



LAKES NEWS

**Please send contributions
for the January issue to
samdauncey@live.co.uk**

*(The sooner the better, but Xmas Eve's a good
time to polish them off)*

HLRA

The HLRA wishes all residents a **Very Happy Christmas and a Wonderful New Year.**

The next committee meeting is on December 7th at 10.30 in the Library.

Weather

A conversation with Ellie about the truly catastrophic floods in Spain, led to memories of unexpected flash flooding in Yateley.

It was in May 1979 at half term when 60mm of rain fell in 24 hours. The children loved paddling about in their wellies as rain cascaded down Cricket Hill Lane. When it got to The White Lion its cellars were flooded, as were houses and gardens in Village Way. Naturally, someone got out a canoe!

Ellie has contacted Colin Broadley of the Yateley Society and this is what he tells us:

I have many documents dealing with the question of flooding in and around Yateley. This is partly due to the whole area being the flood plain of the river Blackwater, although the river covers a far smaller area than it did centuries ago. The depth of soil in the area is quite shallow which is another reason for flooding being a problem as large amounts of water have very little soil to absorb it. I have a quote from a diary 30th May 1879

which reports the Sandhurst road is often flooded.

Where you used to live in Stable View is still in a flood plain and I have two pictures which I will try to attach one showing Mill Lane in flood (1981) the other not far from Stable View is of Firglen Drive in 1981 and shows a young lad cycling



through a very large puddle and what appears to be water issuing from a drain at the road side.

The papers of the time published news of flooding often and I have many such extracts. The Bracknell Times published on 7th June 1979 a picture of Pond Croft with water up to the shop fronts and a report saying that 2 inches of rain fell in 75 minutes.

Another report in the Aberdeen Press and Journal dated 31st May 1979 (attached) may precisely date the "Flash Flood" you mention and I quote " [Yesterday] In Hampshire torrential rain flooded homes and gardens at Yateley and the main routes through the town were blocked as floodwater reached three feet in places." Many other places were mentioned over "a huge area of Britain" so it was not just the Yateley area.

Many thanks to Ellie for this contribution

Books

On the first Thursday each month the Book Club meets to talk about the books it's been reading. The next meeting is on **Thursday 5th December in the Library at 11 am**

I am so pleased that residents are using the Library. There is a great selection of books: adventure, detective, historical and romances. and quite a few biographies in the 'non-fiction' section. Obviously the Library is popular but only a handful of residents come to the Book Club? Where are you? Please do come along, just to see what we talk about. We don't all read the same book but share with each other the books and favourite authors. It often turns into a discussion about the world situation or local problems. Hopefully it keeps our brains active!

Please join us. We welcome all residents.

Library News

Since my accident I haven't been able to shelve the books returned in the baskets.

I would like to thank Astrid and Keith Hall for checking the baskets and shelving the books for me. I am very grateful and hope it won't be too long before I will be back on my feet!.

Diana Duckworth

Helpful Hospital Hints

I have just spent 2 weeks in Frimley Park Hospital on the Orthopaedic ward with a broken femur. While I was there I hoped these few thoughts might help anyone who, unfortunately, has to go into hospital. Nothing medical but just practical things to make the stay easier.

- If you need a nurse always ring the buzzer well in advance.
- On the whole, the menu choice was good and the food tasty. At breakfast, if you choose a packet of cereal you may find it difficult to open. There is a knack!
- Again at breakfast always open the small packet of marmalade or jam before you open the butter (your fingers get greasy).
- Always order a roll and butter if you decide to have soup at lunchtime (not on the menu)
- Always accept any painkillers offered if you need them.

- You may have to ask to have extra water to clean your teeth at night.
- You will probably need ear plugs and an eye mask - the lights and computer screens are bright at night.

I hope these suggestions help if you find yourself in this unfortunate situation.

Diana Duckworth

**Hampshire
Lakes
Entertainment**



Christmas is coming!

Do join us for all our special festive events!

Tea Party on Saturday 7th December with harpist Margaret Watson (thanks to HLRA and HLE for their subsidy).

Robbie and his Guitar, Tuesday 10th December enjoy a foot tapping evening with great buffet.

New Year's Eve On with the glad rags and dancing shoes for a night of fun and celebration.

Thanks for all your support during the year!

*Joan Russam, Jo Taylor, Janet McCombie,
Jenny Hydes, Chris Widman, Ruth Maynard,
Carolyn Hill.*

A compliment

I've just returned from a holiday in Gran Canaria where I took my iPad as usual. It was so nice to be able to see what was going on in HL thanks to Keith's super web site and the emails that came from Jo, addressed 'Dear Jill' with the weekly programme of events.

Only back a day and I have a ticket to Les Misérables. Thanks to Joan and her team who work tirelessly to find programmes and venues that we can visit at discounted prices.

We are so lucky here at HL to have an excellent Residents Association, with Chairwoman Jenny and her committee who give us these activities and fight for better with Anchor. I applaud the work and efforts that they give to us and want to say A BIG THANK YOU TO EACH OF THEM.

Jill Woolgar

Podiatrist's notice: "Time wounds all heels"

From Janet McCombie

Wellness

Please remember to sign in whenever you use the Wellness Centre.

Mucky Oven?

