



LAKE NEWS



Save the Date

Hampshire Lakes 10th Anniversary celebration is on **Tuesday June 16th**, just two days after the actual anniversary

Join us as we celebrate ten wonderful years of Hampshire Lakes with a very special anniversary day featuring entertainment, a commemorative picnic lunch provided by Anchor, special guests, and the chance to welcome back old friends who have been part of our journey over the years.

The celebrations will continue into the evening with a Champagne Reception followed by a Gala Dinner and entertainment from one of our favourites, Harry Kersley, singing light opera and well-known classics.

Further details and timings will follow soon – but for now, please put the date firmly in your diary! We look forward to celebrating together.

Joan Russam

It' a Decennial

At the end of 2015 a few stalwart residents started to move into their apartments, some having waited 1, or even 2 years, beyond their planned moving dates. It must have been very strange to be in the huge development with

just 5 or 6 residents and too many staff, trying to decipher how things were going to work.

With the coming of the New Year the trickle became a stream as apartments became available for their new owners to take up residence, and the bin stores were full of large, flattened boxes as the unpacking heralded the start of a very different lifestyle for most people moving in. It felt like a big step for most of us, leaving our big family houses and gambling on finding someone we would get on with, within the disparate throng taking their places in Hampshire Lakes. Friendships began to bloom, and plans were laid to arrange a means of getting together and taking advantage of our lovely village and all it had to offer.

The question of entertainment, at home in our village, or further afield, took root and spawned the Theatre Together group. This has a well deserved write-up of its own in this news sheet. Next came the suggestion from those who knew how, to form a committee. This would enable us to have the support of Anchor, and ensure that all residents had the opportunity to be heard. Many hours of work from a small group created a Constitution which was sent up to Anchor. It was done so well that the Constitution was accepted straight away, which gave us a legal footing to begin establishing a working committee. Some volunteered, some were persuaded, and some found themselves on the committee, and the monthly meetings began.

Those who attend these monthly meetings know what has been achieved (so far!)

Looking around our village, it is obvious just how much has been done. In no particular

PTO "order there is . . ."

order there is our Volunteer driving group who take residents who are no longer able to drive to medical appointments, saving hundreds of pounds and offering a hand of friendship. (More drivers needed please.) We have a drop-down screen and projector and marvellous acoustic improvements in the Bistro. This has transformed the sound quality for meetings such as our great Babble and Speak, a monthly get together with speakers who volunteer to keep us interested and amused. The screen also enables us to have a monthly movie night, and allows us to gather to watch some of the historic events we are living through. The pool table has been a very welcome addition, and is greatly enjoyed. Many of our get togethers and parties are recorded by our very own cameraman, who also decided over three years ago to create and run an amazing web site. www.hlra.info is fantastic and a source of valuable information about and for our village.

The original Wellness Centre was badly designed, so we pushed for this to be reconsidered. So, in the same footprint we now have a far better place for us all to keep fit and well. Over the years the classes available have improved with something for everyone. We also have a Motomed which



helps our less mobile residents to exercise and improve their fitness, available to us all.

Of course halfway through our tenure the second phase of Hampshire Lakes was embarked upon. We poor residents already living here had no idea what was coming. Apart from the mud, scaffolding and nails in our tyres there was the PILE DRIVING! It wasn't just us, said pile driving was audible at the other end of Yateley, and shook pictures off our walls and ornaments off our shelves. Enormous cranes appeared and areas full of "chimneypots" gave the game away, if anyone thought they were real.

As Phase 2 took shape it made us realise that things were going to change. For a start they had beautiful plants and good lawns, something Phase 1 had never seen! Those at Anchor head office thought 2 men once a week would maintain our grounds and

gardens. We convinced them otherwise and now have some beautiful gardens to be proud of.

Phase 2 apartments sold steadily and the extra residents have seamlessly joined the village. We are a friendly lot and there are many games to join in. These include Bridge, Scrabble, Mahjong, Rummikub, Canasta and Crib. There is also Water Volleyball, Table Tennis, a Book club, Anything Art, Lakes News, of course, and the monthly opportunity to attend Holy Communion. We also have our Hampshire Lakes mini bus, soon to be upgraded to take non drivers shopping or on outings. If you have other suggestions let the committee know, or even join the committee!

