U3A STILBAAI

DIT EN DAT
16 Julie 2020

Wat ons nou mag en nie mag doen nie.

Die Nasionale Ramptoestand regulasies wat Sondagaand promulgeer is, verbied weer die verkope van alkoholiese drank. 'n Welkome verandering is dat parke nou oop is vir oefening, maar strande nog steeds toe is. Die verbod op sosiale byeenkomste, insluitend besoeke aan familie en vriende staan nog steeds. Verder is die vereistes vir die dra van 'n masker versterk.

Soos in die res van die land is daar ook hier in Stilbaai tekens dat mense die afgelope weke die regulasies begin ignoreer het. Mens kry die indruk dat mense meen die krisis is verby, maar die ergste deel van die krisis het nou eers begin. Ons moet maar net deurdruk en ons deel doen om seker te maak dat die virus nie verder versrpei nie.

Voëlgroep hou ons besig

Die Voëlgroep se Virtual Museum projek word goed deur ons lede ondersteun. Vir meer inligting oor deelname, en ook om die foto's te sien, gaan na Projekte op die Voëlgroep seksie van ons U3A Stilbaai webtuiste.

Enige lid van U3A Stilbaai kan deelneem aan hierdie projek, dit is nie net vir lede van die Voëlgroep nie. Al wat u nodig het is 'n kamera of selfoon.

STILBAAI GESKIEDENIS BROKKIES

Niel van Wyk

'n Paar weke gelede het ek 'n epos ontvang van een van ons lede wat 'n aantal vrae vra oor die ontstaan en geskiedenis van Stilbaai. Ek het 'n paar stukkies oor die geskiedenis geskryf – dié word ingesluit in die nuus wat ons van tyd tot tyd aan ons lede stuur.

Ontstaan van Stilbaai

Die vraag wanneer Stilbaai tot stand gekom het, het meer as een antwoord, afhangende van wat bedoel word as "totstandkoming."

Die Afdelingsraad van Riversdal, wat in 1859 gestig is, het as die beheerliggaam die eerste erwe in die 1870's uitgelê. In 1962 is 'n Dorpsraad gestig om die administrasie van Stilbaai oor te neem, en in 1966 het die dorp munisipale status gekry.

Maar Stilbaai was 'n vakansie en hengel oord vir Riversdal en omliggende gemeenskappe lank voor die eerste erwe uitgelê is. Riversdal het in 1838 tot stand gekom, nog voor dit het plaaslike boere na die see by die mond van wat toe die Kafferkuilsrivier was getrek om vis te vang en te ontspan – heel waarskynlik al van die laat 1700's of vroeë 1800's. Boere het die besoekers toegelaat om tentkampe naby die rivier en die see op te rig, in latere jare was die Uitspan aan die oostekant van

THIS AND THAT
16 July 2020

What we now may and may not do.

The National Disaster regulations promulgated on Sunday night again ban the sales of alcoholic liquor. A welcome change is that parks are now open for exercise, but beaches are still closed. The ban on social gatherings, including visiting family and friends is still on the books. In addition the requirements to wear a mask have been reinforced.

As in the rest of the country there are also signs here in Stilbaai that over the past weeks people have been ignoring the regulations. One gets the impression that people think the crisis is over, but the worst of the crisis is only just beginning. We'll just have to carry on and do our bit to ensure that the virus does not spread further.

Bird Group keeping us busy

The Bird Group's Virtual Museum project is well supported by our members. For more information about how to participate, and to see the photos submitted, go to Projects on the Bird Group section of our U3A Stilbaai website.

Any member of U3A Stilbaai can particpate in this project, it is not only for members of the Bird Group. All that you need is a camera or cellphone.

STILBAAI HISTORY SNIPPETS

Niel van Wyk

A few weeks ago I had an email from one of our members posing several questions about the origins and history of Stilbaai. I have written a few short pieces about this history – these will be included in the news we send to our members from time to time.

Origins of Stilbaai

The question about when Stilbaai was first established actually has several answers, depending on is meant by "established."

The Divisional Council of Riversdale, established in 1859, had jurisidiction and laid out the first erven during the 1870's. In 1962 a Village Council took over the administration of the town; and in 1966 the town achieved municipal status.

However, Stilbaai was a holiday and fishing resort for Riversdale and surrounding communities long before the first erven were laid out. Riversdale was established in 1838, long before that local farmers trekked down to the sea to what was then the Kafferkuils River mouth to fish and relax – this probably dated from the late 1700's and early 1800's. The farmers allowed the visitors to set up tent camps near the river and the sea, in later years the Outspan on the eastern side of the river mouth behind

die riviermonding agter die sandduine die populêre kampeerterrein – dit het bekend geword as Lappiesbaai. Die plaas aan die ooste kant van die rivier vanaf Olive Grove tot by die see was Ellensrust, en die kampeerterrein was gedeeltelik op die plaas en op die staatsgrond langs die riviermonding.

