The Constant Times

Volume 2, Issue 1
February-March 2013

From the Editor Benjamin Symes

Hello Constantine

We hope that your 2013 has got off to a positive start despite the cold, rain and slightly disappointing lack of even one day of sledging practice! Thanks as ever for all those of you that keep the content coming, and for those new contributors. Especial thanks, particularly at this time of year, goes to our team of local distributors who tramp the local lanes delivering your newsletter.

Although we (the editorial team) are relatively new to the area, we want to assure people that this is still everybody's newsletter and all we are here to do is to compile it and get it out there. You, the community, make it what it is. Let us know what you want and need, and tell us what's going on. The opening of a new coffee shop (Cornish Maid) in Mawnan Smith for example, or a new group that you want to start, help needed, help given etc. Also, please use the services of our advertisers and those in 'Who's Where' as the more we can support locally the better.

The next issue will be April/May but please bear in mind that submission deadline for this is strictly the 9th March (before our copy editor flies away for a short while) and we wouldn't like anyone to miss out.

Look after yourselves until the Spring.

Benjamin (and the team)

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Parish Council Report Robert Williams

November Meeting Highlights

The Meeting opened with the usual formalities, out of which Councillor Wiseman reported that Ms Worth had now, with his assistance, ordered 25 Christmas trees for the village Fore Street and three larger trees for the Church, the Square and Seworgan.

County Councillor Hatton came up with 10 items of news, reporting the Approval for the solar panels at Little Trevease. It only remains for the 30 pieces of silver to be distributed between the parishes of Wendron and Constantine. More opprobrium on the County came with their support for 48,000 houses to be built in Cornwall, further concreting over its green and pleasant land. And they are proposing a £1 million renewable fund to develop more renewable energy, with potential higher costs for residents payable through their electricity bills. Cornwall have yet to refuse any renewable energy application and has received more of them than any other County in England. The County are not altogether malign, since they are proposing a 20mph limit on traffic through housing areas, are to replace and re-site the reflective traffic bollards at Cott Farm to improve the visibility at the dangerous bends there and will resurface the obstacle course that is the lane at present between Mount View Farm and Merthen. Finally, the Councillor informed the Council that both he and our MP George Eustice had written to the Primary Care Trust protesting about the removal of our NHS dental practice (and is expecting replies).

The Code of Conduct (applicable to councillors) has been revised and needed (compulsory) adoption by the Council (dutifully done). There followed a decision to delegate the award of dispensation to the Clerk, who could then allow a Councillor to speak and vote on a subject about which he had knowledge (e.g. the Garden Society) and not be expected to stand in cold outside the Vestry whilst the matter was under debate.

In other news, four Planning Applications were inspected and all were recommended for Approval, including one at Trenarth, near the garage, to refurbish a dwelling. The Police reported that there had been two crimes in the month and one case of anti-social behaviour. Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night passed peacefully. The Accounts were scrutinised and approved, being accurate and the sums within budget. The Council decided to explore the establishment of a website, bringing it into the 21st century.

December and January Meeting Highlights

Four new Councillors have been co-opted after the bloodbath of resignations due to the new regulations of behaviour which the new members have braved. That brings the numbers up to the establishment of eleven. They only have to last until May when the elections for the next four year stint take place.

Applications for new houses brought contrasting results. That in Port Navas has been refused but that in Well Lane will probably be permitted, despite the Parish and residents protesting at both of them. Planning is something of a lottery at the moment.

The JuMP Committee is steaming ahead in its efforts to replace the children's play equipment in the Recreation Field. It was successful in its bid in the West Briton's competition to provide money from the police Proceeds of Crime fund. This has raised their collection almost up to £6,000. More Fairy Godmothers will be sought to reach the level necessary to give the children appropriate facilities.

At Port Navas, the Council secured the replacement of the public telephone, which while not used much, was essential in case of emergency in an area of poor mobile reception. The state of the parish roads have been a staple of discussion and our County Councillor Hatton is tackling County Highways to get something done.

The reinstatement of the village dentist service alas is problematical as the Primary Care Trust does not seem to care.

