



ENDURANCE 22 EXPEDITION

The expedition was organised and funded by The Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust with the aim of not only finding and surveying the wreck of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ship Endurance, but also to conduct important scientific research and uncover vital sub-sea data. As the wreck is an Historic Site and Monument in terms of the Antarctic Treaty, the expedition was only permitted to survey and film the wreck but not touch or disturb it in any way.

The circumstances leading up to the sinking of the Endurance are worth touching on before dealing with the Endurance 22 expedition itself.

Shackleton's ambition was to be the first to cross Antarctica from the Weddell Sea via the South Pole to the Ross Sea. He set off from the whaling station on South Georgia island in December 1914 in a 3 masted, 144 foot long wooden ship but drifted in pack ice for 10 months before the Endurance was crushed and sank into the depths of the Weddell Sea on 21 November 1915. Fortunately, the captain of the vessel, Frank Worsley, logged its approximate location using a sextant and theodolite at the spot.

Prior to the sinking, Shackleton and his 27 crew members offloaded as much as they could including 3 lifeboats. After spending months in temporary camps on ice floes the party decided to row to the uninhabited Elephant Island where they camped under the upturned lifeboats and a diet including seals and penguins.

Having left most of his crew on Elephant Island, Shackleton with 5 others made an incredible 1 300 kilometre journey to South Georgia from where they crossed both mountains and glaciers, using only Captain Worsley's sextant for navigation, before reaching a Norwegian whaling station at Stromness. From there they organised the rescue of the remaining crew members, finally reaching them on 30 August 1916. This amazing rescue without the loss of a single life earned Shackleton worldwide plaudits for bravery and loyalty.

An earlier expedition in 2019, also using SA Agulhas II proved unsuccessful.

The March 2022 expedition lasted 35 days in which South Africa played a major role; of the 65 specialist participants from around the globe, 19 were South African as were the captain of the SA Agulhas II, Cpt. Knowledge Bengu, his entire crew, the chief helicopter pilot, Charles Tait from Stanford in the Overberg and the remaining Ultimate Heli aviation crew.

The *Endurance* lies 3000 metres below the surface of the Weddell Sea, described by Shackleton as “the worst portion of the worst sea in the world” in the Southern Ocean, which is typically defined as the waters south of 40°S that connect the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. Sea ice more than a metre thick often extends over 1,000 kilometres north of Antarctica. These factors make the region arguably the most logistically challenging and expensive ocean in which to conduct research.

It was possible to reach the *Endurance* wreck site partly because of lighter than normal summertime ice conditions in the Weddell Sea. This is almost certainly a consequence of human-driven warming of the natural world. Significant reductions in Antarctic ice cover due to atmospheric and oceanic warming, along with related changes to the Southern Ocean and its ecosystems, present a very real threat to Earth’s habitability.

The search was conducted over a wide area to account for possible errors in Captain Worsley’s navigation equipment. The SA *Agulhas II* is owned by the South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment. A Polar Class 5 vessel built in Finland, she was handed over to the South African Government in 2012, coincidentally 100 years after the *Endurance* was built.

At 134 metres long, with 10 decks, a crew of 45 and berth space for 100 scientists, the vessel is uniquely designed as both a polar supply ship and scientific research vessel. Its infrastructure allows for various instruments and sample collection equipment (and even people) to be deployed over the side or through the centre of the vessel via an opening in the hull known as a ‘moon pool’.

The expedition was the first to deploy SAAB Sabretooth underwater vehicles which combine the attributes of an ROV (Remote Operating Vehicle), which is always linked to the surface (a drone) and an AUV (Autonomous Underwater Vehicle), capable of operating without such a link and capable of operating up to 160 kilometres away from the vessel from which they are launched.

