

# THE POST

LMEHA NEWSLETTER

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LIFESTYLE - NEWS - FUN



OCTOBER 2020

Well.....it's been a difficult time for all – so welcome to the October edition of the LMEHA newsletter and we hope you enjoy reading it!

**Thanks to all contributors, and as always, feedback, reviews, contributions and suggestions welcome.**  
**Next edition will be published end of Jan 2021.**

Please send to – Catherine & Tony Graham at:

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or drop us a hard copy in at 64 Mill Village – thanks!



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# LMEHA - Chairman's Message

Dear Members,

During these troubling times, thank goodness for LME. Thank goodness for its tranquillity when the rest of the world is in turmoil. A place which feels a lot safer than it was riding out Lockdown 1 in London, or breathing in second hand air on a plane to any overseas beach destination. And forgive me for mentioning this, thank goodness for the new Gigaclear broadband and the super fast internet connection it provides. There may have been a few installation issues but little did we know how essential this service would turn out to be for those staying at LME.

With my family and I have had some absolutely glorious times on the estate this summer. As the weather goes it's been pretty good this year. For me, too hot on a few days and even now, well into Autumn, this weekend I experienced some fantastic morning swims in the Spa outdoor pool, lovely cool but sunny cycle rides exploring the countryside (routes posted on the LMEHA website) surrounding the estate and some pleasant company catching up with fellow residents over coffee and scones as the sun set over Swillbrook Lake. I hope you are also experiencing equally positive times on the estate.

Some of you may have noticed my reference to Lockdown 1, as I feel sure Lockdown 2 is not far off. However, with a bit of luck the restrictions will not be as severe as last time and we will still have access to the estate.



# Chairman's Message

When the neighbours of your primary residence are expressing frustration with the restrictions of Lockdown 2, try not to gloat about your haven away from it all.

This newsletter is all about good news (all the annoying LME stuff is documented in the committee meeting minutes which you can access on the LMEHA website). One definite piece of good news to emerge from these Covid 19 times is that the property market seems at long last to recognise the benefits of owning a holiday home in the UK. This summer we have seen a host of long time residents finally able to sell their properties close to or even slightly above their original purchase price. Furthermore, the number of properties for resale on one of the mainstream property websites is down to just 14 and most of these seem to have only recently been listed. Considering there are now approaching 350 properties on the estate, that number up for sale is modest. The Landlord also seems to be doing a brisk trade in selling plots and I am told even the price of the plots has increased. Whilst it is of course sad to lose these long term residents, their departure should be regarded as normal and a good sign, as it shows the estate is returning to a status when our investments are as liquid as can be and perhaps, just perhaps, we may finally start to see some growth in value. Or am I being too optimistic! I look forward to reading your comments on this subject on the LMEHA Facebook page.

**Andy**

*Andy Mortimer – LMEHA Chair*



# LMEHA -Photo Competition

We are pleased to announce the winner, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place and some commendations.

**And the winner is.....(drum roll.....)**

**Kingfisher, by Steve Jones**



The judges found this a really striking image, really well composed and a great contrast of the colourful bird against a muted yet complementary background and perch. This would make a great picture on the wall.



# LMEHA -Photo Competition

2<sup>nd</sup> Place.....

## Red Arrows by Mark Rolfe

– A very clever composite of three different images that was both visually striking and very poignant







# LMEHA -Photo Competition

3<sup>rd</sup> Place.....

## Bee Orchid by Judith Rolfe

Photography runs strong in this family! – A beautiful Flora photograph that captured perfectly a pair of Orchids, it would brighten the wall of any house.





# LMEHA -Photo Competition

The judges were really impressed by a great selection of entries, the standard was very high.

The judges would also like to commend a number of excellent photographs including:

- Lockdown Sunset
- Damsel flies mating
- Dragonfly with Pray at Farmhouse Lake
- Lake with Lilly island
- Black Headed Gull Catching Flies
- Happy Doggie
- Dancing Mallard
- Wake up it's a Beautify Morning

***Well done to all entrants!***





# LMEHA - events

Sadly, our events, including the wonderful Summer Festival couldn't go ahead this year. Fingers crossed next year's events and socials will be bigger and better than ever!

