

Sea Mail

Halloween Edition



The history of Halloween

The story behind trick or treating dates back to the earliest times when people wore masks when droughts, diseases or other disasters struck. They believed that the hideous masks could frighten off the demons who brought about their misfortunes.

The pagan festival of **Samhain**

(pronounced: Saa-ween) came at a time of year when the weather was turning chilly and cold, and the Sun God had perished and it was a time to thank him for the bounty of the harvest from the Summer before. They believe it is the time when the veil between worlds is at its thinnest and they would use divination (tarot, runes, clairvoyance) to connect with them. In the old days, people who went out after dark often wore masks to keep from being recognized.

In parts of England during the dry seasons, where there was little or no food or drink, the poor went to houses singing and begging for soul cakes or money. Until very recently children would dress up as ghosts and goblins to scare the neighbours, but there was no trick or treating, there was either a donation or a beating.

Around 40 years ago people began to offer treats to their costumed visitors.

The Irish brought Halloween to America in the 1840's although the custom of trick-or-treating is thought to have its origins in a ninth-century European custom called souling. On November 2, All Souls Day, early Christians would walk from village to village begging for "soul cakes" made of

bread with currants. The more soul cakes the beggars would receive, the more prayers they promised to say on behalf of the dead relatives of the donors. It was believed that the dead remained in limbo for a time after death, and that prayer, even by strangers, would expedite a soul's admittance into heaven.

Over time the custom changed and children became the beggars. As they went from house to house they would be given apples, buns, money and other treats to insure that the ghosts or goblins didn't play tricks.

The Jack-o'-Lantern

The *name* "Jack-o'-lantern" has changed in meaning several times. It was first recorded as a nickname for a night watchman, dating back to 1663. Around the same time, it was used as another name for a

will-o'-the-wisp.

It began to be used for pumpkin lanterns sometime in the 19th century. It's possible that the name simply went from the night watchman (a man holding a lantern) to the lantern itself. On the other hand, an Irish legend tells of a miserly man named Jack who, while alive, tricked the Devil into agreeing not to take him into Hell. Upon his death, St. Peter wouldn't let Jack into Heaven because he had been too stingy and sinful. The Devil wouldn't let him into Hell because of the deal they'd made. Jack was condemned to wander between Heaven and Hell with his lantern, looking for a place to rest and never finding one.

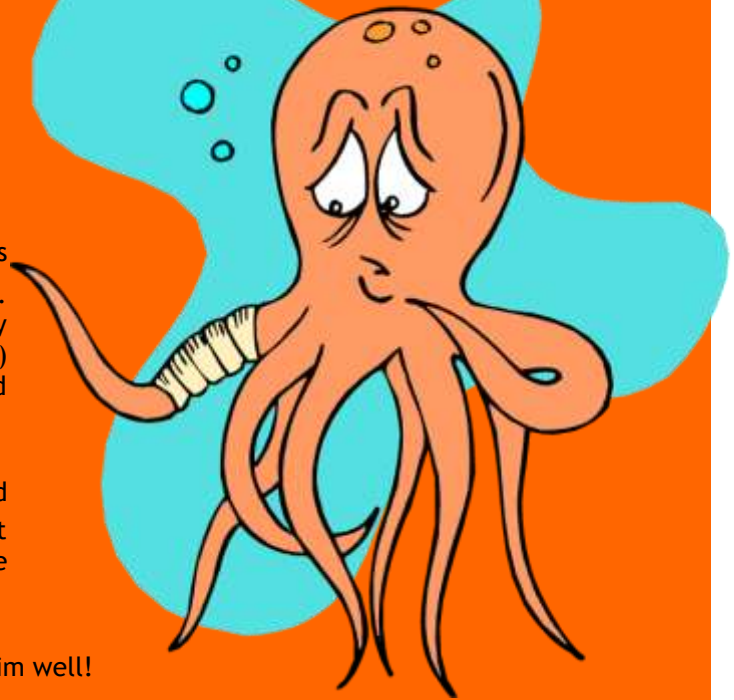


Sick Bay

Marius Pretorius, our FC was hospitalised because he was suffering from a bad headache. Doctor's found that he had bleeding on the brain and they sedated him. Although he has been discharged, they (and us) are watching him closely! Missed you so much Marius and you're not allowed to get sick ever again!

