



Well.....this is my second effort and I must say I thoroughly enjoyed doing my first Chatter last month. I have had some encouraging comments but must say that I am only the compiler or the conductor, you are the orchestra and I rely on mostly your efforts. So keep up the supply of articles, jokes, news, and any comments you consider constructive. I am sorry I can't use everything this month, we are up to 15 pages and counting.



cheers, Chris



Hello all of you Evergreeners....October brings in the 5th anniversary of phase 1 residents arrival here.

History shows that 1st in was Cecil & Elske Fann (unit 76) and we phase 1'ers have all lived on this building site for the 5 years of positive development. At the time phase 3 was not even a dream in anyone's mind. That of course was in 2012.

Kiloran took many photos and produced a book which has the full record of the developing couple of years. Here we are 2017 and as you heard at the Heritage Supper last week she once again is producing more photos and logging them into more books keeping a record of the development. Elsewhere there is more info thereon and how you can participate.

In February 2013 we at ResCom did a survey among the then residents focussing on reasons for coming to live here. The main one was the environment followed by security and locality. I wonder what it would be in this day and age. I speculate that friendliness of the residents would be right up there as will both environment and security. Whenever we interact with residents we always hear the focus on the friendly people and the activities. Yes we all enjoy a really interactive village among lovely new friends and in a lovely country environment. Of course our hospitality team have just completed a survey and my thanks go to the 50 who completed the questionnaire. The results are currently being analysed and we all look forward to some new and exciting initiatives as well of more of the same of the many currently successful initiatives.

winter. It was beautiful and thank you to all who put in great efforts in your gardens and of course Spring sprung into to summer almost immediately but we did not miss the season's transition from

on Arbor Day. It is a pleasure to be in such a beautiful physical environment. And with such excellent commitment by all of you to the social environment we are indeed privileged. Yes, we are building the village of our dreams, thanks to all of you and of course our developers Amdec.



I really look forward to moving (during November I hope) in to our lovely new clubhouse and I am sure you are too. Cheers as ever....Graham



This is from Mr Arbor Day

My last contribution was at the end of July – winter – and since then we’ve moved straight into a very warm spring. In South Africa we consider the 1st of September to be the start of spring, and I’m not sure when summer is supposed to start, but it feels as if it has been here for weeks already.

And where are the rains? A lot of concern is being expressed about the late start of the rains. Well let me put your minds at rest. I’ve been keeping records since 2012 and they show:

- 2012: 1 mm fell on 09.10 and 16 mm on 12.10;
- 2013: 4 mm fell on 08.10 and 18 mm on 20.10;
- 2014: 1 mm on 18.10 and 19 mm on 25.10;
- 2015: 14 mm on 03.09 and 20 mm on 20.09;
- 2016: 5 mm on 18.09 and 13 mm on 21.09.

So with the exception of the last 2 years the first rains arrived well into October so I don’t think there’s much to be concerned about - yet.

Arbor Day has come and gone. We planted 24 trees – including 5 very large ones – and 2 shrubs bringing the total for 5 Arbor Days to 150 trees and 107 shrubs. A big thank you goes to Evergreen and Amdec Projects for funding all of our plantings this year and to all of you for planting and watering them, and for watering the planters! The tree planting was followed by another successful street braai. I believe great fun was had by all. And from one of the old timers in the village, it was great to see so many new residents participating.



BEFORE - What an eager bunch, hard work never hurts.



AFTER - Fellowship cures all aches and stiff joints

➤ SOCIAL MATTERS (as always thanks to Kiloran for the stunning photos)

We are holding the Christmas Craft Market on Saturday 11th November, in the clubhouse. Hopefully it will be in the new clubhouse, but if not, it will be in the old clubhouse as usual. It will be from 9am - 12 noon. Residents can book tables through me, or Rene, at the cost of R20 for full table, or R10 for half table (to be shared with someone else).

We are inviting all "gifted" residents to come and sell their wares, i.e. baking, preserves, cards, knitting, sewing, or any other crafts. It is usually a very successful morning, with tea and coffee on sale, and a wonderful opportunity for all talented residents to display their wares. Apart from the cost of the hiring of the tables, all money raised for the sale of the goods, is for the resident's own pocket. Thanks Bev Jackson

 This is a savings tale from Sue Jackson

I was paying an annual fee to the AA of +/-R1800 . I have kept the AA membership because my car is now out of Motorplan and it's useful if only for a flat battery.

