

The Chatsford Chat

THE LIFESTYLE CHOICE

The Lifestyle Choice Christmas Edition 2016

From little things **big things grow**

On its 25th anniversary year Chatsford's recipe for success is simple: high standards and continual evolution.

From the original five acre development, Chatsford has become one of New Zealand's most sought after places for people over 55 to call home. It has grown from one resident on the 14/9/91, to a vibrant community of 330 people.

It took foresight and courage for the initial Directors who researched the optimum requirements for people who wanted to live their retirement years in a fulfilling, attractive, economical and flourishing community. They discovered that people wanted to maintain their independent lifestyles whilst at the same time enjoying all the aspects of life that living in a community can offer.

Frances Yeoman has a unique perspective of Chatsford's evolution. She is the longest standing resident, though at 89 she is not its oldest.



Above: Frances Yeoman reflects on her years at Chatsford.

"My daughter was at a dinner party when she first heard about Chatsford and she immediately thought it sounded just right for my husband and I," Frances says.

The first resident to move in to the community was Miss Audrey Benton, and her little dog, Gaye. Miss Benton was a retired English teacher. When she moved into her apartment in Layton Wing, the main kitchen facilities adjacent to the dining room, wasn't yet completed. She went daily to Birchleigh Rest Home for her meals.

The early settlers at Chatsford lived in the midst of spectacular change. Many embraced the concept and contributed their skills and expertise to the evolving garden design in particular. It quickly became apparent that buyers top priorities were space, privacy, thoughtful design, a good view, and a garden plot.

Today, Chatsford boasts splendid gardens that are the pride and joy of the residents

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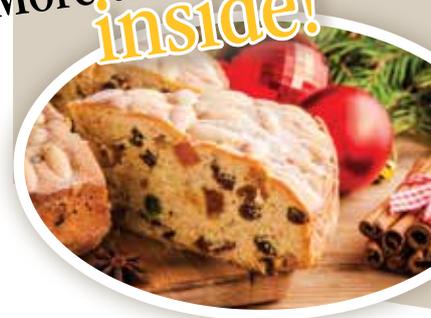
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To take an online tour of our wide range of activities, amenities and housing options available, visit

www.chatsford.co.nz

As we prepare for Christmas, the team at Chatsford take the opportunity to wish you and all those close to you a very Merry Christmas. We trust you will enjoy a relaxing time with your immediate family, relatives and friends, and wish you a healthy and prosperous 2017.





Chief's chatter

Hello and welcome to the Christmas 2016 edition of the Chatsford Chat.

As always, it is a pleasure to update you on happenings in and around the Chatsford community and we thank you for taking time out to have a read.

In the last 'Chat' we mentioned our 25th Birthday on the 14th of September, and in this edition there are some great shots from our fabulous resident luncheon on the day. Fortunately the weather was good to us, and the grounds dried out to allow us to get the marquee up with no issues at all.

The photos tell the story far better than any words I can put on paper. Needless to say it was a wonderful way to celebrate a very special milestone in Chatsford's history.

In our winter edition of the 'Chat' I mentioned the planned rollout of Wi-Fi across our site. As can be the case with fast-moving technology, other options may have already overtaken the Wi-Fi solution. Dunedin's GigCity status has resulted in the installation of residential ultra-fast fibre to our site being brought forward two years (to June 2017). We are now discussing with Chorus what that means for connections to each Chatsford home and we hope to have an answer from them by early 2017. In the meantime, the Wi-Fi project has been put on hold in the hope that an even better solution may be made available.

Speaking of technology, it really brings home how dependent we have become on electronic technology when your building takes a direct hit from a lightning strike – which is exactly what happened to us on the 19th of October. The colossal 'CRACK' as the lightning hit one of our aerials was all over within a split-second. But all of the damage that was done has taken weeks to uncover and even longer to fully repair.

Hundreds of individual electronic components were 'cooked' as the lightning charge zapped through our systems. Systems damaged or destroyed included our emergency call buttons, fire alarms, telephones, television, computers, sound systems, and even motors on our electric gates. Most are fully repaired or well on the way to being repaired.

