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**Waitrose offer reminder**

Waitrose is offering to shop for your essential items (**up to £40 worth**) and deliver them to your home on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 10:00-12:00 noon.**

Please see our website for more details, or a previous newsletter.

**VE Day**

*'The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry'.*

The planned VE Day celebrations had been organised and expected to be a momentous weekend to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. The government announced that the Early May Bank Holiday would be moved for only the second time in history to the VE weekend of the 8 May, so that a spectacular three-day celebration could take place.

**A special VE Day newsletter will be produced next week, by Jean and daughter, Kim (in place of this one).**

# Rockdale

*Nature is still carrying on as normal despite all the commotion going on around it. Some pictures from Head Gardener, Annette below. Apparently, the lilac (pink flower) smells gorgeous. As Annette said, shame we can't provide smelly pictures!*



*Pic kindly provided by John W*

## Residents' marks of respect



Lots of beautiful rainbows are popping up around Rockdale to help spread some positivity and to show how grateful we are for NHS workers!

We think the knitted rainbow is a great idea too! An idea that could catch on for any age group.

If you can knit or have some paints available, why not make some decorations to put outside your apartment for everyone to enjoy?



## Possibility of an online book club!

Sevenoaks Bookshop is offering to run an online book group for Rockdale residents.

*Sevenoaks Bookshop*

Zoom is their platform of choice currently. You don't need to have any particular software, just access to the internet and a computer with a camera and audio facilities. The book they have in mind is – 'Meet Me at The Museum' by Anne Youngson. It's a debut novel the author published when she was about 70 and it was on the Costa Prize shortlist. The group would need to be about 5 or 6 residents minimum.

Sevenoaks Bookshop will deliver the books to Rockdale and the book costs £8.99. If you would like to register your interest, please email [denise.tucker@rockdale.org.uk](mailto:denise.tucker@rockdale.org.uk)



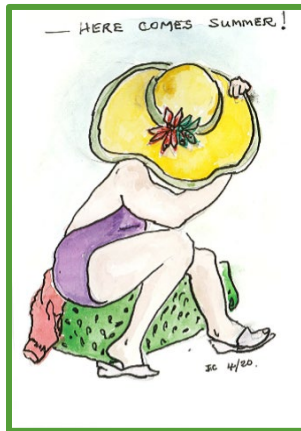
## Residents' contributions

### What did Shakespeare ask his cheese monger?

*To brie or not to brie!*

### Why didn't the cheese want to be sliced?

*Because it had greater plans!*



### THE DANCING QUEEN

There was a 'young' lady from Rockdale  
Who went to a charity frock sale.  
The dress that she bought  
Was the very same sort  
She once wore for dancing and cocktail.  
Then she dreamed of a night, and a kiss,  
And a boy who forever she'd miss.  
And during the lock-down  
She took that black frock down  
And danced, till her heart filled with bliss.

### Nostradamus wrote in the year 1551:-

There will be a twin year (2020?) from which will arise a queen (Corona?) who will come from the East (China?) and who will spread a plague (virus?) in the darkness of night, on a country with Seven Hills (Italy?) and will transform the twilight of men into dust (death?), to destroy and ruin the world. It will be the end of the world economy as you know it.

Nostradamus also wrote 'Beware of the Yellow Peril!'  
*Janet*

### ECLIPSE the legendary racehorse born in 1764, from whom EVERY LIVING RACEHORSE is traced back to him.

#### ECLIPSE

A foal of 1764

Great fame would claim forever more.

Named for his twin (a sun eclipse)

He scorned the need for spurs or whips  
To lead the field, at headstrong pace,  
And forge ahead - in every race.

A broadsheet charts them, run by run  
Of eighteen starts, all eighteen won -  
On drought-dry courses or in mud.

And when at last retired to stud,  
He far 'eclipsed' the competition  
To bring his horsehood to fruition.