The wreck of the *Endurance* was found on 5 March 2022, about 4 miles south of the last location by Worsley. In his comments on the expedition, Messon Bound, a British marine archaeologist and the Director of Exploration, pointed out that *Endurance* had been found 100 years to the day after Shackleton was buried on South Georgia island and that “She is upright, well proud of the seabed and in an excellent state of preservation. You can even see her paintwork and count the fastenings. Most remarkable of all was her name – E N D U R A N C E – which arcs across her stern with perfect clarity. And below is the 5-pointed Polaris star just as in famous earlier photographs.”

“We have made polar history with the discovery of *Endurance* and successfully completed the world’s most challenging shipwreck search,” Dr. John Shears, the expedition’s leader, said in a press release.

The *Endurance 22* expedition was a triumph in many respects. International funding and co-operation, state of the art equipment and a wealth of scientific knowledge resulted in not only the discovery of a long sought after wreck but also important insights into the consequences of climate change on perhaps one of the most pristine parts of our globe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS :

www.endurance22.org
Sarah Fawcett, Senior Lecturer, University of Cape Town
The Village News - Hermanus

David Walker

In the early 1990's Jill Dower's daughter Kathy went on several trips to Antarctica. She graduated with a B.Sc., majoring in Zoology; then went to Rhodes and attained a M.Sc., her thesis being on Intertidal Ecology.

She was always keen on getting onto the Agulhas for the Antarctic Research trips, and after a year working in the South African Museum in Johannesburg, finally got a place on board at the end of 1990.

Jill has very kindly put together an article on those times which will be featured in our June edition.



There was a time when words were used beautifully. These glorious insults are from an era when cleverness with words was still valued, before a great portion of the English language was boiled down to four letter words!

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book: I'll waste no time reading it." - Moses Hadas

"He can compress most words into the smallest idea of any man I know." - Abraham Lincoln

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." - Oscar Wilde

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend - if you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night but I will be able to attend the second night - if there is one." - Winston Churchill in response

"I feel so miserable without you: it's almost like having you here." - Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - John Bright

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - Irvin S. Cobb

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO

- 6th Charles Harrod
- 10th Yvonne Jackman
- 10th Jo Nixon
- 15th Dave Lyall



- 15th John Bester
- 21st Elda Diana-Oliaro
- 30th Mary Drake
- 31st Mark Dry

And Anniversaries

- 1st Dawn and Colin Osborne
- 2nd Janine and Adrian Fuller
- 19th Heather and Trevor Honeysett
- 27th Felicity and David Walker

SATURDAY 7TH MAY 14.00

MOTHER'S DAY BRAAI - R80pp

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR OWN LIQUID FRESHMENTS AND MEAT

WPC TO PROVIDE SALADS + DESSERT

Kindly book at reception by Tuesday

3rd May



A BINGO EVENING IS TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 13TH MAY AT 6pm - R70pp

A light meal will be served Promises to be a fun evening with friends

Kindly book at reception by no later than the 6th May for catering purposes



PART 3 - TADEK MY FATHER-IN-LAW - 1908-1982

Tadeusz or Tadek as he was known, was my father-in-law. To me he was special in that he was one of the most modest people I have ever met (despite his achievements), had a sense of humour that appealed to most people, could speak at least ten languages fluently, enjoyed life to the full, good food to accompany the wine followed by coffee and a cognac. He loved my children, Claire and Kate unconditionally, and appreciated everything South Africa had to offer on the yearly trips he would make with his second wife Peggy.

Tadek was a Pole, born in the city of Krakow in 1908. The son of aristocratic Polish parents, he had a good education concluded by spending seven years at Charlottenburg University in Berlin where he graduated with a degree in engineering.

With the onset of World War 11, he escaped to Rumania where he earned barely enough money to live. He then drove to France and worked in an aeroplane factory near Vichy. With the fall of France Tadek managed to escape once more and found his way to Casablanca, where again he lived a hand to mouth existence, ending up in jail on more than one occasion. He found his way to Gibraltar where he was able to get a passage on a British ship bound for England. He finally arrived in Britain in 1941. In all the articles about Tadek nothing is ever mentioned that he was married to his first wife, Marianna (Bobi) and Babica to us. From papers in my possession, it seems that they travelled together for some of his trip to England I do know that at some stage, they had to part with the intention of meeting up in Britain. In fact my late husband Andrew used to say he was conceived in Poland, carried in Rumania and hatched in Britain. This was fairly flippant and not entirely true but it made a good story and impression on an interested audience!

