The Constant Times

Volume 2, Issue 2 April-May 2013

Constantine's First Literary Festival Anne Hussey

Another first for Constantine will happen on Saturday 27th April when the Constantine Literary Festival will take place at the Tolmen Centre. The morning events are free, and we are hoping that as many people as possible will join us for the opening by the Miracle Theatre and story telling by John Brolly.

In the afternoon we have a mixed programme to appeal to varied interests. Joanna Hodgkin, novelist and biographer, will talk about her biography *Amateurs in Eden*, the story of her mother's marriage to Lawrence Durrell. The screenwriter Colin Rogers will provide a background view of the business of translating books to TV and film. Colin has developed work from authors as diverse as D.H. Lawrence, Melvyn Bragg and John Mortimer. To end the afternoon, Fowey resident Tessa Skola is being interviewed about her book *Bare: The Life of a Cabaret Dancer*. The book describes her early life training as a ballerina and her subsequent career working all over the world as a solo cabaret dancer.

In the evening Salley Vickers, author of the best selling *Miss Garnet's Angel*, will discuss her work, including the newly published *The Cleaner of Chartres*, with local writer, film maker, teacher and script editor Jane Pugh as Guest Chair. There will be food and drink available from the Tolmen Café, book sales and signings sponsored by the Falmouth bookshop, and lots of opportunities to talk books!

Advanced booking advisable (tel. 01326 34135). Children must be accompanied by an adult. Morning session free. Afternoon session 1.30pm - 6.00pm £7.50. Evening session £7.50. A single ticket for all events £12.00.

Inside this issue

Books for Babes, Page 2

* Sky at Night, Page 11



Farmers Market, Page 5

Climate Week, Page 16

Page 2 Volume 2, Issue 2

Note from the Editors

Due to the departure of Robert Williams, we have no Parish Council report for this issue. We hope to reinstate this essential feature in the June/July issue. Volunteers willing to write a bi-monthly summary of the Parish Council minutes please contact constant.times@gmail.com.

Thanks to all our contributors for being so prompt with news and calendar items this month, and apologies to those who missed the deadline. We can usually let our 'second Saturday' deadline slip a bit, but this month we didn't have that option due to an editorial absence. Deadline for next issue: 11 May.

Library for Little People Charlie Pugh

Barbara (who manages the Tolmen Centre) is interested in starting a book (and possibly toy) exchange and library aimed at the toddler/infant market - well, at the parents, actually. At the moment the Tolmen has a very informal fiction library, in which people give us books which we lend out - free of charge. Barbara's idea is that we could extend this to books for the very young - and possibly toys too. As a recent grandparent, she finds herself running out of books to keep her toddler granddaughter supplied with stories,



and, at the same time, has quite a collection of books she would happily lend out.

The Tolmen Centre is open during the day on Thursdays when Barbara runs the Café there, so that would be a good day to operate the exchange, but it could work at any time if there was someone who felt able to be there to receive items given, and to arrange the lending. If there's anyone who felt they would like to help get this off the ground, and help Barbara try the idea out, please give her a ring on 340630 or call in at the Tolmen on a Thursday. Anyone with surplus books for toddlers to offer would be warmly welcomed too.

By the way, for those with toddlers at home, you may not be aware that Chloe runs Todlins at the Tolmen on Wednesday mornings. It's an organised mix of music and play for children accompanied by a parent, and a chance for parents to mix and chat over a coffee. It has really taken off recently, but there is always room for a few more. Phone Chloe on 07977418566 or email chloe@todlins.co.uk.

News from the Front Nichola Butland

Cornwall's 32nd Regiment of the Foot (Cornwall's only Napoleonic re-enactment regiment), reporting from behind a musket!

