



LAKE NEWS

By the way, Sam let Microsoft Copilot AI (Artificial Intelligence) generate the image above, and the Power Cuts one.

AI also identified the bird species from the photos Jenny took of the overwintering birds on the lakes. AI suggested the Wigeon were Northern Pintail! (Evidently they interbreed sometimes)

Hampshire Lakes Entertainment



How often do the generations, ranging from 9 year old primary school children to retired residents of Hampshire Lakes (at least two in their nineties) with people of all ages in between, enjoy the same cultural activity at the same time?

The answer is earlier this month at the New Victoria Theatre in Woking for their production of "War Horse". This was quite a long play and many had seen it before but it was engrossing and powerful and kept the audience enrapt during the whole production.

It was an excellent production and very well received by all who saw it. *Jenny Hydes*

Do you dare



to have a fitness assessment? Many residents are now taking advantage of the personal training sessions offered by our **Wellness Trainers**. However it might be a good idea to have a personal fitness assessment first. A fitness assessment is open to all residents and measures your performance in key fitness areas against the national average. Activities such as how long you can stand on one leg or how many full

stands from sitting will be noted. If you take the test you will be able to see just how much you can improve. Even if you regularly attend wellness activities the assessment will help you gauge your overall fitness.

Just ask Annemarie or Nathan who are both trained in this assessment. P.S. it doesn't hurt!

Library

The next meeting of the Book Club is on **Thursday 6th February in the Library at 11 am.**

I am please to say that my mobility is improving (with help using a stick or walker) and I plan to start looking after the Library again. I was so grateful when Keith and Astrid Hall volunteered to help with the shelving of books while I was out of action! They have done a brilliant job and I would like to thank them for keeping the Library ticking over for the last couple of months.

Diana Duckworth

Book Review



You will find a new book in the library. It is **James** by Percival Everett. The book was shortlisted for this year's Booker Prize, although it was not the winner. Everett is a distinguished writer and professor of English at the University of Southern California. He is himself a black man. James is Jim from the novel **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** and the story is told from his point of view. I found it 'a good read'.

Jenny Hydes

Costa Rica, Pura Vida

Several Hampshire Lakes Residents have visited Costa Rica and I was lucky enough to be there for the New Year.

My family and I flew from the USA on Boxing Day (not a holiday in either the US or Costa Rica). The first shock was the torrential rain which meant our 2.5 hour road journey to Quepos took over 6! It is most unusual to have rains at this time and seems to be evidence of climate change.



The Costa Ricans are as hospitable as ever though, and we did see some great wild life especially when the weather dried up.



The photos are of an iguana (huge and everywhere) and a Capuchin monkey who visited me on our balcony. There was a sloth, too, doing what sloths do

(nothing much most of the time) and getting wet.

Jenny Hydes

Power Cuts

Were you caught out a while back with inadequate lighting during the power cuts?

If you were, look back at the article in Lakes News Issue 71 where Francis recommended some lanterns (January 2023 - you do keep them for reference, don't you? But don't worry, Issue 71 is on the hlra.info website).

Having heard little recently about backup power for the village I first bought a Mesqool CL1000 which has several ways of charging (sunlight, USB or wind-up), nice bright lights (including a torch) and you can top up your

phone battery from it, too. I bought a Nite-Safe Duo-Lux, XL20710 as well. This torch



switches itself on when the power fails or it sees you move in poor light, so you don't have to fumble around in the dark to find it.

For me these worked perfectly and I was able to carry on reading my book throughout the whole power cut.

Sam Dauncey



It's also useful to keep a small power pack like this Veektomx one. If it's kept fully charged it can recharge your phone and even hearing aids during a power cut. It's an essential travel accessory.

Jenny Hydes

Lift out of Action?

Trevor, on his knees with his repair kit, was overheard commenting that lift buttons were not designed to stand being prodded with walking sticks.



Sam Dauncey

Electric Rumour

We will be told when it's finalised but there is a rumour that the council is starting to accept small electrical items alongside the regular recycling. Sounds good.

Sam Dauncey

HLRA

The next committee meeting will be on **February 1st** at 10.30, back in the Library again. **Note: this is virtually 'now'!**

NOBODY EVER BUILT A STATUE TO A COMMITTEE

Winterwatch update

In recent weeks, winter visitors from northern climes have been busy feeding at the back of Cherry Bank and Acorn Vale. Redwings - similar in size to a song thrush but with a bold pale eyestripe and rusty-red underwings and flanks - have made occasional visits, mostly feeding on the ground in flocks of thirty or more. After a slow start to the season, siskins (a yellow and green coloured finch) suddenly appeared in force squabbling for food on Janet's feeder.

