

Richmond Community News

• M A Y 2 0 0 3 •

Floral Day not dampened by rain

If the numbers that attended were any indication then the Flower day held at Avebury House on April 5 was a huge success. Approximately 500 people braved the drizzle to attend the day which saw the lovely old house decked out in floral glory. Thanks to the remarkable talents of the Avon Floral society, people were able

to enjoy a visual treat of floral arrangements and memorabilia. As well as having the option to enjoy a delicious Devonshire tea served by ladies in period dress, bargains were obtained from the stalls in the grounds. The most frequently heard comment was "I do hope it will be repeated".



Geriatric Composer

In 1939, I had the privilege of studying harmony with my musical idol, Dr Bradshaw.

My career as a composer began in 1940, when as Housemaster at Adams House, I wrote pop songs for the B.H.S. Hostel boys to sing.

Doing my Territorial Service at Wingatui in 1941, I wrote marches.

Back at Adams house, I composed viola sonatas to play with my B.H.S. colleague, Laurie Baigent and my first piano pieces: *6 Andalusian Dances, les Rives du Waimakariri, 24 Fish Tales, Six Frangs.*

On September 6th 1941, I wrote my first great sacred song: *And the Lord said unto David* – a setting of II Samuel v.19.

I set my first Psalm, *Psalm 8*, in 1942, when I was serving with the N.Z.M.C. in Fiji, and set two more Psalms before the War ended.

In 1949–50 I was writing French songs, to the words of Verlaine and in 1951 I did six more *Andalusian Dances*, for piano.

In 1954 I did another great sacred song: *Monastery on Kazbek*, for Mr Ward of Rangiora, who wrote the words.

February 27th 1969, my third great sacred

song: *Like Eagles*, a setting of Isaiah xl.28–31.

From 1954 till I retired in 1979, I was training language graduates in the Secondary Division of the Christchurch Teachers' College, for whom I set 72 more Psalms for voice and piano. My greatest compositions to date.

In 1973 I acquired my Yamaha I electronic organ and in 1974 I began composing hundreds of organ pieces.

In 1976 I began composing violin sonatas, to play with Clifton Cook, 'cello sonatas to play with Brian Sandle and Trios to play with Brian and Stan Raymond.

In 1982 I was writing Preludes and Fugues for the piano and in 1997 composed a grand series of 96 piano Fugues, with two volumes of commentary.

The war in Afghanistan launched great quantities of neo-classical prose piano pieces:

- 36 Arabesques (which Daniel Robertson will be recording this year on our first CD),
- 24 Pilgrimages
- 16 Hagiographies
- 24 Patrologiae
- 24 Esoterica
- 20 Nocturnes

continued overleaf

The MOVIE MAN

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DVDS
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Geriatric composer continued

- 500 Preludes and
- 63 Piano sonatas.

At 86, I'm writing and average of 1250 pages of new music per annum. Lots of people of all ages drop in to hear it and seem to enjoy it as much as much as I do.

My Ph.D. is in French and for 26 years I lectured

to graduates in five languages. I had always thought of myself as a linguist.

But as a result of typing this brief synopsis, I am beginning to wonder if I am not, after all, primarily a *composer*!

Geriatric composer
John L. Moffat

last month's solution

ACROSS

1. Dazed
2. The
3. Eve
4. Arena
5. Rod
6. Nay
7. Fiber
8. Operate
9. Tar
10. Now
11. Nub
12. Am
13. Fey
14. Elsa
15. Wiser
16. Lab
17. Eel
18. Ho
19. Gum
20. May
21. La
22. Ile
23. Box
24. Reefs
25. Pact
26. Wet
27. Ax
28. His
29. Row
30. Peg
31. Phoenix
32. Areal
33. Rae
34. Ode
35. Verse
36. Odd
37. Was
38. Eaten

DOWN

1. Daft
2. Aria
3. Zebras
4. ENE
5. Darn
6. Trowel
7. Hop
8. Eden
9. Enable
10. Vat
11. Eye
12. Rue
13. Of
14. Meg
15. Yam
16. Self
17. Alas
18. Whip
19. Iola
20. Rub
21. Bar
22. Mow
23. Yea
24. Echoed
25. Xerxes
26. Expert
27. Tie
28. To
29. Snow
30. Wave
31. Ease
32. Glen
33. Pro
34. Had
35. Ida
36. Rea

