



LAKE NEWS

Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all at Hampshire Lakes.

Farewell to Debbie

We were sad to learn that Debbie will be leaving us at the end of the month.

Thank you so much, Debbie, for the support you have given to the village and your enthusiasm and commitment to improving the Bistro. We wish you well in your career and hope you are very happy in your new post.

Farewell to Philippa

Philippa is also leaving Hampshire Lakes after 6 years here to take up another position as manager of a wellness centre at another retirement village. Best wishes Pippa in your new post.

Library Update

The Book Club's next meeting is on Thursday 7th December. at 11 am in the Library. Everyone is welcome to come to chat about books they have read.

As there is limited space in the Library, the non fiction space has been reduced. All donated books are very welcome (once you've checked with me) but from time to time I will need to reduce some of the older paperbacks. It's good to see that the library is well used.

Are readers happy with the choice? I'd love to know!

I hope all keen readers are watching the BBC2 "Between the Covers". Programme at 7 pm on Mondays. A panel of 4 celebrities review newly published books as well as reviewing their own

favourite book. Really interesting ! If you miss the programme you can pick it up on BBC IPlayer.

Diana Duckworth

A warm welcome to

our new neighbour Franco Venditti in No.50.

Volunteer Drivers Scheme

This has been running now for 6 months. 132 requests have been answered. It is obviously a financial saving but it is also a great way to get to know your fellow Residents.

While filling in for Emrys I have noticed that asking for a lift too far ahead can be less productive than asking within a week or so. Our drivers are so good at watching WhatsApp that we have even had Drivers volunteer for the same day. I would suggest requests be made no more than 2 weeks ahead.

Grateful thanks to all our Volunteers and I wish you a task-free Christmas!

Wendy Wooldridge

Christmas gifts

Residents wanting to give a **Christmas gift** to staff should wrap it and take it to Reception. These parcels become prizes in a Christmas draw for staff to open together. All staff take part except for the Home Care team who have different arrangements.

Pub Games Nights

First and fourth Tuesdays, from about 7pm, when the bar is not open. Bring your own drinks, glasses etc.

Of course, you can practice secretly on the Darts board or Pool table whenever the area is free. How about potting a ball or two while you are waiting for your meal?

Zanussi

If you have Zanussi equipment in your kitchen the following may be of use.

1. If your washing machine fails to switch on and you rarely use the drier feature you may be able to get the machine to work by disabling the drier.
2. If you have issues with the Fridge-Freezer it may be that there is a build up of ice around the fan at the back of the freezer compartment. The ice can be removed if the cover panels are removed.

If you want further information, please get in touch.

Adrian Hobbs

Jan Oliver

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the sympathy and support I have received from so many people, residents and staff alike, here at Hampshire Lakes following the passing of my beloved wife Jan.

Moving here was probably the best decision of our lives. I don't know how I would have coped without so many understanding people around. I take comfort not only in your support but in the knowledge that Jan is now at rest and no longer in the pain that she suffered for so long.

Thank you all so very, very much. *Vic Oliver*

More thanks

I would like to thank everyone for the help and support I have been given while Michael was in hospital and during his recovery at home. It demonstrates how lucky we are living here where there is always someone to offer help with visiting the hospital, shopping and a shoulder to cry on!

Diana Duckworth

Hampshire Lakes Entertainment



Timeless Dance Band, 9th December

"Timeless" dance band will be returning to Hampshire Lakes by popular demand following their visit in September. Do join us again for this foot tapping fun evening with all those songs we know and love.

Book at reception

Christmas Tea Party with our roaming Red Hat magician, 18th December

A delicious party tea will be accompanied by magical entertainment from Danny, a close-up Magic Circle magician who will astonish us all when he comes to our tables with his original tricks.

Don't forget your Christmas raffle tickets, available from Ruth (4687) or Chris (4606). Thank you to all of you who have donated so far. To anyone who would still like to donate we would love to receive bottles of wine, a small Christmas pudding or Christmas cake anything edible which is Christmassy. Or if its easier for you, a little cash which will be used to buy something suitable for the hampers. No more jams thank you. Tickets will be drawn at the tea party.

Special thanks go to HLRA and HLE for their generous donations for this event, allowing residents to attend for only £10, payable in the bistro on the day. Because non-residents do not qualify for the subsidised price, they will be charged £24.50. **Important, sign up at Reception** so Paula knows how many to cater for. Numbers are limited.

New Year's Eve Dinner and Disco

Time to get out the glad rags again and polish up your dancing shoes! Do join us to welcome in the New Year; start the evening with a glass of bubbly followed by Mike's wonderful New Year menu! Our DJ will be playing all your favourites to get you on the dance floor until the chimes of Big Ben. Don't forget to have an afternoon nap! Book at reception

Thanks to all of you who so often support our events! *Joan Russam*

Theatre Together

The ABBA Voyage, 24 March 2024

Our **24th March** treat is fully booked but it might still be worth waitlisting yourself.

