

# NEWSLETTER

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

*"It's your outlook on life that counts. If you take yourself lightly and don't take yourself too seriously, pretty soon you can find the humor in our everyday lives. And sometimes it can be a lifesaver."*

BETTY WHITE

Dear Residents,

I hope you've all had a good week and enjoyed the warmer weather as much as I did. The only thing topping that was the news that the taxi strike which affected many of our team members and fellow Capetonians had been called off. Thank you to everyone for being so understanding while our regular services were slightly compromised.

Sadly we also saw the passing of another music legend shortly after the passing of Irish legend Sinéad O'Connor. Sixto Rodriguez, also known as 'Sugar Man' passed away at the age of 81. Click [here](#) to listen to some Rodriguez classics.

On Wednesday, 9 August, Women's Day, we celebrated all the ladies in our lives with a small thank you from the Evergreen Team. I hope you were all spoiled and enjoyed the holiday in your honor.

In this week's "What's Happening" we have added a new page called "Stay Alert", where you can read more about banking scams using cell phones. This is in no way meant to scare you but rather to ensure you are informed and remain alert to those seeking to make a 'quick buck'.

In "Home & Garden" we show you ways to enhance your bathroom with indoor plants, and in "What's Cooking", Food24 answers all your spicey questions - food-related of course 😊.

I'm sure like us, you've been trying to do everything possible to get the most out of your monthly electricity purchases so in "Good To Know" we highlight the home appliances that sneakily consume the most electricity.

We end off this week's newsletter with another "Classical Corner" featuring the 3rd in the "Great Composers" series - Johann Bach. Follow the links to listen to some of his greatest work.

For those of you who will be taking part in the Rugby World Cup Predictor, there are still a few warm-up games being played which will help you gauge which teams are on track to be serious contenders in this year's tournament. Tomorrow, England hosts Wales at Twickenham while France hosts Scotland - this comes after seeing France lose their No2 World ranking and England slipping down the world rankings even further.

South Africa will be in action on the 19th against Wales and again on the 25th against New Zealand in the last two warm-up matches before the RWC kicks off on the 8th of September. Click [here](#) for more international fixtures.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Regards  
Riaan and the Evergreen Team

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Weekly Activities

Your weekly guide to sport & recreational activities in the Village

### It's A Celebration

Birthday's, Anniversaries & New Residents

### Stay Alert

Banking scam — international crime syndicate targets South Africans using smartphones

### Home & Garden

Create a relaxing bathroom with house plants.

### What's Cooking

**Spices 101:** You asked, and we answered

### Good To Know

'Energy-sucking appliances' in homes to 'never leave on standby' to avoid increased bills

### Classical Corner

**The Great Composers Series:**  
Johann Sebastian BACH  
(1685 – 1750)

# IT'S A CELEBRATION

---

*"The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate". — Oprah Winfrey*

## BIRTHDAYS

**16 AUGUST**

JEAN HARGREAVES – Apartment 6

STEWART FISHER – Apartment 1

**19 AUGUST**

JACKY MARQUIS – HOUSE 66

## ANNIVERSARIES

**14 AUGUST**

MARGARET & ALAN BAXTER – House 14

ALISON & IAN MCDONALD – House 18

# ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

*For more information on any events or activities kindly  
contact Reception on ext. 3200*

<b>MON</b> 14 AUG	11h30 HOUSE 24 <b>ANTI-AGING</b>	14h30 MEADOWRIDGE BOWLS CLUB <b>CANASTA</b>	
<b>TUE</b> 15 AUG		14h00 HOUSE 24 <b>SCRABBLE</b>	18h00 LIME TREE CAFE <b>SOCIAL DINNER</b>
<b>WED</b> 16 AUG	11h30 HOUSE 24 <b>ANTI-AGING</b>		
<b>THUR</b> 17 AUG		14h00 <b>ART CLASSES</b>	18h00 LIME TREE CAFE <b>PIZZA NIGHT</b>
<b>FRI</b> 17 AUG			
<b>SAT</b> 18 AUG		10h00 CLUBHOUSE LAWN <b>BOULE</b>	
<b>SUN</b> 19 AUG			



# ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



## EVERGREEN LIFESTYLE RWC PREDICTOR

As we eagerly await the Rugby World Cup in September, it is only natural that South Africans will take more interest in the Springbok games but with a whole tournament to cover, I thought we could inject a little friendly competitiveness as the tournament progresses.

