



In July the (great?) grandchildren enjoy getting out of school and relaxing

LAKE NEWS

HLRA

The next committee meeting will be on **Saturday 4 July at 10.30** in the Library.

Welcome

Early last month, 9 June, new residents met each other and some of the HLRA committee over cups of tea and cakes. Included were:

- Muriel Clayton
- Cathy Park
- Valerie Kerslake with her daughter Caroline.
- Norma Smith
- Ruth Flood.
- Chris & Jan Horner

Newcomers unable to attend included

- Sheila Mayo
- Ruth and Peter Rothwell
- Maurice and Anne Adams.

Welcome to you all - and don't forget to make sure you have an up-to-date residents' list from Reception, so you know how to find everybody. We hope you are settling in well.

We would love to publish anything, from a few lines to three or four hundred words, if you would like to introduce yourselves or to narrate anything you feel might interest your neighbours.

Lakes News Team

I DON'T BLOW MY OWN TRUMPET — I
JUST DUST IT OCCASIONALLY TO
REMIND MYSELF OF MY LIMITATIONS.

The Library: The Book Club

On **Wednesday 8 July** (NOTE: A week later than usual) the **Book Club** will meet at 11 am in the Library. Many residents use the library but only a few come to our meetings. We would love to see more of you.

We want to maintain the "Bring Your Own Book" idea, planning to finish each meeting by talking about books we have found interesting or have enjoyed.

But before that we will talk about a book most of us have read. Last month it was 'Mothering Sunday' by Graham Swift. A very lively discussion followed, which was certainly enjoyed. We were able to broaden our discussion and talk about what reading meant for us as individuals.

This month we will start by talking about '**Small Things Like These**' by **Claire Keegan**. Jenny points out that it has a mere 128 pages but is a serious work and has been made into a film. You may still find the discussion interesting even if you have not yet read any of the books.

Diana Duckworth

Birthday Cake!

Congratulations to Mary Tayman, who invites you to celebrate her 90th birthday with tea and cake in the Library from **3pm to 5pm on Saturday July 18th**.

Kindly **advise Reception by Wednesday July 15th** if you would like to come.

Many Thanks

To all residents and staff who made our 10th birthday celebrations such a success.

We asked you to recall your experiences on being the early birds who moved into the village in late 2015 or early 2016.

First resident (Vic Oliver)

Not many people have the privilege of being the first residents in a development like Hampshire Lakes but not only were my late wife Janice and I the first residents but for nine days we were the only residents. The staff could not have been more attentive but at first there was little enough that they could do as the facilities as they are now simply did not exist. Oakleigh Square, while the building was complete, was not completely fitted out, the other apartments in Walnut Walk were being used as offices, so we were quite close to help when we needed it as responses to requests were immediate. On one occasion our cooker thermostat failed resulting in a roast which could best be described as charcoal. It did not take long after we reported it next morning for the maintenance team to arrive with a replacement, installed before lunch. Looking back we may have been just a bit spoilt.

My memory of those first few weeks is very hazy, mainly clouded by the unpacking of the many many boxes of more things than we should have brought with us which seemed at the time to take forever. Something which I'm sure is true of many fellow residents who have arrived since. Eventually, to our relief the unpacking was done and other residents started to move in, we had neighbours again. Very soon the place turned from just a group of soulless buildings to a community, a village and something like a family. The Residents Association was established and what splendid work they have done since, also the entertainments group who have so enriched so many of our lives and not to forget the volunteer drivers scheme, a boon to so many.

When work on phase two started we didn't know what hit us, the piledriving was horrendous, the noise could be heard throughout Yateley, I heard it when I was the other side of Yateley Common right next to the A30. As for living here right close to it, not only was it noisy but it rattled the crockery in many a cupboard. However, after a while

bricks were laid, buildings rose and turned into apartments and people moved into these apartments further enriching our community.

The benefits of living in a community like Hampshire Lakes became obvious during the covid lockdown. Living in a place which could be virtually isolated largely protected us from both the disease itself and many of the drawbacks of the situation. It was even made possible to have meals delivered from the bistro to our doors if and when necessary.

Inevitably many things have changed over the years some good, some very good and some not quite so good, the difference largely being a matter of personal opinion. Two changes stand out for me as being very good. The first is the removal of what I refer to as the "bus shelter" in the bar/bistro area, a structure of very little use and a total waste of space. The other is the redesign of the Wellness Centre using wasted space, giving us a second changing room (the original unisex cubicles being totally inadequate) and the two treatment rooms which I am sure are greatly appreciated by those who need them.

Despite all the changes, whether considered good or not, Hampshire Lakes remains a very good place to live, to me the only place, it means security, comfort and companionship but above all it is HOME. *Vic Oliver*

First Impressions (Heather Parrish)

I had bought 13 Acorn Vale off plan in 2014 (having put down a £1K returnable deposit). Jane Anderson, the Anchor Sales representative promised us many things, e.g. external lock-up sheds, and an area to hang washing out. Of course, they did not materialise.

My initial moving date was April 2015 but Anchor kept extending. Eventually, after months of living out of a suitcase with various friends, I moved from Bedfordshire on 10th December 2015.

I was not allowed to view my apartment until the purchase was completed. Apparently, a potential resident had had an accident on site, so they had ceased all viewings. When I finally moved in, I realised why. My flat had not been constructed exactly according to the plans: a chunk was missing from the sitting room. Apparently they had installed the pathways before they built the flat!

I'd completed in November 2015 but they would not allow the curtain lady, the carpet company or the carpenter (to erect shelves in my hall cupboards, which were essential), before I had moved in. My furniture arrived and my son and I started unpacking. I'd been told someone would be available for two hours to help, so there was a friendly face round the door enquiring if we were OK. We were served a lunch of Caesar Salad: in the hairdressers, if I remember correctly.

