

## VILLAGE PEOPLE – Bill Collins 90 years old and still flying high !

by Ginny Viner

Our very first 'Village Person' to be featured, is a well-loved character, who can often be seen around town on his trusty old bike, on the bowling green or propping up the bar after a game of tennis. However on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, you would have needed to look up to find him, as Bill Collins was enjoying his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday gift from his family, a 'paragliding' session from Clouid Nine!

### 1) Where were you born, and where did you grow up ?

I was born in Cape Town in 1925, and grew up in Cape Town, Grahamstown and Johannesburg.

### 2) How do you relax?

After lunch I often watch TV with my eyes closed, that's relaxing...seriously, I enjoy reading, and sharing a glass of wine with Audrey, my wife, is a special pleasure.

### 3) Are you a globe-trotting adventurer, a jet-setter or

when you travel do you prefer local attractions?

I used to venture to many countries for business and holidays, in years gone past, but these days I confine my travel to local attractions.

### 4) If you knew this was to be your last meal, what would you order?

Crayfish and draft beer followed by a good old-fashioned trifle with a generous share of sherry in it. Finishing up with an Irish coffee....or two.

### 5) Do you have a 'Bucket List' and if so what's on the top ?

Yes, helping my family comes top of my list, and until recently catching a 2KG Bass was near the top. That has gone to the bottom since I fell out of my canoe in Groenvlei and took some time to get to dry land with canoe, rod and gear!

### 6) Please complete this sentence; Not many people know that I .....

have double-vision, which results in me being able to see

twice as much as normal. I do close one eye however when playing bowls and tennis.

### 7) Are you competitive, or is it more about playing the game?

I am competitive, but I enjoy playing the game whether win or lose. Social Bowls fits the 'Bill' as it is both competitive and entertaining. Those who play enjoy the competition of a Team Sport and the socialising on and off the green, adds that much more.

### 8) What's the first thing you do in the morning (after your ablutions naturally !)

At home I spend twenty minutes sweeping, before walking the dog.

### 9) Do you like to dance? And if so do you Hip Hop or is it Strictly Ballroom?

I do like to dance although everyone else always appears to be 'out of step'. I'm told that's because I don't follow the music.

### 10) What constitutes a 'real treat' for you?

A gathering of family and friends around a Braai, the best company, the best food, a real treat.

### 11) In your working life, what line or profession have you been, or still are, mainly involved with?

Other than the SA Navy, and being seconded to the Royal Navy (HMS Queen Elizabeth) during World War II, I spent forty years with an engineering company, manufacture and sales of pumps being our main activity. We became the largest South African owned pump company in South Africa.

### 12) If I were a cartoon character I think I would be?

Popeye the Sailor man.

### 13) What do you read?

I like non-fiction particularly war related. The type of novels



Bill Collins turned 90 on Saturday and on Sunday said he wanted to do something new so went and jumped off Cloud Nine, after a career in the Navy he has now joined the Air Force, well done Bill.

written by John Grisham and Jeffery Archer I also find enjoyable.

### 14) Please complete this sentence; I think Sedgfield ...

is in every respect, lifestyle and environment the best town to

call home. This is particularly true in retirement. Aside from being surrounded by lovely scenery and beautiful beaches, the society and sporting facilities to suit all ages, are splendid.

## SWEDEN TO AFRICA BY BIKE

Last week Sedge resident and owner of AfroVibe Lyle Katzen was reminded by his wife Limea that a friend of hers from Sweden was coming to stay for a few days. He didn't think this was in any way out of the ordinary until she mentioned that he wasn't flying in, he was cycling in .... And had actually departed from his home town of Gothenburg just short of two years ago!



Caught in the "KissmyAfrovibe" Frame:- Carl-David Granbäck (in the blue) stands with Lyle and Limea Katzen whilst Cindy of AfroVibe 'holds it all together'.

It was 23 June 2013 when Carl-David Granbäck left a small farewell gathering of friends and family, and started pedalling his way on his epic journey. One which would take him over 28 500km of road and path networks all the way to Cape Town.... Just for the experience! This was his second major cycling trip, the first being from 2009 to 2010 when he covered a phenomenal 12,436km in South America, so he set off on his 'Sweden to Africa' ride with much excitement.

After zig - zagging through Europe (he needed to visit a few friends) he crossed over to Morocco from Spain on the ferry, then began working his way down the west coast of Africa.

There is obviously not enough space to relay all his experiences here, but sitting and talking with him over a cup of coffee for an hour left me in no doubt that he really has had more adventure than most of us experience in a life-time. He has been blown away by both the beauty and the harshness of this continent - the landscape AND the people.

Carl-David says his most terrifying moment was in Nigeria when he suddenly found himself surrounded by a crowd of about 70 people, all visibly angry and shouting accusations that he was a suspected Boko Haram terrorist! Eventually two men on motorcycles appeared claiming that they were the police, and wanted to search him.

"My refusal caused complete chaos and the crowd went crazy, waving their arms at me and screaming 'Boko Haram'", he recalls, adding that one of the police officers had actually hit one of the men in the crowd in his face after he had pushed to

close to them. After a terrifying trip during which he became totally convinced they were going to take him into the bush and rob him blind, or even worse, they eventually led him to a nearby police station, where he spent the night - out of choice!

"The people working the night shift told me that I was lucky that the police had intervened at the scene, otherwise the crowd could easily have lynched me," he said, "Day #374 was a day to remember!"

