



Want to get away? Why not try a bit of Scotland

PAGE 9 & 10



Mary Kelly - Planting trees is about love and care

PAGE 3



What's going Pink in Victoria Street? Martin Ranger will let you into a secret

PAGE 11

the **STANFORD** *News*

WHERE A VILLAGE AND A RIVER MEET>>>

OCTOBER FINAL: 2021



FOR THE LOVE OF TREES: See Page 3

IMAGE: CARETHA RANDALL



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LIZ CLARKE

Important discussions perhaps
don't get as far as they should

So is it time to start new conversations?

Many people tell me that there are not enough conversations over key issues that affect Stanford and the people who live here.

Of course people talk in their homes, over drinks, during dinner, putting forward ideas they believe are in the interest of residents and the village, but those conversations seldom make their way to any forums. Why not? It's a small village so the people who could be offended by what you say are often either close friends or sit on one or other committee.

The thinking seems to be don't ruffle any feathers and keep your head under the radar.

Covid hasn't helped. Consequently important discussions perhaps don't get as far as they should. That's why I was so delighted to receive an appraisal of Stanford's new online paper from a reader who on the one hand enjoyed the publication, but at the same time pointed out that while some are keen to see the village evolve into a more commercially-based entity, there are others who are saddened that the changing times we live in are in many ways, they believe, diminishing the charm and attraction of the 'Old Stanford' which they were attracted to in the first place.

The reader, who said that she normally preferred to keep a low profile, agreed that we could use her comments in letter form – in order to air a different point of view.

During the six months' life of the Stanford News we have focused on several aspects of change, including IT connectivity, energy needs, security and new business. In my view, that is one side of the story, an important one none-the-less. The other side is about conversations that respect contrary opinions and resonate with all sections of the community. Compromise is always going to be part of a new future, but unless the playing fields are even, and all visions and concerns are addressed, acceptance of any dispensation, will become a fast-disappearing dream. Maybe I'm being over optimistic but I foresee the day when the village comes together to make some fundamental decisions that will not only affect us now but will be welcomed by the next generation of Stanfordinians.

On another tack, I've canvassed the idea of introducing a column written in Afrikaans - and received positive response. My Afrikaans is not very good so it will be a learning curve for me too. **See letters page 6**

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Elly Nield of the Stanford Garden Club talks about a Village greening project

Trees, a forever legacy for the Village

Our Garden Club meetings are always enthusiastic and heart-warming gatherings. Even with Covid restrictions we have managed to get together and continue to learn from each other and our speakers while sharing our joy of the privileged spaces and gardens we have in this Village.

The June group organised a talk on trees in and around the Village and also put forward the idea of planting trees in the areas of Stanford South. This project was driven and implemented with incredible energy and focus by Mary Kelly and Sara Abbott in particular, along with amazing generosity of various role players and sponsors.

This month 16 trees were planted along the extension of Bezuidenhout Street, outside the Civic Centre, the Swap Shop and the Clinic. We received a very generous donation from Afriforum's

Community Project, with wonderful input from Janita Van Niekerk, their Overstrand secretary. Other generous donations came from Stanford Agri, Warren of Riverland Nursery at Agri, and even members of Mary Kelly's book club! The team from the Municipality, under the management of Cameron, dug the holes for us, in very hard ground and helped with planting and watering, which Graig and his team have undertaken to help us to water from the fire truck.

We organised for some of the children from both Die Bron and Okkie Smuts schools to come along and help with planting and putting in stakes and composting. It was a lot of fun having the learners help with such enthusiasm and energy. It was also a lesson about the importance of trees in our neighbourhood and the benefits to us all.

A morning of some serious digging, planting and staking was made possible by Stanford Garden Club members, Neil Eberhard, Caretha Randall, Sue Jocelyn, Sarah James, Liz MacMillan and of course Mary, along with the incredibly well-behaved and focussed children.

All round this was a most encouraging and uplifting project to see our combined community helping to pull this together.

The trees are looking very settled already, after the hard work from all involved and amazing organising before the actual planting day, and we look forward to finally seeing an avenue of trees, hopefully linking both ends of our street and benefitting all who use that area.

I hope I haven't forgotten to mention people who were involved...but special thanks must go to Mary in particular, it simply wouldn't have happened without her!



Mary Kelly - the mover and shaker of the tree-planting initiative. 'It wouldn't have happened without her energy'

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ANDREW HERRIOT LOOKS BACK ON . . .

ELEVEN YEARS OF STRIDING IN STANFORD

The inaugural “stride” took place on October 24, 2010 for 10 adults, children and one dog. It was decided that the group needed a name; something between walking and running but with a purpose such as ‘smart’ walking. Hence the concept of a ‘stride’ or a speedy walk was established. In the early days of Striding it was agreed that times should be noted over a particular distance hence ‘time-trials’ became popular on a weekly basis. Within a short period of ‘trialing’ more and more interested so-called runners joined the purposeful walk, the overall aim being to improve one’s time and be competitive. The village streets were ideal for these fast-moving athletes, especially the younger participants. Two courses were established for serious runners (5km) and serious walkers (4km). The numbers increased and it was not uncommon to have up to 40 Striders competing and seeking ‘best times.’ Records were dutifully kept.