2013 commenced in truly fabulous style for the Cornish militia, as we were once again invited to the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers' lavish banquet aboard the S.S. Great Britain. Three delicious, exquisitely prepared courses complete with handpainted Welsh chocolate plumes, were washed down with lashings of port, brandy, Madeira, and wonderful artisan beers brought over by our German friends the King's German Legion, and the Brunswickers. Huzzar! All the gentlemen look wonder-



fully dashing in their regimentals, and the ladies cut a fine dash too in their regency gowns and plumes in vibrant jewel shades and soft ivories: glittering elegance, and much of it home-made. In one instance, a garnet red velvet gown was beautifully accented with polished military brass buttons, a fitting nod to the occasion.

A wonderful feeling of friendship and camaraderie pervaded the evening as, after dinner (and toasts to the regiments, the King, and to the ladies), medals were awarded between friends spanning regiments and nations, as marks of friendship and appreciation, many struck from original Napoleonic dies. Speeches were made to mark decades of service from some of the company who had been re-enacting since the early sixties, and are lovingly valued by the community. The year ahead was much discussed by all, and excitement ran high as we discussed upcoming events; who is attending which battles and festivals, how event traditions are held across the centuries, and some rather important bicentenaries. The 32nd Cornish will be heading south across the seas in June, to the 200th anniversary battle of Vitoria in Northern Spain, and 2015 is already on the horizon for re-enactors all over the world, as over 120,000 people are expected to take part in the 200th anniversary battle of Waterloo. We will of course be there, flying the flag for Cornwall! In preparation, Constantine's marvellous Miss Edwards has been on drill practice this weekend, and rumour has it we'll be firing a cannon within the month!

And so, for now, I'll return to my post behind my sewing machine. Until next time (saluting), signing off.

Page 4 Volume 2, Issue 2

What's on at the Heritage Collection Tracey Clowes

Open 10.00 am to 3.30 pm Monday to Thursday

<u>Mondays: Photographic Enquiries and Library Research</u> The museum has a large photographic collection and an excellent small Cornish Research Library. If you would like to research Constantine village - your home, street, events, education - we may hold it. We welcome donations of village photographs or Cornish books to add to our collection.

<u>Tuesdays: Documentation Enquiries</u> Old minute books, planning documents, maps, wills, ephemera. All available to see. Please let us know a week in advance so we can prepare the document for you.

<u>Wednesdays: Open to take in New Acquisitions</u> On show new acquisitions, object identifications undertaken, research on objects in the collection. The museum welcomes donations of objects related to Constantine, around the following themes: mining and quarrying; agriculture; village shops and houses; village organizations; church and chapel; sport; WWI or WWII. You may also want to create your own display of your collected objects. You can book the museum 'café' case to display your items for one month.

<u>Thursday: Expert Village Historians</u> Here to help with enquiries and undertake, for a small hourly fee, research on your behalf.

Look out for speciality open days *and* we will be creating a new exhibition relating specifically to WWI in readiness for 2014. If you have any objects, letters, medals, trench art or postcards which you would be happy to loan to the museum please pop in and see us. There will be a series of activities during the year relating to WWI and WWII so keep your eyes and ears open. New volunteers always welcome. Knowledge of Constantine is great but not at all essential.

Early Bird Yoga Caitlin DeSilvey

Lucinda Pimlott, who some may know from her popular yoga classes in Penryn, is coming to Constantine with a class for early risers, Wednesdays 7.15 - 8.15am, in the Tolmen Centre Vestry. Lucinda's Anusara-inspired yoga is suitable for all levels. A taster course will run from April 17-May 1, £21 (then June 5-July 17, £42). Pre-booking essential. Contact Caitlin at 07906105634, or c.desilvey@gmail.com to register interest. If there aren't enough takers for the morning session an evening session may be an option so please get in touch if that would suit you better.

Farmers Market Springs Back Mandy Milano

It was lovely opening the Market up again - so good to see so many of you. Your support is fantastic and much appreciated by all the local producers. After so many comments about how you missed the Market and its social side during January and February, we will review whether to close next year! For now we are very much up and running once a month on the second Saturday.

