



LAKE NEWS

A 100th birthday celebration

The Lakesnews team also offers warm congratulations to John Bricknell who celebrates his 100th birthday on 26th July. John now lives in Willow Gardens but will greet residents in the Bistro the day before. Details will be announced later.

This is our 100th issue of Lakes News. It is also nearly 10 years since our first residents moved in - Vic and Jan with Dougle the dog. We look back at how the village has grown and revisit some of our earlier contributions.

How it all began (from Issue 15)

(Alan Anning scoured the archives and discovered this ancient document.)

And it came to pass that the Elders of the tribe of Anchorus did proclaim to move the reaches of its Empire to new territories for its coffers were overflowing from boundless munificence.



And their eyes did fall upon the settlement of Yatelonius which is in the Shire of Hamp and forsooth they were pleased.

And so it happened that the Chief Elder of Anchorus, The All Powerful Cleo Ioanna Ashcrofta, did pitch her tent thereon and did summon her Generals to build countless roofed edifices of clay and straw wherein there

would be light heat and water but with token space for chariots and gatherings.

Thus it transpired and was to be called 'Hamp Lacus' to honour the sumptuous waters with wondrous wildfowl that abounded this land.

Then began the Generals to summon their old weary and infirm from the chosen hedonists and sybarites of the estate owning populous, to dwell therein. And furthermore, by deed of covenant, to oft bestow therein from their hoards of Talents, until death and beyond do them part, under pain of banishment.

And Cleo Ioanna Ashcrofta was exceeding pleased and spake to her Generals thus saying: "Let tablets of stone be fashioned and let them mark thereon this Monument to my Vision which I shall now call 'Hamp sine Iacubus' for I see no Cygnus Atratus." And the generals answered "We wilt".

And so it was written.

Alan Anning

Right at the beginning we started arranging fun events to be organised by the Hampshire Lakes Entertainment group.

**Hampshire
Lakes
Entertainment**



How Did HLE Begin?

It all started back in the summer of 2016, thanks to a shared love of theatre between me, Jo Taylor, and Jenny Hydes. We were always up for a good show and began inviting others to join us on our theatre trips. That's how the idea for Theatre Together was born. Before long, Janet McCombie, Micaela Dell'Oso, Rita Wakely, and Ann Ali, Muriel Longhurst

and Pat Bunn (who are sadly no longer with us) joined the team.

We began researching theatres, accessibility options, travel routes, and upcoming shows. Then, in September 2016, we boarded a Hodges coach for our very first group outing—to see Chris Barber at The Anvil in Basingstoke. And just like that, Theatre Together took off!

Since then, we've seen over sixty performances—many of them absolute highlights. From the dazzling musicals at Chichester Festival Theatre to the powerful beauty of Matthew Bourne's ballets, we've been moved, thrilled, and thoroughly entertained. Our adventures have even taken us to London for Guys and Dolls, Phantom of the Opera, and the incredible Abba Voyage.

But it wasn't just about theatre. After a rather underwhelming New Year's Eve in 2016 (when the bar closed at 9:15 pm—gasp!), we realised there was a real appetite for entertainment closer to home.

Somewhat later we decided to open our dedicated bank account and Hampshire Lakes Entertainment was created to include Theatre Together and in house entertainment.

Since then, our village events have grown into something special. From elegant evenings with tenor Harry Kersley to lively Caribbean nights, from traditional jazz and casino evenings to Irish dancing, 60s throwbacks, harp concerts, and guitar showcases—we've done it all!

Our goal has always been simple: to bring people together, create joy, and make sure there's always something to look forward to. What started as a love of theatre has blossomed into a vibrant community tradition—and we're just getting started.

Here's to many more years of fun, friendship, and fabulous entertainment!

Joan Russam and the HLE team:

Carolyn Hill, Jenny Hydes, Ruth Maynard, Janet McCombie, JoTaylor, Chris Widman

Building Phase 2

But the village was only half complete and the building of Phase 2 dominated our lives for a couple of years.

Issue 1 of Lakes News (Nov 2016) said *"The Site has been levelled and the spoil heaps and stone base removed ready for piling. This will begin in December. Modern technology should mean that this won't be too noisy! Well that's the theory."*

"Brian Branson is keeping a close watch on the building work and will keep us informed."

"The completion of Phase 2 will have a profound impact on our village"

During the building there was a constant stream of muddy trucks entering and leaving the site through what is now the staff car park (The "bridge" had been built not strong enough to carry the construction traffic).

Some 12,000 tonnes of industrial soil and builders' rubble were removed ('elf & safety'), including one lump of concrete I saw that was big enough to be the entire load of a truck. Trenches were dug for all the service pipes and ducts and eventually, fresh stuff was brought in to build up the levels and landscape it all.

But it was the insertion of over 520 piles that is most memorable for some of us (12 metres long on average : not us, the piles). 40% of these were steel because the ground was so hard. The pile-driving was supposed to have been done with a comparatively quiet technology but I was able to hear it from the Post Office and there were stories of things being shaken off shelves in Poplar. It all came to a halt for a while when it was discovered that the gas main into the site hadn't been installed as shown on the drawings. It was too



close to Sycamore, meaning that the road had to be dug up to realign the pipe.