The lone event we're looking at for now:

- **FAMILY QUIZ:** Date to be confirmed (conditions allowing!) We are hoping to arrange a family quiz night. Looking at after schools break up, leading up to Xmas. This will be a fun (but no doubt competitive) event! – details to follow on the website.....

*Anyone have any ideas for events in these difficult times?  
Please contact Stu or anyone on the Committee.....*



# LMEHA- past events

*Those were the days.....seems like an age ago now.....*

## **LME Blind Tasting 3**

Like any successful Hollywood franchise, the third edition of LME wine-tasting combined familiar (wine-tasting) stars with the introduction of fine new talent. 18 people braved Storm Dennis and set off on a virtual globalquest for February wine gems from 76 Clearwater.



There were no car chases or CGI, but excellent LME casting and dialogue. The Keatinges hosted the evening which followed a familiar format of trying three glasses at a time of sparkling, then white, then red wine without seeing labels or prices, to pick out our favourites – which hailed from different parts of the world, with a sparkling English Sparkling, a honeyed South African white, and a dark brambly Portuguese red all prominent. No BAFTAs in the offing alas, but an enjoyable evening.

**Look out for another fun Wine Tasting evening when things get back to the new normal!**



# WILDLIFE UPDATE

In what must be one of the strangest years we are going through it is wonderful to know that nature is carrying on regardless. As difficult as the year has been, the upside is that many more people had the chance to notice nature and were able to appreciate all the benefits it gives us. We really do have an incredible Natural Health Service.

On the Estate, Covid19 meant that we had to suspend our annual wildlife surveys to keep everyone safe and well. However, from June, breeding bird surveys started again, although other surveys were suspended until next year as important parts of the survey seasons had been missed and the data wouldn't have been comprehensive. The only data I have at present is our terrestrial breeding bird data and that shows a slight decline in the number of breeding species on the Estate down to 17. Encouragingly though this did include breeding Kingfisher and Cuckoo. Our House Martin numbers were low this year and this reflects anecdotal evidence from across the UK for this year. In April this year huge numbers of martins, swallows and swifts were found dead in the streets of Greece after a huge storm. It is thought this storm, plus long term declines, were the causes of low numbers of these birds in the UK this year. Let's hope next year is better. You can help our House martins by leaving their nests in place over winter so that after their mammoth 'commute' from Africa in the spring, they will just have some renovations to do, rather than complete rebuilds.



# WILDLIFE NEWS – cont'd

Covid also meant that we were unable to get the Sand martin boxes on Somerford Lagoon completed in time for the spring arrivals. Works are ongoing to finalise these for next spring. It can often take a few years for the birds to find and use these nest boxes, so please keep everything crossed.

You may have seen earlier in the year that the beavers living wild on the River Otter in Devon were granted permission to stay. It is hoped that this may in time lead to more beavers being allowed to live freely across the country. Since 2005 our beavers helped establish many other populations of beavers in enclosures across the UK and ours have done a great job of managing and enhancing Flagham Fen. The few beavers we now have are busy at this time of year, making their lodge sound for winter, and collecting small twigs which they store in underwater 'larders', making feeding easier in the cold winter months.

As we move towards winter you may be thinking about maintenance jobs to your properties. If you are doing repairs to roofs, or planning works to attics (incl. ceiling replacements) etc, please request a short document from the Estate Office that details both yours and the building contractors legal obligations regarding bats. Roosts are protected whether bats are present at the time or not.



# WILDLIFE NEWS

## - cont'd

Activities that can impact on bats at any time of the year include, renovating, converting or demolishing a building; repairing or replacing a roof; replacing cladding/repointing brickwork; insulating or converting a loft; installing lighting in a roost, or outside if it lights up the entrance to the roost; using insecticides or treating timber.