Jerry in Maintenance was involved in a motor vehicle accident and preliminary results show that he has fractured his arm. We wish you well Jerry and hope you make a full recovery!

Michael Mollo has small pox and we wish him well!



We have had a string of family and friends pass away this season. We wish the families love and healing and a blessed, peaceful journey to those who have crossed over;

Vinola Philander's cousin
Gloria Leso's father
Daphne's Brother (curios shop)
Etheline's (housekeeping) sister
Cecilia's (Restaurant) grandmother

Louisa Ndimande's niece and uncle
Nelly's (housekeeping) father
Nolusindiswa's husband
Petunia's (Front Office) son

Welcome aboard

Joyce from Housekeeping is back in action from a long leave! Good to have you back!

Jacob and Terrance are our new casuals in Maintenance. Nice to have the extra hands on deck! We are happy to have you here!

Joseph and Trust are our new housemen in Housekeeping. Welcome me maties!

Tony Michaels who was helping us whilst Marius was in hospital. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank-you.

Song is our star attraction at the Grayston. He is our new Exec Chef and he is tantalising our taste buds and keeping us on our toes with his recipes!



What's brewing in our ocean?

Karen Kranz, our Assistant Banqueting Manager has bought a new house and we are all waiting for her to invite us over for a housewarming!

Rensche Jonck, our Accommodation Services Manager was proposed to over the rocky shores in Cape Town in September whilst 2 fisherman were eves dropping. They were so happy to have overheard the proposal, they shared their beer with them! Her man, sorry, fiancée is working out of town now and we are giving her loads of TLC...

Nolusindiswa in Housekeeping is pregnant and her baby is due in December. Although she's just lost her husband, we wish her all the best with her baby.

Pinkie in Housekeeping is also on maternity leave and we are awaiting confirmation on her little bundle!



Kevin Clarke our Maintenance Manager went to help out at the Golf day and ended up playing and he actually ended up winning some awesome prizes such as 3 nights accommodation at ANY Southern Sun Hotel including flights! Well-done Kev to you and your team for second place!!!

Lieska Mc Leod has transferred from Receptionist to Banqueting Administrator and loving it. Congrats!

Mapula Mhlanga has transferred from Receptionist to Reservationist! Well done!



Deborah Gabriel is our hottest new attraction at the Grayston. She is our Resident Manager who is adding a new dimension to our dynamic team.

Welcome and Good luck, we are all thrilled to have her here! She will be with us for a few months until she goes on Maternity leave. We are all very excited to see little Deborah in April next year! **Deborah's personal message;**



"Hi Southern Sun Grayston,

It is fantastic to be here and part of this amazing team! I cannot wait to get to know each of you personally. I believe Grayston is on the cusp of something great and together as a team, with Stuart at the helm we will see amazing results.

I have a simple philosophy in life - it's about choice. I can choose to succeed, or fail, choose to be great or average. The power rests with me, and what I put into it. However we are only as good as the team we work with. Your role is critical in the success of our hotel. Titles are irrelevant, we all play an important role in making sure that our guests have the best experience that we can give them.

Remember, our words shape who we are. Choose your words wisely, kindly and positively!

See you around."



Up, up, up and away!



Zola de Klerk our Banqueting Manager is leaving us at the end of November and we will be oh so sad to see her go! Good luck Zolatjie!



A big thanks to our **trainees** who will be leaving us in December. We are going to miss you guys a lot and we thank-you for your dedication whilst you were here. You trained at the Grayston - where there was never a dull moment, which pretty much means you can do it anywhere!!! It's tough here and you guys did it. Well-done and good luck in your hospitality adventures!

October

- 03 Harry Kodwa
- 03 Athilio Sebokwane
- 03 Shadrack Myaka
- 04 Aaron Mhnungu
- 07 Shumbuzo Simelane
- 11 Bafana Nyakame

- 12 Mandla Madonsela
- 13 Jerry Lediga
- 16 Jerry Netchisaulu
- 25 Thabani Mduge
- 27 Gugu Mabaso
- 29 Francis Moshatane

Birthdays

Happy Birthday one and all... Wishing you the best of everything in your new year!