For those who have heard of, or played SUPERBRU, this will be very similar. The more players we get, the more interesting it becomes. Below is a short introduction on how it will work. It is very simple and you don't have to be an expert to play or to do well.

### HOW IT WORKS?

A prediction sheet will be issued per player on which predictions are made per match. Submit your predictions at reception or by email. You don't need to predict all outcomes at once, as long as you get the pick for each game in by the start of play or as communicated for games over weekends.

### HOW DO I PREDICT?

This is very simple. All you need to predict is:

- The outcome of the game. "Who you think will win."
- By what margin you think your team will win, or draw.



### RESULTS

Each week will be seen as a 'Round' and an official update will be shared on the Monday after each round. The Player with the highest score for the round will be announced as the 'Player Of The Round' each week. Should there be a tie at the end of the tournament, the player who has won the most "Player Of The Round" awards will be announced as the Ultimate Winner.

### HOW DOES THE SCORING WORK?

Points will be allocated to each player as follows:

- 5 POINTS for a correct winner predicted.
- 3 POINTS for a winning margin of 5 points or less of the prediction.
- 1 POINT for a winning margin of 10 points of the prediction.
- 1 BONUS POINT for an exact prediction.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions or suggestions on how to make it even more fun, please contact me directly on [riaang@evergreenlifestyle.co.za](mailto:riaang@evergreenlifestyle.co.za). | Results will be shared on notice boards and also on Whatsapp - please indicate if you would like to be part of the Whatsapp group. This will only be to update results and an administrated group to be deleted post-tournament. An entry fee of R50 per player will be charged and can be paid at reception. All funds will go directly to the winning prizes. One overall winner and a 'Best in Village' player will be announced after the final game.

# ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

## SOCIAL DINNER

### LIME TREE CAFÉ

restaurant & pizzeria



Dear Residents,

With the Tuesday evening Social Dinners at Lime Tree Café becoming so popular and the numbers restricted to only thirty people, the Entertainment and Events Committee has approached Lime Tree Café to put on a weekly Pizza evening each Thursday. Again, due to space restrictions, a maximum of only thirty people can be accommodated at a time, so if you are interested make sure that you book timeously.

### TUESDAY NIGHT SOCIAL DINNER

- A 2-course menu will be served every week at R160 per person
- Bookings close on Friday at 12h00 for Tuesday night.

### THURSDAY NIGHT PIZZA

- A medium pizza, with two (2) toppings for R90
- Additional toppings at R15 each can be added
- Dessert options can be added at R45
- Bookings close on Monday at 12h00 for Thursday night.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- The menu price does not include beverages, corkage, or gratuities
- A standard gratuity of 12% will be added to all bills
- Corkage will be charged at R30 per bottle
- Menus will be sent out on a Tuesday and booking will close on a Friday at 12h00
- Bookings and menu selections are to be made at Reception
- Bookings will only be taken from Tuesdays after the menu has been shared and only taken with confirmation of menu choices
- A maximum of 30 guests can be accommodated per evening
- Seating requests will be noted but passed on to Restaurant management for consideration
- Transport will not be provided
- All payments are made on the evening at Lime Tree Café
- **IMPORTANT: NO SHOWS WILL BE CHARGED FULL MENU PRICE**

# ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



Join us for an unforgettable night of laughter and entertainment at Sweet Valley Primary School's Comedy Evening! This fun-filled event is designed to support our school while providing parents with a well-deserved night out. Enjoy hilarious performances by South Africa's finest comedy talents, including Rob van Vuuren, Kurt Schoonraad, Angel Campey, and KG Mogadi.

