

# The Redlake

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View to Cwm Sanahan Hill from above Field Farm! (c) Sarah Jameson

## The Sturchley Trust – Chapel Lawn's very own charity

The Sturchley Trust is a small charity whose income is derived from land rents from a parcel of land in Chapel Lawn placed in trust by William Sturchley on 2nd November 1730. The Trust was instigated for the relief of poverty in Chapel Lawn, Clun and the surrounding area.

Today the purpose of the charity is the relief of the inhabitants of the counties of Shropshire and Herefordshire, and particularly those living within the settlements of Clun, Newcastle-on-Clun, Chapel Lawn, Bucknell and surrounding areas through providing financial assistance towards the purchase of basic subsistence items. Such subsistence items can include: food, water, clothing, heating, power, rent, household white goods (cooker, fridge, washing machine), sanitary products, baby care products, transportation.

The Trust has also made donations to local organisations who provide support to those in our local communities experiencing difficult times. Most recently, the Trust provided financial support to Bishops Castle Food Bank's Christmas Appeal. In the weeks leading up to Christmas the Food Bank provided food and other supplies to an average of 93 people a week.

The Trustees are always on the lookout for anyone who might need financial assistance from the Sturchley Trust. In these difficult times, we are more than happy to receive requests for funding from anyone in the area. Applications are treated, of course, in the strictest confidence.

Please contact the Trustees via email:  
[SturchleyTrust@proton.me](mailto:SturchleyTrust@proton.me)

## Farmer Column: James Middleton

Having left school in 1976, last year's drought was very similar, but this time the river dried up totally at the back of the farm. However a kind autumn and some extra feed has seen the sheep recover well with pleasing pregnancy scanning results held back by a few extra barrens - and the same result for the cows.

The farm now settles down into a steady winter feeding regime, but the work is helped at the moment by having good prices for both cattle and sheep. Most other sector prices have dropped and some are below the cost of production - but no price reductions in the shops for the likes of milk, cheese, sugar, potatoes and flour which most farmers find very annoying, given the cost of living crisis.

The announcement just before Christmas on Inheritance Tax on farms was a welcome relief as it would have dealt a crippling blow to family farms in the area. The rise in relief from 1M to 2.5M may sound a lot, but even with stock prices and 10 years to pay, the slim margins in livestock rearing will still give cause for concern on the larger farms and their ability to pay it. Baroness Batters' Farm Profitability Review\*, which took 6 months to compile, lists 57 recommendations to the Government and industry to strengthen the resilience and viability of farm businesses and also released the Government's vision for the uplands. So, will the farmer standing in a 10 acre field see any change? Time will tell.

It was nice to see for a change all political parties working together on the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Bill, which broadens the scope of the 1953 Act and lifts the £1000 cap on fines for owners who allow their dogs to worry/chase livestock. As we go into the run up to lambing, the last thing anyone needs is sheep worrying.

Anyway, it is now back to school for me - at least I have to sit and pass a 2 hour written exam in Telford to be able to buy and use professional rat poison!

## February Butty Van

The Butty Van closed a busy 2025 with a well-attended visit to Orinoco Animal Sanctuary near Llangunllo, despite the weather, and followed by meeting some of the animals (see photo overleaf). January saw us at Pen-y-Wern after Storm Goretta, hosted by Michael and Helen Oliver in a heated barn kindly made available by the Clun Log Company (many thanks, Johnny). We have since received an invitation to return, an enquiry from a new venue, and interest from an organisation in Powys about establishing a new Butty Van. Our 2026 diary is filling up, so previous or new hosts are invited to get in touch. Also, many thanks to Jo from Shropshire Rural Support for her attendance and for generous donations received from St. Barnabas Church, Brampton Bryan and the Pop-In Café at St. Mary's Church, Bucknell. The Butty Van operates under the Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy covering Herefordshire, Shropshire and eastern Powys. Our next visit is on 11<sup>th</sup> February at Meadowend Farm, Acton, Bishops Castle (SY9 5LA); *what3words: parkland.cleanser.requires*. For details, contact Christine Oakley (07527 309007) or Janet Tudor (07496 275636).

