The Constant Times

Volume 2, Issue 4
August/September 2013

Bosahan Woods and Quarry News Liz Moore and Russ Johnston

An opportunity has arisen for Constantine to purchase the woodland and adjacent disused quarry at Bosahan. On June 14 a public meeting on the issue at the Tolmen Centre was very well attended, with over 70 members of the Parish present and 20 more sending their apologies with support.

At the meeting, Dick Just and Liz Moore explained that the landowners have expressed an interest in selling the woods and quarry as a combined parcel. Those in attendance showed strong support for plans to ensure the area is not developed in ways that might limit future community access and opportunity.

Various issues were discussed, including the potential for separate purchase of either the quarry or the woodland (options not currently on the table). A vote showed almost unanimous support for seeking a Community Right to Bid, which would guarantee the community a six-month window in which to raise money and make an offer.

The land is valued at somewhere close to £120,000, and most of the capital would need to be raised from external grants, matched by funding from within the community. This means that around £10,000 would need to be raised locally. The organisers of the meeting stressed the point that no contribution is too small, since the number of names on the donations list is as important as the size of the donations given. Since the meeting, close to half of this sum has already been pledged.

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The opportunity to purchase the quarry and woodland arose from an ongoing discussion about community development of the quarry and celebration of its industrial heritage. Proposals include turning it into a site of education and tourism, focussing on wildlife conservation, and providing work-space for local crafts (carpentry, sculpting, arts and pottery perhaps), using renewable energy. Whatever happens, the options and prospects of success will be significantly greater if the land is under community ownership.

Constantine Enterprises Company has now created the Constantine Granite Trail Initiative to take this project forward. For further information or to make a pledge, call Liz Moore (340703) or Dick Just (340434).

JuMP Into Summer Daro Montag

JuMP will be running three projects over the summer. The first is a series of creative workshops aimed at generating ideas for developing the children's playground. If you have a child at Constantine Primary School you should have received a brochure and booking form at the end of term. Further copies can be collected from the SPAR shop or Constantine Stores. Return booking forms to Anna Gardner, 27 Penbothidino, racj.gardner@yahoo.co.uk.

We have also secured some funding to install a new 'welcome gate' at the entrance to the recreation ground. We shall be seeking ideas about what this should look like. Forms with information about this can also be obtained at the village shops. Don't worry if you can't draw or design; at this stage we would just like your thoughts, ideas or a rough sketch.

Thirdly we have also received funding to develop a youth volunteering scheme. In collaboration with Rev Stewart Turner we shall be seeking young volunteers to help establish an area of the recreation ground for teenagers and young adults. The funding will help to cover the costs of installing club house/meeting space, an outdoor table tennis table and other possibilities. If you are a teenager or young adult and would like to get involved please meet at the gazebo on the recreation ground at 2.00pm on Saturday 3rd August.

Finally JuMP and the Pre-school would like to thank Dr Adrian Roberts for raising funds through his athletic achievements in the triathlon.

June/July Parish Council Report Liz D'Alton and Charlotte Evans

The Parish Council still needs two more members. Please contact any Councillor if you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

In comments from County Councillor Neil Hatton, the Cornwall Councillor Community Grant (Community Chest) funding was confirmed at £3,000 to be shared between the three parishes. This is open to a wide range of projects at the community scale. The minimum award is £100 and the maximum £1,000. Contact Councillor Hatton.

The police report included a reminder to residents to secure fuel oil stores. Anyone buying marine equipment is encouraged to check www.stolenboats.org.uk, which lists items that have been reported stolen.

The Parish Council is going to formalise the ban on dogs in the Recreation Ground, with a Dog Control Order. Once it is in place, anyone allowing a dog on the Recreation Ground will face a fine of up to £200.

A safety report on the children's play equipment was received. There are plans to remove the section of stone wall beside the old cricket pad as it serves no purpose and stones that are becoming dislodged pose a safety risk.



Cornwall Council will be approached about the long grass in the Churchyard. It is their responsibility to maintain it in a decent and tidy condition.

The Parish Council agreed to give the Pre-school £200 for a new dishwasher, and £60 to the Cornwall Blind association for volunteer transport costs.

The new Memorial Garden Plaque was shown to the Council who all agreed that it is very attractive and discreet. It will be placed in position soon.