Of course our experiences with lightning were minor compared to the impact of the massive earthquake on those in Kaikoura and surrounding districts. Our thoughts go out to all the people whose homes and livelihoods have been damaged or destroyed. I do hope the weeks leading up to Christmas provide some stability so that the rebuild of structures and lives can begin.

And so, as 2016 draws to a close, I trust that the coming festive season is a safe and happy one for you and your family and I wish you all the very best for 2017.

Malcolm Hendry
Chatsford CEO



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and management alike. Visitors are greeted by a glorious display of mature roses, rhododendrons, irises and gladioli in full bloom.

Frances and her husband, Clive, moved into their new home on May 15 1992. "It was snowing that day in Dunedin, but it was fine out here."

"It was all bare and muddy but soon enough we had a wonderful garden on the way with annuals, roses and sweet peas growing up a trellis. Our stand-alone townhouse was built right beside where the swimming pool was envisaged."

Frances was eventually employed by Chatsford in a sales role – it proved to be a real advantage that she lived on site. Tours from many interested, and local groups would frequently visit Chatsford. In many cases the same people would return some years later, when they had made the decision that Chatsford was in alignment with their current needs.

The choice to rename the community to Chatsford – The Lifestyle Choice signalled its departure from the preconceived perception of a Rest Home, into the thriving community that it is today. "At first, it wasn't easy to convince people what a unique opportunity Chatsford offered them. But, as the building programme progressed, word spread about the first class facilities, spacious well designed apartments and townhouses, then the challenge was, and still is, to keep up with the growing demand. We have residents that have come from all parts of the country, from the far north, to the Bluff, and from as far afield as Holland, Zimbabwe and England" Frances said.

Resident profile

Joan Conway met her husband Derek, more than 60 years ago when she was taking a break from her job as a clerical worker and he was seeing the far north of Australia before setting off for Canada.

She laughs when she retells the story of their meeting. “He was the sensible New Zealander who went to bed early, just as my friends and I at the guest house were setting out for the evening,” she says.

Derek worked for an aerial surveying firm creating aerial maps and Joan, who hails from Melbourne, was a clerical worker for a Stock and Station agent.

“Derek never made it to Canada. He’s got plenty of time to do that yet,” she says.

Within just over a year, they had married. Joan was curious to find out about life in New Zealand, so they decided to spend six months in Derek’s home town, Hastings.

“It was a big difference from my life in Melbourne, but I grew to love it,” she says.

Derek was in his element with many opportunities for tramping and mountain climbing right at their doorstep. Then, as life would have it, he was offered a position at the Ministry of Agriculture in Roxburgh. The job offer included a house, so they decided to give it a go.

18 years and six children later, they both say without any reservations, that they made the right decision.

‘It was an absolutely lovely community and it provided our children with an idyllic carefree environment to grow up in. They could find adventures wherever they looked. It was just wonderful.’

In a bid to use some of the expertise Derek had gained whilst working for the Ministry of Agriculture, the couple bought a local apple orchard. Derek became involved with Mountain Search and Rescue and Joan opened a successful antique shop in Roxburgh village. Five years went by until their children who were on the cusp of going to university and polytech began hankering for a city life.

The Conway’s first Dunedin home was a big old house in Queen Street. It became the port of call for many of their Central friends when they came for town visits. It was also the perfect house for their family and growing bevy of friends. Living in the midst of Dunedin had many advantages for all of the family.

“When our son Philip studied surveying at night, if I went upstairs and looked out the window, I could look over and see the lights on at the Surveying School and knew he had arrived safely.”

Growing up, Joan lived in Brighton on the seacoast out of Melbourne and always had a hankering to return to that way of life. When she and Derek discovered a house for sale at Port Chalmers, with a section that ran right down to Back Beach, their fate was sealed. The home was originally built in the 1890s for the first minister in Port Chalmers.

“We heard that when passengers were forced to stay on Quarantine Island, he would row out there to see them.”