The solution to
this month's crossword
will appear in
next month's newsletter

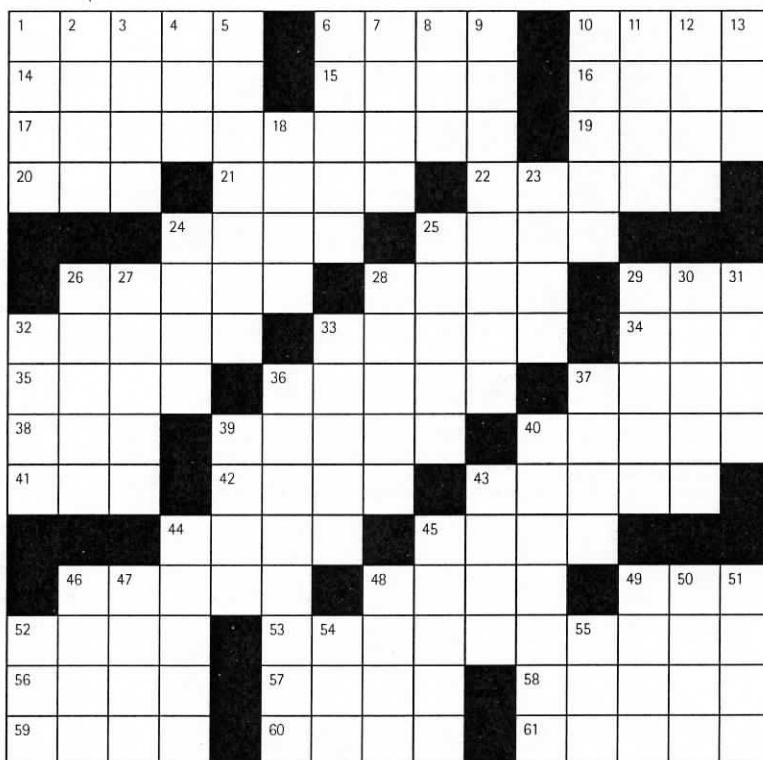
crossword

ACROSS

1. Festive affairs
6. Soaks
10. Name for a dog
14. Realtor
15. Foil
16. Telegram
17. Flowers
19. _____-bellum
20. Place
21. Mental powers
22. Armored vehicles
24. Rooters
25. Symbol of affluence
26. Predatory one
28. Rational
29. Scottish number
32. Sober
33. Soda sipper
34. King (Fr.)
35. Price of passage
36. Bones
37. Farm building
38. Skill
39. Old-womanish
40. Joint
41. Word of agreement
42. Behave listlessly
43. Famous general
44. Statues
45. Beseech
46. Hold
48. Leprechaun land
49. American author
52. Disembarked
53. Symbols of esteem (2 wds)
56. Moslem judge
57. Baker's need
58. Strides easily
59. Actress Barbara _____
60. Lack
61. Delete

DOWN

1. Gossips (colloq.)
2. Chills and fever
3. European
4. Busy insect
5. Steamship employee
6. Denominations
7. Musical work
8. Vim
9. Certain poems
10. Stylish (colloq.)
11. Pale red
12. Table scraps
13. Gold appurtenance
18. Skating place
23. Over again
24. Flunk
25. WWI river
26. Shop
27. Ceases
28. Set of steps over a fence
29. Prepare by rote
30. Superlatively bad
31. Ungrammatical contraction
32. Postponement
33. Monitor and Merrimac
36. Highway department
37. Asinine sound
39. Amo, _____, amat
40. Argue noisily
43. Sign of satisfaction
44. Caesar's tongue
45. Publish
46. Happy
47. Trip
48. Flat
49. Insect stage
50. Unlocks (poetic)
51. Being
52. Card
54. Eggs
55. Heart



Poem

For the last ten years I have enjoyed working with disadvantaged people. I have been consumed with issues such as unconditional acceptance, change, growth, community and empowerment.

In my more honest moments though, I have had to admit that deep

down I work from a position of superiority – I want them to be more (middle-class) like me.

But am I really any more together than those to whom I offer my advantages.

This poem is my attempt to wrestle with the issue of equality.

Designer Masks

Ill health
Mental illness
Deception
Addictions

Odours
Unpaid bills
Betrayal
Lies

Thank you Lord that I am not like them

A sense of worthlessness Shame
Low self-esteem Unemployed

I have holidays They have court appearances
I have cell phones They have phone arrears
I have Lindauer They have tailor-mades

But,
Their open wounds expose me
Unlike me they have no designer masks
To pretend all is well
No absurd toys to muffle the pain
No pretensions of grandeur to hide
The hollowness of my life

I have heard their cries
Vulnerable Community
The tax gatherer went away justified.

Tony McCahon
21 March 2003

*Senior Community Worker,
Delta Community
Support Trust*

Mareesa

Dannielle

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REBT Practitioner (NZ)
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Avebury in May

Rhythm and Rhyme
Preschool Music Group
Commencing Friday
mornings 9.30am from

Friday May 2

Come along for musical fun and games. Learn new songs, dances, play percussion instruments, parachute and rainbow ring games.

Group sizes limited.
Cost \$30 per term.

Run by trained early childhood teachers.