The stream of Applications for wind turbines is never ending, despite local fears that these intrude adversely in our countryside, with only sporadic electricity production, with most benefit to the (mostly) foreign equipment makers and land owners, paid for by residents by increased bills. The Council protests at every opportunity.

The Lawn Cemetery regulations have been revised and the Garden of Remembrance will be more clearly designated, following an unfortunate misunderstanding in the autumn.

A large number of villagers attended the Christmas lighting switch-on ceremony on December 8, organised by Ms Ellen Worth and many other residents, who collected and distributed the trees and lights provided by the Council, but paid for from the pockets of locals via their Council taxes. I think they got value and enjoyment for their money.

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Jump Update Daro Montag

The JuMP group, which is continuing to raise funds and develop plans for the children's playground, has had a good start to the year by being awarded £650 from the Proceeds of Crime fund, co-ordinated by the West Briton. This grant combined with other recent pre-Christmas events has brought the fundraising total close to £6,000. The committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed, or helped in any way, to our continuing efforts to provide a play park that the village can be proud of.

Three further fundraising bids have recently been submitted and, over the next few months, we have further proposals in the pipeline. One of the current bids is specifically aimed at providing opportunities for teenagers and young adults to volunteer and learn new skills within the community. If this bid is successful we

shall be working closely with the Church to help establish a youth drop-in centre aimed at providing a space for teenagers within the recreation ground. This will be in addition to the development of the younger children's play space and will not eat into the funds already raised for this purpose.



In April we are planning a community consultation evening in the Church Hall to which everyone will be invited. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the aims and ambitions of the project and what has already been achieved. Look out for the flyers and posters nearer the time.

We continue to meet regularly on the 1st Thursday of every month at 8.00pm in the Social Club and anyone is welcome to come along help out or simply learn more about the project.

Climate Week Coming Up Chris Hussey

The first week in March (4th-10th) will see Britain's biggest campaign to speed up action against climate change. Already over a thousand events across the country are planned for Climate Week. Transition Constantine will be running a number of climate-themed events in the week, including:

- a pub quiz with a climate twist;
- a performance at the Constantine Feast;



- a showing of the acclaimed film 'Chasing Ice' a beautiful and awesome account of how climate change is playing out in the Arctic;
- a 'making' day in the Tolmen Centre (see details below);
- the first Farmers' Market of the year, on Saturday 9 March, with displays about the new 'Green Deal' for insulation and renewable energy.

Watch out for the full programme nearer the time!

MAKE, SWOP, FREECYCLE!

THURSDAY 7 MARCH - TOLMEN CENTRE 10AM-4PM

MAKING: We will be making draught excluders, essential for all doors, from donated materials. We will give these away at the Farmers' Market on Saturday 9th March. Rory McPhee will demonstrate his 'Cornish Kindl'y' wood-working technique.



CLOTHES SWOP: Please bring an item/s of clothing you no longer need. You can then take an article from the ones donated in exchange for yours. There will be an opportunity also to get expert advice/help to upcycle any of the clothing on offer.

FREECYCLE: At the event you can add any large items you are willing to give away to the Transition Freecycle notice board. You could bring smaller items with you, but do be prepared to collect them if they are not taken.

WE NEED: Sewing machines, fabric (the heavier the better), stuffing (old duvets, pillows, etc.), hanging rails, and YOU! Contact Sandra Boreham 341493.

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Helford VMCA's 25th Birthday Celebrations Paula Evans

The Helford River has long been known for the richness of its foreshores, with an amazing diversity of marine wildlife, and over the many years has attracted marine researchers, students and seriously interested members of the public.

In the 1980s, experienced marine biologists who had been surveying the shores since the 1940s noted some deterioration. To stop this decline the Helford River was designated a Conservation Area in 1987; following on from this the Helford Voluntary Marine Conservation Association was established.

The Association now has a membership of people from around the area and a body of volunteers who carry out work, including surveys of the marine life on the foreshores, a beach cleaning programme and raising the public's awareness of the importance of Helford's eelgrass beds.

