

EVERGREEN MUIZENBERG

# NEWSLETTER

EVERGREEN  
lifestyle  
muizenberg

**OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023**



As the year draws to a close it is an appropriate time to reflect on the year, 2023.

Currently on everyone's lips are the words 'global warming', will anyone ever forget the most famous, or let's say notorious denialist, 'Agent Orange'. I actually miss him, the United States politics is just not the same, bland, and 'Sleepy Joe' is living up to his name.

A very strong case is made by scientists attributing the world's weather disasters to global warming. Who can forget the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Morocco, and the deadly fires in Greece, Hawaii and Canada. Canada alone had over 180,000 square kilometres of forest going up in smoke. For those of us who cannot visualise how large an area that is, England is only 130,000 square kilometres. Incredible. This year will go down as the hottest in history. It is a small wonder that with the added drought and floods, food is almost becoming unaffordable for us, the more fortunate ones, never mind those living below the 'breadline'.

Then the conflicts, the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues, there seems to be a bit of a stalemate at the moment, I am just astonished that a country with a population of 38 million people is able to hold the Russian army at bay. And now the Israel-Hamas War, no matter on what side of the political spectrum you are, the loss of innocent lives is heart wrenching, brought to us so vividly by the numerous television news channels. Thinking back on these events, it's disconcerting that the events we remember so vividly have to do with disasters and conflict. It tells us something about the human psyche.

"The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people".....Martin Luther King.

Putting all that aside the undoubted highlight for me was this year's Rugby World Cup, it is impossible to relive those emotions, the pure joy and ecstasy of those one-point wins, remarkable. Who can argue with a World Cup win rate of four out of eight?

As I close off this piece I am filled with so many emotions, from relief to trepidation to sadness. I am not very good at goodbyes, it always sounds so final. I always believe that I will actually see that person again. I have been so fortunate to meet so many amazing people, some of whom I will treasure as friends for always, your support has been overwhelming. It has been a roller coaster ride, not unexpected when you potentially dealing with 380 individual persons daily.

# NEWSLETTER



For me, the most heart-warming attribute of our community is the giving nature, the kindness, the empathy, and the compassion shown to fellow residents, staff and those less fortunate than us. You get asked to contribute through donations, give of your time organising events, and you never waver, that is what I will remember the most fondly.

I am again starting an adventure; we are hoping to emigrate to Portugal. One of the hardest decisions ever is to leave the country of your birth, to leave everything that you're familiar with, rightly or wrongly, a country you defended with your life for two years, friends and family. It's an adventure I'm embracing, there will be many difficult times ahead, but every day will be so different, new surroundings, and things to fill my curiosity and adventurous spirit.

So all that is left to say, adeus, au revoir, arrivederci, adios, totsien, alavida, tschüss, hamba kahle.

Derek



After eight years of dedicated service to our Evergreen community, Derek is leaving the Evergreen group to explore the sunny shores of Portugal. The kind messages and overwhelming numbers at his farewell bears testimony to the regard in which he was viewed by the residents. We wish him a wonderful and exciting new life and well-deserved rest.



# Ithemba School recipient of craft fair proceeds

by Sue Wood

With the assistance of our assistant village manager Kim Whitworth a suitable recipient of the funds raised at the annual Spring Fair Craft Market held by RESCOM was found in Itemba Primary School. On visiting the school we were impressed by what the staff are achieving under challenging circumstances.

The facilities are impressive – some funding is provided by Lufthansa, but the school does not receive any other assistance and the requirements for day-to-day teaching are in short supply. The headmistress, Melissa Mentoor, gave us a wish list of the most urgent items they required. As a result of our truly generous and talented crafters, their friends, family and all the residents of Muizenberg Village R20,722.00 was raised at the fair with which the following equipment was purchased for the school:

- 2 x Epsom Co-Wx01/W01 Projectors.
- 2 x brackets for attaching to the appropriate surface 1 for each projector.
- 1 x Cannon Pixma G3410 3-in-1 Colour Ink Tank Printer – package includes bottles of ink.
- 4 x reams Mondi Rotatrim white photocopy paper.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the fair in any manner shape or form – from residents to friends of Evergreen – everyone's contribution has made one school and its learners a very happy place.



*(Left: Sue Wood addressing the residents during the handover ceremony. (Ltr): Head boy Tshitenga with principal Melissa Mentoor, head girl Ivive and Matthew Williams, the bursar of the school*



# MUIZENBERG EVERGREENERS SHINE

by Jim Raubenheimer

Huge congratulations to the members of the Evergreen Muizenberg Camera Club who walked away with seven of the ten first prizes on offer, and did well as runners-up in the ten themes.

Keith Young from Diep Rivier, gained first prizes for the themes Street Art, Man Made and Still Life, and was twice a runner-up.

Hugh Till from Muizenberg, took first prize for the theme, Before and After, and was twice a runner-up.

Ian Simpson from Noordhoek, took first prize for theme Camouflage, and was also a runner-up.

Jenna Monk, resident at Muizenberg, took first prize for theme Weird & Wonderful.

I myself, gained a first prize for theme Clocks.

Well done and congratulations to all who participated.



