



Then October adds a gale, wind and slush and rain and hail (Flanders & Swann)

LAKE NEWS

HLRA

The recent AGM was very well attended and we now have a new committee.

New to the committee are **Ellie Harris** who is membership secretary and **Sarah Williams**. A very warm welcome to **Jo Taylor the new chair**. Jo is no stranger to the HLRA as she served as secretary for its first 4 years.

The next meeting is on **Saturday 3rd October at 10:30 in the Library**.

Welcome to new residents

Marcel Mary, 27 Beech Grove

Ray & Sheelagh Dunk, 24 Birch Grove

Christine Homewood 2 Walnut Walk

If you would like Jo Taylor to send you her weekly reminder of what's on, just email her: jotay14@gmail.com

The Library

The Book Club

We now meet in the Library at **11am** on the 3rd Wednesday **of the month** which in this case will be **21st October**.

We had an excellent turn out at our September meeting and we benefited from newcomers and fresh ideas. Books which some of us had enjoyed in the past were '**Crime and Punishment**' by **Dostoevsky**, and '**The Siege**' by **Helen Dunmore**. We decided that although they were very great books they dealt with harrowing subjects and some of us wanted cheering up a bit more!

So at **11am on Wednesday 21st October** we will meet in the library for **The Book Club**. For those of us that want to spend the first half hour *discussing* a book that others have read, it is '**The Kashmir Shawl**' by **Rosie Thomas**.

Last month's conversation was about Agatha Christie's **The Murder of Roger Ackroyd**. We didn't decide why her writing has retained its popularity so long - she wasn't even the first writer to use her 'closed-circle murder puzzle' formula (e.g. E.C. Bentley, Edgar Allan Poe, Arthur Conan Doyle). We decided her characterisation was very wooden with stereotypical people and her favourite locations seemed to be small villages or confined places. For this particular novel many of us felt cheated by the ending even though the ending has to come as a surprise or there would be no point. However her format is still copied today, for example the TV programme, '**Death in Paradise**'. And her classic '**Death on the Nile**' and '**And then there were None**' are regularly televised and dramatised.

Jenny Hydes and Diana Duckworth

Book Review

In the library I found "**The Secret Barrister: Stories of the Law and How It's Broken**", written by **The Secret Barrister** (sic). If you want an eye-opening look into English justice and some thought-provoking discussion of alternatives, you will find this one really interesting (non-fiction, paperback). In summary, truth and fairness are lacking, but alternatives are no better.

Sam Dauncey

Babble and Speak

Sadly, Alex Baker, our MP, had to cancel again on 23 Sept. But our own Roger Pullen was able to take over and give a fascinating talk about his unusual career in electronics. After some time working for Racal, the Merchant Navy and Ferranti he went freelance. This widened his horizons no end: NASA space instruments, answering machines, business computers, the Navy again and some Project Management. Light-hearted and impressive. Well done Roger.

This month, on **Wed 28 October**, we expect to welcome Sue Smith, giving a talk entitled 'Keep Calm and Ask Your Pharmacist'. Make a note in your diary.

Blind 'em with science

Make people think - is it true?

Prompted by my "Dirt doesn't stick to dark clothing" item here last month, Moo Clayton points out that white fluff sticks only to dark clothing, and *vice versa*. *Sam Dauncey*

Calling all Nonagenarians

Who knew there are so many of us, at least 22? The very jolly group who met in the Garden Room on September 8th chatted away happily for an hour or so. We overflowed the Garden Room so our next meeting will be on **October 20th, in the Library**.

Do come along if you will be 90 by the end of 2026. Bring your ear trumpet!

Coffee orders with your Anchor card will be taken by Staff and delivered early in the meeting, Come after 10.30 but try to be there by 11.00. *Wendy Wooldridge*

Banking problems

After 60 years of banking with Barclays, I am finding real problems in managing my account. I do not bank online and it has become more of a problem to manage my account as my ability to get out decreased. So a year ago I added my son's name to my account, (he lives in Yorkshire and does bank online) so he could draw cash and pay bills for me. All was well and I continued to receive a monthly paper statement. 3 months ago the statements to me stopped arriving and went to my son instead. Repeated phone calls to Barclays failed to correct this. I finally had a

lengthy call and discovered that presumably they had decided that with 2 members with the same surname they must be living at the MAN'S address and decided to use that address in future without informing me. They then asked ME for MY statement address and said they would correct my address! I demanded copies that were missing and after



10 days they have arrived. The acid test will be when the September statement is due.

I am amazed that a bank such as Barclays can feel it is OK to change something so important as this without consulting me. Could it be something to do with their ongoing refusal to accept the management's demand that they work in the Office at least 3 days a week unless they are paid more as they need to cover the extra cost of fares and childcare?

Wendy Wooldridge

(More likely to do with encouraging us all to bank online and customer loyalty counts for nothing!)

The 300 Group

In the 1980s I was a member of the committee of the all-party political organisation 'The 300 Group'. This was founded in the 1980s to campaign for and promote the equal representation of women in public life and Parliament. It was a very interesting group to belong to because we all worked together and met in London. We had annual dinners with noted speakers, such as Paddy Ashdown, Maggie Thatcher and even American politicians.

We ran practical training courses, weekend skills workshops and seminars for women running for local councils or Parliament.

