



LAKE NEWS

Cars, transport and the general importance of getting out and about

We have devoted the middle part of this month's Lakes News to a rather sad milestone in many of our lives. That is the time when we may decide (or be forced to decide) to give up driving. The car is sold and suddenly much independence goes with it. Then come some many practical issues. How do we shop? How do we get to the hospital or to visit our surgery.

Wendy and Diana write about their own experiences. They weren't obliged to give up driving but chose to, as you will read.

Jenny Hydes



HLRA Website

Keep logging in! The website is regularly updated with videos, news items and general information

Keith Hall

Hampshire Lakes Residents Association

Our scheduled February committee meeting is on **4th February at 10.30am in the library.**

Jenny Hydes

A BILLBOARD IS A COMMITTEE WHOSE MEMBERS ARE ALL NAMED WILLIAM

Hampshire Lakes Entertainment



Bravo Giovanni Pernice!

On 19 January we visited a new venue, G-Live in Guildford, to see Giovanni's show, *A Taste of Italy*.

The dancing was superb, energetic and athletic with more than a touch of Italian style and glamour.

G-Live was completely sold out for the occasion. This venue is one to add to our list as it's roomy and modern and our coach was able to set us down and pick us up from right outside the door.

Jenny Hydes

Foodbank again

I am sure that everyone here has a charity or charities that they support. However, if every time we did our weekly shop, we each bought one extra item the collection box in the Post Room would soon be overflowing and Yateley families this winter would not be going hungry. Come on, let's see what we can do, I haven't yet seen the collection box full, surely we can do better!

Judith Rodgers

Guest Suite

Residents should be pleased to hear we've been told that the Phase 2 plumbing problems have been dealt with, so that Anchor will be able to take bookings for the Guest Suite from February 13th.

Sam Dauncey

GUEST SUITE TOWELS ARE SO THICK YOU CAN BARELY SHUT YOUR SUITCASE.

Volunteer Drivers

In the last issue we appealed for help in setting up a volunteer drivers scheme. Emrys Parry has kindly agreed to set up a scheme here in the village. He is exploring the legalities and insurance implications as well as the parameters of the scheme.

He needs help in recruiting volunteer drivers as well as help in administering the scheme once it is up and running.

He has agreed to meet anyone interested in both helping getting the scheme up and running and becoming volunteer drivers.

There will be a meeting in the library on **Wednesday 8th of February at 5pm** for all those who are interested in the scheme.

Please do come!

Jenny Hydes

HLRA Electric Car Survey

Please complete the survey delivered with this issue and return it to reception by 15 February

Brian Branson

DO YOU THINK APPLE'S SELF-DRIVING ELECTRIC CAR WILL HAVE WINDOWS?

My Car Was 10 Years Old

It stood outside here, suffering continual assault by anything the large poplar was discarding, buffeted by wind, rain, ice and snow. I rarely used it and only for short trips, so the battery was constantly running low. The day before I had a surgery visit I went to run the engine to make sure it would get me to the appointment. The battery was already flat! Called Green Flag, who charged it up but said it would only hold 42% of full charge. Winter is coming, so I bought a new battery, then had a serious think. In the last 4 years I had clocked up less than 2000 miles, much of that because my son would drive us to see friends further away than I would now drive. Decision: sell car!

Next decision: try on line. 'Motorway' instantly quoted £3850, which was very encouraging! I kept going, and with the help of friends (and a stranger who knelt on the path to photograph the tread on every wheel!) I got photographs of every angle, inside and out, and sent them to Motorway. More photos of paperwork (including my driving licence!) followed and

eventually they put it on sale at 8.00 am. They emailed me at 3.00 pm to say it had a buyer at £4360. After that it was a matter of the buyer (a dealer in Poole) arranging to come to check it out, complete the paperwork, transfer money to my bank and drive it away.

I am not a natural on the computer and did have to contact my son in the States for help with some operations. If I could do it most of us could. I realise I can take a lot of taxis before I am out of pocket. I wouldn't have the yearly check on whether the Insurance, road tax, Green Flag or similar are OK (which together with the annual service and MOT cost about £900 last year),

Thank you to all the friends here who have offered to give me lifts and I am sure I will be grateful for lifts at times. Also thank you to those who came to my rescue when even minimum maintenance was beyond me!

I know a car available at any time is deemed essential for many, but why not have a think about whether you *really* need it. We have parking problems on site. As a nation we are trying to reduce emissions and prevent climate change disasters. Maybe we can all do a little bit to help.

Wendy Wooldridge



Selling Your Car

We, like Wendy, have sold our car! Giving up your independence is a big decision but we decided the time had come! We also used Motorway and with our son's help we found them very efficient, asking for 16 photos of the car, V5 log book, service book and both our driving licences. They offered a good price and we wait for the money in our account before someone collects it!

What to do now? We can use taxis, buses, trains and of course our own Village bus!