I think our first 10 years have enabled our village to grow into a great place to live, but there is always something else to add or improve. Congratulations to all who have helped with this evolution. Let's work together and keep it up.

Janet McCombie

 Hampshire Lakes Village was formally opened on 14 June 2016. Lakes News Issue 100 included some reminders of the early years (read it on www.hlra.info).

Although residents had started moving in in December 2015 the formal opening ceremony waited until most of the Phase One apartments were occupied.

A marquee was set up in the car park outside reception, serving light refreshments to residents actual and prospective and to visiting VIPs, including the Mayor (who added to the excitement by falling off the stage, luckily without getting hurt). The formal opening was by John Craven, best known for presenting the BBC programmes Newsround and Countryfile. He gave an interesting and humorous talk.

Belinda and I happened to be sitting next to a couple who had bought an apartment for his parents, only for the father to die and the mother to need nursing care. They had decided to keep it "just in case" and have rented it out ever since. It's now on its second or third tenant, which drives home the wisdom (which I lacked) of skipping a generation or setting up a trust, rather than buying and occupying it oneself.

Sam Dauncey

Ten Years of Theatre Together and Hampshire Lakes Entertainment

In early 2016 a note was posted through residents' letterboxes asking if anyone wanted to get together to visit the theatre. Initially 3 or 4 responded and trips started using cars. As time went on more interest was generated. Then someone mentioned that the theatre in Woking had an excellent range of shows, others quickly became interested, and before long the idea of Theatre Together was born.

A coach was soon booked for our very first outing – to see Chris Barber and his Big Band at The Anvil in Basingstoke on 24th September 2016. Twenty-six residents joined the trip and a wonderful new chapter in village life began.

In those early days we visited theatres far and wide, checking accessibility, seating arrangements, toilets, parking and step-free routes. It was certainly a learning curve! Gradually a proper booking system evolved and the trips became an established and much-loved part of Hampshire Lakes' life.

Over the years we have enjoyed an extraordinary variety of performances. Choosing the most memorable is almost impossible, but a few highlights immediately spring to mind: Sunset Boulevard, Crazy for You, Matthew Bourne's wonderful ballets, War Horse, Chicago, ABBA Voyage, Guys and Dolls and The Phantom of the Opera. We also enjoyed many excellent productions at Chichester Festival Theatre including The Sound of Music, Oklahoma, Oliver, and South Pacific!

Opera, ballet, and classical music lovers have not been forgotten either, with outings to La Traviata, The Nutcracker, The Red Shoes, Swan Lake, the Barber of Seville, Madame Butterfly and concerts by the London Symphony Orchestra.

In 2024 we took what felt at the time like a huge leap and organised our first trip into London for ABBA Voyage. It proved such a success that it became the first of several wonderful London adventures.

Of course, not every choice was a triumph! One "ghost story" turned out not to be much of a mystery at all. An ABBA-themed party evening in Basingstoke was rather more lively and much louder than expected and so we

spent the second half in the bar where we could hear perfectly well!

There were many funny moments too. One



dearly loved resident, sadly no longer with us, had great difficulty climbing onto the coach. We experimented with builder's bricks as an extra step before finally deciding that a coordinated "pull from the front and push from the back"

operation was required! On another occasion the theatre had forgotten to prepare her wheelchair space and, by way of apology, offered her a complimentary drink. She very happily accepted a large gin and tonic!

Another resident once announced during the interval that it was time for his tablets and looked to us to provide both water and assistance – something we had not quite expected when we began organising theatre trips. Then there was the memorable journey to Woking to see Hairspray when, halfway there, we received a phone call telling us the cast had gone down with Covid and the performance had been cancelled. The coach had no option but to turn around and return to Hampshire Lakes.

Meanwhile, we realised that many residents preferred entertainment closer to home, and so our dinner-and-entertainment evenings were born. Residents will remember wonderful performances from Harry Kersley, the Thames Valley Chorus, traditional Irish dancers, flamenco evenings, Caribbean nights, casino evenings, traditional jazz sessions and the ever-popular Robbie and his guitar. Once again, we did not always get everything right – who could forget that truly dreadful magician!