Get ready to laugh until your cheeks hurt as these comedic geniuses deliver their razor-sharp wit and comedic brilliance. Don't miss out on this phenomenal evening of entertainment and camaraderie. There will also be food trucks selling delicious meals and snacks to enjoy before the show, as well as drinks on sale.

Secure your seats now for the Sweet Valley Primary School Comedy Evening. You don't want to miss out on this side-splitting, laughter-filled extravaganza! Click [here](#) to book.



# STAY ALERT



## BANKING SCAM — INTERNATIONAL CRIME SYNDICATE TARGETS SOUTH AFRICANS USING SMARTPHONES

ARTICLE BY: THE DAILY MAVERICK

**According to Statista, between 20 million and 22 million South Africans were using smartphones by January this year. As the use of smartphones with near-field communication has increased, so too have related fraudulent incidents.**

The banking ombud, Reana Steyn, has sounded an alert after her office recently received about 124 near-field communication (NFC) fraud-related complaints. She said that the losses suffered are in the millions, with customers' accounts fraudulently drained through tap-and-go purchases made with smart devices in mostly foreign jurisdictions such as Dubai, France and Spain while the legitimate cardholders were in South Africa.

"This is a clear indication that an international crime syndicate is operating within this space and has South African consumers in its sights," Steyn warns.

She says one of the major banks in South Africa has confirmed with her office that it received more than 6,000 NFC fraud-related complaints in the 18 months between January last year and the beginning of June this year. The bank's stats show that in the first six months of last year, about 553 customers fell victim to this fraud with their losses amounting to about R430,000. This year the number of victims jumped to more than 5,450 with combined monetary losses exceeding R6.5-million.

"These are highly concerning numbers and the devastation of the losses caused has the potential of causing bank customers serious financial hardships which in some instances may be impossible to recover from," Steyn says, adding that victims were targeted across various ages and segments. Although banks have developed fraud detection and prevention systems, such as SIM swap detection, transaction monitoring, two-factor authentication (2FA) and other customer identification methods, criminals are constantly devising new ways to bypass these systems.

As Steyn's office so accurately observes, while technology has resulted in improved convenience and efficiency, it cannot be disputed that it has also brought new fraud challenges that require banks and consumers to work together to do all they can to close these loopholes and vulnerabilities that are continually exploited by criminals.

### How the NFC scam works

The scam involves fraudsters using stolen bank card information, such as your card number, expiry date and the CVV number (the three-digit security number on the back of the card), to make fraudulent purchases via a digital wallet.

“Unlike with the normal card-not-present fraud where the fraudsters would use the stolen card information to make online purchases, prompting an OTP to be sent to the registered cellphone number of the legitimate cardholder, NFC/digital wallet payments do not require this added OTP mitigation tool for each and every transaction,” Steyn explains.

The stolen card information is used by the fraudsters to link their smart devices (smartphones and smartwatches) on payment platforms such as Samsung Pay, Apple Pay, Garmin Pay and Google Pay, and then they use their smart device to make fraudulent purchases using your account details, with no OTPs sent to you to validate the transactions.

However, Steyn points out that for criminals to link their devices to your stolen bank card information, an OTP or a “Smart inContact notification” would be required to complete the linkage process and this would be sent to your registered number or your banking app.

Once this authorisation is granted, the criminal’s device is linked to your bank card, leaving them free to tap their device at point-of-sale with no further verification required. So, why would you grant permission for someone else’s device to be linked to your bank account?

An analysis of complaints received by Steyn’s office reveals that many consumers received emails or communications from fraudulent websites purporting to be legitimate businesses such as the South African Post Office, courier service companies, or VodaBucks, asking consumers to enter OTPs to redeem credits. Through these fake website links and email addresses, the fraudsters are able to obtain all the details they require to approve the linking of their devices to the payment platforms.

Many of the complainants had received messages containing their bank card number and/or OTP requesting them to complete an authentication process which they never initiated.

“If you receive such a message in instances where you never initiated any transaction with your bank card, you should ignore it and immediately report the incident to your bank,” Steyn says.