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Helford Voluntary Marine Conservation Association with an amazing look at the intriguing and colourful marine world in the Helford through the lens of internationally famous marine biologist and photographer Paul Naylor.

The Helford Estuary and surrounding waters are home to a fabulous variety of animals and in his talk at Gweek Village Hall on Saturday March 30, Paul will use underwater photographs to illustrate the secrets and colourful lives of these creatures.

He is author of the book 'Great British Marine Animals', currently in its third edition, which looks at the wonderful diversity of animals that live in the British seas. This book, considered the guide book for all British divers, snorkelers and fish followers uses high quality underwater photographs to both aid identification of a wide range of common animals, and to give an insight into their lives. It is written for anyone who loves the sea, wildlife or exploring our coast.

Paul Naylor has been diving around the UK for over 25 years. He has a passion for showing people what beautiful and intriguing animals inhabit our coasts, and his presentations are always enthralling and entertaining.

Admission to the event, which begins at 7.30pm and includes the Association's AGM, is £2 - members and children free.

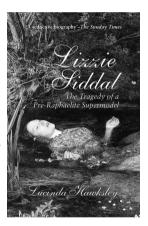
Further details of the work of the Helford Marine Conservation Group can be found at http://www.helfordmarineconservation.co.uk/.

An Evening with Lucinda Hawksley Anne Hussey

After a lot of hard work the evening had arrived; 6.30pm October 4th 2012 waiting very nervously for the start of our first literary evening were the members of Constantine Book Group Plus. Would anyone turn up and most importantly would the audience enjoy themselves? We worried needlessly: the answer to both questions was a resounding yes, and everyone had a fantastic evening.

Our guest speaker was Lucinda Hawksley biographer, travel writer and great, great, great granddaughter of Charles Dickens. The evening was introduced by Karen Tudor and chaired by Gia Shaw (the only members of our group brave enough to step-up to the role!), with delicious food organised by Aly Osborne and provided by the group.

Lucinda discussed the difference between research and writing about a relative, contrasted with writing about a person unconnected to the author. She used as an example her research for 'Lizzie Siddal: The Tragedy of a Pre-Raphaelite Supermodel', compared with her biographies on Charles Dickens, and Dickens's artist daughter, Katy. In addition to this she also spoke about her own writing in general and Charles Dickens. Lucinda proved to be a warm, eloquent, and likeable speaker. She provided the audience with a very interesting insight into Victorian life, and her life as a writer today. The evening ended with an informal question and answer session.



That was autumn and we are now in the process of organising our next, far more ambitious event - A Literary Day on Saturday 27th April 2013. The day will include an eclectic range of writers, and will be opened in the morning by members of the Miracle Theatre followed by story telling with John Brolly. The afternoon will include authors from diverse fields: Jo Hines, psychological thriller writer; Colin Roberts, script writer; and an interview with Tessa Skola, writer and retired cabaret dancer. The evening finale will be guest speaker Salley Vickers, acclaimed author whose work includes the best seller, 'Miss Garnet's Angel'.

Hope you can join us. Look out for further details that will be advertised early in the spring.

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News from the Tolmen Centre Charlie and Barbara Pugh

Improved Convenience!

Those who glance out of the rear window of the Tolmen Centre will notice that there is much building work going on in the garden area behind the Centre.

This project is to create a new rear entrance and foyer for the building, giving us a perfect access to the garden area, and thus the chance to develop outdoor facilities there. Also included in the build is a completely upgraded loo section.

The loos have always been a bit of a bad area of the Tolmen. It was probably never envisaged that we would regularly have audiences for shows and other events approaching 200 in number - and aided by our licence to sell beer this has created massive bottlenecks at intervals and before shows. The two loos were simply never enough for these sorts of numbers.

The new block will have bigger, modern, well-designed facilities, and as well there will be a nicely proportioned foyer and exit to the garden. This opens up all sorts of possibilities both for performances, for our Café, and for those hiring the Centre for parties, weddings and other events, all of which can now take on an indoor/outdoor dimension.