Tadek joined the Polish Army, where his engineering training saw him back at the drawing board designing tanks. After the war Tadek spent some time in Germany with UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Association) to assist in post war reconstruction and work with many displaced people in the concentration camps. It was while he was with UNRRA that he met his second wife Peggy.

Always the raconteur Tadek was very adept at telling a good story. One which involved his passion for motor racing happened in 1928 when he was competing at the Berlin Avus Circuit and the car in front of him skidded and he shot over the top of the bank and into a marquee. He believed that he held the world record for demolishing soda siphons, the tent having contained around 500 of them! He did however, sustain serious injuries which included the loss of a kidney. Mike Loasby of Aston Martin which Tadek had joined after the war summed him up perfectly : ' Tadek had a superb, dry sense of humour, a bounder with twinkling eyes. " It is alleged that he was thrown out of a hotel which was frequented by Polish aristocrats and personalities because he ran his motorcycle engine clamped to the bedroom table in the middle of the night!

In late 1963, Aston Martin was approached by 'James Bond' film director Harry Saltzman about a special DB5 for the film "Goldfinger". Among the attachments the car was to feature, were ram-type over-riders, a bullet-proof screen which could be raised behind the rear window, swiveling rear light assemblies which when operated, sprayed oil and nails on the road, machine guns, rotating plates and a passenger ejector seat. All these effects and more, provided food for thought for the ingenious and wickedly humorous Marek. He set about the task with fervour and despite the extra weight, the car was still capable of over 140 mph.

Another important event some two years later, the company was visited by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and HRH Prince Phillip. The royal guests were presented with a perfect scale model of the car. Two identical models were made - one given to Prince Andrew who was supposed to have delighted in using the ejector seat on Princess Anne. The second scale model was given to Prince Reza the young son of the Shah of Persia (Iran), who was to become a personal friend of Tadek. In return the Shah gave Tadek a pair of cufflinks (not valuable in gold!) with the Iranian crest on them. On Tadek's death they were passed onto my late husband Andrew, and were then worn by Dave my son-in-law at his wedding to Claire my eldest daughter. They remain in safekeeping for Drew, Tadek's great grandson.

Should you feel so inclined, google Tadeusz (Tadek) Marek and note his fame as the designer of the Aston Martin DB4 and DB5, the prototypes which are used today in the present Aston Vantage. In 2019 both my daughters were invited over by the AM factory where they were given a digital copy of an engine with TM01 engraved on it. Evidently all future Tadek Marek inspired engines will bear this logo. As an article on Tadek once said - "who would have thought that British motoring would owe so much to a Pole!"

To me and my girls who both did projects on him at various intervals at school, he was my beloved father-in-law and their Nonno (because he lived in Italy for many years)!

It was when I got to the part about Tadek joining the Polish Army /Polish Free Forces, that Andrzej Slazak interjected with a very forceful "No! No! No! you're wrong! He was never with the Polish Army or Free Forces, he was in fact a spy."

You could have heard a pin drop. Jacqui, Kate and I sat in stunned silence, mouths wide open and eyes like saucers ! My mind started racing like one of Tadek's Astons - a spy! For who? For which side?

