



LAKE NEWS

New Year Issue

Resolutions?

THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF TEMPTATION IS TO YIELD TO IT

Sam Dauncey, from a box of Chicchi di Caffè

Hello 2022

This year's New Year's Eve party went with a swing.

Music and dancing was the order of the day and most residents dusted off their dancing shoes and took to the floor. How is it that we remember all those old songs so well?

Even though numbers were a little depleted from previous years there was much fun and jollity.



During the evening Seb was presented with a leaving gift from residents and we all wished him the best of luck for the future. The amount collected was £400.

Our Head Chef Mike and his team prepared an excellent meal which was served with style by our bar staff and Paula. Our thanks to everyone.

A good time was had by all, Happy New Year!

Joan Russam

Harp and Tea

Everyone who came to the Festive Tea on December 16th was very pleased to welcome Margaret Watson again, to entertain us with her harp. It was 21 months ago, just before the first

lockdown, that her initial visit was so successful that the HLRA just had to invite her back.

This time she played an assortment of music including Christmas carols and reminded us a little about the



workings of the harp, her almost lifetime interest in it and the practicalities of getting around with one. A truly talented lady!

Our thanks go to Paula and her staff who then brought out a delicious tea of sandwiches, scones and cakes. This was followed by the drawing of the raffle. Thank you to those who donated prizes. They were much appreciated by the winners!

Diana Duckworth

Christmas Day Lunch

As soon as crackers were pulled and Prosecco consumed the bistro filled with the sounds of people in 'gold crown' cracker hats enjoying silly jokes and tucking in to a Christmas feast. Well done, again, to the kitchen and front-of-house staff.

Sam Dauncey

Residents Association

Email Addresses

The HLRA will be asking members with email addresses if they would be happy for me to give my list to Hampshire Lakes management. This should allow them to circulate information quicker. Nasar will provide me with information about how they plan to maintain the privacy of the email addresses.

TV licence concession

The management at Hampshire Lakes has successfully applied for residents to qualify for a concessionary TV licence, under the Accommodation for Residential Care (ARC) scheme.

This means that for any household, where there is a resident aged 75 or over, a free Television licence can be obtained. Where there is no resident over 75, a concessionary licence can be purchased for £7.50.

Where residents have already purchased a current TV licence, a refund is due for the remaining whole months. The scheme is administered by Hannah at Reception, so enquiries should be addressed to her.

Information about residents has been supplied to TV Licensing, who should be writing to each household to provide advice about obtaining a licence and a refund.

Adrian Hobbs

Newcomer's Thoughts

In July 2021 Astrid and I had no plans to move from our bungalow in North Ascot, but when a retirement village brochure landed on the doormat, a latent thought must have been awoken. We did visit 3 'villages' but never actually went to the site from the first brochure.

On our first visit to Hampshire Lakes we had the exciting tour of the facilities by Tracey, and a warm welcome from our potential neighbours. There was no looking back and we signed on the dotted line within a few weeks. From not having any plans to move to measuring our furniture and planning our downsizing it was all systems go.

The moving day came and everything went so smoothly, we managed to lower the sauna temperature in the apartment by turning down the thermostats and leaving all the

windows open. A visit from Nigel corrected my messing up of reprogramming of the heating system, it's still warm and cosy and we're not missing our wood-burner!

Within a few hours we had more welcomes from our lovely neighbours, Friday nights became a must and we started underlining the names of all the lovely people who said "you must be Astrid and Keith, I'm". Our hope was to join a vibrant community and Hampshire Lakes has certainly surpassed our expectations.

Do we have any complaints, are there any regrets? Certainly not, everything has been wonderful. We have enjoyed several of the events in the Bistro, the New Year's Eve event was exceptional, any over-indulgence has been successfully mitigated by regular trips to Aqua Fitness or at the Gym Circuit Training.



I thought I might like to have a game of table tennis but it was scheduled to be on at 4 o'clock after the Wellness Centre closed. Foolishly I rang up to enquire and was instantly 'volunteered' to organise a restart of the group in January; in the Army I was taught 'never to volunteer', so well done Pippa for volunteering me.

So, what's next, we hear that Chelsea Gardens is a sight to be enjoyed so once the warmer weather arrives, we will be looking forward to wine and fish and chips in the garden, we've got the garden chairs ready.

To everyone in Hampshire Lakes community and of course the staff thank you for being so welcoming. See you in the bar! *Keith Hall*

"DWELE ON THE BEAUTY OF LIFE. WATCH THE STARS, AND SEE YOURSELF RUNNING WITH THEM." *Marcus Aurelius*

PLEASE

Can we make 2022 the year when we will not put any plastic except topless bottles in the recyclables? If you take them in a plastic bag you need to empty it into the bin and dispose of the bag in the rubbish. If you are not sure which bin any article should go in, put it in the black, non-recyclable bin. *Wendy Wooldridge*

