



LAKE NEWS

February Fill-Dyke

124 mm of rainfall fell here in February - the wettest February since Heather started recording in 2017. Last year, she recorded only 7 mm!

Michael Bader

GM's News

There is good news on the recruitment of a driver for the minibuses. We have made an appointment and await the usual checks before he takes up his post. He will help the maintenance team as well as driving for the village.

The HLRA

The next committee meeting will be in the **library, Saturday 13th April at 10.30.** **This is a week later than normal.** As usual all residents are most welcome. The format is that the committee holds its meeting, with residents as observers. We ask observers not to interrupt the proceedings unless invited to do so by the chair.

Then the meeting is opened up for all residents to express their views or ask questions.

Note: By the way the May meeting will also be delayed a week: to 11 May. Modify your diary.

Jenny Hydes

Lakes News on the Internet

Did you know that you can read current and back copies of Lakes News on the Internet, or more precisely on the HLRA website?

Just type "hlra.info" into your browser or Google, click on "HLRA Homepage", then "Lake News" at the top of the page, to view the current as well as previous editions of our excellent village newsletter.

Keith Hall

Library Update

The Book Club's next meeting is on **Thursday 4th April at 11 am in the Library.**

Everyone is welcome to come to chat about books they have read.

On no account should unwanted books be dumped in the library! It means one of us, usually muggins here, has to trek to the bin with them.

Diana Duckworth

Maisie Dobbs again

Have she and her readers become a mini cult?

After a recent article in Lakes News there is now quite a 'following' of Maisie Dobbs fans. Keen readers are checking who has read which book.

The series is written by Jacqueline Winspear. Maisie is a psychologist-investigator who often solves crimes that baffle Scotland Yard.

Of the 20 books in the series one has mysteriously not appeared in the library for some time. If you have a copy of "A Dangerous Place" the group of Maisie Dobbs fans would love to read it. If you have read it and no longer need it, please ring Keith on extn 4652 who will ensure it remains in circulation, once he's read it!

Keith Hall

Council Tax

New council tax rates come into force from April 1st. Naturally they have gone up but did you know that if you live by yourself and are the sole occupant you will pay 25% less than a couple. So make sure you have this discount. It should show up on the letter which came from Hart earlier this month.

Jenny Hydes

The purpose of tax changes is to win elections.

Egyptian Goslings

What a surprise! Seven of them in Swan Lake, not far from the nest.



The parents were very protective of them and soon chased away an inquisitive crow.

Let's hope that they survive. *Michael Bader*

How we met our Match

Tell us how you met your partner. Just send up to 300 or so words to any of the people at the bottom of the page. So far one hundred and sixteen flats have not responded to this idea! You could make it 115.

How I met my Mine (or love in the lab)

I read chemistry at a University where there were 2000 males and 60 females. Spoilt for choice you might think! Not my types!



The first summer vacation I was given work-experience at BP Research Laboratories. I walked into the lab I was assigned to and saw David. It was truly love-at-first-sight on my part. I had eight weeks to see off a couple of ladies there whom he was dating. David proposed that Christmas and we married when I graduated.

BP sent a report to my Uni on my work there. They commented that I was shy!

Wendy Wooldridge

A Proposal - Advice needed!

Recently we had to call 999. The Ambulance came quite quickly and the Paramedic advised that a visit to Frimley Park Hospital's A & E was necessary.

During the drive to the hospital I asked the Paramedic where his Ambulance was based. He said it was in Farnborough which suited him well, as his house was in Yateley. Then I asked him if he was married. He looked a bit sheepish and said he lived with his girlfriend but was trying to pluck up courage to ask her to marry him! I asked what was holding him up and he said he didn't know her ring size! I suggested perhaps he could ask a friend to help find this out but he explained that she didn't wear any rings as she was a nurse and rings couldn't be worn at work. I then suggested perhaps he should ask her and suggest that they could both go to the jeweller's to choose a ring together. He agreed that would be a solution to his problem!

At this point we arrived at the hospital and we wished him good luck. I would love to know whether my advice was taken but I would rather not have to call an Ambulance to find out!

Diana Duckworth

Hampshire Lakes Entertainment



St Georges Day 23rd April

We very much look forward to welcoming The Thames Valley Chorus, a male voice choir who sing in stunning harmonies with energy and enthusiasm. They offer both contemporary and traditional songs including wonderful Barbershop numbers. Do come and enjoy what promises to be a great evening.

Book at reception

ABBA Voyage, a dazzling extravaganza

One evening last September during Happy Hour, Ann Chelley suggested to me that we consider booking for this well reviewed show in London. I agreed to think about it but later shared with Jo Taylor my serious doubts about whether residents would respond. How wrong I was!

The earliest I could get a block of good seats was five months away and at a high price. However, the tickets sold out in two days!

So began the planning of our most ambitious Theatre Together venture.

On 24th March 26 residents stepped back in time and into the future, experiencing this mind blowing, fantastic show featuring 290 speakers, 500 moving lights and of course Abba, unbelievably as they were in 1979.

Special thanks to Ann, Janet, Jo, Chris and the HLE team.

Joan Russam

Cruising: A Happier View



After reading a report of a bad cruise experience in Lakes News, I would like to share a little about an extremely successful holiday with Saga Ocean Cruising.

Our luggage was collected from our front door and our taxi took us to board The Spirit of Discovery in Portsmouth. Check-in was smooth and I was soon shown to my immaculate cabin on E deck. All cabins have their own balcony and an en-suite gleaming and spacious bathroom.

