

THE REDLAKE

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SUMMER 2018

From the Editors

Just three months ago I was talking about snow and ice and now we have a heatwave and drought. I feel for the farmers, as this really will throw the winter feeding out as they are having to supplementally feed their livestock now. I heard on Radio 4's Today program, they are moving fish stocks in the river Redlake on the Shropshire border, down to deeper sections, so they can survive this period of drought. This is the same in the river Teme in Knighton. I suppose we have been waiting since 1976 for a heatwave, so best make the most of it, it could be the same amount of time till the next one. Unless global warming has finally got a grip, and this could become a regular occurrence. At least it will save going abroad to get a bit of sun.

Jeremy Jameson

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More information and photos of some of these articles are available on the website at <http://www.chapel-lawn.co.uk>



Congratulations to Steven & Helen Roberts.



21st July was the wedding of Steven, son of George and Margaret Roberts from the Chapel, New Invention and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs. Bithell, Pear Tree Farm, Wall-under-Heywood. The weather was glorious and everyone looked stunning, wishing health and happiness to the couple and hope to see them at events in Chapel Lawn soon.

Christine Oakley

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Brenda Davies from Hillside, Bucknell, is celebrating her 90th birthday on 23rd August. She is known in Chapel Lawn school for being a supply teacher covering Mrs Burn's (head teacher) time away serving as a district and county councillor. Happy Birthday Brenda.

Also 'Happy Birthday' to Mona Owen, and Monica Hunnan, who share the same day - 20th July - for their birthdays.

Church news:

The Church heating is being renewed/replaced starting 7th August so the Church will be locked that week for security reasons.

PRODUCE STALL

The produce stall has been selling some wonderful home grown produce, including gooseberries, rhubarb, hen and duck eggs. There is always wood for BBQ's and in the winter for the fires.

We will have to see if there has been enough water for runner beans and other vegetables to come.

There are always models/castings of green men faces, hares and dogs as gifts. And if you are feeling the cold, there are some fleeces!

Keep an eye the stall as you drive by, as there is generally something tasty on there for supper.

RAMBLE & LUNCH

Sunday 9th September. Come along for one of a variety of walks you can do and then eat a well-earned delicious lunch. 10.30 am walks start, lunch at 12.00 to 2.00pm. Adults £8, Children £4.



PROFILE:**Steven and Sarah Oakden,
Brook House, The Pentre.**

Sarah and Steven moved into Brook House in Summer 2017. They feel very blessed that they follow a long line of occupants dating back possibly to 1664 and are pleased to have met members of Connie Adams' family, who have filled them in on some past experiences of the house within living memory.

Sarah was born in Brighton where she obtained an Honours degree in teaching, specialising in Music and the Arts. Her father, a solicitor, was a Freeman of The Merchant Taylors Guild and thus a Freeman of the City of London. In her youth he made Sarah his apprentice, which ultimately also made her a Freeman of the City of London, enabling her to drive a flock of sheep through the city if she so wishes!

After qualifying, Sarah got her first job in Liverpool at Belvedere School, where she was a Primary School Teacher and specialist in Music. She found a little flat and joined the InterVarsity Club for young professional people, where Steven was Membership Secretary. On her first visit to the club in November 1980, Steven fell instantly in love with her. He asked her to marry him on holiday in Skiathos in 1981 and they married in July 1982. They were married at St. Anne's Church Lewes, East Sussex and Sarah's Mother created a splendid wedding for her, making the dresses, cake, and flower arrangements herself. Steven was born in St. Asaph in Wales in 1955 but lived in Preston

from 1957 to 1975 and considers himself to be a Lancastrian. He qualified as a Chartered Librarian in Birmingham in 1975. His first job was working in branch libraries in Liverpool's docklands and he bought a house in Crosby, which was where he and Sarah made their first home together. In 1983 Steven moved to Southport College as College Librarian. This was a change from Public Libraries to Academia, which he preferred because of the autonomy. He remained in Further Education for 26 years.

Sarah moved to teach at Merchant Taylors' Junior School in Crosby around this time and taught the infants and juniors there for 12 years. Their children, Sasha, born 1988; Freya, born 1990 and Alan, born 1992 all went to school there. Throughout their marriage Steven and Sarah have always shared responsibility for the smooth running of the home. Steven is an accomplished cook and helped to run the house when Sarah was working long hours in teaching. Steven's mother was also a fantastic support and always organised to live near the family, so that she could help with the children and she played a major part in their childhood. She and Sarah were good friends.

Whilst working at Southport, Steven did a part-time degree course gaining a B.A. Hons. in Education Studies. This was to stand him in good stead in the future, when unexpected changes to his career occurred.

