



RESCOM CHATTER

"Together let's make EVERGREEN the village of our dreams"

End August 2018

FROM OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

Dear fellow residents,

My first contribution to 'Chatter' in my new role as chairman – a daunting task!

Let me start off by thanking you for nominating and electing me, and for the many congratulatory and good will messages I've received. It's an awesome honour to serve you and I'll do my very best to live up to your expectations!

It's been a very busy first month. The last thing I had hoped for in my first days in office was to be landed with all the confusion and anxiety created by Evergreen Lifestyle Villages (ELV) efforts to equalise our levies. Your ResCom had been pushing for this ever since we first noticed back in 2014 that some Phase 2, and subsequently, all Phase 3 residents, had a different levy increase formula in their Life Rights Agreement (LRA) to the Phase 1 residents. Most importantly their formula put them at a considerable disadvantage to all Phase 1 and some Phase 2 residents. So we were very pleased by this move, but not by the confusion it has caused! Thanks to the information we got from many of you, we've got a very much better understanding of where the inconsistencies are. We've drawn them to the attention of management and they're addressing them.

It's a pity that the move created so much confusion and anxiety because that has overshadowed what is indeed a very commendable effort by ELV. Some Phase 2, and all Phase 3 residents, have scored handsomely. The situation is not so clear for Phase 1 and some Phase 2 residents, but you've all been given a fair choice.

There's also been the planning for Arbor Day, so my first month in office has been a hectic one – I hope it slows down from here on!

Looking now at some of the decisions taken by your new ResCom at its first meeting in August,

Memorial plaques: Sometime ago Ivar Skanke proposed that a memorial wall and garden be built somewhere in the village. The idea was that should a resident or his/her family wish to leave a memorial celebrating that life, a plaque could be fixed to the wall.

Your committee decided to turn down that proposal. For many years now there has been a policy to allow such plaques to be attached to a bench or brick placed next to a tree. So far only one resident has been so remembered.

Perhaps the reason is that this policy decision goes back to the early days of the village, and hasn't been well publicised. Simply, a plaque designed according to the specification available from the village manager may be attached to a bench, or brick, the brick to be placed next to a tree. The bench, brick and tree to be donated by resident's family.

Permanent braai area: A while ago Ernie Mutch wrote to 'Dear Mr Chairman' appealing for a permanent braai area somewhere in the village where residents could entertain family and friends with a private braai party. He had in mind some permanent structure with paving etc.

This appeal has been considered by ManCom. It agreed that it's a good idea, but wanted to determine the level of the demand.

Management pointed out that there are already 2 portable braais in the village: a small one used by the Bistro and the larger one on long-term loan from All Saints Church. As a first solution, and a means to determine demand, residents are informed of the availability of those braais for such functions and encouraged to use them.

All that is required is for the required braai to be reserved with the office at least 1 full working day ahead of the planned event giving the expected numbers. In the case of a braai over the weekend, the request must be made on the Thursday. The braai, chairs and a table will be moved into position in time for the event, and then moved back after the event.

Still to be decided is the site. Ernie and any other interested residents are invited to get together with me to identify options and then to present these to ResCom and management for approval.

Projects and Priorities List:

A list of all the projects and their priorities that we're currently working on has been finalised and will be distributed monthly with Chatter. The list has been divided into 2 parts: those projects that will be funded by EPI (Evergreen Property Investments) and those that will be funded by ELV. It isn't possible to give specific start or finish dates for the projects; all we can do is list the order of priority in which we are pushing for.

Basil Bold will be responsible for keeping this list up-to-date.

HOUSEKEEPING

Just a reminder of the protocol for registering problems you may be having...

First Notification : To the Village manager. Feel free to include copy to the ResCom Chairman, purely for info, **NOT** for action.

Secondly: Should the matter not be attended to within a reasonable period of time, then elevate to ResCom via the Chairman, but advise the VM when so doing.

Lastly: And if still unresolved within a reasonable time, then ResCom to elevate to ManCom.