Farmers Market Profile

As you walk into the market, you are greeted by the site of the Pencoose stall opposite you - covered in a wonderful array of cut flowers, plants and some fruit or veg. Hidden behind the colourful bunches and mixed bouquets - often quite literally - is Jane Miners, who along with her partner David Skewer (aka "Crockett") owns and runs Pencoose Market Garden (www.pencoose.co.uk), a small holding of 12 acres with a mixture of daffodils and cut flowers, perennial plants and a small amount of veg and fruit.

The small holding has quite a history! Jane is the 5th generation of her family to live and work on the small holding. Her great, great grandfather, who was a Mine Captain, had the cottage built (Jane still has the bill from the builder for £92, and more importantly a large quantity of fresh butter!). As a hobby farmer he then took in one field a year and leased from Lord Falmouth for 10 years, when he was finally able to buy the land outright. The small holding was 'hobby farmed' for a further two generations until Jane's grandmother let the land to a local family in the 1920s, who established it as a market garden. They kept it for over 60 years - starting off working the land with horses. In fact, Jane worked for them during the summer holidays - digging up spuds, planting cabbages and topping and tailing turnips and swedes. The family gave up the market garden in the 80s; it reverted to pasture and was let to a local sheep farmer.

Then Jane met David, who had been market gardening down on the Lizard. Both had a love of growing flowers, so they pooled resources and turned three meadows at Pencoose into daffs, cut flowers, foliage and some veg. They also have 'lots of chooks', rabbits and a horse. If Jane looked a little tired at the March market it was because she was up helping with the birth of their first ewe lamb the night before! They are the proud owners of a big black sheep called a 'zwartbles' a Dutch breed which is black with a white blaze down its face. The breed is renowned for being huge and very docile and lean and tasty - though Jane's not sure they will ever find out about the latter two - as she says the sheep are far too unusual and lovely to eat!

Page 6 Volume 2, Issue 2

Constantine Garden Nursery Wine Tasting Evening Ellie James

To celebrate the launch of their new 'Introduction to Wine' course, Constantine Garden Nursery will be holding an informal Wine Tasting Evening on Saturday 26th May. A range of fantastic wines will be available to taste and there will be a short & informative talk on the wines as a taster of the upcoming course aimed at helping those who love wine but lack confidence when it comes to choosing a bottle.

Tickets are £7.50 per person or £14.00 for 2 & can be obtained from Constantine Garden Nursery. Ticket price will include wine tasting, canapés & live music. There will also be a BBQ provided by Nancarrow Organic Farm (not included in



ticket price). A percentage of the ticket price will be donated to Save the Children, Constantine Pre-school & JuMP. For ticket purchases or further details about the event, please contact us on plants@cornwallgardens.com or 01326 340593.



Carol Daly shared this historic postcard image of Comfort, looking down Well Lane.

Business Spotlight: Lyrebird Flies Again!

Last year Constantine's handmade emporium and textiles hub Lyrebird closed its doors at No.1 Fore Street after three lovely years. Now, working from home (at No.22 Fore Street) Lyrebird is operating once more. Proprietor Nichola Butland is again endeavouring to meet the stitching and clothing needs of the community! With a constant stream of alterations and repairs coming in, new life is given to old favourites, and new finds are altered to a perfect fit. I find myself exercising some pretty old fashioned techniques, such as darning jumpers and turning shirt collars. I also re-work or 'up-cycle' items too, giving customers amazing scope to customise something and make it uniquely their own.

Lyrebird also, of course, makes clothes from scratch. If you'd like a copy of a staple garment, something made from a pattern, or you want to use my bespoke design service for a special occasion, or your perfect wedding dress, don't hesitate to get in touch. I also make jewellery, tiaras and accessories to order, to complete the look from head to toe. I specialise in vintage and historical fashions and techniques, including corsetry. Period clothing is such a fascinating subject, and extremely good fun! Lyrebird can keep you in style and comfort at home too, making gorgeous cushions, throws, tableware and other soft furnishings to order. We express ourselves a great deal through our homes, and the things we wear, and so often I hear my customers say "I'd love to be able to make that", which has inspired me to offer one on one tuition as well as group workshops to teach and encourage the sewing skills you need to create the things you've always wanted for you, your home, and your family.