Councillors' contact details and full minutes of Parish Council meetings can be found at: www.constantinecornwall.com

Planning applications and comments can be viewed on the on-line planning register at:http://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/online-applications/

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Local 'Secret Army' Veterans Sought Nina Hannaford

Members of one of the most secret organisations of the Second World War have been granted permission to take part in the annual Remembrance Day Cenotaph march past by the Royal British Legion. This follows a campaign undertaken by the Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team (CART), the researchers behind the British Resistance Archive.

The Auxiliary Units were groups of civilian volunteers, who during this country's darkest days in World War Two answered Churchill's call and volunteered to 'stay behind' in the event of a German invasion. They were to disrupt and, where possible, destroy the enemy's supply chain and reserve troops, 'deal' with collaborators and take out strategic targets within their local areas. Every member signed the Official Secrets Act and never told families and friends about what they were up to - many taking their secret to the grave.

Auxiliary Units were highly trained and well equipped and would literally go underground in the event of an invasion and strike at targets from their operational bases, buried beneath the British countryside. Such was the danger of their mission these volunteers had a life expectancy of just two weeks after the invasion.

Due to the secrecy of their mission the Auxiliary Unit members have never, before today, been granted any official recognition. With so few veterans remaining, this year's march is the last chance the country will have to thank these brave men for the sacrifice they were prepared to make for us.

Many of these veterans were in reserved occupations during the war and they could not join the regular forces to do their bit - however when the call came they did not hesitate to join what essentially would have been a suicide mission to confront the enemy invader. Thankfully the invasion never came.

There were 32 Cornwall Patrols including Constantine, Mabe, Mannaccan and Redruth. Some information has been gathered about the Constantine Patrol, including photographs of the building near Brill Hill which was used for the first Operational Base. (See: http://www.coleshillhouse.com/constantine-auxiliary-unit-and-operational-base.php)

If anyone has any information on the Patrols or their underground bases, or if there are any veterans or veterans' families who make wish to march, please contact Nina Hannaford on 01803 852977 or cartdevon@gmail.com.

Wanted: WWI and WWII Memorabilia Tracey Clowes

The Constantine Museum is carrying out research on WW1 (and WWII) in readiness for our display in 2014. Do you have any objects, postcards, photographs, letters or family stories relating to the First World War which you would be prepared to loan to the Museum? We're particularly interested in a few items: a Queen Mary tin/contents; Forces postcard; Trench art; Trench watches; Gas attack rattle.

Please give Tracey a call on 01326 340297, or pop into the Museum.



A Call for Textile Treasures Nichola Butland

For several years now I've been working with clothing, new and old, in Cornwall and the more people I speak to the more amazed I am at the incredible antique textile treasures in private ownership in our area. I hear of Regency christening gowns, original Napoleonic redcoats, Victorian jackets and other items, all of great sentimental importance to their owners, and I love to hear the stories behind them. Who wore them?

It is sometimes my pleasure and my privilege to see and handle these items, but I've decided to try and take it one step further, and also document some of these wonderful things for others to enjoy. I am proposing to document through articles and photography these treasures, and to publish the images and construction notes of them online so that costume enthusiasts, historians, and the public can enjoy these glorious things. (The names and details of the owners will of course not be included anywhere without permission.)

If you have articles in your ownership (pre 1925) that you wouldn't mind me making some notes and taking some photographs of I'd be delighted to include them in my research. One

idea is to bring these wonderful things together, in digital form, to create a kind of online museum collection for Cornwall. What do you think? I'd love to hear about anything you may like to have included. Contact me on 01326 340878, or at lyrebird.design@gmail.com.

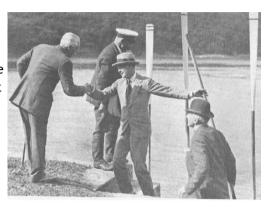


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Tremayne Quay Restoration Appeal Justin Whitehouse

Tremayne Woods, the Quay and boathouse are well known to most people who are familiar with the Helford River, but for those who've not had the pleasure of visiting this very special place, here's a little background together with an appeal for help.

