to eventually go into the flock to become mothers themselves. For us, having just released the amorous fellas today will mean our lambing season should kick off around the 13th of March next year; here's hoping for some improved weather by then.

As I'm sure you're more than aware of at the time of writing this in October 2024, we've had some pretty rotten weather lately. Hopefully you have all got away without being flooded out and not too much damage done.

As well as the autumn being tupping season for the sheep, it's also the time when a lot of planting for next year's cereal crops goes on. This time around it's been particularly challenging with only brief weather windows to get on the ground and do the work. To start with, the harvest was challenging, trying to get it all in when the weather allowed, and what we did get in cereal wise was generally down on the average yields due to the fairly disappointing previous 12months+ of weather...but hey ho, we crack on and try and get things planted for next season.

In our case here, winter barley going in around the start of October (a little late but nothing to worry

about) but what wasn't needed was the 4inches of rain falling in less than 24 hours a fortnight after planting. Thankfully the damage and washout was fairly small considering the rainfall totals we got here. While as near as Bridgnorth only received 8mm of rain (compared to our 98mm) in that same time, very localised weather indeed. Thankfully for us it seems like storm Ashley is going to veer north of our patch....but as has been the case most of this year, the weather forecasts are likely to change several times between now and the next couple of days when the storms due. Hopefully it doesn't change to be not in our favour!

With weather like this becoming more common, some of us up the valley have been doing things to try and minimise the flooding on downstream, with things like leaky dams, pools on flood plains and ground aeration going on to try and slow the flow of the water further on. There's also hedgerow planting going on (during the appropriate seasons) as well as continuing fresh approaches to soil husbandry to try and minimise soil erosion and improve both the quality of the ground and the cleanliness of the watercourses. Whether these things have helped during this recent flood will be interesting to hear when the stats come in, however these projects are really longer term plans going forward. Watch this space!

For now though, it's time to pop to the shed and check the cows, as we are also calving our autumn calvers at the moment, hopefully all will be peaceful in there. However, it is Friday night and animals don't tend to worry about a thing called 'office' hours.... aannnd I can hear the rain starting to fall again! See you all soon.....living the dream!!!

Steve Roberts

Pressing Matters



Helped along greatly by the absence of rain (and you can't often say that at the moment), yet again the Redlake Valley Community Benefit Society enjoyed a successful apple-pressing day on Sunday 13 October at the village hall in Chapel Lawn. For the fourth year now, the Kemp Valley apple pressers arrived with their equipment and ensured a successful event.

310 bottles of truly delicious pasteurised juice and 76 litres of unpasteurised were produced for satisfied customers who came and went throughout the day bearing baskets, bags and boxes of apples to be pulped, pressed and pasteurised. As ever, it wasn't just about the apples. It was a very friendly, sociable occasion and, who knows, maybe some new friendships were formed. Thanks, of course, must go to all who turned out that day to help, resulting in £465 raised for the Society's funds.



Printing from Plants sessions?

Would you be interested in some informal printmaking with plants sessions at the Village Hall this winter using gelplates (provided) and leaves, ferns, flowers, grasses?

Christine Rogers made the beautiful cards (below) from fern prints made at the CPRE Shropshire printmaking workshop in the hall last month.

There would be a modest fee to cover materials (paints/papers etc). Gelplate printing is very gentle, quick to do, great fun and can get addictive! Suitable for all ages, 9 to 90! **Let Sarah know if you are interested (01547 528546 / images@sarahjameson.co.uk).**



Church news & events

Ramble and Lunch, 8th September

Many, many thanks to all who donated salads and desserts and came to help and eat the delicious lunch, on Sunday 8 September. We can't do it without you! Very pleased to have raised over £1,000!

Christening service, 29th September

It was lovely to see so many in church (photo of Max below). Hoping we may welcome more babies/children for baptism. Please contact churchwardens if you would like a Christening.

Harvest Service, 4th October

Thank you to Jenny Williams and Clare Davies who filled the windows and altar with flowers. Lots of children took part and families stayed afterwards to enjoy Harvest Supper together in the hall.



Jenny and Huw Williams' son Max at his Christening on 29 September.

Upcoming Services for your Diary:

Remembrance Service

Sunday 10th November, 10.45am.
James will be leading our short service.

Butty Van

November's event will be at James Middleton's farm. Watch out for more details.

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 15 December at 11.00am

Christmas Day

We are pleased to announce that the Archdeacon of Ludlow, Fiona Gibson, will be leading us in a short Communion service. Christine and James are hoping for your support, please join us on this special festive occasion.

Macmillan Coffee morning, 12th October

Grateful thanks for all donations of bric-a-brac, books, clothes and cakes. Wonderful buzzy atmosphere. Magnificent team effort! We raised £571.20!!

Chapel Lawn WI

Tuesday 12 November, 7.30pm

A Shropshire Lad

Photographs from John Hayward's latest book which capture the very essence of Shropshire, from the rural landscapes of the Clun Valley to the towns and villages of this glorious county Admission £5 to include a glass of wine, beer or soft drink. Bar serving further drinks. This is an open meeting. Everyone welcome—including men! but please let us know if you would like to come!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

SHROPSHIRE
— AND BEYOND —



Tuesday 10 December,

2pm: Christmas Cookery

We will be making homemade Christmas Pudding and mince-meat

Contact Christine Rogers
07780 728812
christine@techsyst.co.uk

Village Hall Diary

The Plot Thickens

9 November, 7.30pm

A brand new, funny, crazy and tense production from Just Some Theatre, the makers of the show we all enjoyed - The Killer Question. Brought to us by Arts Alive.

**Tickets £12 from marioncox89@gmail.com
07964 710983 or via artsalive.co.uk**

arts
aLive

Village Hall Christmas Party

The party will take place on Saturday 7 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 is 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 or email:
deedee151@hotmail.com**

Flicks in the Sticks

Thelma

Saturday 23 November, 7.30pm

When 93-year-old Thelma Post gets duped by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson she sets out on a treacherous quest to reclaim what was taken from her. Inspired by a real-life experience of writer-director Josh Margolin's own grandmother. A *highly entertaining watch from start to finish.*

Comedy Drama Cert 12.

Adults £5.00 Children £3.50

Cabaret seating, bar, interval with ice creams

Contact: Christine Rogers 07780 728812

christine@techsyst.co.uk (If you are planning to come it would be very helpful if you could let us know)



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 where there is also a useful whats on page:

Go to: chapel-lawn.co.uk/the-redlakes

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

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