## The Countryside Code: Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available



## Protect the environment

- take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo – bag it and bin it in any public waste bin or take it home
- care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance

## Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory

[www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/countryside-code.pdf](http://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/countryside-code.pdf)

\*[www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-profitability-review-2025-an-independent-review](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-profitability-review-2025-an-independent-review)



William and Ellie Price helping to bring the sheep home through Chapel Lawn, ready for lambing.

## Farmer prefers llama to Starmer



## Clun Town Council Update

Christine Page has resigned as Clun Town Councillor, leaving two vacancies for the Chapel Lawn ward. She will, however, continue to put the agendas and minutes up on the council noticeboard in Chapel Lawn until such time as they are placed on the council website in a timely manner. In the absence of any election in the near future, anyone interested in putting themselves forward for co-option as a Councillor should contact the Town Council's clerk at [clerk@cluntowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@cluntowncouncil.co.uk)

## Concern over LNRS maps

In the autumn edition of The Redlake, some concern was expressed in the farming column about the accuracy of the maps produced for the Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). We therefore contacted the LNRS people to ask how the consultation and any specific concerns are being managed. As discussions with landowners who raised queries are not yet complete, we've been promised a summary of those discussions for the spring Redlake.



## A warm Redlake welcome to...

Charlie Andrew Roberts, a little boy for Helen and Steve Roberts of Purlogue Farm, born in Telford Hospital on 22.11.25 at 3am - ready for early mornings in the lambing shed!

## Bob's Word Corner: Blower/Blour

No-one came forward with a suggestion for 'blower' or 'blour' (to rhyme with flour). Bob remembers his father using it to mean a bucket of water as in "take a blour to that cow," but we can't find anything like it in the Shropshire Word Book, the Herefordshire Word Book or any Welsh dictionary. Did his dad make it up?

See back page for a new mystery word from Bob to decipher!

## Art Alive: "Third Class - A Titanic Story"

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, an appreciative audience drawn from Chapel Lawn and surrounding villages enjoyed a well-attended and first class live performance of the experience of a third class passenger, Edward Dorcus, who survived this well-known disaster. Assistance from Arts Alive enabled mainstream actor Russell Lucas to include Chapel Lawn in his national tour of regional theatres and other venues. We were engaged through a myriad of stories of loss and survival and life beyond which transported us to another time and place.

## "Crumbs": Saturday 18 April

As a complete contrast our next live performance at Chapel Lawn 'Crumbs' is the long awaited comedy, clowning and live baking follow-up to hit show The Daily Bread. There will be something to taste at the end! A hilarious one-woman show starring Ellen Carnazza. Crumbs Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 7.30pm Chapel Lawn Village Hall.

## Village Hall Christmas Party

On the Saturday evening before Christmas, 26 people gathered in the village hall to enjoy a bring-and-share Christmas party organised by the hall committee. The food was delicious. James Middleton's jokes were hilarious. Steve Sherring's quiz was taxing. Mark (Mr Spotify) Limbrick's music was well chosen and Christine Rogers' Christmas Elf made sure no-one went home without a present. Altogether, a successful event.

## Christmas at St Mary's Church

Our Carol Service was ably organised by Di again, and Andrew led the service for us with some humour! The church was decorated beautifully with winter flowers and foliage by Jenny, Clare, Mal, Di, Christine, Janet, Sally and Elizabeth.

The Mudlarks sang reverently and beautifully, their songs interspersed between our carols and Bible readings. It was sad to learn that they are no longer meeting as The Mudlarks, but will be singing solos or in pairs in the future and hopefully, at church services.

Seven children took part in the service this year from four different families, singing bravely as a group at the front, assisted by Wayne playing guitar and Clare and Harriet.

