



## ARDERNE BOTANICAL GARDENS

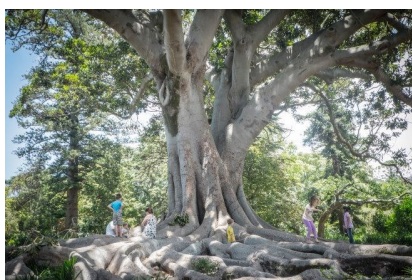
THE ARDERNE GARDENS, WITH ITS SHADY GLADES, ROMANTIC NOOKS, AND JAPANESE-STYLE PONDS HAS, FOR GENERATIONS BEEN A PLACE FOR CAPETONIANS TO BRING THEIR CHILDREN, TAKE MUCH CHERISHED WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHS, AND RELAX AWAY FROM THE INCREASING HUBBUB OF CITY LIFE.

The garden, thanks to the extraordinary interest and commitment of its founders, also has one of the most diverse and valuable collections of exotic trees in all of South Africa. It now officially includes one of the largest trees in South Africa, the vast Moreton Bay Fig (or Wedding Tree, as it is commonly called) and quite possibly the largest Aleppo Pine in the world. These trees, along with four others, were proudly designated Champion Trees in 2008.

The Arderne Gardens were established in 1845 by Ralph Henry Arderne, a successful timber merchant originally from Cheshire, England. He collected plants from all over the world, and in time, the garden became famous for its diverse collection. Now managed by the City of Cape Town, Arderne Gardens is the richest collection of exotic trees in South Africa and home to six distinguished Champion Trees, including one of the largest Aleppo Pines in the world.

These beautiful Gardens on the Main Road in Claremont are truly a hidden gem. Much larger and more impressive than you would imagine from the road, the garden is a South African National Monument and home to more than 300 trees. There is a beautiful variety of shady trees and plants, Japanese style koi ponds, and one of the most diverse and valuable collections of exotic trees in all of South Africa - including one of the largest trees in South Africa – the Moreton Bay Fig. Geese, ducks and fish also make their homes here on the grassy lawns and in the ponds.

The preservation of this treasured place is in the hands of the citizens of Cape Town (and now through GivenGain, to the world!). Future development of the gardens depends on the donations from horticulture, gardening, public-park loving, outdoor enthusiasts as well as the time and energy of Friends of the Arderne Garden volunteers and community members.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arderne\\_Gardens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arderne_Gardens)

2nd Alida Oldroyd  
2nd Cheryl Pienaar  
3rd Roger Cummins  
3rd David Walker  
8th Trula Human  
9th Hans Hammel

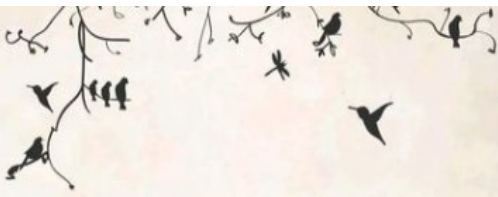


10th Andrew Spiegel  
11th Paddy Hawthorne  
16th Jean Hargreaves  
16th Stewart Fisher  
26th Joan Misplon  
30th Tertia Harrod

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**Those residents celebrating a wedding anniversary**

9th Gael and Charles Foster  
14th Alison and Ian McDonald  
18th Carol and Brian Dalton  
25th Claudia and Michael Burchell  
28th Hannelen and Hans Hammel



"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen."

## WOMEN'S DAY - 9 August

Each year on the 9th of August, South Africans of all backgrounds, races and cultural groups join together in celebrating National Women's Day. This annual public holiday commemorates an eventful day in South Africa's history – 9 August 1956.

What makes this day so special to South Africans? It was on the 9th of August in 1956 that a large group of women began a campaign to bring an end to the pass laws enforced by the government of the time. This was a major law of the apartheid regime and greatly restricted the freedom of movement of black people.

National Women's Day celebrations were instituted in 1994 and now take place annually. The 50th anniversary of the march in 2006 was marked with a re-enactment, with many who participated in the original march taking part. National Women's Day in South Africa is held in high esteem and is a reminder of the important contributions women make to society, as well as a time to ponder the advances in women's rights.