Wandering around trying to navigate to find the promised cuppa was slightly daunting but fellow passengers and crew were all happy to point me in the right direction. By the time I found my way back to my cabin my bags had arrived and everything was soon stowed away in the plentiful drawers and cupboards.

The next morning I was shocked to wake up feeling slightly sick in the rolling sea. A hunt for medication found the last-minute purchase of some Stugeron, which quickly calmed down my stomach.

The following three sea days gave me time to find my way around Discovery and decide how I wanted to spend my time. After breakfast in

my cabin (unsociable I know but delightfully lazy) I could choose deck games, reading in the well-stocked library, walking around the deck, Spanish lessons, art class, Bridge lessons, chatting with new friends over coffee or absolutely nothing at all!

The food served on board was superb. From self-served lunch to afternoon tea, and then Dinner in the evening, everything was delicious, beautifully presented and served by obliging and smiling waiters. Wine was inclusive from a generous wine list and glasses topped up as required. I never quite got used to ending my meal with no need to sign for anything. In addition to the regular luxurious dining rooms there were 3 other specialist dining venues where booking was required, but still at no extra cost. Incredibly the food in the two restaurants I tried was of an even higher standard. The Lobster Thermidor was so good I went back again, simply too good to miss!

I could go on, but I won't! We enjoyed the trip tremendously, despite the weather, not because of it, and even continued to feel safe when a Force 9 storm chased us home.

Sometimes on holiday we literally have to take the rough with the smooth, but I would not like those thinking of cruising to be put off by other people's bad experiences. I had a wonderful holiday and, apart from a disastrous hairdo, had nothing to complain about. I have to admit to being rather grumpy since I came home. I am struggling to make my own bed, cook my own food and then clear up after it! In fact, I have booked to cruise with Saga again in September. Bon Voyage! *Janet McCombie*

Volunteer Drivers Scheme

Remember, Emrys (4593) has resumed his role as coordinator. He is now the one to approach for bookings. And thanks to Wendy for doing such a wonderful job while Emrys was off.

Fashion Show for SSAFA

1st May 2024, 7pm, Bistro

Tickets for our Spring Fashion Show (£5) are available from me or from Reception.

Don't forget to bring some cash for the raffle.

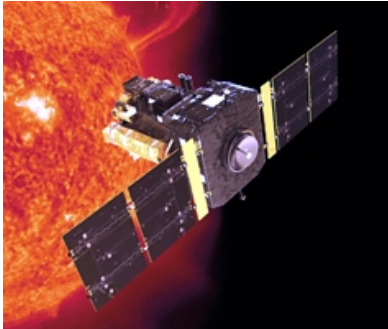
We all thoroughly enjoyed the last one and the money raised goes to SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity.

David Allan

S.T.E.M.

Irony, isn't it. STEM is now used widely to stand for 'Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths'.

But way back (in the 'seventies, I think) I led a proposal to the European Space Agency, ESA, for a feasibility study on a spacecraft for scientific and engineering research related to



the Sun and its effect on us. Part of the requirement was to come up with a name for the project and I called it STEM (Solar Terrestrial Experimental

Mission). I'd looked in dictionaries to find meanings like 'the main trunk of a tree', 'the prow of a ship', 'the root of a word', 'to make headway against the tide', 'the support of a wine glass', 'the winder of a watch', 'ones ancestry' and even 'a turning point' (in skiing). It went down with the customer like a ton of bricks: "I don't want my spacecraft called a bunch of bananas"!

But he didn't, apparently, mind it being called after a sleazy bit of London. ESA finally chose 'Solar and Heliospheric Observatory' SOHO.

Sam Dauncey

Weekend with a difference

Heathrow T4, a Friday evening in the 1980s and a small group of BOAC colleagues gathered at check-in, clutching their staff standby tickets, hoping to get on the 747 to Africa.

They made it after a tense wait and soon were airborne to Nairobi. Suddenly it was morning, in the airport arrivals hall - sunny, noisy and instantly Kenyan.

Then straight on to the Nairobi Game Reserve for the whole day, lapping up the sights and sounds of the varied wildlife. After a full day it was back to the airport for the return flight, a bit weary but excited by the day in the big continent.

Gliding into London's main airport on the Sunday morning it was grey and drizzly. Then

home in time for a few jars at the local before lunch with the family.

It had the edge on a couple of nights at Southend - but it was back to work the next morning.

Johnathan Martin "Speedbird".

The Ghetto?

Am I right to think that some of the residents who live outside Oakleigh Square look on it in the same light as many people in Yateley see our whole village: almost as a care home that they have no need of? A care home, Willow Gardens, does take up some of the first floor (managed by a different part of Anchor) and a few of the apartments have limited kitchens and no washing machine (under the assumption that their occupants will be buying their main meal, laundry, cleaning and/or utilities through a fixed price service package).

But the rest of the building contains normal apartments and it houses all the indoor communal and administrative facilities, too.

You can read the papers in Reception, socialise over morning coffee, enjoy lunchtime bar meals/snacks and buy basic supplies from Cotton's, to say nothing of using the Wellness Centre, posting your mail, having your hair, nails or bad back seen to, borrowing books, jigsaws etc from the Library or the Activities room and seeing all sorts of useful information there and in the Post Room (where you can contribute to the Yateley Food Bank).

And I hope you are not one of the people contributing to a vicious spiral in the Bar and Bistro by not using them.

Sam Dauncey

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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