### Urgent messages with hyperlinks

In March this year, Daily Maverick approached three of the major banks after receiving reader complaints related to digital wallet fraud. Nedbank gave us a generic response reiterating bank safety steps for consumers, while Standard Bank asked for a reference number rather than providing a response at all. FNB was the only bank that gave us a considered response.

Trish Ramdhani, the head of card fraud at FNB, says criminals continue to evolve their modus operandi, often using techniques known as phishing and smishing, where they send SMS and email messages containing a hyperlink.

“These messages are designed to cause panic, suggesting that your banking profile will be blocked or that your parcel will be returned. Customers inadvertently click on the hyperlinks, which lead to an unauthorised website that captures their personal and banking information,” she says.

In 2021, FNB introduced Money Protect, a free insurance benefit for certain fraud-related losses when using digital interfaces, but each claim is evaluated on its own merits. FNB told Daily Maverick that on credit card and Fusion accounts, card swipes account for less than 1% while contactless payments account for more than 60% of all transactions.





## CREATE A RELAXING BATHROOM WITH HOUSE PLANTS

ARTICLE BY: STODELS

**Making your bathroom a peaceful sanctuary can go a long way towards boosting your health and well-being. One effective way to achieve this is by incorporating plants into this intimate space.**

**Here's how to transform your bathroom into a peaceful oasis, harnessing the power of nature.**

### CHOOSE HOUSE PLANTS THAT THRIVE IN BATHROOMS

Not all plants are suitable for the unique environment of a bathroom. These rooms often have high humidity levels and low light conditions, so selecting plants that can thrive in such environments is essential.

These are some of our top picks:

- Calathea and maranta plants have lovely detail on their leaves and are well suited to medium- or well-lit rooms.
- Palms are fun plants that can give your bathroom a jungle feel. They also thrive in the humidity typical of bathrooms.
- Delicious monster plants are hardy and resilient to temperature changes. Provided your space has enough light, these striking plants will thrive.
- Philodendrons and pothos can handle various conditions and trail beautifully to create a visual feast.
- Peace lilies are gorgeous and require very little maintenance.
- Ferns are a decor favourite – with good reason. They love humidity, moisture and can handle low-light conditions. Plus, they're delightfully delicate.

### CONSIDER SPACE AND LIGHTING

Now that you've got your shopping list, it's time to evaluate the available space in your bathroom and identify areas where you can place your house plants. Windowsills, countertops, or hanging planters are great options.

Take into account the amount of natural light your bathroom gets. If the room lacks natural light, choose low-light tolerant plants that thrive in dimmer conditions. You can explore more house plants if your bathroom receives ample sunlight.

### ADD TO THE AMBIENCE WITH STYLISH INDOOR PLANT POTS AND BASKETS

Selecting the right plant containers can significantly enhance the overall ambience of your bathroom sanctuary.

Choose indoor plant pots and baskets that complement your decor to create a harmonious, relaxing space. Earthy tones, textured ceramics, and sleek white or grey plant pots can all add a touch of elegance and serenity to the room.

Ensure the containers have proper drainage to prevent water buildup, as excessive moisture can make your plants suffer.

### CREATE A VERTICAL GARDEN

If you have limited horizontal space, consider going vertical with your greenery.

Install wall-mounted planters, box planters, and floating shelves to create a stunning vertical garden. These elements maximise the use of space and add a striking visual element to the room. Vining plants such as pothos and philodendrons work particularly well in vertical displays.

### USE THE HIGH HUMIDITY LEVELS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

Bathrooms are naturally humid spaces, which can benefit certain plant species. However, if the humidity levels in your bathroom are too high or low, it may affect plant health.

Group your house plants together to regulate humidity to create a favourable microclimate. Misting your plants will also help to maintain optimal humidity levels in this room.

### SELECT PLANTS WITH AIR-PURIFYING PROPERTIES

Beyond their aesthetic appeal, certain plants can improve the air quality in your bathroom.

Peace lilies, spider plants, and snake plants are excellent choices as they naturally filter toxins and pollutants from the air. By incorporating these air-purifying plants, you can create an even healthier environment.

