



LAKE NEWS

Residents Association

Important Notice. The Committee meeting scheduled for 7 May has been cancelled. The library is reserved for a private meeting.

Adrian Hobbs

£150 tip from Nasar?

Nasar asks us to warn you that there are scammers claiming to be able to expedite the payment of the £150 energy credit due to those in Council Tax bands A to D.

Do not divulge any personal information or press phone buttons. For further clarification visit

<https://www.hart.gov.uk/the-council/news/support-energy-price-rises-council-tax-rebate>

If you pay your Council Tax by direct debit the credit will be made directly to your account by Hart, starting around the end of April. Otherwise the Council will write to you individually.

Lakes News Team

Theatre Together

On March 30th a coach load of us went to Woking to see the London production of Singin' in the Rain. What a delight it was! Marvellous singing and choreography including of course the iconic Gene Kelly number with 6,000 gallons of water making a spectacular scene. Luckily we didn't need mackintoshes as we were not in the front rows!

On the 21st April we were off to Woking again to see Matthew Bourne's The Nutcracker and my goodness, Matthew did not disappoint us! A Nutcracker like you've never seen before!

A production full of humour, colour, energy, wonderful costumes. A real fizz of a show.

Marshmallow girls, flamenco dancing liquorice allsorts and sugar plum fairies like you couldn't imagine.



All this combined with quirky choreography and the tuneful Tchaikovsky score, gave us a memorable afternoon.

Joan Russam

Entertainment

We enjoyed a South African movie night in the Bistro on 6th April, having a bobotie-themed meal, and watching the 1964 film "Zulu"



starring a young Michael Caine. The film was as colourful and exciting as ever and to some extent compensated for serious problems in the kitchen.

The Barbershop dinner planned for 20th April was sadly cancelled at the last minute due to an outbreak of Covid in the choir, but has been re-scheduled for Tuesday 24th May, a date for your diary.

Joan Russam

Are you interested in seeing good amateur theatrical productions?.

If so, see me at the Coffee Morning and/or Happy Hour on Friday 6th May.

For more detail about the theatre I have in mind, including its future programme, visit <https://www.wokinghamtheatre.org.uk>

Sam Dauncey

The Bistro

Those of us who use the Bistro on a regular basis will be aware that during recent weeks the quality and consistency of meals has given cause for concern.

It's not an easy challenge to provide food of a consistently high standard but Mike and his team strive to achieve the best for us and take this matter very seriously. Following discussions with Debbie, a review of suppliers is taking place and a new-sous chef is to be appointed.

Debbie has offered an apology to residents and we agreed it would be helpful if more diners completed the feedback forms: it's useful to hear what you like and dislike and unless we tell the food team they cannot respond. Debbie reads all the forms and shares the comments with Mike.

Let's not forget the many great dinners we have enjoyed and look forward to more happy wining and dining together. *Joan Russam*

The Bar on Tuesdays

Limited use of the bar on Tuesdays is leading to a fortnightly rather than a weekly service. I fear that having to remember not only that it is Tuesday but also which Tuesday will sound a death-knell.

Would you prefer a different evening?
Different hours? As they say, "Use it or lose it"
Sam Dauncey

Rubbish!



Hampshire Lakes Village is a community of independent-living residents (with a separate care home). You pay

your Council Tax and the Council takes away your domestic waste just as it did before you

moved here, provided you put it into the proper bins.

The Council will NOT take FURNITURE, SCRAP METAL, ELECTRICAL ITEMS or the like. As ever, you have to dispose of these yourself, often by booking a slot at the recycling centre (although batteries can be left in the Oakleigh Square mail room for recycling).

Some of us have small items (irons, kettles, plugs, routers, remote controls, phones etc) that need to go to the recycling centre but are not enough to justify the trouble and petrol of arranging a visit there. **Can you suggest** how to administer a scheme for people who are taking anything to the tip to take small items for others at the same time? *Sam Dauncey*

The Pond

Several residents and visitors have reported seeing a heron standing patiently in the rushes round the pond near the Sandhurst Road. To see what the heron was waiting for we took some bread with us on our next walk round there. We dropped small pieces from the bridge and, voila, great swirls appeared as loads of fish rushed for the food. Some of the fish were about 6 or 7 inches long. A fisherman tells me they are probably roach but could be bream or chub. Presumably they have appeared by hatching from fish eggs carried by birds. If you fancy seeing them yourselves please don't overdo the bread. *Wendy Wooldridge*

Free Paint

We are having our apartment decorated at the moment and have had difficulty in deciding what colours to paint the walls. I got shade cards from most of the paint manufacturers: Farrow and Ball, Dulux etc. These cards often do not represent the colour that ends up on the wall! To overcome this I bought sample pots, using a small amount to try out on the walls. Now we have only the hall left to decorate and 14 slightly-used sample pots ranging from off white, light grey, dark grey to dark blue. I would be delighted if anyone would like to use these paint pots at no cost. It could give them an accurate wall colour instead of relying on a shade card or, if they have an artistic bent, become a 'limited palette' challenge.

Contact me on 4659 if you are interested.

Diana Duckworth

Disaster in Kwa Zulu Natal

It was hardly noted in this country but some 6000 miles away in the Southern Hemisphere the worst natural disaster in its history struck South Africa in the middle of April.

Towards the end of my 9-week stay in South Africa the terrible weather caused President Ramaposa to declare a State of Disaster.

For 5 days there had been incessant heavy rain in Kwa Zulu Natal in the East of South Africa. As much rain fell in 5 days as would usually have fallen in as many months. Roads were washed away, homes were destroyed, rivers burst their banks and the lovely beaches were covered in debris. Containers from ships were washed up on the beaches. Over 400 people are thought to have lost their lives.

