



LAKE NEWS

APRIL BRINGS THE SWEET SPRING SHOWERS



Hampshire Lakes Entertainment



April's Movie. April's movie will be shown on **Tuesday April 1st**. It is '**Goodnight Mr Tom**' starring John Thaw as a cantankerous widower whose life is dramatically changed when a young evacuee is billeted with him. Collect pre-booked bar food at 5.45pm, movie starts at approx. 6.20pm.

Jo Taylor

Harpist Entertainment

Margaret Watson was unable to entertain us at our Christmas party but she will be coming to play her harp for us on **Tuesday 8th April during afternoon tea**.

Her fee is taken care of by HLE - a belated Christmas gift to residents! Anchor discount will be available. Do come and enjoy the afternoon.

Breaking news. ABBA tickets available for March 2026. Watch out for details.

Joan Russam

Welcome to . . .

Sheila McHale who has moved into 59 Oakleigh Square and **Peter Butler** who has moved into 15 Chestnut Grange. we hope you will be very happy here.

Charity performance

There is a Wokingham Theatre Charity production of Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing' (on behalf of the Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice) on 16th July, 7.45pm, tickets £16.00.

The plays at this theatre are very well attended and have an excellent reputation. I can obtain tickets until they are sold out. If you are interested please notify me and I'll collect payment when I have confirmation that tickets are still available. After that payment will not be refundable. This is not an HLE activity but I can provide transport for the first three to ask for it.

samdauncey@live.co.uk

Library

The next meeting of the Book Club is in the **Library, at 11 am, Thursday 4th April.**

Diana Duckworth

Book Reviews

I recommend two more non-fiction books. Both are by **Patrick Radden Keefe**,

- "**The Snakehead**" tells about the perhaps millions of Chinese immigrants to the USA, many illegally trafficked, and
- "**Empire of Pain**" deals with the history of the very murky world of US pharmaceutical marketing.

I will put them in the library when I've finished them.

Sam Dauncey

HLRA

The next committee meeting will be on **Saturday April 5th at 10.30** in the Library.

River cruise with a difference

Mark Twain wrote that someday someone will build the biggest steam boat the world has ever known and that one shall be the "Queen of the Mississippi".

Several years ago, my husband and I took a river cruise from Cincinnati to Louisville on the Delta Queen, sister ship of the Mississippi Queen. Embarking was fascinating. You just walked down the levee onto the carpeted floor of the vessel and then into the saloon.

As we pulled away, the Grand March from Aida was played on the giant calliope.

The cabins were tiny, with a single bunk on each side bolted to the wall through to the next cabin. When the person in the next cabin moved so did you. And the shower was so small you had to walk in and back out.

The dining room was very ornate with beautifully decorated china.



Entertainment during the day consisted of flying kites from the rear of the vessel and quizzes on the deck. In the evening we were entertained by a gentleman in a top hat and bright waistcoat playing a honky-tonk piano.

We went ashore in Louisville and were taken by coach through forests with amazing autumn colours to a plantation house said to have been the home of Stephen Foster who penned my Old Kentucky Home.

One thing I do remember more than the house is that the guides were all dressed in crinoline dresses but had trainers underneath.

The trip ended back in Cincinnati to coincide with the annual parade of steam boats that worked on the river. Very spectacular and very noisy.

The Delta Queen is undergoing renovation and is expected to return to service on America's inland waterways. The Mississippi Queen was sold for scrap in 2009. It was forced out of service by the Safety at Sea Act which required vessels carrying over 50 overnight passengers to be constructed of non-combustible materials. It was a very unique holiday.

Aileen Hanley

Babble and Speak

In March we listened to Sam talking about a study he was involved in in the early 1970s - the Sheffield Minitram. This was a before-its-



time project funded by the Transport and Road Research Lab in Crowthorne. Other countries were funding similar Personal Rapid Transit projects.

The study outlined the design of a driverless 6-seat/6-standing vehicle system using dedicated track. This cross between a tram and a taxi really needed more advanced technology than was then available but it raised some interesting technical questions.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 23rd April at 6:30**, when Laszlo Gyenes will talk about 'Escape from Hungary'.

Everyone is welcome so please come along to the library and join in the Babble and Speak.

Sam Dauncey, David Alan and Keith Hall

Gardening Trailer

At long last, after many weeks waiting to have



the towbar fitted to the buggy, it's been done. The gardening team no longer have to make multiple trips hauling everything back and forth in a wheelbarrow.

Contribute to Lakes News

When we ask for contributions to Lakes News people often go all coy about their abilities. Everyone has something interesting to say and we are always willing to edit it if you think that might help. A three hundred odd word piece really doesn't take long to write.

Condolences

. . . to friends and family of Shirley Phillips. Quiet but popular, she was one of our earliest residents, possibly best known for her keenness to get onto the dance floor despite the pain! She died peacefully after being well looked-after for a short while in Willow Gardens.

