



Nursery ponds in Swan Lakes

LAKE NEWS

Easter Greetings

THERE ARE ALWAYS FLOWERS FOR
THOSE WHO WANT TO SEE THEM.

Henri Matisse (from Sam Dauncey)

"So, Easter commemorates when Jesus hid
eggs for the disciples to find, and then he
turned all the rabbits into chocolate, right?"

Anon (from Sam Dauncey)

Welcome

We've several new residents to welcome:

- Roger and Pauline Pearce, 8 Pine Bank
- John Rivière, 61 Oakleigh Sq
- Patricia Ophaus, 24 Beech Grove
- John Baily, 69 Oakleigh Sq

With the disruption of Christmas and New
Year we were remiss in failing to welcome

- Molly and Keith Ruffles, 15 Lime Court
who moved in just before Christmas.

We hope you will all enjoy your new life at
Hampshire Lakes (and that we will soon see
your name against a Lakes News item).

We have a new Wellness Instructor to
welcome, too. **Nathan Maggs** started here
in mid March. Before joining Hampshire
Lakes he was 'personal training' for a club in
Basingstoke. He will be doing a bit of
everything with us and is particularly
interested in re-habilitation. He's keen on
football and cricket, too, but don't hold your
breaths for Hampshire Lakes teams to appear!

Lakes News Team

Residents Association

Ukraine Disaster Appeal

The Hampshire Lakes Residents Association
collected donations at three recent events:
Happy Hour, the Thomas Crown Affair film
show and a special Coffee Morning. Debbie
arranged for a Ukrainian flag to be flown from
Oakleigh Square and a banner was erected in
the Bistro. The coffee morning was funded by
Hampshire Lakes and the kitchen provided
biscuits and cakes.



Our Ukrainian neighbours, Nikolai and
Tetiana Fenyk, joined us for the coffee
morning with their young daughter Nika.

In total, £1300 was collected from residents
and this was donated to the Disaster Appeal
through the British Red Cross, in association
with John Lewis Partnership. John Lewis
agreed to double the donation and we were
able to take advantage of Gift Aid, which
increased the total further. On behalf of the
HLRA, I should like to thank all those who
gave a donation.

Adrian Hobbs

Country & Western Night



A brilliant evening on 9 March with Debi and Annabelle. Keith Hall made a video of it:
<https://youtu.be/kSFGDT9keo4>

South Africa

On our recent visit to Cape Town, John and I were lucky to have visited Boulders Beach, near Simon's Town, which has the largest colony of African penguins. There are other colonies in South Africa, but mainly on islands, of which Robben Island is one.

It was only in 1982 that a couple of these penguins were spotted on Boulders Beach, having come from one of the other colonies on the South African coast. There are now approx 3,000 birds in this colony. We were there in the breeding season and saw many of them sitting on their nests.

It is still possible to swim with the penguins but the whole area is now a part of the SA



parks and you have to pay an entrance fee to go to the beach area. The authorities built breeding huts for the penguins but most of them seem to prefer digging their own shallow burrows where they lay their egg to nest, and

many are close to the Boardwalk fence. They do not seem perturbed by the humans walking past them and taking photographs, but watch out: go too close and you might experience their vicious bite!

Our rented accommodation in Noordhoek, a suburb of Cape Town, is situated at the beginning of the Constantia Wine Route. All in all there are approx 25 vineyards on this route, all of them offering wine tastings and most of them with superb restaurants. The route goes up and over the mountain, ending up in Hout Bay. We were able to visit most of them during our 6 week's stay and enjoyed many good bottles of wine, often with exquisite food. Given that currently there are 20 Rand to 1 GBP, it was extremely good value for us.

Many of the vineyards have inside and outside dining, and have splendid views over the various wine estates. The one closest to us, Cape Point Vineyard, has a weekly 'Food Market' where there are many different food stalls and you buy one of their bottles and then settle down at a table and get whichever food you fancy. It is all extremely informal and you quickly get into conversations with people who join your table (or you join theirs). It is casual but with a great atmosphere and - as always - the views are spectacular.

Heidi Markham

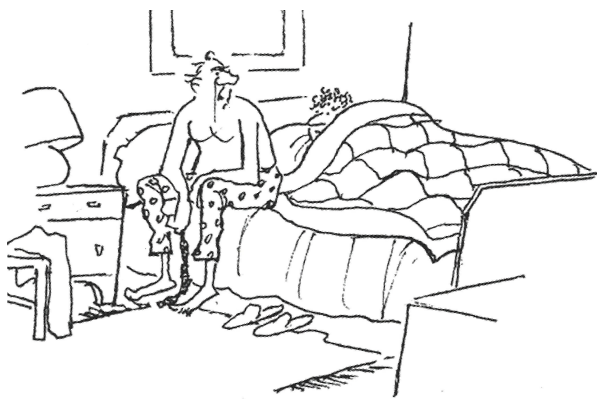
Reveille

At our February get-together John Paine gave us a colourful account of his times on Dartmoor and in Malta, Cyprus and Libya. On 29th March Keith Hall recounted some of his 40 plus years in their Majesties service. **The April meeting will be on April 26th, 1800 hrs.** See you then. *Jonathan Martin*



Why we are always so happy

John Paine



Remind me. Am I getting up or going to bed?

John Paine

Speedbirds

Took off on 16th Feb 2022. Aborted take-off on 15th March as I was stuck in A and E.

Next flight 12 April, library, 1800 hrs.

All airline people welcome.

Jonathan Martin

A Japanese evening

Ten of us travelled in cars to Woking Theatre looking forward to the experience of Puccini's "Madama Butterfly" performed by the Ukrainian National Municipal Opera of Kyiv.