We are immensely grateful to the SITA Trust and to the Foundation for Sports and Arts for funding this improvement. Also to Marc Lothian and his local team of builders from Landstone Construction. The work is proceeding absolutely to schedule (in spite of awful weather) and we are appreciative of their friendly attitude as we frequently interrupt their work to see how it's all going.

In the meantime, we apologise in advance for what will be a somewhat disrupted loo facility: as the building approaches completion, we will have to switch to outdoor 'portaloos' and the disabled loo in the museum as the original toilet area is incorporated into the new extended building. But all activities will proceed as normal, and no closure period should be needed. The new building should be in use in a few weeks.



Tolmen Centre Spring Programme

Meanwhile, we are distributing our new Spring and Summer programme - copies have been sent, emailed, and are available at the Tolmen Centre, and in many leaflet boxes across the county.

After a couple of films, and Talk and Taste day, our next big show - and one for all the family - is Bash Street Theatre's 'The Last Illusion' on Friday 1st February. Bash Street are better known across Europe and the world for their outdoor circus-based shows - they are celebrated internationally. This is their second 'indoor' show and it promises to be a funny, clever show for all ages, with loads of circus type action and clowning, with musical accompaniment from the lovely Seamus Carey. Their previous indoor show was 'The Lion Tamer' - which was a wonderful spoof based on black and white movies but performed on stage. 'The Last Illusion' promises to be just as good.

This is followed by a folk concert from the rapidly rising star Jackie Oates on Saturday 16th February - accompanied by 'hot' guitarist Tristan Seume. Jackie Oates is a frontrunner in the new wave of young folk performers - marked out by the purity of her voice. This is the first of a regular series of Folk gigs - watch out for Spiers and Boden - the founders of Bellowhead - in May and more.

Then on March 1st we welcome Redruth man Ken Lukowiac with his unmissable show 'A Solders Song'. Ken served in 2 Para in the Falklands War, and as that conflict reaches its 30th anniversary it's worth remembering the human cost of such battles. Lukowiac, who has struggled over the years with the after-effects of his experiences creates - in a 'staged narration' - a gut-wrenching insight into the reality of warfare. Far more than just a memoir, this is amongst the most powerful theatre you will see. This is a celebrated show which has been garlanded with praise since Ken took over his own role at the Edinburgh Festival 2012, and we are very proud to be able to stage it in Constantine.

A week later there's another theatrical tour de force, 'A Strange Wild Song' by Rhum and Clay Theatre. It also, quirkily, has a wartime theme, but this is completely different piece - humourous as well as touching, enlivened by on-stage music, and hugely worth seeing.

This just touches on all that is going on at The Tolmen Centre. There's a regular film screening, the popular Café Tolmen, and all sorts of activities to join in. Details are on www.tolmencentre.co.uk and you can subscribe to our email list to receive details of things as they come along.

The Constant Times CONSTANTINE CALENDAR

February 2013

Fri 1 - Bash Street Theatre 'The Last Illusion'. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. Adults £9, Conc. £8, Child £4. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

Thurs 7 - Café Tolmen. 10am-2pm.

Mon 11 - W.I. Meeting. 7.15pm. W.I. Hall.

Mon 11 - Constantine Community Choir. 6.45pm. Tolmen Centre.

Wed 13 - Tolmen Movies. Working Girl. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen.

Thurs 14 - Café Tolmen. 10am-2pm.

Thurs 14 - Transition Constantine Meeting. 7pm. Queens Arms.

Thurs 14 - Reading of prayers for Lent. 5.30pm. Port Navas Village Hall. 340233.

Thurs 14 - Constantine Cottage Garden Society AGM, followed by To The Roof Of Africa: The Plants of Kilimanjaro, with Sandra Goodswen. 7.00pm. W.I. Hall. £1.

Thurs 14 + Fri 15 - St. Valentines 3 course menu. The Waymarker.

Fri 15 - Constantine History Group. The Civil War, with Steph Haxton. 7.15pm. W.I. Hall. Geoff Roberts. 340154.

