

The Redlake

Stop Press: We have received advance warning of the closure of the A488 (Clun - New Invention) for 6 weeks from 3 August to 18 September (24 hours/day). This is for major bridge repairs at New Invention. There is likely to be no access possible across the bridge in that time.



Former Chapel Lawn resident spotted in Bucknell

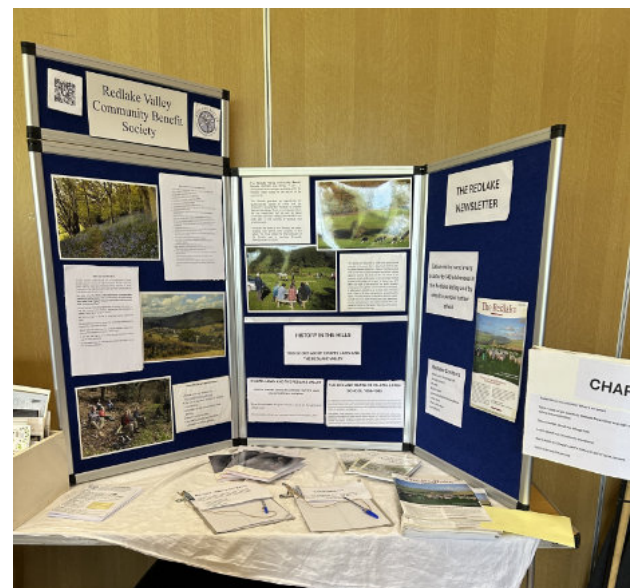
Sporting a splendid pre-suffix Radnorshire registration, this 1959 diesel Fordson Dexta was sold new by Prince & Pugh of Knighton to Mr. J. Adams of The Smithy, Chapel Lawn. Later owned by Mr. R. Hatfield, it was bought in 1999 by Mr. Gordon Morris of Bucknell who has restored it to pristine working condition. Longer standing residents may remember it being used to drive cattle through the village. More recent arrivals may be surprised to know that Prince & Pugh used to sell tractors. Are there any more interesting photos of old vehicles or farm machinery out there? **Please email to redlakenewsletter@icloud.com**

Clun Community meeting on 10 May

On the afternoon of Sunday 10 May, Clun Memorial Hall found itself packed with display stands and visitors. The event was to showcase the impressive variety of local organisations that make Clun Parish such a thriving community - environmental groups, music and drama societies, Clun Museum, etc, etc.

The Chapel Lawn stand was there promoting the Redlake Valley Village Hall as a venue, the work of the Community Benefit Society in Brineddin Wood, and the Redlake Newsletter. The two books on Chapel Lawn's history were also on sale. The Redlake Newsletter probably drew the most interest with copies handed out and a good few email addresses collected for sending it to people outside the delivery area.

Please email to redlakenewsletter@icloud.com



Farmer Column: Richard and Kathryn Williams

Well, summer has certainly made itself at home this year. We've already had three heatwaves and experienced record breaking temperatures, all before mid July. With some hay being made in May and quality June hay in abundance and the combines now heading out into fields of dry ripe winter barley, we have all been able to take advantage of these spells of good weather. As always in farming we are never satisfied with the weather and dry conditions are now taking a hold on grazing land which is starting to burn up and is in desperate need of drop of rain. With the valley sides turning to that seemingly familiar shade of brown again, and after last year's drought it's hard not to feel a little uneasy about what the rest of the summer might have in store.

The livestock seem to have got the right idea. Every afternoon they disappear to whichever patch of shade they can find. Going around checking stock has become less of a routine job and more of a game of hide and seek, with the cattle and sheep peering out from beneath hedges as if hoping we might drive straight past.

Thankfully, shearing is now all finished. The sheep certainly seem much happier without their thick woolly overcoat around in temperatures that wouldn't look out of place in Spain. Even better, wool prices have picked up compared with recent years. We're not talking about a return to the glory days, but at least taking the wool in no longer feels like you're paying someone to do you a favour.

Silage and hay making has been in full swing across the valley, and much of it has been completed earlier than we'd normally expect. It hasn't really been a case of waiting for that perfect crop this year; it's been more a question of "better get on before it burns off altogether." Sometimes farming is all about making the least bad decision rather than the perfect one.