When I went to Wokingham one Saturday, Cookerburra had a stand on the market place. I chatted to them for quite a while and they obviously know what they are doing and seem to take pride in their work. They clean all makes of Ovens and Microwaves and they also offer a discount if several people here would want theirs cleaned. If anyone is interested, I am happy to coordinate it. They are extremely reasonable. Costs range from £30-60, depending on make and state of the appliance. And it includes the glass door too.

Might make life easier for people?

For more info phone 0118 959 9922 or visit <https://www.cookerburra.co.uk/>

Heidi Markham, 4623

I used this firm last week. They are really excellent and the oven looks like new! *Jenny*

Blind 'em with science Making people think

Days are shorter in winter. Why? Because the earth spins faster. Really? Yes. In the autumn all the leaves fall, so they are closer to the centre of the earth. That reduces their



M o m e n t o f Inertia. Angular Momentum is conserved, so the angular velocity (spin rate) has to increase (ask any ice skater or ballet dancer).

Simple politician's logic? True or False?

Come on! Let's have some more questionable ideas.

Sam Dauncey

Condolences

Our condolences go to the friends and family of Sheila Brent. Sheila died this week after a long illness. She moved into the village almost from the beginning eight years ago. She was a regular user of the Wellness Centre and regularly came to the book club. She will be much missed.

Lakes News Team

An Unusual Encounter

Back in the 1990s, David and I had a holiday home in the South of France, very close to the Italian border. This was the time before the euro, so each country had its own currency. The Alliance and Leicester and/or Post Office had a cheque book which enabled you to draw cash from most European post offices in their local currency and it was deducted in English pounds from your account in England. We duly crossed the border into Italy to a very small Italian post office. David waited in the car while I took my passport and cheque inside.

It so happens that David was a keen photographer and had spent some time taking my photo for the passport, experimenting with a slight smear of vaseline on the lens. It was a flattering photo and there was no



objection in those days to using a photo of your choice in your passport. When I entered the post office I handed the passport and cheque to the counter clerk. He looked hard at the photo, kissed it and said:

"Bella! Bella! Voulez vous faire l'amour avec moi, Madame?"

Moi: *"Oh non merci Monsieur".*

L'homme: *"Mais, pourquoi pas?"*

Moi: *"Mon Mari ne l'aime pas"* (I don't do tenses!)

L'homme: *"Dommage!"*

I grabbed the lire and passport and rushed very red-faced out to the car!

Wendy Wooldridge

Many, many thanks to you all!

It seems some time now. About 6.30 on Sat. eve. 27th July my husband John fell, outside our apartment, helping me with the hosepipe!

Wonderful neighbours appeared almost immediately, even one giving CPR. The paramedics recommended St Georges Hosp. I went with John and he was admitted to the ICU in their Atkinson Morley Wing. Our eldest son drove up from Devon with his wife & grandsons, arriving about 5.30 a.m. John's sedation was gradually removed with the hope that he would come round. Two more sons, plus other family members visited but John remained unresponsive. The consultant told us that John was too badly brain damaged to ever recover and thought palliative care would be best. We all agreed and the next day he was moved to a Trauma ward where the nurses were all devoted to giving palliative care.

John died peacefully the next day with our eldest son by his side. I couldn't praise the staff & hospital enough. I don't think he ever regained consciousness after the fall.

We were unable to have the funeral until the 28th Sept. This gave us time to get organised. Our other son, who lives in Australia, came over and stayed with me for 2 weeks. It was lovely for me to have his company and he was a great help with sorting things out.

We had over 100 people at the funeral to celebrate his life & again here in the Bistro for the Wake. It was a beautiful day & many were outside. Mike & Paula had organised wonderful refreshments. I was so pleased that John had such a well deserved "send off".

I am so glad that we moved here, You never know what is around the corner! As John was fitter than me we had assumed that I would be the first to go especially as he was the one who did all the technology. One bit of advice - make sure somebody knows your passwords! Although John was organised he hadn't told us those. We couldn't get into his computer or mobile phone. Fortunately my eldest son is very busy trying to sort things out for me.

I'm gradually getting used to living on my own after nearly 60 yrs with a wonderful husband. I am having to learn a lot of new things! My neighbours, other residents and all the staff here have been so friendly, helpful and supportive. Thank you all!

Ann Paine

Saying Thank You to our staff

It has been a Hampshire Lakes tradition to thank all members of staff at Christmas

Here's how it's done. We don't give individual gifts but donate bottles of wine, chocolates, other nice things and gift vouchers for all to benefit. Gaye collects the gifts and keeps them in her room. They don't have to be wrapped up and it's often better that they're not so Gaye can distribute them fairly.

Just before Christmas the staff have a little party and the gifts are given out. This occasion is a wonderful opportunity for us to acknowledge the contributions the staff have made over the year. Remember there are staff we rarely see as their work, important as it is, is often unseen by residents. Even newcomers and those who work here just a few hours a week are included.

It's also important for Gaye to be able to bring all staff together to emphasise how important they all are as part of a team. The more our staff feel valued as a team supporting the residents the more they will value working for our community.

Lakes News Team

I'm Senile? Thank you!

An old Saga Magazine tells me that 'senile' means being like the Latin 'senex', a wise old man tempered by experience and brimming with knowledge gained over time. Like senate, senator, senior, señor and señora.

Sam Dauncey

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN AS OLD
AS THIS BEFORE

Lakes News is written by "ordinary" residents like you 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!

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Your contributions are our life-blood.

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