Among our resident birds, great spotted woodpeckers, nuthatches, blue and great tits have been frequent visitors to the feeder. Less frequent have been goldfinches, long-tailed and coal tits. Our resident pheasant, Reginald, is always hopeful for tit-bits provided by Heather and Janet! Other recent sightings included a sparrowhawk, tree-creeper and, for

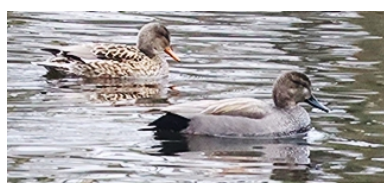
Shoveler



the first time, a little egret flying directly overhead - making the number of bird species observed from Cherry Bank since 2016 as many as fifty!

Some birds, e.g. robins, wrens and great tits - can occasionally be heard singing but only in very short bursts. Woodpeckers have also

Gadwall



been heard drumming. These are welcome signs of Spring!

On the neighbouring lakes, gadwalls, wigeon (or perhaps Northern Pintail), tufted ducks, shovelers and goosanders have arrived for the Winter, joining up with our familiar resident waterfowl. The Winter visitors will be here

until the early Spring when they begin their journey north to breed.

Michael Bader, acknowledging Janet's input.

I also have been on the lookout for winter visitors on the lakes. I have photographed

Wigeon



shovelers, gadwalls and wigeon but didn't manage to get a photo of a goosander even though they were present. *Jenny Hydes*

Blind 'em with science

A Scientific Phenomenon?

In the interests of science I conducted an experiment on Christmas Day to see if it was possible for liquid to flow upwards. To do this I hit my face hard on the ground, the point of contact being just below my right eye. As expected, a bruise formed and the deep-red colouration (not blood) began to flow down my cheek, widening out to flow below my nose to my upper lip. A natural barrier you might think, but no, the southerly flow continued below my lower lip exactly in line with where it was halted at the upper lip. It then continued down to my chin and down my neck. This is where it became really interesting, flowing up towards my left ear! Does this prove liquids can flow against gravity? Think about it. (It is probably the same reason the bruise above and below my lip was in line).

I would be very interested to compare notes with any of my peers who decided to see if the results were repeated on their face.

(Grateful thanks to Emrys Perry for his help during this experiment) *Wendy Wooldridge*

(Congratulations Wendy for your version of what must have been a very unpleasant experience.)

A Warm Welcome to

Ann White who has just come to live here in Hampshire Lakes. Her new home is 54 Oakleigh Square. And it's great to have **Nigel** back after his horrific fall.

Condolences

to the family and friends of **Ray Thompson** who had lived quietly and contentedly in Oakleigh Square since it first opened.

Condolences also to the friends and family of **Margaret Swain**. Margaret, too, had lived quietly in the village for many years. Sadly condolences also go to Celia who lost her husband **Bill Guthrie** earlier this month. Bill was 90 years old and had been married to Celia for over 50 years.

Gaye has put a book for condolences into the Library so we can record and remember those residents who have died. The book is on the sideboard in the Library.

The Silk Roads

In January I visited a powerful exhibition entitled The Silk Road, running at the British Museum until 23 February. The exhibition traces the background and history of the Silk Road that developed from China westwards across Asia and the Middle East to Europe and even Britain prior to the Industrial Revolution (after which the West emerged as a dominant force in the world). Whilst actual physical overland caravan routes facilitated trade the Silk Road was much more than that. It was also a conduit for the evolution of cultures, religions, political thought and much more. The exhibition has some wonderful exhibits from museums all over the world and whilst you are advised that you will need to set aside at least 45 minutes to visit I spend over two hours totally enthralled.

It brought home to me that whilst we think today in terms of the dominance of Western culture the Silk Road surpassed anything we had in the Western world prior to the Industrial Revolution: all they lacked was the invention of the steam engine which of course is where the West came to prominence.

If you do visit the exhibition and find it as entrancing as I did, you may be interested to follow up with a book written in 2015 by Peter Francopan, Professor of Global History at Oxford University: "The New Silk Roads The present and future of the world". This book develops the theme that Silk Roads is a term that describes not just trade routes but the way in which people, cultures and continents are woven together and helps us to better understand the way religions and languages

spread and how ideas about food, fashion, art etc are borrowed from civilisations across the world. I have yet to complete the book but wanted to mention it now before the exhibition ends (23 February), to give anyone interested an opportunity to attend.

I understand the book goes on to show how the Silk Roads now are very much in reverse. The West having dominated society since the mid-17th and 18th centuries there is now a strong movement the other way, back towards the Middle East and Asia. It looks to be a fascinating read and I strongly recommend the book as well as a visit to the exhibition at the British Museum.

Emrys Parry

VE Day

8th May 2025 is the 80th anniversary of VE Day. We will be commemorating the event in style here at Hampshire Lakes and there will



be celebrations through the country, though no bank holiday.

However the day was not a celebration for those who had lost family members and friends in the war and it was not over in the Far East

until the fifteenth of August, VJ Day.

If you can remember the first VE day 80 years ago, or have family experiences you would like to share with us, please get in touch with us so that the village celebrations will pay tribute to all those who played a part.

Jenny Hydes

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.