Historically, Tremayne has always been associated with Trelowarren Estate. Whilst there has no doubt been a quay located here for a great deal longer, the present structure dates from 1847, built by Sir Richard Vyvyan in preparation for a visit by Queen Victoria. Unfortunately the queen never came, although her great grandson, Edward, Duke of Windsor, favoured the quay with a belated royal visit in 1921 when he was Prince of Wales.



The Quay is at the end of a mile long track leading through unspoilt ancient seminatural and plantation woodland running alongside the Helford River. Some of these woods, notably the mature beech plantation in the valley at the head of the Creek, were planted specifically to impress Queen Victoria prior to her aborted visit in the 1840s. The sessile oak woodlands further down the track were managed as coppice for the charcoal and tannin trade, and like many Cornish oak woodlands, would have been a hive of activity up until the 1920s with bodgers and wood folk managing the woods. Today, the woods are better known for their beauty and tranquillity, as well as the abundance of estuarine birds and woodland flora which can be spotted along the way.

The Woods and Quay were bequeathed to the National Trust in 1978 from the Vyvyan family of Trelowarren. Today, it is one of the few public quays on the upper reaches of the river with public access right down to the riverside.

These days, Tremayne is a popular place for recreation, quiet enjoyment and having fun. Whether it's walkers stopping for a picnic or just to enjoy the unspoilt views up and down the river, boat users pulling up for a BBQ or overnight stay, or a bunch of youngsters experiencing the wonderful solitude of the river at night with a camping trip, most locals and visitors to Tremayne have fond memories of



the place. It's a place to fish, catch crabs, wild swim, jump in at high tide, make a mud pie and roast marshmallows around the campfire. It's a place for everyone, for ever.

However, in recent years the Quay has begun to show its age and needs some significant restoration repairs undertaken. Holes have appeared within the walls, stones have become dislodged and in places the core of the structure is beginning to be washed out. We'd also like to make some improvements to the Quay, with some new boat tie-ups installed, improved fire pits and better drainage.

The National Trust has recently received a very generous donation of £3000 from a local charitable trust, but we still need at least £9000 more before the work can take place. We know that Tremayne is a much loved and appreciated place and we would be enormously grateful for any contributions towards the repair costs. A gift of any size would be gratefully welcomed and will make a huge difference to this stunning local landmark for years to come.

If you would like to make a donation to this appeal then you can do so at www.justgiving.com/TremayneQuay or send a cheque made payable to 'National Trust' to Tremayne Quay Appeal, The Stables, Penrose Estate, Helston, Cornwall, TR13 ORD Please indicate whether or not you would like us to claim gift aid on your donation. You can also contact me (Justin Whitehouse, National Trust Head Ranger: The Lizard) for more information on 01326 291174.

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Towards the Clean Energy Transition Chris Hussey

A study on public attitudes to clean energy and climate issues has recently been published. It was funded by the UK Energy Research Centre and carried out by a team drawn from Cardiff and Nottingham Universities. It shows that people across Britain are fully supportive of an energy system transition. The survey, as summarised by the BBC, revealed these views:

- 82% worried about fossil fuel import dependency
- 79% keen to reduce fossil fuel usage
- 85% supportive of power from the sun
- 75% supportive of wind power
- 74% concerned about climate change

The research team was led by Professor Nick Pidgeon, who commented: "What's interesting is that, despite what you might see in parts of the media, it's clear that very broadly the public want a long-term commitment to clean energy".

The Diamond Jubilee Stone Peter Tatham

You will have noticed the large stone by the bus stop in the village (affectionately known as 'The Pebble') and may have wondered when it will be completed. Well, there have been a number of delays since the stone arrived in the village on March 15th, but fortunately things are progressing. A village map has been designed and is about to be produced, before being recessed and fixed to the stone. There is also a plague being made to commemorate the village being granted the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Engraving of the Jubilee inscription wording should start in August. Then the area around the stone will be tidied up before the stone is officially unveiled. A lot of voluntary work has been undertaken by local people to achieve what will be a fitting way to remember Constantine's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, to provide useful information for visitors and to mark the start of our historic Granite Trail.



