

THE REDLAKE

NUMBER 32

AUTUMN 2015

From the Editors Autumn gathering.

We have just seen a murmuration of starlings flying up and down the valley. They all landed in the fir tree opposite, and then a minute later all flew out again, squabbling. I don't think there was enough room for them all! They come over from Northern Europe and Scandinavia to winter in Britain, it being slightly milder (we hope). It is the first time we have seen them and hope they will stick around in the Redlake Valley until they return to their breeding grounds in March. Keep a look out around dusk for their display.

Jeremy Jameson

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More information & photos of some of these articles are available on the website at www.chapel-lawn.co.uk

CHAPEL LAWN HISTORY

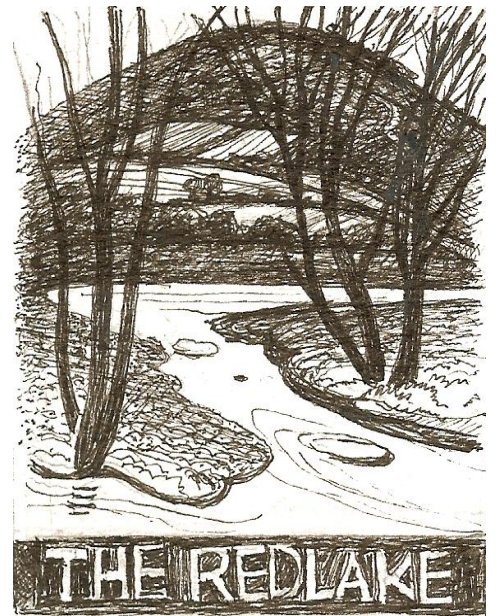
A few years ago I tried to bid on ebay for an apprenticeship indenture that was dated 23rd June, 1894. Being rather mean, I stopped when the bidding reached £10 and it was eventually sold for £40 to an American buyer. However, the seller very kindly agreed to send me a photocopy entirely free of charge.

The reason for my interest was that it was the indenture between Richard Davies of Clunton, his son, George Davies (*an infant under the age of twenty-one years*) and George Herbert Robinson of Chapel Lawn. Herbert Robinson, as he was known, was the Chapel Lawn carpenter and wheelwright. He was the son of John Robinson, the publican at the Woodcock Inn, now Wood House. Every day young Herbert walked along Watery Lane, as the footpath to the Pentre was then known, and then on to Wheelbarrow Castle between Pentre and Hobarris where he was apprenticed to the Jordan family of wheelwrights. The Jordans had lived and worked there for the greater part of the 19th Century and census

information tells us that there were quite a few Jordan families of wheelwrights in South Shropshire. Herbert eventually took over the Jordans' business and when he was forced to move from Wheelbarrow he lived and worked for a short time at the Pentre before moving again to Camp View in 1892. That house is now Caractacus, the home of Graham and Ann Arnold, and Jeremy and Jemima Jameson's house is built on the site of Herbert's workshop which some older residents will remember as a crumbling timber-frame building.



There is much more to be told about Herbert Robinson on another occasion, but for now, read the terms of the apprenticeship and think how times have changed. (See www.chapel-lawn.co.uk)



For the term of four years, Apprentice George Davies was required to 'Serve his Master's secrets and keep his lawful commands'. 'Do no damage to his Master.' 'Not to waste the goods of his Master nor lend them unlawfully'. 'Not contract Matrimony nor play at cards or Dice Tables.' 'Not to haunt Taverns or Playhouses nor absent himself day or night unlawfully'.

In return, Herbert Robinson agreed: 'By the best means that he can to teach and instruct or cause to be taught and instructed.' Also, 'Finding unto the said Apprentice, sufficient Meat, Drink and Ten Shillings per year pocket money, tools, lodgings and all other Necessities.'

George's father also had responsibilities. To begin with he had to pay Herbert Robinson £10, and for his son he was required to provide 'all necessary wearing apparel, and to pay for the washing and the mending of the same.'

If anyone knows how George got on, please let the Redlake Editorial team know.

Patrick Cosgrove

Michael Macturk



It will be with real sadness that residents of Chapel Lawn will have heard of the death of Michael Macturk at the age of 93. He had lived in Pentre Hodre for many years and after his retirement became very involved in village life. Although Michael appeared quiet and unassuming he had a great talent for getting things done. If he tackled a task he would stick with it until he achieved his ends. He particularly enjoyed research and would go to great lengths and many miles to track down information he needed - he regarded problems as a challenge. It is largely as a result of Michael's researches that the Chapel Lawn School Book came to be written and much local history disinterred. More recently, when already in his 90s, Michael investigated the Stirchley Trust, a local charitable legacy, and ensured it was re-invigorated and the money it held put to appropriate use as was originally intended.