<https://www.dsac.gov.za/womens-day>

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At 98 years old, British naturalist Sir David Attenborough continues to inspire us with his dedication and compassion for animals and the planet. From the fascinating viewing experiences of "Blue Planet" to the epic "Planet Earth" series, his vivid documentaries have not only educated but also inspired millions globally to take action for our planet's health. From groundbreaking documentaries to passionate activism, his kind and compassionate efforts have deepened our understanding of the natural world and urged us to protect it. Sir David Attenborough has given us a deeper connection with our planet and a call to safeguard its future. A British treasure and true hero for Earth!



## A PUB EVENING IS TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 2ND AUGUST

Books of tickets at R100 each can be purchased from reception

For catering purposes, please do not forget to book.

**PLEASE NOTE STARTING TIME IS 18.00**



**THE SWIGS WINE TASTING WILL BE HELD ON THE 8TH AUGUST at 6.15pm for 6.00pm**

The evening will be a tasting of six Constantia Valley wines in celebration of Women's Day (which is on 9<sup>th</sup> August). The Constantia Valley wines will be selected from the ten best-known and iconic Wine Estates situated between Constantia Nek and the Steenberg Estate in Tokai. So far 36 SWIGS members have confirmed their attendance. A rich and warming bowl of soup will be served immediately after the tasting so that the SWIGS can retire to their homes with a warm belly and a cheerful disposition!

*John Coetzee*



**WE ARE HAVING A BINGO EVENING ON FRIDAY 9TH AUGUST**

**AT 6.00PM - A LIGHT MEAL WILL BE SERVED - R80pp**

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

**KINDLY BOOK AT RECEPTION BY THE 2ND AUGUST**

**A CANASTA EVENING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 16TH AUGUST AT 7PM**

**KINDLY BOOK AT RECEPTION BY THE 9TH AUGUST**

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





A poster for a 'Music Evening' event. The background is dark with a close-up of a conductor's hand holding a baton. The text is overlaid on this image.

# Music Evening

21 AUGUST | 19H00

## PROGRAMME

**MOZART**  
**PIANO CONCERTO NO.23**  
EVGENY KISSIN WITH THE BERLIN PHILHARMONIKA  
**CONDUCTOR FABIO LUISI**

**BRAHMS**  
**SYMPHONY NO.2 IN D MAJOR**  
THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA  
**CONDUCTOR FRANZ WELSER-MOST**

RSVP AT RECEPTION OR ON EXT. 3200

## HMS SCEPTRE - THE TRAGIC DESTRUCTION AND LOSS

The 5th November 1799 will be remembered in Cape Town for the violence unleashed by an unseasonal north-westerly gale on the shipping lying at anchor in Table Bay and in particular for the appalling destruction wrought on the ship.

His Majesty's Ship Sceptre had recently arrived in Table Bay and had found the weather calm, with a light south-easter blowing. On the afternoon of 4 November the wind swung round to the northwest and freshened considerably that night. Even so, on the morning of 5th no one could have foretold the subsequent changes in the weather, nor would anyone have believed that Cape Town was about to be hit by a violet storm.

The Sceptre was a 64 gun, thirdrate Royal Navy ship of the line built by Randall at Rotherhithe on the Thames. She was ordered in 1779, her keel was laid in 1780 and she was launched in 1781. It's interesting to note that the line's plans and profile as built, still survive. The ship had a long and illustrious career. She first arrived at the Cape in 1796 and her bad luck seems to have started shortly thereafter when that year she was damaged by lightning during a storm in Table Bay. Between that year and 1799 she was stationed at the Cape, during which time she patrolled the coast capturing several Dutch vessels, sailed twice to India and suffered a mutiny by her crew. Her great age, and the inadequate ship repair available at the Cape meant that although she looked sound, in reality her hull timbers were rotten - eaten through by marine borers and ship worm. As events were to show, her condition was to count against her, and was probably largely responsible for the scale of the disaster that overtook her on the night of 5 November.

