

WHAT'S UP

The Rosedale Newsletter

April 2018

THINKING OF YOU Whether it is in celebratory style (birthdays and anniversaries) or maybe you've been poorly (sick or even hospitalised), perhaps there's some consolation in knowing that you're very much in our thoughts.

WELCOME to James Carruthers who has moved into # 409R. We can't wait to find out if he has any hidden talents we can dip into for our social events and generally get to know him and help him settle in his new home.

GOODBYE Estelle Castelein from #204R who has moved to Sedgefield to be with her son, Jacques, who has been appointed manager of a restaurant in Knysna. We hope that you settle in quickly in your new home, Estelle, and Jacques in his new job. We'll miss your happy and smiling face.

Easter has come and gone, but it is beholden upon me to impress on you what a precious time of the year this is in the Christian calendar. Here are a few facts around this holy event: We know that Easter never falls on the same weekend but varies each year, as it is based on the lunar calendar and the position of the moon. Easter is celebrated on the Sunday after the full moon following March 21st and this week marks the two holiest days on the Christian calendar, Good Friday (30 March) and Easter Sunday (1 April), the day that Jesus came back to life. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary. The historical origins of the "Good" in Good Friday remain unclear, though some entomologists believe the term "good" is an archaic form of "holy." The holiday is also known as Holy Friday, Great Friday and Black Friday. The day before Good Friday is known as Maundy Thursday. The term "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word *mandatum* (commandment) and refers to the commandment given by Jesus at the Last Supper: "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*" (John 13:34). The Christian scholar Bede claimed in his book *De Ratione Temporum* that Easter was named after Eostre, a pagan goddess of the Saxon people in Northern Europe. Later scholars, however, claimed that the term derives from the Anglo-Saxon word "oster," meaning "to rise," or for their term for the Spring equinox, "Eostre."

Then there are the traditions of the Easter eggs, the bunny etc. – where on earth do they fit in? Seems that in the Christian faith eggs represent a symbol of new beginnings, new life and renewed faith and the actual exchanging of eggs dates back to the time of the Egyptians and Persians, when painted eggs were given as gifts to symbolise fertility and new life. No, the Easter bunny did not come from American; in fact, it originated in Germany and taken to the States during the 1700s. And I must say, I do prefer the modern egg which is made of chocolate, the earlier ones having been made of stuffed hollow cardboard. Get a mouthful of that!

Thank you, choir leader Stephen Leibbrandt, pianist Ralph Kelly, the music team from St Peter's Church Fish Hoek, as well as the singers themselves, for the weeks and weeks of practising. Their hard work culminated in a Good Friday performance we'll remember for a long time. During the Service, led by Rev Ian Bernhardt (ret'd, from the West Coast town of Darling), Christiaan and his sister Anika van der Merwe entertained the audience with two appropriate and moving hymns, The Old Rugged Cross and The Prayer. Tim Reilly delivered the Scripture reading. Afterwards we repaired to the Recreation Room to enjoy tea/coffee and hot cross buns.



It was then I was asked, "Why do we enjoy hot cross buns around this time of the year?" and, not knowing, I turned to the reliable Wikipedia site where I read that the cake marks the end of Lent and that different parts of the hot cross bun have a certain meaning: the cross representing the crucifixion of Jesus, and the spices inside signifying those used to embalm him at his burial. The origin of these traditional buns is said to date back to the 12th century when an Anglican monk baked and marked them with a cross in honour of Good Friday. There was a time when they were reserved for eating on that day alone (hence their once being called Good Friday buns), but now of course we can buy them all year round.



*Rev Ian Bernhardt & his wife, Jean
enjoy a cuppa before heading home*



*Anika van der Merwe and her brother,
Christiaan, give a moving performance
of The Prayer, made famous by
Celine Dion & André Botticelli*

OUTINGS – ROSEDALE

Once again we will be entertained by **The Silver Companions** (three retired music teachers on the cello, piano and viola plus Isolde the cabaret/vaudeville dancer) in the dining-room on **Thursday 26 April** 14:30-15:30 followed by tea/coffee. There is no charge, but patrons are encouraged to contribute to the honesty jar.

The **play-reading** group, led by scriptwriter Ralph Kelly, will be performing *Double Exposure* in the Wreck Room sometime in April – date still to be set but, in the meantime, they're surging ahead with their practising.