Many of Michael's initiatives were carried out in partnership with his wife Jeanette. Apart from the School Book, together they re-established the Hodre pool, previously little more than a dump, and initiated the annual Village Walk. In more recent years Michael took on the role as Treasurer of the Redlake Hall, which he ran with meticulous attention to detail. He was also a prime mover in establishing The Redlake and was delighted when people indicated that they enjoyed it and felt it helped to strengthen the community.

Michael was truly a gentleman, always polite and thoughtful. He was excellent to entertain. If he was invited into your home he felt he had

a responsibility to be a good guest and so would ensure that the conversation flowed and the meal was appreciated! He loved Chapel Lawn, its beauty and strong sense of community. In later years he was determined that he would not allow his increasing frailty to take him from the house and area he loved, and spurned all suggestions that he should move somewhere "easier". Although the last few months were not easy for Michael, his friends were very happy to know that, only a few days before he died at Knighton Hospital, he was sitting in his sun room enjoying the peace and beauty of his home. He will be remembered with admiration and great affection.

Jane Kent

Poets Corner

THE SONG OF THE REDLAKE

*Twisting and turning as it goes
down our valley the Redlake flows
banking pebbles and carving bends
it dances down and never ends
Rattling it's bed and sparkling in the sun
it gyrates down to the River Clun
There to join a mightier flow
as to the sea the rivers go.
Birds and crayfish skip through the foam
proud to call the Redlake home
And watching it rise and fall each day
I never tire of the Redlake's play.*

Andrew Lawrence

Seasonal Gardening Notes



Fuchsias give colour and stature to the autumn garden. If your taste inclines to the tender, bedding varieties you should have taken your insurance cuttings by now and be thinking about how you are going to overwinter the potted parent plants as well as the rooted babies – frost-free and almost dry, seems to be the way, but don't take my word for it as I don't even try: my own preference is for the hardy species and varieties, which

stay outside year-round and take their chance in a cruel winter.

These have much smaller flowers than the glamour-puss, tender fuchsias, but are just as colourful. People think that a hardy fuchsia is just the common red and purple bush, but there are just as many hardy flower colours as tender ones, and several with extravagantly coloured foliage too – gold, red, silver, pink, grey – sometimes all those together on one plant, which would be exciting enough even without the elegant little flowers.

Hardy fuchsias are simply grown: they need good rich, moisture-retentive soil, in sun or half-shade, and a trim back to the new growth – usually at soil level after a normal winter – in late spring. A hard, Redlake Valley winter can kill the root, so taking late summer cuttings is always prudent.

Hannah Willetts

Brineddin Wood hosts school visits

The wood has been visited by several groups of school children over the last few weeks. You may have seen or heard them as they made their way along the footpath.

The Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership has funded a project to help the Redlake Valley Community Benefit Society raise awareness of its activities in the woodland. To that end St George's Primary School in Clun visited in October and Bishops Castle Community College will visit for hazel coppicing in November.

St Mary's Primary School, Bucknell has been working on John Muir Awards in the wood, assisted by the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership and Wildlife Trust officers and hosted by members of the RVCBS. They have been visiting to find out about the community quillet and what lives in the river, testing out just how steep the gradient is above the steps and discovering what lives on hawthorn trees. They will soon be coppicing and finding out how it would have felt living in the Stone Age.

By December there will have been six school visits made and a total of about

60 local children will understand more about Brineddin wood and life in an oak woodland. They will have listened for birdsong, eaten their lunches under the autumnal tree canopy and walked up and down our quillet steps. In addition the woodland will have benefitted from some careful pruning on its lower slopes where hazel coppice stools will have been cut back for re-growth in 2016.

Karen Limbrick

Autumn weariness

Do you feel tired and weary as the days get shorter? Don't worry it's the body's way of preparing for the season ahead ... Winter.

Fatigue is a sign that the body needs rest. Winter is a season of rest and recuperation, Autumn prepares the body for this period of rest by progressively slowing down as the seasons do.

Less daylight triggers the brain and body to slow down which can make you sleepy, leading to severe fatigue especially if you live a very busy or hectic lifestyle. Severe tiredness can lead to depression leading to a condition known as SAD.