November

- 01 Farouk Abdul
- 01 Phyllis Tantsi
- 01 Bruno Schimek
- 01 Mgcineni Mdlalose
- 05 Rensche Jonck
- 06 Leah Legong
- 06 Noginkosi Khumalo
- 07 Norman Mathula
- 12 Rona Pillay
- 13 Funki Modie

- 18 Barry Nkwanyana
- 19 Chris Shabane
- 22 Cathryn Haliwell
- 22 Michael Moagi
- 24 Rosemary Ngidi
- 26 Sharon Govender
- 27 Faith Kgosana
- 27 Nomsa Ndlalase
- 30 Radibe Seikanelo



GRAYSTON SANDTON

Sea Mail





Imvelo Congrats to;

Drakensburg Sun for receiving highly recommended for the Best Overall Environmental Management System.

SS Cullinan for being a finalist in the Best Single Management Programme (Energy Management).

SS Adopt-a-Guesthouse Project for being a finalist in the Best Social Involvement Programme!

And to the **Sandton Convention Centre** for winning the Best Single Management Programme (Energy Management).



Feathers in our conical hats



Good Service

SUPPLIER: Southern Sun	INDUSTRY: Hospitality
LOCATION: South Africa	DATE OF INCIDENT: Sun 4 Nov 07
SPECIFIC AREA: Sandton	PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Southern Sun Grayston

NAME: Geeta Mistry	TELEPHONE NUMBER: 0769923133
EMAIL ADDRESS: gitsbabe777@yahoo.com	ACCOUNT NUMBER:
USERNAME: geetam	CELL NUMBER: 0769923133
TIME: 11:30:05	TOTAL POSTS: 1
DATE SUBMITTED: Mon 5 Nov 07	

[Find all posts by geetam](#)

THE INCIDENT Hi there just wanted to say thank you to Southern Sun Grayston for the wonderful service this weekend..I had a wonderful stay and your staff are really pleasant and help full.When i first got there i was un happy with the bed as it was sinking in the middle ,but i made one call to the help desk and they gladly came by within 5 min and changed the rooms so we could be comfortable.

Once again thanks a million t Southern Sun Grayston Management and Staff

Geeta

UPDATE RESPONSE Hello geetam

Time: 13:00:11
Mon 5 Nov 07

Thank you very much for the positive feedback. It means so much to us to receive such positive feedback from our guests. Please note that your compliment will be passed on to the Hotel and its staff and commendation will go out to them.

[Close](#)



More feathers

From: Pereira, Helder
Well done to all of you!

From: van Rooyen, John
To you and the entire team well done fantastic feedback.

From: Fraser, Neil
Hi Stuart
Well done on the excellent service to one of top clients. Please thank your entire team for a job well done.

From: Sue Haynes

Dear Zola
Sorry I missed you this morning, you were in a meeting then I called a little while ago and you were busy with another meeting. Just wanted to say thank you so very much for ALL your assistance, support, long hours and hard work during our workshop. Your entire team excelled and went the extra mile and it certainly didn't go unnoticed, please convey our sincere thanks to all concerned. As mentioned to you, last night was a huge success, the food and service were excellent and there were many compliments about the food as well as the venue, once again sincere thanks to the entire team.
Hope to see you again soon.
Kind regards

Sue Haynes
Bidvest Academy



Halstead Wedding

From: Ablett, Mike

Hi Stuart and Zola,

Just a short note to thank you very much for your contribution in making the Halstead / Martin wedding such a memorable occasion, much appreciated. Please could you pass on my thanks to all of the staff who participated in making this the huge success that it was?

Regards



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But, wait, there's more!

accenture

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25 September 2007

The Management and Staff
Southern Sun Grayston Hotel
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Sandton
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Fax: +27 11 7835289
Email: grayston@southern.sun.com



Dear Sir

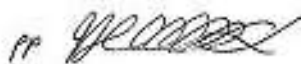
We wish to extend Accenture's sincere gratitude to your management and staff for your exceptionally caring and proactive assistance during the recent illness of Mr Patrick Gallagher.