In 1996 Steven was offered a new job at York Sixth Form College and he commuted from Southport for a year, while their house was being sold. Then in summer 1997 they moved to York. Steven went on to set up a Regional Qualifications Centre for Librarians and to join the Marketing Team, initially working on the website and then moving entirely into Information and Learning Technology, supporting the teaching staff. Sarah worked for a term as Supply Teacher and then for a year at a school in Selby, but soon she found a post closer to home at a local primary school near their new home. She worked there for 14 years as a class teacher with

responsibility for coordinating Music and mentor to 27 trainee teachers. Towards the end of her time there, she decided to do an 'M.A. in Practitioner Research', which she completed at St. John's University York in 2013. In that year she also stopped teaching, as she had become disillusioned with the way the profession was moving.

Sarah then took the opportunity to indulge in other interests. She volunteered at the National Trust's Treasurer's House in York as a guide. She also worked as a volunteer at Pocklington Arts Centre on Box Office duty and subsequently at the local radio station, West Wolds Radio. There she became accomplished at interviewing and broadcasting programmes for the radio.

In May 2009 Steven had been made redundant from York College where people over the age of 50 were being given redundancy packages, but he immediately gained new employment at York University and subsequently found himself working as Library Manager at a Quaker school in York. In 2016 the couple were becoming disillusioned with living near York. They yearned to be in a different environment, preferably a location with hills as opposed to the flat-Vale of York. They came to Hereford for a holiday in their caravan and heard on the journey that they had received an offer on their house in York, so the holiday became a house hunt! Steven found Brook House on-line and on driving up the beautiful Redlake Valley and viewing the house, they fell in love with it immediately. They moved in, in 13 weeks during a very wet summer of 2017.

Sarah immediately got busy looking at the possibilities available: joining WI, volunteering at the Box Office at the Ludlow Assembly Rooms, becoming a guide at Croft Castle for The National Trust, joining the Marches Book Art Group and enjoying a course at Westhope College. Meanwhile, Steven pursued his interests by joining two rambling groups, with whom he goes walking twice a week and by volunteering at the Welshpool and

Llanfair Railway in 'Team Fence to Fence' who maintain the tracksides. He has recently been offered training on the footplate. Over the years, Steven's interest in steam railways has included interviewing ex-steam engine drivers and writing articles based on their anecdotes, which he has had published in several railway magazines. He continues to be a specialist author on this subject and has been interviewed by a film producer for a short programme. Steven is also building a model railway in the attic.

Both Sarah and Steven have an interest in music although they are poles apart, Sarah enjoying classical and Steven heavy rock, this does not reflect their relationship however, which is strong, probably because of the variety of their interests!

Pat Jameson

REDLAKE VALLEY COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY NEWS

We held another successful AGM on 26th June, when about 30 people came to hear a talk from Andrew Allott, former Head of Biology at Shrewsbury School. Andrew spoke about the effect of glaciation on the landscape of the Marches. He brought the changing landscape of the Redlake Valley to life as he spoke and we were able to visualise what our valley would have looked like after the ice advanced and retreated over time. Andrew used a fascinating computer simulation to show the movement of the ice sheets and drew on examples from Iceland where ice sheets are still active.

The RVCBS recently invited Shropshire Council's Wild Team to help out with conservation tasks in and around the Quillet. The team have helped to clear nettles and docks from the public footpath on the wood's southern boundary. Some people have reported that they have been bitten by ticks while in the Wood, so we recommend wearing long trousers and sleeves when taking a walk there.

Karen Limbrick

SEASONAL GARDENING NOTES



It is barbecue season, so you might like to consider some exotically food-scented plants to enhance/disguise/compete with the aromas coming from the charcoal.

Cytisus battandieri is a glamorous, silver-leaved shrub with clusters of bright yellow pea flowers which smell strongly of pineapple. The double-flowered gorse, *Ulex europaeus* 'Flore Pleno', richly scents the air with coconut, although its spines need to be considered. A less spiteful choice would be the curry plant, *Helichrysum italicum*, whose dusty grey foliage can be used as a mild flavouring, or simply sniffed. Or *Aloysia triphylla*, the lemon-scented verbena. No-one can resist pinching out the leaf tips with their intense, citrus fragrance. And this helps to keep the shrub tight and bushy. Or, less tropically, *Iris foetidissima*, an evergreen, bone-hardy iris, with delicate buff flowers with violet veins (there is also a creamy-yellow form), followed by bunches of orange seeds in papery pods. This is known as the roast beef plant from the scent given off if you bruise a leaf. I can't detect it myself.

No terrace these days, is well-dressed without an agave in a pot, which leads us nicely on to drinks, as tequila is made from agaves. *Choisya ternata* also comes from Mexico and, in its brilliant yellow foliaged form, 'Sundance', it looks as though it does. It smells of gin. Another brilliant yellow-leaved plant, the golden hop, *Humulus lupulus* 'Aureus', smells of good ale and, after all this excess, will send you gently to sleep.

Hannah Willetts

RECENT EVENTS

At last we have been enjoying some fine summer weather and our lovely picnic benches have been put to good use. We held a pub night in early July and sat outside until last orders, appreciating the warm evening, chilled wine, a selection of beers and excellent company. In addition to having a good chat we also played darts and other pub games that brought out the competitive spirit in some! All agreed we must organize a repeat of the evening – soon!