Theme Winner – Weird and Wonderful  
*Weird Gourds*  
Jenna Monk



Theme Winner – Before and After  
*Before and After the Break*  
Hugh Till



Theme winner – Clocks  
*A table clock for motorcycle enthusiasts!*  
Jim Raubenheimer

## Come and join us

The rules are simple: It must be your own photos, and you can submit THREE per theme. Topics for 2023 were Transport, Sky, Landscape, Light Painting, Signs, Windows/Doors, Black and White, and Seascapes.

The first two topics for 2024 are From the Hip and Close-up/Macro.

To quote Eudora Welty: A good snapshot keeps a moment from running away.

*Below is a selection of recent theme entries*



*Jenna Monk's harvest of the sea, (left) and John Morgan's view of the ocean (Seascapes)*



*Susan Everett's Low tide (Seascapes) and Jim Raubenheimer (Black and white)*

## Our resident Thursday art group

*by Ursula Law*

The Thursday Art group has been happily meeting for nine years now with a break during the Covid lockdown. Initially we gathered in one half of House 57 which was designated as the Activity Centre. It housed a covered Pool table on which we could work, a Dart board, several artists' easels, plus six bar stools and two storage cupboards under the sink unit for our use. The adjoining garage housed some gym equipment. So, while our small group dedicated themselves to some serious artistic endeavours, we could hear a resident or two puffing and groaning as they 'worked out' near us.

I will always remember one of our early residents insisting that the rowing machine, which she used every Art Day, would improve the size of her breasts. Who knows? Several initial members have sadly passed on but left us with happy memories -Muriel, Di, Bettina. Still going strong from that early group are Marlene Burt, Chris Turner and Ursula Law.

*Top right: Chris Kihn at the regular Thursday art group, who jokingly suggests that the further one stands away from his paintings (right, second photo) the better they look... right, third photo: Ursula at her exhibition, at the annual Art in the Park held in Rondebosch. A few members of the group exhibited and sold some paintings!*

*Bottom right: Also part of the Thursday morning group of talented artists, (ltr), Ursula Law and Marlene Burt*



When the house was sold we moved into the Apartment Mock-Up, a temporary structure built to assist agents and prospective buyers. It was no longer required as the Phase Two Apartment Block had been built. It was situated at what is now the entrance road to Phase Three of the Village. We settled in for a comfortable two years. During this time we supported our own Craft Markets with displays of our art. Marlene also produced a lovely series of watercolour paintings depicting flowers which now hang in the passageway outside of her apartment. These were also reproduced in a birthday calendar format which was quickly sold out. It was a productive time for us all. Shirley also joined us at this stage.

Alas, we were given 24 hours' notice to move yet again. This time into an apartment as a temporary measure. We were lucky but it didn't last long and we relocated to the second floor 'Bubble'. This was a happy space, lovely views and some pleasing work was produced. Unfortunately, it wasn't really viable - tables had to be moved in from storage each week, we were very squashed, no access to water or toilets except to go downstairs and in summer it was too hot. In addition, we were en route to the lift and folk always wanted to stop and chat. Nice but not conducive to serious work.

Thus, with permission, we moved down into the Leisure Centre which has worked out well. Tables are positioned for us by staff and we have access to a storage drawer in the gym and a passage cupboard in which to keep equipment. A mid-morning tea/coffee break is now a big plus.

The group is presently numbering seven and works in different mediums - acrylics, watercolours and pastels. No one working in oils at this time. Chris T and Ursula have successfully sold work at Kirstenbosch, Artists of the South and Art in the Park exhibitions. We are looking forward to supporting the craft market by displaying some of our work which may find a buyer or two!

We meet every Thursday at 9.00 am. We paint for pleasure and there is no instruction. Anyone who enjoys expressing their creativity in this way is welcome to join us.

To quote Paul Klee... Art does not reproduce what we see – rather it makes us see.

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## Residents celebrating Christmas in the Bistro



A lovely rendition of Christmas carols by the resident choir was enjoyed by many residents

# NEWS FROM OUR LIBRARY

*by Lydia Hirschmann*

We are most grateful for the continuing donations, which refresh our collections and add new reading interests. Within these past few months, all the new library books have had a red dot placed on the front page.

The non-fiction section will be rearranged in the new year as the biography section has outgrown its present space.

We kindly request that users don't reshelve books that they return. Rather place them on the returned books trolley as we are finding many incorrectly shelved books – even nonfiction books, in the fiction section.

## **Our DVD section**

Please ensure you have included the disc inside the cover when you return the DVDs.

Unlike with the books, we kindly request that the DVD users assist by reshelving these covers in alphabetical order on return.

Please place any damaged or unplayable DVDs in the colourful gift packet in the cupboard in the passageway so that we can deal with it.

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## **Smile a little...from a librarian...**

A student came to the library to ask about her club funds because her teacher told her to see the bookkeeper. So she came to me. The keeper of the books. This is the cutest thing that will happen to me all day.