With things being finished around the site, there was nothing to do all day. I remember feeling very lonely at first and wondering why I had ever left Bedfordshire, where I had lived for 75 years. I did not know the area at all or where to get my shopping from. But the mini bus took us to doctor and hospital appointments and I walked into the village to see if I could find a Church to perhaps get involved in something. I have been active in St Peters Church life ever since.

Oakleigh Square was not finished enough for general residents, nor had BT installed my broadband. But we were able to go into Reception each morning with our laptops to catchup on emails. There was a lovely friendly feeling about the building and everyone cared about each other. That was where I met Micaela, but unfortunately I cannot remember who else.

Once the Bistro opened we enjoyed delicious meals and theme evenings. Wayne cooked for us and the Manager, Vinnie, always received us when we entered the Bistro, ushered us to our table and placed our serviettes on our laps. There were no shrubs in the garden round my apartment, so I planted some. Rhona, the then manager, said they would be replaced by the contract gardeners. "Over my dead body" I said - they are still there! And so am I!

Heather Parrish

What changed?

My husband and I felt, at 77 and 80, we were too young for a retirement village. How wrong we were. Looking back, it was probably the best move we could have made. Okay as far as such things go, but over the years it has become so, so much better because of the input and feedback of the Residents. There is a wealth of diverse background knowledge here and it is shared freely. All, Staff as well, are ready to contribute their expertise to help

each other. That, and the many friendships we form, are what I like most about Hampshire Lakes. Maybe we are not unique, but we do seem to have an unusual abundance of knowledgeable folk here.

The Staff are always ready to help and I personally have reason to be very grateful to the Home Care team. My Husband was able to end his days in his own bed with their help.

There are a couple of things i miss here. I miss my garage and I miss being able to dry clothes in sun and wind, but they are a small price to pay for so many positives.

Thank you to all Residents and Staff.

Long may we flourish! *Wendy Wooldridge*

Anima

Our Medical Centre has realised that a large number of Yateley folks have great difficulty in using the Anima system to make an appointment, repeat prescription request or any other issue with our medical centre.

So would you believe they have listened and come up with a much easier system !!!!!!! Yes it's true I've tested it.

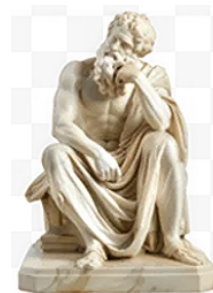
- Type in : Oakley Health Group
- Then under the photo on the right side of your screen click on 'website' (it's very small). If this doesn't work just enter www.oakleyhealth.org
- Then click on submit request
- Then choose one of the options from the list.

And that's it, simple, good luck.

I hope this helps some of you. *Chris Widman*

Blind 'em with science

Make people think - is it true?



I've often said I'm a slow thinker but can I claim a record? It's taken me about 80 years to realise that if you leave the foam on your face for a few minutes before you shave (say while you clean your teeth) you get a more comfortable shave and the razor-blades last longer!

Sam Dauncey

TALLER PEOPLE GET HOTTER SHOWERS

Please Just . . .

. . . **don't** ask a member of the **Maintenance Team directly** to do work for you.

You should go to **Reception** and ask for the required work to be put in the book set aside for the purpose.

It is **unfair** and **intimidating** for the member of staff involved to be approached directly. They have their schedule to follow and should **not** be expected to break off to do what you ask. It is stressful for them to have to turn you down: they are helpful people but they answer to the Maintenance Manager not to individual residents. *Jenny Hydes*

www.hlra.info

Hampshire Lakes Residents' Association Website

Back in 2022 the committee thought it was time to have a website for our village, to highlight the activities and events held in Hampshire Lakes. As I had spent a few years running the British Forces Germany website I was sort of volunteered.

After some research it was decided to trial a WordPress-hosted site. They already hosted about 500 million websites, so it should be adequate for our needs. The website went live in September 2022 as a basic site with a simple address: www.hlra.info

The website became popular and after a year it was decided to upgrade to a Business Package, which added the use of 'Plug Ins', which enabled the editors to introduce a number of clever features which are still used today. In the four years the site has been running we have had more than 10,000 visitors to www.hlra.info, not only from UK but from all over the World, on average each visitor views 4.07 pages.

As the website has developed there are now over 70 pages of information, not counting the individual event fliers. To see a full list of all the pages available go to <https://hlra.info/site-map/>

Apart from the Homepage the most popular pages are the links to Event videos, Committee Information, Wellness, Lakes News, access to Oakley Health, Village News & Information and Activities & Events, the list changes on a regular basis depending on

which activities are highlighted on the Homepage. *Keith Hall and the Web Team*

. . . and by the way, if you see an estate agent here, make sure they know about the website and, perhaps, tell them to get Reception to give them a copy of Lakes News.

The Lakes News Team

Thin-skinned?

As they age, some people get thin-skinned (so you need to be tactful). Others find that the skin is at risk of getting torn when they take sticking-plasters off. Norma Heather recommends **Lifteez**. Just apply it along the edges of the plaster, leave it for a few seconds and it should peel off easily.



Coping with Disability

On September 9th this year there will be an exhibition held at Farnborough International by a company called Naidex. It is run to enable manufacturers of mobility aids of all kinds to display their products and is an opportunity for customers to see, learn about them and try them out. I have previously bought specialist cutlery and Plug Tugs and have tried out various wheelchairs and hand controls on cars.

Tickets to attend are essential, **but free**, and are available on naidex.co.uk, the Naidex website. I hope you find this useful.

Sheila McHale

DON'T CALL ME DISABLED - CALL ME DOROTHY

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.