The UK is home to around 12.5 million wintering waterbirds that come from Scandinavia, Northern Europe and Russia to spend winter in the UK where it is warmer and easier to find food over the winter months. However, in recent years, warmer winters have meant that these waterbirds are arriving in the UK in lower numbers and/or are overwintering in new areas. Nonetheless, the Estate is still welcoming a wide range of wintering waterbirds including Coot, Great crested grebe, Wigeon & Tufted duck. Last winter we also recorded good numbers of Goldeneye and other interesting species were Pintail, Snipe, Great white egret, Greylag goose and Goosander. Somerford Lagoon, Freeth Mere and Flagham Fen are strongholds on the Estate for these waterbirds. Hopefully you will get to spot some of these lovely winter visitors over the next few months.

Stay safe and well and enjoy your Natural Health Service.

**Dr Phoebe Carter**

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# LMEHA -owner reviews

## **LMEHA CHAIRMAN ALWAYS STRIKES WHILE THE IRON IS HOT A DAY OUT BLACKSMITHING AT HAWKWOOD COLLEGE**

Within a short drive from Lower Mill, Hawkwood College, just outside Stroud

([www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk](http://www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk)) offers some wonderful courses. Our Chairman Andy Mortimer, his wife Fiona, and fellow LME residents Nick & Kate Johnson, recently enjoyed a day learning blacksmithing skills.

After a long but totally absorbing day we came away with some beautiful iron works, including wall hooks and fire irons to use on the BBQ.

The marvellous – bring your own picnic – day is run by Aaron, a very experienced and incredibly skilled blacksmith and teacher, who patiently and safely takes you through the whole task, from lighting the charcoal traditional furnaces to crafting a beautiful object of your choice to take home.







# LMEHA -owner reviews cont'd

It's possible to book up to four places for the specialist day out, so we went with our Lower Mill 'Corvid bubble of four', but singles or couples would love it too. You will get home exhausted but elated that it is possible for us 'office workers' to create something so incredibly satisfying and beautiful in a day...and you have done it yourself.

Never one to miss a chance to forge ahead, Andy is now even more expert at bending things to his design.



Recommended by: Nick and Kate Johnson



# LMEHA -owner info

## EV or Plugin Vehicles

If you or your guest have an EV or Plugin Hybrid car remember there are two free to use charging points at LME. While they say Tesla they should work with any type-2 connector. They are located on the road behind the Water Garden, first right after you come through the main gates, blue icon on the bottom left of the map below. Please move your car once its charged to allow others to use. Please do NOT block these spaces if you are not charging.

Info from Mike McKeown





# The Pusser's Review



## Tierra and Mar, Cirencester

The Pusser had to be flogged before confirming his best local 'Vittles' secret. 'Tierra and Mar' is hidden on Sheep Street, Cirencester and produces food fit for an Admiral. The food images to the right were examples from the Admiral's table selected from the Tapas Menu. The Pusser says, *'you won't be disappointed with this local jewel'* – just don't book it before the Admiral has anchored his favourite table.



The collection of Spanish Wines on offer is delightful



# The Pusser's Review

## Tierra and Mar, Cirencester

The images around this text box are from the Sunday Evening Menu. £28 for 3 courses.....what a broadside!







# The Pusser's Review

## Bakers Arms, Somerford Keynes

Just a 15min walk from the Estate is the Bakers Arms. The Pusser had not docked at this particular port for a couple of years due to gash food – but the wind has changed and their vittles are now properly cooked and the crew much friendlier. Overall an acceptable experience and so convenient! Just a 30min stagger back!

The Pusser says, *'Worthy of a boarding party'.*





# LMEHA - owner recommendations

From Kate Plummer:

*I would like to put in a recommendation for my friend Sarah Sparrow who makes curtains and blinds :*

The Sparrows' Nest creates bespoke, beautifully designed, hand sewn lined and interlined curtains, roman blinds and soft furnishings on behalf of private clients, commercial clients and interior designers.

