

# **CONSTANTINE ENTERPRISES COMPANY**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUB GROUP REPORTS**

**April 2021**

### **Tolmen Centre**

The TOC bank balance, currently at £4293 continues to decline, though not by much as expenses are at a minimum and we have small amounts of rental income from the Vestry, Treatment Room, and occasional Constant Times adverts.

We have not had to transfer any more of the accumulated grant money being held in the CEC account, which amounts to approximately £16000 – meaning that there are no liquidity issues at present. However, our usual procedure of paying across the notional ‘profit’ from the previous year to the CEC as Gift Aid will require balancing funds of about £6000, as will, in due course, the annual Insurance premium (about £3000) which comes due in the summer.

With none of our usual activities in place, there’s not much to report, and much of the activity around the building works will be reported elsewhere. However, it begins to look as if we can move towards reopening as a Venue during the summer, and a few events are already being planned. If all goes well we should have a fairly complete programme on offer from the Autumn. As a footnote, I have advised the TOC Board that I need to reduce my commitment of time to Tolmen Centre activities. After 16 years as co-Centre Manager (with Barbara contributing as much or more than me, and over a longer period) age is catching up with me and it is time to pass some of the work on to others. I have agreed to carry on with my duties as Treasurer and Company Secretary of both the TOC and CEC, but I will be stepping back from day to day responsibility for the Centre.

Barbara will be continuing her various pivotal roles, and we both plan to continue with our contribution to the ‘programming’ side of the venue.

Charlie Pugh

### **Constant Times**

The last quarter has seen Constant Times progress from its 'on-line only' status during the earlier stages of the pandemic to a large (if slightly below standard) print run for the last two issues. This is mainly thanks to Kevin at the Spar who has kindly agreed to deliver a copy of Constant Times with each of his c. 350 deliveries in the neighbouring area. Coupled with large (and popular) help-yourself dispensers at both Spar and Stores, some 500 copies of Constant Times have been distributed. All being well, there will be a return to letterbox deliveries for the June / July / August issue. Thanks are due especially to Peter Binns for sterling work as editor and printer, and to Sue Yates for increasing the advertising base significantly.

### **Transition Constantine**

For Transition Constantine, the pandemic began with the cancellation of the March Farmers' Market, shortly before the national lockdown began. Normal monthly meetings were suspended, and the group entered an apparently dormant phase from which it has begun to emerge in recent months.

Behind the scenes, various initiatives continued, particularly the one aiming to secure a lease of the Glebe Garden on behalf of the community. There has been some to-ing and fro-ing concerning the terms of the lease, which eventually arrived at a set of words acceptable to all parties. By which time it became clear that South West Water had some major engineering work planned at the adjacent pumping station, requiring that the public could have no access to the area or the public footpath. A proposed lease start date of 01.01.2021 was slipped to March, then April, and at the time of writing it is uncertain whether public access will be restored by May. But subscriptions are being collected and at some point over the summer the Glebe Garden will be a community space once again.

Discussions around tree planting and re-wilding continued, and there has been growing enthusiasm for making better use of the 'unused' spaces in the village - grass infill, road verges, etc - which are typically just mown grass. It is recognised that 're-wilding' is not a suitable approach for central village areas, so the interest is moving forward under the 'making space for nature' tag, focused particularly on the roadside spaces around the Wheal Vyvyan area. Discussions with local residents have taken place and contact with the Parish Council is planned.

The Transition Group is also looking to support two plastic recycling initiatives within the village, both of which were featured in the current issue of Constant Times.

Emerging from the dormant spell over last summer and autumn, the group has begun to meet again via Zoom and has started to use the Slack collaboration software to make communications between all the different interest groups more straightforward. It is heartening to see many more village residents now joining in these TC on-line meetings.

Chris Hussey – Hon. Secretary

## **Bosahan Woods**

### 1. The Recent Quarter

Given the lockdown and more general health precautions, no full meetings of the group have taken place, though contact by email has been maintained. The bird and bat box initiative has borne fruit, with a number of boxes now installed and others completed but waiting to be put in place. There was a further substantial tree fall across the lower path. Fortunately, only the upper branches lay across the path and the path itself was undamaged, so with prompt volunteer activity by Peter Saverton and Martin Day, the path was quickly clear again.

Two interesting developments this quarter:

a) Bosahan Woods - a County Wildlife site.

Study of Cornwall Council's Nature Recovery Plan led on to some valuable further information about the woods. Cornwall Council has had for many years a land designation of "County Wildlife Site". This is in effect a tier below any of the categories that have some form of statutory recognition, but it does provide for some County-level support. It turns out that the Bosahan woods

and much of the continuing woodland to Polwheveral creek are classified in this way. The owners of such sites are entitled, through a partnership with Cornwall Wildlife Trust, to a free wildlife and habitat survey, and accompanying management advice. The group has explored this, with the consequence that Sue Hocking of CWT will carry out a survey of the woods in the course of the Spring, and has offered to meet members of the management group later in the year to discuss woodland management approaches.