Our sleep hormone is linked to light and dark, being released more as the sun goes down, during these months of shorter light our bodies require more rest hence the sensibility of getting to bed no later than 10pm during the shorter days of the year and getting up early.

Getting more sleep can prevent the feeling of being sleepy or tired at work; hiking, walking and exercise can help the body to recover from fatigue, stretching is also helpful.

In almost all cases of tiredness the weariness will pass as the body gets back in balance with nature.

To assist use **Kali Phos 30c** homeopathic remedy to relieve mental tiredness and **Gelsenium 30c** to assist with muscle fatigue. Take 3 tablets 2 x daily for several weeks away from coffee, mint and meals bringing the body and mind back into balance.

Sweet dreams!!

Jacqueline Cook-Molony

Footpath faeries?

You may have noticed that the public path beside Wood house, which runs to the footbridge over the river Redlake has been cut back very effectively throughout the Summer. This has been managed by the Clun 3P Group (3P standing for the Parish Paths Partnership) organised by Peter James. He heads up a small team of eight volunteers, which maintains particular 'rights of way' in the local area. In our case, Ollie Holder (who is also a director of the RVCBS) has been strimming back the undergrowth on that particular track. Those of us who use that route to walk to Pentre and Brineddin Wood would like to express our gratitude for the work undertaken on our behalf. Thank you Peter and Ollie!

Redlake Valley Broadband and Surrounding Area

At a meeting of the Redlake Valley Village Hall Committee on 21st October it was agreed to establish a small action group of local residents to make the case to the powers that be for bringing good quality high speed broadband to the area. Announcements on future government policy for broadband are expected at the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Spending review on 25th November. Shropshire Council has also said that it will decide its next steps some time early next year. It may be that we are supplied with high speed broadband after all, but we've been led to expect that before so if that doesn't turn out to be the case there could be things that we need to do as a community. That is why this group is being formed.

We will probably meet once or twice during November to agree our aims and terms of reference and then wait to see what announcements come from government, Shropshire Council or even BT. If we are supplied with decent broadband in the near future we can simply disband. If not, at least we are ready and prepared to try to do something about it.

Shropshire Village Halls Quiz

On Friday 6 November Chapel Lawn Village Hall will have hosted the second round of the Shropshire Village Halls Quiz covering nine teams from South Shropshire. Barry Palmer co-ordinates the Chapel Lawn team and is expert at ensuring a full team of four to compete on one Friday evening a month from October to April. Although Barry has a small band of regulars he can call upon it is very useful to have some reserves. So if you like quizzes but are unable to commit to the whole quiz season, why not get in touch with Barry and volunteer to be a reserve? Parish boundaries are very flexible so you do not have to live in Chapel Lawn to be on the team.

All rounds are general knowledge rounds with very few questions on sport and hardly any on modern popular music! To see examples of past questions contact John Wilde on 01547 530085,

To find out more about quiz nights or to volunteer ring Barry Palmer on 01547 530106.

Offa's Dyke Astronomical Society

The summer is usually a quiet time for the Offa's Dyke Astronomical Society. Our year ends with the AGM in May but, increasingly, extra events are being organised over the summer, which, like all our meetings and events, are open to all. This year we enjoyed a Perseids Party at Brynccalled and, as the clouds lifted, we watched a wonderful display of meteors into the small hours of the morning. As always, food featured prominently in the enjoyment of the evening! We welcomed seven guests that evening as well as members.

Our former Secretary, Sydney Crump, had previously spoken on the History of Chapel Lawn and more recently on the topic of Viking Astronomy. Following that talk Syd agreed to research the answer to the question "Did the Vikings get to Clun?" For Clun read also Chapel Lawn.

On Saturday 24 August 25 people came to a community event hosted by ODAS in the village hall. Syd had uncovered amazing facts about Vikings and hill forts and, whilst he could not say for certain that Vikings reached Clun or

Chapel Lawn, he traced them to within 15 miles of us.

After the talk, a cream tea was provided by the catering branch of ODAS! There were home-made scones, Cornish clotted cream, strawberry jam, sandwiches, home-made Barabirith and cupcakes, which were delicious.

We hope to continue providing an annual summer event with speakers on general interest subjects to complement the talks on science and astronomy which form the ODAS programme from September to May. We try though to have astronomical subjects from time to time suitable for the "general public". So with this in mind, on *Thursday 25 February*, Andrew Lound is returning to Chapel Lawn to give one of his dramatic presentations and there will also be food! Not bad value for £3 a head!

Many thanks to all of you who have supported ODAS over the past year, We look forward to welcoming you to future meetings and events.