Your kindness including the pamper basket for Samantha on her arrival; your arrangement of complimentary food and drinks after returning late from the hospital on Thursday; and your arrangement of transportation back and forth from the hospital; as well as your ongoing caring and support; made a tremendous difference to this awful situation.

In particular, grateful thanks are extended to your team on behalf of Samantha Heard, Iain Morrison and John Walling.

Your team's service extended way beyond the call of duty, and we sincerely appreciate all you have done.

Yours sincerely

 Jacqui Abraham
Accenture (South Africa) Travel Manager

William Mzimba
Chief Executive Officer Accenture (South Africa)

Company Registration Number 2001/007140/01

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Lists of Members of the Board and all Senior Executives are available for inspection at any of the Accenture offices listed above.



 Southern Sun
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Springboks - Our Hero's! On their way to kick butt!



Springboks - Our Heroes! On their mighty return!



Please click anywhere on this page to request the full Springbok photo presentation from the Grayston!

Southern Sun Festive 18.10.2007 Holiday Prize Road Show

Story by
Katleho Makhoba

It's no secret that sales and selling has changed in recent years! We are all working harder, with more responsibilities and high pressure sales is just no longer effective - Customers want involvement! The Government Sales Team decided to surprise the top four Government Travel Agencies in Pretoria, who get business from namely: Magic Travel, Travel with Flair, Rennies Menlyn and Sure Samber. Our clients want to be recognized and remembered once the sale is made. Every team member from the various units (Grayston, Sandton Sun, OR Tambo, Pretoria, Cape Sun, SCC, IST, Elangeni, Waterfront, Drakensburg Sun, Pretoria, Airport Sun and Newlands) contributed greatly with their prize and we had a tremendous burst of energy and a significant response! It is that festive time of the year and the objective of this roadshow was to thank each and everyone for the huge support they have given to Southern Sun throughout the year.

Keep the spirit going - Siyakhanya!



 **Southern Sun**
GRAYSTON SANDTON

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SA's Deputy President-Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka

Grayston had the honour of organising the Deputy SA President's birthday at her private residence in November. It was a beautiful celebration and an awesome feather in our conical hats! Fun was had by all... Even by SSG employees who were working at the event. Well-done Grayston. Special thanks to the SSG Banqueting Team!



Twenty 20 Cricket

Story by Shelley Mallett

The Twenty20 is the newest form of cricket where each team bats for a maximum of 20 overs a side. It was agreed that the inaugural event would take place in South Africa in September 2007 with the second scheduled for England and Wales in 2009. Southern Sun is proud to be the official hotel group to this inaugural tournament.

The T20 took place in South Africa from 11 September to the 24th September 2007. Southern Sun Grayston was honoured to host the following teams:

Zimbabwe, Kenya, Bangladesh, Scotland

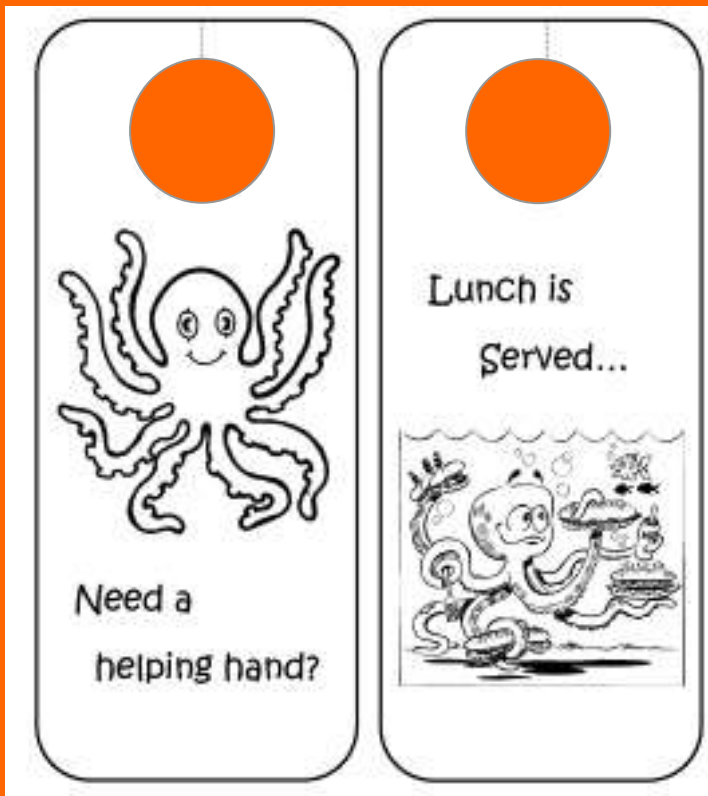
The teams were welcomed by an up and coming Hip Hop Group (Kids up da Block) who will be competing in the World Hip Hop Championships in Germany in October 2007. This major event for South Africa proved to be successful, and whilst our own Proteas did not make it through from the super 8's, the final between India and Pakistan was a nail biting game, with India winning by just 5 runs.

