



## Valentine's Day Snippets

The 14<sup>th</sup> February heralds yet another Valentine's Day – thoughts of flowers, namely red roses, heartfelt sentimental cards, beautiful boxes of decadent chocolate spring to mind! Of course all these are brought to the attention of shoppers as the stores hope to swell their coffers. This notable date is, however, also known for quite a few historical events:

Alexander Graham Bell applied for a patent on this day for the telephone and the telephone has certainly played a part in the progression of a lot of romantic liaisons that were initiated by the sending and receiving of a Valentine's card;

The world's first antibiotic and one of the greatest scientific discoveries was introduced to the world on the 14<sup>th</sup> February.

After another Alexander (this time Fleming) left a plate of staphylococcus bacteria uncovered he noticed a mould that had formed on the culture killed much of the bacteria. It has certainly cured the world of many infections – but, has it ever cured the “lovesick”?

On the 14<sup>th</sup> February in 1984 Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the Olympic Ice Skating Championship with a very steamy free dance performance to Ravel's Bolero. It was always thought they made the perfect couple, but they went on to marry other people;

In 2006 British MPs voted to ban smoking in pubs, members' clubs and enclosed public spaces, sparing couples the indignity of ending their romantic evenings smelling like ashtrays;

Two 'not too pleasant' 14<sup>th</sup> February notable events are when Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini issued a FATWA (death sentence) on British author, Salman Rushdie, for his Satanic Verses in 1989; and closer to home, ironically, Oscar Pretorius was arrested over the shooting and killing of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp.

But let's not end on a tragic note; some suggested inserts for those thinking of sending Valentine cards:

You stole a "pizza" my heart!" – for someone who enjoys Italian food?

"I know it's cheesy but we're meant to brie!" – okay if he or she likes cheese!

"I love you because you are almost exactly like me and I'm the best!" – for the arrogant?

As we are in a retirement village I am reminded of a lady of 85 who, when asked at what age a woman ceases to be interested in men, replied "Ask me again when I am a little older!"

And some sage advice for the men from Socrates – "By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher."



May your postboxes be filled with cards, your vases overflow with red roses  
and your pantries be filled with deliciously tasty chocolates.

*Penny Marek*



### HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY (written by children)

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. Kristen, age 10

What is the right age to get married? Twenty three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. Camille, age 10

How can a stranger tell if two people are married? You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. Derrick, age 8

What do you think your Mum and Dad have in common? Both don't want any more kids. Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date? Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. Martin, age 10



## Catering

At the end of November 2022 Western Province Caterers (WPC), who have been the preferred caterers for Evergreen Lifestyle Villages in the Western Cape, opted to terminate the current contract for all Evergreen villages. Their request was accepted by ELV and a 3 month notice period that concludes at the end of February 2023 was initiated.

ELV have announced that a new Caterer will be coming on board, Tsebo Solutions and confirm they will share more details once all is finalized.

Your Rescom will engage through the Village Manager, who will ensure that they are acquainted with the needs of Bergvliet residents and the findings of our recent surveys. Of course, all catering matters will be affected by the building programme which we hope will commence soon.

## Clubhouse

The builders holiday is over and Rescom has been pushing hard for a meeting with EPI to develop the plans and timetable for the building program.

We were hoping to have some NEWS to share with resident's but sadly have nothing to report at this time.

## Finance

Last month Rescom reported that there was an error in the October management accounts, and as promised by ELV management, the correcting entries were made in the December version, which we have now received.

I am pleased to report that as at the end of December, the Bergvliet management accounts currently indicate a surplus of more than R495,000.

As was announced by Garry Reed at the resident's meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022, any actual surplus at the end of the financial year ending February will belong solely to Life Right Holders. These surpluses will either be used 2 years later as a one-off rebate on the Life Right Holder's levy statement prior to the end of the financial year or used to reduce levies for the following year.