I was aware that World War 11 had put a stop to all Tadek's racing fun, that he had a cupboard full of cups and trophies which had to be left behind during the war. According to an article written in the late 60s a few have since been recovered including one gold cup for victory in the 1937 Polish Grand Prix. This was when I mentioned that there were at least three cups in Jacqui's garage in Thame! You should have been the collective sparkle in the eyes of both the Polish film-makers and the AM Museum people! But that's a story for another time - back to Tadek - a spy? It was in October 1939 when he was in Rumania that he met a colleague who was a director of an aircraft factory. From him Tadek learned that a member of the German Embassy staff was crossing the border into Russian-occupied Poland to be welcomed by the commander of the Russian forces. He gave Tadek a permit to circulate as a gesture of solidarity with the Germans under the recently signed Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact. He, together with a friend ,managed to 'borrow' an Embassy car with diplomatic plates, and since it was said that with a bribe one could get anything in Rumania, they got hold of papers in order to reach the Russian-occupied side of Poland where Tadek had a wife. Said Marek "we were given all the honours and passed safely through the lines." He, with the help of a German officer, managed to get not only his wife, but quite a few other people out of Poland.

In conclusion, there are numerous stories about Tadek Marek, but suffice it to say, he was not only a very intelligent, talented man but lived an exciting life that could easily have rivalled that of the fictional James Bond.

The Aston Martin TM01 turbo V6 is the company's first in-house engine since 1968, and will launch with the Valhalla hypercar in 2022. It is codenamed TM01 in Tadek's honour. Thereafter all new car engines will be coded with TM02, TM03 etc. "

Penny Marek



Pretending to be Bond girls

AN AFTERNOON OF OLDIES FOR GOLDIES MUSIC WAS ENJOYED BY RESIDENTS on Sunday 3rd April - the weather was kind and we all went back down memory lane with James and Monique



Another pub evening is scheduled for

Friday 27th May at 6.30pm

Books of tickets at R100 each are available from reception - please make sure ticket purchases are made before the evening

Kindly book at reception for catering purposes by the 20th May



MOTHER'S DAY - 8TH MAY 2022

“

A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place *no one* else can take.

- Cardinal Mermillod

I have something to tell you by Susan Lewis

**Book
Review**



Tells the story of Jessica (Jay) Wells - a high-flying lawyer who has it all. Successful career, loving husband and a family she adores. But one case - and one client - will put all that at risk.

Edward Blake. An ordinary life turned upside down - or a man who quietly watched television while his wife was murdered upstairs. With more questions than answers and case too knotted to unravel, Jessica suspects he's protecting someone. Definitely for fans of "whodunit. "

AN EXCELLENT READ and IN OUR LIBRARY

FW



A helping hand



Sue

and



Rene

First time artists 'drawing' inspiration from Pieter vd Westhuizen

TURTLE HATCHLINGS

Its Turtle Hatchling Season, and the Two Oceans Aquarium Education Foundation in partnership with Cape Nature have given the low down on what this season is all about, as well as how we can help a little turtle along the way. The season for hatchlings comes around from March to July every year in the Western Cape, and this is where the tiny rescue missions with a big impact occur!

This year the teams were wildly busy at their rescue facilities as they prepped for new turtle arrivals. These included our shelled friends who have been injured, dehydrated or have hypothermia.

It is the time of year when baby turtles wash up on our beaches. They are washed down from their hatching grounds in KZN into our cold currents so arrive suffering from dehydration and hypothermia. The first hatchling found in False Bay was collected in Muizenberg a couple of weeks ago. Please keep a look out for these babies as they can be as small as a tea cup. We mainly receive loggerhead turtles and, very occasionally leatherbacks. If found, please do not keep them in water as this increases the chances of hypothermia. Keep them warm and dry. The Shark spotters and Law Enforcement offices have boxes for them, or you can phone Evanne on 084 711 5413. She will then arrange for them to be collected and transferred to the Two Oceans Aquarium's Turtle Rehabilitation Centre. They can also be dropped off at the Shark Spotters in Muizenberg.