Pre-stressed concrete beams were fitted between the piles and over 30,000 blocks were used in the floors and below ground

level. The timber structures and facings were mounted directly on these (except for one building where they had got the levels wrong and had to jack up the timber walls so that a few courses of bricks could be laid to correct things). The timber work for each building took something like 4 weeks.

Two enormous cranes were installed to hoist the building panels into place. The larger one was about 18 metres tall, capable of carrying a tonne in a 42 metre radius. They made us think of preying mantis as they swung eerily in the breeze out of working hours.

Once the walls were up and (at some expense) the fake chimneys built and added, most of the work moved out of sight.

Sam Dauncey

Ode to Phase 2

During over two years of Phase 2 construction, Ted Wooldridge gave us a verse each month. Here are two examples.

Verse 10 (Issue 11)

*Some of the chimney stacks on site
Patiently wait for their flight
A yellow mantis will soon strike
Snatching them for a roof top hike*

Verse 24 (Issue 23)

*Block twelve, to be Sycamore Court,
After a start that was quite fraught,
Stray gas main, then split level floors
Nearly caused steps at some front doors!*

The arrival of residents into phase 2 has been a great advantage to us all as they have widened and enriched our community.

Most people, when they retire, find their horizons shrink and their friendship groups grow smaller but this is not so here at Hampshire Lakes. Here residents meet people from a wide range of backgrounds and careers, from military service to those with medical backgrounds, those with legal careers, the police, education, computers and technology, building engineers, road safety expertise, meteorologist....this list goes on. The result is a rich and diverse community.

Here are one or two examples from the Lakesnews archives.

Food Glorious Food (Issue 44)

On 19 Sept 2020 imagination was rampant. Separate hunting parties of six camped up for the night far out in the Veldt, supping South African wine? Boer War time? I glimpsed an old British redcoat sergeant and some officers' hats but also a modern farmer in khaki. Then boxes appeared (surely not airdropped by Amazon), cardboard ones, believe it or not, filled with Sosatie, Chicken, Boerwors, Bobotie, Coleslaw and Salad.

It was our Covid-compliant **Themed Summer Braai (BBQ)** on the "croquet lawn".

We all thoroughly enjoyed the event despite the government's restrictions.

Congratulations are due to all concerned, especially to Debbie for driving it all and to Mike for producing such tasty food.

NOTE. Covid probably affected us less than many people. We could continue our river and lakes walks and form local "bubbles".



Calling All Purple Umbrellas

We know you are out there lurking in the umbrella stands of apartments in the far flung reaches of Poplar, Birch, Beech, Lime Court and even Cherry Bank.



Your job is to be on duty at the entrances of Oakleigh Square so that residents can make their way home to their apartments without getting wet.

So please remind the residents who are giving you homes in the umbrella stands of their lovely warm, dry apartments of your duty to keep us all dry, and get back ASAP.

Reception team (Issue 38)

Whatever has happened to these umbrellas?

Tax Help for Older People (Issue 8)

Tax Help for Older People is a charity. My contact has arisen because I am normally a zero tax payer who, in 2016-2017, year had extra income which needed to be taxed. As HMRC rules are frequently updated I was looking forward to many happy(!) hours on the computer to find the latest rules.

Tax Help has advisors who offer surgeries or will come to your home. I had a retired HMRC lady who came to see me. It was a revelation! She has direct access to phone numbers unavailable to mere mortals and is very keen to save me from having to register for tax but if I do have to make sure it is for one year only! She will also help me with any forms if I need it. Phone 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066.

Wendy Wooldridge

Perhaps this is even more relevant today now more pensioners are being asked to pay tax.

There have been two great additions to the life of the village in more recent times one is HLVDs

Hampshire Lakes Volunteer Driver Scheme (HLVDS)

Many thanks to Emrys for setting up this scheme and for the invaluable help from Wendy for helping to run it.

Bishopstoke Park are looking to using our scheme to help set up one of their own!

The next is the website which makes a huge contribution to our village.

www.hlra.info

will take you to the website which contains a wealth of information ranging from what's on to times of wellness classes and local services. Guess what? Bishopstoke Park are looking to our model to set one up of their own. You can view the website in reception where there is a tv set up to run it.

Now to the present

A warm welcome to Brian and June Cooke who will move into 42 Oakleigh Square shortly.

HLRA

The next committee meeting will be on **Saturday 7 June at 10.30** in the Library.

Library

The next meeting of the Book Club is in the **Library, at 11 am, Thursday 5 June**

Diana Duckworth

Bird ID walk

Early in May, Michael Bader took three of us up the river and along the wooded path round the SANG area. We saw 11 types of bird, heard 11 more and Michael's phone picked out a couple more. See the HLRA website for details.

Lakesnews - the past and the future

This newsletter was set up right at the beginning of the establishment of our village. Sam Dauncey was the first to come aboard as was Wendy who is an excellent proof reader. Pam Cuthbertson used to be part of the team and now Diana Duckworth has joined us.

We have had many great contributions from residents who have shared their life stories and experiences. I like to think Lakesnews contributes to the sense of community of Hampshire Lakes. But we need help and particularly we need a fresh vision and fresh ideas.

If you have ideas or can help, please do contact me.

Jenny Hydes