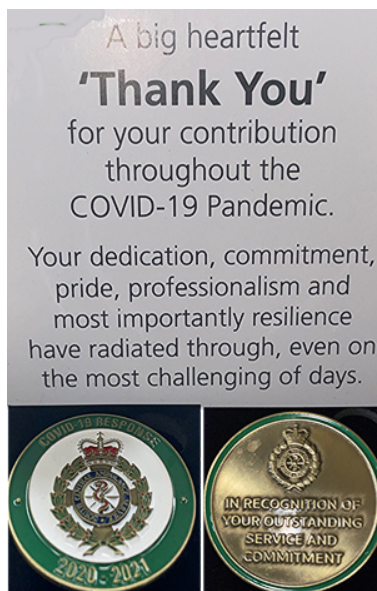
Condolences

We are sad to learn that Shirley Wing's husband, Ron, died on New Year's Eve. He had a peaceful end. The funeral will be at 2:30 on Jan 27th at the Easthampstead crematorium and afterwards here. Shirley would welcome your support, but for planning the catering she would like to be told if you are able to come. *Lakes News Team*

Congratulations, Trevor,

on your award from South East Ambulance.

Trevor has worked tirelessly during the pandemic to support South East Ambulance in his role as a first responder and this medal is in recognition of his contribution.



Reveille

Reveille is alive and trumpeting. Our December meeting welcomed Kay Cook (QUARANC), Keith Hall and Sam Dauncey - we now number 16 and expanding.

In December some of us enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Medical Services Museum at Ash Vale. At our regular December meeting we learned about midnight marching in Nigeria

with Mike Duckworth of the Royal West African Fighting Force and his Unit's participation in the Royal Durbar for HM The Queen during his assignment - including colourful tribal rituals by thousands of people - and the Royal Rolls Royce for good measure (even if it did break down).

The January gathering featured recollections by Brian Bishop of the Royal Navy.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 1st February at 1800 hrs** in the library - more recruits are most welcome - any HM Forces connection counts - not just National Service conscripts like myself. *Jonathan Martin*

Books

8 of us enjoyed the **Book Club** meeting this month and we were very pleased to welcome Astrid Hall into the group. Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 3rd February 11 am** in the Library.

Library

I am very grateful for book donations but I would appreciate it if you have books to donate you would contact me before leaving them in the Library (4659)

As it's only a small library there is limited shelf space, so there are only a few non fiction books. Most of the shelf space is given over to fiction, hard- and paper-back books and I am always pleased to add up to date donations to this section. *Diana Duckworth*

Goodbye and Good Luck

We said a sad farewell to Seb (Sebastian Daniels) on 2nd January. He was a popular member of the Bar and Bistro staff for nearly 5 years, always cheerful and helpful and prepared to go the extra mile (I remember his 6ft 6ins frame riding a small mobility scooter back from the parking in the corridor to its owner at the end of a meal!).

When Seb left school he had no clear idea of what he wanted career-wise. He drifted into retail, working in shops such as Sainsbury's and Legoland, then changed to hospitality. Now he plans to check out a few other possibilities, maybe taking a course relating to business studies. We all wish him very well wherever he goes. *Wendy Wooldridge*

"FOR GREATNESS, STOP ASKING PERMISSION"

Kew at Christmas . . .

. . . is always a special occasion. Despite the fact that my grandchildren are now 15 and 12, they still enjoy going there every year.

This year the trail was longer than usual - it took about 90 mins to walk it, although if you'd stopped for drinks or food it would have taken longer. There were plenty of benches and seats along the trail though, if you needed to sit down.

What was special this year was that almost all of the lights were timed with spectacular music - a very 'christmassy' light show it was indeed. The most spectacular ones involved the Temperate and the Palm Houses.



Our entry was at 7.30, so it was not too crowded and - if we had not eaten beforehand at the children's favourite Chinese restaurant on Kew Road - you could have booked in one of the restaurants. A lot of people had the take-aways from the Christmas market huts that were spaced out along the trail, as was the spectacular Champagne Bar.

Plenty of Gluehwein for the adults and hot chocolate for the children. The ever popular Marshmallow fire pits were also there as were some rides.

We will most certainly go back again next year.

Heidi Markham

Eating Out

For those new to the area it might be useful to have some pointers to some pub restaurants in easy reach of Hampshire Lakes. Obviously the rating is my own, and other people might rate differently. But those I have listed have been visited several times in order to assess consistency in their dishes. All these can be Googled to check out their menus/prices.

So here are my **Pubs** choices:



The Greyhound in Finchampstead. It used to be a pub with a restaurant and now, with the new owners, is a restaurant with a bar area. The food is consistently good, above average for the area, and that is reflected in the prices, which are a little higher than other good pub restaurants. Friendly service and they specialise in English wines. There is a small farm shop next door.

Chequers in Eversley - a good menu, friendly service and value for money.

Heron on the Lake, Fleet - a fun evening or - in the summer - lunch out sitting right on the lake. They serve tapas type foods, for sharing, and are very reasonable. Service can be a bit slow, but the location is very good.

The Crown and Cushion, Minley - This is good for lunch or dinner, more of a pub food menu. They serve a great value for money buffet on a Sunday in the Mead Hall, which is very good. Just don't have the liver - it is not cooked well!

The Phoenix in Hartney Whitney - Again another pub food menu, but perfectly acceptable.

Restaurants next month!

Heidi Markham

TURNING VEGAN IS A BIG MISSED STEAK.

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

We try to inform, entertain and 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?

samdauncey@live.co.uk and
jennyhydes@icloud.com

Your contributions are our life-blood.