Looking back over ten years, what stands out most of all is the friendship, laughter and support we have shared together as a community. None of it would have been possible without the enthusiasm and encouragement of our residents.

PTO "We also extend . . ."

We also extend our sincere thanks to the reception team for their helpful booking systems, the maintenance team (who put up the glitter ball!) and of course the restaurant and front of house teams for their wonderful food, support and hard work that have helped make so many events so enjoyable over the years.

Most of all, thank you to everyone who has travelled, danced, laughed, sung and celebrated with us over the last ten years. We look forward to many more happy years of entertainment together at Hampshire Lakes.

*Joan Russam and the HLE team:
(Carolyn Hill, Jenny Hydes, Ruth Maynard, Janet McCombie, JoTaylor, Chris Widman)*

HLRA

The next committee meeting will be on **Saturday 6 June at 10.30** in the Library.

You may remember that last summer the HLRA decided to offer "up to £500" to be put towards buying plants for the Village, in addition to the restricted amount covered by the Service Charge. Mike spent £498.68!

Our website, www.hlra.info, run by Keith Hall, contains not only back issues of Lakes News but also a wealth of information ranging from what's happening to times of wellness classes and local services. You can see silent extracts from the website in reception.

The Library: The Book Club

We are changing the way the book club works. The new look Book Club starts in the **Library, at 11 am, Thursday 4 June**. Come along. You will have the opportunity to swap and recommend books you have read recently (I can't wait to get hold of the new biography of Rasputin by Antony Bevor). At our last meeting we thought we would be able to have a more interesting exchange of ideas if we focussed on one text, as well.

We decided we would make a start with shorter novellas. In the June meeting the book will be **Mothering Sunday by Graham Swift** (Sam managed to find a copy on line for £2.70, postage free).

So much is packed into the 132 pages we will have much to argue about. Set in 1924 Jane Fairchild is an orphaned maid with no mother to visit. She has a final passionate secret tryst with her wealthy lover ...

The July Book Club will focus on **Small Thing Like These by Claire Keegan**. (£7, says Sam, but you might find it for less). It has a mere 128 pages but is very moving, raising questions we will all have an opinion about.

We will also set up a WhatsApp group, so bring your phone numbers, too. *Jenny Hydes*

Farewell

Last month we said goodbye to our wonderful Nigel. He didn't want a fuss but we collected £700! which has been taken to his home with his farewell card. *Lakes News Team*

Foxes



It might be lovely to feed the foxes because you feel sorry for them but it is probably encouraging the rats. These are increasing in number and we really don't want them.

Judith Rodgers

Can you suggest "Thinks bubbles" for those two?

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.



LAKES NEWS EXTRA

Buckingham Palace

To get past 'Security' at the palace, Jeanette Graham and her daughter-in-law had to submit to full airport-like checks, including drinking something from any bottles of water they were carrying.



They had managed to buy tickets to a special exhibition of about 150 examples of the late Queen's outfits. It runs until October but most time slots are fully booked. You might get cancelled tickets if you check the booking page on the Royal Collection Trust website, preferably early mid-week mornings.

Clothing, hats, handbags, shoes etc were all there, in several rooms, beautifully displayed, with notes and photos of the late Queen wearing them. You could borrow an audio guide, too, if you wanted.

The highlight for Jeanette was the Coronation gown. Apparently it was too heavy at first, so steps had to be taken to lighten it. Jeanette also noticed that the waistlines tended to grow, the later the piece was used! Outfits

were very often modified so they could be worn again, a long-standing practice within the Royal Household wardrobe system.

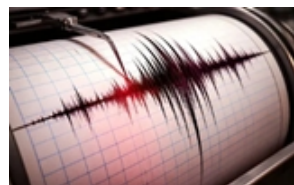
There was a souvenir shop, too (surprise surprise!) The prices were prohibitive but for a few tens of pounds Jeanette did buy herself a little 'hanging thing': a beautifully embroidered commemorative 'medallion'.

Based on a chat with Jeanette Graham

Earthquake!!