Del writes, "Due to huge hikes in coach hire fees it's been almost two years since we were able to take our residents on a coach trip. Now we have been given a fabulous donation which makes this possible." Readers, that magical lady has pulled the proverbial Easter bunny out of the hat with this one: "Our 60-seater **coach** will leave Rosedale on **Tuesday 15 May** at 09:30 sharp, destination the **West Coast**. First, we will make a short pit stop en route to Langebaan and then head off to Mykonos. From there to Langebaan Country Estate's Horizon restaurant for lunch and afterwards, if time allows, we will venture into the village for a bit of window-shopping before leaving to return home at 15:30. "The choice of meals is Bobotie and salad OR Chicken Schnitzel & chips OR Fish & chips. Anything else ordered over and above (i.e. starters, desserts, drinks) will be for your own account. "Because of this generous donation, we are able to offer this great outing for R100 a head, lunch included. Bookings are now open at the Service Centre office 021-6899771 weekdays 09:30 and 11:45 and at the same time indicate your choice of meal. Full payment by latest 1 May either in cash or by EFT – the RSC office has the banking details.

OUTINGS – OTHER

You're very welcome to come and support our two teams take on the Reyger Court players at **carpet bowls** on **Friday 13 April** at 13:30 in the Wreck Room. Details from Danny Primo in flat # 111R or call him on 021-6866105 / 079 343 7219



Toc H is holding a **fun quiz** in the Wreck Room on **Saturday 14 April** at 14:30. Ralph Kelly will be testing the general knowledge of teams comprised of Rosedale residents/SAL members, visitors from Toc H and/or those loyal supporters from nearby Huis Lückoff and will be posed to all teams and not to individuals. Entry is free, but a R5,00 donation towards the tea/coffee and refreshments would be welcomed, the proceeds of which go to Toc H, a worthy cause indeed. There are prizes for both the participants and the audience. Direct your enquiries to Ralph 021-6860334 / cellphone 073 255 8235. or email him at rkelly@mweb.co.za

It is appropriate to explain to those of you who don't already know what Toc H stands for: it is a world-wide Christian-based movement whose members try to testify through neighbourly action the relevance of that way of life. Established during the 1st World War, troops sought refuge in Talbot House, so called in memory of Lt Gilbert Talbot who was killed at

Ypres; 'the old house' was referred to by its initials TH which, in telegraphics, became 'Toc H'. Our own Ralph Kelly is chair of the Plumstead branch in the Western Cape. Let's come and support him and his teams. The prizes might not be Oscars but the kudos incomparable.

The **MOTH Halifax Shellhole** will be holding a **braai** on the lawns leading from the Wreck Room on **Saturday 21 April** at 17:30. The purpose of this event is to raise funds for their annual affiliation fees payable to the Western Province Dugout. The Cape Welsh Choir will put on one of their exceptional performances during the course of the evening. Entry to the event costs R30,00 and gets you a delicious boerie roll – salads also will be available – and a cash bar will operate. Bookings and enquiries to Peter Horsburgh 021-6854864 / 072 563 7372.

On **Thursday 10 May** the **Rhodesian African Rifles** ("RAR") will host a luncheon in the Wreck Room to celebrate their Regimental Day. Formed in 1940 in the British colony of Southern Rhodesia, the RAR was a regiment of the Rhodesian Army and were officially declared the successor to the Rhodesia Native Regiment (RNR) which had existed in WWI from 1916 to 1918. The RAR was granted the RNR's battle honours earned fighting in the East African Campaign and were the second-oldest regiment of the Rhodesian Army, after the Rhodesia Regiment which was raised in 1899.

A reminder that the next **Social Dance** evening will be held on **18 May** at 19:30 – cost R15 pp. Bring your own XYZ and enquiries to Carmen on 021-6857045 / 079 191 7371.

Days of our Lives

From the Department of Arts and Culture comes this explanation of what Freedom Day stands for and why we celebrate it on April 27 each year. "In essence, the day celebrates freedom and commemorates the first democratic post-apartheid non-racial elections that were held on that day in 1994 when Nelson Mandela was elected as President. It is a day of glory and remembrance and is an inclusive celebration enabling South Africans from all corners of society to commemorate the pain of the past, and celebrate the victorious future of our country. By taking the necessary steps forward to put closure to the past while not forgetting it, but through celebrating this day as an everlasting reminder for us, now and for future generations.

"Because freedom belongs to all, this day should not be mistaken by the people of South Africa as just another holiday. Instead we should be encouraged to come together and work as one nation, but not forgetting the quest for freedom that consumed the life's of those who fought so hard for it. Freedom Day is a memorable event throughout South Africa and each year the national celebration forms the basis for conveying the message of unity in diversity for all. To enforce a change in the attitude among the people of South Africa with our unique, diverse ethnic, cultural, and national background to inspire the people to be innovative and build a better South Africa together and to excel in all aspects of life. Hear our voices, speak our mind see the change."

In lighter vein, from the Fun Holidays calendar for April are these beauts to be celebrated: Be Kind to Lawyers Day (10th), Look up at the Sky Day (14th – that's sure to have you walking into poles), Take a Chance Day (23rd), Zipper Day (29th) and, if you dare, Honesty Day (30th).