Farmers Market Profile: Crackling Good Pork Mandy Milano

Sylvia Dunstan and three generations of her family are the brains (and muscle) behind Crackling Good Pork. They have two rare breeds of prize-winning pigs - Pedigree Saddlebacks and Pedigree Middle-whites (which are on the endangered list). One female Saddleback (called a 'gilt' as she is yet to have her first litter) won Reserve Champion at the Great York Show - yes, they do go that far to show their pigs - and two of their pigs won prizes at this year's Royal Cornwall. The whole family get involved in looking after the pigs with Sylvia's husband Mike, daughter Caroline and grand-daughter Darcy doing most of the showing. Their season starts in May at the Devon County Show, then the Royal Cornwall Show, next the Great Yorkshire Show, finishing with the whole family going to the Oakhampton Show. Darcy is the youngest member of the team and won Young Handler (in 16 and under) at the Royal Cornwall Show this year. Grandma Sylvia says proudly "Darcy has a real way with animals - she has done since she was tw0; she is wonderful with the pigs."

The family have been keeping pigs since 1999 when Mike, who had been farming all his life, had a sudden heart attack; to cheer him up they bought him two pigs from North Cornwall. But in the time it took to collect them, two had become over 20 as both pigs farrowed (had piglets, to the non-farmers amongst us). Needless to say, Mike was delighted with the new arrivals, and a whole new chapter started for the Dunstan family. Now they can have over 100 pigs on the farm. The pigs are kept outside all year round - except when it is very cold, when they are brought in. Interestingly Sylvia said that when they are inside pigs are remarkably clean - choosing one particular area as a toilet with even the piglets only using that spot! And in this heat, the family make them a lovely cooling wallow area, as pigs don't sweat so need to be able to wallow to cool-off.

Sylvia is passionate about the need to keep pedigree pigs: "We are at risk of losing the gene pool. So we need to eat rare breeds to keep them going. They can't be kept as pets - they need to be farmed for meat!" she said. Apparently, the supermarkets won't touch rare breeds - because they can look fatty - so customers don't buy it, and abattoirs don't like black-skinned pigs. But it is partly due to the extra fat that the meat has such a wonderful flavour.

You can buy Crackling Good Pork from Sylvia (and her long-standing friend and helper, Mary) at Constantine Farmers Market (the next market is Saturday, August 10, at the Tolmen Centre). She also supplies the Trengilly Wartha, and sells direct from home. Contact her on 340548 or email sylviadunstan00@gmail.com.

The Constant Times CONSTANTINE CALENDAR

August 2013

Thurs 1-Sat 10 - Constantine Arts Society. 39th Annual Exhibition. 10am-7pm. Church Hall. 250038.

Fri 2-Thurs 8 - Jan Robson Exhibition. Port Navas Village Hall.

Sat 3 - Port Navas Regatta. 1pm.

Sun 4 - Carolaire. Port Navas Quay. 7pm.

Mon 5 - JuMP workshop: Sitting. 10-12. Tolmen Centre. Booking details p. 2.

Tues 6 - JuMP workshop: Move. 10-12. Tolmen Centre. Booking details p. 2.

Tues 6 - Zumba. 8pm. Tolmen.

Wed 7 - Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Thurs 8 - JuMP workshop: Theatre. 10-12. Tolmen. Booking details p. 2.

Thurs 8 - Transition Constantine Meeting. 7.00pm. Queens Arms.

Sat 10 - Farmers Market. 9.30am-12noon. Tolmen Centre.

Mon 12 - JuMP workshop: Animals. 10-12. Church Hall. Booking details p. 2.

Mon 12 - Constantine Community Choir. 6.45pm. Tolmen Centre.

Mon 12 - W.I . Meeting. 7.15pm. W.I. Hall.

Tues 13 - Zumba. 8pm. Tolmen.

Wed 14 - Todlins, 9.30am, Tolmen,

Thurs 15 - JuMP workshop: Places. 10-12. Church Hall. Booking details p. 2.

Fri 16 - USA Deep South themed evening menu. Waymarker. Tables available 17:30-20:00. 2 courses £19.95/3 courses £25.95.

Sat 17 - Summer Barbeque. 6pm. Port Navas. Adult £7. Under 10 £3.50.

Mon 19 - JuMP workshop: Creeping and Climbing. 10-12. Location TBC. Booking details p. 2.

