



LAKE NEWS

Hampshire Lakes Residents Association

Thanks to all residents who attended the EGM earlier this month. It was an excellent opportunity for all those who have come to live in the village since the original Constitution was drawn up just over 6 years ago to get to know it, suggest amendments, and vote to accept these amendments. It's important for all residents to have ownership of our Constitution.

One further amendment concerns membership of the Association. This amendment has now been drawn up and ensures that HLRA remains a Recognised Tenants'/Residents' Association (Landlord and Tenants Act 1985)

Members will be able to vote on the amendment on 7th January 2023 at 11.30am when a short EGM will follow our usual committee meeting. All residents will receive a hard copy of this amendment before Christmas.

On behalf of the committee I would like to wish all residents a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Jenny Hydes

Pat Bun

We were saddened to hear of the death of Pat Bun. Described by the staff as one of the originals, Pat lived in Oakleigh Square from the time when the village was opened.

Always cheerful, Pat really helped to set up Theatre Together as well as helping with village activities and events. We offer our sincere condolences to her family.

Eyesight Help

Two months ago I wrote an article about AMD (Age-related Macular Degeneration) and I am very grateful to Tracy Gill who followed it up with a letter asking if anyone with an eyesight problem would like a 1:1 visit from the charity Opensight. If you do take up this visit I'm sure you will find them very supportive.

Diana Duckworth

Christmas gifts for our staff

It is a tradition here at Hampshire Lakes for residents to donate Christmas gifts for staff. These are all collected in the office and then the staff get to take it in turns to pull out their gifts. They often have no idea what they are



going to get and it must be great fun when they share them out. We are not allowed to give gifts to individual members of staff except for a small gratuity to the

housekeeping team. So do be generous and show your gratitude by taking gifts and leaving them in the office.

Jenny Hydes

There will be an **internal post** box in the reception for residents to post cards to neighbours.

Jenny Hydes

Warm welcomes to . . .

. . . new residents in November:

- Bob and Joyce Bacon, 53 Oakleigh Square
- Susan Croucher, 25 Beech Grove

Hampshire Lakes Entertainment

Casino Night at Hampshire Lakes

Residents arriving for this evening looked really splendid in their party clothes and were delighted to find chilled cocktails waiting for them in a transformed bistro! Fairy lights and a casino themed-décor set the scene for a fun evening.



Two gaming tables were set up to host groups of residents eager to win chips and get a prize. With the help of the friendly

croupiers we soon mastered the challenges of Roulette and Blackjack and were playing like old hands! Indeed Ruth Maynard won £950 and Brian Bishop won £850 taking the prizes for making the most money.

It was a fun evening which we plan to repeat next year.

Joan Russam

The Queen's Green Canopy



I would like to thank all the residents who joined in with my mini campaign to join the Green Canopy requested by the Queen to mark her Platinum Jubilee.

Her Majesty's sad death has made our efforts more poignant and with all the hard work by Mike and Hudson to plant them, our grounds will be graced with 16 extra beautiful trees for us all to enjoy and admire as they thrive over the years to come.

Thank you all.

Janet McCombie

Thank you so much Janet for helping us all to commemorate our late Queen as well as making our village even more attractive.

HLRA Website

You can get the latest village information on our HLRA Website: <https://hlra.info/>

There have been a lot of changes to the Wellness Centre Timetable. Get the latest information at:

<https://hlra.info/wellness-centre/>

We hope residents enjoy the new trees that have been planted around the village for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, take a look at:

<https://hlra.info/trees/> *Keith Hall*

Thanks Keith for a helpful resource. You can find recommendations for taxi firms and local tradesmen on the website. If you want to recommend one yourself please send suggestions to Keith.

The Tribunal

A contingent of 8 residents went to support Alan Anning and to hear him present his case at the Tribunal which would judge his case against Anchor.

Alan used to live in Hampshire Lakes and during his time here, together with several residents, he realised the accounts we were given were simply not right. He concluded that residents were subsidising the Care Home. Anchor, as a result of his persistence and that of HLRA, changed the model and reduced the service charge considerably. Alan claimed back the overcharge.

The hearing was heard in HM Courts and Tribunal Service in Havant, hence the Hampshire Lakes support group.

Very unusually the judge allowed the barrister (Justin Bates, an expert in social housing) who was counsel for Anchor to present his case first. He spoke for an hour as he tried to make sense of the accounts, even joking that he was a barrister not an accountant and admitting some of the accounts were wrong. Even the judge said he was confused and looked puzzled.

During the short break which followed I for one felt quite optimistic. Surely If the judge couldn't understand the accounts he would be sympathetic to Alan's case?

However when we all went back into court it seemed that the judge wasn't really interested in what Alan had to say. Joan was not asked to speak in his support. It didn't seem fair that this very eminent barrister should have been

given so much time and Alan given so little attention.

A week later it came as no surprise that Alan had lost his case. The judgement was lawful but was it fair?

We should still all thank Alan and Joan for securing for all residents a service charge considerably reduced with nothing taken from residents to subsidise Willow Gardens.

Jenny Hydes

The full version of the ruling is available on the village web site

Library News

Recently many donated books have been left in the baskets. Thank you for them.

Unfortunately a few were old and well used and as we have very limited shelf space they had to be thrown away. Please make sure that any donations are in good condition.

Book Club

We next meet **Thursday 1st December** at 11 am in the Library.

A new season of the TV programme “Between the Covers” started on Tuesday November 8 BBC 2 at 7pm. It’s worth picking up on iPlayer if you’ve missed it!

