

End March 2017 edition



Hello all Residents of our special village.....April is upon us and brings with it that time of the year again which got me wondering..... Where Does the Fool in April Fools' Come From?

The origins of April Fools' Day are uncertain, but one theory is that it began in 1582, when France adopted the Gregorian calendar. Before this time, New Year's Day fell on March 25 rather than January 1. Those who continued to celebrate the old New Year at the beginning of April were called "fools" by their early adopting contemporaries. Even before this transition, the New Year had long been associated with the term "fool." In medieval France, the Feast of Fools fell on January 1. At this popular festival hijinks abounded: Christian ritual was brusquely imitated, a fake pope was elected, and high and low officials swapped jobs for a day. Feast of Fools was likely modelled after the similarly themed pagan festival Saturnalia.

As this French tradition died out during the 16th century, a new one sprung up in the form of April Fools' Day, or All Fools' Day. In France, the fooled party is called the *poisson d'avril*, which literally means "April fish." The customary prank involves pinning a paper fish, also called the *poisson d'avril*, to a friend's back. This is not the only April Fools' custom involving paper and backs. In Scotland, April Fools' Day is called Gowkie Day—gowkie is another name for the cuckoo, which is a common symbol of the fool. The pranks continue into April 2, Taily Day, when friends traditionally attach a "kick me" sign to their friends' backs. Other countries have their own customs: Brazil celebrates April 1 as Dia da Mentira, or "Lie Day," in which people try to fool their loved ones for comedic effect. Though not directly related to April Fools' celebrations, in northern India people throw coloured water and powder on others as part of the Hindu festival of Holi, which generally falls in February or March. One Holi tradition is strikingly similar to the now defunct Feast of Fools; for one day people playfully trade caste, status, gender, and age roles.

As I sit here writing and editing the April I certainly can remember a number of special April Fools 'jokes' share with us the ones you recall and lets all have a laugh together 😊

▶ CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

So, the much long time awaited new clubhouse is really taking shape and moving along pretty swiftly, BUT let's not get over excited because the interior will take a lot of time to fit and complete. But progress is good and exciting. We received a number of inputs to the furnishings and fitting requested at the ResCom midterm report back in the 'Dear Mr. Chairman' box and it has been heartening to receive your inputs of observations, suggestions, concerns and accolades. All have been taken up and included in our submission to the developer.

That midterm report-back meeting was well supported with almost 100 residents in attendance. Thank you one and all for your interest and continuing support. Please keep considering how you can get involved in ResCom!



This month welcome the following new residents to our beautiful village.

Graham & Prudence Hall in unit 103

Robert & Anne Haselum in unit 79

We hope you will be happy, comfortable and relax in our special village

And look forward to meeting you at a Wednesday Social dinner soon!



St Patrick's Day Social evening....



AND AN IRISH TALE TO CLOSE OFF THIS YEAR'S EVENT ☺

An attractive young woman on a flight from Ireland asked the Priest beside her, "Father, may I ask a favour?" "Of course child. What may I do for you?"

"Well, I bought my mother an expensive hair dryer for her birthday. It is unopened but well over the Customs limits and I am afraid they will confiscate it. Is there any way you could carry it through customs for me? Hide it under your robes perhaps?"

"I would love to help you dear, but I must warn you, I will not lie." "With your face Father, no one will question you"

When they got to Customs, she let the priest go first. The official asked, "Father, do you have anything to declare?" "From the top of my head down to my waist, I have nothing to declare."

The official thought this answer strange, so asked, "And what do you have to declare from your waist to the floor?"

"I have a marvellous Instrument designed to be used on a woman, but which is to date, unused."

Roaring with laughter, the official said, "Go ahead, Father. Next Please."



STREET BRAAI.... Val apparently fell on the walk that morning and Royston was her knight in shining armour and took her to the hospital. It is obviously dangerous getting fit. First Ernie lands up in hospital, then Liz got battered and bruised now Val joins the club of the smashed-up and fit.





Hi Graham

At the 100+ Club Draw in the Clubhouse on 1st March 2017 the following were the lucky winners.

R100 each to Sue Coombe, Shirley Lombard, Pamela Dean, Maureen Slogrove, Penny Henegan, Clifton Preacher, Kiloran Townsend, Aileen Langmead, Walter Ross and Libby Baker.

R300 each to Marlies Bold, Peta Nesbitt and Heather Morgan.