In 1866 doen inwoners van Riversdal en distrik by die Siviele Kommissaris, Maurice Garcia, aansoek om die Uitspan in erwe op te deel sodat hulle hutte kon oprig vir gebruik tydens die vis-seisoen. In 1873 het die Afdelingsraad 12 erwe opgemeet, nie by die Uitspan nie maar op die westelike oewer van die rivier van die Palinggat stroom noordwaarts. Dit was op die plaas van Johannes Guillaume Steyn. Steyn het reeds 'n vakansie huisie langs die Palinggat stroom gebou, die huis is in 1896 deur Dirk Versveld aangekoop en Riverina gedoop – die huis is nog daar en word bewoon deur Dirk se kleinseun, David James.

In 1894 is dertig erwe opgemeet op die seefront wes van die riviermonding – dit is dié wat nou op Skuitpadweg is en die voorste ry op Wesstrand. Maar, toe hulle in 1895 opgeveil is, is net vier erwe verkoop, Danie van Wyk en sy broer Frans het elk 2 gekoop vir £7.10 per erf. In 1896 het Eerw. GW Anderson die mees suidelikste erf gekoop en die eerste strand-huisie op die seefront gebou (oorkant die huidige hawe). In die laat 1920's is die erf deur Dr John Muir gekoop en is nog steeds in die Muir familie, alhoewel dit nie meer die laaste in die ry is nie.

Gedurende die laat 1890's is 'n paar huisies gebou op die oostelike oewer op die rand van die vloedplein by die Braak. Hierdie huisies is erg beskadig tydens die groot vloed van 1902 – die vloed het mense ontmoedig om verder daar te ontwikkel, en die gebrek aan varswater bronne aan die ooste kant was ook 'n probleem. Meer erwe is vanaf die 1910's om die Braak en langs wat nou Vanwykstraat is, uitgelê. Voor by die see het WM Hofmeyr op sy plaas Ellensrust erwe op die voorste duin uitgelê, die eiendom is in 1926 deur Leon Gordon gekoop en die erwe is eers na 1945 verkoop – vandag is dit die ry seefront erwe oos van Lappiesbaai strand.

Bibliografie

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Nota: Daar is altyd leemtes in enige geskiedenis, en in die geskiedenis van Stilbaai is daar leemtes van wat in die vroeë dae gebeur het, d.w.s. voor die 1920's. Die probleem is dat, terwyl daar baie stories en brokkies geskiedenis is wat oorvertel word, is daar min dokumentêre bewys om al die stories te staaf.

Toe Helene Steyn se *Stilbaai* in 1983 gepubliseer is, was daar gapings in die geskiedenis in die boek. Daarna is sy voorsien van meer data met bewyse, en dit is in haar 1996 Engelse weergawe van die boek ingesluit; Marie-Lou Roux het ook addisionele inligting voorsien wat bygevoeg is. In hierdie geskiedenis brokkies gebruik ons die Engelse weergawe as ons hoof bron dokument.

the sand dunes was the popular spot for camping – this became known as Lappiesbaai. The farm on the eastern side of the river from Olive Grove to the sea was Ellensrust, the camping site was partially on the farm and on state land adjacent to the river mouth.

In 1866 residents from Riversdale and district applied to the Civil Commissioner, Maurice Garcia, to have the Outspan divided into erven so that they could erect cottages for use during the fishing season. In 1873 the Divisional Council surveyed 12 erven, not at the Outspan but on the western bank of the river from the Palinggat stream northwards, this was on the the farm of Johannes Guillaume Steyn. Steyn had already built a holiday cottage next to the Palinggat stream, this house was bought in 1896 by Dirk Versveld and named Riverina – the house is still there and is the residence of Dirk's grandson, David James.

In 1894 thirty erven were surveyed on the sea front west of the river mouth – these are on what is now Skuitpadweg and the front row at West Beach. But, when they were auctioned in 1895 only four stands were sold, Frans van Wyk and his brother Danie each bought 2 plots for £7.10 per plot. In 1896 Rev GW Anderson bought the plot at the southern end and built the first cottage on the sea front (opposite the present harbour). In the late 1920's this plot was bought by Dr John Muir, and is still in the Muir family; but it is no longer at the end of the row.

During the late 1890's a few cottages were built on the eastern bank on the edge of the floodplain at the Braak. These structures were severely damaged by the great flood of 1902 – memories of this flood discouraged people from developing plots there, but a problem was also the absence of fresh water sources on the eastern bank. More erven were only laid out in the area round the Braak and along what is now Vanwyk Street from the 1910's onwards. On the seafront WH Hofmeyr laid out erven on the frontal dune on his farm Ellensrust, the property was purchased by Leon Gordon in 1926 and the erven only sold after 1945 – these are the row of seafront erven east of Lappiesbaai beach.

Bibliography

Erasmus, Carina. 1988. *Die Geskiedenis van Riversdal 1838-1900*. MA History thesis, UNISA.
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Van Wyk, Frans. 1988. *Riversdal 1838-1988.* National Book Publishers, Cape Town.

Note: There are always gaps in any history, and in the history of Stilbaai there are gaps about what happened in the early days before the 1920's. The problem is that, while there are many stories and bits of history repeated over generations, there is little documentary proof to support all these stories.

When Helene Steyn's *Stilbaai* was published in 1983, there were gaps in the history in the book. Subsequently she was provided with more proven data, and this was incorporated in her 1996 English edition of the book; Marie-Lou Roux also provided additional information which was added to the contents. In these histories we use the English edition as our main source document.

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