



CHARTWELL

COUNTRY ESTATES

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO 2021



CHIPPO - OUR CHARTWELL HIPPO

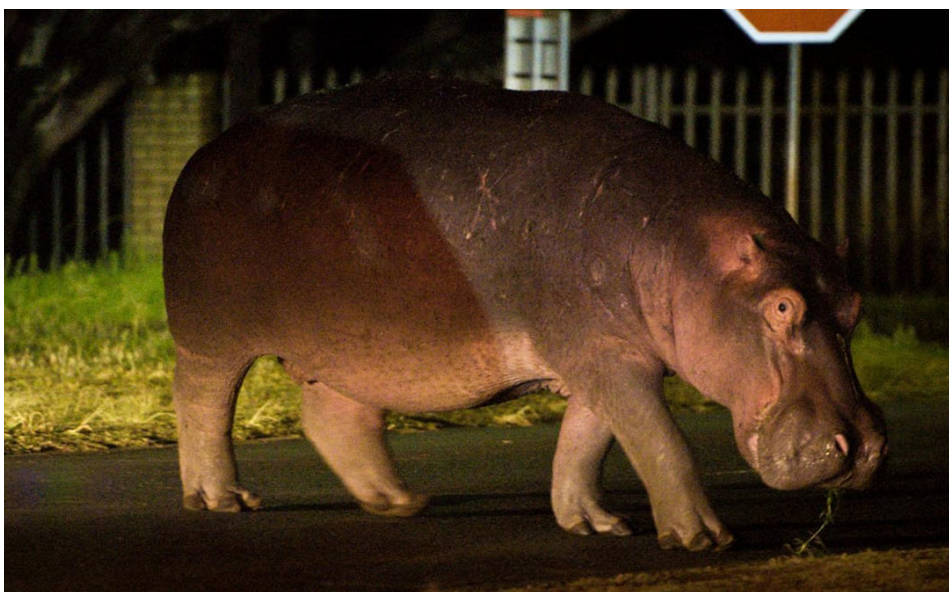
By Mark McClue

2020 was a year to remember for many things, however one thing living in Chartwell is that there's always something out of the ordinary, it's part of what makes Chartwell different and you live to expect the unexpected!

That said, when calls and messages came in from Hein Kuhn on the evening of the 29th of December I wasn't expecting him to say 'look at your phone, there's a Hippo at the river!' And sure enough there on Bismark's lawn next door to Hein's was indeed a Hippo munching away near the river! and a further sighting by resident Nikki Skews then showed the Hippo calmly enjoying itself that night!

And so started the tale of 'Chippo' that took Chartwell into the New Year with something different to talk about other than lockdown blues, conspiracies and political jostling in America. They say conspiracies aren't real until proven and in this case the passing days and weeks would demonstrate how easy it is for news to spread with varying levels of truth, accuracy and effect.

Across many whatsapp, FB groups, TV and radio news of sightings and pictures came in which if taken literally would have one believe the north of JHB all the way to Olievenhoutbosch, Brits and the Cradle had been invaded by Hippos! Perhaps there are within the 100's of



square km's over rivers, dams, parks and grasslands that Johannesburg is lucky to be surrounded with, however some of the posts driven by apparent fake news to drive twitter views just confuse matters and risks driving authorities to take action on the basis to protect people when perhaps actually no threat has occurred? One post showed the hippo passing an engine garage which was actually in Kosi bay, another apparently originated in Kenya and the apparent Dainfern Square sighting was debunked when it clearly wasn't the road, and off course another post that 'this Buffalo' will cause an accident, gave a clue to its authenticity!

The Chartwell sighting was affectionately referenced as Chippo to differentiate the sightings and there started the questions, 1 hippo or many

'Hippi'?:-), (did you know a group of hippo's is known as a 'Bloat' or 'Pod' among other collective nouns) Where did it escape from?, is this same one as in Hartes? what do they eat?, is it dangerous? can we keep it for security? or must it be removed, even destroyed before it does harm? Of course most have probably heard the phrase 'hippo's kill more people than any other animal in Africa' so the reaction of fear is understandable. However this is a difficult fact to find accurate stats on somewhere between 500 and 3000, but doesn't come close to either the mosquito or Covid! and from what I see sadly right near the top of that list of killers remains us humans at +100,000!