I wanted to change my short term insurance because my car insurance is expensive with a R9500 excess so I have started shopping around. Outsurance told me I could have three free roadside callouts a year and I thought that would be OK so called AA to ask them to cancel my subscription. Off I am sent to "retentions" and was immediately offered an annual fee of R642 pa, which at just over R50 a month I feel is worth taking. I asked him why they hadn't offered me a reduced my subscription before - knowing my ID number and therefore my age - and he said you had to ask for discounts before they are applied. Fair enough be warned and shop around.



Kiloran Townsend

Heritage Supper - Best Costumes - Ivar The Viking (ready to pillage) and Truly Sitho



Fire Extinguisher demonstration



Fire Extinguisher Man and Heather.... making a point.

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This is from Ivar (who between him, Pat, and all of you has raised thousands of Rands for our funds)

At our 17th draw of 100+ Club on the 30th August 2017, the following were the lucky winners.

R100 each to : Dave Powell, Pat Skanke, Carole Saayman, Craig Stacey, James Campbell, Dorothy Forbes, Barbara Elliot and Peta Nesbitt.

R200 each to : Sue Stirton, Basil Bold and Kiloran Townsend.

R300 each to: John Parott, Beryl Sletcher and Marlies Bold.

R500 each to: Rosalin Messerschmidt, Graham Langmead and Marlies Bold.

R1000 was won by Gunnar Svensson (Hope this helps you to get better!)

A big thank you to all who continue to support this effort.

The next draw will take place at the end of November 2017



European Swallow (Barn Swallow) fascinating facts by our Henry (Dobrowolski) Unit 33



Stephen McGowan, a South African, was recently released by an al-Qaeda affiliate after 6 years of captivity in Northern Mali.

He said:-

"I tried to remain positive, get involved in building things, learning about different animals ... I saw the swallows migrate back and forth six times across the Sahara. I got joy from things like that ..."

We do not have to go through his suffering but we can experience similar joy, in our village, from these birds. In particular the European or Barn Swallow who, for many of us, can remind us of our life past.

Swallows, delicate birds which breed in Europe and Migrate to Africa for the northern winter, have been the subject of lyrical folklore in many cultures of South Africa, as well as the nickname for Europeans who spend the cold northern months in southern Africa ('Souties' in local lingo)(? Ed).

An estimated 22-44 million birds come from Western Europe and 44-88 million from Eastern Europe and Asia enter Africa annually on a southward migration.

The first adult European Swallows (*I will insist on using the old name. 'Barn' sounds so rustic.*) arrive early September and the majority late October to early November. Juveniles arrive in January and they all depart March and April. Large flocks gather before migration seen frequently in the air feeding and roosting on telephone wires.

There is evidence that suggests that birds in Namibia originate from Scandinavia, in Western South Africa from Britain and Ireland, and in Eastern South Africa from Northern and Eastern Europe. The longest distance between a South African ringing (Mossel Bay, W Cape) was 11358 km in Petrovsk, Russian Federation. 2 birds ringed in W Cape and Gauteng were found 34 days later in Georgia on the eastern shores of the Black Sea.

There is considerable movement by some birds in the SA non-breeding grounds for example from N Cape to KZN and from KZN to the W Cape. Of the 158 recaptures, 105 were recaptured at the same roost, 48 had moved less than 100km, the remaining 5 up to 1300 km away. Of the 120 birds recaptured in subsequent summers, 68 were recaptured at the same roost, 48 within a 100 km radius and the remaining 4 up to 1300 km away.

Recoveries also suggest that birds cross or bypass the Mediterranean in the west (over Mali where Stephen McGowan was able to view the migration), in the centre via Italy or through the Middle East. Migration is normally during the day with the birds travelling more than 300 km per day.

Bibliography & Reference

- Sunday Times - Stephen McGowan interview
- SANBI - South African Biodiversity Institute
- Roberts Multi Media Birds of Southern Africa
- The complete book of South African Birds
- RSPB pocket guide to British Birds



HeyYou looking at me !