The Village Hall AGM was held in May. After serving many years as secretary, Patrick Cosgrove stepped down and the committee wish to thank him for his dedication and commitment to the role. His hard work and all the hours that went into it are hugely appreciated and leave lasting benefit. Vivienne Ashton very kindly stepped forward to take over the role of secretary and we all breathed a huge collective sigh of relief! We were also delighted to welcome Marion Cox to the committee. It is heartening to have new volunteers and to feel that interest in the Village Hall is thriving.

The annual Big Breakfast in May yet again drew large crowds eager to enjoy the chance for a get together over a delicious cooked breakfast. Once again the band of happy, smiling helpers worked their socks off, with the effect of making it all run so smoothly that it seems effortless.

In early June we were treated to a wonderful, touching Arts Alive performance; No Petticoats Here by Louise Jordan. We heard the stories of extraordinary women from the First World War, saw their photographs and were delighted by Louise's beautiful singing voice, her lovely melodies and superb piano and guitar playing. A remarkable heartfelt performance that left the audience moved and uplifted.

There have been two enormously enjoyable craft days. In mid-May a group from the WI plus friends were inspired by both the tutor and the beautiful scenery around our village hall to produce needle felted landscapes embellished with embroidery. The creative morning was followed by a delicious bring and share lunch – eaten al fresco of course! In mid-July Chapel Lawn WI hosted a craft workshop on

behalf of Shropshire Federation WI. The choice of our venue was much appreciated by WI members from South Shropshire and the event was well attended and hugely enjoyed. Learning new craft skills, whilst being creative and benefitting from the company of others certainly produces the feel-good factor. I often get feedback of what a great asset our Village Hall is and its location in this beautiful valley. The results of all the work which went into the Macturk fund project mean that we have a wonderful outdoor space which will be appreciated for years to come. It is good to see the plaque on one of the picnic tables in memory of Michael and I am sure he would approve of what his donation to the Village Hall inspired us to do.

Christine Rogers

POETS CORNER

‘Jeremy Jackdaw’

Jeremy Jackdaw was a gentleman thief

His craving for shiny things beggared belief!

He had no social conscience

And felt no shame.....

He stole from the rich and the poor

Just the same!

Jem



FARMING COLUMN

“Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink”, was the cry of the ancient mariner.

Water, water, everywhere, we cannot plant our wheat, was the cry of the ancient farmers in April. The Beast from the East in February another bout of snow in March causing havoc at lambing time, then a cold wet April left the land water-logged. Many spring crops were planted into mud. What would we give for some of that moisture now?

It last rained on the sixteenth of June, so just three weeks of hot sun has turned the green and pleasant land into a scorched desert. Many local farmers are going to start feeding winter rations to cattle, this just two months after the end of last year’s feeding.

Although I am far too young to remember it, the elder brethren are comparing this to the great drought of 1976, so bad even hedgerows and trees died. The government then appointed a minister of drought. Three days later it rained!

The hot weather has been grand for haymaking, even the local farmers whose start of harvest usually coincides with the beginning of the monsoon season failed to induce any rain.

Sheep farmers enjoyed a good season with record prices in every market. So good was the trade that many ewe lambs which would have been run around to sell as breeding ewes this Autumn went into the food chain. What price now to buy ewes to bring back to a bare pasture.

Last year local contractors made a start on the road widening scheme between Pentre and Llynnavon but no progress lately. No, local contractors are still busy installing cables for faster broadband. Let us hope the end product will be quicker than the contractors.

There was a pub night in the village hall, a good chance for a pint or three, a chat and various pub games. I did let Claudia win the darts match 2-1. All is not lost, have just looked up the ninety day forecast for Chapel

Lawn, there will be a shower on the 18th July and a thunder storm on the 25th of August. Happy sunbathing.

Bob James

Early notice

Saturday 1st Dec, cooking a savoury dish is back on the menu for the men of our valley, thinking caps on please! More notice nearer the time

DIARY

Friday 17th August Village Hall Pub Evening 7.30 pm

Tuesday 21st August. VH committee meeting 7.30pm

Tuesday 23rd August. All day children’s workshop organised by the church.

Tuesday 4th September. W.I. meeting 4pm & Village Hall committee meeting 7.30pm

Saturday 8th September. Set up hall for Ramble & lunch. Also Ride & stride will be dropping into the hall for toilets as they ride through the village and stop at the church.

Sunday 9th September. Ramble and lunch. 10.30am walks, lunch 12.00 to 2.00pm

Wednesday 12th September. Town Council meeting 7.30pm

Thursday 27th September. Speaker Roger Pickard 7.30pm

Tuesday 2nd October. W.I. 4.00pm, and PCC Meeting at 7.30pm.

Thursday 4th October. Harvest Festival supper after church service at 7.00pm.

Thursday 7th October. ODAS at 7.00pm.

Usual Tuesdays meeting for W.I.