Struisbaai has always been a hotspot for hatchling strandings. Studies of the shape of the coastline, winds and ocean currents all factor in to explain why this is the case.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A TURTLE HATCHLING

Don't put the turtle back in the water → Find your nearest Turtle Network Point on our website

Transport in a tub or box with a dry towel → Keep out of direct sunlight and wind

Get it to a Turtle Network Point as quickly as possible

RESCUE HOTLINE: 083 300 1663

Published by Ashleigh Nefdt/capetownetc.com



GOOD HOPE

Morris dancing is normally taken to be a quintessential English activity, usually performed in dreary villages without shadows. Its an old traditional folkdance in which the costumed participants, typically wearing bells and waving handkerchiefs (before Kleenex), prance around while acting out such fictional characters as Robin Hood and Maid Marian. Its something of a misnomer, however, having nothing to do with a Mr. Morris. In fact the name Morris is derived from Moorish, since the dance originally was performed in sunny Spain before its arrival in England in about the twelfth century. So, what's in a name?

Take our well-known mountain Devil's Peak for example. The Dutch colonists of the Cape called it *Duivenkop*. During Lord Charles Somerset's tenure as governor of the Cape (1814-1827), as part of an official anglicisation policy, the mountain's name was incorrectly translated to become what it is today.

The Cape of Storms, the Cape of Smoke or Fire, Cape Diab (it's what the early seafarers from the East called our region), and the Cape of Good Hope. It was Prince Henry the Navigator, who was never a navigator and who never got to be king of Portugal, who some urban legends credit with the political spin favouring the Cape of Good Hope. In fact, it was some twenty-five years after the death of Henry that Bartolomeu Dias, as the first known European explorer to round the Cape, named our region the Cape of Storms.

No such clear a start to the use of a particular place name is evident for Cape Town, but *Camissa* -the place of sweet waters is said to be the original Khoi name for the place. For a long time the Dutch settlement that was to become Cape Town, was referred to first as *De Kaapsche Vlek*, and then simply *De Kaap*. The name *Kaapstad* was, however, fairly well established by the middle of the eighteenth century. Its Cape Town, and Cape Town it should stay. Let's all hope so. Just consider the current muddle and unnecessary expense over Pretoria and Tshwane, for example. Even the GPS users are confused.

Look northwards across Table Bay and you will see the Tygerberg. There is much confusion over its nomenclature. It's clear, however, that thee early Dutch settlers fallaciously used the term *tiger* for leopard. Since tigers do not occur naturally in Africa, the reason for the confusion is not readily explainable. In any event, it's widely believed that it was the local presence of leopards which had originally led to the name Tygerberg.

House and housing-estate names - I mean, and I ask you with tears in my eyes how many more foreign Mediterranean appellations, such as *La Mer* and *Del Mar*, do we want in the Cape Peninsula, when and where we have a lexicon of wonderfully descriptive indigenous names to choose from? Nomenclature is important because it gives us a sense of identity. It's the foundational glue that binds us together as a community. What is needed is some ingenuity from housing developers when planning new settlements. Surely they could have done better than Ocean View. Still, some splendid views are to be had from parts of the village. Stop outside the local funeral parlour, prominently advertised as Nudestiny (it's not a joke), and look to the north-west. It's a stunning scene.

Abridged article - Roy Siegfried

In memory of Michelle Wilse-Samson 1949 - 2022
a resident at Evergreen for many years

RIP



NETFLIX CHOICE OF THE MONTH

Anatomy of a Scandal

Starring Michelle Docherty; Sienna Miller and Rupert Friend

Based on the book by Sarah Vaughn is part courtroom thriller, part domestic thriller and part revenge story. It is a six-episode drama - a huge theme throughout the show is truth.



