

2022

the

STANFORD *News*

JANUARY 2022

ISSUE NO : 14



THIS magnificent heritage building in Queen Victoria Street deserves to be our Tourism Office - that's what we are suggesting SEE PAGE 5



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A new place to meet that is. . .

JUST THAT LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT

After a tough two years, village renewal in Stanford seems to be in the air. Liz Clarke spoke to the proprietor of a new business that blends the old with the new.



Useful info. . .

The idea behind "clean" eating is that while the ingredients used are natural unrefined and unprocessed - the taste experience is not diminished and in many ways is heightened

UNION is open every weekday from 9 - 4.30 and Saturdays from 9 - 12 noon



The signage might be unobtrusive and the entrance a mere whisper of what is going on behind the legacy cottage windows, but don't hang back. Once inside there's a vibe and enticing aroma that tells you that history, heritage and contemporary ideas can live together quite happily.

That in a nutshell is the story of Union, a new grocery and eaterie that is quietly making itself known along Stanford's tourism route half-way along Victoria Street.

Catherine Speedie, a former Joburg-based marketing and communication consultant living in Stanford, says that the idea of opening an outlet that offers "clean" food options was prompted by her own experiences with food choices.

DELICIOUS ALTERNATIVES

"Like anyone who is gluten intolerant" she says "locating and identifying wheat free products is an ongoing mission. But in many ways it has had a positive spin-off. It opened my eyes to the fact that there are delicious alternatives to ingredients that most of us take for granted like wheat flour refined sugar, fats and dairy products."

She says the support team helping with the day-to-day running of the business are as passionate as she is about making Union a popular village meeting and shopping precinct, where you can either enjoy the pavement ambience or sit counter-style "and watch the village in action."

"If the festive season is anything to go by, we've had a good beginning, a lot of it word of mouth," she says. Going forward I am keen to increase the awareness of "clean" food introducing specials on a weekly basis." Catherine explains that she chose the name Union as it symbolized the linking of the past and present and the 'nexus' between delicious and nutritious. "People often think that nutritious equals dull, but that is so far from the truth. A decadent chocolate cake or muffin that tastes delicious and is filled with good things - isn't that what we all want?"



The idea of a Stanford Music Society . . .

Striking a new chord for the village



If there is one thing that Stanford is known for, it is its musical history - from jazz to classical music, from choir singing to folk and opera.

Newcomers to the village, Gabriel Spilkin and partner Lynne are keen to carry on with this rich village tradition in whatever way is possible.

Both are professional musicians - Gabriel a classical pianist and Lynne a trained clarinet player, who before lockdown were sought-after performing artists at gatherings where they were known for their duet performances.

"For musicians like us, opportunities faded away very quickly at the start of the pandemic" says Gabriel. "When we realised that things weren't going to change in a hurry we decided to move with our family to the healthier country environment of Stanford and become part of village life."

One of the ideas that they believe will help open doors for local talent is to create a Stanford Music Society group on Whats App, which would include all genres with a special emphasis on classical music and composition.

Says Lynne: "I know that with weddings and big birthdays, there's a call for interludes of classical music, whether it's a pianist and a soloist or a quartet of different instruments performing, for example, baroque music. It would help boost incomes of performing artists who have really hit hard times over the past two years. It would also be a great platform for musical tuition, helpful to teachers and students.

Gabriel says he would see a group like this as a big family where ideas can be shared, questions asked and answered, musical events suggested for the village - in a church, in a garden - even on the river!

A young couple, with energy, musical expertise and a love for a small village - surely suggests there's merit in their ideas.

A MUSICAL INVITATION

IF you like the idea of a Stanford Music Society Lynne is happy to set it up. Just send your email details to gabrielspilkin@gmail.com so that you can be added to the group



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Martin Ranger looks at how we did in the festive season and sets the scene for the year ahead - hoping for a good one



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Hey Stanford, we made it - another festive season done and star dusted. And whilst it may not have been a record-breaker it was certainly a leap in the right direction. My take was that our eateries were busy, accommodation was close to capacity and shoppers were shopping. Despite some unseasonal weather Stanford's Christmas offerings were generally well received. Animal Welfare's fund-raiser, the Toy Run, the Sunset Market, The Stanford Festival all attracted lots of feet. Other initiatives like the concerts at Stanford Hills and in people's gardens and homes all helped connect our village entrepreneurs with those eager to rest and revitalise. And didn't we need it! After months of on/off restrictions and a tumbling economy it was heartening to realise that we must have been doing something right. Direct and social media feedback has been positive, confirming that our plan to spread Stanford Tourism's message is working. And how was your festive season? Did you temporarily immerse yourself in the lives of a part of your extended family? Did young Michaela lift her head from her iPad long enough to either curl a lip at the prospect of yet another family braai or to dream, wistfully, about whichever member of BTS her Friends have decided to - like - Like. I'm sure many of you observed plenty of the Christmas traditions, including present giving. This year we were persuaded to try 'Secret Santa' This version involved an option to claim an already-opened present. Regrettably, my opened (but unwanted) bra and pants braai apron and set of LED illuminated tongs remained steadfastly on my lap! Sadly, this Christmas had its poignant moment. I think it marked a real passing - of the paper Christmas card. Remember years ago, when the living room was festooned with a veritable washing line of greeting cards? This year the single 'tinselled log with robin' looked so lonely on the shelf that in the end we stuck it to the computer screen so it would have some company. New Year's Eve came and went with a Wimpy, but no bang. But at least it was better than watching The Royal Variety Show with Rod Stewart rasping his way through his latest miss or cringing at the humour of Margaret Thatcher's favourite comedian. Did I make any New Year resolutions, I hear you ask? Only one: I will try not to laugh at my own jokes - unless, of course, I've not heard them before. As for 2022, we all wonder what it will bring. A healthier and a more prosperous year, we hope. Of course, prosperity comes from luck and effort. Certainly, the team at Stanford Tourism are keen to continue their efforts of promoting the village for everyone's benefit. Who knows? Maybe we'll get lucky. Bonne année