R500 each to Gunther Wrogemann and Emmy Murray.

R1000 to Pierre Theron.

The next draw will be at the end of May, 2017. New Residents can contact Ivar Skanke at No. 77 to select their number for the next draw. Tickets are R50 each.

Kind regards, Pat and Ivar.

ENVIROMENT...news from Hennie.....

A start has been made on controlling the bulrushes in our ponds. All of the bulrushes in Pond 8, and about 1/3 of those in Pond 1 have been cut down at water level. Regrowth has started and the next step will be to apply the herbicide. To prevent contaminating the water, the herbicide will not be applied by spray, but rather by hand. Each regrown leaf will be individually wiped with a sponge or cloth soaked in the diluted herbicide. The poisoned bulrushes will be allowed to die and rot before tackling the next 1/3.

The algae have been physically removed from Pond 8, and next to be tackled will be Pond 1. The algae will regrow, and means of long term biological control are now being investigated.

With the bulrushes, and some of the algae cleared from the ponds, our fish have been sighted – and they have grown from the original approx. 40 mm length up to about 100 mm.

Approval was finally given for the new composting station to be sited at the bottom of the village and as I write, work is underway. Civtek, the contractor repairing the roads, has kindly agreed to level and pave the area for free. Once paved, we'll be getting a shredder, water and power will be laid on and we'll be ready to start composting again.

Sadly, the weather system that provided all that lovey rain earlier in the summer appears to have moved on.

RAIN NEWS FROM CECIL.....

After a most promising February, March has yielded a less than heartening result.



The national drive to conserve water remains in force so we all **still need to use water carefully.**

Herewith rainfall report for March 2017:

Apr '16	3.8	May 16	67.8	Jun 16	13.0	Jul '16	12.5
Aug '16	3.9	Sep '16	7.0	Oct 16	40.3	Nov '16	130.3
Dec '16	101.1	Jan '17	173.4	Feb '17	205.6	Mar '17	16.8

For comparison, the previous year's readings for March 2016 was...251.4

Regards, Cecil Unit 76

▶ HEALTHCARE



Hello everyone....

My concern this month is that there is a measles and chicken pox outbreak in the country. Both these viruses can play havoc on the immune system. Please be vigilant regarding shingles onsets, also headaches and rashes as well as light sensitivity. Residents who are currently on chemotherapy should not be exposed to other residents with shingles as their immune systems are already compromised. Any concerns feel free to come and see me at the clinic.

Wishing you a healthy winter. Regards Sr. Linda

REMINDER!!!! Residents are reminded to activate the YELLOW button on their Telecare system when needing any form of assistance from our nurses. This applies twenty- four hours around the clock.

HEALTHCARE ADVICE FROM JEAN...*Plan G - Nursing Home Plan*

Say you are an older senior citizen and can no longer take care of yourself and the government says there is no Nursing Home care available for you. So, what do you do ? You opt for "Medicare Plan G".

The plan gives anyone 75 or older a gun (Plan G) and one bullet. You are allowed to shoot one worthless politician. This means you will be sent to prison for the rest of your life where you will receive three meals a day, a roof over your head, central heating and air conditioning, cable TV, a library, and all the Health Care you need. Need new teeth? No problem. Need glasses? That's great. Need a hearing aid, new hip, knees, kidney, lungs, sex change, or heart? They are all covered!



As an added bonus, your kids can come and visit you at least as often as they do now! And, who will be paying for all of this? The same government that just told you they can't afford for you to go into a nursing home. And you will get rid of a useless politician while you are at it. And now, because you are a prisoner, you don't have to pay any more income taxes!

Is this a great country or what? **Now that your senior financial plan has been solved, enjoy your week retirement.**

AND SOME HEALTHCARE ADVICE FROM KILORAN...*Fitness program for Men and Women aged over 50!*

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5 kg potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10 kg potato bags.

Then try 50 kg potato bags and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100 kg potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute.

Once you feel confident at that level, put one potato in each bag.

Please let us know how you progress for inclusion in the next edition of Chatter

OUT AND ABOUT

Dear Graham,

Many in the village have asked me about Pico's progress, so I have written this short piece about what is happening to him. Please would you include it in the Chatter. With thanks, Libby



Pico

2017 has not been a good year for little Pico. On New Year's Day he was savaged by two large dogs while we were visiting a friend in Bryanston. Pico had been playing happily with my friend's two small dogs when these two larger dogs broke through the fence and attacked them. It was mayhem, all three dogs were badly bitten but Pico bore the brunt of the attack when the one dog leapt through the window into my car and grabbed Pico by the throat.