These were some of the points dealt with at the ResCom meeting held on 16th August 2018:-

New Levy structure

With the problems raised over the decision to revise levies, it was agreed to request residents to forward details of their letters from Evergreen to Cecil Fann in order that ResCom can see the bigger picture and try to help those residents who have queries on their levies etc.

Fibre to the Home (FttH) in Phase 1 and 2

We continue to note that residents are repeatedly requesting information on the status of the promised FttH installation for Phases 1 and 2. There are alternative LTE Wi-Fi systems available and we will investigate options as alternatives to fibre.

WhatsApp Groups:-

We have had the following WhatsApp groups operating for several months and they seem to have settled down into regular use. The problem of constant chat (the bane of many groups outside Evergreen) has largely been controlled. However, I am at fault for not letting our Villagers know what groups are available and what they are intended for. So here goes:

INFO EVERGREEN GROUP - No chat, but information which comes to hand and which is useful to the group as a whole. (76 participants)

MOVIES EVERGREEN GROUP - No chat, but a one-way communication about forthcoming movies. (46 participants)

CHAT EVERGREEN GROUP - All chat, all subjects, whatever floats your boat, no moderation by Group Admin. (18 participants, so far)

BLACK TV BOX GROUP - Closed group. Two way information on topics concerning use and content on Android TV boxes. (14 participants)

RESCOM MEMBERS - Closed group, just for ResCom members. (9 participants)

There are one or two more groups formed by residents as well. These are private and not administered by ResCom.

You might wonder why we put EVERGREEN in the middle of the group title. We found that some phones give limited visual information and cut off long titles!
 Lets try and increase the membership, particularly of the **INFO** group. We have 200+ residents and it would be great to connect to more than the 76 we have so far (Well done, Libby)!!

I would like to invite any of you with (iPhones and Android smart phones) to join any group or groups. WhatsApp is really a quick (make that instant) and easy way of passing on information between users and of course it is totally **free** (apart from any transport medium used i.e. Wi-Fi, Fibre etc) Just contact me (Chris on ext 1089 or 084 582 9129) and I can add you to any group of your choice or show you how to get WhatsApp.

Talking of **free**, I wonder if anybody is still paying a monthly subscription just to use an email address? It is very easy and **free** to start a **gmail (Google Mail)** account. I know it means changing your email address, but you only have to do it once, and you start saving pocket loads of money. Contact Chris (as above) if you need help.
 Just as an aside, there was some discussion about a virus on WhatsApp called 'Martinelli'. This was found to be a complete spoof and completely discredited by the WhatsApp developers.

RAINFALL

No raindrops falling on our heads this August! Nothing to do but wait it out until the Spring rains come again.
 We continue to remain in hope that the implementation of the borehole irrigation system will receive the priority it deserves!
 Remember the drive to conserve water remains a national imperative.

Rainfall, in millimetres, for 2017/2018:

Rainfall for August in prior years

Sep '17	3.6
Oct '17	68.2
Nov '17	55.5
Dec '17	126.0
Jan '18	60.2
Feb '18	58.0
Mar '18	184.0
Apr '18	42.0
May '18	12.7
Jun '18	6.0
Jul '18	1.0
Aug '18	Nil
12 Months	617.2

2013	7.0
2014	20.5
2015	Nil
2016	3.9
2017	Nil

The average for August since 2013 is 5.2 mm.

Summary of ResCom expenses for July 2018

Cash on Hand brought forward	21 198
Farewell function for Sr. Linda	1 838
New residents complimentary meals	110
Wimbledon Men's Final function	188
Snacks for 6 th Residents Annual Meeting	3 428
Coffee for ResCom sub-committee meeting	33
Bank Charges	16
Total expenditure	5 613
Cash on hand at month end	15 599

SOCIAL HAPPENINGS



Two Judys and One Pauline with their idol (?)



Another Powell in the News. Dave Powell was this years Mens bowls Champion at Bryanston Country Club. (Yet a third Judy, Judy Stowell was crowned ladies Novice Champion. We are awaiting her pics?)