Certainly across Africa the Hippos reputation precedes it and whenever I've paddled in rivers and dams it's



something we've kept an eye out for and respected when discovered allowing space between each other as we negotiate its habitat. And that's a big part of this. Hippos weigh in at +/-2000 kgs as the second largest land animals that live mostly in water and come out to graze on grass at night eating up to 40kgs! They can travel over 30km in the search of good habitat, habitat that people have encroached upon in most of the areas and where the stories emerge from. Normally an encounter becomes dangerous if a person gets between the hippo and it's need to return to the safety of the water when disturbed or if a boat moves into a pod and it defends its family.

Sounds like the average week in Chartwell as the community looks out for itself! and from the reports that evolved this is where different reactions developed. A couple of teams responded with various ways to search for 'Chippo' with Tarryn the local vet along with Brian Craig, Gift of the Givers and a search and rescue team went with a drone downstream to the 3rd Road bridge after following spoor. A real concern was to check whether Chippo was heading further up towards Msawawa and denser populations and risk.



Further to a call from Ian and Penny Lourens we visited and found a clear path leading past their weir through the natural grassland and then in and out of the water with clear spoor as per the photos. Penny was amazed by the discovery, who walks the river all the time committed to cleaning their river front of both alien vegetation and the tides of rubbish that pollute the system. It would appear Chippo only ventured this far, or possibly one or two more properties up where a spoor was spotted by a gardener the week before allegedly left by an 'Elephant' that no-one took for real!! From this it would seem Chippo has actually been around for the best part of a week taking it's Xmas holidays in the Chartwell conservancy! A few days later a confirmed sighting from some security guards with clear evidence of spoor showed where Chippo slipped back into the main river system some 8km downstream from the Chartwell sighting.

Since then a networked group with parties from the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), Specialised Security Services, (SSS) Wildlife Environment Society of SA (WESSA) and Action for Responsible Management of Our Rivers (ARMOUR) with their river monitors have all been liaising where they can with the best interest in mind for both the Hippo and Human that share this environment.

EWT has deployed a team to follow up on sightings and managed to capture a great photo to aid identification after the last sighting came in from Northern Farms on the 20th January. GDARD (Gauteng Department of Agricultural & Rural Development) has issued a notice, warning that nobody should approach any hippo and SSS has reconfirmed their commitment to protecting the animal as they have done with Harpo at Hartbeespoort Dam since 2019.

As for the question over 1, 2 or more,

this is something that hasn't been proven yet. There are different reports to substantiate the possibility of more than one, however this has not been confirmed yet and neither has the source, other than from the river and dams where 'they've arguably been living longer than us. With somewhere between 7000 and 15000 hippos across South Africa, mostly within designated game parks and any visitor knows how a large animal can just vanish in the bush! given the way the sightings appear to pop up in different areas and then disappear for long periods of time who knows if Chippo will become a frequent visitor in Chartwell.

Never expecting to see a hippo, of course you don't look for one! now that its confirmed with evidence you add it to the incredible offering that Chartwell provides to live and alongside nature. In general most people have expressed views to just let it or them be at home in the river, in their habitat as it would appear has been the case for years, with the porcupines, snakes, legavaan and bushbabies. Aside from all the questions, given the challenges with the sewer spills from the pump station it's good to know that the Hippo was happy to explore our river after all the rains and certainly we could benefit from it chomping away at the resultant long grass!!

When time and lockdown rules allow, perhaps we can invite one of the experts to Chartwell to give a talk on Hippos to learn more, as with everything in Chartwell the more interest we take in matters the more we understand our habitat and how we can respect living in each other's environment. Perhaps a 'hippo crossing' sign on Third Road would be a more effective way of having people slow down or watch out for the river conditions! For me, it's another reason why Africa and Chartwell is an amazing place to live!

CORONAVIRUS CAUTION

With the second wave of Coronavirus in full swing we are hearing of more and more severe COVID-19 cases very close to home. We once again urge all Chartwell residents and your families to take this virus very seriously and be extremely cautious. Here is a reminder of prevention methods, symptoms and what to do if you test positive for COVID-19.