Phone Michelle 352-9634 or 021 175-0980 or Keryn 980-2573 to book your place.

Embroidery classes

Thursdays

10am – 12 noon

Calm surroundings with a patient experienced tutor.

Ring Alison on 388-9377 for more information.

Parents Group
Monday 26th May
10-11am

Held on the last Monday of each month, this is an informal meeting with other parents over a friendly cup of tea or coffee.

History and Heritage
Group
Wednesday
4.30-5.30pm

If you are interested in the history of this area in whatever form, do come and join us. Our next meeting is Wednesday 14 May.

**All enquiries about the facilities or programmes at
Avebury House, 9 Eveleyn Couzins Ave,
please contact:**

Lesley McMillan
Community Worker
Phone 942-5615

Or email: avebury@paradise.net.nz

RICHMOND WORKING MEN'S CLUB & M.S.A.

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26-036
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Phone
389-5778

**WE ARE PROUD
TO SUPPORT OUR
COMMUNITY**

Active Christchurch's 500th walk

Avenue and North Parade, local G.P. Dr David Cropp lived for many years.

We walked back along North Parade and crossed to walk from North Avon Road appreciating the long drive (Eveleyn Couzins Ave trees) into Avebury House. 108 people walked with

Adrienne and I, including Mayor Gary Moore and Mayoress Pam Sharpe and volunteers George and Val Wright, on our 500th walk. (The total on 9th Feb is now 26,552 people who have taken part.)

Forty people stayed to picnic in the grounds and join in a guided tour of Avebury House by Lesley

Community Notices

Richmond History Group Plans Display

The newly formed History and Heritage group is planning a pictorial history display of the Richmond area -pre- 1945 and would welcome access to any appropriate photographs. Copies will be taken of original prints which will be carefully stored and returned to their owners. The History Group is

also looking for new members who would like to help with this and other planned projects. Our next meeting is at Avebury House on Wednesday 14th May at 4.30pm. All welcome.

Avonside Ladies Probus Club

Meets at 10am the first Tuesday of each month upstairs at the Richmond Club. We have had our A.G.M. and are now looking for new members.

For information ph. Helen 382-6611 or Heather 942-1583

Richmond Community Association

Its name is the Richmond Neighbourhood Cottage Inc. The committee meets 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7.30pm at the Richmond Cottage

On the Richmond Green opposite the Richmond Workingmens Club. The committee deals with a wide variety of community issues and all residents are welcome at our monthly meetings.

Woman of Spirit

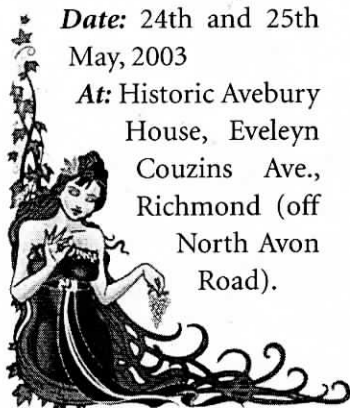
Marianna Ralle Hooper, Sheila, Pam Clarke

An inspiring, self-transforming, fun-filled smorgasbord of workshops honouring Mind, Body, Soul and Spirit.

Time: 10am to 5pm

Date: 24th and 25th May, 2003

At: Historic Avebury House, Eveleyn Couzins Ave., Richmond (off North Avon Road).



Workshops

- The Child Within
- Seeing Aura and Spirit and others.

Stalls (not covered by entrance fee)

- Jewellery/incense etc.
- Crystal art
- Clothing and perfumes and others.

Demonstrations

- Belly dancing and others.

Also available (not covered by entrance fee)

- Cranial sacral and other therapies.

Cost

One day's entry to workshops.....\$50.00

Weekend entry to workshops.....\$90.00

In addition, there will be Stalls to purchase products or services. (These are not covered by the entry fee). Limited tickets so purchase now. (Some door sales will be available.

Mariana 942-9717

Sheila 385-4743

Pam 980-5934

SUN NING TAKEAWAYS

273 Stanmore Road, Telephone 389-3113

CHINESE MEALS ~ FISH & CHIPS HAMBURGERS

HOURS

Tues-Wed: 11.30am - 2pm/4.30pm - 8.30pm

Thurs-Sat: 11.30am - 2pm/4.30pm - 10.00pm

Sun: 4.30pm - 8.30pm Mon: Closed

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Would you like to help fold and/or deliver our community newspaper? It's a great way to meet people and we do provide a cup of tea! Please contact us at Avebury House if you would like to help.

Active Christchurch's 500th walk

Graeme Stanley is a 'walktologist'. He and his wife Adrienne have taken people on walks all over the Christchurch area. This is his account of their 500th walk.