# BOOK REVIEWS

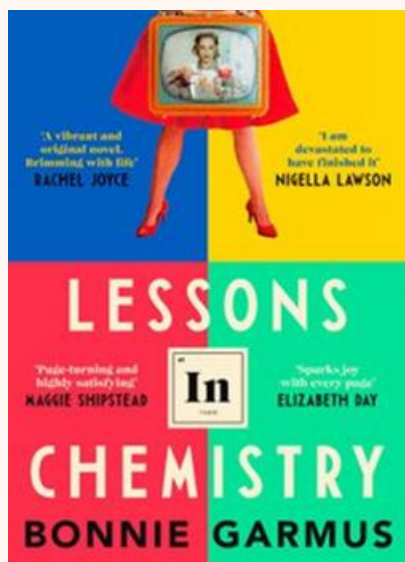
by Janice Behr and Jocelyn Jefferies

## Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Every writer tries to 'hook' readers in their opening pages, and publishers use a book's cover to attract readers. This paperback, which has the most unhooking cover, is true to the saying, 'do not judge a book by its cover'. My appreciation for this debut novel was enhanced by not knowing much about it except that readers liked or disliked it – no inbetween. The story is set in the 1950s when women were not recognised in the workplace hierarchy. The main character, Elizabeth Zott, a scientist, is analytical and experimenting, seeking different results in all aspects of her life, even child-rearing. Elizabeth later uses her TV cooking show to raise the status of women in the workplace and at home.

I read this original novel with interest, sadness, annoyance and laughter and identified with the well-observed people in the book. (Janice Behr)

Note: Bonnie Garmus received the 2023 British Book Awards Author of the Year award.



## More suggestions

The mad women's ball  
by Victoria Mas

A beautiful spy by Rachel  
Hore

Cider with Rosie by Laurie  
Lee



## Fiction reviews

### **The mad women's ball** by Victoria Mas

(translated from French).

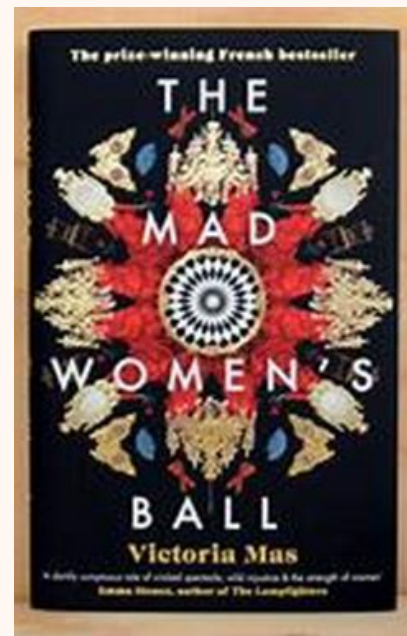
Thought-provoking and very readable, this is yet another debut novel of injustice to the strength of women – a story based on real people and real events.

The title intrigued me, and soon I was absorbed into the 1885 atmosphere of the Paris Hospital for Mad Women. But are they all mad? Or rather an inconvenience to their families for their views? Or just impoverished women?

Dr Charcot and Dr Babinski, who treat these women, are familiar names to me from my study of neurology and anatomy, but not as psychiatrists. They treated women with hypnosis at weekly open-to-all theatre sessions.

The lives of these women, how they occupy themselves, their emotions during incarceration and those public hypnotherapy sessions are told in this moving story. A new patient, Eugene, has a secret that she shares with Genevieve, the senior sister, and everything starts to change. The mad women's ball is the year's highlight for the inmates and a special event in the elite townfolks' social year, though the actual event has a small part in this story.

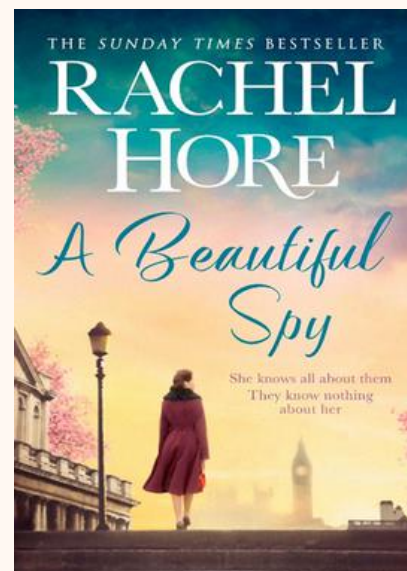
(Janice Behr)



## Non-fiction reviews

### **A beautiful spy** by Rachel Hore

The author has based this novel on the life of Olga Gray, a young woman recruited to work for MI5 in the 1930s. Do not expect the drama of a spy story; rather, how an ordinary woman copes with her fears and concerns of being exposed as spying on the Russians. She has a lonely and extremely stressful life as she cannot divulge her true occupation to family and friends. The story of a simple and so different spy role intrigued me. A beautiful spy novel that reads easily, though some might find it too slow-moving. (Janice Behr)



### **Cider with Rosie** by Laurie Lee

Cider with Rosie was originally published in 1959 and is the first of three memoirs written by Laurie Lee about his childhood in the Slad valley of Gloucester in the Cotswolds. It is a charming evocation of life in a rural village just over 100 years ago and also portrays the changes brought by the First World War. Laurie writes about the death of the horse era, animals around which all life depended on and revolved around and the advent of the motor car, not many of which were seen around Slad, but in the end mechanisation changed life forever in the steep but beautiful valley.