### MAINTENANCE AND CARE

It's essential to care properly for your plants:

- Regularly check the soil's moisture levels, and water your house plants
- Avoid overwatering, as it can lead to root rot.
- Prune and trim your plants to maintain their shape and prevent overcrowding.
- Dust the leaves to keep them clean and allow for better photosynthesis.
- Be mindful of any pest infestations and take appropriate measures to address them promptly.

### ENJOY THE PROCESS!

Transforming your bathroom into a relaxing sanctuary is a fun weekend or holiday project that will give you pleasure for years to come.



# WHAT'S COOKING



## SPICES 101: YOU ASKED, AND WE ANSWERED

RECIPE BY: FOOD24

**We have answered your 'spicy' and burning questions about all things spices!**

Spices are the unsung hero of all the dishes we love – adding aroma, flavour and depth to simple vegetables, meats, and even baked goods. Whether it's sweet, salty, spicy or earthy that a dish requires, there is always a spice that will do just that.

The use of spices dates back to before the 1500s, with cinnamon being the oldest spice in the world. While there are over 100 different commonly used spices across the globe, we have narrowed down some essential things to know, all with the Food24 community's help!

In our most recent Instagram poll, we asked our community for their 'burning' spice-related questions, and we have the answers

### HOW TO KEEP YOUR SPICES FRESH

The trick to ensuring that your spices last in terms of freshness, flavour and overall aroma is to ensure that spices are stored correctly. If stored correctly, ground spices such as paprika, garlic powder, garam masala and more can last up to a year, whereas whole spices and dried herbs can last one to two years.

If you are don't know whether or not to throw away a spice, it is important to check the appearance and aroma to analyse its freshness and viability. While the colour can change to be less vibrant, aroma is the telling factor. Simply shake a bit of the spice in a covered jar or container, lift the cover and if the aroma is still present, then the spice is still suitable for use.

### THE BEST WAY TO STORE SPICES

To ensure your spices retain freshness and can be used over a prolonged period, they must be stored correctly. It is best practice to store spices in an airtight container, preferably in glass containers.

Here is a list of factors to consider to ensure that your stock of spices remains vibrant and fresh:

- Do not store spices in direct sunlight or above a heat source as it can result in a loss of freshness and change in overall flavour.
- Ensure the containers are tightly closed to prevent oxidation.
- Avoid freezing spices or storing them in the fridge. When thawed or exposed to warmth, the condensation will spoil the product.
- Opt to use glass containers.





### 5 VERSATILE SPICES TO HAVE IN YOUR KITCHEN

Spices can make or break any dish, and here are the top five essential spices that you need in your kitchen:

- **Paprika.** Contrary to popular belief, this is not only used to add a touch of spice. Paprika is known for adding a sweet and mild flavour.
- **Dried chilli flakes.** When you are out of fresh chillies, this is a great substitute to add a punch of spice to any dish.
- **Garlic powder.** This versatile and golden ingredient can be used in just about anything, from soups to stews and even salads!
- **Cinnamon.** If you are looking to add a balance of sweet flavour to your dish, cinnamon is your go-to.
- **Black pepper.** While many may regard black pepper as a standard seasoning used in almost every dish, we like to use it selectively in dishes that call for warm woodiness.

We asked our audience what their essential spice is and black pepper was voted in first place, receiving 69% of votes, while dried chilli flakes followed in second, with 29% of votes. In third place was paprika, with 28% of voters stating that this is an essential spice in their kitchen.

### HOW TO USE MACE

We asked the Food24 social media community what spice they would like to know how to use and the top common response was mace.

Unlike nutmeg, mace is a lesser-known spice and is the outer layer that surrounds and holds the nutmeg seed. In its raw form, it is red, and once it is dried it turns to an orange hue.



It can be used as a spice in both its ground and whole form and, although it may share some similar flavour profiles as nutmeg, mace adds a sweet, peppery flavour and has hints of cinnamon, black pepper, citrus and coriander.