Chitter Chatter

We have really wonderful residents living at Rosedale and in particular those who care for and about our gardens, another being Beryl Lategan who also has made a generous donation towards the upkeep of the succulent section.

Without getting into too complicated a definition, in botany, succulents are drought-resistant plants that have some parts which are more than normally thickened and fleshy, usually to retain water in arid climates or soil conditions. The word "succulent" comes from the Latin word *sucus*, meaning juice, or sap. Succulent plants may store water in various structures, such as leaves and stems. Many plant families have multiple succulents found within them (over 25 plant families). The habitats of these water-preserving plants are often in areas with high temperatures and low rainfall. They have the ability to thrive on limited water sources, such as mist and dew and are thus able to survive in an ecosystem which contains scarce water sources. Not to be confused with cactus; nearly all cacti are succulents but not all succulents are cacti. There are many species that are ideal for Rosedale's gardens, but this is one of my personal favourites: *Portulacaria afra* (known as elephant bush, dwarf jade plant, porkbush and *spekboom* in Afrikaans). Visit Addo Elephant National Park and you'll see why this species is synonymous with the African elephant.



Rosedale residents were on the receiving end of a donation of water from **Gift of the Givers** (about which I reported in last month's newsletter). I have since learned that at least two of our residents have set up debit orders by which that organisation will benefit financially every month. Should you wish to make a similar contribution – and believe me, even R10,00 a month would be welcomed – these are their banking details:

Name of account holder: Gift of the Givers Foundation	
Standard Bank (Pietermaritzburg branch code 057525)	
International Projects	Southern African Projects
account number: 052278611	account number: 052137228

Do you get frustrated when your **Telkom landline** rings and by the time you reach it, the darned thing has cut off and you now have to go through the 10120 option to find out who simply had to talk to you at 21:00. Well, here's a neat procedure, courtesy of Telkom, on how to set the number of rings on your landline before a call is forwarded to your mailbox. You can choose between 1 and 60 seconds, which translates to a maximum of 20 rings. (The current standard setting is only 7 rings.)

Decide on the number of rings you want your 'phone to ring before the call is diverted to your voice mailbox: Press *67* (star 67 star) followed by the number of seconds followed by the # (hash) key i.e.

Press *67*	and:
for 4 rings	12#
for 6 rings	18#
for 8 rings	24#
for 10 rings	30#
for 12 rings	36#
for 14 rings	42#
for 16 rings	48#
for 18 rings	54#
for 20 rings	60#

I am regularly asked to "Keep a copy of the newsletter for me, please" or, from those who have missed getting a copy, the request is to print out a copy for them. Folks, as much as I would love to oblige, it simply is not possible. The newsletter is printed by Chris or Geraldine in the SA Legion office and at 96c a page, they don't come cheap. So, again, a reminder that there's also one on file in the RSC office and perhaps you'd be so kind as to

**Share your copy of the newsletter with a friend or tablemate
and if you do remove the newsletter from the noticeboard in order to read it
please put it back for the benefit of others.**

Carol Venter and Mercia Wilson bring such joy to us in the lounge on Tuesday mornings when they play melodies from years gone by, but this would not be possible without the contributions that come their way. Recently Paul Nuttall (professional name Paola Liberti whom you might remember from the January newsletter (he took and donated the six monochrome photographs that hang on the walls of the ground floor passage) – handed David a batch of CDs which have gone into Carol and Mercia's collection: the Crooners, theme songs from Broadway musicals and arias, to name but a few. We have asked David to convey our thanks to Paul for lighting and livening up our Tuesday mornings with song.



Thinking of buying an iPhone or perhaps an iPad? Then consider this:
Did you know that Adam and Eve were the first people to not read the Apple Terms and Conditions?

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I very quietly confided to my friend that I was having an affair. She turned to me and asked,
"Are you having outside caterers. And that, my friends, is the definition of 'OLD'.

Rosedale residents will recall receiving a letter from John Verster two months back in which he offered a wonderful 'pay it forward' deal through the company for which he works, Alexo Property Brokers, whereby they will pay 50% by way of an incentive commission plus 50% to the Rosedale Service Centre for each house sold by them/John. He has extended this offered to *bona fide* paid-up members of the RSC as well as the SA Legion. For further details – and to receive a copy of that letter – contact John on 084 213 1464 or send him an email at john@alexo.co.za You can also leave a request for a copy of that original offer by dropping a note in his post box #502 NR. For the benefit of e-newsletter readers, the gist of what John is offering is contained in the attached.

Till next time - keep smiling



The Rosedale Service Centre Committee

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the SA Legion or Rosedale Service Centre and/or its members.
Ideas for future articles can be relayed to Lucille Byrnes flat 211 Rosedale tel. 021-6854375 / 083 558 4900 email lucillebyrnes@gmail.com