Sat 16 - Jackie Oates with Tristan Seume. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. Adults £10, Conc. £8, Child £4. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

Sat 16 - HVMCA. Talk on the Marine Renewable Test Site in Falmouth Bay, with Dr Lars Johanning. 7.30pm. Gweek Village Hall. £2. Members and children free. Ruth 07825070613 or Sue 0777232502.

Mon 18 - One and All Club. Alan Cox. Constantine Social Club. 2.15pm.

Thurs 21 - Reading of prayers for Lent. 5.30pm. Port Navas Village Hall.

Thurs 21 - Café Tolmen. 10am-2pm.

Thurs 21 - Green Driving: Simple Suggestions That Will Save Money and the Planet, at No Cost to You, with Jim Boote. 7.00pm. Port Navas Village Hall. 340864. £7, includes pasty.

Mon 25 - Constantine Community Choir. 6.45pm. Tolmen Centre.

Wed 27 - Tolmen Movies. Beasts of the Southern Wild. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen open.

Thurs 28 - Café Tolmen. 10am-2pm.

Thurs 28 - Reading of prayers for Lent. 5.30pm. Port Navas Village Hall.

March 2013

Fri 1 - Ken Lukowiak's 'A Soldier's Song'. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

- **Sat 2** One and All Club Spring Fayre. Constantine Social Club. 10-2pm.
- **Sun 3** Constantine and District Twinning Association Sunday Lunch. Tolmen Centre. Adults £12 Child £6. Marian Saunders 341269. Booking required.
- **Tues 5** Constantine Feast. Village Celebration. 7pm. Tolmen Centre.
- **Wed 6** Port Navas Village Hall AGM. 7.00pm.
- Thurs 7- Café Tolmen. 10am-2pm.
- **Thurs 7** Reading of prayers for Lent. 5.30pm. Port Navas Village Hall.
- Fri 8 Rhum and Clay 'A Strange Wild Song'. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. Adults £10, Conc. £8, Child £4. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.
- **Sat 9 -** Constantine Farmers Market. 9.30am-12pm. Church Hall.
- **Sat 9** Deadline for April/May *Constant Times* submissions.
- **Mon 11** W.I. Meeting. 7.15pm. W.I. Hall.
- **Mon 11** Constantine Community Choir. 6.45pm. Tolmen Centre.
- **Wed 13** Constantine and District Twinning Association AGM. 7.00pm. W.I. Hall.
- Thurs 14 Café Tolmen. 10am-2pm.
- **Thurs 14** Reading of prayers for Lent. 5.30pm. Port Navas Village Hall.

- Thurs 14 Constantine Cottage Garden Society. Madeira, From a Gardener's Point of View, with Charlie Pridham. 7.30pm. W.I. Hall. £1.
- **Thurs 14** Transition Constantine Meeting. 7pm. Queens Arms.
- **Fri 15** Constantine History Group. The Helston Railway. 7.15pm. W.I. Hall. Geoff Roberts. 340154.
- **Mon 18** One and All Club. Fresh Sounds. Social Club. 2.15pm.
- Thurs 21 Café Tolmen. 10am-2pm.
- **Thurs 21** Reading of prayers for Lent. 5.30pm. Port Navas Village Hall.
- **Fri 22** Port Navas Village Hall 10th Birthday Party. 7.00pm. £5.
- **Sat 23** Pants on Fire 'Pinocchio'. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.
- **Mon 25** Constantine Community Choir. 6.45pm. Tolmen Centre.
- **Wed 27** Tolmen Movies. The Master. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Cafe Tolmen open.
- Thurs 28 Café Tolmen. 10am-2pm.
- **Sat 30** HVMCA 25th Anniversary and Talk with Paul Naylor. 7.30pm. Gweek Village Hall. £2. Members and children free. Ruth 07825070613 or Charles 07795845696.

Please send calendar items to Lottie at constant.times@gmail.com. Remember to include: date/event title/time/place/price(if any)/contact details. Thank you!

