

John Lycett's blog – May 2026

Mr Rainmaker I **neeed** one inch of gentle rain on the sugar beet, the maize, the lucerne and grass stubbles plus the wheat...and oh yes, my lawn...as soon as possible please.

May 2026 was very much drier than the average May.



Steve and his team have been filling up the silage pits again and Sam has been doing the same on the drying floors.



At present, the digester is having a few tonnes of potatoes per day along with maize, chicken manure and whey. These are stock feed potatoes which have come from another farm where they cannot sell them for human consumption.

The amount of energy it has taken in terms of fertiliser, fuel, water, and storage from October until May, to produce these potatoes and then to end up as stock feed is such a waste.

Steven, the sprayer driver, is up to date with his work. He was held up a bit at the beginning of the month with the wind and later with the very hot weather.

The Shropshire Show has been held again and I'm told it was very well attended.

I see that T H White Agriculture have been at the farm servicing the combine as it will soon be that time again.

Locally, there are two farms on the market, by informal tender, at the moment. They have caused a lot of speculation and chatter so it will be interesting to see who buys them or even if they sell.

David Shearan, a local naturalist, has been up on the Cliffe and around some of the fields looking at the butterfly population which appears quite healthy.

Also, we have a beehive again in my own small field, where, hopefully, the bees can enjoy the Winter Wild Bird Mix which is flowering well again.