Laurie's mother was housekeeper to a widower with five children in the city of Stroud and after a few years married him and gave him four more children. In 1917 when her husband was away during the





war she took the family and moved into a cottage in Slad Village. Laurie was three years old when they arrived at the end of a long journey by carrier cart with all their possessions, he had travelled wrapped up in a Union Jack to protect him from the sun and when set down in grass taller than he was he cried because he had never been so close to grass before. So began their lives in the country. Their cottage was built of Cotswold stone, prone to flooding in heavy rain, brooms always had to be at the ready to sweep the flood waters away. The cottage was T-shaped and there were two other occupants – two very old ladies known as Granny Wallon and Granny Trill who hated each other. Granny Wallon brewed up powerful wines made from ingredients from her garden together with almost everything she could find in the surrounding fields and hedgerows which she shared generously with her neighbours, including the children. Granny Trill sat in her window and combed her fine silvery hair that she called 'her bits' and took the occasional pinch of snuff (also shared with the children). Each wished to outlive the other and in fact died within days of each other, both over ninety years old.

Laurie attended the village school which was divided into The Infants and The Big Ones, and every child in the valley crowded in there until they were fourteen. Generally, the boys then went off to work in the fields and the girls went into service, but Laurie had a few further years schooling which enabled him to become the poet and writer now known to so many.

He paints a generally happy picture of life in the Lee family cottage, but it was not an easy one. Money was short and meat was only served once a week on Sunday, for the most part the family lived on what their mother grew in her garden, lentils and what the children could glean from jaunts into the countryside to look for whatever the season could provide. He tells the story of a way of life long gone, with the family sitting around the table, eating simple meals, the young ones struggling with homework, his many sisters gossiping and sewing. He was bought up by women who were kind and gentle and although his mother never gave up hope, his father never returned to his family.

The title of the book comes from a moment when he hides under a wagon with Rosie and has his first sip of cider, 'a first drink of golden fire, juice of those valleys and of that time, wine of wild orchards, of russet summer, of plump red apples and Rosie's burning cheeks. Never to be forgotten, or ever tasted again.'

This story is beautifully told, one is taken into a lost time where people lived close to nature and life was dominated by the seasons as they came round one year after the next. Laurie Lee has preserved this world in his gorgeous rich descriptions of the countryside so well that one can almost hear the larks singing. In his words, 'the last days of my childhood were also the last days of the village. I belonged to that generation which saw, by chance, the end of a thousand years' life'.

Note: I first read this book in the early 60's and have recently reread it, probably enjoying it more now. It came to mind when I was chatting to Grizéll outside her house and admiring her lush yarrow plants – perhaps an ingredient of Granny Wallon's wines. (Joycelyn Jefferies)



## **'BOOKCLUB 2023' in review**

*by June Orsmond*

You come across some really odd items of literary interest in our lively Evergreen Book Club. For example: a Paraproisdokian – 'take my advice – I'm not using it'.

And here's a little poem that can be read in English or Afrikaans:

My stories begin as letters  
My pen is my wonderland  
Word water in my hand  
In my pen is wonder ink.  
Stories sing. Stories sink.

My stories loop. My stories stop.  
My pen is my wonder mop.  
Drink letters. Drink my ink.  
My pen is blind. My stories blink.

We've had ten lively and interesting meetings over the year... with delicious eats provided on a rota system by members. Highlights? Twice members brought family books and albums to share... amongst others, fascinating old Boer war info and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth 2 – even a copy of an extraordinary cross-stitch embroidery made from a story in a book; a pressed-flower holiday journal dated 1890-ish where some of the flowers still have colour; and a very personal recipe book handwritten and illustrated by family members.

We introduced what we call 'Biopics' where each of us has a ten-minute chance to tell our personal stories. We've got to know each other and appreciate and understand each other's challenges and foibles. (We discovered that one of our members spent six months on a mercy ship.)

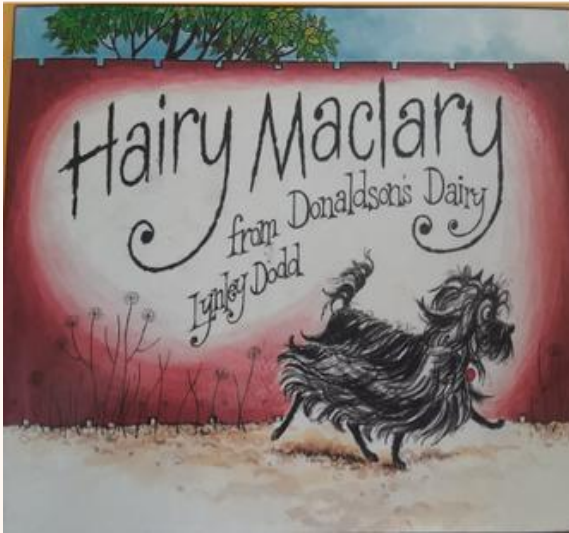
In May we invited our Library Committee to tea and gave them a gift of cash for new books, marking our shared motivation, i.e. 'keeping stimulated and promoting a love of reading for as many years as possible'.

A new development was brought about by Alan Youens who liaised with night manager Susan for the films of two books to be screened: Where the Crawdads sing and A man called Otto. That led to lots of discussion: was the movie better? Or the book? Should one read the book first?