Mace can be used in a range of dishes from baked treats to casseroles and curries. It is important to note that the ground version of mace is more potent and should be used sparingly in dishes to avoid overpowering flavours. It is also best to use it at the end of the cooking process as it can turn bitter when cooked for too long.

### HOW TO REMOVE TURMERIC STAINS



Turmeric is known for its vibrant yellow colour – and for wreaking havoc in the kitchen and plastic containers!

To remove turmeric stains from your plastic containers, simply mix equal parts water and vinegar in the container, add some dishwashing liquid and a small paper towel, and shake it up.

When it comes to kitchen surfaces, although the first instinct is to grab the bleach, this chemical can be corrosive to certain surfaces. Instead, apply equal parts bicarb and dishwashing liquid directly to the stained area. Rub it in and the turmeric will lift from the surface.



## ‘ENERGY-SUCKING APPLIANCES’ IN HOMES TO ‘NEVER LEAVE ON STANDBY’ TO AVOID INCREASED BILLS

RECIPE BY: EXPRESS.CO.UK

**There's a lot of advice out there about how households can save money on energy bills, but sometimes it can be hard to tell what advice will really make a difference. One common question many people have is whether it's necessary to not just turn off appliances not being used but to unplug them altogether. Thankfully, an expert has weighed in on this.**

The modern property is full of electrical devices, and if households think about everything they have plugged into the outlets or extension cords around the house, they might be surprised by the sheer number of devices they own.

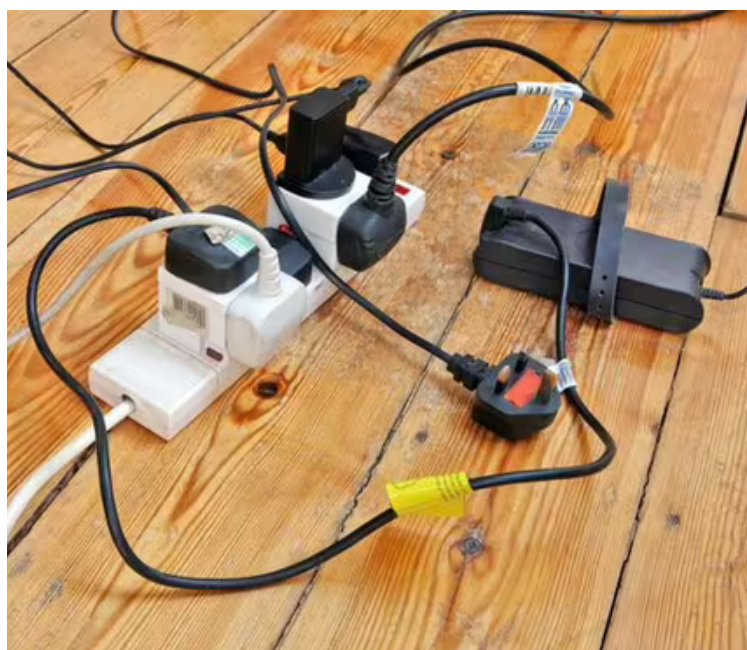
Then there are appliances like fridges and freezers that should never be turned off. They are a constant drain on electricity, and apart from making sure to have energy-efficient versions, there is little households can do to reduce their power usage except by opening them as infrequently as possible.

For those heading on their holidays or just looking to save as much money on their energy bills as possible, Ian Palmer-Smith, appliance expert at Domestic & General, has listed the “worst appliances” that households should “never leave on standby” – and has answered some common questions.

He explained that leaving certain appliances on at the plug is likely to suck up some electricity, which is the last thing anyone wants during a cost-of-living crisis. But that's not all as more often than not, it's necessary to unplug these items too, for the maximum energy-saving benefits.



Most common 'vampire devices' to 'never leave on standby' to avoid increased energy bills.



There are many electrical products that continue to use power when left plugged in.