I am sure I don't belong in a tree with these feet

Some fauna seen at the Top Dam and the Bridge Dam recently. Spring is nearly here and lots of birds are active. (Henry sent these to me last month)

Here is the second part of Basil Bold's trek to Italy.



The Italian Job

Part 2

My part of the deal with Heidi was to refurbish/treat the 10 windows and some external shutters. This entailed lifting 20 heavy wooden, double-glazed window frames from their hinges and then applying a prodigious amount of sanding and preparation before treating. Fortunately, Heidi has every conceivable power tool (mostly in duplicate) which made the job easier! She even has her own snow plough to carve a path from her door through the 2m high snow drifts in winter! She also has a monstrous leaf blower. I enjoyed using this device. Switching it on caused a power dip in the neighbouring village and Heidi's three cats instantly bolted for cover knowing full well that they would be 'blown away' – literally! In a blond moment, I inadvertently pointed it at the washing line and saw 3 pairs of my underpants floating skyward! I imagine that Enrico, in the valley below, must have experienced an "*its raining underpants*" moment! Undoubtedly, he was whisked off to the local psychiatrist by his wife to please explain how he came to be in possession of 3 pairs of foreign underpants!

I also helped with the stacking of firewood in preparation for the winter. A simple chore of stacking the logs in an orderly fashion to a height of about 2m... Or so I thought! As I placed the last log on my stacking masterpiece the entire edifice collapsed like a pile of fiddle-sticks. Suffices to say that on the second attempt I got it right and am now a qualified wood-stacker (1st class with distinction)!

I jogged religiously every second day and covered over 80km on rural country roads which tended to go steeply up or down. (The word 'level' is unknown in this part of the world). While jogging I had time to contemplate the road signs and learn a bit of Italian. (duo dossi = two speed humps, Quattro tornanti = four serpentines i.e. road goes vertically up or down, Frane! = subsidence – road washed away. Perhaps my favourite was "Strada dissestata" = The road is a disaster)! Below are some pics including the bullet-ridden speed limit sign. The Italians don't take kindly to being told to slow down. The signs are academic anyway as it is simply not possible to achieve speeds much above 40kph without the danger of disappearing down a ravine at the next hair-pin bend - never to be found again!

What really appealed to Marlies and I was being within a community that's practically untainted by tourism and whose lifestyle has changed very little over the past 100 years. The idyllic views and the absence of 'noise,' except for the lulling drone of a farmer's tractor ploughing the fields in the valley below, were very relaxing.

My big friend is Virgilio, our next door neighbour, (farmer and gatherer - he gathers anything and everything from old window frames, extinct washbasins/toilets, dysfunctional braais and an even a more dysfunctional WWII motorbike). I had lively conversations with him which comprised mainly of a great deal of gesticulating (as the Germans say "*mit Haenden und Fuessen*" - with hands and feet)! On my early morning runs he often passed me on "strada dissestata" in his little yellow Fiat - lights flashing and his arm waving a frantic 'bon journo'. Our friendship has extended over many years and I cannot help wondering whether it has endured this long because there is no possibility of us ever getting into an argument!

During a previous visit I was shuffling up a particularly steep "tornanti" when I made way for a tractor and trailer grinding up the road behind me. When the tractor drew level, the farmer stopped and made it clear that I should immediately climb onboard the trailer. After kindly thanking him, but indicating that I intended to persevere to the top, he gave me an exasperated look and then employed the universal sign to indicate a madman by twirling his finger vigorously around his one ear!

I always take immense pleasure simply standing in the ancient market square and observing the locals. All appear to be genuinely happy folk - with the women negotiating prices on prosciutto, tomatoes and aubergines while the menfolk stand around discussing affairs of state. It is evident that no one is particularly interested in what is being said, but how it is being said is important. It is fascinating to listen the cadence of their speech and their attention to accents on syllables as they hold forth. Heidi, who speaks passable Italian, informed us that words with identical spelling might have completely different meanings depending where the accent is placed. (Note to self: strike "*Learn to speak Italian*" off my bucket list).

