



LAKE NEWS

Celebrating Summer

An Afternoon Tea Afloat

On the ides of July a few dozen of us got on a coach and were taken to Runnymede. There, we boarded a boat for a cruise along the Thames. The day was fine and the afternoon tea was quite delicious (ok, not the scones!)

The river banks were less built up once we got under way so there were plenty of trees and flowers to enjoy. The route took us past Windsor Great Park and we had some wonderful views of Windsor Castle with a glimpse of Eton through the trees (see above).



We all enjoyed each other's company and the whole little expedition was a great success.

Please don't forget that Joan and her team,



Hampshire Lakes Entertainment, plan these events down to the last detail, including the hire of the coaches from the excellent Hobbs Coaches. So, many thanks to HLE for another successful and well organised event!

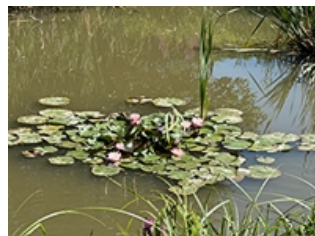
Jenny Hydes

July Fun Day

Congratulations to Gaye and the Hampshire Lakes staff team for the July fun day. The event was a great success and the staff worked really hard for several days beforehand - many thanks to them all. The music was much appreciated.

Is this the beginning of another Hampshire Lakes tradition? Shall we be making more use of the Oakleigh Square Gardens?

Waterlilies



Mike did so well to care for these when the pond was cleared. It's wonderful to see them flourishing again.

Janet McCombie

♪ An Afternoon of Music, Tea & Cake ♪

HLE has arranged for some live music to be performed by talented young professionals at the start of their musical careers. You'll hear a delightful mix of classic songs, show tunes, and favourites from the 40s, 50s, and 60s — all in a relaxed and friendly setting.

Tea and cake will be served, and we promise you a lovely afternoon!

Monday 18th August 3pm in the Bistro
All welcome! Book at reception,
Entertainment £5, Tea & Cake £5

Joan Russam

O Dear Roe Deer

What is she thinking about as she nibbles the yew hedge outside Elm Court? Or when she peers through the windows of Pine Bank? Or while she lolls on the lawn outside Birch Grove, chewing the cud (a digestive process officially called “ruminating”)? Could she be remembering the woodland that was here before Hampshire Lakes was built?

Roe deer have a lifespan of around 10 years in the wild, but in Yateley there are no predators or hunters so maybe they live 15 years or more, like roe deer in captivity. Perhaps “our” deer were here before any of us residents.

Deer are noted for their long memories, especially of past threats. Apparently they can even teach the next generation about dangerous places to avoid. In 2014 scientists observed that red deer in the Czech Republic never crossed into Germany and vice versa. They believed the reason was an electric fence along the border, a fence which had been removed in 1991.

Let us take it as a compliment that the local roe deer do not regard us as a threat.



Hampshire Lakes is evidently part of (overlapping?) territories of two female deer. When startled they give us a soulful gaze instead of running away barking like a dog, which roe deer do if

seriously alarmed. I wonder if a garden smorgasbord of delicious flowers is more desirable than the same-old-same-old vegetation of a woodland edge, which is typical roe deer territory. Roe deer are unusual in their solitary lifestyle. Most deer live in herds. They mate in high summer, not in autumn like other deer. The fertilised eggs wait until January before they implant in the uterus and grow, thus ensuring the fawns are born in the warmth of May-June instead of midwinter. Roe are the only deer species who have this “embryonic diapause”.

The roe deer diet? Ask anyone who gardens at Hampshire Lakes for the particulars. But what I want to know is: why can roe deer eat so much yew, which is poisonous to fallow deer, cattle, sheep and humans?

Or did you mean “Whose diet consists mainly of roe deer?” That’s the lynx, a wild cat which has been extinct in Britain for 1300 years. It was recently reintroduced in some European countries to try to keep their roe deer populations in check. Don’t bring it to Yateley, please.

Caroline Kerslake

Thank you for the information that roe deer mate in the summer. That would explain the two stags with locked antlers in combat by the poplar tree earlier this week.

Jenny Hydes

A Nearby Place to Visit

Sometimes residents have visitors to stay who are not too familiar with this area. You may want ideas as to local places of interest. This happened to me a few days ago and we decided to visit Jane Austen’s home in Chawton, near Alton. It is here that she worked on her finest novels and where she lived until just before her death.

It is such a small cottage and the tiny writing desk she used is still there to see. Many domestic details are preserved including authentic wall paper, her piano and some lovely old china.

Opposite the house are Cassandra’s tea rooms, named after her beloved sister. A word of warning if you visit them. Order sandwiches and cakes for one as the servings are huge!

The journey there is through lovely Hampshire lanes and doesn’t take long.



Can you recommend any interesting places to visit nearby? Please write and tell us about them.

AI (Artificial Intelligence)

Yes, even you can use AI!. If you are a Windows 11 user, like me, a program called Copilot comes already integrated with it. I very much prefer written communication but I think Copilot can talk with you if that's your scene (there's a microphone icon in the 'Ask Copilot' box). I asked Copilot what its Apple equivalent was and it came back with quite a lot of detail. Apparently, the nearest Apple equivalent is Apple Intelligence.