The Conways really appreciated the sense of belonging and real community spirit that is unique to Port Chalmers. It became their family home for the next 25 years. “Everyone in Port knows one another. You can’t put a price on that.”

Joan became involved with many aspects of community life and was a member of the Port Environment Liaison Committee. The committee comprised of representatives from Port Otago, the Port Chalmers community and Port users. They met every six weeks to discuss issues such as noise, landscaping and lighting within the port area. She also became involved with the Port Chalmers Maritime Museum committee.

“These committees introduced me to some very vibrant and progressive people who had very interesting ideas that they were prepared to act upon.”

When their friend, Captain Michael Webb, sailed past on the crude oil tanker, The Kakariki, Joan and Derek could stand on their deck and wave tea towels to greet him. “We never missed him.”

When their children left home for distant shores in Ireland, the Gold Coast, Penrith, Ashburton and Christchurch, the couple realised that they no longer needed such a big home all to themselves.

Although they are relative newcomers to the Chatsford Community, arriving in February this year, they are by no means strangers to community life. They are adapting to their new life and home in Chatsford’s Charlton Avenue, and are looking forward to enjoying their retirement together.

“For us, as always, choosing to come and live at Chatsford was a case of ‘the right thing at the right time.’”



Chatsford 25th Anniversary

Chatsford Residents enjoying

Below: What better way to celebrate than with good company and delicious food? From left to right Loma Read, Melva Baird, Aileen Labes and Sandra White



Above: The colours of spring complemented the happy smiles of Bev Jackson (left) and Jeanne-Marie Aitken at the 25th Anniversary celebration luncheon.

versary Celebrations!

g the Birthday celebrations.



Left: Blake Barber (right), a Residents' Committee member, and his wife Margaret, at the 25th anniversary celebrations held at the Events Centre in Parklands Ave.



Right: Residents' Committee members Jenny Heller(left) and Denise Cooney take a well earned break from the luncheon preparations.



Left: After all their hard work, it's relaxation time for Doreen Christie, Chair of the Residents' Committee, alongside fellow committee member, Alister Rae.

Chaplain's chatter



The year 2016 saw a number of countries around the world hold "General Elections", resulting in some instances with a change of government and leaders.

For some others it was more of the same, perhaps with fresh faces but no new policies. Here in New Zealand our cities and town councils held their local body elections by postal vote. Some new Mayors and councillors have taken over the positions once held by "Old Faithfuls".

The campaigning for the Presidency of the United States of America has captured our vivid imaginations, Great Britain voted to leave the European Union. Countries, towns, and people now have to live with their decisions. In some cases slim majorities but never-the-less requiring adjustments to cope with the change. It has always been like that.

The great Hymn "Abide with me" echoes this thought when we sing: "Change and decay in all around I see, O thou who changest not, abide with me". Thankfully we have a God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. His love is from everlasting to everlasting. He declares: "I am the Lord who changes not". This being so, God is totally reliable and dependable. He can be trusted all the time in every circumstance. He is trust worthy, worthy of our trust. He always has been and always will be.

It is man that cannot be trusted, we are changeable creatures. This is illustrated in the classic example as we look back to the week prior to the Crucifixion of Christ. On Palm Sunday the population of Jerusalem celebrated with a great parade as Jesus rode into the city on a donkey while the crowds shouted their support of him as their King of the Jews. However five days later, on what we call Good Friday, the same crowd in the same city cried out: "We will not have this man to reign over us, crucify him, we have no King but Caesar".

They turned on Jesus and the fickle crowd persuaded their leaders to crucify Jesus, which they did. That was Easter, but what about Christmas? Well, "The little Lord asleep on the hay" is asleep no longer. He woke up. "The cattle are lowing the baby awakes" and grows up to be a man of whom 900 years before his birth, the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament said of Jesus that he would form a government that would have un-ending peace. That government has not come into being, but the prophecy still stands and will be fulfilled at the time when all other governments will utterly fail. This will usher in the second coming of Christ to Earth. Meantime King Jesus is a King in exile. Hardel's great Christmas Oratoria "The Messiah" will have it's message come into effect: "And he shall reign for ever and ever, King of King's and Lord of Lord's" Each Christmas brings us one year closer to the fulfilment of the Biblical prophecy. Christians look forward eagerly to this second coming.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

Lawrie Rankin
Chatsford Chaplain

Cook's corner

This year's Christmas recipes are contributed by Wendy Day.