John and I were invited by my daughter to the Abba Voyage, which is in a building especially built for this purpose, just by the Olympic Park. We were not quite sure what to expect, so reserved our judgement although people had told us that it was 'quite fantastic'. Well, I have to say we were blown off our feet. My daughter had booked a "dancing booth" for 12 people at the top of the arena, which was divided into the dancing part and the seating part behind it. We ordered lots of wine,

photographs were not allowed once the show started, but we took two beforehand. The place was packed! The show was amazing - when they showed the Abba faces on huge screens you would have thought they were actually down there on the stage! All the visuals were just stunning. Not sure how they made it so real, but they did. Everyone, even those in the seats, were up and dancing at various points of the show. A lot of people had dressed up in



Abba clothes. What a show it was! Highly recommended despite the price, because it was well worth it.

Afterwards we went to the so-called pub next door, a temporary structure built for the show, and continued dancing for a while in the pub where the party continued. It was a great evening, something not to be missed, as this is the only Abba Voyage show in Europe at the moment.

Heidi Markham

Use it or lose it (part 4)

I'd not used the path to the south of River Valley Lake for the better part of a month (mostly living hedonistically on Saga's 'Spirit of Adventure'). It was encouraging to see that others had continued to use the path, keeping it pleasantly passable by slashing at impertinent plants that had tried to interfere.

Lakes News. As the red box on the back page says, Lakes News is "based on articles and stories **sent in by residents**". Most people say that they have nothing interesting to contribute but everyone has done something that most others have not. We offer you the chance to tell us about it. Use it or lose it. For example, why is it left to me to come up with the following? Surely you can do better!

Circumetnea

When our daughter was a teenager, Belinda and I took her with us for a holiday in Sicily. We spent one day on the scenic narrow-gauge Circumetnea railway. It carries workmen and

commuters (and more recently tourists) around much of Mount Etna. We joined it in Randazzo and went through orange orchards and old towns, through cuttings where lava which had buried the line had been bulldozed away, and down to Catania (where it disrupts traffic as it shares roads - we were bumped by a car).



On the way back, our daughter was a magnet (this is Italy, remember). Conversation was interesting. We had English, some French and a few words of German and Italian. The passengers spoke Italian and some German or French. The conductor/guard had Italian and a bit of all the others, including English.

At one station a chap jumped off and came back with a handful of oranges for us all (they were stacked loose in the station yard - like coal used to be stored at English stations). At another station, passengers were leaning out of the windows to see what was delaying us: the guard had insisted that we three get off with him to inspect the concrete sleepers, the very first concrete sleepers in Italy! *Sam Dauncey*

Yateley Remembrance Day Parade 2023

On this cold and damp (and at times rather more wet) Sunday afternoon I attended Yateley's Remembrance Day Parade and I just wanted to say that I was moved and impressed by this simple, sincere and special ceremony.

It was attended by many people, including representatives of the many service groups in Yateley. Young children from Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides, as well as school children and their teachers marched in less than perfect weather from the church to the war memorial. As did many families.

The children planted small crosses for each of the fallen service men from Yateley in two

World Wars and subsequent engagements, as their names were read out from the Roll of Honour.

Wreaths to remember individuals were also planted by various people including one 97 year old gentleman who is well known in Yateley.

The service at the War Memorial was short and simple, including the singing of "Abide With Me" and many people joining in the Lord's Prayer. It concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

The green outside "The Dog and Partridge" was full of people watching and joining in the ceremony. It was all very quiet and respectful. The atmosphere was very moving. *Brefni Bray*

Reasons to be cheerful

With parts of the world in turmoil the daily news is so hard to watch so the Lakes News team has started a list of reasons to be cheerful

1. Opening Jo's email every Monday and seeing all the fun activities which residents organise for themselves.
2. Fiona, the world's loneliest sheep, has been rescued. She has had a long needed haircut and is now on a diet as she put on so much weight in her period of enforced solitude.
3. The pool table is in the Bistro where it looks great and has livened up Happy Hour and Sunday lunches no end.
4. Nigel up the lamppost.



5. Laughter is good for your health. It boosts immunity, lowers stress hormones, decreases pain, relaxes muscles, helps prevent heart disease, adds joy and zest, eases anxiety and tension, improves mood, strengthens resilience and relationships, attracts others to you, enhances teamwork (so much for WFH), helps defuse conflict and promotes group bonding.

Condolences

We offer our sincere condolences to Emrys and his family on the death of Cherry. Such a sudden and unexpected loss is very hard on all of the family. We share your sadness and offer our full support at this sad time.

Prince Consort's Library

The Reveille Veterans visited the Prince Consort's Library in North Camp, Aldershot on 22/11/2023. They were given a briefing on its history. The library is in a very attractive building designed by the Queen's architect.



The Prince Consort's Library was gifted by HRH Prince Albert, Prince Consort in 1860, to enhance the education of army officers. The original donation was of 2000 books. Today, it is a specialist military library which supports all ranks of the Armed Forces as well as the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. It now holds over 70000 military books. These can be sent to any military site on request. *David Allan*

SHAME ON YOU. OUT OF 119 FLATS ONLY ONE ORGANISED A D.I.Y. DINNER IN THE BISTRO ON 25/11/23. EIGHT OF US HAD A SUPERB EVENING, PACKING UP TO GO HOME JUST BEFORE 10PM.

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. 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

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