**Alan Baxter**

Chair Bergvliet Rescom

3rd Rod Price  
4th Glenda Welsh  
4th Jane Horovsky  
7th Charles Foster  
10th John Patten  
15th Tony Woof



18th Lynne Wilms  
19th Michael Burchell  
19th Earl Hargreaves  
20th Brian Marquis  
22nd Sue Dalrymple  
22nd Veronica Lamson

*Residents celebrating anniversaries this month*

3rd - Marie and Peter Sampson

7th - Jean and Earl Hargreaves

12th - Jenni and Mike Uys

19th - Cherie and Leslie Mortimer



## INVESTEC CAPE TOWN ART FAIR 2023 - A DECADE OF ACHIEVEMENT

For the 10th edition of Investec Cape Town Art Fair, there will be 88 participating exhibitors. The Fair, from 17-19 February 2023 at Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) will focus on the concept of *time*. Sections will explore the theme to mark a decade of the art fair, and events will highlight the art fair's journey and impact over the last ten years.

The 2023 edition provides a moment to reflect on the fair's impact, in bringing the visual arts community under one roof and creating a platform for the advancement of the sector. By bringing together a diverse group of celebrated exhibitors, including prominent galleries from around the globe, Investec Cape Town Art Fair has also provided an opportunity to showcase Cape Town, the city's people and their creative achievements.

[www.investeccapetownartfair.co.za](http://www.investeccapetownartfair.co.za)



EVERGREEN  
lifestyle  
bergvliet

**GORDON ROCKER WILL BE PERFORMING ON THE 3RD FEBRUARY**

**FROM 7-9PM - COST R80 PP**

**LIGHT SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED**

**FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN LIQUID REFRESHMENTS**

**THE MONTHLY MUSIC EVENING WILL BE HELD ON**

**TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY AT 7PM**

**THE PROGRAMME IS AS FOLLOWS**

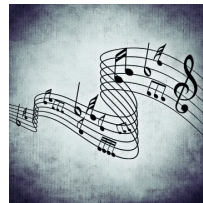
**Tchaikovsky: Romeo and Juliet Overture**

**Conductor Slobodeniouk**

**The Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Vivaldi: The Four Seasons**

**Reino de Aragon Orchestra**



**Our monthly canasta evening will be held at 7pm**

**Friday 17th February**

**Please provide your own liquid refreshments and book at reception by no later than the 10th February**



**Our next pub evening will be held on Friday 24th February at 7pm.  
Books of tickets can be purchased at reception for R100, at the same  
time booking for catering purposes.**

**Please ensure that the books are purchased before the 24th.**



**A quiz evening will be held on Friday 10th March at 6pm**

**A light meal will be served - R70pp**

**Book at reception by no later than the 3rd March**

**Feel free to provide your own liquid refreshments**

### **COMPUTER PROVERBS**

Home is where you hang your @

The E-mail of the species is more deadly than the mail

A journey of a thousand sites begins with a single click

You can't teach an old mouse new clicks

C:/ is the root of all directories

Too many clicks spoil the browse

Don't byte off more than you can view

What boots up must come down

Windows will never cease

The user and his leisure time are soon parted

There's no place like <http://www.home.com>

Know what to expect before you connect

Oh, what a tangled website we weave when first we practice

**Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him to use the internet and  
he won't bother you for weeks**

*Origin unknown*



## THE UNIQUE CHESTER ROWS

**What are the Rows?** They have delighted and intrigued visitors for centuries. Confined to the four main streets radiating from the heart of the city, the Rows are a unique system of continuous covered walkways built into the fronts of the buildings at first floor level. With shops on both levels, these curious double-decker streets give Chester its distinctive character. It is one of the most unusual historical townscapes in Britain.

**How the Rows began** - The origin of the Rows is still unclear. What is certain is that Chester grew up on the site of the important Roman legionary fortress of *Deva* - founded almost 2,000 years ago. The ruins of its massive stone buildings survived into the Middle Ages, and it is significant that the extent of the Rows largely coincides with the area once covered by the Roman fortress.

Medieval Chester was characterised by narrow property strips set at right angles to the main streets. Into this framework were slotted typical merchants' houses consisting of a hall and shops, built either of stone or timber, over a secure stone cellar. Unusually, at Chester the shallow bedrock kept the cellar floors almost level with the street. This lifted the hall and shops and the walkways in front of them up to the first floor level. Although these early Rows were reached by steps, the banked Roman rubble behind the streets meant the inhabitants could walk out of their back doors at ground level again !