Mon 19 - One and All Club. Padstow Trip. Depart Gweek 8.45am; Constantine Spar 9am; bottom of Constantine 9.10am. Sally 340050.

Mon 19 - Jazz-inspired charity menu with guest chef Ken Symons of Oliver's Eatery. Waymarker. 7 course taster menu. 7pm. Tickets £30 in advance

Tues 20 - Zumba. 8pm. Tolmen.

Wed 21 - Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Weds 21 - JuMP workshop: Youth 10-12. Social Club. Booking details p. 2.

Thurs 22 - JuMP workshop: Play. 10-12. Church Hall. Booking details p. 2.

Fri 23 - HVMC Rockpool Ramble. 1-3pm. Meet at Mawnan Smith Church. Ruth 07825070613.

Tues 27 - Zumba Class. 8pm. Tolmen.

Wed 28 - Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Weds 28 - JuMP workshop: Special. 10-12. Tolmen. Booking details p. 2.

September 2013

Tues 3 - Zumba. 8pm. Tolmen.

Wed 4 - Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Thurs 5 - Helston Pilates Studio New Beginners Level Mat Class. 9.15-10.15am. W.I.Hall.

Sat 7 - Steve and Martin Tilston Folk Concert. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. 341353.

Mon 9 - Constantine Community Choir. 6.45pm. Tolmen Centre.

Mon 9 - W.I Meeting. 7.15pm. W.I. Hall.

Tues 10 - Zumba. 8pm. Tolmen.

Wed 11 - Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Wed 11 - Tolmen Movies. Life of Pi. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

Thurs 12 - Pilates Mat Class. 9.15-10.15am. W.I.Hall.

Thurs 12 - Transition Constantine Meeting. 7pm. Queens Arms.

Thurs 18 - Parish Council Meeting. 7pm. Vestry.

Sat 14 - Helford Marine Conservation BBQ and Snorkel Safari. 5pm. Durgan. BBQ £3. Abby 07973400183 Jess 07850112504. Booking essential.

Sat 14 - Farmers Market. 9.30am-

12noon. Constantine Village Hall.

Tues 17 - Zumba. 8pm. Tolmen. Wed 18 - Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Thurs 19 - The Vicar of Morwenstowe by Richard Clowes. 7pm. Port Navas Village Hall. £7 inc. Pasty. Jim 340863

Thurs 19 - Pilates Studio Mat Class. 9.15-10.15am. W.I.Hall.

Sat 21 - Lutes and Voices, A Concert of Ancient Music. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. 341353.

Tues 24 - Zumba Class. 8pm. Tolmen.

Tues 24 - Ladies Circle Harvest Lunch and Sale with Sheila Symonds. 2.30pm. W.I.Hall. Jean 340388

Wed 25 - Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Wed 25 - Tolmen Movies. Amour. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

Thurs 26 - Helston Pilates Mat Class. 9.15-10.15am. W.I.Hall.

Fri 27 - Portuguese-themed evening menu. Waymarker. Tables available 17:30-20:00. 2 courses £19.95/3 courses £25.95.

Sat 28 - Quiz Night in aid of the Heritage Centre. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. 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!

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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 W.I. Report Barbara Willoughby

If you thought pearls only grew in oysters, you would be wrong: any mollusc can produce pearls, even snails! Our speaker for the July meeting, Judith Peters, has been working in jewellery, particularly pearls, for over 30 years. She began her career working in a large London jewellers, where 'young apprentices', particularly women, were not allowed on the 'shop floor' and she learnt her 'craft' counting



pearls after they had been re-strung for wealthy customers. Very soon she was being sent to the Middle East because her male colleagues were not allowed to deal with the Arab wives who wanted to try on the jewellery before buying.

Pearls grow because an 'irritant' is introduced into the shell and the mollusc defences surround the foreign object, which then grows into a pearl. Unfortunately, this can be a rare occurrence under natural circumstances and could mean that in over 100 mollusc shells you would find only one pearl. Hence the introduction of Cultured Pearl Farms, where the introduction of an 'irritant' to encourage pearl growth is done by hand. Even then the growth of a pearl can take up to two years.