Prevention:

- Wear a mask
- Don't go anywhere unnecessarily
- Social distance from others at all times
- Sanitise and wash hands
- Keep rooms well ventilated

If you get Coronavirus symptoms go and get tested immediately, **STAY ISOLATED UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR RESULTS!** On average it takes 5–6 days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show, however it can take up to 14 days.

Most common symptoms:

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Tiredness

Less common symptoms:

- Aches and pains
- Sore throat
- Diarrhoea
- Conjunctivitis
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- A rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes

Serious symptoms:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Chest pain or pressure
- Loss of speech or movement

Nearest place to get a COVID-19 test:

- Life Hospital: R850, results in 24hr- 48hr

If you test POSITIVE for Coronavirus:

- CONTACT a health care specialist

immediately and get the recommended medication, always call before visiting your doctor or health facility.

- Get the correct medication from your healthcare specialist. It would appear that early and aggressive treatment, with antibiotics, cortisone and anti inflammatories can reduce the severity and duration of infection, by targeting the symptoms and potential secondary infections.
- If you have shortness of breath or pain or pressure in the chest, seek medical attention at a health facility immediately.
- Wear a medical mask to protect others, including if/when you need to seek medical care.
- Clean your hands frequently.
- Stay in a separate room from other family members, and if not possible, wear a medical mask.
- Monitor yourself for any symptoms for 14 days.
- Stay positive by keeping in touch with loved ones by phone or online, and by exercising at home.

Basic COVID-19 kit:

- Face mask
- Sanitiser
- Oximeter (to measure one's oxygen levels, which should remain above and between 92 to 100)
- Humidifier with eucalyptus oil
- Thermometer
- List of contacts (doctor, ambulance, your nearest hospital)
- Your favorite chocolate (for a taste and smell test)

(Disclaimer: this article is not written by a professional healthcare specialist, but done in an effort to assist in making Chartwellians aware of the above information, which has been extracted from The World Health Organization, Coronavirus Disease website, and other relevant resources.)

NOTE FROM A RESIDENT

**Chartwell our home
By Lulu von Merveldt**

As Chartwellians we live in one of the most beautiful suburbs of Gauteng, which has become more and more so over the years. With new families moving into the area enjoying the outdoor spaces, the quiet roads to walk and run on, our extensive bird life, several riding schools in the area and other unique attractions in Chartwell. Owners take pride in their properties, which extends beyond our front gates and entrances, to the verge along our fences.

Our suburb looks good on a superficial level, but one only has to take a walk to see how much rubbish and litter there is, which is left by people who don't care and just throw their cans, bottles, pieces of paper, tissues and all manner of detritus. Every week Pikitup empty our bins, but unfortunately always leave a trail behind them, some of the contributing factors are the wind and overloaded wheelie bins. It takes only a few minutes a couple of times a week, to check that our verges and entrances are rubbish free, it would make such a difference. We as residents need to do our bit, to keep and even improve the value of our properties, by making the suburb an example. The result of endless bits of litter is that, when it rains or there is wind, it eventually ends up in the storm water drains and then the river system, which causes flooding of suburbs, streets and pollution, so we all lose out. It takes two minutes to pick up on our verges, then we all win. So I urge all Chartwellians to do their part and pick up any litter in our beautiful area.



CHARTWELL SWEEPSTAKE

Unfortunately, due to our present Covid situation the monthly Sweepstake gatherings have also been affected. The December draw was postponed, so too the January draw will need to be postponed to the end of February.

Thanks to our wonderful loyal Sweepstake players however, the monthly Debit Orders have been honoured and we will have THREE Draws at the February gathering. This must certainly entice anyone interested in joining the Sweepstake group to do so before the February Draw.

For those who possibly do not know how the Sweepstake works: 75% of the money generated in the month is allocated to special Chartwell projects and 25% goes to that month's winner. The Tumble Drum is tumbled at a gathering on the last Friday evening of the month to which an interesting speaker is normally invited and the evening turns out to be a great way to connect with fellow Chartwellians and is a whole lot of fun.

