



LAKES NEWS

Willow Gardens?

Angie McCormack, our care home manager, and Tracy Gill (Home Gare), hosted a coffee morning in the **Bistro on 29th August**: coffee and cakes (yum yum), goody bags, and the opportunity to ask questions about what Willow Gardens offers. It was an interesting morning, even for those who have been here long enough to think they knew all they needed to about our on-site care home. Thank you both. *Lakes News Team*

HLRA

The AGM of the Residents Association will be in the Bistro at **3pm on Monday 8th September**. All residents are welcome to attend. It is our most important meeting of the year and is your opportunity to have your ideas listened to. If you want anything added to the agenda please let Roger Pearce know without delay. *Jenny Hydes*

Whatever happened to our internet?

On 13th August the Openreach cabinet at the bottom of Cricket Hill Lane was damaged by a car.

Although it was replaced the following week it has still taken 2 weeks to get it up and running again.

How has this affected the village? Well no one in phase 2 has been affected as they have fibre connections. However everyone in phase 1 who has private broadband (SKY, BT, Vodafone etc) has not been able to use it. If you live in Oakleigh Square (or near enough) you can use Purplezone Resident.



Landline. Every apartment has a landline and can use it to phone other residents without charge. You can receive calls through this line on your personal number and you can make outside call if you dial 9 before the number you want. The standing charge is covered by your Service Charge and the cost of calls is very reasonable.

Mobile many of us use mobile phones. Although we may use our broadband for these phones, we get the signal from a mobile network.

Anchor Call is completely separate and works independently of broadband, mobile phone or landline. *Jenny Hydes*

Welcome . . .

. . . to Mrs Maritta Moore who has moved into 11 Pine Bank

Babble and Speak

We had another fascinating talk in August. This time it was from Brian Keal reminiscing about his 30 years as a Magistrate, and telling us some entertaining true stories.

Our next Babble and Speak is on Wednesday 24th Sept by our own Roger Pullin. The subject is "Our trip to Peru". The bar will be open at 6 pm and the talk starts at 7 pm.

If you know of anyone who might be willing to give us a talk, please ring me on Extn 4652.

Keith Hall

Musical Moments

HL Entertainment organised an afternoon of music, tea and cake on August 18. The music was provided by Emily, a lovely young lady who sang songs from our favourite films and shows of the fifties and sixties. Most of us really enjoyed it and hope we can look forward to one again.

Incidentally Doris Day was 97 when she passed away.

Molly Ruffles

Hampshire Lakes visit to Bishopstoke Park

On Friday the 8th August a group of residents were invited to a croquet match against Bishopstoke Park village. It was an excellent day, we were well looked after and given a guided tour of their village. It was interesting to hear they had similar problems to us due to incorrectly designed balconies. We were shown around several apartments. BP have the exact same bathroom fittings and fireplaces as we have at Hampshire Lakes.

Following the arrival introduction, with tea and biscuits, two games of croquet were played on their croquet lawn. Theirs was slightly smoother than ours but it was on a steep slope which made the games quite challenging. After a break for lunch the final two games were played. As in the Olympics, it is the 'taking part that really counts', we lost 3 – 1. It was an excellent day and Trevor did an excellent job delivering us back home in time for Happy Hour.

We will be inviting BP back to us in the future for games of Boules or Carpet Bowls and possibly Bridge.

Keith Hall

Top Hat at Chichester

I used to look forward to retirement in a small cottage close to everything I would require. Anything for a quiet life.

But Covid made me realise the quiet life was not really my cup of tea. So I came to Hampshire Lakes: plenty for me to do, sporty games, outings and theatre trips. I enjoyed being involved and joined the HLRA as Membership Secretary.

The next thing I knew I was on the Hampshire Lakes Entertainment committee, too. We arranged a trip to Chichester Festival Theatre to see the musical Top Hat on 12 August. I was asked to sort out payment for the eight people on my lunch table as well as keeping an eye on some of the less able, with stairs etc. After a very tasty lunch, Sam even started chatting up one of the young waitresses (I don't think it was really only about the very interesting Heritage Potatoes, either)!

We managed to get the eight from our table safely to their seats in the theatre, despite the many stairs to be negotiated with three walking sticks and two walkers.

Once settled we enjoyed a very lively show and admired the costumes and dancing.

And then everything went awry.

Trying to find the two walkers and get them reunited with their owners, plus helping those with walking sticks to manage stairs and corridors, with thousands of theatre goers going in all directions, was chaos. Some went down the wrong staircases or lifts whilst others went off to visit the loos.

I was afraid that my first attempt as a helper might end in total disaster but, with the other very helpful people from Hampshire Lakes, we did end up where we should have been. But an administrative error held up our coach so we had to sit in the heat and diesel fumes for ages until it turned up at the same time as other coaches were beginning to bring people in for the next performance.

Do I wish I was back in my little cottage with not a lot to do but relax? Certainly not. Despite saying 'never again, never again' I've been trying to think how I can be better organised next time. If at first you don't succeed

Carolyn Hill

A Wonderful Childhood With Horses

Karel Doyle has lived at Hampshire Lakes for two years now and in her apartment there is an abundance of horsey memorabilia and beautiful pictures and photos.