Tourism is the Village's lifeblood - it needs to be centre stage!



THE GOOD NEWS is that things weren't so bad over the festive season. There were more than expected visitors to Stanford, restaurants and eateries, including the new ones, were busy, holiday letting was buoyant and shop turnovers were at passable levels.

But is that enough?

Stanford needs steady levels of tourism to keep its economy buoyant. Covid has shown us that when it comes to sought-after tourism bucks, charity begins at home. To my way of thinking that means that if neighbours Hermanus and Gansbaai, can grab the business and get more provincial and municipal buy-in, they're going to do it, whatever it takes.

The bottom line, as Peter Bruce pointed out in a previous column – is that visitors using the new Route 43 between Hermanus and Gansbaai, need a good reason to turn into Stanford from the nearly-completed circle.

It's not that Stanford lacks tourism gems. It has a majestic river that neither of the other two destinations have, it has country walks, a rich village history, iconic shops and brilliant places to eat, but do we shout it out. No!

We have an out-of-the-way tourism office with a large penguin showing you the way to a well-hidden entrance. That in itself begs the question – do we have penguins in Stanford? – no we don't. Is the tourism office easily located? I don't think so.

Why can't we relocate the tourism office to the library – without doubt one of the finest buildings in the village and half way up Victoria Street. Moving the books to the offices at the back where the tourism office is now, shouldn't be too difficult? If the village was asked to help, I bet it would! Also one would like to know how many people belong to the library – do we have figures? At the moment the building has an ugly blue sign covering an attractive mosaic of birds, which would be better left as it is. Instead of a penguin what about one of those magnificent wire structures of the endangered leopard toad outside our (new) tourism office like the one made for the festival.

And while we are on the subject isn't it time that Stanford had its own permanent staff member running the office. Shouldn't we be insisting that this limbo thing should stop. We have excellent, competent people in the wings, keen and passionate about promoting the Village – and yet they can't, because nothing has been done.

No doubt reasons will be given why none of this is possible – on the other hand some decisions maybe on their way. We just don't know about them.

We are on a positive trajectory – you can feel a new energy in the village – so let's make sure Stanford becomes a must-visit tourism destination in 2022 - and beyond

Would love to know what people think - whats app me using my cell 060 6279644



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN STANFORD



FEBRUARY

26 ||| SATURDAY

Stanford MTB Classic at Stanford Valley Farm

APRIL

08 - 11 ||| FRI - MON

Ladies Whale Coast Luxury Retreat at Mosaic Lagoon Lodge

MAY

14 ||| SATURDAY

Race2Stanford Triathlon - starting at Hermanus and finishing in Stanford

JANUARY

21 -23 ||| FRI - SUN

Women's Specific MTB Skills Weekend at Stanford Valley Farm

24 -26 ||| MON - WED

Adventure and team-building - Boot Camp at Wortelgat Farm

28 ||| FRIDAY

Ever-popular Sunset Market on the village green where friends meet

REGULARS

WEDNESDAYS

Stanford Kitchen live music performance at 18:30

SATURDAYS

- The Saturday Morning Market on the stoep of the Stanford Hotel
- The Junktique market in tourism courtyard
- Panthera Africa Sunset Visits at 6:30 pm

Events/Info contact Le-Ann at book@stanfordinfo.co.za



**FOR WINE TASTING TIMES
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What a great effort!

A good name for them is the Power Rangers – the kids that answered the call to clean up Stanford after the festive season.

Linda Strydom, co-ordinator of the Swop Shop project in Stanford says this year’s clean up saw a record number of youngsters trading their recyclables for school packs. The queue stretched right around the field .

“It was an incredible effort” says Linda.

“Big thanks to Anchekke Danmon who gathered together 16 young volunteers to clean up some of the streets. They brought in a ton of stuff - all collected in three days - earning 230 tokens. We are happy to report that the proper recycle trucks were on duty to collect the rubbish.”

CONTACT INFO FOR THE STANFORD NEWS

Letters on any of the issues we raise in the Stanford News can be sent to me Liz Clarke, publishing editor at lizclarke4@gmail.com . If you have stories or pictures you would like to share you can also Whats App me using my cell number 060 6279644 to add to your contacts. The same goes for advertising. We’ve got great things in store for next month so watch out for the updates

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