On our reluctant departure we had a send-off from the next door neighbours, Klaus & Erika. Klaus had mounted his concert-hall sized harp on the terrace and played a moving version of the German folk song made popular by Elvis, "*Muss i denn, muss i denn zum Städtele hinaus*" (Wooden heart) while Erika waved South African, German and Italian flags.



OCTOBER (Scorpios abound)

7th Pauline Sampson
8th Jay Barton
16th Terri Turner
22nd Jac Messerschmidt
22nd Irene Carroll
23rd Marilyn Maclachlan
24th Chris Edwards
28th Pat Bayley
28th Erika Barton
29th Cecil Fann
29th Sue Jackson

NOVEMBER

2nd Keith Coombe
4th Ada Rebelo
9th Rosemary Ross
10th Eddie Zauner
14th Elaine Gladstone
14th Basil Bold
17th Taffy Davies
18th Shirley Lombard
23rd Graham Hall
27th Jimmy Sletcher
28th Rod Matheson
29th Adi Gough
30th Henri Postema



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

And these couples have an anniversary during the months of October and November



OCTOBER

- 1st Ian & Judy Stuart
- 12th Dave & Gillian Campbell
- 14th Ernie & Heather Mutch
- 15th George & Maureen Privett

NOVEMBER

- 7th Wally & Rosemary Ross
- 12th Eddie & Ann Simpson
- 14th Trevor & Heather Morgan
- 15th James & Heather Allan
- 27th Pierre & Moira Theron
- 28th Keith & Sue Coombe



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

➤ HAVE I GOT WHAT YOU WANT????

This section was 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 Chris and it will go into the next Chatter

On Friday 15th September, somebody left us a lovely cyclamen in our yard. But we do not know who it was. Many thanks for your very kind thoughts- Chris and Sue Edwards - Unit 89

Please check the notice board for a reminder for Mr & Mrs Dick Shephard's little shindig on the Friday 13th October. Also Eddie Zauner has an interesting proposal for letting his timeshare at Mabula.



This is a bit of Spring Nostalgia for the "Poms" amongst us

▶ LAST WORDS



Laugh, and the world laughs with you;



Weep, and you weep alone.....



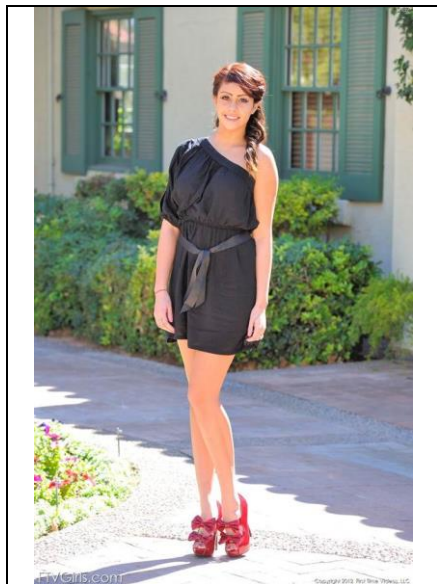
King Cliff: I dub thee Sir Gra.....(Hang on a minute... I haven't got a sword, would a walking stick do??)

(A pic in a million, Nice one Kiloran)



(To be read from left to right)

+++++



**She's single... She lives right across the street
and I can see her place from my kitchen window!**

**I watched as she got home from work this evening!
I was surprised when she walked across the street, up my driveway and
knocked on the door!**

**I opened the door, she looked at me and said: "I just got home, and I have this
strong urge to go dancing and drinking, and maybe fool around a little....you
know, have some fun. Are you doing anything tonight?"**

I quickly replied: "Nope, I'm free!"

"Great!" she said..... "Can you look after my dog ?"

Being a senior citizen, is really for the Birds !!

My thanks as always to all the contributors...have you got something to share?
e-mail to me at :- chrisandsue291@gmail.com

I hope to pick it up on our cruise ! I think they have Wi-Fi. Will try to bring
back a bottle of Red Sea Red. We will be away until 31st October, so Chatter
for October/November will be delayed.

Cheers for now. Ciao, τα λέμε αργότερα, shalom, araka fe ma ba'ad, à bientôt.

Chris

Best wishes and warm regards to you all.