

Village Life

STANFORD IN THE CAPE OVERBERG

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The Blom & Blits is for everybody

The annual Blom & Blits festival is organised for all people of Stanford, and the organisers are confident that residents from all parts of the community and all walks of life will take part this year.

The festival, to be held from Friday, 7 November to Sunday, 9 November under the auspices of the Stanford Tourism Bureau, has already attracted wide support and sponsorship. It promises to be bigger and better than ever before.

Many events have been confirmed, but others are still in the process of being organised. All locals are invited to contact the organisers with suggestions, including setting up stalls to sell take-aways, cakes, home-made delicacies or crafts.

The committee hopes to donate part of the income from the festival to Stanplan, a non-profit organisation which has been formed to help address the socio-economic needs of the formerly disadvantaged sections of the community. Stanplan's first planned projects are crèches and a community centre in Stanford South.

Some of the planned events for the Blom & Blits are:

Welsh pony competitions and displays on the Village Common the Saturday will include purebred Welsh in hand and harness classes, riding and carriage classes open to all breeds, children's fancydress and jumping. Judges for these events are being flown in from Johannesburg, thanks to a sponsorship. A horse-and-buggy time trial through the village has also been mooted.

Producers and exporters of fynbos flowers will have displays throughout the village, mostly in churches. They may also arrange demonstrations of soap and paper making.

The "blits" part of the festival will take the form of a tasting of locally produced witblits,

wine and cheese at Oom Steyn's Wine Shop.

Sunday may see a display of Dragon Boats on the river, with trips for visitors. The African Queen and Platanna will offer river cruises and bird watching rides respectively all weekend.

All the establishments in Queen Victoria Street and adjacent side streets will have stoep displays and offer something to eat and to drink. Take-away and other stalls will be located on the parking area next to Spar, and Buzzy Bees Pre-primary will sell refreshments on the village common.

An exhibition of new work by artists from the region will open at the Stanford Inn the Friday evening. Any artist who wishes to participate, should contact Gay du Toit on (028) 341 0260. A crafts market will be run by Quentin Green on the grounds of Dowies House Shop.

Other displays include one on the history of the village, one on beer making by the Birkenhead Brewery, and others by the Tourism Bureau and the Conservation Trust.

There will be music and parades, a dance (probably in the Kiewiet Hall), choirs, Xhosa and praise dances, a selection of French *chansons*, including a troupe of can-can girls, a baby photo competition, an art workshop for children, a demonstration of whip making by Oom Koos Jordaan, a soccer tournament, tractor rides through the village, an interdenominational church service, and more.

Anybody who wishes to be involved in the festival, should contact the Stanford Tourism Bureau on (028) 341 0340. ■



Isabel Otto and her pony Bella's Dream (also known as Rooi Boet) at a recent meet of horses and buggies on Syringa Farm. Welsh ponies, including carriages, will be a main feature of the Blom & Blits festival.

News and views for locals, by locals

VILLAGE LIFE, which is envisaged as a monthly newspaper, will be produced by residents of Stanford with the aim of informing all stakeholders of local events and to highlight our interesting history, people and environment.

The success of the newspaper will ultimately depend on support from everybody in and around our village, and especially advertisers. Although the primary motivation of the publishers is not to make money, the paper will have to support itself to survive. The cover price and advertising rates are directly determined by production costs.

Although costs will be kept down, quality will not be sacrificed. Design and production values are much higher than normally seen

in local newspapers. This should make the paper more pleasant to read, and advertisers will benefit from neater, more accessible ads.

Stanford News, so competently produced by the Tourism Bureau in the past, will cease publication if VILLAGE LIFE succeeds.

Distribution will be through businesses in the village and the wider Overberg. The paper will also be used in a marketing drive to promote Stanford as a tourism and convention destination. ■

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