DOWNTON ABBEY THE NEW ERA

Showing at Sterkinekor Cinemas from 29th April 2022



Universal Pictures

**A CONTRIBUTION FROM MIKE SMITH - SOME PEOPLE HAVE THE LOWEST STRESS RATE
BECAUSE THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF MOST
MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY**

Artery : the study of paintings

Bacteria : back door to cafeteria

Barium: what doctors do when patients die

Benign: what you be after you be eight

Caesarean Section: a neighbourhood in Rome

Cat Scan : searching for kitty

Cauterize : made eye contact with her

Coma : a punctuation mark

Dilate : to live long

Enema : not a friend

Fester : quicker than someone else

Fibula : a small lie



Impotent : distinguished, well known

Labour pain : getting hurt at work

Morbid : a higher offer

Nitrates : rates of pay for working at night

Node : A knew it

Outpatient : a person who has fainted

Pelvis : second cousin to Elvis

Secretion : hiding something

Seizure : Roman Emperor

Tablet : a small table

Terminal illness : getting sick at the airport

Tumour : one plus one more

Why would anybody worry about any of these?

Please STAY SAFE but keep your sense of humour

LAUGHTER IS INDEED THE BEST MEDICINE for sanity - MS

Sir David Attenborough named Champion of the Earth by the UN

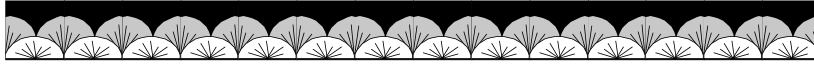
The 95-year-old broadcaster is recognised for his devotion to telling stories about the natural world.



FB Post

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

ESTELLE AND EDWARD TWIGGS



“My family had roots in England, Scotland and Ireland. My parents played tennis and my father was keen on cricket and angling. My mother was artistic and often finished my untidy needlework for me! My parents were both proficient pianists. Added to the mix was my older sister who had a Mensa IQ, with a quiet studious disposition. She was much appreciated by the nuns at both our junior and senior school convents. My school colours differed from Maureen’s as mine were for gymnastics, drama and interschool debating. I also participated in the annual Eisteddfod for speech.

I had a wonderful trip booked to go up the East coast of Africa to Bari in southern Italy on an Italian passenger ship. We were able to go ashore at several ports with tours available, at Kenya, Zanzibar and the Yemen port of Aden. I spent three days in the Cairo Museum where Tutankhamun’s treasures were on display. I also went up to the pyramids astride a camel which had a slight limp!

Disembarking at Bari a friend and I used our Eur-Rail passes to go to a great number of cities including the ruins at Pompei and Rome where I spent three days in the Vatican Museum. The youth hostel where we stayed had once been the villa belonging to Mussolini. After Switzerland and France I went to London and instead of returning to my parents home in Durban, I flew to then Rhodesia to see Edward whom I had met at a party back home. I was encouraged to visit him by the tone of his letters delivered care of the ports en route to Europe and London. They were a great insight into the man I would eventually marry.

After I had taught in Zimbabwe for the Ministry of Education for a year, we got married in Durban and went to the Polana Hotel in Lourenco Marques on honeymoon. As it was such a long trip, we took turns in driving the recently acquired Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint Coupe which had arrived from Milan a few months before.

Ed’s confidence in me wavered when he woke up, gasped, looked at the speedometer and saw numbers he did not like -105mph. The marriage certificate wasn’t torn up, and we eventually returned to Cape Town.

Our first born was a son, John followed twenty eight months later by a daughter Laura. John has a son Leo residing in Cape Town and he and his wife Ineke live in Mozambique with a daughter Imogen.

When Ed was free to travel on lengthy trips, having retired fairly early, we started going overseas for three months - starting with the Concord to America, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan. After that trip I hinted that if I had to be a gypsy while travelling I’d rather do it in our own caravan. The following year saw us buy a five berth Talbot Talisman motor home in the UK. We were able to store it for 9 months of the year in a friend’s barn.

Now we appreciate having a quiet, pleasant life in the friendly atmosphere of Evergreen Village with beautiful views of the surrounding mountains nearby.”

Estelle



“We have been resident in Evergreen for just one year and are enjoying every minute of our time.

I was born in Pinelands to loving parents, the baby of the family having an older sister and brother.

A dozen or more happy years that passed all too quickly. Sadly my very dear mother passed away in 1954 at the age of 44. I moved with my family to the Vic Falls aged 14 and used the steam train service to get to and from school during the long holidays, it was a three day journey.