Although the vet didn't hold out much hope, miraculously Pico survived and recovered. But his trachea had been damaged and lately he has been experiencing difficulty in breathing and it was back to the veterinary hospital again. After extensive tests a permanent tracheostomy was advised; a procedure which is considered an appropriate surgical option for dogs with severe upper airway damage. This means that Pico is now breathing through a hole in his chest. He is doing well and with continuing care and management, should be able to live a reasonably healthy and active life. So when you meet him trotting around the village, please stop, give him a pat and tell him what a brave little survivor he is.

With the reeds having been cut the pic of what I surmise is a juvenile African wattled Lapwing was shot there and in the bottom dam a new small Nile Monitor. Cheers, Kiloran



Chirps & Tweets



Remember all residents that our Group is open to all, so call either Libby or Dick S for more info.

HATCHES & MATCHES; BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

These are the villagers who enjoy and celebrate Birthdays in April

- 2nd André Oosthuizen
- 5th Vincent Boswell
- 6th Maureen Slogrove
- 7th Chris Brennan
- 9th Catherine Plaskett
- 11th Maureen Privett
- 13th Sally Branson
- 14th Kiloran Townsend
- 15th Heather Morgan
- 16th Henry Dobrowolski
- 19th Ernie Mutch
- 20th Robin Slogrove
- 20th Alan Tompkins
- 21st Dick Townsend
- 22st Tom Hammond
- 24th Cyril Rabinowitz
- 27th Viv Pike
- 30th Gunther Wrogemann

May each of you enjoy a wonderful day  and a Blessed personal year ahead.

And these couples have an anniversary during the month of April

4TH	BRIAN & PATRICIA MORGAN	11
11TH	TALFRYN & ELIZABETH DAVIES	62
13TH	DICK & KILORAN TOWNSEND	63
14TH	RONALD & ROSANNE BICKER-CAARTEN	29
19TH	VINCENT & GLORIA BOSWELL	19
25TH	TOM & JENNY HAMMOND	64
30TH	ROBIN & MAUREEN SLOGROVE	73



May you have a great day and good start to your next year together.

HAVE I GOT WHAT YOU WANT????

This is a new section requested by a few of the residents. So have you got something you no longer want, or a contact you want to recommend, whatever.....send to Graham and it will go into the next Chatter.

Hi Graham, A thought for 'Chatter'. As there are a number of residence who support out-reach programmes, I wonder if it would be helpful to set up a 'needs list' together with the name and unit number for drop offs e.g. "Joan #150 ice cream containers"

This could possibly be added to the 'Have I got what you want' initiative you introduced some time back. Regards, Atholie NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS. ADS FREE : NO VAT!!

Here is one from Atholie....Hi Graham, Please, will you insert in the next Chatter under the heading "Have you got what I need?" Plastic cool drink or milk bottle tops contact Atholie Unit 24



DRIVERS LICENCES

& CAR LICENCES



The other evening one of our residents told me it took 4½ hours of standing in a queue at the licencing department to get their drivers licence renewal process underway.

The following day I went to the local BP garage (at 4-Ways shops) to get my car licence renewal underway and told the lady there of the experience...she said at no cost to us she would take us to Krugersdorp where they have a special relationship and you go up front and through the process quickly.

KEEP IT IN MIND. SAVE TIME, SAVE ANXIETY.

Memorable Moments at Kruger : March 2017

The storm had raged during the night, thunder, lightning, hail and rain. Early that morning the weir across the Crocodile River was awash with fast-flowing turbulent brown water. It was an awesome sight; zebras were shaking off the drops while franklins, perched on branches above the wet ground, squawked indignantly. Driving along a sandy road we came to a flooded dip. After debating awhile it was decided to turn back – a good decision as later when the waters had subsided we saw that half the road had been washed away.



“Wild dogs ahead” said a passing motorist, and minutes later there they were, about ten to twelve dogs stretched out in exhausted abandonment along the roadside. One dog, probably the alpha male, was collared. They all looked in good condition, sleek and glossy. What a gift, but then not long afterwards we came across another pack of wild dogs! With only 120 dogs in the Park these two sightings were true highlights.