Two authors have joined our book club from the 'world out there' – biologist Els Dorratt from her peaceful waterside home in Marina da Gama, who has written two books on Restios, and Dr. Sindiwe Magona – a long-time friend of our Book Club, who lives nearby and spoke to us in September about her latest book, I write the yawning void and a special book of tributes written by friends that was presented to her on her 80th birthday

Of course, Andre de Ruyters' book **Truth to Power** caused lots of chat and questions. I was intrigued by the timing! (Wonder if he had a 'draft' arrangement with Yale? Wonder if he is paid the same as Eskom's CEO?)

In a newspaper article I discovered that corruption is not new to SA. It seems that in 1700 Governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel gave himself some prime land and named it Vergelegen; used Dutch East India company slaves to build the gracious homestead; plant and develop a 400,000 plant vineyard and look after 800 cattle and 10,000 sheep. Then he sold the produce back to the company! (Willem Adriaan's Nkandla?)



Above left: June's personal favourite book of the year (maybe because his hairstyle is familiar). Right: Our year ended by gifting a host of presents to Ithemba Pre-Primary School. Amongst others, 60 bags of compost with packets of seedlings to start their own garden, some wonderful books, and lovely eats for the children who they so lovingly care for. Seen here is June handing over a trolley packed with surprises to the principal, Veronica Nicholas.

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## On the lighter side

Since 1982 the Bulwer Lytton Fiction Contest has challenged participants to write an atrocious opening sentence to the worst novel never written. Our whimsical literary competition honors Sir Edward George Bulwer-Lytton, whose 1830 novel Paul Clifford begins with 'It was a dark and stormy night'. The contest receives thousands of entries each year, and every summer our Panel of Undistinguished Judges convenes to select winners and dishonorable mentions announced in August.  
2023 Grand Prize Winner

'She was a beautiful woman; more specifically she was the kind of beautiful woman who had an hourlong skincare routine that made her look either ethereal or like a glazed donut, depending on how attracted to her you were.'



Sir Edward George Bulwer-Lytton

We're laughing and hungry! Chosen from over 6,000 entries, the winner of the 41st(!) Annual Lyttoniad is Maya Pasic of New York, New York. When our champion isn't busy working at Penguin Random House, you'll find her knitting, listening to Balkan folk music, and, of course, prowling local bookstores. A true noble Bulwerier. Congratulations, Maya! (bulwerlytton.com Luinda Lilley, City of Cape Town, Library and Information Service)



Left: In the pink...how quirky is this? Right: Unusual bookstall in Naples, Italy. The area is known as via dei librai.

## ST. Pancras international's 2023 festive display

St. Pancras International is not only home to the revered Hatchards, which has hosted events and book-signings from Richard Osmand, Nick Hornby and Ian McEwan in recent times. It has a long-established relationship to literature, from its patronage of Sir John Betjeman (Poet Laureate and railway enthusiast), who saved the station from demolition in the 1960s, to the station's close proximity to The British Library, which houses treasured manuscripts from around the world.

This extraordinary festive display not only celebrates literature but also encourages a break from screens and a deeper connection with the joy of reading. In a world where BookTok and social media trends have sparked a 25% increase in young people's reading habits, St. Pancras and Hatchards hope to inspire a return to the transformative power of books.

This year's tree features a whimsical design with a winding staircase and 270 shelves adorned with over 3,800 hand-painted books, including timeless classics like Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol** and C.S. Lewis' **The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe**.

Within this majestic tree are eight cosy nooks where visitors, young and old, can immerse themselves in the magic of Christmas, figuratively and literally. Each booth is equipped with speakers that allow you to select a five-minute excerpt from an audiobook, exclusively provided by Penguin Books. One can choose from a selection of sixteen different audios, featuring authors like Charles Dickens, Beatrix Potter, Zadie Smith, and more. It's the perfect free attraction for families or a relaxing stop on your journey through St. Pancras.

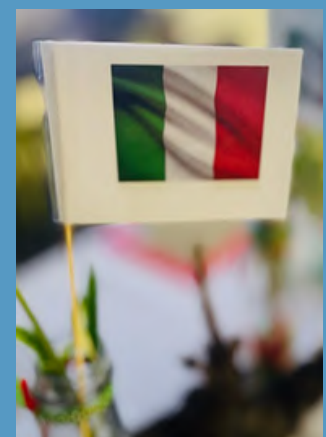
Wendy Spinks, Commercial Director at St. Pancras and HSI Ltd, said: "This year's St. Pancras International Christmas Tree is an ode to the wealth of literature that transports us to exciting and novel worlds. From real-life travel experiences to the fantastical lands of our imagination, we hope that festive visitors feel the magic and are inspired to pick up or gift their loved ones the most timeless gift of all, Books."



This 12-metre tall masterpiece is not just a festive centrepiece; it's a literary wonderland inspired by the enchanting realms created by authors

## How we roll in the village...

A great Italian evening with delicious Italian fare, creative décor and great Italian music and video images that formed the backdrop to a lovely and jolly evening.