It seems petty to grumble about the effects of the disaster on the affluent whose homes are well built but evidence of the worst flooding the country has ever suffered were plain to see. All the pretty dams (which we would call lakes) were brown and filthy, ditto swimming pools. Roads were impassable in some places and we had neither electricity nor water as much of the infrastructure had been destroyed. Some houses built on a hillside had lost their gardens to landslides.



Of course wildlife was affected. These two vervet monkeys were desperate to come inside out of the rain. They had no chance! The week before they had sneaked their way into the kitchen grabbing and tearing open a newly

bought packet of muesli, scattering its contents over the floor.

Jenny Hydes

Sponsor a tree

Our wonderful Queen has asked us to plant trees to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee.

I am sure that numerous trees were sacrificed to allow our village to be built. Many of the new trees have not survived.

I intend to sponsor a tree as a tribute to Her Majesty, probably a fruit tree, and will ensure that it is planted well, protected from the deer, and in a place where I can keep it well watered for the first couple of years. Jo Taylor has

already had several fruit trees planted behind the swimming pool in memory of her late sister.

Would anyone else like to join me in this venture? If you prefer I will arrange for a tree of your choice to be delivered and planted, or you could do so yourself. I am hoping that we can get together and leave a suitable legacy to remember our record-breaking sovereign.

Please ring me on 4589 if you would like to discuss this further.

Janet McCombie

Library and Book Club

The next meeting of the **Book Club** will be on Thursday 5th May at 11 am in the Library.

Recently the book "The man who died twice" by Richard Osman was donated to the Library. Has anyone borrowed it? It hasn't been back on the shelves for a while.

Diana Duckworth

Yateley Choral Soc. Concert

On the 2nd April we went to St Swithin's Church to hear the Yateley Choral Society perform a selection of Haydn's music, as well as Zadok the Priest (Handel) and Mozart's Laudate Dominum, but the main piece was Haydn's Nelson Mass.

The choir was conducted by Quentin Beer, the choir's musical director, and the music was provided by the West Forest Sinfonia.

I was unsure about what to expect, having only been exposed to professional musicians in London's concert halls, but I must say, I was very impressed by all of it. As a very nice gesture, in support of Ukraine - specifically for the purchase of tourniquets which are in short



supply there - the choir sang the Ukrainian National Anthem - in Ukrainian!! Of course, two of our residents are part of this excellent amateur choir: Jo Taylor and Meryl Branson.

It was a very enjoyable evening but I was disappointed that not more people had come to hear this excellent music.

Heidi Markham

Spring and Easter Views at Hampshire Lakes

Do you know how many interesting statues and scenic views you can find if you look around our lovely Hampshire Lakes village?

Take a look at this video by typing the following link into your internet browser:

https://youtu.be/l_Ueob7-trk

If you would like a click-able link to view the video automatically please send an Email to: **keithhall88@gmail.com**

The video is not in the public area of YouTube, only people with the link can gain access to it.

Keith Hall

Artilleryman

I enlisted into the Army at 17, starting in the Royal Horse Artillery, as a Mounted Gunner, and winning the Army Equitation Eventing title two years running. I was awarded my 15 years Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and posted to the Royal Artillery Junior Leaders Regiment at Nuneaton.

I had operational duty in the Falklands, responsible for 7 missile sites and defending the islands. In the 22 Air Defence Regiment Royal Artillery I rose through the ranks to Warrant Officer Class One and posted for six months as the Force Sergeant Major with the Multi-National Peace Keeping Force in Sinai.

I returned to London where, in November 1989 as Regimental Sergeant Major of the Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery, I resigned her Majesty's Warrant and received the Queen's Commission as an officer in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. In this year I was also granted the Freedom of the city of London.

As a Battery Captain of 38 (Seringapatam) Battery Royal Artillery I went to the Gulf for operation Granby for which I was awarded the Gulf Medal and the Clasp for Operation Desert Storm. By January 1996 I had taken over as Regimental Quartermaster.

I was always deeply involved in equitation, particularly the Garrison Saddle Clubs and Rhine Army Summer Show, teaching young riders, judging youth events and setting up an Anglo-German riding club for disabled children. I represented the Gunners at both Cross-Country and Football. I was awarded

the Alfred Burne Memorial Medal 3 Times and the Clasp to the LSCGCM. My keen interest in military history led me to research and then design history rooms for the King's Troop.

In 101 Regiment Royal Artillery I re-kitted the regiment with Multi Rocket Launchers. I was awarded the MBE and, with the rank of Major, retired from Army Service in 2008.

On retirement I continued to support various training units as a welfare officer under the directive of WRVS. After 6 years I became Divisional Secretary of South Staffordshire Branch of SAFFA. Having served and supported a number of military organisations over many years I hung up my regalia, breeches and boots and leave my spurs hanging on the door as a reminder of many years of tradition and service, as I return to family life. And now a new chapter is opening at Hampshire Lakes.

David Allan

Welcome to new residents:

- Leo Corry in 6 Ash Mews
- David Allan in 40 Sycamore Court. There's a bit about his career to the left (Artilleryman).

Scout Jamboree pop-ups

"Thank you all for the goodies you bought, words of encouragement, donations and memories of your own Jamborees. Through all of that I raised a fantastic £180.00 - thank you." Piers 3rd Sandhurst Scouts *Nasar Khan*

MY CAR HORN WASN'T WORKING, SO I ASKED A SCOUT TO FIX IT. "BEEP REPAIRED!"

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.