



Queen Elizabeth II, Leonardo da Vinci, William Shakespeare and Thomas Jefferson.
QUIZ: What do they have in common? Answer on back page.

LAKE NEWS

HLE's Abba Voyage

Wasn't the Abba Voyage a great day again!



Even our driver (or his satnav?) knew enough to avoid the M25 and give us a reasonably uninterrupted trip home. I'd never imagined the North Circular could be the quicker route.

Some older people who'd dressed up for the show made me wonder if their grandchildren call

them "Nana", which would make them Abbananas? Look back to **Lakes News issues 82 and 86 (on www.hhra.info)** for earlier articles about the show.

Many thanks to **Joan** and **Hampshire Lakes Entertainment** for the fun **Casino evening**. We love the opportunity to don our glad rags and evening dress. Part of the charm of the occasion was we had the opportunity to mingle and socialise as we made our way to the buffet and the gaming tables.

Lakes News Team

HLRA

The Residents' Association's April committee meeting will be on **Saturday 11th April at 10.30 in the Library**. This is one week later than normal, because of Easter. Members are welcome to observe, and comment at the end.

Library

The April meeting of the book club, to comment on books we've read, is on **Wednesday 1st April at 11 am** in the Library. Please come! *Diana Duckworth*

If you have the library copy of Lucinda Riley's **"The Pearl Sister"**, please return it as soon as you have finished with it. It's in demand.

Babble and Speak

In March's "Murder, Mystery and Mayhem" John Housden had us both fascinated and amused. Not a great success in an old-fashioned academic school he was seduced by the majesty of the law and became a successful solicitor. This brought him into contact with people ranging from Christine Keeler to Princess Di and the King. Clients included a prostitute accused of "rolling" her client and an arsonist driven to murder.

Between all these stories he gave us a quick run-through of the structure of the English court system, the eccentricity of some judges and a sob story about how the law here did not allow him to claim part of a client's exemplary damages (unlike like the American lawyers he worked with on one case).

At least 45 residents attended the occasion and the newly installed sound system meant everyone there heard every word clearly. Congratulations to the residents' team who designed and oversaw the installation.

The pity was that although we could all hear clearly, the position of the bar meant that many of us could not see the speaker.

Jenny Hydes & Sam Dauncey

Janet's Sarah's Escort

This photo popped up on my screen, and memories came flooding back. It was a Ford Escort: my daughter's 18th birthday present. The car was the same age as Sarah and had belonged to a friend's elderly mother. It had been garaged most of its life so had excellent bodywork.



It served her quite well for a couple of years, but its unusually good condition caught somebody's eye and it was stolen from Bagshot railway station. We were all very sad and never stopped checking the number plates of any white Escorts that crossed our paths. I wonder where it ended up?

Janet McCombie

Please Reminisce

Thank you, Janet. But there must be many more residents passing milestones that remind them of something that might entertain, surprise, amaze or even horrify us.

Some have written about holidays, about how they met their other halves and about other episodes in their lives (like Mike's inadvertently causing one of his squad's bayonets to puncture the fuel tank of the late Queen's aircraft in Africa) and we had social comment from Sheila last month. It doesn't take long to produce a two-hundred-word email (these two paragraphs are some 160 words). We can type from your manuscript.

For example, back in the 1960s Belinda and Sam had a short holiday driving around Arizona, Nevada and California (you can read about it in "Belinda Dauncey, An Autobiography" in the library). Even one memory of that trip, finding fine sand inside a suitcase after driving through a dust storm, could be enough as a little stand-alone snippet.

Come on! Get on with it! *Lakes News Team*

Driving Licence Renewal

Did you know that since August 2025 your three-yearly licence renewal application must include proof of an eyesight test within the last 12 months. There is also increased scrutiny of medical conditions affecting senior drivers, with stricter penalties for non-compliance. I applied nearly 3 months early but delays mean I am relying on special rules that allow you to continue driving beyond renewal should the DVLA be responsible (from DVLA on request).

Alan Anning
(I renewed mine online 5 weeks ago with no problems but Government legislation requiring eye-test is expected by the end of the year)

Jenny Hydes

Blind 'em with science

Make people think - is it true?

Human metabolism produces heat. The body has evolved to operate best in an environment a bit cooler than the body's natural temperature (around 37C), to help it get rid of that heat. Sadly, if the ambient temperature is too low we lose too much and have to insulate ourselves or produce more heat to avoid discomfort or worse.