Korean Elena Dee who sang the lead part Cio-Cio-San was a delightful Madama Butterfly. but our emotions caught up with us after the finale when the cast brought the Ukrainian flag onto the stage and then sang their national anthem. The whole theatre stood and clapped, not a dry eye in the house!

Exiting the theatre's Blue car park was another experience! We had parked on the 4th floor and it took at least another 1/2 hr to leave the car park! Has anyone any suggestions as to where the best place is to park for the theatre?

Diana Duckworth

Avoid Inheritance Tax

This may be politically incorrect and also a bit late for us. Advice for our grandchildren?

Marry twice. A 20 year old should first marry a 60 year old. From the young woman's point of view she can be assured of her new financial situation, not risk her older husband dedicating himself too much to work (or affairs when he is away on business) and she can bear and look after their children at a biologically ideal age.

As for the older man, he can enjoy the company of wife and children, be invigorated by his young partner and bring his greater experience to the marriage.

When he dies, leaving everything to his then middle-aged wife, she has finished child-rearing, becomes financially secure and can enjoy pairing up with a virile young man. Her own children will by then have their own lives. To her second marriage she can bring experience and financial backing, be invigorated by her younger mate and possibly help him in his work. He will be free to concentrate single-mindedly on his career without the worries and concerns of mortgages or bringing up a family, confident that his wife has the experience to run the family side of things - real advantages over a conventional marriage.

And the beauty is that not a penny goes to the Inheritance Tax Office.

Sam Dauncey

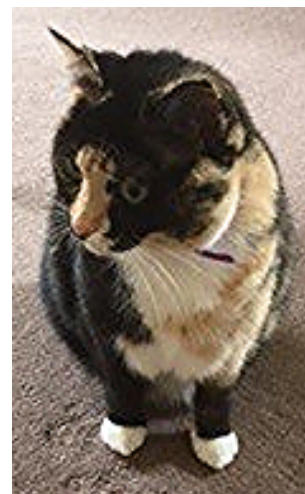
Life at Hampshire Lakes

Hi, I'm Pixie. Judith Rodgers adopted me 16 months ago when I was three. I was living with 6 other cats and four children in a flat. I had had two litters of very beautiful kittens but Judith has taken me to the vet so I won't be having any more.

When I first came to Hampshire Lakes I was terrified and either hid in a wardrobe or under a duvet. I did this for a very long time but I did come out to find my food and dirt box. I had a horrible experience when Judith put me in a cage, she told me I had to go in there because I kept jumping on the kitchen work surfaces and could have broken my stitches after my operation. A nice kind lady called Debbie came in my cage and rearranged it for me so I felt safe.

I am now settled in my home and like sitting on Judith's lap. I sometimes go and see if Pam is at home next door but I am still very, very frightened of men and carrier bags.

Rapporteur, Judith Rodgers



Connection and a delivery!

Since we moved into Hampshire Lakes last November, we have not had a reliable Broadband service provided by Sky and Openreach. We have taken delivery of replacement Routers, we have had visits from various Sky and Openreach engineers, both male and female, all without success.

Sky provides an App so you can check if your broadband is working, when it is not you are asked to call Sky! Well, I think I know all the telephone support staff personally, I have rung them so often.

This week we both caught Covid so staying at home was our only option, the previous engineer said we needed a replacement Router (that will be our third), so the next time I rang Sky they said they would send a replacement. This is when the fun started, the first delivery didn't arrive, they couldn't find us, so I downloaded the DPD App (other couriers are also available) and typed in detailed instructions on how to find us, Stop Sign turn right etc.

On the second delivery date, that also failed, the driver sent me a nice photo of Ron and Carol's patio with the glass screen, very nice but not our apartment!

To cut this story short, after 3 or 4 calls to DPD customer services I was assured that they had my detailed delivery instructions and the driver will be back tomorrow. Well guess what, no delivery but we did see the DPD van drive away over the bridge, and I received another photo of someone else's front door.

After some more calls to a lovely lady at DPD I was assured, the driver would be back. Astrid saw the van come over the bridge; mask on, hat and coat on (it was raining) I raced to the Stop Sign and there was the driver, looking lost.

I said I am Keith from 43 can I have my package, the driver said he only had a SATNAV and did not have any written instructions. Back home to unpack our new Sky Router.

I expect you are wondering whether all this hassle was worth it and is our Sky Broadband now working? Back in January I was adamant the fault was not inside our property, well, at the time of writing – yes, it is working.

The 4th Openreach engineer found a connection problem in the little box outside our front door, it's been working for 4 days now without a problem, our fingers are still crossed!

Keith Hall

Parking space to rent

Reserved space available in Oakleigh Square.

Please contact Micaela Dell'Osso on extension 4758 if this interests you.

Book Club

Our next meetings will be Thursday, 7th April and Thursday 5th May in the Library at 11am.

Look at Anchor's monthly programme.

More Smiles from Janet

Notice outside a Funeral Home:

"Drive carefully. We'll wait."

On a Plumber's van:

"We repair what your husband fixed."

On a Taxidermist's window:

"We really know our stuff."

From Janet McCrombie

BaderHydes Walks

In April, Michael and Jenny hope to restart the local walks that were so enjoyable last year. Register your interest with Michael, phone 4643, mike.bader@btinternet.com or, after 20 April, with Jenny, 4607.

I GO TO THE WELLNESS CENTRE
ONLY BECAUSE I REALLY, REALLY
LIKE CHEESE AND BISCUITS.

Sam Dauncey

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?

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Your contributions are our life-blood.