She was raised on the family farm in Chigwell



in Essex, and Karel was astride Peggy the Shetland pony by the age of two. When she out-grew Peggy, Karel's nan bought her a beautiful little pony called Weasel for the grand sum of £5.

Weasel soon became a much-loved member of the family and Karel entered county shows on her, competing against far more valuable mounts. But Weasel was a very clever pony who had a great kinship with Karel and she held her own against the fancier ponies. Karel rode her with the pony club at The Horse of the Year Show. Weasel never reached the "front row" of winners but Karel adored her and was very proud of her.

Karel continued to grow and Peggy and Weasel stayed on the farm as family pets as Karel was looking for a bigger mount. Christopher Robin came next, a gymkhana pony, and Gaiety Girl, a show pony from the Conolly-Carew stable, a wealthy family in Ireland. Karel's father became heavily involved with the Pony Club and he took Karel to after-school lessons in Epping every Friday. As Karel's show-jumping improved Christopher Robin and Gaiety Girl were sold to pay for Nippy 111 and Acton Lass. Karel's

attention was drawn to Nippy 111 because of the handsome young man riding him, but the pony did prove to be a good buy. At the age of 14, after doing well at Essex County show Karel and Nippy competed at The Horse of the Year Show and stood proudly in second place, this time in the front row!

Nippy 111 and Acton Lass were sold to fund the purchase of Shenandoah, a 16.2 Novice show jumper. It was a successful partnership, and at the age of 16 Karel became the first under 20 female to clear the Devil's Dyke and complete a clear round at Hickstead. A huge achievement!

Karel eventually married a horse rider and had two sons, one of whom has spent his lifetime with horses, and still rides and competes for Ireland. She also has one granddaughter who rides. I hope she has her own wonderful childhood with horses.

As told to Janet McCombie

Blind 'em with science

Make people think - is it true?

Have you every realised how false your own body image may be. You don't usually see the slouching side view of the person in your bathroom mirror.



I'd already been shocked by one of Kieth's videos which included a stooped old man (me) dancing.

Then, while putting my belt, hat, jacket etc back on after going through security at a cruise terminal, I didn't feel at all flattered when I was approached by a port official with "Would you like wheelchair assistance, sir?"

Sam Dauncey

Food Bank

We are most grateful to those of you that responded to my plea last month. The need is ongoing. Please keep "food bank" written permanently on your shopping list.

Heather Parrish

*Sam finds himself thinking that you may be one who doesn't buy multipacks because they have more than you need. What if you **do** buy the multipack and donate one item to the food bank? You may find you are then spending no more for the ones you **do** want.*

Library

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

Diana Duckworth

Thunderstorm in Yateley

On 31st July Heather measured 25 mm of rain - nearly half the average for the whole of July - which fell in only about ½ hour on the evening of 31st July.



The picture shows the radar rainfall map at the peak of the storm over Yateley whose

location is indicated by the black marker. Red shows the area of heaviest rain with more than 32 mm/hr; other colours show lighter rain.

25 mm in ½ hr equates to a 'return period' of about 20 years, i.e. there is just a 5% chance, in any given year, of experiencing that level of rainfall in ½ hr. Even though climate change is projected to increase the frequency and intensity of such extreme rainfall events, the storm on 31st July was indeed exceptional.

Michael Bader

Brooklands Museum

Another place to go. Just outside Weybridge. A (the?) centre of British speed. Record-breaking bikes, cars and planes from the last century and beyond (including a Concorde). There are workshops, and the London Bus Museum, too. And, of course, a café and gift shop!



Many of the road vehicles are still drivable (some were being driven when I went, but not the McLaren made of Lego!). Even the odd historic aircraft can be taxied.

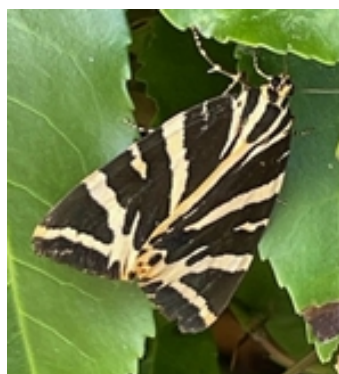
I was impressed by the number of old aircraft that had been rescued and rebuilt from original drawings after crashes. One Wellington still had propellor blades bent very artistically by its final crash landing in the sea!

Less than an hour's drive away, Brooklands is an interesting place to spend a few hours. Honest! I'm not trying to say anything to HLE.

Sam Dauncey

Butterflies and Moths

We have recently heard a lot about the shortage in the UK of these lovely bugs. However, the Jersey Tiger Moth is being seen more often. As the name suggests, these originated in the Channel Islands but over the last few years have been seen more frequently in the UK. They hopped over to Dorset, spread along the coast and are now seen further inland but are still relatively rare.



By coincidence I snapped this little beauty a couple of days before the Jersey Tiger Moth was on the news. I was walking towards the "pond" and just before the bridge it landed on the laurel hedge. The

second pair of wings, hidden here, are a lovely red.

If you are lucky enough to see these or other butterflies or moths you can report the sightings to butterflyrecordins.org.

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!

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Your contributions are our life-blood.