I made the most of the idyllic setting of the area fishing the Zambezi and the Chobe rivers and walking the mopani forests which surrounded the Falls village. There is a great deal of wildlife in the immediate vicinity. There was not much future being a bush walker so after a year I moved to Cape Town to begin my training towards becoming an accountant. I stayed in Cape Town for three years before accepting my sister's kind offer to accommodate me in their home.

During that final year I was invited to a 21st birthday party. At the same table was a pretty girl who caught my eye, that was Estelle Reed. I quickly found out who she was and we started going out together. I was determined not to let go of her, but she was off overseas so I had to have patience.

My year in Durban came to an end and I moved in with my Dad and his new wife Jean at their home in Salisbury, at the same time joining one of the international firms of accountants. Estelle was on her overseas journey and I kept in contact with her by writing regular letters. When Estelle decided to return to Africa she chose to take up a teaching post close to Salisbury so we could see more of each other.

We became engaged and married in Durban. But our stay in Salisbury was always going to be short term as we had decided that Cape Town was to be the place where we would settle down.

I joined an established firm of accountants and remained with them for the next 25 years, as a partner for over 20 years. I served on a number of committees and attended many overseas congresses.

Our first home was in Rosebank. An old house with an interesting history. Estelle carried out extensive internal restoration, as she has done with the homes we have owned since then.

In about 1990 I accepted what I thought as an attractive offer to join a privately owned business where the major shareholder had passed away very suddenly. The assets under its control were valuable. One of our large quoted groups thought so too and they bought the business from us four years later.”

Edward



CANVEY ISLAND, RIVER THAMES

An island where 'sea monsters' washed up on shore and 'huge rats' appeared

Islands are scattered like little jewels along the River Thames. Canvey tends to be seen as a place of grim industrialization. It's true that in the south-western corner of the island there are oil and gas silos and tacky caravan parks which are a throwback to the island's tourist heyday. But there's a lot more to the island than that. Its history dates back to at least Roman times when salt-making works and potteries existed. The Vikings once moored their ships in the creeks round the island and remains of Danish settlements have been found.

There are many strange stories that emerge from these islands, and none is stranger than the story of the terrifying 'thing' that emerged from the deep onto the shores of the island. In November 1954 the horribly decomposed carcass of a strange creature washed up. It was over 2ft in length and had huge bulging eyes, reddish coloured skin and two leg-like fins. Whatever it was, the zoologists who looked at it couldn't find a name for the species and rather than preserving it, it was incinerated. And then it happened again the following year.

This time it was nearly twice the size of the first one and just as ugly. Whatever they were, they didn't destroy the island but may have helped to put its declining tourist industry back on the map for a while! Another unwelcome visitor was large and furry, anything up to 2ft in length, had a platypus like tail and the head of a rat - enough said. Things generally got better on Canvey Island over the years. The illness that tended to plague people living there which became known as the ague, gradually disappeared as drainage improved as the mosquito population declined. Tourism began to spike in the 1920's and the railway network meant tourists could now flood in from the overcrowded slums of the East End to holiday on the island. 1931 saw the road bridge built making the island more accessible. Caravan parks sprung up and there were chalets on the beaches and donkey rides on the sands. Huge Art Deco seaside buildings were put up and there was even a casino, although its name was misspelled as Monico - rather than Monaco, an irony that may not have been lost on many who visited. Many Londoners fled the Blitz to their holiday homes on Canvey and decided to stay for good.

Disaster struck in 1953 when 300 people drowned after violent storms and high tides submerged the island. It was evacuated but the flood dealt a catastrophic blow to the tourist industry.

Today the island has a thriving population of 37,000 hardy islanders protected by a sea wall put up in 1982. It is also now home to many rare bird species and the RSPB opened a 256 hectare bird sanctuary in 2010. Around 1,300 species, many previously thought to be extinct now make their homes there. It is definitely worth a trip to sample a unique part of London life, see the sweeping views over the Thames estuary and watch the container ships roll in.