## b) Recording Archaeological Features

Heavy rain over the winter months cause the stream through the woods to run in spate at times, running through new diversionary overflow courses. This has caused some bank erosion and weakening of tree support in places. It has also created some concerns that existing archaeological features may be eroded away before being recorded. Given the strong interest within and beyond the management group in the valley's mining remains, and given the existence of a number of 'community recording' projects across Cornwall, it seemed there might be scope for future action. Contacts with the Cornwall Archaeological Unit and the Cornwall Heritage Environment Record team have resulted in us being put in touch with Laura Ratcliffe-Warren, who is the area representative for the Cornwall Archaeological Society. Laura does a lot of work with volunteers, has said she will be very happy to offer help and advice should we wish to pursue this, and has the added advantage of living locally at Trewardreva! The group has yet to discuss this, as to what might be attempted and when, but as a minimum it is expected that anything identified would be added to the Cornwall HER database, plus a documentary record for the village museum.

## 2. A Survey of the Year

The pandemic has had a major impact both on meetings of the management group and the kind of volunteer activities that might be undertaken. There has been no attempt to continue the path restoration work, and volunteer activity has been based around individuals rather than groups (e.g. the bird and bat box initiative). There have been responses to tree falls, where these have obstructed the public paths. One of these was particularly problematic, in that the path was severely damaged when the tree was uprooted. This required professional support to remake the path, but in other cases volunteers have cleared obstructing branches.

There have been some changes in the management group over the course of the year, with Liz and Alan Pearce standing down as representatives of Muriel Lawrence (as benefactor). It is important to record the enormous contribution they made to the founding of the group, and especially to the path restoration work carried out in 2018 and 2019. They have been replaced by Terry Swainsbury and Peter Saverton. Dr. Adrian Roberts was replaced by Gerelyn Blackstone-Karapanos as a CEC representative on the group, but remains a co-opted member.

The finances of the woods remain very healthy, largely due to the balance of donations remaining. It is hoped that the management group will be able to meet 'normally' soon, and that further community activity will follow. In the meantime, it is reassuring to see, with the onset of Spring, the forest school returning once again.

Chris Hussey - Bosahan Woods Management Group

## Constantine Museum

During the long pandemic lockdown the Museum has continued to be looked after & some of our volunteers have been able to undertake online training & to participate in Zoom or similar external group meetings.

A number of family history enquiries have been received and answered. Help was recently given to a Police enquiry concerning a possible incident some years ago near the village.

Ronnie Rashleigh is undertaking some research for the Museum's records into the past occupiers of village properties.

David Freeman's estate have kindly given the Museum his research & historical papers primarily connected with Mawgan & Gweek together with a collection of Cornish History books. Some historical Ordnance Survey maps from another source have also been promised to us.

Certain archive work has been undertaken off site & it is hoped to start cleaning within the Museum shortly.

According to government guidelines, museums can re-open *no earlier than May 17<sup>th</sup> 2021*, assuming that the relevant data allows, therefore the committee needs to make preparations for this to happen.

Given the age and underlying health conditions of some of our volunteers, we must ensure that they are all fully vaccinated before contemplating re-opening. This means that at least three weeks should have passed after their second dose of vaccine before they can act as stewards in the museum. As Chair of the Management Committee, I will undertake to:-

- Contact all volunteers to ascertain vaccination status
- Check that all volunteers still want to volunteer
- Check that they want to follow the same rota as before lockdown
- Ascertain progress on the photographic display/ book that we had planned
- Look into the possibility of a "Thank you" display honouring all the people who kept the villagers going during lockdown eg Kevin and the SPAR team, Trengilly Wartha team for home deliveries (suggestions welcome!)

We never got round to having any zoom committee meetings, which may be a good thing bearing in mind the trouble some have caused over lockdown! However, we may be able to have a socially distanced meeting nearer the time for opening.

We should continue with all the agreed mitigations against infection when we re-open e.g. social distancing, mask wearing, hand sanitising and most important of all – ventilation. We are lucky that we have a door at each end of the museum and can therefore have a good through-put of air while we are open.

There is nothing much else to report except that Chris Hillyer our new archivist has been keeping Don and me up-to-date on county archival matters during lock down, and I thank him for that! Cornwall is expecting a lot of "staycationers" during the summer, and it would be good for us to be able to take advantage of that! Therefore I look forward to welcoming back our lovely fully vaccinated volunteers, and hopefully, a lot of visitors too!

Jacqui Hessian - Chair of the Museum Management Committee

## Literary Group

This year has been like no other for almost all of us and the literary group is no exception. For the whole year we have been unable to run any events in the Tolmen. We do, however, have an event in the pipeline which has come via Carn to Cove. Cathy Rentzenbrink will be interviewing Patrick Gale in aid of the first Emmaus Cornwall on September 9<sup>th</sup> and the literary group is happy to organise this. We remember with pleasure Patrick's last visit to the Tolmen and we are sure that this event will be very popular. We are still hoping to host Raynor Winn (The Salt Path) when Covid restrictions allow, and obviously the Patrick Gale event will be dependent on restrictions having eased by then. We are all looking forward to being able to return to a new normal.

Gia Shaw