Lyrebird, 22 Fore Street, TR11 5AB. 01326 340 878, lyrebird.design@gmail.com

Wildworks Museum of Us Natalia Eernstman

If you had to choose one object that represented an aspect of Cornwall, or told a story about your relationship to Cornwall, what would it be? A piece of pyrite from the mine? The programme from the village panto? A surfing trophy? Your granny's recipe book? The 'Museum of Us', a project created by Jane Darke and Wildworks, is exploring contemporary Cornish-ness, and wants to hear from people, young and old. We will be running a popup Café at the Tolmen Centre with the Constantine Heritage Collection on the 4th of April. Between 10:00 and 1:00 the WildWorks archivist team will be receiving objects and collecting stories. There will be cake, refreshments and stories to share. We will record everything that you bring, and some objects will go on display this summer at the Royal Cornwall Museum.

The Constant Times CONSTANTINE CALENDAR

April 2013

Wed 3 - One and All Club Annual Lunch. Constantine Social Club.

Thurs 4- Cafe Tolmen. 10am-2pm. 341353.

Thurs 4 - Wildworks Museum of Us. 10am-1pm. Tolmen Centre.

Sat 6 - Constantine Arts Society, Arts and Crafts Market. 10am-4.30pm. Constantine Church Hall. 250038

Mon 8 - W.I. Meeting. Cornwall Air Ambulance with Mrs Jackie Eastwood. 7.15pm. W.I. Hall.

Thurs 11 - Transition Constantine Meeting. 7.00pm. Queens Arms.

Thurs 11 - Constantine Cottage Garden Society. Plants and People of the Lohit Valley - North East Himalayas with Tom Clarke. 7.30pm. W.I. Hall. £1.

Thurs 11- Cafe Tolmen. 10am-2pm. 341353.

Mon 15 - Constantine Community Choir. 6.45pm. Tolmen Centre.

Mon 15 - One and All Club Glendower Singers. 2.15pm. Constantine Social Club.

Wed 17 - Tolmen Movies. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Cafe Tolmen open.

Thurs 18- Cafe Tolmen. 10am-2pm. 341353.

Fri 19 - Constantine History Group. Trebah Garden by Darren Dickie. 7.15pm. W.I. Hall. Geoff Roberts. 340154

Sat 20 - Garden and Home Coffee Morning. 10am-12noon. Constantine Church Hall.

Sat 20 - Helford Marine Conservation. Outdoor Photography with David Chapman. 10am. Trebah Garden. £10. Martin 07854123877 or Charles 07795845696

Thurs 25- Cafe Tolmen. 10am-2pm. 341353.

Thurs 25 - The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Brass Section. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. Adults £9, Conc. £7, Family £25. 341353. Cafe Tolmen open. Booking essential.

Sat 27 - Constantine Literary Festival. 10.30am-9.30pm. Tolmen Centre. £free am, £7.50 Afternoon, £7.50 Eve, £12 Full Day. 341353

Mon 29 - Constantine Community Choir. 6.45pm. Tolmen Centre.

May 2013

- Wed 1 Tolmen Movies. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Cafe Tolmen open.
- **Thurs 2** Cafe Tolmen. 10am-2pm. 341353.
- **Fri 3-** Tues 7 Eloise Wall Exhibition. 10am-6pm. Port Navas Village Hall. 340233
- **Thurs 9** Cafe Tolmen. 10am-2pm. 341353.
- **Thurs 9** Transition Constantine Meeting. 7.00pm. Queens Arms.
- **Thurs 9** Constantine Enterprises Company and Tolmen Operating Company AGM. 7pm. Tolmen Centre.
- Sun 12 Helford Marine Conservation. Sand Sculture with Ruth Williams. Meet 1pm. Helford Village Carpark. Ruth 07825070613 or Rhiannon 07710956734
- Mon 13 W.I. Meeting Resolutions followed by two members with 'Chicken Act' Sylvia Dunstan and Mary Vyvyan.. 7.15pm. W.I. Hall.
- **Mon 13** Constantine Community Choir. 6.45pm. Tolmen Centre.
- **Wed 15 -** Tolmen Movies. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Cafe Tolmen open.
- **Thurs 16** Cafe Tolmen. 10am-2pm. 341353.