Originally from Cambridgeshire between Norfolk and Suffolk, Wendy and her husband Derek, have lived in New Zealand for nine years. They still favour the more traditional Christmas fare and she has some time-honoured English favourites to add to the mix.

The Bucks Fizz is a drink and is named after London's Buck Club. It was invented as an excuse to begin drinking early and was first served in 1921 by a barman named Malachy McGarry (who features in the works of P.G. Wodehouse as the barman of Buck's Club and the Drones Club). Traditionally, it is made by mixing two parts Champagne and one part orange juice.

Some older recipes list grenadine as an additional ingredient. The original Buck's Club recipe is said to contain additional ingredients known only to the club's bartenders. Four years later, the mimosa cocktail was invented in Paris. It also contains sparkling wine and orange juice, but in equal measures.

Buck's Fizz is popularly served at weddings as a less alcoholic alternative to Champagne. It is also touted as a morning "antidote" for a hangover. In the United Kingdom it is considered to be a drink to be consumed as part of breakfast on Christmas Day morning.

The Almond Slice recipe is an ideal light cake, with a sponge texture baked on top of a sweet pastry with a generous covering of raspberry jam. The almond slice is an ideal sweet treat for morning and afternoon teas.

The Dundee Cake is a famous traditional Scottish fruitcake full of cherries, sultanas and almonds that has a

sweet glaze. Many people prefer the Dundee cake as a lighter alternative to the traditional Christmas fruit cake.





ALMOND SLICE

500g shortcrust pastry
 50g butter
 50g caster sugar
 1 egg
 125g ground almonds
 ¼ tsp vanilla extract
 Raspberry Jam

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C – Gas 6
2. Roll out pastry to 12in/30cmx8in/20cm rectangle and transfer to a greased baking sheet, prick with a fork and bake for 5 mins.
3. Beat the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy, stir in egg, ground almonds and vanilla extract.
4. Spread jam on top of pastry leaving a border of pastry.
5. Spread sponge mix on top.
6. If like scatter crushed almonds on top.
7. Bake for 20-25 mins until puffed and golden.
8. Remove from oven, transfer to rack to cool.
9. Slice and serve.

DUNDEE CAKE

175g/6oz soft margarine
 175g/6oz light soft brown sugar
 ½ tsp almond essence
 200g/7oz plain flour
 1tsp baking powder
 175g/6oz sultanas
 175g/6oz currants
 50g/2oz chopped cherries
 25g/1oz ground almonds
 3 large eggs
 Whole blanched almonds



Method:

1. Grease a 18cm/7 inch sq tin or 20cm/8in round tin and line it with greased greaseproof paper. Preheat the oven to 325°F / 160°C
2. Cream together margarine, sugars and almond essence.
3. Into another bowl, sift flour and baking powder then add all of the fruit and ground almonds.
4. Beat the eggs in a separate bowl and add a little at a time with the fruit mixture into the creamed mixture, do not beat.
5. Turn into tin and level the top.
6. Bake in oven for about 1 ¾ hours or until cake is brown on top and firm to touch. During baking whole almonds carefully placed on cake. Do this while the cake is still moist but not too soon or they will either sink into the cake mix or burn before the cake is cooked.
7. Slice and enjoy.

BUCKS FIZZ

Often served at weddings as a less alcoholic alternative to champagne. Popular in the U.K as a drink as part of breakfast on Christmas Day.

Method:

Sparkling white wine or champagne
 Orange Juice
 (Equal measures of both)

1. Pour orange juice into glass and top up with champagne, stir gently, garnish and serve.



Resident profile

Over a number of years now, the Chatsford Courtesy Coach has taken a party of Residents, to visit Riversdale in Southland to see an amazing annual Art Exhibition.