CHATTER STUFF

From Ian Stuart

'I have had several people advising me to make early bookings for the "Christmas with Richard Cock" and "Matilda" shows.

However, I have had only 1 person who put their name down for "Christmas with Richard Cock" and 9 people for "Matilda"

Pensioner rates for "Christmas with Richard Cock" are R175 per ticket.

If I can get 20 seniors together, the price for the tickets to "Matilda" are R175 each, against a full price of R520 each.'

Please let Ian know if you would like to go to either of these shows - early booking can get the best prices and the best seats.

Book and Coffee morning Report

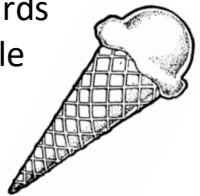
21 August 2018

What an interesting morning in good company and with delicious eats, kindly provided by Isabel Labuscagne and Pat Bayley. It was a generous and wonderful spread, thank you both so much.

USE OF THE LIBRARY: The library is for the use of Evergreen Village residents ONLY

Audio CDs: through the initiative of Judy Stuart the library can now offer residents a selection of audio CDS that have been loaned to us by Tape Aids for the Blind. We're calling for volunteers, about 10 or more, to try out these 'word books' and give us feedback on how they enjoyed them [not reviews, just comments] and what they would like in future. Authors include David Baldacci, Lee Child, Patricia Cornwall, Cathy Kelly, James Patterson, Ian Rankin, Kathy Reichs and Wilbur Smith – and plenty more. Please contact us if you'd like to try them out.

Barnes and Noble has several huge and impressive bookstores in USA. Sue Edwards had left Chris licking an ice-cream on an island in the middle of Broadway while she explored one New York store. So as she said, she didn't have nearly enough time to do it justice, but she gave us a quick review of its history and shared some of the excitement of her visit.



India with Sue Kuschke:

Sue's talk was delightful. In her colourful Indian clothes and in a relaxed and friendly manner, she introduced us to the India she loves; its warm and friendly people, whose lives revolve around their devotion to various gods. However, she did not minimize the downside of the crowds, litter and chaos. This was not the India of the typical Western tourist as, spurning the posh hotels, Sue prefers staying and eating with the local village people in 'homestays' and ashrams. It really gave one a different perspective about this country. Many thanks to Chris Edwards for his help in setting up the slide show; much appreciated.



Forthcoming attraction!

Our next Book and Coffee morning is on October 16th, and promises to be just as interesting and different. The two people from Tape Aids, Chrissie and Andrew, will be coming to tell us about their organization, and Andrew, a professional radio announcer and reader, will read us a story!

So diarize this date and you may sit back and be entertained.

The Great Escape

Part 1

Starting in 1940, an increasing number of British and Canadian Airmen found themselves in Prisoner of War (POW) camps, as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the British were casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape..

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads and, unfolded as many times as needed and, makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular board game 'Monopoly'. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany, Italy, and France or wherever Allied POW camps were located. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny packs that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

While they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set – by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail' Free' card!

Part 2

Untouched for almost seven decades, the tunnel used in the real Great Escape has finally been unearthed. The 111-yard passage nicknamed 'Harry' by Allied prisoners was sealed by the Germans after the audacious break-out from the POW camp Stalag Luft III in western Poland. Despite huge interest in the subject, encouraged by the film starring Steve McQueen, the tunnel remained undisturbed over the decades because it was behind the Iron Curtain and the Soviet authorities had no interest in its significance.

But at last British archaeologists have excavated it, and discovered its remarkable secrets.

Many of the bed boards which had been joined together to stop it collapsing were still in position. And the ventilation shaft, ingeniously crafted from used powdered milk containers known as 'Klim Tins', remained in working order.

Scattered throughout the tunnel, which is 30ft below ground, were bits of old metal buckets, hammers and crowbars which were used to hollow out the route.

A total of 600 prisoners worked on three tunnels at the same time. They were nicknamed Tom, Dick and Harry and were just 2 foot square for most of their length.