“Lions!” We crept up to the other cars, waiting our turn – but with impeccable timing, the lioness sat up and gazed straight at us. Her tawny yellow eyes were intent yet seemed to hold a sense of sadness. She yawned, rose up, alerting the others who followed her down the road, close past our car and into the bush. As they settled all that could be seen, if you looked hard enough, were a few twitching ears. The park itself was lush and green, a welcome sight after all the dry times.

With thanks to Hennie and Marion for the trip, and to Milly for the photographs. *Libby*



JOHANNESBURG - LIKE IT WAS: CHAPTER 4:

PLAYING AND PRAYING:

A feature of Johannesburg was its large number of hotels and saloon bars. Years later, Trelawney Ansell, a pioneer wrote 'I followed gold' of the triumphant entry of the town's first barmaid. Word of her coming had got ahead of her. Tales were being spread of her wonderful beauty, the glorious clothes she wore, the very low cut of her bodices. Special emphasis was also laid on how easily she bestowed her nightly favours - at a price! When she arrived in town, cheer after cheer went up as she was carried shoulder high from the coach to the billiard room of the Central Hotel, there to be regaled with iced champagne....

The town's first cricket club was also established in 1887, and month's later Johannesburg thrashed Pretoria by an innings and 34 runs. That same year Johannesburg formed a rugby team, and to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee beat Pretoria.

When it came to establishing permanent buildings, the churches were not far behind the pubs. The Nederduits Hervormde Kerk was granted a stand, and the church was ready by Johannesburg's first birthday, when Kruger preached from its pulpit. The Baptists and the Methodists were also well established within that first year. Joel Rabinowitz founded the first Hebrew congregation in 1887.

MEETING PLACES:

The busiest place in Johannesburg in those days was Market Square, the natural centre of town, with its constant coming and going of ox-wagons, carts and pedlars, and its untidy array of produce stalls. Prices in 1886 and 1887: a cabbage 2s.6d, a slaughter ox could cost anything up to 80 shillings.

In 1887, the Wanderers sports grounds were laid out in what was called Kruger Park at the north end of town. That too, for half of the city's life, was a great gathering place which people used for various activities beyond sport. Kruger himself spoke to the crowds there, so in later years did Jan Smuts, Joseph Chamberlain, and Lord Kitchener. It was also where the first car in Johannesburg was exhibited. It was demonstrated by a slightly apprehensive Paul Kruger in Pretoria on 4 January 1897, and then brought by horse and cart to Johannesburg to thrill the crowds at the Wanderers grounds. Kruger had granted the Wanderers a 99 year lease on the grounds, with the proviso that the public could use it, whenever the club was not doing so. The car could carry enough fuel to travel 160km at a cost of 20 shillings. A reporter wrote that it looks exactly like what it is, a carriage without a horse. Johannesburgers even without motor cars were bad drivers, for instance in 1898 when there were just over 6 000 horse drawn vehicles in town, Johannesburg's traffic office prosecuted 84 drivers for flouting the law, 36 of them for furious driving.

(Must have been taxi drivers..!)

Cheers for this month, Catherine

Dare I say it...here we go Marching out of March 2017 in to April. Hope you enjoy this edition of Chatter. My thanks to all of the contributors without whom I could not be able to Chatter!!!! I look forward to your contribution for May...ALL WELCOME!!!!
And a special thanks to Kiloran for many of the photographs.

▶ LAST WORDS



Laugh, and the world laughs with you;



Weep, and you weep alone.....

*The trick to
aging gracefully
is to enjoy it.*



Seniors bar



And finally one from an old friend of mine.....6 little stories to illustrate life.....

{1} Once all villagers decided to pray for rain.
On the day of prayer all the people gathered,
but only one boy came with an umbrella.
That's FAITH.

{2} When you throw babies in the air,
they laugh because they know you will catch them.
That's TRUST.

{3} Every night we go to bed
without any assurance of being alive the next morning,
but still we set the alarms to wake up.
That's HOPE.

{4} We plan big things for tomorrow
in spite of zero knowledge of the future.
That's CONFIDENCE..

{5} We see the world suffering,
but still we get married and have children.
That's LOVE.

{6} On an old man's shirt was written a sentence
'I am not 80 years old;
I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.'
That's ATTITUDE

**When I was a child, I thought nap time was punishment.
Now it's like a mini-vacation.**

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*So dear folks of Evergreen Broadacres there you have it for Chatter March 2017. Enjoy some fun on April Fool's day and for the rest of the month!!!
Cheers, Graham Langmead*