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CLUBS, GROUPS AND GOINGS ON

Calendar entries and reports on group happenings (400 words maximum) are welcome. We'll try to make space to print everything that comes in, though we may occasionally need to hold items over if we run out of space.

Constantine Bowling Club

Chairman Harry Garbutt 01326 340518

Hon. Secretary Vanda Trotman 01326 221246

Mens Captain Derek Williamson 01326 340716

Ladies Captain Paula Stocks 01326 340929

The green opens for members on Saturday 13th April 2013. An open day will be held for anyone to come along and try the game on Sunday 14th April from 2pm to 5pm. The joining fee this year is reduced to £20. Come along and have a go. More information available from any of the above named.



Constantine Brownies

Constantine Brownies are looking for a unit helper. We currently have 24 Brownies and a waiting list but cannot take on any more without more help. We meet on Friday in the Church Hall between 6 and 7.15 pm. If you feel that you could help 7 - 10 year olds in our community please get in touch with Lorraine 01326 340722 or Lucy 01326 340964.



Constantine Brownies on a visit to Falmouth Fire Station, October 2012.

Constantine W.I. Report Barbara Willoughby

Our first meeting of 2013 was on a very cold and windy winter evening, but the members who came very much enjoyed our speaker, Reverend Stuart Turner, Vicar of Constantine Church. He came to talk mainly about his previous occupation as a locksmith. After working on ships and travelling to exotic climes as a young man, as a married man he felt he needed to be at home with his family. After training and working in shoe repairs (and cutting keys), he found an interest as Master Locksmith and spent over 20 years 'breaking into peoples houses and cars' and many other 'interesting' rescue scenes - wherever and whatever people were locked out of and needed to find their way in! During that time he also found his vocation into the Church and carried on his business and his calling side by side, until in recent years he was asked if he would consider full time work in Constantine Parish. The rest, as they say, is history. It was a very enjoyable, entertaining and enlightening talk.



Robert Settle sent in this photograph of his 3rd great grandfather's butcher shop. Edward Berdinner had the shop in the centre of the village from 1841-76.

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Night Sky February/March Robert Beeman

There are only two planets on view for this period. The first is Saturn which will be high in the south from midnight until dawn and even with a small telescope will be a rewarding object to observe. The second, Jupiter, has been putting on a good show for a few months now and will be high in sky just west of south as darkness falls. The larger moons should be easily seen with binoculars.

At this time of year the southern sky is dominated by Orion the hunter, one of the few star groupings that bears any resemblance to its name. This constellation, despite its shape is simply an asterism: the stars are not associated with one another but line up to give the distinctive shape. Just below the belt stars of Alnitak, Annilam and Mintaka is the Orion nebula, a huge gas and dust complex, lit by a cluster of newly born stars called the Trapezium.

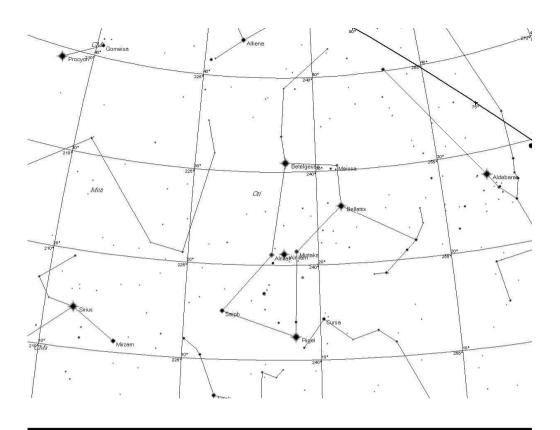
To the east of Orion the bright star Sirius is evident in Canis Major, one of Orion's dogs. Sirius appears to twinkle because being so low on the horizon we are viewing it through a thick layer of moving and polluted atmosphere. At the end of March, Comet C/2011 L4 Panstarrs should start to make an appearance low in the NW. It has the potential to be a naked-eye object. The orbit will take this Comet up towards the W shaped constellation of Cassiopeia.