Miranda Vickers, Eyots and Aits, Islands of the River Thames
My London News

AUTUMNAL PLANTING

Autumn can be seen as a wind-down season before winter, when flowers die back, leaving the garden looking bare but, with a little planning and planting now you can add a burst of colour to your borders and containers to enjoy through the coming seasons.

Before you start any planting prepare your borders by nourishing your soil. Lightly dig it over, adding plenty of compost mixed with some bonemeal to give the soil a much-needed boost.

Autumn borders can be a dynamic display with a flow of different textures, shapes and colours. When planting out your choices remember to put the taller plants at the back, then medium sized, down to the smaller varieties in the front. Add a few ornamental grasses to help add structure to the overall design, plus there are some stunning shrubs that will provide both colour and scent, which encourages wildlife to visit.

The Confetti bush (Coleonema) has green and gold foliage with gorgeous scented pink or white flowers from winter to early summer.

Camellia Japonica is a hardy evergreen shrub with beautiful rosette flowers of white, pink or red. Leonotis Leonurus (wild dagga) is a brilliant, fast growing shrub with fabulous bright orange, white or salmon tubular flowers. Wildlife just love it, birds, bees and butterflies!

Popular Antirrhinums (Snapdragons) will bring masses of colour to a winter garden with their bright green foliage and wide choice of amazing coloured blooms.

The Strelitzia (Crane flower) with its stand-out colours of orange edged with purple borders is an ideal plant for the back of borders, reaching a height of 1.5m.

Other reliable colourful perennials to plant are Penstemons, Salvias, Gazanias, African Daisies, Bokbaaiwygies, Lupins, Aquilegias, Echinaceas, Gautama and, of course, the sunny Calendulas! Dianthus, Violas, and Petunias are all low-growing plants that will brighten up containers and look great as edging for the front of flower borders.



Tracey Cole/Village Gardens/FB Post

CAKE RECIPES 'TO DIE FOR'

CARROT CAKE—1 layer

2 cups grated carrot
 1 cup oil
 1 cup sugar
 3 large eggs
 1 t. vanilla essence
 3 ozs (75g) pecan nuts, chopped
 3/4 cup dates , chopped
 1 1/2 cups flour
 1 1/2t. each bicarb, baking powder, cinnamon
 20.5cm cake tin

Beat oil and sugar, add eggs, one at a time then vanilla essence.

Sift dry ingredients and add, fold in dates, carrots, nuts.

Bake at 350 for 1 hour. I serve as is or add cream cheese frosting.



CHOCOLATE CAKE - 2 layers

1 1/2 cups flour (375ml)
 3 T cocoa
 3 t baking powder
 1 t vanilla essence
 1 1/2 cups sugar (375)
 3 T butter (90g)
 4 large or extra large eggs
 3/4 cup milk (185ml)
 Pinch salt
 20.5cm cake tins x 2

Beat eggs and sugar together well. Add sifted flour, baking powder, cocoa and salt.
 Beat well. Add vanilla essence and beat further. Add boiled milk and butter to the
 Mixture. Bake at 375 for 25-30 minutes.

Icing: 2 heaped t. cocoa; add 1 cup icing sugar and Floro until a nice consistency.





Cape Botanical Honey

We are proud to announce that Evergreen's hives have successfully produced their very own pure cape "Bergvliet" honey. Now for sale at Evergreen Lifestyle Village alongside our Eucalyptus honey.

PRICE LIST:
180G GLASS JAR R40
500G GLASS JAR R90

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DIFFERENT TYPES OF PURE CAPE HONEYS AND HONEY RELATED PRODUCTS, PLEASE CONTACT LYDIA AT 0844086536

Editor's Backpage

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Thank you to everyone for their contributions - keep your ideas coming to davidwal@iafrica.com

Articles not published in this issue will be held over for June the deadline being Monday 16th May.

FW