



If in like a lion, out like a lamb

LAKE NEWS

Hampshire Lakes Residents Association

Our scheduled March committee meeting is on **Saturday 4th March at 10.30am in the library.** All paid-up members of the Association are welcome to attend as observers.

The April meeting will be on April Fools Day!

Electric Car Charging

The survey sent out by the HLRA to find out what demand there is for electric car charging is now complete.

32 forms were returned.. Thank you. Of these, 17 were very positive on the need for charging in the village.

There are already 2 all-electric vehicles here, either using a makeshift charging point or charging somewhere off-site. This is far from ideal and makes the case for on-site charging facilities more urgent. Several respondents said they would buy an electric car in the next two years if charging points were available.

Three of the other comments were

- 1) It is not possible to buy an electric car without charging points in the village.
- 2) The value of our properties could be affected if charging points are not installed.
- 3) A third party should be approached to see if they would install them.

There is, obviously, a clear need for charging points.

The results will be forwarded to Anchor with as much pressure as possible to try to change Anchor's mindset to accept that retired people are progressive and would like electric cars for the good of the environment. *Brian Branson*

Gardening Report

We are fast-approaching Spring and there are numerous "tell-tale" signs in the gardens to inform us of this fact.

The Gardening Team will be starting to remove plants which have not survived the extended periods of sub-zero temperatures to which they have been subjected. We have been monitoring the plants and now it is becoming clear to us as to which plants have not made it.

We will also start pruning shrubs and plants once we see the last of the cold weather, which is reportedly heading our way in the next few weeks.

With the number of plants which have died and will have to be removed, there are, unfortunately, going to be many empty spaces in our gardens, which I was not able to foresee when compiling the Budget.

With this in mind, I would like to offer the following :-

1. If any residents wish to supplement the replacement planting and would like any assistance/advice on choice of species, size, positioning etc. please don't hesitate to ask me.
2. We will be happy to position and plant your new plants for you.

As I said in the A.G.M. I have compiled a list of deer-resistant plants, which are native to the U.K. and I will arrange to have copies available at Reception, for anyone who is interested.
Roll On Spring. *Mike Nowick*



Many of our residents have had distinguished and fascinating careers. Michael worked for the Meteorological Office and gives an account of the iconic Shipping forecast.

'Here is the Shipping Forecast'

How familiar are these words? Many of you will have heard the dulcet tones of the Shipping Forecast on BBC Radio 4. To sailors and sea captains, the forecast provides vital weather information but its appeal extends beyond its primary purpose, and it has become something of a British institution, e.g. the late-



night forecast which follows Ronald Binge's relaxing 'Sailing By'. Unsurprisingly, the forecast's lyrical nature has inspired songwriters and poets into action!

A poem about the forecast by William Messent at a Yateley Choral Society event attended by several Hampshire Lakes residents - coupled with the fact that I was duty forecaster in the Meteorological Office responsible for producing the Shipping Forecast for the BBC back in the early 1970s - initiated the idea of writing this article.

Forecasting for shipping goes back to October 1859, when the steam clipper 'Royal Charter' encountered a violent storm off the coast of Anglesey with the loss of over 450 lives. As a direct result of this disaster, Admiral FitzRoy, who was appointed the first head of Meteorological Department of the Board of

Trade (later to become the Meteorological Office), introduced the first storm warning service for shipping in 1861 using electric telegraph. The Shipping Forecast, as we have come to know it, started on 1 January 1924 with 13 sea-areas around the UK named after islands, rivers or banks within them. Today there are 31 (see map) and are broadcast in strict order - starting with Viking (which borders Norway) and ending with South East Iceland.

The forecast is heard on BBC Radio 4 every six hours - at 0048 and 0520 (long wave and FM), 1201 and 1754 (normally long wave only) and covers a period of 24 hours. It includes gale warnings, a short synopsis of the 'highs' and 'lows' on the atmospheric pressure map and sea-area forecasts of wind direction and force, weather and visibility. 'Force 12' (hurricane force) is the highest on the wind strength scale, corresponding to 73 mph or more. Perhaps surprisingly, the forecast is not automated because the forecaster has to apply his/her expertise to carefully follow changes with time in wind, weather, sea state etc. and to update the forecast every 6 hours.

Thanks to Martin Young (ex Met Office) for helpful up-to-date input
Michael Bader

'The Piano'

I hope you are watching this Channel 4 programme on Wednesday nights at 9 pm. There have been two episodes already and it's worth going on 'Catch up' to see them. A piano is set up at different railway stations (Liverpool Street and Leeds City stations so far) and pianists are invited to play for the entertainment of travellers.

Claudia Winkleman hosts the programme but doesn't tell the players that they are being watched secretly by pianist Lang Lang and singer-songwriter Mika who are looking for exceptional talent to play at a concert given by them at the Royal Festival Hall. You will be really surprised by these amateur pianists. You won't be disappointed. This week 'The Piano' goes to Glasgow station. *Diana Duckworth*

If a keyboard were to be available here, in Reception for example, with an appropriate invitation, do you think it would be used?

Sam Dauncey

IT MUST BE HARD TO OPEN A PIANO.
 THE KEYS ARE INSIDE.

Hampshire Lakes Entertainment



The Theatre Together group visited the Woking Theatre to see Matthew Bourne's ballet **The Sleeping Beauty** on 16 Feb. The theatre was absolutely packed and we were offered a real treat in what was an imaginative and fun reworking of the old story.

So we had a delightful puppet of a realistically mischievous baby, lovely costumes and superb dancing. The villains were truly wicked, the goodies virtuous and there was even a vampire (not on the side of the wicked for once!). All together this was a superb production.