We were shown some wonderful examples of priceless jewellery, in photos of 10th century crowns, Elizabeth the First's dresses encrusted with pearls, Mary the First wearing the largest pearl ever found (the size of a small egg), Mrs Simpson and Liz Taylor. Many of these beautiful pieces of jewellery are now in museums and private collections; one piece recently sold in New York made \$2.2 million.

It was an interesting insight into the wonderful world of jewellery. Our meeting continued with thanks to Liz Moore for arranging the W.I. Birthday outing to a private garden on the Lizard Coastline, followed by a meal at Roskillys. Members are reminded that our next meeting on Monday 9th September is a visit to St. Hilary Church and Heritage Centre. We meet at the Church Car Park at 5.45pm.

Parish Church Update Liz Moore

Our vicar was licensed Priest in Charge of Mawnan Smith in June, so he is now responsible for both Parishes. We knew this would happen at some point as clergy numbers have decreased and many parishes have therefore been linked for years. This has meant changes for both Parishes in service patterns and administration.

The most obvious of these is that on the third Sunday of the month we have an Evening Communion service at 6pm and no morning services at all. Listen for the bells - they will remind you of the service times. Also, on the third Sunday we have a Family Special at 4.30pm for half an hour or so, with choruses, bible stories, and drama for the young in age and at heart.

As part of the Church Harvest Festival celebrations on Saturday 21 September at 7pm we are very fortunate to be able to welcome the Cornwall Boys Choir and Cambiata prior to their visit to London's Royal Albert Hall. Tickets are £5, and will be available in advance or on the door. You may have heard the CBC briefly in the Marquee in July, but come along for a full concert by these dedicated boys, several of whom are Constantine's own.

The following day, 22 September, is the Harvest Festival Service, followed by a Parish Lunch in the Hall, to which everyone is most welcome. To finish the advance notices, our Christmas Market will be held on Saturday 30 November.

During the next couple of months we hope to improve the look of the old church-yard. Those scheduled to cut it haven't, and it has now become rather overgrown. An area will still be left to encourage the wildlife (I have seen bluebells and lots of butterflies there this year) but most of it will be cut properly. We are looking for volunteer to monitor and record the wildlife in this area.

Constantine Silver Bands Carolaire

PORT NAVAS QUAY

SUNDAY 4 AUGUST, 7pm

With Constantine Silver Band and Constantine Church Choir.

Introduced by Rev. Stewart Turner

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Constantine History Group Visit Bodmin Gaol Don Garman

Twenty two members of the Group, led by curator Mark, made a fascinating exploration of the substantial remains of the 18th century Bodmin Gaol.

Facilities for containing felons, debtors and ne'er-do-wells, in Bodmin, its environs and more widely across the county, were deemed by the Justices of the Peace to be poor and therefore a Parliamentary Act of 1778 gave the local Justices permission to build three penal institutions: a county jail, debtor's prison and a house of correction.

The design of a gaol to include all three was undertaken by Sir John Call, who applied the principles expounded by the prison reformer John Howard, whose ideas were influenced by his experiences as a prisoner in France. Most prisons of 18th and 19th century origin, several of them still in use today, followed Howard's principles and thus have similar design features. The owners of Bodmin Gaol have therefore not been able to access plans for the prison because it could provide sensitive information about prisons still being actively used!

The design sought to provide a healthy environment for prisoners where there was good air circulation, hot water, medical facilities and each individual was provided with their own cell. The central tower provided a sixth level and allowed the bad air to escape into the atmosphere. In calm conditions fires could be lit in the tower to draw air through the building. Men and women were separated, and later, owing to a reduction in the civil prison population, a Naval Prison was added. Unfortunately, at times during the 19th century the individual cells often accommodated five prisoners. Two communal spaces were used to house prisoners who proved difficult to control and those to be deported. The overcrowding in these spaces often led to the outbreak of disease.

The gaol was closed in 1929 as it could no longer meet modern requirements and a Mr Newt from Delabole disposed of all the records and keys in the execution pit. The buildings were allowed to fall into a state of dereliction prior to being auctioned in 1933. As much as possible of the building was then sold including the clock, which has been traced to Canada. The buildings were used to house state papers and the Crown Jewels for a short period during World War II and then provided accommodation for American troops before being used as haulage depot, later becoming a casino and night club prior to becoming a heritage attraction.