John Wilde, Chairman, ODAS

Recent Events Aug to Oct 2015

After a brief summer break from events in Chapel Lawn, the Astronomical Society started a new season off with a talk and party at the end of August.

As usual, the Annual Ramble and lunch went well, weather was fine and a fair number of people turned out, though not as many as previous years.

Many thanks to everyone who attended the Harvest Festival service and supper afterwards. The collection raised £97.50 for The Refugee Crisis Fund.

Macmillan raised £220 which is up on takings by about £50, on last year.

Apart from the regular bring and buy – cakes, preserves, vegetables plants and bric-a-brac, book stall, raffle and refreshments (which is quite a lot really)! We also had a couple of tables where local artists sold greetings cards and other small items. Macmillan also attracted an Asian food stall too!

The best bit was lots of local folk meeting for a coffee and a catch-up, while giving generously to a good cause.

The Chapel Lawn Air Gun Club started its season in the middle of September, with an AGM and a brief practice, then matches every Monday thereafter.

The first film of the 'Flicks in the Sticks' season was the *Imitation Game*. This is a film about Alan Turing and the development of his de-coding machine named 'Enigma', which was used during the war to 'listen in' on German communications. Before the film was shown, Dr. Mark Baldwin who is an expert on code-breaking came with an Enigma machine, to talk about it and Turing's work at Bletchley Park during the war.

The second film, in October, was *Dark Horse*. This is described as a drama/documentary about a horse bred in a small Welsh mining village and brought up on an allotment, which went on to become an acclaimed race-horse, winning the Welsh Grand National. It was a lovely story and well put together as a documentary.

The next film, *Slow West* is on November 14th.

On the social front; Jacqueline Molony celebrated her 50th birthday with a party and ceileidh in the Village Hall. It was a fun evening with plenty of food, drink and dancing.

Becky Sherman

Farming Column

It is frightening to think that almost a year has passed since my last column; how time flies. Last winter came and went with very little snow and led the way for a fantastic spring and the best April lambing conditions that we have ever had. Lambs were able to be turned out every single day from 6.30am, until seven o'clock at night. It was truly remarkable to think that on Tuesday the 7th April the thermometer read 28° C!! – a dream to lamb in. Our lambs didn't know what rain was until they were 6 weeks old, but it was surprising to see that after lambing had finished, the numbers would suggest that the losses were similar to other years. It seems that sheep will still find some way to die if they can!

2 years ago, Treverward came out of 20 years of old subsidy agreements. In the new Stewardship Scheme, I decided to take the option to put some of the flatter land under 'no restrictions'. Since we have started re-seeding some of the farm, we have seen numbers of lambs sold straight off grass increase from 40 in 2013 to 210 last year and 450 this year. I am very pleased with this as we now have fewer lambs to buy in feed

for to fatten. It has saved a great deal of money and I have always thought that buying creep feed for lambs is a road to nowhere. Permanent pastures will always have an equally important role to new leys on upland farms. They provide grazing for ewes during the summer, when ewes are weaned from their lambs and particularly in the winter as they weather well in the wet during winter. This allows stock to be out for a longer period and avoids the high costs associated with housing. A balance of both permanent pasture and new grass leys can only be a good thing on hill farms, in my opinion.

November is usually when we start to think about doing some hedging and fencing that is partly funded through Natural England. Things go round in circles as they say; during the post war years, in an effort to increase food production, farmers were paid to push hedges out and plough the land, a few years later they are now paying us to re-plant these hedges and retain our permanent pastures. After hearing on the news tonight that the population on this small island is going to increase by 10 million by 2036, I bet that in a few years time they will be paying us once again to push all our hedges out and plough the land in an effort to increase food production to feed our over inflated population. It's as my father says (minus the bad language) "It's laughable - the people who are in charge of this country can't see any further than the end of their nose, its no wonder the Country's broke!!"

May the start of winter bring you all good luck and fortune and always buy British...

John Phillips, Treverward.

Diary

Flicks in the sticks: Sat 14th Nov 15
Slow West, action, thriller, western.
7.30pm. Adults £4.50 Children £3.50

Flicks In the sticks: Sat 12th Dec-**Spy**,
Action, comedy drama. 7.30pm

Carol Service: Sunday 13th December
11am followed by mince pies & sherry.

Chapel Lawn Christmas Party.
Saturday 19th December.
Details to follow.

W.I.- Meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month
7pm. **ODAS** on the last Thursday in
every month. 7pm