Jenny Hydes

Chichester Festival

The musical this year is "The Sound of Music", perhaps the most treasured Rogers and Hammerstein musical. We have applied for 30 tickets which we hope to get at a reduced cost but must wait to hear from the theatre around 2nd March. Booking will be available soon after.

St Patrick's Day, March 16th



We look forward to welcoming the student dancers from the Academy of Irish Dance in Reading and hope that we enjoy a

typical Irish dinner evening. These dancers are trained by ex Riverdance tutors so should be of a good standard.

Ukulele band, March 24th

On Friday 24th March the Ukulele band "8tt4" will entertain us during Happy Hour. They play to support the Charity "The Link Visiting Scheme" which confronts loneliness and celebrates friendship with befriending in Wokingham.

Please have some cash ready to contribute to this worthy local cause. The band will play from 6pm.

Thank you for your continued support.

Joan Russam

Sincere condolences

To the family and friends of Elizabeth Aleson who has sadly died recently. She lived in the village for several years and will be sadly missed.

The Book Group.

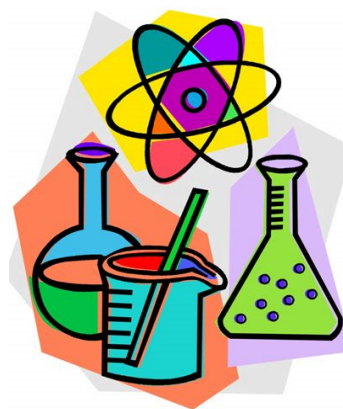
Our next meeting will be in the Library at **11am on Thursday March 2nd.**

Book Reviews

I have donated a copy of Robert Galbraith's (pseudonym of J K Rowling) **The Ink Black Heart** to the library. You won't miss it as its a tome of 1408 pages! It is very well written with the unspoken love between Cormoran Strike and fellow detective Robin Ellacott still simmering away.

The book deals with the problems of the hatred spread by the internet (problems J K Rowling knows only too well from personal experience). However, I did find the exchanges made online pretty hateful and at times tedious.

Much more fun is **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus (also in the library). Set in the Sixties it follows the fortunes of a feisty and gifted young chemist who refuses to accept her subservient role as a second class citizen in a the male dominated Hastings Research Institute. It's a very funny read.



Jenny Hydes

In "**The Judges List**" by John Grisham, Lacy Stoltz works for the Board of Judicial Conduct in Florida. She meets a mysterious woman, Jeni Crosby, who is so frightened that she uses many aliases.

Her father had been murdered 20 years earlier and the police had failed to find the killer.

Convinced that she has found the murderer, a Judge(!), she gives her evidence to Lacy, who takes on the case.

This is a real page turner and well worth reading.

Diana Duckworth

Welcome to new residents

- David O'Toole, 65 Oakleigh Square
- Christine Bell, 59 Oakleigh Square.

Selling your car - follow up

After selling our car by Motorway, we received the money 6 hrs after the car was driven away! I believe this was due to the fact we don't bank on line! We were very pleased when the money arrived!

Since then in order to get to the shops, medical appointments etc we have used the Village bus, the No 3 bus and residents who have offered us lifts! We especially would like to thank these kind people.

In last month's Lake News I asked for suggestions for new places for our Village bus to visit. As I have heard nothing I can only assume that those who use this service are happy with the present arrangement.

Not many residents use the Village bus but at the moment all those who do have to exit by the lift at the back. This is normally used only by disabled residents but because the step used to help exit the side door of the bus is broken everyone has to use the lift! Trevor is trying to get a replacement step but so far hasn't managed to get one! As the lift can only take a couple of people at a time, it can take quite a time! Hopefully it won't be too long before a new step is found! *Diana Duckworth*

How very remiss of me

It is now seven years since David and I moved to Hampshire Lakes. I seem to remember that at that time we were asked for details of our next-of-kin. In those seven years my next-of-kin has moved house twice and no longer has a landline. I have now informed Management of these changes (better late than never).

Have your next-of-kin details changed?

Perhaps we should be given a gentle reminder of such things by Anchor. *Wendy Wooldridge*

CLAIM ENERGY BILL SUPPORT £400

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-energy-bill-support-if-not-automatic>
or phone 0808 175 3287

Bistro Booking

My note last month had no effect. The Bistro was shut again on Saturday 25th Feb because of lack of bookings by Thursday breakfast time.

So don't wait for a table to form. Put your name down a.s.a.p. Don't delay until the week in question. You can always form a table later, when you see who else wants to eat (or you might even cancel, if reasonably early).

I normally like to eat in the Bistro, with company, every evening that it is open (and Sunday lunch), so now I'm registering that with Reception.

And just an afterthought: might the need for advance notice (and perhaps even more so the variation in food quality) be due to too little use of frozen dishes? *Sam Dauncey*

Volunteer Drivers

Many thanks to Emrys Parry for starting work on a volunteer drivers group for Hampshire Lakes. Many thanks also for those who have already so generously offered their services. We have applied to belong to a body known as the Good Neighbours Network in the name of the HLRA. Once established the group will operate on behalf of all residents of the village whether or not they are members of the HLRA. Full details will be made available when the set-up is complete. *Jenny Hydes*

HLRA Website

Keep logging in! The website is regularly updated with videos, news items and general information. Recent issues of Lakes News are here: <https://hlra.info/home/lake-news/>

Keith Hall

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!
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jennyhydes@icloud.com

Your contributions are our life-blood.