It was on the night of March 24 and 25, 1944, that 76 Allied airmen escaped through Harry.

Barely a third of the 200 prisoners, many in fake German uniforms and civilian outfits and carrying false identity papers, who were meant to slip away, managed to leave before the alarm was raised when escapee number 77 was spotted.

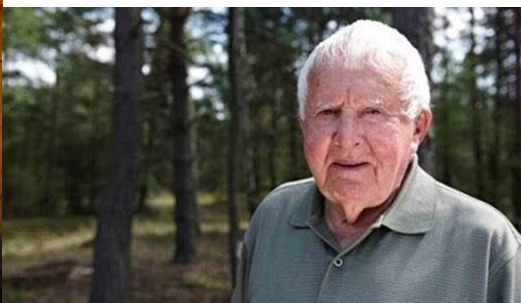
Only three made it back to Britain. Another 50 were executed by firing squad on the orders of Adolf Hitler, who was furious after learning of the breach of security. In all, 90 boards from bunk beds, 62 tables, 34 chairs and 76 benches, as well as thousands of items including knives, spoons, forks, towels and blankets, were 'squirreled' away by the Allied prisoners to aid the escape plan under the noses of their captors.

Although the Hollywood movie suggested otherwise, *NO* Americans were involved in the operation. Most were British, and the others were from Canada, (all the tunnelers were Canadian personnel with backgrounds in mining) Poland, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa.

The site of the tunnel was recently excavated by British archaeologists. The latest dig, over three weeks in August, located the entrance to Harry, which was originally concealed under a stove in Hut 104.

The team also found another tunnel, called George, whose exact position had not been charted. It was never used as the 2,000 prisoners were forced to march to other camps as the Red Army approached in January 1945.

Watching the excavation was Gordie King, 91, an RAF radio operator, who was 140th in line to use Harry and therefore missed out. 'This brings back such bitter-sweet memories,' he said as he wiped away tears. 'I'm amazed by what they've found.'



Tunnel vision: A tunnel reconstruction showing the trolley system.

Bitter-sweet memories: Gordie King, 91, made an emotional return to Stalag Luft III.

25 Chestnuts

Actual predictions that were absolutely wrong. (only 6 this month, more later)

20 "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." – Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943



21 "Rail travel at high speed is not possible because passengers, unable to breathe, would die of asphyxia." – Dr. Dionysius Lardner, 1830



22 "Reagan doesn't have that presidential look." - United Artists executive after rejecting Reagan as lead in the 1964 film *The Best Man*



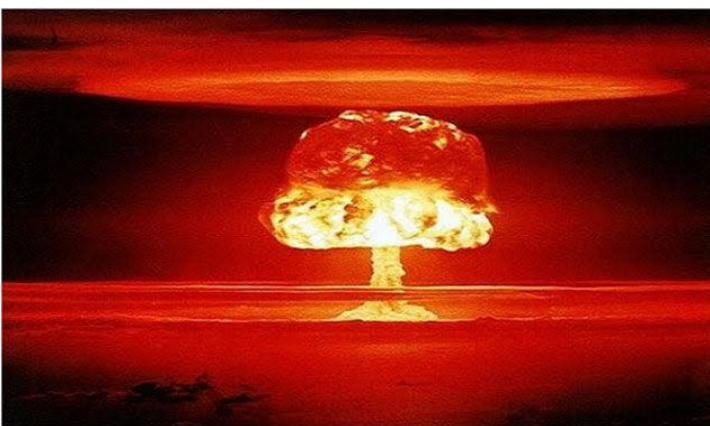
23 "This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us." - Western Union internal memo, 1876



24 "We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out." - Decca Recording Company on declining to sign the Beatles, 1962



25 "There is not the slightest indication that nuclear energy will ever be obtainable. It would mean that the atom would have to be shattered at will." - Albert Einstein, 1932



BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

May you each enjoy a wonderful day and a blessed year ahead.