This month the Stanford Striders celebrates 11 years of striding the streets of Stanford. The event will take place at Stanford Hills with a swift stride through the vines and a leisurely evening of camaraderie with a few no doubt recalling those early days. Over the years the striding activity has had to be modified due to the inevitable ageing process of many striders who continue to be determined to complete a weekly circuit of 4-5km. The Striders are proud to report that its weekly workout is completely free for those who enjoy fresh air and exercise with an opportunity to catch up on the latest ‘gossip. Efforts are rewarded with a monthly medal; qualifications including attendance, effort and team spirit. The Striders welcome newcomers each Monday at 9 Adderley Street usually 5pm for a spirited stride around the Stanford Streets and each final Monday of the month at Stanford Hills for a vine and supper stride. For more details Contact aherriot70@gmail.com.

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STANFORD: PURE LOCAL

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Meet the innovators of Juno & Jax, Sandra Fairfax (right), Lynn Bing and Lynn's daughter Lauren



Front-of-house, ready to advise customers on what is new is Carmen Otto

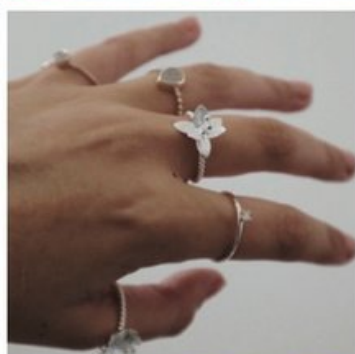
Style with a dash of lemon

Collaboration is at the heart of Juno & Jax, a new gift and clothing venture on the Sir Robert Stanford wine estate, a few steps away from the Zesty Lemon.

Sandra Fairfax opened a little shop in Onrus in May and was then approached to open a similar outlet at the Stanford wine estate. She believes that a business partnership with like-minded people is the right way to go. With that thinking in mind she approached good friends whose family has owned a clothing departmental shop in Fishhoek for the past 93 years.

"They were also looking at new opportunities so it made sense for us to join forces. The response has been amazing in Onrus so we are hoping it will be the same in Stanford.

If you want to know more go to the [juno.and.jax](#) Instagram page



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Lest we forget the Old Stanford dream

Dear Liz Clarke,

I have just read and enjoyed your October edition. It makes me aware of being on the margins of Stanford life. My husband and I came here in 2001 to a very different village from what it is now. That was the one we wanted to live in. Now we are battered by modern times, showered with dust, and occasionally saddened by pedestrian rudeness. We support many of the initiatives in the town and down the chicken road. We watch the ebb and flow of entrepreneurs and dreamers taking their chances. But just like water seeks its own level, the town seems to rise and sink back to its comfortable form. Maybe it stays up just a little bit higher with each surge of enthusiasm.

Thank you for taking on this news project. I look forward to the next edition with hope that those of us who are not movers, doers, performers or enthusiastic consumers can have a tiny bit of affirmation. We who came here, bought our properties and settled down to just live in them. The old Stanford dream.

Regards, Pat Morrison



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It's where inspiration flows . . .

The delicacy of Marian Binder's brush strokes and the gentle colours in her palette tell a story all of their own.

"For me every subject that I choose has its own soul, a unique feature that distinguishes it from the rest" says this Stanford based artist whose artistic journey began as a copywriter and design consultant for a Joburg advertising company.

"That's always the starting point of my search," she says.

"In Stanford you can't help but be inspired by the natural beauty and quirkiness of the area. Although I paint plants, animals, insects and birds from every region in South Africa, it is here on home ground where the inspiration flows. It's always about exploring the layers that exist beneath what you see." Watercolour is her core medium, but more recently she has been venturing into acrylics.

LC

To see more of
Marian Binder's work

[click here](#)

A photograph of a hair salon interior. In the foreground, a green topiary ball sits in a bright red, tiered ceramic pot on a wooden table. Next to it are various hair care products, including bottles of shampoo and a green hairdryer. In the background, a hair salon with a mirror and a hairdryer is visible.

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At the end of a rainbow don't be surprised to find. . .

A breath of Scotland and a twist of Italy!

*Stanford has a neat place in the centre of a gorgeously scenic tourism wheel. From time to time we will be looking at getaway spots that are within a two-hour radius of the Village that are ideal one-nighters or an early brunch/lunch destiny. This month **Liz Clarke** visited Scotsfontein Estate, near Robertson*

OF COURSE we took the wrong turning – that's what happens when you are searching for that new place and think your Google map has got it all wrong.

But glad we did, because the wild flowers were at their glorious best, the sun was shining, and the countryside was enough to take your breath away. We even found a baby tortoise in the middle of the road and placed it among some wild orange daisies.