Few people know that Mary Bogers who has lived at Chatsford for 14 years, is the founding President of the Riversdale Arts, and held that position for three years until the organisation and the exhibition reached today's high standard, not seen in small towns.

In her memoir entitled *'The Pot of Gold at the End of the Rainbow'*, Mary describes to her readers a little of what life was like as a Dutch immigrant to New Zealand in the early 1950's.

Born as the third child in a family of ten, with a veterinarian father, she was accustomed to farming life. After World War II, her future husband, Stan Bogers started his studies at Wageningen Agricultural College - he also hailed from a farming background. After 1 year, his studies were interrupted when young men of his age group were conscripted into the Dutch Army and were shipped out to a Colony named then as the Dutch East Indies, a group of Islands one of which is Bali. The Japanese had occupied these Islands after their invasion of Singapore. The Atomic bomb ended the Japanese war, so to cut a long story short, the troupes returned home after the indigenous population declared themselves independent and renamed their country Indonesia. The Dutch Government felt that they would never be able to employ all these young men. At that time other countries needed workers and offered to take immigrants. On his return from Indonesia, Mary met Stan, and after a while Stan decided to go to New Zealand. They made contact with a Southland farmer who sponsored them work. Stan and Mary married, and the young couple packed a large crate with their belongings which included a motorbike, 2 good solid Dutch pushbikes, a Dutch stove, a sewing machine and a good collection of handyman tools. They set sail in the ship, the Waterman with a large group of country men and women, destination, Wellington and a new life. They began their Southland experience sleeping in a hut beside their sponsor farming family's homestead, and they were introduced to sheep farming. When their large crate of possessions arrived, they moved into their farm cottage closer to the village of Riversdale. As the first Dutch woman in the district, Mary was often introduced as *'The Dutch Bride'*.

Sheep farming did not appeal to Stan - he was a man who liked machinery. They settled in the township and several jobs followed as the hardworking couple slowly established themselves and their family within the community. They had three children and eventually owned and operated a Concrete Works and Gravel Plant. They have seven grandchildren, and proud Great Grandmother of three.

Mary joined many of the local Riversdale community groups including Plunket, the PTA, Women's clubs, Drama and Choral Group and Toastmasters. She was instrumental in establishing the Riversdale Arts and Craft Group, now known as Riversdale Arts, which was a real success story. She continues to attend its acclaimed art exhibition held in July each year. Works featured at the exhibition include pottery, wood crafts, photographs, painting, floral art, weaving and fabric crafts. Up to 90 artists are invited to exhibit, resulting in up to 500 pieces on display.

The group was the first of its kind to request Southland Polytechnic for tutors to visit the district, and hold art and craft classes. The excellent response that was received proved the catalyst to establish an off-campus programme.

Mary also served two terms as a Riversdale Community Councillor and was a member of the Progress League. In the 1990 Queen's Birthday honours list, she was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for Public Services. She is also a life member of the Riversdale Arts, which recently featured in a magazine called the New Zealand Artist - a jewel in the crown for the organisation.

Her play, *Pyramid Green*, based on the local environment was written with conservation as one of its themes. Anyone who comes to her house in Chatsford remarks on the lovely leadlight window in the front door. It has a Kotuku at the waters edge. The Kotuku was the mystical bird that saved Riversdale from the Evil Witch and her Army of litter bugs who lived in Pyramid Hill - a well-known landmark in the Riversdale District.

In her reflections, she writes that she and her husband stayed in their lovingly restored Riversdale home for 48 years, 'because we made a good living, enjoyed the peaceful country lifestyle, and it was too much work to shift'.

She recalls, 'we were the first Dutch couple to arrive in Riversdale, and the last to leave'. After her husband's prolonged illness and passing, Mary chose to buy her two bedroomed townhouse in Chatsford in April 2002. "I knew by then, I was ready for a change", she says.



Chatsford Chat Online

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