Diana Duckworth

Book Reviews

2022 Booker Prize winner '**Small Things Like These**' by **Claire Keegan** is a tiny gem of a book which is a mere 114 pages long. Set in Ireland at Christmas 1985 it centres around the inner thoughts of a coal merchant and father, Bill Furlong, his wife and five daughters. Furlong’s love of his family brings him to confront the terrible suffering of a young girl in the neighbouring convent. As he delivers coal to the convent he discovers her locked away in their cellar, distressed, hardly able to walk and asking to see her baby. It’s an example of Magdalene laundries which featured in the film 'Philomena'.

Not a word is wasted in this tiny novel which simply stays in your mind long after you’ve finished reading it.

Jenny Hydes

If you want something heavier you should try

Brian Aldiss' 'Helliconia', a prize-winning trilogy about an Earth-like planet a thousand light years from Earth. Its sun, a pale version of ours, has been captured by a much heavier hotter star to form a binary system. So, as well as normal seasons, Helliconia has a 'Great

Year' spanning three millennia of Earth time. Cultures are borne in spring, flourish in the summer and die with the onset of the deep, generations-long winter.

But Brian Aldiss creates an ecosystem that has adapted to survive this cycle in intriguing ways. What's more, after a 1500-year voyage (sic), humans have established a permanent Observation Station orbiting Helliconia. It has a crew of a few hundred and is programmed to send very detailed information about life on Helliconia back to Earth. Of course, because of the speed of light, this information cannot start reaching Earth until 2,500 years after the mission was launched. How the Earth and the Observation Stations' in-bred crew react to these long times are other interesting threads of the story.

Read it - it's only 1300 pages. *Sam Dauncey*

Walkies?

A number of **weights have gone walkies from the gym**. If you have borrowed any please return them a.s.a.p.

Sam Dauncey

Wonderful language, English! Jenny's idea of walkies is quite different.



Eight of us enjoyed a walk earlier this month. We started in Richmond. The walk was part of the Capital Ring but, as usual, a good lunch was an essential part of the fun.

Jenny Hydes

Food Bank

Our local food bank is desperately short of everything. There is a bin in the post room if you can spare canned or packaged food or toiletries. As long as it is not out of date it will be very welcome.

If you find it difficult to help with actual items the bank would love to have donations, via the Reception Desk, so that the items most urgently needed can be purchased.

Wendy Wooldridge

Podcasts

Are you a podcast fan? Podcasts are easy to download from the internet or you can simply log into a podcast app. My favourites are the political ones from the BBC such as **Newsnight** or independent ones such as **The Rest is Politics** or **The News Agents**.

The Rest is History is another interesting podcast where the subjects include the early life of Churchill, a dramatic description of the lead up to the battle of Trafalgar (very exciting) and many other historical subjects.

BBC Sounds also has a large choice of subjects such as classic **Desert Island Discs**, **Ladykillers with Lucy Worsley**, **Its a Fair Cop!** to mention only a few.

If you're interested in the World Football Cup there are masses of programmes!

Jenny Hydes & Diana Duckworth

Talk to Reveille

I was pleased to be asked to address the Reville meeting on Tuesday 8 November about my 30 years as a Police Officer in the Met (1964-1994), during which time the "Job" took me from a Beat Bobby, covering Victoria and Belgravia, to a Chief Supt in command of Hornsey Division, covering half the London Borough of Haringey.

I used a number of anecdotes from this period; some frightening, some amusing and some sad.

As a Constable in 1967, I recalled my almost unbelievable achievement of stopping a 400cc Aston Martin DB6 whilst driving my 200cc "Noddy" motorbike, only to discover that this prototype vehicle was being driven by none other than a very drunk George Abecassis, who, in addition to being a famous racing car driver and designer, was also the son in law of David Brown (DB) himself! He duly pleaded guilty at court of "refusing a breath test".

My only "Commissioner's Commendation" came the following year, while performing duty at the front office of the police station, when I arrested a very agitated gentleman, who had attended the station in possession of a long-bladed hand-knife and was charged with "being in possession of an offensive weapon". However, before being secured in the

appropriate exhibits bag, the aforementioned knife was inspected by all and sundry in the office, with comments such as "do you think these red marks are rust or maybe blood?". You can imagine the consternation the next morning, when it was discovered that this particular person was wanted for murdering his uncle in Stoke Newington, by using such a knife which had resulted in over forty stab wounds!

Roger Pearce

Thanks Roger. We will publish more of Roger's fascinating memories next month.

Crowthorne Choral Society

Saturday 3rd December 2022, 7:00 pm

St John's Church, Crowthorne, RG45 7NT

"Born in a Stable" – Christmas Concert

£12, in aid of Crowthorne FoodBank

I am at 62 Oakleigh Square and an active member of the society. I attend rehearsals and concerts and so can generally provide transport for up to three others.



We are a friendly neighbourhood choir singing pieces from the classical, modern and traditional repertoire. We rehearse weekly during term time and put on three public concerts each year.

All our rehearsals are open to potential new members, so why not pay us a visit (your first three are free). They are at 7:30 pm, on Mondays during term time, at the Old Gym, Wellington College, Crowthorne.. For details of how to join a rehearsal, see me or e-mail:

secretary@crowthornechoral.org.uk

Sam Dauncey

Lakes News is written by "ordinary" residents and printed for us by the administration team.

We try to inform, entertain and help to keep everybody up to date with what is happening. Content is based on articles and stories **sent in by residents**. Concerns? Compliments? Requests? News? Interests? Suggestions? Offers? Photos? Ideas to make people think? We fill the gaps!
samdauncey@live.co.uk and
jennyhydes@icloud.com

Your contributions are our life-blood.