 **Southern Sun**
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Something for the kids!



Name: _____
Date: _____

Octopus Word Search

Why didn't the ocean say hello? Because it waves.
Find the Octopus words.



O	H	S	A	Z	N	K	J	G	Z	P	E	O	R	B	O	F	H
U	Z	I	V	K	O	L	J	X	V	K	L	T	C	X	X	Q	M
Q	X	E	O	G	H	H	R	I	U	B	T	H	Y	P	Q	U	C
P	O	P	F	A	P	J	F	P	L	R	N	S	T	X	S	S	X
P	K	T	F	O	I	O	F	E	D	R	A	S	V	D	S	I	U
V	O	B	M	A	S	G	X	S	A	N	M	N	T	P	C	E	Z
P	E	I	T	S	C	A	M	O	U	F	L	A	G	E	C	B	P
J	Y	L	S	S	U	L	T	H	T	J	Y	L	A	B	U	M	
N	H	M	T	O	A	C	W	L	Q	D	N	Y	J	P	K	F	W
Z	C	H	G	B	N	C	T	N	W	J	E	P	W	A	Z	D	L
N	C	K	E	V	G	H	U	I	J	N	X	D	E	C	U	J	O
N	V	J	S	I	B	Z	E	H	O	M	I	B	R	O	L	J	C
T	F	N	G	F	B	P	I	T	C	N	P	Z	L	E	T	N	T
W	K	P	N	R	J	H	W	V	R	C	C	F	T	V	X	O	
J	N	J	X	N	T	G	O	Q	A	A	K	U	H	I	W	O	P
K	Y	J	L	W	I	O	T	H	T	N	Z	O	P	D	V	D	U
Z	I	E	O	E	P	B	S	I	D	A	R	F	S	S	A	S	
V	O	M	G	Q	W	C	E	P	H	A	L	O	P	O	D	U	C

Camouflage	Cephalopod	Ink cloud	Sharp Beak
Suction Cups	Eight	Mantle	
Octopus	Siphon	Poison	

A note from the GM!

As the year is drawing to an end and we're all tired and dreaming of our perfect holidays, I'd like to thank the staff for their continued efforts. What a pleasure to receive letters such as this;

"This is just a note to thank you, in the name of Rose Chauke, for the outstanding service that she gave me in your main restaurant. Rose greeted me every morning with a smile and went out of her way to help me on my last day when I needed to stay in the hotel after checking out--she not only found me a quiet table in the restaurant but then went further in helping me find a temporary room where I could change and work in quiet until time to leave for the airport.

She made my stay very memorable and I look forward to returning in February, where I will be a speaker in the Africa Broadband Summit that your hotel is hosting. I hope that Rose receives the recognition from you that she certainly deserves. Regards, John Barton

There has been a remarkable initiation of change here at the Grayston and I anticipate that it will grow from strength to strength with Deborah's help in the coming months. So remember to keep your focus and your drive this festive season, your efforts never go unnoticed.

A belated Happy Halloween to all!

Stuart Geddes