[thesparrowsnestinteriors@outlook.com](mailto:thesparrowsnestinteriors@outlook.com)

[+44 \(0\)7941 201 729](tel:+44(0)7941201729)

<https://www.thesparrowsnestinteriors.com>

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From Antonia Krieger:

*Recently we have used two fantastic tradesman. Wills, who is a highly skilled decorator. He did a superb job of our soffit and some exterior windows in the summer.*

<http://www.willowsdecorating.co.uk/>

*And Russ from Fosse Fires who replaced our wood burner. Great to deal with, good communication as well. well.*

<https://www.fossefires.co.uk/>

*We have also used Lewis to renovate three bathrooms and our kitchen. He's absolutely brilliant.*

<https://www.lewispaynecarpentry.co.uk/>





# LMEHA - owner recommendations

From Robin (Mill Village):

*We used Justin from JW Decorating () to repaint the house just before lockdown and were very happy with both Justin and the outcome :*

<http://www.jwdecorating.com>

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From Nick Plummer:

*I'd like to recommend an engineer for household appliances. Dave Grantham is very reliable and good at his job. We've used him a lot in the past two years and he has never let us down! Very reasonable too. Washing machines, dishwashers, ovens, electric hobs, built in microwaves etc etc (I don't think he does fridges as they are difficult to dispose of).*

<https://www.facebook.com/cirencesterappliance repairs>

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From Mike McKeown:

JEM Drain Care

<https://www.facebook.com/jemdraincare/>

*He did a great job at short notice fixing a blocked drain at a very reasonable price. Very responsive by either mobile phone or Facebook messenger.*

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*Anyone have any more recommendations for the next edition?*



# XMAS INFO & EVENTS

## **Festive Market**

Cirencester

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December

Saturday 10.00 - 17.00

Sunday 10.00 - 16.00

## **Christmas Concert with Cirencester Singers**

Boutflour Hall, RAU, Cirencester,

Sat 12 Dec 2020

## **Santa's Grotto**

Dobbies, Siddington, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6EU

## **Christmas Cocktails Afternoon Tea**

Dobbies, Siddington, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6EU

22, 28, 29 Nov - £25

## **Christmas Decoration Afternoon Tea**

Dobbies, Siddington, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6EU

15 Nov, 8 Dec, 15 Dec - £25

## **Christmas Chuckles**

Sundial Theatre, Cirencester

Mark Simmons, Josh Berry and Leroy Brito. Join these TV comedians

12th Dec, £12.50

## **Christmas lights in the woodland**

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt-the-national-arboretum>

The Christmas lights walk in the woods is magical, particularly for those with young children.





# LOCAL INFO & EVENTS

## Message from Davina Stirland at the Cotswold Water Park Trust Take time to explore...

The Cotswold Water Park covers an area of 42 square miles and has over 170 lakes. Take time to explore and wherever you go in the Water Park, take your binoculars with you. There is a huge variety of birds visiting and living in the area throughout the year. During the summer months, admire the aerial antics of hobbies as they hunt dragonflies, look for bats skimming the lake surface for flies at dusk, seek out the magical carpet of wildflowers and watch the clouds of blue damselflies near the lake edges.

If you are a regularly out and about within the Water Park then we would encourage you to join the Cotswold Water Park Trust. Not only will you be helping to make a real difference to your local environment, you can also benefit from free parking for a year at all Cotswold Water Park Trust car parks (Neigh Bridge Country Park, Clayhill, Bridge, Lakeside, Waterhay and Riverside Park in Lechlade) and receive discounts at the Gateway Café, Cotswold Outdoor, Lakeside Restaurant and Jennies Kitchen.

A single membership is just £18 a year and can be purchased online.  
[www.waterpark.org/cotswold-water-park-trust-membership](http://www.waterpark.org/cotswold-water-park-trust-membership)

And date for your diaries - the CWP Ball has now been postponed until Saturday 8th May 2021 -  
<https://waterpark.org/cotswold-water-park-ball/>