



Thanks and congratulations to Julie for the Easter decorations

LAKE NEWS

Hampshire Lakes Residents Association MEETING CANCELLED

April's formal committee meeting has been cancelled (as too many committee members are unable to attend).

The next one is scheduled for **Saturday 13th May, at 10.30 am in the library** as the first Saturday in May is the coronation weekend. It will be held the library at 10.30am.

Thank to the efforts of vice-chairman Francis Walker we now have a stair climber. This is for use when the lifts are out of action. Residents will have had the opportunity to try it out for themselves.

Jenny Hydes

Wellness Centre Working Group

Communications At the recent Wellness Centre Working Group the matter of communication between the residents and the village management was raised. Debbie requested that residents' Wellness Centre concerns and comments should ideally be routed via the Wellness Working Group.

Unless the matter is of an urgent or personal nature Hampshire Lakes residents are requested to raise any concerns or comments with me, currently the Working Group lead, on extn 4652.

Cleanliness. There will be a deep clean of the Wellness Centre on 28/29 March by outside contractors after the Centre has closed. There will be a new cleaning regime where the Centre will be cleaned for 1 hour

each day, out of hours, this should be starting soon.

Motomed. The demo was very well received, Keith is due to have a discussion with the SSAFA representative as soon as possible.

Steam Room. Unfortunately, the contractor ordered the wrong parts, hence the delay in the repairs.

Opening Hours. The expected new member of staff [Zack] will not be joining us, so opening hours will remain the same, *pro tem*.

Non-Resident Fees. The non resident fees will be increased by 15% to meet the increase in heating and staff costs. From May non-residents will pay £69 per month.

Keith Hall

HLRA Website

You can see Keith's videos of the St Patrick's eve dancers and the ukulele evening on the website: www.hlra.info

Keith Hall

Welcome

A new resident, Patricia Hodge, moved into 21 Birch Grove in March. We all hope you settle in quickly and enjoyably.

Internal Window cleaning

Jan will be cleaning internal windows at Hampshire Lakes on 6th April.

Please phone 07501 523736.

Cost £20, cleaning materials provided.

CLEANING WINDOWS IS A REAL PANE!

Lakes News

Our newsletter has now been issued to residents 73 times! We want it to remain a paper-based publication that you like to leave on the coffee table and dip into now and again - even back issues, because not all of it is of just ephemeral interest. Residents who need a large print version can ask for it. Sam has also started putting recent copies on the HLRA website, www.hlra.info, so those who prefer it in that form can pick it up there.

Oh, and by the way, do look at the updated red box on the back page. *Lakes News Team*

Hampshire Lakes Entertainment



Spirit of the Dance, Theatre Together

This vibrant show took us through dances from around the world including Scottish, Flamenco, Street dance, Can Can and the heart pounding thunder of Irish Dance. The show was much enjoyed with spectacular lighting, costumes and innovative choreography.

Maguire O'Shea Academy of Irish Dance

On St Patrick's Eve we welcomed students from this dance academy to celebrate with traditional Irish Dance. What a treat we had! Their foot tapping precise routines were riveting. The talented young dancers gave us an exhilarating display of synchronised dancing which we all loved. It was a special evening.

The Entertainment Group has been working to plan for the rest of 2023. We try to offer residents a congenial programme of entertainment, outings and theatre going.

Here follows a taste of what is planned so far:-

Theatre Together

12th April, The Mousetrap, Woking, matinee

28th April, Iceland Symphony Orchestra, The Anvil, evening

15th August, The Sound of Music, Chichester, day trip

4th October, Life of Pi, The Anvil, matinee

4th November, Sinfonia of London, Hollywood's Greatest Hits, The Anvil, Basingstoke.

Day trips

23rd May, Visit to Winchester with optional lunch at Rick Stein's restaurant

15th June, Visit to Bombay Sapphire gin distillery

11th July, River trip with afternoon tea, from Henley

5th September, Visit to Polesden Lacey

Special Hampshire Lakes Events

19th April, An evening with Abba, dinner

6th May, Coronation Celebration dinner with Harry Kersley tenor, and soprano

8th May Coronation tea party with Debi Hall.

28th June, Jazz in the Park, evening on the village green.

2nd August, Caribbean BBQ with Steel band.

September, Theatre Together Annual Dinner (Date TBC)

10th October, Spanish evening with Flamenco.

8th November, Casino night.

We look forward to seeing you!

Joan Russam, Jenny Hydes, Ruth Maynard, Janet McCombie, Jo Taylor, Chris Widman

Library News

Reminder. The library is there for everyone: no bureaucracy, 24/7 access, no need to sign books out and I am always pleased to be offered appropriate additions.

Book Club

The book club, too, is open to anyone who chooses to join us. The system is that we meet monthly to comment on any book we may have read. Often, regardless of how much we enjoyed it, this persuades others to read it too (and occasionally leads to a review here). We next meet **Thursday 6th April** at 11 am in the Library.

Let me mention "Between the Covers", again: Mondays at 7pm on BBC2.

Sarah Cox hosts it and she has 4 guests who review new books and bring along their favourite book. There are 6 episodes which started on March 13th. It's worth picking up on iPlayer. Something might be recommended that you would enjoy! *Diana Duckworth*

Book Review - A trilogy?

1. Richard Dawkins "The God Delusion"
2. Richard Dawkins "Outgrowing God"
3. Rupert Shortt "Outgrowing Dawkins"

I'm not sure if a trilogy has to have a single author but these three certainly go together. The God Delusion, published in 2006, is more erudite than the more populist follow-on (2019) which prompted Shortt's rebuttal. It's obvious what they are about. Whether you are atheist or religious they should get you thinking (and maybe investing in one or more of the other books by these authors). They are in the non-fiction part of the library.