I read a piece at the funeral suggesting people should tell stories "at her expense" and have a good laugh. I was tempted to mention Brian's teasing her that when he and Eddie went on a seven-day cruise with her it wasn't fair that Eddie had her for 4 nights and he had her for only three. She went on a cruise with me later, too, but no-one, as far as I know, has suggested that she might have had me every night! I should be so lucky! *Sam Dauncey*

Digital Video Discs

Do you remember DVDs? Cupboard No 3 in the Activities Room is full of them (pull to open - no need to ask for keys). Few people can now play them so there might as well be a cull. If you think any of them should be kept please rescue them before they disappear. After the cull you could put them back.

Sam Dauncey

Blind 'em with science

Make people think - is it true?

1. If the top ten performing companies over the last decade shared a certain set of characteristics ten years ago, then companies that now have those characteristics will go on to be successful. Logically true or false?
2. Have you noticed that if a duck paddles across the lake with two drakes she leads the way. If there is only one drake she follows him. True? Why? *Sam Dauncey*

Farewells

Dawn Tubb was here before any residents and was an enormous asset to the village. She seemed to be everywhere: in reception, in Cotton's and in the bistro and she even found



time to provide Christmas and Easter decorations. She was always busy and is sorely missed.

Donations from residents bought her a very useful Longacres voucher. We wish her well in her new, less stressful, job with a Camberley jeweller.

In April we will be saying farewell to another member of staff this time from the Wellness Team. **Nathan Maggs** has been an excellent trainer with great expertise and patience. However he needs to expand and develop his career and so leaves for a new job in April.

Best wishes Nathan in your new career and good luck for the future.

Fallen Women

In recent months several of us have deviated from the straight and narrow. We all need to be more careful. I send my sympathy to the fallen and wish us all a speedy and complete recovery.

Wendy Wooldridge

AND TELL THEM YOU MEANT TO DO IT

Brian and Jenny on Safari.

Our journey began on 21st of February when we took an overnight flight to Johannesburg.

From Johannesburg we took a light aircraft to the airstrip of our game lodge. The plane waited for us and the only other passenger was a member of staff from our lodge. Not quite a private jet but we were able to brag to other guests who had arrived by road as none of them seemed to know you could fly directly to the lodge avoiding the truly dreadful roads.

As we landed on the airstrip, our safari jeep was waiting to take us to our lodge. We noted the wheel cages left by the airstrip. These are to protect the aircraft tyres from being ripped apart by hyenas should the plane be parked there overnight.

The lodge is situated in the Sabi Sands area adjacent to The Kruger National Park. Although we were not allowed to go into the park there are no fences so the animals roam where they want. Our area is a private concession and the rules are very different from the ones enforced in the park.

The most significant rule is that our vehicles are allowed to go off road quite far into the bush. Vehicles are not allowed to drive into plants and shrubs which would not bounce back or would be destroyed.

The result is that we could follow the game, hanging on for dear life. So we got very close to leopards, lions, elephants, buffalo and rhino. At times we got almost too close for comfort such as when lions roared and snarled at each other fighting over a kill within a few metres. Other highlights were a leopard climbing up a tree to her kill (Brian had heard the furore as she defended her kill from a hyena! He was on a nature walk hurriedly abandoned because a leopard fighting a hyena when the humans were themselves on foot was too close for comfort).

Our ranger and tracker were both locals brought up within a few miles of the lodge. They were very well educated in the ways of the bush and both told me they got their love of wildlife from their families. They work very hard to acclimatise animals to the safari vehicles making sure that when young animals are born they see the vehicles with their mothers. If the mother is not worried the youngsters aren't either.

However no animal is helped if it is injured. Nature is allowed to take its course except for the rhino. These animals are dehorned every two years or so to prevent poachers from shooting them for their horns, useless chunks of keratin like human fingernails. They are valuable to some cultures for medicinal purposes. So an endangered species is slaughtered in a random way, the huge carcass left to rot so the horns can be taken. Some animals are killed for even the smallest stub of a horn.

Highlights

- Watching a young female leopard climb up a tree so she could eat the impala she had dragged up there previously.
- Watching hyena puppies with their mother (who was sleeping soundly)
- Seeing Venus emerge on the horizon as the sun set. It was so bright we first thought it was the lights of an aircraft. By mid March Venus becomes difficult to see and later in the month reappears as a morning star. Mars was also easy to spot as a distinctive red star.

Time to leave

As we were flying on to Durban we didn't go to the airport by small plane but instead were taken by car to Nelspruit airport. The road was unbelievably dreadful with huge craters and sometimes almost impassable. Far worse than any I have experienced before in South Africa. A two hour journey took over 3 hours. Pity those who have to live there!

Jenny Hydes

Save the date

8th May is the 80th anniversary of VE Day. We will celebrate in style so get ready!

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.