2nd Kathy Möhlig
4th Wally Ross
5th Henrietta Dobrowolski
9th Penny Rabinowitz
10th Derek Schuurman
11th Pat Skanke
11th Linda Brennan
13th Manfred Leitner
15th Heather Mutch
21st Helen Knowles
21st Lyn O'Rourke
26th Judy Stuart

ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER

These villagers have an anniversary this month and we wish you all the best and wonderful years ahead: ^

4th Graham & Aileen Langmead #66
9th Peter & Angela McMurray #108
6th Jay & Erika Barton #88
11th Henry & Henrietta Dobrowolski #33
27th Piet & Pat Moolman #106
27th Dick Sheppard & Catherine Plaskett (2017) #1
30th John Kidd & Dorcen Tim (2007) #51

JUST LIKE THAT

Goats like happy people, some old goats are people.



The difference between Officers and NCOs from Penny Rab.

A young Army officer was severely wounded in the head by a grenade, but the only visible, permanent injury was that both of his ears were amputated. Since his remaining hearing was sufficient, he remained in the Army.

Many years later he eventually rose to the rank of Major General. He was, however, very sensitive about his appearance. One day the General was interviewing three servicemen who were candidates for his headquarters staff.

The first was a Captain, a tactical helicopter pilot, and it was a great interview. At the end of the interview the General asked him, 'Do you notice anything different about me?' The young officer answered, 'Why, yes, Sir, I couldn't help but notice that you have no ears.'

The general was displeased with his lack of tact and threw him out.

The second interview was with a Navy Lieutenant, and he was even better. The General then asked him the same question,

'Do you notice anything different about me?' He replied sheepishly,

'Well, sir, you have no ears.' The General threw him out also.

The third interview was with an old Sergeant Major, an Infantryman and staff-trained NCO. He was smart, articulate, fit, looked sharp, and seemed to know more than the two officers combined.

The General liked this guy, and went ahead with the same question, 'Do you notice anything different about me?' To his surprise the Sergeant Major said, 'Yes, sir, you wear contact lenses.'

The General was very impressed and thought, 'What an incredibly observant NCO, and he didn't mention my ears.' He asked, 'Sergeant Major, how do you know I wear contacts?'

'Well, sir,' the soldier replied, 'it's pretty hard to wear glasses with no ears to hold them.'



How grandchildren perceive their grandparents - from Derek Heard

1. I was in the bathroom, putting on my makeup, under the watchful eyes of my young granddaughter, as I'd done many times before. After I applied my lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye....
2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 72. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"
3. After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"
4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"
5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.
6. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story.
"What's it about?" he asked.
"I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."
7. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I really think you should try to figure out some of these colours yourself!"
8. When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."
9. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."
10. A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."
11. Children's Logic: "Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy confidently. "It means carrying a child."
12. A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties.
"They use him to keep crowds back," said one child.
"No," said another. "He's just for good luck."
A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."

13. A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and whenever we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

14. Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!

Sea Story by Graham Langmead

There's an old sea story about a ship's Captain who inspected his sailors, and afterward told the first mate that his men smelled bad.

The Captain suggested perhaps it would help if the sailors would change underwear occasionally.

The first mate responded, "Aye, aye sir, I'll see to it immediately!"

The first mate went straight to the sailors berth deck and announced, "The Captain thinks you guys smell bad and wants you to change your underwear."

He continued,
"Pittman, you change with Jones,
McCarthy, you change with Witkowski,
and Brown, you change with Schultz."

THE MORAL OF THE STORY:
Someone may come along and promise
"Change",
but don't count on things smelling any better.

Trump from Judy Stuart

Judy Wallman Trump, a professional genealogy researcher in southern California, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that President Donald Trump's great, great uncle, Remus Trump, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. Both Judy and President Trump share this common ancestor.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows in Montana territory. On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription:

"Remus Trump, horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889"

So Judy recently e-mailed the President for information about their great, great

Many thanks as always, I do get lots of contributions...but keep them coming and e-mail to me at :- chrisandsue291@gmail.com

Cheers for now.

Chris

Best wishes and warm regards to you all, thank you for the kind comments.