Carl-David says he was quite amazed by the remoteness of some of the places he experienced along the route. "In the DRC I did almost 1000km on dirt trails" he said "In one of the villages I visited they said they hadn't seen a white man there for over thirty years!"

Asked if he ever got lonely he said yes - but not in the remote areas as one would expect.

"I'm happy with my own company most of the time, but going into the bigger cities and not knowing anyone can get real lonely."

The beauty of Carl-David's trip is that he has chosen not to stick to any formal time table. If he finds a place that he likes, or feels like he needs a break - he simply stops for a while. "I suppose overall I cycle for 50% of the time. Sometimes I ride every day for two weeks, but then I have also stopped for a three week break along the route!" he says.

His bike is custom built with a

very strong frame and hub gears (ie inside the hub of the back wheel) and he carries all his camping equipment and some rudimentary cooking utensils with him, as well as a couple of spare tubes and some patches.

He buys his food along the way - normally at supermarkets or spaza shops he passes, but in some of the more remote villages this hasn't been possible.

"Sometimes I have had to stop at someone's home and offer to pay them to cook something for me." He quickly added that South Africa is a real pleasure as far as easy access to food is concerned.

After spending a few nights with friends old and new in Sedgfield (he was on kilometre No 28102 by then!), Carl-David was back in the saddle for the Friday 1 May holiday, and accompanied by his Sedgfield Host Lyle and local cyclist Ben Olivier he pedalled off to Mossel Bay. He was obviously glad of the company - who could blame him after one year and ten a half months of riding solo.

"Will you do another trip?" we asked him prior to his departure.

"Of course!" he answered, "But not alone. Next time I want someone along to keep me company and share the experience." Thinking about it he smiled, "Now THAT would be the ultimate test of a relationship!"

Visit Carl-David's blog on [www.swedentofrica.com](http://www.swedentofrica.com) if you would like to know more about his fantastic experiences. It is very well written and makes for a brilliant read.



**ORDONNANSIE OP GRONDGEWIKKEBEPLANNING, 1985  
(ORDONNANSIE 15 VAN 1985)  
KAAP MUNISIPALE ORDONNANSIE, 1974  
(ORDONNANSIE 20 VAN 1974);  
WET OP PLAASLIKE REGERING: MUNISIPALE STELSLS, 2000  
(WET 32 VAN 2000)**

**VOORGESTELDE HERSONERING, ONDERVERDELING,  
STRAATSLUITING EN VERVREEMDING:  
SEDFIELD ERF 1669 (BOSBOKSTRAAT, SEDGFIELD)**

Kennis is hiermee gebied in gevolge Artikels 17 en 24 van die Ordonnansie op Grondgebruikbeplanning (Ordonnansie 15 van 1985), sowel as die Kaapse Munisipale Ordonnansie (Ordonnansie 20 van 1974), dat die onderstaande aansoek deur die Munisipale Bestuurder ontvang is en gedurende kantoor ure ter insae lê by die Munisipale Stadsbeplannings Kantore, 2e vloer, Kerkstraat 3, Knysna en die Sedgfield munisipale kantore en die Sedgfield biblioteek, te Flamingostraat, Sedgfield. Die aansoek kan ook afgelaai word van [www.vreken.co.za](http://www.vreken.co.za)

Enige besware met volledige redes daarvoor, moet skriftelik by die Munisipale Bestuurder, Posbus 21, Knysna, 6570 ingedien word voor of op 15:00 op **Maandag 8 Junie 2015** met vermelding van bogenoemde Ordonnansie en beswaarmaker se erfnummer / eiendomsbeskrywing.

Ingevolge Artikel 21(4) van die Wet op Plaaslike Regering: Munisipale Stelsels, 2000 (Wet 32 van 2000) word hiermee verder kennis gegee dat persone wat nie kan skryf nie, die Stadsbeplanningsafdeling kan nader tydens normale kantoorure waar die Sekretaris u sal verwys na die betrokke amptenaar wat u sal help om u kommentaar of besware op skrif te stel.

#### Aard van aansoek:

- 1) Die sluiting en vervreemding van 'n gedeelte van Bosbokstraat (2736 m<sup>2</sup>) ingevolge van die Kaapse Munisipale Ordonnansie, 1974 (Ordonnansie 20 van 1974);
- 2) Die onderverdeling van Sedgfield Erf 1669 in drie (3) gedeeltes (Gedeelte A = 2514m<sup>2</sup>, Gedeelte B = 2736m<sup>2</sup> en 'n Restant = 2249m<sup>2</sup>, ingevolge Artikel 24 van die Ordonnansie op Grondgebruikbeplanning 1985, (Ordonnansie 15 van 1985).
- 3) Die hersonering van Gedeelte A van Bosbokstraat (2514m<sup>2</sup>) na Groep behuising om soodoende die onderverdeelde gedeelte van Bos Bok Straat as 'n private pad te gebruik; in terme van Artikel 17 van die Ordonnansie op Grondgebruikbeplanning 1985, (Ordonnansie 15 van 1985).
- 4) Die hersonering van Gedeelte B van Bosbokstraat na Groepsbehuising om soodoende die onderverdeelde gedeelte van Bos Bok Straat as 'n private oopruimte te gebruik; in terme van Artikel 17 van die Ordonnansie op Grondgebruikbeplanning 1985, (Ordonnansie 15 van 1985).

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