## And elsewhere in the village some training was done long before the Italian evening

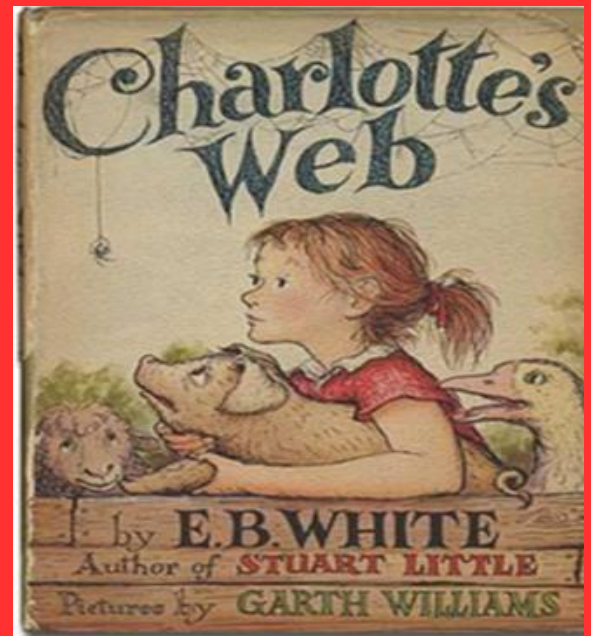


The true Italian mama in the village (Marisa Horn) busy teaching keen cook Grizell how to make tortellini the proper way. Bottom left: Grizell and visiting daughter trying their best to get it right with Joycelyn Jefferies and MasterChef Marisa looking on. The end result was Mama Mia delicious!

Top right: Toni Joubert and Jimmy Bedwell getting ready for the big quiz evening – a monthly event that is enjoyed by many residents.

## FOR THE GRANDCHILDREN...

**Charlotte's Web** was generally well-reviewed when it was released. In The New York Times, Eudora Welty wrote, 'As a piece of work it is just about perfect, and just about magical in the way it is done.' Aside from its paperback sales, Charlotte's Web is 78th on the all-time bestselling hardback book list. According to publicity for the 2006 film adaptation (see below), the book has sold more than 45 million copies and been translated into 23 languages. It was a Newbery Honour book for 1953, losing to Secret of the Andes by Ann Nolan Clark for the medal. In 1970, White won the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal, a major prize in the field of children's literature, for Charlotte's Web, along with his first children's book, **Stuart Little**, published in 1945.



Seth Lerer, in his book *Children's Literature*, finds that Charlotte represents female authorship and creativity, and compares her to other female characters in children's literature such as Jo March in *Little Women* and Mary Lennox in *The Secret Garden*. Nancy Larrick brings to attention the startling note of realism' in the opening line, 'Where's Papa going with that Ax?'

Illustrator Henry Cole expressed his deep childhood appreciation of the characters and story, and calls Garth Williams' illustrations full of 'sensitivity, warmth, humor, and intelligence'. Illustrator Diana Cain Bluthenthal states that Williams' illustrations inspired and influenced her. There is an unabridged audio book read by White himself which reappeared decades after it had originally been recorded. Newsweek writes that White reads the story 'without artifice and with a mellow charm', and that 'White also has a plangency that will make you weep, so don't listen (at least, not to the sad parts) while driving'. Joe Berk, president of Pathway Sound, had recorded *Charlotte's Web* with White in White's neighbour's house in Maine (which Berk describes as an especially memorable experience) and released the book in LP. From Michael Sims: 'The producer later said that it took him 17 takes to read the death scene of Charlotte. And finally, they would walk outside, and E.B. White would go, this is ridiculous, a grown man crying over the death of an imaginary insect. And then, he would go in and start crying again when he got to that moment.' Bantam released *Charlotte's Web* alongside *Stuart Little* on CD in 1991, digitally remastered, having acquired the two of them for rather a large amount.

In 2005, a school teacher in California conceived of a project for her class in which they would send out hundreds of drawings of spiders (each representing Charlotte's child Aranea going out into the world so that she can return and tell Wilbur of what she has seen) with accompanying letters; they ended up visiting a large number of parks, monuments, and museums, and were hosted by and/or prompted responses from celebrities and politicians such as John Travolta and then-First Lady Laura Bush.

In 2003 *Charlotte's Web* was listed at number 170 on the BBC's *The Big Read* poll of the UK's 200 best-loved novels. A 2004 study found that *Charlotte's Web* was a common read-aloud book for third-graders in schools in San Diego County, California. Based on a 2007 online poll, the National Education Association listed the book as one of its 'Teachers' Top 100 Books for Children.' It was one of the Top 100 Chapter Books of all time in a 2012 poll by *School Library Journal*.

In 2010, the New York Public Library reported that *Charlotte's Web* was the sixth most borrowed book in the library's history. Its awards and nominations include:

- John Newbery Medal (1953)
- Horn Book Fanfare (1952)
- Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal (1970) (awarded to White for his children's books: *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*)
- Massachusetts Children's Book Award (1984)





# Local history - The Mfecane

The Mfecane is a period about which little is known by the public. It deserves to be better understood, since it was the cause of mass displacement and extermination of Bantu tribes throughout Southern Africa. Muizenberg Historical's interest is because the Mfecane gave rise to Mzilikazi and his Ndebele/Matabele who feature prominently in Rhodes' story.

Between about 1815 and 1840, what is now KwaZulu-Natal erupted into bloody mayhem, the Terror. Shaka Zulu set about building himself an empire by exterminating the local tribes and stealing their land, their cattle, their children and young women. I will try to outline the events in a future edition of Milestones. It is a large and dark subject, avoided by our politicians even now.