Scotsfontein Estate is like a little Brigadoon ready to disappear in the mist. It's in the middle of I'm not sure where, but the road to it is remarkably good, and the directions – if you follow the map – are easy peasy.

The treasure at the end of this jaunt, is so worth the waiting that you wished you'd discovered it earlier.

First thing that strikes you are the elegant, French-style gates that suddenly pop up out of the shrubbery and lead you to a house – well rather a really old mansion, speckled with age and alive with rich stories of the past.

Wish we knew more," says estate owner Colin Hutt, who embraced 'the old lady' warts and all 15 years ago and turned her into country dowager befitting of the English countryside, where wisteria and wild geraniums, tumble along the pathways amongst puffs of white alyssum and bright orange and purple daisies.

Wasn't so sure about the animal heads on the wall though!

"They are ancient relics from my family's Scottish heritage," explains Colin. Nobody in the family wanted them. I could hardly throw them away, so I stuck them on the wall."

That's the first bit of the story – and yes, the olde-worlde style accommodation (all en suite) is homely and inviting.

The next bit of the story is just as interesting. Colin, who is a born out-of-the-box thinker, decided that with Covid hopefully coming to an end, there would be more visitors wanting to get out of the cities to taste a bit of country fare and more local people wanting something new and different.

He converted one of the ready-made outhouses into an eatery and invited two of the region's top chefs to run it and to do what they do best.

And once you have met Collin du Plessis and Matt Bronkhorst – well known chefs and loved within the surrounds of Breederivier Valley, you'll realise why.



Pizza kings, Collin du Plessis and Matt Bonkhorst are also just as at home with fine dining

They are both award winning chefs, both finalists in the global pizza challenge. If you thought you had tasted the best of pizzas, then you need to taste theirs – extra thin bases, toppings that melt in your mouth (my best was the vegetarian offering, really scrumptious)

"We believe that pizzas should not be seen as fast food, but rather a delicate flavour of Italy to be savoured. We are lucky that we have fresh produce right on our doorstep. It makes a big difference."

The night we were there it was their opening night so we didn't get to taste the rest of their menu items. But if their pizzas are anything to go by, a date in the country is not a bad idea.

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The original farm was established in the early part of the 17th century, although formal wine production only began in 1965. Since then, a number of great quaffing wines have been produced under this label.

FOR more pictures and INFO go to next page



The Stanford News goes out-and-about to discover country hideaways within a two-hour radius of the Village

DIRECTIONS TO SCOTSFONTEIN ESTATE

From Stanford head for Robertson taking the Stormsvlei turn off. Follow main signboard to McGregor. At fork go right and not left to McGregor. Drive 20 kms on tar and five on dirt (good surface) You'll find gates to the retreat on left after Wandsbeck Winery.





MARTIN RANGER takes a sideways glance at . . .

WHAT'S NOT IN THE NEWS!

. . . and probably never will be



Further road delays likely

Recently, whilst digging an additional drainage channel on the new section of the R43, workers uncovered a cache of old bones. The consulting engineer immediately contacted UCT's archaeological department requesting guidance. Within hours Professor Barnard Rubble was on the scene looking for further clues. "It's wonderful" he enthused, "this is a really significant find." The area was promptly cordoned off and a protection order sought. Gloomily, the engineers confirmed that the project would be put on hold whilst the site was being appraised and excavated.

"The residents of Stanford have been very patient; we ask that they bear with us for a few months longer". The response from a representative of the ratepayers' association was not suitable for publication

Forward pass

Meanwhile, in the Springbok camp, tactical coach Bakkies Baksteen has announced the purchase of personal GPS units for the team, the size of a keyring tag, that can be worn around the neck. Discussing his idea BB said that the units would be programmed with the coordinates of the opposing touchline. Directional instructions would then guide the players. Desmond Dube has agreed to supply the unit's voice and has generously offered to donate his fee to the Naas Botha retirement fund

Investors required

Seeing opportunity in the ultimate return to more normal times a group of wily investors are planning to buy or lease one of the vacant retail properties in Queen Victoria Street. Their original plan was for a casino, but size limits and licensing issues necessitated a re-think. The final idea is for an intimate Gentleman's Club featuring pole-dancing and other tactile and visual delights.

"We know we'll face some resistance from the heritage committee" said Ace Soprano, the consortium's entertainment specialist. "But heck, we've had to deal with this kind of stuff before - we've always found a way" he sneered. "We think if we drop the multi-coloured neon in favour of a more restrained bright pink, they'll be happy."

The original name was to be Victoria's Secret but that's already registered. Currently the working name is Svetlana's Hideaway, which might change depending on work permits.

And finally

Residents of affluent Constantia have recently taken to the streets waving "STOP THIS MADNESS" placards, blowing foghorns and even burning tyres, protesting Woolworths' decision to remove M&S langoustine tails from its freezers. Protesters' spokesman Pansy Beauchamp-Rottweiler shouted: "If we don't make a stand now the Norwegian salmon will be next".

Don't go away...