Heidi and I were on a much anticipated holiday this year to Japan and China. Part of the holiday involved a cruise around the Japanese Islands on the Silver Nova cruise ship. On the 20th April we had reached the port town of Hakodate in north east Japan. The ship was moored against a pier in the port providing an easy walk into town. Most passengers had a stroll around the town, and all had returned to the ship by midafternoon.

We had settled down in our cabin before dinner. The ship was due to leave in the evening for the next port. Suddenly our mobile phones emitted a raucous sound at one or two second intervals. We could not understand what was going on as it was not



just our phones but every phone on the ship. Then a message appeared on the phones telling us to evacuate and go immediately to higher

ground. Within a very few minutes the ship started rocking and looking onto the pier we could see lamp standards swaying violently. After a further short time, we received a message on the mobile phones to say what had clearly been an earthquake was over. That

was not the end of it as almost immediately sirens throughout the town started to wail to warn of an impending tsunami. Straightaway the Captain broadcast an urgent message to all passengers telling us that the ship was leaving its berth immediately as it was safer to be out at sea with an impending tsunami. It was a real shock. The ship became silent and then everyone spoke at once. All agreed that the captain was doing the right thing particularly as he had said that a second quake was expected. We turned on to our BBC world service tv channel and it was reported that there had been a 7.7 magnitude earthquake offshore of Miyako Japan (our next port!) triggering the tsunami warnings.

Fortunately following our departure from the port, we had no more repercussions from the earthquake. We were warned however that the port of Miyako may be closed as a precaution. In the event the next day our ship was allowed into the port. We could understand the caution as the previous 2011 major earthquake had been 9.9 magnitude and the worst in Japanese history. In that earthquake this small town had been devastated. 420 people had died 94 missing and 4000 injured. The tsunami wave had been about 40 metres in height, and the town had been flooded to a depth of 20 metres. The only obvious sign of the disaster we saw was a deserted hotel about 20 floors high. The first 3-4 floors were just exposed girders. It was retained, being the only surviving structure, as a memorial to the dead and missing of the town. It was all very sobering and we reflected how fortunate we were to be living in peaceful Yateley many miles away from earthquakes and Tsunamis.

John Housden

Nostalgia

Wendy suggested it might be of interest to know how many residents who were eligible for the original opening are still in their own homes today. Maybe some of them could say what they particularly like (or dislike!) about living here.

Just send samdauncey@live.co.uk a short email. Many of you must have had something interesting or amusing at the start to your personal relationship, too. Something on a journey? A mishap? Or an unintended introduction? For example, did you hear Sam telling about how he tried to make toad-in-

the-hole for Belinda and her flatmates? The batter rose so much that the sausages floated off onto the gas oven's back burner. Come on then! It will only take a few minutes.

Lakes News Team

Persistence Pays

A few months ago I bought some ankle and knee massaging units online. The results were very promising. Unfortunately after 10 weeks they failed one after another over 5 days. I contacted the seller and they sent me a lot of useless information. They had a 90-day guarantee so I requested my money back. This is where the fun started.

At first I'd assumed they were British but they proved to be American. They offered me 15% off future purchases, then 30%, then 40% but never a refund. Every email was in the most glowing terms, always assuring me of their desire to be of service to me. I stuck to my guns, insisting on a refund and asking for details on how to return them. They wanted proof of posting so I packaged everything up and used Royal Mail tracked-and-signed-for and sent photos of the package with the tracking number etc and by return I received confirmation that the refund was now in my Bank account (credit card actually). When my next Statement arrived there was no sign of the refund, I gave it time to clear then phoned the credit card and they confirmed no money had been received from USA. they put me through to their fraud dept. who then took up the case. They put the sum (plus exchange charges) in my account and went after the firm. By then I had given the Bank all the relevant details of purchase and correspondence. I never heard another word from the firm or the credit card.

I feel great satisfaction in getting a foreign company to honour its word!

Wendy Wooldridge

AnchorCall Button

Did you realise that this can be used for any emergency, not just medical ones or falls?

This emergency could be anything to do with your property or when you really need some help.

Welcome to

Ruth Flood who has just moved into 23 Beech.