

- Nature section
- Quiz by Sybil
- VE Day celebration
- Helpful information
- Contributions

### 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.

The person who calls you back, may be a member of staff or a fellow resident.

### Thank you for your lovely emails about this newsletter and your contributions.

A weekly newsletter to bring our community together during these challenging times. Please send anything for this newsletter to [denise.tucker@rockdale.org.uk](mailto:denise.tucker@rockdale.org.uk)

# Rockdale

The site is in bloom. Enjoy the gardens during this beautiful time of the year. Pictures kindly provided by Annette.



### Tomato plant – grow your own? (tip from Annette)

You can use beefsteaks or even cherry tomatoes when planting tomato slices.

To begin, fill a pot or container with potting soil, almost to the top of the container. Slice the tomato into 1/4 inch thick slices. Lay the tomato slices cut sides down in a circle around the pot, and lightly cover them with more potting soil. Don't put too many slices in.

Water the pot of slicing tomatoes and keep it moist. The seeds should begin to germinate within 7-14 days. You will end up with upwards of 30-50 tomato seedlings. Select the strongest ones and transplant them to another pot in groups of four. After the four have grown a bit, select the 1 or 2 strongest and allow them to grow. Good luck and enjoy!





## VE Day celebrations at Rockdale



VE Day celebrations were enjoyed by all at Rockdale, which included a Vera Lynn walk around and wave at 3pm. It was a great team effort to make 180 party-teas!



### Lovely messages received, with thanks

"A very sincere thank you to your group/land girls of Rockdale for such a very successful celebration for 75 years of VE day"

"I would like to thank the staff very much for all their hard work they put into making the anniversary of VE Day so special"



## Contributions

### Memories of VE Day - by John Smoker (Janet's brother)

In May 1945 my family home was in Catford in South East London.

Winston Churchill announced the Germans had signed an armistice declaring unconditional surrender. 8th May was to be a day of celebration and victory.

My two older sisters Barbara and Celia were away on active service. Barbara in the Wrens and Celia in the WAAFS.. My third sister Betty had recently got a job in Pathe News.. Paula, Janet and I were still school children.

We were taken by my father on the no 74 tram to Central London to join the celebrations. Also in our party was Mr Hurley. Mr and Mrs Hurley had fostered Paula and Janet in 1942 whilst my mother was seriously ill.

Mum and Mrs Hurley remained in Catford preparing tea. It consisted mainly of sardine sandwiches. Fish was never rationed.

Our party of 5 meanwhile alighted in The Strand close to Trafalgar Square to join a flood of humanity crowding down The Mall towards Buckingham Palace.

The scene has been preserved on film by Pathe News. Whenever I see the moving pictures I try to see if I can spot myself. I have failed.

I know exactly our location. We stood and shouted "We want the King"

From our vantage point just to the left of the Queen Victoria as viewed from the Palace. We had a fine view when the King and Queen appeared on the balcony, shortly followed by Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose.

Finally Mr Churchill joined the Royal Family. Great waves of applause greeted each of the participants as they waved to the throngs.

We had celebrated as planned. We headed home for tea. Thin slices of National loaf with the merest scraping of margarine with sardines and cucumbers to bring us home to reality. Rationing continued until 1952.



Caz's granddaughter, Mali, age 3 has been busy with pebble art to hide around Rockdale and making the beautiful poster shown above (as well as making sure there's time to chill in the garden with an ice lolly of course!).

Being a firm believer in life after death I will be an OWH. Why?  
'For I will have eternal life  
I will be in paradise  
and it will be a hoot!'

Geoff. (B.W)

#### LOVE AT ARM'S LENGTH

A couple called Mary and Fred

Got so bored that one day Mary said

Why not let the virus

Transform and inspire us

To be socially distant instead.

## Shops Quiz (remember them?)

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Frozen solid earth                  | 11. Flame grilled royal             |
| 2. Nancy sang of these                 | 12. Tandoori and Vindaloo           |
| 3. First in the queue, you are this    | 13. Politically correct planet      |
| 4. People rescue glasses               | 14. Number one store                |
| 5. Place to purchase Body parts        | 15. Tell this girl to linger        |
| 6. A fantastic medical substance       | 16. Your natural environment        |
| 7. Hillary and Bills                   | 17. Rainy season in the east        |
| 8. American Scottish clan              | 18. Trade in white electrical goods |
| 9. Foundation for a cosy building      | 19. They married into Royal circles |
| 10. Flying insect and a line of people | 20. At weekend hotel, incognito     |
- (Answers in next week's newsletter)

Weekly quiz kindly provided by  
Sybil G

### Message for Circle Dancing

*I am missing you all very much and hope you are all well and I look forward to the time when we can start dancing again. With my very warmest wishes & remembrances, Sandy Wade*

For Rockdale residents with access to the internet, Sevenoaks Bookshop is offering to run an online book group. The group would need to be about 5 or 6 residents minimum. 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. 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)

We have had some interest after last week's newsletter.

## 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!**

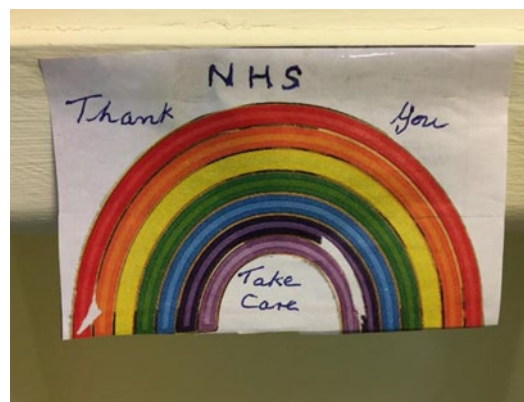
### You can pay online

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

## Here are the answers to the Food Quiz from Issue 6

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Sandwich        | 11. French stick    |
| 2. Chips           | 12. Cheddar         |
| 3. Omelette        | 13. Spotted Dick    |
| 4. Lamb Chops      | 14. Pea Soup        |
| 5. Baked Alaska    | 15. Scone           |
| 6. Victoria Sponge | 16. Lobster         |
| 7. Mince           | 17. Trifle          |
| 8. Toast           | 18. Mousse          |
| 9. Scotch Eggs     | 19. Paella          |
| 10. Mussels        | 20. Gingerbread Man |



### "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!

### Lettings Administrator

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, Louise Wixen recently left Rockdale. We are pleased to say that we have successfully recruited to the post and Hannah Evenden will be starting in the position of Lettings Administrator on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. You may know Hannah, as she has been working with us part-time for the past few months on Reception in The Lodge. We are looking forward to welcoming Hannah to her new role.