Wishing you all clear skies for 2013. For more information visit www.stellarium.org

Past Times Gerald Trethowan



19 March 2005
Likely Lad: Rodney Bewes
one-man show 'Three Men
in a Boat' performed at
Constantine's Tolmen Centre. Pictured with Tod
Welch. Mr Bewes was keen
to perform at the Tolmen
Centre when he saw Kneehigh perform there. He
was so taken by the venue
that he decided to add the
venue to the tour.



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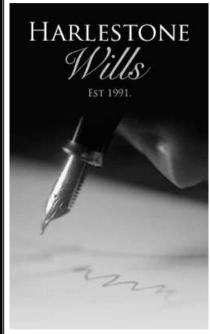
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Constantine Silver Band 2012 Report Dougie Down

2013 is a very special year as it marks our 35th anniversary since reforming in 1977. We began this year with a performance at Talk & Taste Day, led by our youth band. Our youth group continues to grow and improve, with some now moving into the band. It is very rewarding to see that nearly all of our twenty young members come from the parish.

In 2012 we again fulfilled all of our planned engagements. Our first summer event was the village Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in June. Our midsummer events started on July 21st with the Garden Show, followed in the evening by our concert in the marquee along with the St Stithians Male Voice Choir and the Trengilly Singers. The next day saw our 31st Brass on Grass, which must go down as one of our very best. The entertaining programme and high standard of playing was greatly enjoyed by all. Joining us again by popular demand were Camborne Town, Helston Town and St Keverne.

The next weekend saw us at the Port Navas regatta, with the band and youth group participating in the Sunday's Carolaire on the quay, with the Church Choir and Band. August 4th and September 9th saw the band playing Princess Pavilion for the Nankersey Choirs Fete and National Bandstand Marathon, respectively. At November's Remembrance Service at the church, the Last Post was played by Alyson Smith and the band's wreath laid by two of our young band members, Alanna Bloor and Joseph Vincent.

Our Christmas programme began on November 30th with the lights at Mawnan Smith, and later Port Navas. 1st December we were at Trago Mills followed by the evening with the Port Navas switch on. On Monday 3rd our Carols through the Village was restricted to the Social Club due to the very wet weather, with the Community Choir, School and band with refreshments kindly supplied by the Social Club. This was followed by Trago Mills on the 8th and 15th, and as usual we finished at the Budock Vean on the 24th.

We are now looking forward to celebrating our 35th year, along with welcoming any new members (training and instruments are free to band players). In June last year, Mark and Lorna sadly moved back over the border. The start of a busy summer season is not a good time to lose your MD, but, fortunately, Ian Edwards and Alyson Smith took us through our main engagements. However, our search for a new MD goes on. At present, our practice night is Tuesdays, with youth and beginners at 7 to 8 pm, and main band onwards.

The Constant Times

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Please send to constant.times@gmail.com or post to the addresses above.

DEADLINE FOR APRIL/ MAY 2013 ISSUE: MARCH 9

Letters, comment and opinion

(contributions welcome)



Dear All that help,

I would like to let you all know how impressed I have been with all of the editions of the Constant Times, despite there being nothing constant about the times themselves!

Most names are now new to me, but it is apparent that Constantine is still a vibrant community, despite all of the restrictions heaped on it's citizens by successive Governments and I am certain is still one of the best places to live; as it has been for me for 48 years.

Thankfully, being housebound, I don't have to see very often the desecration of the unique Southern entry to the village after the ancient Sycamores and walling were destroyed with developments. Sadly, despite all of the photographs I have taken, their sudden destruction caught me by surprise and weren't recorded. One takes so much for granted as if it will always exist and I should have learnt that it doesn't.

With this issue I have just read it all through at one sitting as a means of trying to keep in touch with local happenings.

Yours sincerely, Desmond Dyer

Greetings from New Zealand. My name is Ron Richards and I lived in Brill with Gerald Trethowan as my neighbour. I guess everybody will have to pick up the small threads from that clue. I guess Brill has changed a lot over the last 60 years. I often refresh my memories by looking through the purple Constantine book. I wish to send my best wishes to a great little village and anyone that remembers me.

Yours Sincerely, Ron Richards