- Fri 17 The Fantasist. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. Adults £10, Conc. £8. 341353. Cafe Tolmen open. Booking essential.
- Sat 18 Spring Bring, Swap and Buy Sale and Coffee Morning. 10am-12noon. Port Navas Village Hall. 340233
- **Mon 20** One and All Club Coach Trip to Looe. Leaving Gweek 8.45am, Constantine Spar 9.00am, Bottom of Constantine 9.10am.
- **Tues 21** Spiers and Boden. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. Adults £12,Conc. £10. 341353. Cafe Tolmen open. Booking essential.
- **Thurs 23** Cafe Tolmen. 10am-2pm. 341353.
- **Fri 24** Sat 1 Port Navas Art Group Exhibition. Port Navas Village Hall. 340233
- **Sat 25** Wine Tasting Evening. Constantine Garden Nursery. £7.50 or £14 for two. 340593
- Wed 29 Tolmen Movies. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Cafe Tolmen open.
- **Thurs 30** Cafe Tolmen. 10am-2pm. 341353.

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!

Page 10 Volume 2, Issue 2

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 Cottage Garden Society Howard Bolt

We held our AGM in February and looked back on a successful year. In spite of the appalling weather generally, the sun shone on our Summer Show in July and we had some good entries in most classes, and were delighted by the work of the younger members of the village. We have enjoyed an interesting and entertaining series of winter talks and enjoyable social visits, including a visit to Oliver Carne's garden last year to see his wonderful collection of camellias and rhododendrons and then to Ron Stamps' daffodil fields just outside Falmouth.

The Society now have their own storage facilities on the Recreation Field, and this will make it so much easier to set up the marquee for the Summer Show to be held this year on Saturday 20th July. The Schedules and Entry Forms for the Show will be available from June in the Spar and Post Office. Our last talk for this season will be in the W.I. Hall on the 11th April at 7.30, followed by a Bring and Buy Plant Sale. All are very welcome.

Jump report Daro Montag

In the evening of April 20th JuMP will be holding a public event at the Tolmen Centre. This will be an opportunity for the community to learn about how the group are developing a child-centred playground for the village, and our fundraising strategy that will hopefully lead us towards this goal. We hope as many people as possible will be able to attend and we shall be serving a free drink and nibbles! Look out for posters and invites near the time.

JuMP are also in an internet competition for some funds contributed by Cornish Mutual. The fund is aimed at 'celebrating and encouraging the wonderful community spirit that exists in the South West, making it such a special place to live'. In the voting, Constantine JuMP are currently 'neck and neck' with Lostwithiel - we need to get ahead to stand a chance of going into the next round, so please vote for us. At this stage it is just an email vote, but for users of the internet it's very easy, go to: http://www.communitysouthwest.co.uk/. JuMP continue to meet at the Social Club, 8.00pm on the first Thursday of each month. All are welcome to join us and get involved.

Page 11 Volume 2, Issue 2

* * Night Sky April/May Robert Beeman

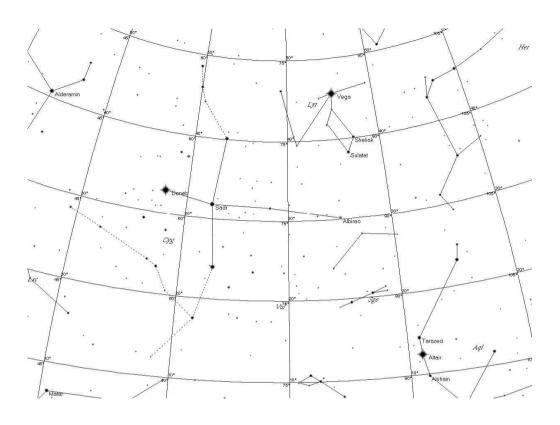
The spring and summer constellations are now starting to make their appearance and Cygnus will be high in the night sky to the east, with Deneb at its head and Alberio at the tail. Alberio is a double star, visible in an 80mm telescope to give its red and blue components. The two stars are about 10 light years apart which is just over twice the distance to our nearest star, Proxima Centauri (closer to us than Alpha Centauri by 0.1ly) Above Alberio in Lyra is Vega, a very bright star only 25lys away. Below Vega in Aquilla is Altair. Vega, Altair and Deneb form the summer triangle. Below Cygnus and to the east of Altair lies the tiny constellation of Delphinus the Dolphin, formed from five main stars, well worth a look with binoculars.