Ian argued: "Some think that simply turning them off is sufficient, but there are many electrical products that continue to use power when left plugged in - these are often called 'vampire devices'." The appliance pro agreed that the "most common vampire devices" found in homes include washing machines, dishwashers, tumble dryers, TVs and microwaves. He added that computer monitors, printers and coffee machines are also the "most energy-sucking appliances".

Households may be thinking about why these appliances are the most costly to leave on standby. Ian claimed: "Appliances that need to heat water use a lot of energy - which is why dishwashers, washing machines and kettles score so highly on energy consumption. "They use more energy than others on standby as they need to be ready to heat water instantly, on demand." These appliances should be unplugged entirely, or at least switched off at the plug, because only turning them off via remote or on their display will still use up electricity. The expert clarified: "Any appliance that's still switched on or that stays plugged into a live socket, is using an electric current. "Even in sleep or standby modes, some items continue to use energy for updates, connecting to remote servers, and recording data. The only way to ensure you're not using any energy is to turn it off at the plug - or pull it out."

That being said, there are a couple of household appliances that should "never be turned off", despite them using up a lot of electricity. Ian warned: "Whilst fridge freezers contribute around 12 percent to a household energy bill, you shouldn't turn off or unplug this before a holiday as this will cause the fridge to defrost and also potentially result in a smelly kitchen." For those who have appliances fixed, the expert has suggested an alternative way to turn them off. Ian said: "Standby savers, or energy-saving plugs, work with remote controls. The device blocks power from moving through the socket to the appliance. So, they're handy if your sockets are in hard-to-reach areas."

If households want to make sure all their devices are switched off - not on standby and not using vampire power - then turning them off at the plug "is the best bet", according to the energy experts at Ovo Energy. They said: "Plugs with unconnected chargers will use a little power, but the amount is very small. If there's nothing plugged into a plug socket, then it won't use any electricity, even if it's switched on."



# CLASSICAL CORNER



## THE GREAT COMPOSERS SERIES: JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685 – 1750)

ARTICLE BY: PETER LEVER

### INTRODUCTION

This is the third of my short articles for the Noordhoek Village Newsletter, following on from those about Paganini and Vivaldi – the idea now will be to follow a date/time line of the eras and birthdates of each composer. J S Bach sits in the transitional period from late Baroque to early Classical. Thought by some to have been the greatest composer of all, this view is held mainly by composers themselves – he is, perhaps, best described as a musician's musician rather than being given that level of respect by the general listening public, although for the choral community his sacred choral works will keep him at the highest level.

### JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

*He was born in 1685 in Eisenach, Thuringia in Germany as the 8th and last child of his father (Johann Ambrosius Bach and wife Maria Elisabeth).*

It was a musical family well known throughout Thuringia particularly in connection with church music. In those days, professional musicians looked to the church, local choirs and orchestras and, if fortunate, the patronage of the nobility in order to make a living and enhance their reputation. Unfortunately, by the age of 10 he became an orphan as both his parents died within a year of each other. The poor standard of refuse and sewage disposal at the time resulted in high mortality rates – J S Bach had 7 children by his 1st wife Maria of which 3 died, then 13 by his 2nd wife Anna of which 7 died.

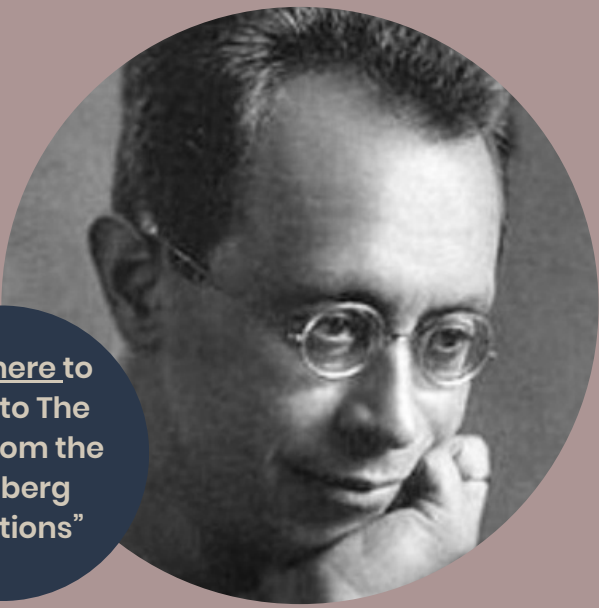
He attended the local Latin Grammar School in Eisenach that had previously been attended by Martin Luther so it was not surprising that Lutherism was the prime faith in the area and J S Bach was a deep believer. His early schooling and membership of church choirs simply enhanced this and was clearly the background to his lifelong focus on composing great religious works – Passions for Good Fridays, cantatas, oratorios and religious chorales all of which were for performance at the various churches he held musical posts with. For many, his Saint Matthew's Passion, the Mass in B-minor and the Magnificat are the finest examples of religious choral music ever written. I hold a soft spot for the Magnificat having played in a performance of it at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral, Suffolk in England in the early 1970's.