The captain of the ship ordered the topmasts to be struck and the fore and main yards lowered, but no further precautions were taken to ease the ship. The wind picked up to a gale and began pushing huge seas into the Bay. Within half an hour, the Sceptre had parted from its small bower anchor. All the while the fury of the storm increased - the day grew dark as heavy squalls lashed the Bay and the seas continued to grow. Just after two o'clock the second bower-cable parted and the second spare cable was lost. Every ship in the Bay was flying a distress signal. The American brig, Hannah landed up under the Castle walls.

In sight of the scores of helpless onlookers, she began drifting towards the shore, grounding broadside on a reef opposite Fort Knokke and Craig's Tower. She lay heeled over towards the sea, and not more than a hundred metres from the beach. The three masts were cut away but the ship refused to budge. The situation then took a turn for the worse when the discovery was made that the ship's gunroom was on fire. The smoke and heat made it impossible to reach the fire, and the crew seemed to face the equally appalling options of either burning to death or drowning. Water poured into the stricken vessel quenched the fire but the ship began to disintegrate.

The following morning the beach presented a horrifying sight, strewn with bodies and wreckage. Three wagon loads of dead were taken to a site near the hospital and buried, but almost a hundred more bodies remained and they were buried in a single mass grave on the beach. When a tally was made, it was found that of the more than 400 seamen and marines only 19 officers and 109 men survived whilst 281 lost their lives. The body of Captain Edwards, whose policy it was not to sleep ashore in case of an emergency, was never recovered, and that of his twelve year old son was found, with a prayer book still inside his jacket.

The rocks on which the Sceptre met her fate were known thereafter as Sceptre Reef. In the 1930's, the wreck was buried beneath the Foreshore land reclamation, and as far as can be established, now lies entombed beneath the Table Bay Boulevard, in the vicinity of the Royal Cape Yacht Club.



*Painting by Peter Bilas*

*With permission: Cape Odyssey Magazine volume 1 issue 5 - abridged article*



*Karen Reid*

**BUSH BABIES - KRUGER NATIONAL PARK  
LAWSON'S BIRDING AND WILD LIFE SAFARIS**

“ It's an absolute delight to behold. Every evening, at dusk, first one head, then two, then three heads appear from a fence pole in Crocodile Bridge Rest Camp, Kruger National Park, where up to five 'Bushbabies' (proper name is Southern Lesser Galago) live in the hollow pipe during the day. They spend time checking the immediate area for danger, and eventually, one by one they shoot up into the trees to begin their foraging. They feed on Acacia gum, as well as insects and small vertebrates. If you ever stay in the camp, make sure to not miss the show, it's an absolute highlight. But please respect the animals - keep your distance, keep quiet and don't use camera flash or flashlights.”



**Absolute showstoppers**

<https://www.facebook.com>



What a lovely evening with Gordon Rocker - compliments of  
*The Golden Girls aka Yolanda, Jean and Jacky*



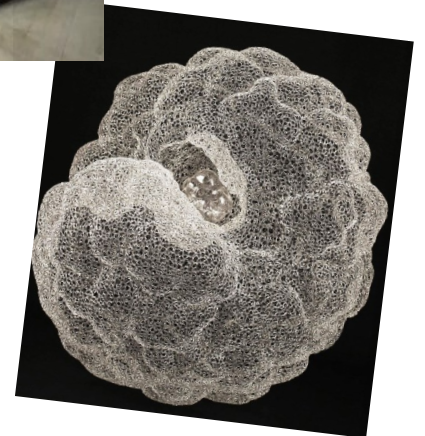
Images: Penny Marek

The Amazing Glass Lace by Kim KototamaLune (born 1976 in Vietnam) now lives and works in France . She creates ethereal sculptures of organic shapes and faces. She builds delicate glass grids without moulds - which she then works into sculptural form and displays in darkened rooms. This allows light to permeate through - which both illuminates the sculptures from within and casts dramatic shadows on the surrounding walls.