Planets are a bit thin on the ground, but Saturn will be best viewed in the early hours when it is at the highest point on the ecliptic, thus minimising atmospheric effects. The last edition mentioned Comet Panstarrs 2011, and at the time of writing observers in the southern hemisphere have reported a tail. How bright it would be when it emerged from behind the Sun and became visible to us was always open to question. It was suggested that it would be as bright as the major stars of the Plough and Orion, but to quote the famous comet hunter David Levy "comets are like cats—they have tails and do precisely what they want"! It will be worth viewing (if it behaves according to the predictions) early in April, because as it tracks up towards Andromeda it is going away from us and will therefore become fainter. For more information visit www.stellarium.org. See next page for April/May star chart.

Constantine Arts Society Christine Fletcher

On Saturday 6th April we are holding an Art & Craft Market in the Church Hall from 10am until 4.30pm. There will be a good selection of craftwork, paintings, prints and cards, all produced by the participating members. All artists will be manning their own stalls, so this is a good opportunity to come and meet some of the members and see what we get up to! This is a new venture for us, so we hope that people will come along and see what we have to offer.





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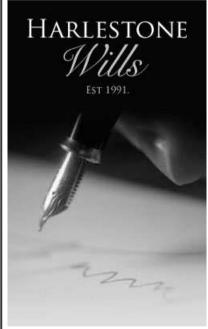
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66 The designs that Sara produced for us are stunning, and we still find it amazing that her plans translated identically into reality. We have really enjoyed the whole process of planning our garden. **55** LS, Fowey.

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The Constant Times is produced with support from the Constantine Enterprises Company and Transition Constantine. Volunteers distribute free copies to households in Constantine Parish every two months. Please let us know if you do not receive a copy, or if you would like to help with distribution.

Submission Deadlines:

News items, calendar entries and other submissions are required by the second Saturday of each month prior to publication.

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

DEADLINE FOR JUNE/ JULY 2013 ISSUE: MAY 11

Constantine's Climate Week Robin Curtis

The 4-9th March was UK Climate Week, Our local Transition group put on five events - an impressive programme for a small group. The action started on Tuesday at the school - initiated by the Eco-Club but supported by the whole school. Along with a "No-Electricity Day", various activities took place (mainly outside!) centred around "Ice" - introducing children to climate change. On Tuesday the pub guiz at the Trengilly Wartha had a "Climate Change" flavour - with regular players augmented by Transition Constantine and Transition Falmouth teams. Wednesday saw a screening of the documentary "Chasing Ice" at the Tolmen. This visually stunning, thought provoking film was well attended - with many staying afterwards to discuss the implications of the ice melt activity taking place in the high arctic.

Thursday was "Making Day" at the Tolmen - with clothes swopping, draught excluder and sawhorse manufacture, handmade furniture display and "FreeCycling". A very busy Farmer's Market, with an impressive range of local produce, ended the week's events. We ran out of our collection of draught excluders!

These activities are part of the growing Transition Movement - raising awareness of changes underway in our societies and environment arising from climate change, the need to reduce dependence on increasingly expensive and imported fossil fuel, and the on-going financial machinations. Many thanks to those who organised and participated.

Website: http://constantinecornwall.com/transition Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Transition-

Constantine/520422917968856

Contact: tmconstantine@btinternet.com