For now, I give you this from the journal of Andrew Smith (who I presume gave his name to Smith Street in Durban, now changed but still commonly used) who travelled through Natal and Zululand in 1832. Andrew Smith visited Dingane and stayed at his kraal, writing copious notes of what he saw. It was Dingane who had Shaka killed in 1829, only three years earlier.

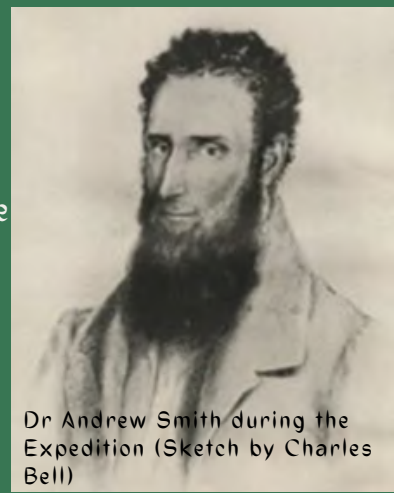
'The country through which we had passed was a very fine one and had been very populous from the number of places where kraals had been and which were more conspicuous from the number of skulls lying near each (Chaka having killed all the inhabitants) ... The whole country about these kraals were strewn with bones of those who I suppose had tried to escape up the mountains.'

What disturbs me more than the telling of bleached skulls and bones is that they were intact, indicating that they had not been set about by hyenas or jackals or vultures. That in turn indicates that those scavengers, which were common throughout the land at the time, had more corpses available than they could consume. How many died? The number will never be accurately fixed, but estimates range from 500,000 to 2 million. It was a desperate time, and it changed South Africa. (Reference: Andrew Smith and Natal, The Van Riebeeck Society, Cape Town 1955.) (Milestones 35 - newsletter for the Muizenberg Historical Conservation Society.)

## Cathedrals under construction...an update

*Sagrada Familia - Notre Dame - Peoples' Salvation*  
by Mike Horn

A recent progress report on the construction of this magnificent cathedral in Barcelona, gives a completion date of 2026 - the centenary of designer Gaudi's death (124 years since building commenced in 1882). The amazing design included five naves, three facades, eighteen spires and incorporates three architectural styles - Modernisma, Art Nouveau and Gothic Revival and will soar to 172 m in height when completed.



Dr Andrew Smith during the Expedition (Sketch by Charles Bell)



The last 4 spires are currently under construction and there will also be an incredible 172 m tower in the centre of the church representing Jesus.

Vibrant stained glass windows give the church its source of light and beautiful attention to detail. The sheer magnitude of the windows capture and filter coloured light that not only illuminates but also adorn striking architectural features.



## **Notre Dame**

During April 2019 the world was stunned by visuals of the historic Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris engulfed in flames which tore through the roof causing the huge spire to collapse through the roof into the nave.

Four hundred brave firemen had to struggle through peak hour traffic and then took on the mammoth task of fighting the inferno. They worked feverishly to stem the blaze and were finally rewarded after 12 hours, being able to prevent collapse of the entire building.





A huge re construction project was immediately put into action with finance being pledged from all over the world. Original building materials which ended up as rubble is being examined, cleaned and re-used wherever possible. Luckily the 18th Century organ with 8,000 pipes, together with other priceless treasures, survived the blaze. In spite of Covid 19 delays, the completion date is now set for 2024.

Peoples' Salvation Cathedral in Budapest  
Romania has surprised the world with another impressive building. After the Palace of Parliament, the largest civilian building in the world, Romanians decided to set the record straight by building the tallest orthodox cathedral in the world. This state-of-the-art cathedral in Bucharest will be devoted to the Ascension of Christ to Saint Andrew, the saviour of the Romanians. It is being on Arsenal Hill, the highest place in the city. Construction began in 2010 and in Nov 2018 the sanctification of the church took place. One hundred priests attended this holy event and approximately 55,000 people attended the divine liturgy. It is estimated that completion will be by 2026. The Cathedral bells are the world's largest free swinging, weighing 25 tons and can be heard 20km away.





## Kom ons kook!

Ons kook trots Suid-Afrikaans

*Elaine en Maragaret Simmons (Huis 99) deel nostalgiese kosgedagtes met ons.*

Wat is lekkerder as:

- \* 'n Sappige skaapboud tjop wat vir 'n paar dae ingelê is in borrie, kerrie, uie, asyn en suiker waarna dit stadig oor die kole gebraai word en dan saam met 'n braaibroodjie geniet word.
- \* Geurige bobotie met eivla, bedien met botterige/melkerige kapokaartappel en soet geelwortels
- \* Brooddeeg vetkoek wat na sy eerste rys in balletjies gerol word, dan in diep olie gebraai en daarna beplak word met tuisgemaakte appelkooskonfyt
- \* Rooi slaphakskeentjies wat enige kaasbord opkikker met sy suur, soet en sout smake en uitgeswelde sultanas wat die geure verder verskerp
- \* 'n Blikvol soetkoekies met sy verskeidenheid speserye soos naeltjies, gemmer, neutmuskaat, anys en kaneel gedurende die Desemberavakansie afgesluk met yskoue gemmerbier



- \* Hertzoggies met sy sagte deegbasis gevul met appelkooskonfyt en bo-op 'n liggoue mengsel van klapper en eierwit
- \* 'n Bakkie droëbone sop met murgbene op 'n koue wintersdag en tuisgebakte brood met 'n krakerige korsie
- \* Peppermint crisp-tert met sy lae verleidelikheid van karamel, sjokolade en room op 'n tennisbeskuitjie basis
- \* Smoorsnoek gemaak op egte Weskus wyse met kopkool en aartappel
- \* Sousboontjies, die beste metgesel vir soutvleis of gepekeld tong
- \* Gestooftde patat met lemoenskil, geel rys met rosyne, tamatiebredie, kerrie afval, crunchies en soveel meer maak dit ons trots en plesier om eg Suid-Afrikaans te kook!