The first combines have also started appearing around the valley as the earlier winter cereal crops begin to ripen. Harvest always feels like one of those milestones that sneaks up on you. One minute you're lambing, the next you're watching combines disappear into fields wondering where the year has gone.

Away from the weather, as our farm is based in Knighton, Powys, this has also been our first year getting to grips with the Welsh Sustainable Farming Scheme. Like any new scheme, there's been plenty to learn and enough paperwork to keep the printer manufacturers in business, but we're slowly finding our feet. Farming either side of the border has never been straightforward, and it certainly keeps life interesting.

Talking of borders, we're all hoping last year's bluetongue restrictions remain exactly that – last year's. With the hot weather providing ideal conditions for midges, it's something that's very much in the back of everyone's minds. Hopefully common sense, a bit of luck and cooler weather will mean we avoid another year of disrupted livestock movements.

There have also been new BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea) testing requirements in Wales for cattle this year. We recently completed our herd test and are

pleased to have achieved BVD Negative Herd Status. It's one of those jobs that perhaps doesn't grab the headlines, but with annual testing requirements as well as potential for pre and post movement testing, it is going to be yet another required task that sneaks another few days of the year from you.

As always, farming never stands still. Just when you think you've got one challenge under control, another appears over the horizon. For now, though, we'll keep one eye on the forecast and the other on the fields, hoping that somewhere amongst all these sunshine symbols there will be some much needed rain, once the combining is complete of course!

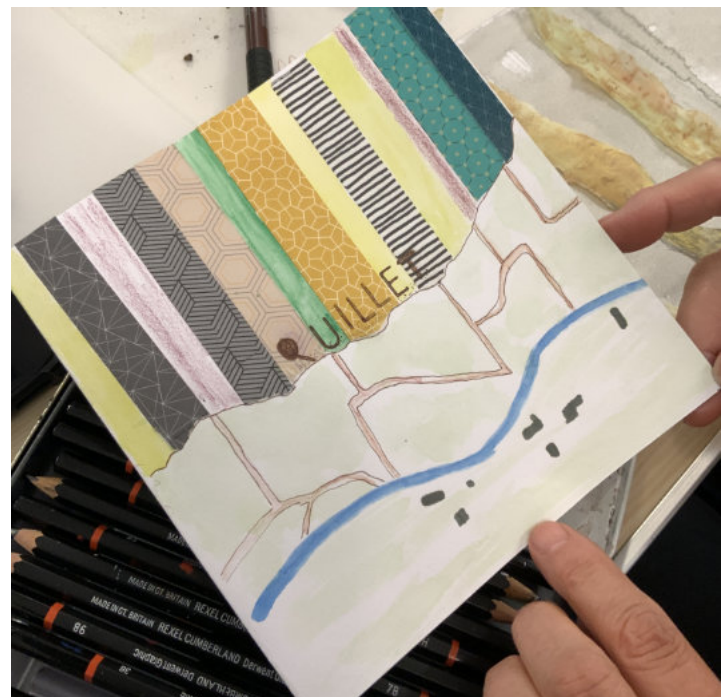


Our field of winter barley on Rockhill, looking back towards the Camp above the Redlake Valley (c) Richard Williams

Successful art workshop

Sixteen people including two youngsters took part in CPRE Shropshire's final free art workshops on Wednesday 13 May in Chapel Lawn Village Hall.

To start the workshop, Bob James and Patrick Cosgrove gave the group a brief tour of the quillets in Brineddin Wood (thank you to James for letting us cut through his field), then back in the warmth of the hall everyone set about making folded books inspired by the woodland and hedgerows we had seen. The day was guided by Shrewsbury-based artist Andrew Howe.



Community Benefit Society news

The RVCBS helps create a new benchmark in social welfare.

The Redlake Community Benefit Society has donated a length of oak tree from one of their quilllets for use by the Small Woods Association in their 'Build a Bench' community outreach scheme. (see www.smallwoods.org.uk/en/what-we-do/projects/build-a-bench). Chris from Small Woods came with Billy and their 'mobile saw' and cut the length of timber into planks.

We look forward to seeing what their volunteers create with the wood! RVCBS would like to thank Nicky Tranter and James Middleton for their help and support on this. The picture below shows Simon Jameson of RVCBS with Chris from Small Woods.



Apple pressing: Sunday 4 October, all day at the village hall. Reserve the date and start collecting and washing your screw-top wine bottles. Booking details nearer the date.