Our walk left Avebury House at 10.30am and walked past the historic homes of Samuel and William Bassett, respectively. At 269 River Road, a look at William Glue (pioneer of concrete construction design) home to Graeme's parents, Sam and Nan Stanley for over 40 years until 1997, and at 271 River Road which was an early resthome run by the Homersham family, and at 273 River Road home, for many years of the late Dr Ian and Claire Squires.

Opposite, along the river bank, Richard Bedward Owen, who had proposed a Boulevard of trees from here to New Brighton, saw to fruition on 1st September 1929, riverbank improvement with the planting of 53 Lime saplings. Each Lime was named by or for the local dignitary who planted it.

At Medway St corner (Minchins Lane) Graeme spoke about Dr Charles Dudley's Bloom Farm and of Edward Coker Minchin who bought it and built 'Woodchester' in the 1880's. In 1890, the property all 42 acres, 2 roods and 34 perches, was bought for 5,000 pounds by Henry Dent Gardner who lived there until his death in 1909. It was sold approximately 1910.


Next door to Woodchester at 70 Banks Avenue was 'Longmeadow' home of Percy Gill, managing director of Carpet Imports Co. (In later years Mr Stevenson of Pie fame was an owner). At 42 Banks Ave we glimpsed 'Runnymede' built in 1912 for Dr Finch, through the trees. On the corner of Banks Ave and Coopers Road we looked at 'Kenilworth' home of the Banks family who bought 5.2 acres from Henry Dent Gardiner and established an apple orchard. The house was built prior to 1900 and was

named in honour of the owner's grandmother who was born at Kenilworth Castle. Across the stream, opposite Kenilworth is 'Banksia' an award winning new home, built to fit the environment. Further along up a long drive at 26 Banks Ave and unseen through the trees is an historic home of the pioneer real estate firm, Ford and Hadfield (Arnold Hadfield's) and at no 15 'Dalkeith' is a house and garden tourist spot. 'Bankswood' (the Robinson's) at no 11 has been in the same family


since the 1950". W.H Robinson Ltd Grain Merchants business was at No.3 Marshlands Road.

Further around at 118 North Parade we saw 'Willowbridge', a gentleman's residence built in 1918 for Walter Chapman. Next door, on the Marian College grounds, is historic 'Littlebourne', built by surgeon Maurice Louison and at 110 North Parade is the stately home built in 1942 for Sir Valdemar and Lady Marion Skellerup. On the corner of Poulton

continued overleaf



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Did you also know...

Policing in Richmond (Bingsland)

Continuing on from the last Newsletter on reminiscences of Richmond... I would like to add that my father, Michael Gibson, was the Community Constable from 1933 until he died in January 1946. There were six of us children in the family – Des, Mona, Gerald, Vonnice, Noel and I (Rae).

We had two big cherry trees on the property and every year my brothers picked them and we sold them for tuppence per pound and we shared the money out at Christmas time.

I also picked gooseberries and sold them to the "chinaman" (the fruit shop) for tuppence per pound.

I remember some of the local shops:

- Sutherland Grocery (where I had piano lessons from Miss Sutherland)
- Mr Hilliary's Bike Shop
- Mr Horne's Dairy (where my parents played cards on a Saturday night with Mr Horne and my brother Noel and I were allowed to serve in the shop)
- Mr Neale the Butcher

Richmond swimming baths was a favourite social gathering point. My brother Des taught practically all the kids in the district to swim, including his little sister (me) and all for free!

Many would remember my father, Constable Gibson, patrolling the district on his bike.

After my father came

Mr Kearney...

Does anyone have any more to add?

Rae Shea (nee Gibson)



This service station sold Union Motor Spirit, Plume, Voco Petrol and Shell in 1926. Today, known as Wheatley's Auto Centre, on the 4 corner of Hills Road and Avalon Street in Christchurch, it looks a little different. Photographed (from left) are Ray McDonald (about 10 years), Les McDonald (about eight years) and their aunt, Belle Cummins, whose husband Jack owned the service station and woodyard and the rear. The photograph was sent in by Ray's daughter, Mrs Merryl Rondel, of Christchurch.

Meeting of the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board

A meeting of the Hagley/Ferrymead Community

Board will be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 4 June at Avebury House, 9 Eveleyn Couzins Avenue, Richmond, Christchurch.

If there is an issue or concern in your community that you would like to raise with the Board, you are welcome to apply for speaking rights at the Board meeting. If you wish to apply for speaking rights, please contact the Community Secretary on 941-6615 by Friday, 23 May.

News and views and items of interest are needed from you, the people of Richmond Community for inclusion in the monthly newspaper. We need your input to offer a balanced content. All contributions are treated equally and with respect. Any opinion is that of the writer only. Submissions to be sent to avebury@paradise.net.nz or to Richmond Community News, PO Box 26-097, North Avon.

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