**Changes over time** - The Rows probably started to develop towards the end of the 13th century. Edward I chose Chester as his base for campaigns against North Wales, and the wealth amassed supplying the army prompted a flurry of building in the city. As the street frontages filled up, so the elevated galleries in front of the individual buildings could be linked together to form almost continuous walkways. This process may have been consolidated by widespread rebuilding after a catastrophic fire in 1278.

The Rows were often enlarged and had to be supported by posts set in the street. New brick facades were added by the Georgians; while the Victorians restored or copied many of the old buildings. Yet, ironically, it is the narrow medieval plots, divided ownership and mutual need for access that have ensured the survival of Chester's Rows and today they are legally protected.

**Life on the Rows** - Merchants' houses and shops crowded along the four main streets. Early records mention *Ironmongers' Row*, *Mercers' (cloth merchants) Row*, *Flesheners' (butchers) Row*, *fishboards*, *buttershops*, *milk stoops* and *bakeries*. Regular markets were also held and a petition of 1677 complains of "*the great noyse of the people ... and the passage of the Row much obstructed.*"

**Tales of the Rows** - a ghost in the cellar, God's Providence House - the only house in Chester spared during a terrible outbreak of the plague in 1605 - in gratitude, the owner had carved onto the front of his house the legend - 'God's Providence Is Mine Inheritance', a *Forger's Den* and a *Gunpowder Plot*.



A photochrom of the Rows circa 1895 - Detroit Publishing Company

## HANSARD

Celebrated theatre duo Fiona Ramsay and Graham Hopkins, directed by Robert Whitehead star in this witty and devastating portrait of the British ruling class. Set in the UK in 1988, Tory politician Robin Hesketh returns home to the idyllic Cotswold house he shares with his wife of 30 years. But all is not as blissful as it seems. She has a stinking hangover; a fox is destroying the garden and secrets are being dug up all over the place. As the day draws on, what starts as gentle ribbing and the familiar rhythm of marital sparring, quickly turns to blood-sport.

Its on at the Baxter Theatre until the 11th February



My beautiful Rhodesian flame lily plant





### **READ ANY GOOD BOOKS RECENTLY**

These are my 'reads' which I highly recommend

**LIVID by Patricia Cornwell**

A riveting read involving a state-of-the-art murder weapon which I didn't know existed !

The Anne Glenconner books starting with

**LADY-IN-WAITING**

**WHATEVER NEXT? LESSONS FROM AN UNEXPECTED LIFE**

(both non fiction)

**A HAUNTING AT HOLKHAM**

**MURDER ON MUSTIQUE**

both (fiction)

**THE MURDERS AT FLEAT HOUSE** by Lucinda Riley - involving hidden secrets from the past strongly influencing present-day events taking place at a private boarding school set in rural Norfolk - this book was written in 2006 by Lucinda with minimum editorial work being undertaken by her son in 2021

**ALL THE ABOVEMENTIONED BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE IN OUR LIBRARY**

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## RHODES MEMORIAL

The Rhodes Memorial on Devil's Peak in Cape Town is a memorial to the English-born South African politician Cecil John Rhodes (1853–1902). The memorial was designed by the renowned architect, Sir Herbert Baker. The memorial is situated at Rhodes's favourite spot on the lower slopes of Devil's Peak. Rhodes's own wooden bench is still situated below the memorial.

Rhodes owned vast areas of the lower slopes of Table Mountain, most of which he gave to the nation on his death. Part of his estate was used for the University of Cape Town upper campus, part is now the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, while much else of it was spared from development.

The memorial consists of a massive staircase with 49 steps (one for each year of Rhodes's life) leading from a semi-circular terrace up to a rectangular U-shaped monument formed of pillars.<sup>[2]</sup> The memorial is built of Cape granite quarried on Table Mountain . It was completed and dedicated in 1912.