AGM: Thursday 1 October at 7.00 pm in the village hall followed by a talk by Kate Hampshire at 7.30 on 'A chainsaw odyssey: cutting, crafting and learning from trees.'

Kate is a middle-aged professor of Anthropology at Durham University who accidentally fell into tree surgery a few years ago. She will trace her journey into one of the most dangerous and male-dominated industries in the UK, and how every step challenged her preconceptions about how we care for the natural world.

All welcome, members go free; non-members: £5 (cash only). Refreshments.

Bob's Word

Top and Butter was Bob's word in the spring issue. Ray Williams wins this quarter's accolade by describing it as an implement he knows well: a hacker with a hook on the end for neatly pulling the mangolds and swedes out of the ground and removing the foliage, although Ray also remembers using an iron bar when the ground was frozen hard.

This issue's word is Quist, or Quest, Queis or Quice (but not Quitch which is something quite different). **Answers to redlakenewsletter@icloud.com please!**



WI trip to Llangollen

Members of Chapel Lawn WI enjoyed a fabulous day out in Llangollen for the annual outing in June. A tranquil and relaxing horse drawn trip along the canal was followed by an excellent lunch at The Corn Mill overlooking the rushing waters of the River Dee. The afternoon was spent at Plas Newydd learning the captivating story of the Ladies of Llangollen, with a fascinating tour of the house to see the elaborate Gothic oak carvings covering both the exterior and interior. The extensive grounds were a delight to explore too. A most wonderful time was had by all and of course we managed to fit in a stop for coffee at the Wharf on arrival and a visit to the tea room at the house before we left!



A Redlake welcome to:

- Two baby girls born just 5 days apart in May (and both born at home at Five Turnings) See photos opposite.
- Congratulations to Jo and Dale (Tan yVron) on their marriage in June
- Finally welcome to Nigel and Mandy Peters who have recently moved into Chapel Lawn Farm (Owen) to be with Josh, Kat and their two children. We hope they will be very happy here.



Chloe Luna Vera Price is Carl and Ffion's third child (named after her great grandmother Vera)



Nicky and Martha Tranter welcome their second child, Roxy Kate

Church News

Big bang at St. Mary's!

At the service on the 7 June, with the organ playing the final hymn, a loud bang was heard and the organ lost all amplification. Experts were consulted and confirmed the amplifier had failed and that given the age of the organ, replacement parts were no longer available. An interim solution is the much appreciated loan of a smaller keyboard, but St Mary's needs a new organ! The PCC is looking at how this can be achieved. Watch this space for news of future fundraising events!

Ramble and Lunch Sunday 13 September.

Please support our annual fundraiser. Rambles begin at 10.30am from the village hall car park, SY7 0BW, or just turn up for the lunch. Lunches 12 noon to 2pm in the village hall. Donations of salads or desserts are very welcome! Adults £10, Family (up to 3 children 5-12 years) £25. **Contact: Christine Oakley 01547 530585 for more details.**

A call for help to support the Treasurer

We are looking for someone with computer skills to assist in filling in online forms and submitting information to Church House and HMRC (Gift Aid) on an annual basis. Anyone interested should have experience of understanding accounts. Remuneration to be arranged.

Please apply to redlakevalley@gmail.com

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 meetings will be free of charge.

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



Upcoming Village Hall events:

Tues 11 August, 7pm

Debby Gatehouse of Practical Style, Ludlow:
Talk on Dressing for your Bodyshape

Tues 8 September, 7pm

Clare Smout: *Talk on The Women behind Shakespeare*

Tues 13 October, 7pm

Indoor Kurling

Chapel Lawn Summer Barbeque

Sat 22 August from 1pm

Adult £8, Junior £4, to include a burger, sausage and salad plus ice creams. Bar for drinks. Vegetarian option on request when booking.

Booking essential by Wed 19 August at the latest. Contact Christine Rogers on christine@techsyst.co.uk / 07780 728812

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**

It's tick season: Between March and October look out for ticks clinging to clothing or attached to your skin after a walk along our local footpaths. The path along the edge of Brineddin Wood harbours the little blighters hanging on the tips of long grasses and bramble. The footpath between Chapel Lawn and Pentre, (leaving the lane opposite the Smithy, down to the river bridge and stile), has posed problems on a couple of occasions recently, so laminated sheets explaining ticks and Lyme disease have been pinned up there.

For more info: www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease