



LAKE NEWS

Hampshire Lakes Residents' Association

www.hlra.info

Click around the menus. There is lots to enjoy.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for **Saturday 1st July, at 10.30 am in the library**. All members are welcome to come as observers and will have the opportunity to comment or question.

Neighbourhood Watch

Many residents attended the talk held by our Police Community Support Officer David.

His presence here is a result of our concerns about the way the car park at the entrance of the village has been used for antisocial and illegal activities.

The more vigilant we are the less likely are unauthorised car users (who are trespassing) to come to our village. The idea of setting up our own Neighbourhood Watch scheme was suggested. Ideally the whole village should be represented. Go to ourwatch.org.uk to find out how to set up a scheme for our village.



Planning Application Appeal

At least 12 residents objected to the original planning application for a fence round the lakes adjacent to our village. The application was refused by Hart. The owner of the land has appealed against this refusal.

Thank you very much to Emrys who, helped by Brian Branson, got together a petition supporting Hart and their objections to the

fence. Over 70 residents have been able to sign this petition.

We hope to be able to work with the owner to find ways to develop his land which would be of benefit to all.

Jenny Hydes

MOTomed has arrived!

Thanks to the generous sponsorship from SSAFA and one of our residents we have been able to purchase the long awaited MOTomed Loop fitness equipment.

All the information about the equipment is available on the www.hlra.info website, there is also a whole page all about the device and what ailments it can help with at:

www.hlra.info/motomed/

Contact the Wellness Team on extn 590 or 01252 864590 to book an appointment to learn how to use the super new device.

Keith Hall

Food Bank

Please remember less fortunate local people when you are shopping and add a few items for the food bank. The donations container is in the post room in Oakleigh Square, along with **lots of other useful leaflets and posters**.

I suppose more folk will be needing it if they are hit with mortgage payment hikes. At least none of us are in that situation! Donations of money (via Reception and Heather) are also welcome and many of our lovely volunteer drivers donate what they receive for a trip.

Wendy Wooldridge

Warm welcome to . . .

Rosemary Westerby who has recently moved into 38 Oakleigh Square. We wish her a happy and active life here.

More on Cruising

I'm glad to know that Jim and Irene are now recovering from the trauma described in last month's "Cruise Warning".

Like many, including them, I've enjoyed cruising. The only time I had to use P&O's on-board medical services I found them OK and there was no difficulty in claiming from the insurance. I'm reminded, though, that the insurers probably promise only to reimburse your costs, not to organise everything. Being a couple made everything simpler for Belinda and me. I've no idea what happens if someone travelling alone on an ocean cruise is too ill to deal with any administration.

On our Saga river cruise, a passenger was hospitalised. Taxis took Saga staff several times between ship and hospital to check that all was well. "Absolutely routine" I was told, "it happens all the time".

A Saga hotel holiday in Spain saw my wife in hospital for a few days. Despite some misunderstanding about who was my insurer (which needed sorting out by my broker after we got home), all the payments required in Spain were painlessly dealt with by Saga so that there was no stress.

Sam Dauncey

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Reading the Cruise Warning write-up in June's Lakes News, we were very sorry to learn about Jim and Irene's awful experience. It must have been a horrible situation for them after so many years of enjoyable cruising.

Roger, my husband, and I have been fervent "cruisers" as well, for quite a few years now. We didn't start with this enthusiasm: just thought to do something like that later on in life. Being used to sailing our own boat across the Channel to France, Belgium and Holland for years, it was obvious that some people suggested we should take a cruise instead. But hell no, not for us, as yet!

However, after some thought we came to the conclusion that we should try it at least once to find out whether we would like it or not. So we booked our first cruise in 2010, to sail through the Panama Canal. Our reason was to see places where we would not normally go for a whole holiday. In this case we could visit countries in Central America, Columbia, Panama, etc. Well, in the end we really

enjoyed the whole experience and have been booking cruises ever since.

I must say that we both love exploring, meeting people and new cultures. It's amazing how things tie up from a historical point of view wherever you go in the world: through cruises and the many "land" holidays we've done over the years. From the Mediterranean, with its amazing sites in Europe and North Africa, the mystique of the Middle East, to the hustle and bustle in the Far East. There is the serene beauty of the Norwegian Fjords and the peace and quietness of the glaciers in Alaska. All fascinating, and the big advantage with a cruise is that you take your hotel with you. No packing and unpacking all the time. The ship offers lovely restaurants, serving good food, entertainment if you like, interesting lectures and you meet new and very often interesting people on the way.

Fortunately for us, so far we've never had a bad experience and hopefully we never will. It may not be for everybody, but meanwhile we carry on cruising.

Annet Pullen

"CAPTAIN, DO CRUISE SHIPS
LIKE THIS SINK VERY OFTEN?"
"NO, USUALLY ONLY ONCE."

Sydney and Alma Norman

On Tuesday 20th June, Brian Bishop and I went to visit Sydney and Alma Norman in their care/nursing home in Camberley.

They seem to have settled in well and to be well looked after.

Alma has dementia but is no worse. She recognised us but still forgot recent events.

Sydney however would not stop talking and his speech was a lot clearer than I remembered.

In part of the conversation he went into great detail about how the home's owners received £12000 a year from the government towards his care. He went on to multiply this by the number of residents to get the totals. "Once a business man, always . . . !!!!!." My life.

Unfortunately he has given his gold Rolex watch to his son, so I was unable to threaten to cut his wrist off to get it (which I have been threatening to do for years).

It was good to see Alma and Sydney again and I hope to visit again before too long.

Brian Branson

Thinking back

Not long after I left school I got a place in the local undertakers, Henry Smith in Battersea Park Road, acting as a sort of receptionist.

Once I had enough experience I met newly bereaved people in the front office and helped them to choose the sort of services they wanted. Coffins ranged from cheaper ones for cremations to the more expensive ones that some people chose for burial. There was a lovely white one for babies. Some wanted us to arrange elaborate receptions after the funeral. Others just invited friends back to their homes.

Just down the road was a separate building with the coffin workshop on the ground floor and quiet facilities for viewing ("laying in").

A matronly lady was our dresser, which let me off that hook. If people wanted to view, my job could include taking off and replacing the coffin lid and the cloth face-covering, checking the appearance, and giving the family as much or as little privacy as they wanted.

"How could you face those dead bodies?" I was asked in disgust, but to me there was nothing disgusting about them. Although seeing them may have brought back happy memories, they had just been left behind - there was no-one there, no consciousness, no responsibility.

Of course there was humour. Climbing the stairs from the workshop to the first-floor canteen I would get teased with comments like "I wouldn't recommend the liver today". And, lifting the coffin before one funeral, the pallbearers had quite a shock. They heard crying from inside it - some relative(?) had put a child's "I-cry-when-I'm-moved" doll there!

Shirley Phillip

Adopt a Tree

The hot weather seems likely to continue through the next few months. Combined with low rainfall, it is hard on trees, particularly those planted more recently, whose roots are not yet really deep down where moisture can always be found.

We have some great trees but some are not in or near the "gardens" we have made for ourselves and nobody thinks to water them along with their flower beds. In the past we have lost trees in the area at the corner of Hammond Way and Ker Walk as well as

similar areas which are not adjacent to "our" property.



Please consider adopting a tree or trees and keeping them watered.

I know we have a tap problem in some areas but there are hose extensions on site. You will be

benefiting our whole community if you help the trees survive.

Wendy Wooldridge

Library Update

Thank you to everyone who has donated books to the Library. Please keep them coming, especially recently published ones!

Could I remind readers to put returned books in the baskets provided **not on the shelves**.

Book Club

The Book Club is taking a break during July and August but will be meeting on Thursday 7th September at 11 am in the Library.

I look forward to seeing you all then!

If you enjoy reading why not come along and share your books with us. We would love to have more to discuss and borrow. We are unlike other book clubs where everyone discusses one book. We take books we have recently read and recommend them (or otherwise) for anyone to borrow.

Diana Duckworth

HP 364 ink cartridges.

I have had to replace my printer and am left with four HP 364 cartridges. If anyone has a printer which uses these they are welcome to have them. They are expensive and I hate the idea of wasting them.

Janet McCombie

Car Washing



Our leases prohibit car washing on site.

However Debbie has agreed that residents may wash their cars at a designated location: behind the boiler house at the end of Ker Walk, well away from public view. There is a water

supply there and, particularly at weekends, plenty of space.

Jenny Hydes

Hampshire Lakes Entertainment



On 15th June we had an interesting visit to the **Bombay Sapphire distillery** at Laverstoke Mill, Whitchurch, between Basingstoke and Andover. One of Hodges' new smaller coaches gave us a comfortable ride, the weather was good, the mill site, its greenhouses and its long history were impressive, the guided tour was informative, the emergency fire alarm was unexpected and the gin cocktails went down very well.

Sam Dauncey

Jazz on the Green

The weather forecasts leading up to 28th June had us biting our nails. Luckily, Joan Russam had decided it should stay fine, so the weather gods could do no more than glower! Another nostalgic musical success, going on until well after 8! Wow!

Sam Dauncey

Caribbean BBQ & Steel Band

Booking will open soon for our Caribbean evening on 2nd August!

The familiar sounds of a steel band originated in Trinidad in the 20th century when steel pans from the bottom of 55 gallon oil drums were hammered inwards to shape the steel to produce distinctive sounds when beaten with a drum stick.

We look forward to a relaxing evening of live music, rhythmic reggae and calypso and hope you will come along to the village green.

Caribbean dress optional! Book in reception.

Joan Russam

A milestone birthday

My family arranged a Limo for the day to take



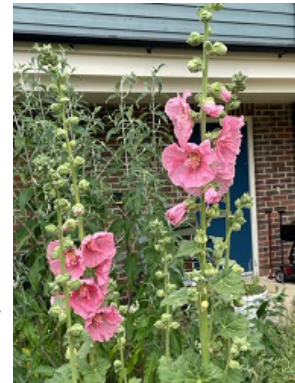
us all to London for a meal, then on to a theatre to see a new show and back home again.

It was so enjoyable and memories were made which will never be forgotten. *Pam Cuthbertson*

Hollyhock

A self-sown "weed" appeared recently outside John Wood's front door. It was nearly pulled out soon afterwards but someone recognised the leaves as Hollyhock.

Now look at it!



Walking for the Wards does pay !!!

On a hot and sunny Sunday Heather and I walked 5 miles up and down, and up and down, and more up and down the Surrey Hills,



partly in the Hampton Estate, near Seale, and partly on the North Downs Way. The scenery was lovely with lots of tree cover. The marshals very friendly and exceedingly helpful,

often giving up their seats for one of the tired pair! The ice cream at the end was a real 'life saver'.

Why did we do it? Well, as I told you last month, it was to raise money for Phyllis Tuckwell. Your generosity and the generosity of our other friends and families means that well over £1700 has been raised for this extremely worthwhile cause.

There will be another similar event next year – time for you to start practising - we'll sponsor you!!

Jo Taylor

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!

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Your contributions are our life-blood.