At the bottom of the steps is a bronze statue of a horseman, *Physical Energy* by George Frederic Watts. Eight bronze lions by John Macallan Swan flank the steps leading up to the memorial, with a bust of Rhodes (also by JM Swan). The inscription on the monument is "To the spirit and life work of Cecil John Rhodes who loved and served South Africa." Inscribed below the bust of Rhodes are the last four lines of the last stanza from the 1902 poem *Burial* by Rudyard Kipling in honour of Rhodes:

The immense and brooding spirit still  
Shall quicken and control.  
Living he was the land, and dead,  
His soul shall be her soul!

Today the memorial is part of the Table Mountain National Park. There is a well-known tea room behind the memorial, and it is a popular viewpoint and picnicking spot which is frequented by students from the University of Cape Town (UCT) as well as Cape Town residents and also tourists. It is also a starting point for walking and hiking on Devil's Peak. Around the memorial are groves of oaks and stone pines from Europe, and there are also a few remaining pockets of the original Afromontane forest nearby. Just up the slope from Rhodes Memorial there is a small forest of a famous native tree called the Silvertree. Table Mountain is possibly the only place on earth where this majestic tree grows wild and Rhodes Memorial has one of the last surviving stands. Alien fallow deer used to live in the area, although they are now being eliminated to make way for the re-introduction of indigenous antelope species.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodes\\_Memorial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodes_Memorial)



**RESIDENTS LONG AWAITED BRAAI TOOK PLACE ON THE 27TH JANUARY  
WITH SOME FIFTY FOLK ATTENDING**



Photographs - courtesy Trish Smith

## TIPS FOR THE NON-DEAF

I thought it might be helpful for all those non-deaf people out there to know a little about what it's like to be one of us deaf people. It's always helpful to gain insights into other peoples' worlds so one can better appreciate their experiences and feelings and perhaps better understand how one can help along the way.

First off, common sense tells you, as a deaf person, that you should always try to inform people in advance that you're hard of hearing so they can make allowances when speaking to you. In my experience that doesn't actually help. On learning of my difficulty the speaker's first reaction is to bellow: 'CAN YOU HEAR ME WHEN I SPEAK LIKE THIS?'. 'Yes', I say. After all, the people standing at the bus stop over the road heard him when he yelled like that, so why wouldn't I standing here right next to him? Then he immediately reverts to speaking just as softly as he was before and I go back to not hearing a word he's saying. That's how it happens every time.

And actually, it's often not about how loudly the other person speaks: it's about how clearly they enunciate their words. There are some people whose every word I can hear clearly across a room, even when they're speaking quite softly, because they pronounce their words very distinctly; meanwhile I'll be battling to make sense of whatever it is the mumbling fellow right next to me is trying to tell me.

Everybody lip-reads to some extent; deaf people just more so. And bear in mind that deaf people have difficulty distinguishing between words with similar sounds, so that tag, tack, tap, tab and tad all sound pretty much the same. So, do you want a Tab or a tap? Mostly, I'll have to watch your lips to know which one it is. If you mumble or cover your mouth, don't be surprised if I end up bringing you a fizzy drink when what you really needed was a faucet.

And, of course, deaf people don't all experience deafness in the same way. Hearing loss can range from slight to profound; some people have poor hearing in one ear but not the other; some struggle to hear high frequency sounds, like birdsong - or, conversely, low frequency sounds, like bullfrogs - but have no problem within the rest of the sound range.

Imagine for a moment what it's like having to listen to everything in your daily life through a microphone: your vacuum cleaner, the neighbour's yapping dog, the screeching brakes at the traffic lights and, at the end of the day, your lover's voice whispering sweet, though somewhat metallic, words in your ear. Are you starting to get the picture?

Remember, too, that because a hearing-aid does not amplify sounds at source - which would produce a louder but still clear version of the original pure sound - but merely at the receiving end, being your ear, it can only produce a louder version of the original indistinct sound you were battling to distinguish anyway. So, whilst the sound may be louder, it's no clearer.

The ongoing effort of continuously picking up odd words in a group conversation and trying to piece the scattered snippets together into something that actually makes sense can be exhausting. Once you realise that you've lost the thread of the discussion you're often forced to give up and retreat once more into your own world of thoughts. It's not through laziness; it's not a matter of choice. And it's intensely frustrating and it's often very lonely.