I enjoyed the networking as at this time I was a District Councillor and was an approved parliamentary Candidate for the Liberal Party although I did not succeed to get in!

I believe that the group has now been disbanded without there being 300 women in Parliament. *Judith Rodgers*

Against all advice . . .

except that of the Foreign Office, we embarked on our tour to **Jordan** in early September. The bit about the Foreign Office is important. If they say don't go, you get your money back and the tour is cancelled. But if they say it's ok and you cancel, you lose the lot! So we went!

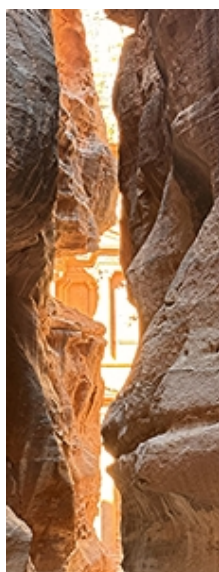
Flight Delays

Yes, of course. Not a result of Iran's drones but Heathrow's computer software. Yes we started our travels on the very day the system went down. You may have read about it. Our flight was delayed by 5 hours and we got to our hotel in time for breakfast. (But too tired to enjoy day 1)

Highlights

Enjoying the wonderful places in Jordan with very few other people. No crowds. No other tourists.

Petra, 'The rose-red City half as old as time', was deserted. Those of you who have been, will remember the long walk through the narrow passage which leads to the 'Treasury'. We had time to wonder at the water conduits built by the Nabataeans and even had time and space to sing 'Amazing Grace' together, so that we could enjoy the resonating sounds our voices made. We walked in wonder as 'The Treasury' emerged through the rocks ahead as the photo shows.



The River Jordan

It was a great experience to actually stand on the banks of the great river - though at times it was merely a stream because the water is used for irrigation. One of our party was actually a vicar and, on the coach there, she read out those very familiar parts of the Old Testament where the coming of John The Baptist was foretold. We saw the site where these baptisms took place.

The Lowest point

Literally the Dead Sea which is at 430 metres below sea level is the lowest point on Earth. It's getting lower by 1 metre a year.

The photo illustrates the salinity which prevents bathers from sinking. It also prevents them from standing up to get



out without one of the guards holding on to their legs! My respect for my fellow traveller prevents me from including pictures of this humiliating event not to mention the bit about him being covered in Dead Sea Mud.

Jenny Hydes

HAPPY BRIAN: NO SINKING FEELING

Theatre Together Annual Dinner

Thursday 22nd October 6.30 pm

It's time once again for our Theatre Together Annual Dinner, when we get together to enjoy a good meal and celebrate another year of theatre-going. We look forward to welcoming Emma Carver back to entertain us.

We've enjoyed some wonderful outings over the past year, the undoubted highlight being the superb production of *My Fair Lady* at Chichester Festival Theatre.

The Annual Dinner is always a happy and sociable occasion — a chance to reminisce about the shows we've enjoyed, the journeys we've shared and, perhaps, look forward to what Theatre Together has in store for us next! Booking at reception soon.

Joan Russam

Macular Meeting

We were delighted so many came to our informal meeting. It was lovely to hear everyone exchanging ideas and suggestions with each other.

It was agreed that we would get together on the first Friday of the month in the Garden Room at 2pm. Please bring along any equipment that could help to improve our lives. The next Macular meeting will be on **Friday 2nd October, 2pm in the Garden Room.**

Diana Duckworth and Ann Chelley

"I SEE WELL ENOUGH TO
KNOW I DON'T."

Stalwarts

Jenny and Joan have both decided to step down from our HLRA committee. They have consecutively chaired the committee for over 8 years between them, and have both contributed hugely to everything the committee has achieved in that time.

The residents have obviously appreciated all they have done and raised enough money to express their thanks with champagne, chocolates, flowers and tokens.

Both Joan and Jenny were completely surprised and delighted. They will leave big shoes to fill.



Janet McCombie

Big thank you!

I was completely taken by surprise at the end of the AGM when I was presented with such a wonderful collection of flowers, chocolates, champagne and vouchers to mark my retirement from the HLRA committee. To learn that so many residents, as well as my fellow committee members, had contributed made it particularly special, and I was overwhelmed by your generosity and kind words.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my nine years on the Committee, including four as Chair. There have certainly been a few challenges along the way, but it has been a privilege to represent residents and to play a part in the life of Hampshire Lakes.

However, I am only retiring from the Committee! I shall be continuing my work with the Wellness Income group and, of course, with the HLE team — so you certainly haven't seen the last of me!

Thank you all so very much. *Joan Russam*

I add my thanks too - for the flowers, champagne, chocolates and vouchers given to me at the end of the AGM. I have enjoyed being chair of such a dynamic Residents Association. Like Joan, I have served for 9 years. *Jenny Hydes*

Food Bank

One week last month I found only one donation. Would you believe it? Over 100 residents but only one donation! We've checked that all our recipients are genuinely in need. Buy a multipack (cheaper than single items) and donate one or two from it. For newcomers who have not been into Oakleigh Square very often, the food bank is in the Oakleigh Square Post room, opposite the Activities room (just past the Hair Salon).

pp Heather Parrish

Tech Corner



Here are Roger and Keith at the heart of our audio-visual system.

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.