The gaol was intended for short stay prisoners and therefore baths were not provided until the prisoner had been resident for three months! During the Victorian

period a silent regime was operated to enable incumbents to reflect on their misdemeanours. All prisoners were expected to work if they could not pay for their food and accommodation. Many spent time on the tread wheel which later ground the corn to make bread and subsequently generated electricity. Picking rope to make oakum for caulking ships was undertaken in silence in the cells.

Those committing serious misdemeanors were either deported, for example Mary Bryant of Fowey, or executed. Fifty five prisoners were executed during the 180 year life span of the gaol. Public hangings from the wall became an attraction with audiences of over 25,000. Public disorder led to executions being undertaken away from the public gaze, first of all from a balcony above one of the yards and later using an execution pit. The last person to be executed was William Hampton in 1909 for murdering his girlfriend. Crimes leading to execution ranged from murder to setting light to a mow of hay to "feloniously killing a mare". No executions

were recorded for residents of Constantine Parish but a resident of the nearby parish of Budock was hung for burglary.

The Chairman of the Group, Geoff Roberts, thanked Mark for a lively and very informative guided tour of this fascinating heritage site. The next meeting is on July 19th when members will participate in a guided walk around Porthleven.



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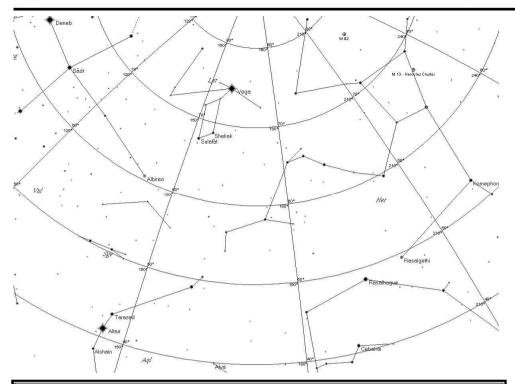
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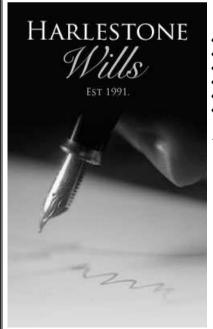
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* Night Sky August/September Robert Beeman

The August highlight is the Perseid meteor shower, which peaks 11/12th and 12/13th of the month. The Moon is in a favourable position for both nights. Do not despair if it is cloudy on both these nights. The build up started in late July and they will still be around at the end of August, although in reduced numbers. The radiant, the position in the sky from which they appear to come, is high in the North East. The best time to observe is after midnight on a sunlounger or deck chair facing East/South, refreshments to your choice!

Whilst waiting, observe the swathe of the Milky Way as darkness falls, and if you have binoculars or a small telescope look for M13 in Hercules, a dense globular cluster of old stars. Come across from M13 to Vega, a bright star at the top of the summer triangle, and extend a line down to Altair at the base of the triangle. About halfway between these two stars, go slightly east to Albireo, a double star where the components are thought to be gravitationally related. These appear as a very attractive blue and orange pair.

The planets are being a bit difficult at the moment, but at the end of August/early September you might get a sight of Saturn and Venus shortly after sunset. Neptune and Uranus will be to the South at midnight. Jupiter and Mars are early morning objects and you may get a sighting at 0400, which is 90 minutes before sunrise.

For your own sky charts go to: www.skymap.com or www.stelarium.org and for more detailed monthly information visit your local Astronomy Society website at www.CornwallAS.org.uk.



ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE!

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The Constant Times

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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
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER
2013 ISSUE: 14
SEPTEMBER

Lutes and Voices at the Tolmen Centre

A celebration in voice, lute, theorbo, violin, viola, cello and keyboard of the works of Monteverdi, Purcell, Pearson, Dowland and others.

7.30 Saturday 21st Sept.

Tolmen Centre, Constantine

Tickets £9, £7 concessions (senior citizens, 16 and under)

With Friends in Harmony Choir (director Kate Thomson);
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This unique event will be the culmination of the popular local concerts arranged between the musicians and the singers over recent years. The blend of musical expertise with a vibrant and versatile choir promises a special and memorable evening.

Bar and pre-concert meal available (meals to be booked in advance).

For all reservations please phone the Tolmen Centre on: 01326 341353.