We have used our bus, driven mostly by Paul, to take us on its regular bus timetable.

At the moment on Mondays it goes to Camberley from 11- 2 pm (is this too long?), on Thursdays to the Meadows from 11 - 12.30 pm (is this long enough?) and Fridays to Waitrose 10.30- approx 11.30.

On alternate weekdays the bus goes to different places which change from month to month: LongAcres, Redfields, Bracknell, Henry Street Garden Centre to mention a few.

For those of us who use this service I would be grateful if you have any new suggestions of places for us to visit. *Diana Duckworth (4659)*

"Want to get back on your feet?"

Just miss a payment" (Sign at a Car Dealer's)
From Janet McCombie

Sandhurst Road Pavements

Pam tells me that one or two residents have contacted the local authority and our MP about the poor state of the pavements between Hampshire Lakes Village and the shops. Following an original misunderstanding that the complaint was about **pathways** in Hampshire Lakes Village rather than the public **pavements**, I understand that our MP advises anyone concerned to report those concerns by clicking on www.hart.gov.uk, then on the "Report It" button and then to wend their way to pavements. A direct link is <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>.

Such reports go direct to the Council's Highways Maintenance team, which should then address the issue. *Sam Dauncey*

Farewell and Best Wishes

To Sydney and Alma who have recently left Hampshire Lakes.

We wish you well in your new home. Do come and see us soon. Maybe you will visit the Bistro for lunch and take up your usual table or pop along to have a coffee in Cottons.

The Lakes News Team.

You could have sent us something to go here . . .

Library News

Book Club

We next meet **Thursday 9th February** at 11 am in the Library. This is a change from the usual date because the annual Budget meeting is taking place in the Bistro at 10.30 on Thursday 2nd February. (This meeting is an important one, to discuss next years Service Charge.)

Diana Duckworth

Book Review

The Morning Gift by Eva Ibbotson

Set in 1938, Hitler marches into Austria, Ruth Berger's family are forced to flee to England and by a devastating misunderstanding leave 18 yr-old Ruth behind. By chance she meets an English friend, Quinton Somerville, in her home town of Vienna. He is able to help her escape through a marriage of convenience to him!

Once in London they discover that dissolving a marriage is not as simple as they thought especially keeping it secret! Ruth enrolls at University to study Zoology, the same department where Quin happens to be a Professor! Many twists and turns follow!

It is a story of love, independence and belonging. Well worth reading.

Diana Duckworth

Film Review

The Bank of Dave

Do you subscribe to Netflix? Released a few days ago, this feel-good movie is based on a

true story about a self-made business man who sets about helping his community by setting up a private local bank.

The man takes on the wealthy and privileged establishment, with the aristocratic banker Hugh Bonneville getting up to

dastardly tricks to try to stop him. Thoroughly recommended if you want your faith in human nature restored.

Jenny Hydes



. . . or here!

What The Papers Say?

I belong to a Wokingham u3a WTPS group that meets monthly. We have a list of eight newspapers. The convener schedules each member to buy a different paper on a specified day each month, and one member picks a topic or topics from his/her paper. All by email.



We meet in someone's home a few days later, with coffee and biscuits, and the discussion goes round the room, each member telling the group how their paper deals with the chosen topic(s). We welcome interruption!

Might enough people be interested in forming such a group here? We would need to rely on at least half a dozen to attend each meeting.

If you are interested, email me

samdauncey@live.co.uk

Bistro News

Watch out for a new Saturday Gourmet menu.

Following New Year's Eve, several residents requested comparable menus more often, so from time to time our Chef, Michael, will be offering fine dining on a Saturday evening.

Bon appetit!

Joan Russam

Booking

At least twice, to my knowledge, there have been insufficient bookings for Saturday evening dinner. So the Bistro did not open. People who had not booked (I am frequently one of the 'guilty' ones) found it dark and deserted.

Only on Saturday evenings is it regularly open for "proper meals". I, personally, patronise it virtually every evening it opens, including the Friday fry-up and the special functions.

If you want us to continue to have a bistro/restaurant, not just a basic lunch eatery, **remember to book.**

Sam Dauncey

Energy Bills Support Scheme

Francis, Joan, Sam and I had a telephone consultation with the Leaseholders Advisory Service concerning the £400 grant which the Government had agreed would be paid to



households from last October. It was to be paid in six monthly instalments.

We were told that on 9th January there had been additional legislation to cover households which bought their energy via lessors (as we do here in Hampshire Lakes) and that we will be paid the full amount in due course.

Jenny Hydes

Service Charge 2023/24

Residents should be aware that although Anchor have stated that the new monthly Service Charge will be £739.94, this is just the amount leaving your bank.

The true Service Charge budget is £801.17 per month when you include the £61.23 you have been overpaying this year!

When we take account of the Ground Rent the annual costs at Hampshire Lakes are now more than £10,000.

Joan Russam

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.