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; we received lots of compliments. Mark and Karen, lay worship leaders, led a short 'service of the word' on Christmas morning.

# Village Hall Events

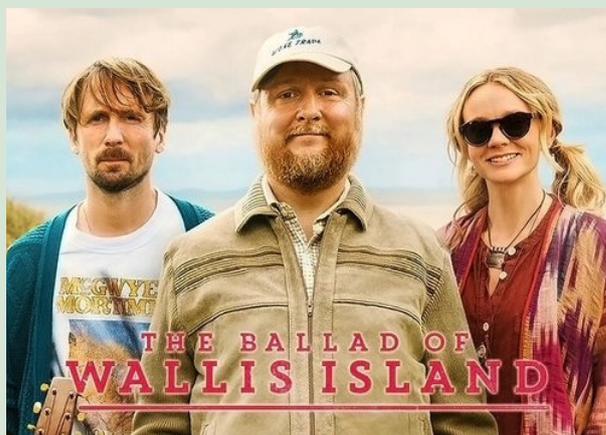
## Flicks in the Sticks

All Films Adults £5 Children £3.50. Bar, cabaret seating and ice creams in the interval  
Please let Christine know if you are planning to come:  
[christine@techsyst.co.uk](mailto:christine@techsyst.co.uk) / 07780728812

### Saturday 21st February 7:30pm The Ballad of Wallis Island

Cert 12A, Comedy Drama, 1hr 39mins

An eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on remote Wallis Island, dreams of getting his favourite musicians back together. His fantasy quickly turns into reality when bandmates and former lovers accept his invitation to play a private show and old tensions resurface.  
Starring Carey Mulligan



### Saturday 25th April Food and Flicks

Food 6:00pm, film 7:30pm

#### The Choral

Cert 12A, Drama, 1hr 53mins.

1916. As war rages on the Western Front, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The ambitious committee decides to recruit local young males to swell their ranks and the community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together. The film will be preceded by a Bring and Share Supper. Please bring a savoury dish or a pudding suitable for a shared buffet.



## Chapel Lawn WI

We meet in the Village Hall on 2nd Tuesday of the month. We are a small, very friendly group and would love to welcome you.

If you are interested in joining, your first three meeting will be free of charge.

**Tuesday 10th February 7pm** Ninja Night – a food tasting experience with food prepared in Ninja Multi Cooker and Air Fryer to demonstrate their uses.

**Tuesday 10th March 7pm** Annual Meeting followed by supper.

Contact Christine Rogers 01547 530258 / 07780 728812 [christine@techsyst.co.uk](mailto:christine@techsyst.co.uk)

## Chapel Lawn Mailing List

To get regular, up-to-date information about events coming up in Chapel Lawn, please **contact Christine to go on the mailing list:** [christine@techsyst.co.uk](mailto:christine@techsyst.co.uk)

## Chapel Lawn Pub Night

**Saturday 14th March from 7:30pm**

In the Village Hall. Everyone welcome

## Church News

**Prayer Group** will be meeting in St Mary's, Bucknell on **Friday 27th February at 2.00pm**. You are welcome to join us as we pray together for the needs of our community and each other, for half an hour. Tea and biscuits afterwards. Contact Eileen 01547 530659 or Karen 530002 for more details.

**2026 World Day of Prayer service** will take place in our Middle Marches Benefice on **Friday 6th March**. The service has been prepared for us by women in Nigeria and will take place in Clungunford Church. Look out for posters/Bucknell Facebook posts.

**Easter children's activities** will take place again on **Good Friday 3rd April, from 2.00pm** in the village hall and the church.

## Bobs new mystery word: "Gallus"

Do you know what this word means?  
Answers to [redlakenewsletter@icloud.com](mailto:redlakenewsletter@icloud.com)

## Apologies

In the autumn edition of The Redlake, we attributed authorship of 'Farewell to the Mudlarks' to Becky Whitton. We should, of course, have written Becky Sherman, and we apologise for the error.