Deaf folk sometimes talk about being alone in a room filled with people. There's a statement - usually attributed to Helen Keller, though there is no absolute verification for that - which says: "Not seeing separates you from things; not hearing separates you from people". For a hard of hearing person, the latter statement is very true.

*Contribution: Brian Dalton*



**A BOULE EVENING WAS HELD ON FRIDAY 13TH JANUARY**  
**THE WEATHER WAS KIND AND FUN WAS HAD BY ALL**



*Photos courtesy of Tertia Harrod*



## Palio di Sienna – the Race of the Soul - Alan and Margaret Baxter

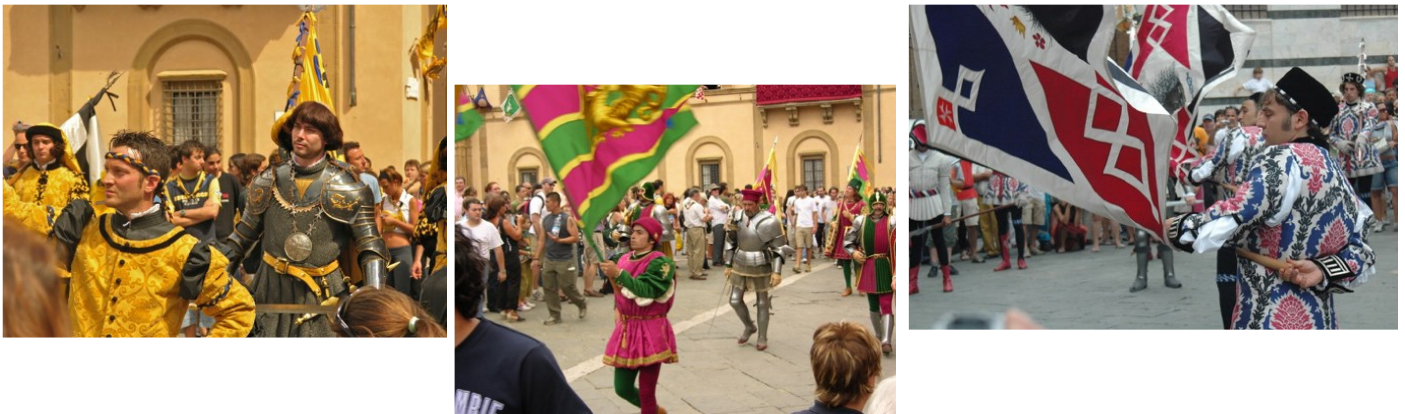
Sienna is a medieval walled city in Tuscany claiming roots stretching back to Romulus and Remus. The Story of Sienna's Palio and its 17 districts (Contrada's ) are steeped in history and tradition, but there is not space to tell all here.

For now, it's enough to know, each July then again in August, its citizens have participated in ancient celebrations which have at heart a bare-back horse race in the Piazza del Campo.

The piazza is said to be the site of a Roman amphitheatre in the centre of Sienna.



While all 17 Contrada participate in the various events and parades, via a ballot system, only 10 Contrada's get a horse and race. Theoretically those missing out this time get to race next.



Unlike the youth of many western societies, the young men of Sienna are proud to don authentic medieval garments, and in blazing summer heat practice flag throwing and marching to represent their Contrada.



**Contrada's choose their horse by ballot 5 days before each race, guard them day and night to prevent interference, and on the day of the race, at the Contrada's principal church a priest gives his blessing.**



On the day of the Palio over the course of the afternoon some 50 thousand people imprison themselves in the centre of the Piazza del Campo.



Always lining up the horses before the “off” takes longer than the race itself with numerous false starts, subterfuge, and skullduggery.



The race itself lasts about 90 seconds being 3 laps around the piazza, and surprisingly the first horse over the line wins, with or without a jockey.



The prize itself the Palio (Italian word for a Flag)

To read more please refer to this excellent book:

Palio the Race of the Soul by Mario Civali

ISBN 88-85331-31-9



## The beauty of Stilbaai



and



*Image credits: Jenni Uys*

Thank you to everyone for their contributions - please keep them coming to  
[davidwal@iafrica.com](mailto:davidwal@iafrica.com)

Deadline for the March issue is February 16th

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