"Glass is a liquid that has forgotten who it was," she tells me. Nice formula to show me that in its work it solidifies what is, initially, a liquid. This glass, both transparent and fragile, becomes under her fingers, a fabric with complex mesh, a mysterious lace, a new skin capable of playing with light, a beautiful evocation of Life, both strong and fragile "



What magnificent work  
<https://www.facebook.com>





## CLASSIC LITERATURE

Born on January 22, 1788, in London, England, George Gordon Byron, later known as Lord Byron, was a child of both privilege and misfortune. His father, Captain John "Mad Jack" Byron, had squandered much of the family fortune before George's birth, leaving the family in financial straits. When George was just three years old, in 1791, his father died, leaving his mother, Catherine Gordon, to raise him on her own.

Despite these early hardships, young George showed promise from an early age. He was educated at Harrow School from 1801 to 1805, where he excelled in his studies and developed a love for literature. In 1805, at the age of 17, he enrolled at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he continued to pursue his passions for writing and intellectual discourse.

It was during his time at Cambridge that Byron began to cultivate his reputation as a poet and a rebel. In 1806, he published his first collection of poems, "Fugitive Pieces," which was met with critical acclaim. However, it was his second collection, "Hours of Idleness," published in 1807, that truly established him as a literary force to be reckoned with.

In 1809, at the age of 21, Byron embarked on a grand tour of Europe, which would prove to be a formative experience in his life. He traveled through Portugal, Spain, Malta, and Greece, immersing himself in the cultures and histories of these ancient lands. It was during this time that he began work on his most famous poem, "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage," which would be published upon his return to England in 1812.

The publication of "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage" catapulted Byron to fame and made him the toast of London society. He was celebrated for his wit, his charm, and his dashing good looks, and he quickly became one of the most sought-after bachelors in England. In 1815, he married Anne Isabella Milbanke, but the marriage was short-lived and ended in scandal just a year later.

Following his divorce, Byron left England in 1816, never to return. He traveled throughout Europe, settling for a time in Italy, where he continued to write and publish prolifically. It was during this period that he wrote some of his most famous works, including "Don Juan" and "Manfred."

In 1823, Byron became involved in the Greek War of Independence, using his fame and fortune to support the Greek cause. He traveled to Greece in 1824, where he joined forces with the Greek rebels and helped to finance their efforts. However, his health began to deteriorate, and he contracted a fever while in Missolonghi. Despite the best efforts of his doctors, he died on April 19, 1824, at the age of 36.

Lord Byron's life was one of passion, adventure, and tragedy. He was a man who lived life to the fullest, embracing both its joys and its sorrows with equal fervor. His poetry, which ranges from the darkly brooding to the playfully satirical, continues to be celebrated and studied to this day, cementing his place as one of the greatest poets in the English language. Though he died young, his legacy lives on, inspiring generations of writers and readers alike to embrace their own wild spirits and to live life on their own terms.

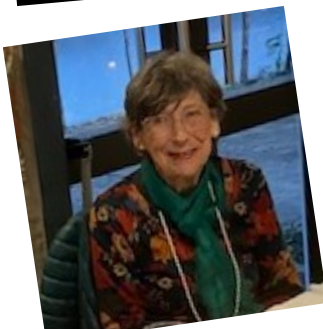












## LIBERTYS OF LONDON

When our adventurous founder Arthur Lasenby Liberty laid plans for a London emporium laden with luxuries and fabrics from distant lands, his dream was to metaphorically dock a ship in the city streets. To this day, a voyage of discovery awaits on the good ship Liberty, with history hidden amongst six floors of cutting-edge design, unexpected edits and beautiful wares from the world's greatest craftspeople.

In 1875, Arthur borrowed £2,000 from his future father-in-law and took a building on Regent Street, London with just three dedicated staff and plenty of ambition.

"I was DETERMINED NOT to FOLLOW EXISTING FASHIONS but to CREATE NEW ONES"

*Arthur Lasenby Liberty*

Liberty's collection of ornaments, fabric and objets d'art from around the world proved irresistible to a society intoxicated at the time by Japan and the East and Liberty effected social change in interior design and dress, so much so that the Art Nouveau period in Italy is called 'Liberty Style'. Within eighteen months the loan was repaid.