Some misguided people try to make themselves comfortable by circulating warm air around the room, but most of the heat is lost into walls and windows.

Others, a bit wiser, use so-called radiators, although these generally convect more than radiate, heating the air more than the people.

Again, since the walls are cooler than you are, most of that heat doesn't get to you.

Wiser still are those with underfloor heating (if they understand how to use it). They get more heat directly by radiation and are insulated from the cold walls by the surrounding air. Sadly, the body has a smaller cross-section when seen from the floor than from the walls, so, again, heat is still lost that way.

The solution is to heat our inside walls. I get most of my heat that way. Warm walls give maximum radiation to our bodies. There's no need to heat the air. There are no unsightly radiators taking up wall space, even thin clothes will stop cold air if there is no wind, and cooler air is better for old furniture, too.

Sam Dauncey

Michael's comment on last month's 'Blind 'em with science'

The 'Equilux' is what you are referring to. It occurs a few days before the Vernal equinox and a few days after the Autumnal equinox. I can't find the precise date for this year - probably 17th March at our latitude? It is explained very well in <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/equilux.html>. (A very good site for astronomical facts in general.)

On a similar theme: I wonder if people know the earliest and latest possible dates for Easter Day and why?

The last time Easter fell on March 22 (earliest possible date) was in 1818, and the next time will be in 2285. The last time Easter fell on 25th April was in 1943, and the next time will be in 2038. So a much, much shorter gap.

Michael Bader

One could go on shattering pre-conceptions! The darkest evenings and mornings don't occur on the winter solstice. They are some ten days before and after, respectively. You yourself will have to find out why.

Sam Dauncey

New fencing

A huge pile of timber had been delivered but



the first job of the three young men was to remove the broken fencing, which had collapsed like dominoes. Then they brought



an amazing gadget on caterpillar tracks. This machine was piled high to deliver the new timber round the perimeter of most of Phase One. It looked as if it was doing its own thing, but was in fact controlled by one man with an iPad of some kind as he strolled beside it.

The machine then became a mini pile driver as it travelled round thumping the uprights into the ground, at this stage it was checked with a good old-fashioned spirit level. The



next day the horizontal bars were attached and the tops of the posts trimmed neatly.

Just 3 very polite young men, working as a great team, completed an excellent job quickly and efficiently. Well done guys it was a pleasure to see a job well done. The finished fence looks amazing. It remains to be seen whether our deer will negotiate the more closely-spaced bars?



But look what one gust of wind did to the new fence days later! Whoops! Janet McCombie

**NOT EVEN THE SPANISH ARMADA COULD
SURVIVE BRITISH WEATHER**

Food Bank

We hope the initial encouraging response to last month's appeal wasn't a one-off. Heather tells us that donations tailed off again almost immediately.

The need is even greater with Easter holidays coming, when school dinners are not available. It is chiefly families who need the Food Bank.

Lakes News Team

Mike Duckworth's Celebration



Mike was given an excellent farewell. Bruce brought their E-Type and a friend an XK 150: giving Mike a great choice of how to complete his journey.

Lakes News Team

Diana adds, "On behalf of my family, and especially me, I want to thank you for supporting us at Michael's funeral.

"What a send off! Lots of family and friends, all dressed in bright colours, celebrating his long and happy life. Exactly what he wanted.

"Also thanks to all the staff who made the day go so successfully."

Condolences

We send our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Barbara Tizzard.

Barbara was one of the first residents of Hampshire Lakes when she moved in ten years ago. She really loved the sunshine and would sit every sunny morning on her balcony surrounded by her pots and tubs of flowers absorbing the sunshine.

We are told her funeral is on April 1st, She would have been amused by the date.

We will miss her.

Lakes News Team

The last of the Big White Hunters



Guess who? Even the giraffe was curious!

Welcome

Last month five new residents moved in:

- Valerie Kerslake, 64 Oakleigh Square
- Muriel (Moo) Clayton, 43 Oakleigh Square
- Maurice and Anne Adams, 48 Oakleigh Sq.
- Norma Smith, 21 Beech Grove

There's lots to do here. Don't wait to be invited. Introduce yourselves. Get involved.

Lakes News Team

Apology: Tale of Yateley

Apologies are due to Caroline Kerslake for errors last month. She herself (not an imaginary Caroline Kershaw) wrote the "Tale of Yateley" poem, getting her facts from Derek Doherty's booklet. I don't know where I got Kershaw from - I've never seen Emmerdale.

Sam Dauncey

QUIZ: All four had April Birthdays

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.