Bach is well known musically for developing the use of counterpoint, fugue and 4 part harmony. He also was one of the first composers to introduce the technique of modulation where there are changes of key during the course of a work. This only became possible with the improvement in the design and manufacture of keyboard instruments at the time. He became very involved in writing works for the harpsichord as the instrument improved during his lifetime. Of course, with his background of the church he composed many works for the organ and, thanks to his reputation, was able to influence the installation of fine new organs in some of the churches he was involved with.

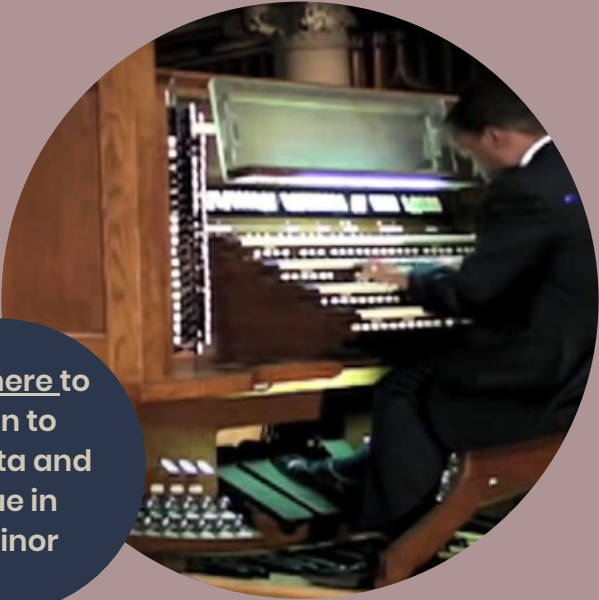
Despite being associated closely with church music, Bach has written substantially for instruments and groups: violin concertos and solo partitas, harpsichord concertos (now played mainly on the piano with much enhanced effect), the wonderful Goldberg Variations (written originally for harpsichord) and symphonic styles such as the famous 6 Brandenburg Concertos. Each of his published works is catalogued and identified using a reference number headed BWV (Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis).

Many of his children became known as musicians but one of his sons, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714 – 1788), who was the 5th child from Johann's 1st marriage, developed into a highly regarded composer thus carrying on the family name. J S Bach died in 1750 following complications from surgery to remove cataracts from his eyes; there can be little doubt that the strain of composing in the dim lighting provided only by candles would have been a contributory factor for many in those times.

I have chosen 3 digital links as worthy examples of his works but avoiding the popularly known ones such as Jesu, joy of man's desiring and the Air on the G-string as their fame speaks for themselves. The links give examples of works for the organ, harpsichord (played on the piano) and a choral work.

A circular black and white portrait of Johann Sebastian Bach, wearing glasses and resting his chin on his hand.

Click [here](#) to listen to The "Aria from the Goldberg Variations"

A circular photograph of a person in a dark suit playing a large, ornate organ with multiple keyboards and pipes.

Click [here](#) to listen to Toccata and Fugue in D-Minor

A circular photograph of a large choir performing in a grand, ornate church with high ceilings and gold leaf decorations.

Click [here](#) to listen to The Chorale - Magnificat