Sam Dauncey

Car Theft

During our recent trip to Cape Town I had my handbag stolen. I was not mugged. I had put the handbag into the boot of the car at the house before driving to the beach for a walk and then to do some shopping at the Mall.

Everyone always tells you not to carry any bags when walking on the beach. It was a Sunday



and full of young surfers. As we walked away I pressed the button to lock the car. Half an hour later we came back and drove to the Mall. There I opened the boot to take out the handbag and found it had gone.

I drove straight back to the beach and asked the car guard, who is always there, whether he had seen anything. He said he had not but he had noticed a black Golf driving away. Apparently he had seen it a few weeks ago, when there was also a car theft. He called over the manager of the Mission (a place for young people to spend time by the sea and which has cameras trained on the car park). We could see our car arriving but because it was parked underneath a large tree, you could only just see the front, not the back. Meantime one of the surfers had called the police who came and explained that this is becoming very common:

the thieves check out people when they drive up. We were 4 greyhaired people, and they decided we probably had things in the car.

So when I pressed the button to lock the car, they were able to intercept the signal with a gadget they can buy on the internet, so that in fact the car was not locked. They told us always to press the button while still at the car and then try the doors to ensure the car is really locked. The police were very helpful, told us to go home and cancel our credit cards, and then they came to the house to write their report, and gave us a copy. It was a lesson to be learned for the future! Fortunately credit cards and driving licences could be reapplied for online. Sorting iPhones was a different story altogether and much more traumatic, although I did manage to mark them as lost. I knew that that would mean my data would have been erased once they cracked the password and connected to the internet.

Heidi Markham

Editorial Note. For more detail try

<https://www.driving.co.uk/news/features/six-ways-thieves-can-break-into-a-car-and-how-to-prevent-it/>

You can click/tap this link in the website version of the newsletter.

Sam Dauncey

ANNOYING THINGS, CAR KEYS - THEY'RE ALWAYS TRYING TO START SOMETHING.

Does your car start simply by having the key in the car so you don't put the key into the ignition? Another way of causing drivers grief as it's quite possible to arrive at your destination and then not be able to find the keys (hiding somewhere in the ink black interior) so you can't then lock it up!

Jenny Hydes

More Scams

Beware of scams by "Easy Life" and "Premier Promotions" who are associated. I fell into the trap as I have a Premier account with HSBC.

I thought it was connected to the Bank. I ended up buying a few items on line and did not realise that by buying from "Easy Life" I was automatically agreeing to an £18.50 every month subscription. Shortly afterwards I received a letter offering me a £5 voucher and discount on everyday essentials for which they wanted £74+ per year. It was only when the Bank contacted me that I realised something was wrong.

Pam Cuthbertson

Independent living?

What does Independent Living at Hampshire Lakes mean to you?

- Do you like to isolate yourself? You can (even if you sneak out now and again at night to get a book from the library)!
- Do you value the opportunity to organise people or events? Or do you prefer to sit back and be pampered? Take your pick!
- If you have a partner, do you like to do things separately but without being too far away from each other? Or do you prefer to socialise as "an item"? Feel free!
- Are you happy to stay within the Village most of the time? Or do you prefer to get out into Yateley and beyond? It's up to you!
- Do you like to make new friends? You can (I forget which famous actress it was who, when asked at what age women lose interest in sex, is reputed to have replied "It's no good asking me, I'm only eighty five"!)
- Accounts. Are they to be ignored, accepted or a challenge to your auditing skills? You choose!
- Do you enjoy the Bistro for the food or for the company? Take your pick!
- Are you hesitant to invite people to join your table? There's no need to be (especially if you've loosened up during Happy Hour!)
- Do you chat with others in Cotton's? You can (and you may even hear a joke you don't remember having heard before - particularly if your memory's fading!)
- Do you like helping people who are struggling or, if you are struggling, getting help from a neighbour? You can!

That's roughly what Independent Living means to me. What about you? *Sam Dauncey*

Reveille - change of guard

On 28th Feb. David Allen took over the Reveille set-up. I shall continue to attend and David has some good ideas for the future - with of course a lifetime career as a soldier.

If readers have knowledge of possible new members do please encourage them to come along.

Jonathan Martin

Note: Julie provided the Easter decorations at her own expense.

"The Piano" (again)

Last month I encouraged residents to watch this series which was on Channel 4 on a Wednesday evening. The series has finished and the 4 winning amateur pianists were invited to play in a concert at the Royal Festival Hall.

The pianists were very good but Lucy (the only girl) was outstanding and she was given a standing ovation by the audience with many people in tears. She is only 13 but has several disabilities including blindness and having very little speech. She played "Arabesque" by Debussy and brought the house down! Just to hear and see her is worth catching up with her performing at the concert, just put "Channel4 Lucy Piano" into the computer.

Diana Duckworth

Non-recyclable rubbish

Now we have the centre of each bin-lid open it is very easy to toss in a bag. Unfortunately this often results in the bin appearing to be full when there is plenty of space. Please push your bag to the sides and make room for lots more.

Thank you.

Wendy Wooldridge

Lost Property

- A pair of varifocal spectacles, dark red rims, not in their case. Probably left in the Bistro after a meal. They have not been handed in to lost property. If anyone has any information on their whereabouts please contact *Brenda Payn, 4640*
- I've lost a black hearing-aid box containing batteries, wax-removal wire etc. It probably just fell out of my pocket. *Sam Dauncey 4627*

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

We want it to inform, entertain and help keep everybody involved 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.