Copilot is so easy to use. It's a conversation. For example when I typed "image retirement home" it generated this. If you don't like it, just tell Copilot, in ordinary language, what is wrong (like "put men at the front and leave some chairs empty")



When I typed "What would I have to pay for a retirement property in Hampshire?" it came back with a few useful indicators, compared price ranges for different locations, gave examples of specific developments and offered to dig deeper if I could be more specific.

A request for "HMRC Inheritance Tax allowances" resulted in pretty comprehensive data but, sadly, no link to the HMRC website (but you might ask for one).

My granddaughter is a bit anti-AI because it "uses too much water". Puzzled, I asked Copilot. Apparently, "for every kilowatt-hour of energy used, up to 9 litres of water can be consumed just for cooling".

The caveat is that AI responses cannot be relied upon to be kosher. It is always worth double-checking facts that you may be relying on. You remember the woman with three hands in the March Lakes News (Issue 97)!

Microsoft Copilot is typically pinned to the taskbar — it looks like a sparkly circle or a stylized ribbon-like icon. If it's missing, 'Search' for it.

Sam Dauncey

Or you could download ChatGPT on your iPad or phone. I asked it about Anchor and all the problems it is facing were described!

Jenny Hydes

A resident's story

THE QUEEN'S INSTITUTE

The institute was set up in 1897 with a donation of £70,000 from the Queen's Jubilee Fund. It was to provide excellence in nursing care in peoples' homes, regardless of their ability to pay. Queen Victoria was the first patron and a queen has been patron ever since, with Queen Camilla assuming the role in 2024

In 1967 I was appointed a Queens nurse (Victoria not Elizabeth!) I was asked to attend the outfitter in Buckingham Palace Rd. I was admitted by a woman I can only describe as a vendeuse,



black dress, very thin and immaculately coiffed. She escorted me to a salon, a symphony in pale blue velvet and grey silk. She seated me and left briefly to return with a Bone china tea tray. We discussed my preference in hats and then proceeded to an equally luxurious changing room.

She measured every inch of me asking Madame's preference for easement, length of skirt and other things that meant little to me. She said I had an hour glass shape, but I think she meant big bum!!

One week later a big box appeared, 4 dark blue dresses, 6 rigidly starched collars and cuffs, 6 frilled cuffs, (used

when sleeves rolled up) 6 aprons, 1 double breasted wool greatcoat, 1 mackintosh with wrap across panel (to be used when cycling,) and 1 hat and a scarf, which I still have.



This was the NHS in its infancy. I suspect scrubs are more comfortable.

Rita Wakely SRN SCM ONC QIDNS

Nurse Prescriber (retired)

We hope for further episodes from Rita's career - and what about yours?.

Willow Gardens



At the heart of our village, what goes on in Willow Gardens is unknown to many residents. Manager Angie will be in the **Bistro at 11am on 29th August**. To meet her and learn about this important part of our village, do come along.

Food Bank

Please add just one tin to your next weekly shop, for the food bank bin in the Post Room.

Last Thursday, we had requests for food parcels from 15 families but, unfortunately, we were unable to fulfil them. Demand is high at present because of school holidays. The financial positions of applicants have been fully reviewed and are genuine.

I think sometimes we forget how fortunate we are that we put food on our tables daily.

Heather Parrish

Anne Hobbs . . .

. . . wishes to thank all those who sponsored her in recent challenge. Anne used the Motomed counting every pedal turn to reach her goal. She would spend half an hour to reach a 3 mile target. She spent a couple of hours a week. All together she covered 57.57 kilometres and raised just over £500 for the Berkshire MS Therapy centre. About 100 people from the centre took part in this money raising effort and the money will be spent on physio sessions and extra classes for those who have MS.

All this exercise has helped Anne mentally as well as thoroughly tiring her out.

Congratulations Ann on an heroic effort.

Condolences

We offer sincere condolences to the family of John Wood who died last month and to Val Livesley who lost her husband Brian recently. We offer all our support at this sad time. There is a condolences book in the Library, on the sideboard as you enter from the bar.

A warm welcome . .

. . to Brian and June Cooke who've moved into 41 Oakleigh Square and to Patrick and Rosemary Sookhdeo (26 Beech Grove).

Important Dates

HLRA

There will be no normal committee meetings in August or September. The AGM will be in the Bistro at 3pm on Monday 8th September.

Library

The next meeting of the Book Club is in the **Library, at 11 am, Thursday 7th August**.

Diana Duckworth

Babble and Speak

The next Babble and Speak will be in the Bistro on **Wednesday 27th August**, when Brian Keal will tell us about "30 Years a Magistrate". We look forward to a fascinating talk on his experiences.

The bar will open at 6pm and the talk begins at 7pm.

Keith Hall

Jo's Weekly Email

Some of you may not be aware of the extremely useful service Jo Taylor performs for us all. She gives you all the coming happenings here in the next week or so, plus urgent extra last-minute info (eg cancellations). All you need to do to receive this is to give Jo your email address at jotay14@gmail.com and this will be in your inbox every weekend.

Many thanks, Jo, from those of us who really appreciate this service. *Wendy Wooldridge*

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!

samdauncey@live.co.uk and
jennyhydes@icloud.com

Your contributions are our life-blood.