Today the bloodlines for the birth  
Include Eclipse: his horsepower genes  
Sustain 'the sport of kings' - and queens

Thus, though he died (as so must we)

His soul lives on, through progeny.

His skeleton is kept on show,

But nothing can the dead still show.

*By Janet's sister*

### A prospective husband is in a bookshop

"Do you have a book called Husband—the Master of the House"?

Sales girl: Sir, Fiction and Comics are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor."

### For All Those Born prior To 1945 - We Are Survivors

Consider the changes we have witnessed:

We were before television, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses and the Pill. We were before radar, credit card, laser beams and ball point pens. Before pantyhose, dishwashers, electric blankets air-conditioners and before Man Walked on the Moon.

We got married first and then lived together, how quaint can you be! In our time closets were for clothes and not for "coming out" and designer jeans were scheming girls named Jean! We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and outer space was the back-row of the cinema.

We were before house husbands, Gay rights, computer dating. We'd never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors. A chip meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word. Time-sharing meant togetherness and instant coffee was unheard of.

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, coke was a cold drink and pot was something you cooked in!

Rock music was a grandma's lullaby and aids was someone or something to help you on your way.

We made do with what we had, and we were the last generation silly enough to think that you needed a husband to have a baby!!

*Olive*

## Food Quiz

1. Named after an Earl
2. Are these off the old block
3. The home let tenant hid this
4. Does a young sheep use an axe (2)
5. Cooked in a large state (2)
6. Is it the queens bath item (2)
7. Rodents go round in northerly direction
8. Stoat did a summersault for breakfast
9. Are they from hens north of the border (2)
10. Are these shellfish strong
11. Is it a rod from Paris (2)
12. From the gorge?
13. Little Richard appears to have measles (2)
14. Is it made from thick London fog (2)
15. Does cone conceal it?
16. Alive I'm black, cooked I'm Red
17. Is it a very small desert?
18. A kind of Elk gives this one
19. Father and girl make this foreign dish
20. Shapes made by red headed baker (2)

## Here are the answers to the Plants Quiz from last week's newsletter.

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Viola          | 11. Bluebells       |
| 2. Daffodil       | 12. Primrose        |
| 3. Iris           | 13. Rose            |
| 4. Sweet William  | 14. Cornflour       |
| 5. Crocus         | 15. Canterbury Bell |
| 6. Golden Rod     | 16. Foxglove        |
| 7. Stocks         | 17. Violet          |
| 8. Carnation      | 18. Dandelion       |
| 9. Love in a mist | 19. Hollyhock       |
| 10. Marigold      | 20. Cowslip         |

Weekly quiz kindly provided by Sybil G

(Answers to Sybil's quiz in 2 week's time).



## New arrivals to the world!

### We welcome ....

Tula, Great Granddaughter of a resident – congratulations!

Reed-Milana, Malcolm and Ellen's new Granddaughter – congratulations to you and all your family.

## Cheer for the NHS.

Show your support for everything they are doing to keep this country as safe as possible. **Every Thursday evening at 8pm. Clap your hands or beat your pans!**

## "The Rockdale Wave" MONDAYS AT 2pm.

Wave with your Neighbour! Stand at your window, stand at your door.

Give a big wave to your neighbours and Staff!

## You can pay online

If residents would like to pay online any sundry invoices they receive from Rockdale (eg, for home help), please use the details below with reference, 'home help', etc.

Account Name: Rockdale Housing Association Ltd.  
Account Number: 25848488 Sort Code: 60-19-02

## Have a chat

If you are feeling a bit lonely and want to have a chat, please use the **Tunstall call system** and we will arrange for someone to call you back.

## Get to know each other better using this newsletter

Lots of residents will enjoy reading each other's stories. Please email [denise.tucker@rockdale.org.uk](mailto:denise.tucker@rockdale.org.uk) or speak to Jean if you have something we can share in future newsletters.

Produced by Charlotte Tucker, GCSE