If you have any enquiries contact: Ian Lourens 082 440 9683 OR Maureen Dalglish 083 228 1753



One of the most recent contributions the Chartwell Sweepstakes has made to beautify our area is a rock wall, which was erected in December 2020, on the corner of Runnymead and Second Road, by Tony Jensen and his team from Masters of Horticulture.

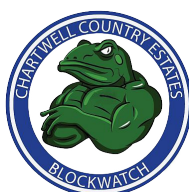
SECURITY

Since the beginning of the year there has been a spate of house robberies that have occurred in and around Chartwell. The criminals have been targeting cottages, stealing mainly bicycles, electronics and general household equipment.

On the evening of Saturday 23 January, there were multiple incidents that occurred in and around the Runnymead north area. The criminals took what they could and stashed the rest in a nearby field obviously with the intention of returning later to collect. The next evening, Sunday 24 January, the perpetrators returned to claim the stashed items. In a joint response operation involving CCE, Farmall and Chartwell North resident responders in conjunction with ADT, Savika, Thompsons security, we managed to successfully arrest one of the criminals, who is currently still in custody. Unfortunately the other perpetrator is still at large, but the CCE and affected residents are working with SAPS, providing them with our CCTV footage and other necessary information, to effect further arrests and the conviction of all the criminals involved in this recent spate.

Sunday night's success was another good example of what can be achieved when responders, residents, security companies and Saps work together in a co-ordination way.

We urge all residents to remain on high alert and be extra vigilant at all times. Please remember to open a case with Saps no matter how big or small the incident may be.



Aunty Maureen tells:

The Indaba Hotel (Part 2) By Maureen Dalglish

The Hodnett family, after selling their country hotel, the Fourways Gardens Hotel for R3 million, travelled abroad for the next few years.

The new owner, Barclays Bank, encouraged by Bob Aldsworth and Sandra van der Merwe, the interior designer, built an additional 120 bedrooms, 22 conference rooms and a large auditorium, and the "Indaba" Hotel was known to be the largest conference establishment of the time.



In 1989, as a result of sanctions, Barclays Bank was forced to pull out and to leave the country, the hotel was then sold to Karos Hotels and even more bedrooms were added. In 1999 Karos Hotels sold to the international hotel group, Movenpick, but later that year the company was liquidated and the "Indaba" was bought by John Mynhardt, Peter Laars and Martin Baker of African Procurement Agencies.

There are two other "Indaba" hotels which belong to this group, one in Richards Bay and the other in Gaborone, Botswana.

Up to the time of the Covid pandemic of 2020, our Fourways Indaba Hotel was a thriving and an extremely busy place. Extra traffic lights had been installed along William Nichol Drive and special off-ramps were built to accommodate the crowds of visitors attending conferences, weddings and other large functions.

Whilst all is in Lock Down at present, hopefully the time will come again when the rooms will be fully booked, the Dinner Dances well patronized and the restaurants and conference venues overflowing to capacity.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

<p>Symbolic Ware (PTY) LTD Manufacturers of: metal & plastic name badges; cufflinks; tie slides; key rings; medals; school badges. Tel: 011 792 8777 Email: info@symware.co.za</p>  <p>SYMBOLIC WARE <small>THE BADGE PEOPLE</small></p>	<p>Maureen Dalglish Real Estate Professional Principal Agent (NQFS) Tel: 083 228 1753 Office: 011 708 328 3297 Email: dalglishm@mweb.co.za Website: www.dalglish.co.za</p> 

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<p>Sirius Electronic Systems CC For all your bookkeeping needs: from the box of invoices to Trial Balance. Contact Jenni Brown on 082 950 2335 or jenni@binary.co.za</p>	
<p>Blue Leaf & Co. Graphic design company. Newsletters, flyers and any printing and stationery needs. Contact Hannah Warren on 071 199 7754 or blueleafandco@gmail.com</p>	
<p>The Fitness League Gym Class Venue: the dance studio, Runnymead Road Day: Monday and Thursday Time: 8:30 am Contact Maureen on 083 228 1753 FUN FITNESS FRIENDSHIP</p>	
<p>Gardening Looking for a part time gardening job. Contact Leonard on 062 066 4552</p>	
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