**The festive season is upon us  
Doing things a little differently!**



### **Fruit pizza Christmas wreath**

- 1 Various washed fruit of your liking (here we used raspberries)
- 1 tsp Lemon or lime juice
- 1/3 cup Granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp Vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp Milk
- 1 (8 oz) Philadelphia cream cheese

### **Grape wreath**

- 1 circular Honey melon, sliced
- 6 cups Grapes on a vine, green
- 6 Kiwis, green
- 1/2 cup Pomegranate arils
- 1/2 cup Raspberries, fresh

### **Christmas tree platters**

Use your imagination putting together an usual Christmas tree platter – the options are endless!



A savoury option

And finally... it's watermelon time

## Lighten up..... it ain't all that bad!

- Hate it when I see an old person and then realise we went to high school together.
- I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes... so she hugged me.
- My wife says I only have 2 faults. I don't listen and something else....
- At my funeral, take the bouquet off my coffin and throw it into the crowd to see who is next.
- I thought growing old would take longer.
- I came, I saw, I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps, got lost on the way back, now I have to pee.
- The officer said, 'You drinking?' I said, 'You buying?' We just laughed and laughed.... I need bail money.
- Day 12 without chocolate. Lost hearing in my left eye.
- Scientists say the universe is made up of protons, neutrons and electrons. They forgot to mention morons.
- The adult version of 'head, shoulders, knees and toes' is "wallet, glasses, keys and phone."
- A dog accepts you as the boss... a cat wants to see your CV.
- Oops.... did I roll my eyes out loud?
- Life is too short to waste time matching socks.
- Wi-fi went down for five minutes, so I had to talk to my family. They seem like nice people.
- If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed; we're having a staff meeting.
- I won't be impressed with technology until I can download food.
- Some people call me crazy. I prefer 'happy with a twist'.
- My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffers from mental illness. I said, 'No, we all seem to enjoy it.'
- I really don't mind getting old, but my body is having a major fit.
- Camping: where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person.
- Project Manager. Because Miracle Worker isn't an official job title.
- I told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.
- The world's best antidepressant has 4 legs, a wagging tail and comes with unconditional love.
- Love is how excited your dog gets when you come home.
- I've reached the age where my train of thought often leaves the station without me.
- If you're happy and you still know it, it's your meds.
- I used to be able to do cartwheels - now I tip over, putting on my underwear!





*Left: This beautiful photo of the boardwalk was taken by Jenny Underwood  
Right: The beach hut renovation on Muizenberg beach is nearly completed (Photo: Mike Horn)  
Below: Fire on the mountain as seen from patio, House 84 (Photo Mike Horn)*



One morning a husband returns to the cabin after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap.

Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out, since it is such a beautiful day. She motors out a short distance, anchors, and reads her book.

Along comes a Game Warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says, 'Good morning, Ma'am, what are you doing?'

'Reading a book,' she replies, (thinking, 'Isn't that obvious?')

'You're in a Restricted Fishing Area,' he informs her.

'I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing, I'm reading.'

'Yes, but you have all the equipment. I'll have to write you up a ticket.'

"For reading a book"? she replies.

'You're in a Restricted Fishing Area,' he informs her again.

'But officer, I'm not fishing, I'm reading.'

'Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to write you up a ticket and you'll have to pay a fine.'

'If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault,' says the woman.

'But I haven't even touched you,' says the Game Warden.

'That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment.'

'Have a nice day ma'am,' and he immediately departed.

MORAL: Never argue with a woman who reads. It's likely she can also think.



*Two of our residents, Neville Woudberg (left) and Leslie de Wet, were caught by a German photographer emerging from the sea in the early morning at Surfers Corner in the middle of winter. They get up to these crazy capers every morning, all year round. This was Neville's third winter in the chilly ocean.*



# Take care of yourself like a human plant



ALWAYS STAY HYDRATED



CATCH SOME DAILY SUNSHINE



NOURISH YOURSELF WITH WHAT YOUR SOIL NEEDS



USE SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT



GIVE YOURSELF SPACE TO GROW



LET GO OF THINGS THAT NO LONGER HELP YOU



REMEMBER, LIFE CAN CUT YOU DOWN, BUT YOU'LL ALWAYS GROW BACK STRONGER



KNOW THAT NOTHING IS MEANT TO BLOOM ALL THE TIME

martha brook  
LONDON

To all our residents and readers...our very best wishes for a most blessed Christmas and New Year... may the best of last year be the worst of this year.

Please remember to contribute to the Muize News... this is YOUR newsletter. (grizell@iafrica.com). A huge thank you to everyone who helped to fill the pages in 2023!