A realisation of Arthur's original vision, the Great Marlborough Street shop followed in 1924. A beautiful building designed by Edwin T. Hall and his son Edwin S. Hall. In 1922, the builders Messrs Higgs & Hill were given a lump sum of £198,000 to construct it, which they did from the timbers of two ancient 'three-decker' battle ships. Records show more than 24,000 cubic feet of ships timbers were used including their decks now being the shop flooring: The HMS Impregnable - built from 3040 100-year-old oaks from the New Forest - and the HMS Hindustan, which measured the length and height of the Liberty building.

The 1920s was a time of Tudor revival, considered the most crafted and English of architecture, so the shop was engineered around three atriums. Designed to feel like a home, each atrium was surrounded by smaller rooms, complete with fireplaces and furnishings. Ever the purveyor of craftsmanship, Arthur Liberty had a furniture workshop in Archway, London. Run by Lawrence Turner, the workshop produced Liberty Arts and Crafts furniture and the intricately carved panels and pillars found throughout the store. The craftsman, allowed his fantasy, ensured every ornament was a one-off - paving the way for discovery.

Sadly, Arthur died seven years before the building's completion and so never saw his dream realised. But, his statue stands proudly at our Flower Shop entrance to welcome you warmly into his emporium of wonder.

The building is now a heritage listed London icon and today, Liberty is famed for its directional design, cultural collaborations and inspiring curation. Our dedicated in-house design studio is still at the core of all that we do, hand painting and creating our beautiful prints, and reworking finds from the 45,000-strong archive.



<https://eagleeye.com/blog/liberty-london>



## LEXIPHILES - A LOVER OF WORDS

To write with a broken pencil is pointless  
When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate  
A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months  
When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.  
The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground  
The batteries were given free of charge  
A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail  
A will is a dead giveaway  
If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed  
With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress  
Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I will show you A-flat miner  
You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it  
Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under  
A boiled egg is hard to beat  
When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall  
Police were called to a day care where a three-year-old was resisting a rest  
Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's alright now  
If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory  
A bicycle can't stand alone: it is two tired  
In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes  
The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered  
He had a photographic memory which was never developed  
Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end  
When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye  
Acupuncture: a job well done





## STORY REWIND - MEET MARTHA COSTON

Imagine being a young widow at just 21, left to provide for four children in the bustling city of Philadelphia. Such was the fate of Martha Coston, but rather than succumbing to despair, she transformed her grief into groundbreaking innovation. Her story is one of resilience, ingenuity, and the unyielding drive to revolutionize maritime communication.

It all began with a serendipitous discovery. Martha stumbled upon her late husband's notebooks, filled with his unsuccessful attempts at creating a maritime signaling system. While many might have been only failure, Martha saw potential. Determined to succeed where her husband could not, she embarked on a quest to develop a system of signal flares that could light up the night sky and communicate vital messages across vast distances of ocean.

Martha's journey was far from easy. Enlisting the help of chemists, she spent years experimenting with various materials and designs. Inspiration finally struck when she realized that the vivid and explosive nature of fireworks could be harnessed for her signaling system. After countless trials and sleepless nights, she perfected her "Pyrotechnic Night Signals," using a combination of red, white, and green flares. In 1859, her persistence paid off with the granting of patent #23,536.

The U.S. Navy quickly recognized the strategic advantage of Martha's flares. During the Civil War, these signals became a crucial tool for the Union, aiding in battlefield communication and maritime rescues, ultimately contributing to the North's victory.

But Martha didn't stop there. In 1871, she introduced a twist-ignition device, further refining her system. Her flares were soon in demand worldwide, used by navies, shippers, and yacht clubs. Despite her success, Martha faced relentless prejudice. In a male-dominated industry, she often found her contributions undervalued and her compensation lacking. Yet, her determination never wavered. She continued to fight for recognition and fair treatment, leaving an indelible mark on maritime history.



<https://www.facebook.com>



This photograph was taken at 6.45 a.m. from the apartments



This is the orchid flowering in Silvermine  
at present

*Images: Ursula Athiros*



Beautiful cloud formation Silvermine

Thank you all for your contributions - keep them coming to  
[flickiwal@gmail.com](mailto:flickiwal@gmail.com) - cut off date for September  
is the 15th August

FW