

# The Constant Times

Volume 4, Issue 2

April 2015 - May 2015

## Any Questions for the Candidates? Chris Hussey

You may have noticed that there's an election coming up! Candidates representing all the main political parties in our constituency will be in Constantine on Tuesday 7th April for an event in 'Any Questions?' format. It will be held at the Tolmen Centre, beginning at 7:30 pm, with doors (and bar) open from 7:00 pm.

It is proposed that each prospective candidate will be given a few minutes to introduce themselves and what their party stands for, and that the bulk of the event will be given over to questions posed by members of the audience. If you would like to offer a question to be asked, please turn up early enough to write it out. Questions submitted will then be introduced by the Chair of the meeting. This will be your opportunity to see, hear and question:

Geoff Garbett (Green)  
George Eustice MP (Conservative)  
Julia Goldsworthy (Liberal Democrat)

Loveday Jenkin (Mebyon Kernow)  
Michael Foster (Labour)  
Robert Smith (UKIP)



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## Note from the Editors

Hello neighbours. There have been a few changes on *The Constant Times* editorial team recently. The print day of this issue coincides with the due date for the firstborn child of CT editors Benjamin and Lottie (Bowser) Symes (we'll announce the new arrival in the next issue!). Elly Van Veen has kindly agreed to take on editing of the Constantine Calendar—welcome Elly, and thank you to Lottie for three years of exemplary service! We're still looking for someone to take on the Advertising Editor role. If you are handy with managing a basic spreadsheet and don't mind sending the odd invoice out please get in touch ([constant.times@gmail.com](mailto:constant.times@gmail.com)). And please keep your contributions coming in. Deadline for sending in articles and calendar items for the June-August issue is 22 May!

*The Editors*

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## Constantine Enterprises Company AGM - 14 May Liz Moore

The AGM of the Constantine Enterprises Company and the Tolmen Operating Company will take place at the Tolmen Centre on 14th May at 7.00pm. The meeting will include reports on all aspects of the CEC work, finances, election of officers, etc . - all washed down with a glass of wine. Please come along to find out what's been going on. This is your company, working for our Parish, and fresh projects are always welcomed.



The improvements to the Tolmen Centre garden are coming along. A group of volunteers gathered on Saturday 21 March to work on levelling the ground and general landscaping. When complete, a set of terraced steps (left, under construction) will lead up from the garden to a sizable patio area.

## Community Land Trust Update Suzy Currell

Since our open day last September, when we officially introduced the Constantine Community Land Trust (CLT) to the village, much progress has been made, leading towards our eventual goal of building affordable homes for local people. Although housing is perhaps at the core of our mission, given the present need, this need not be the only project developed by a CLT- other possibilities discussed have included affordable small business units and community-owned local green spaces.

Recently, we have identified several prospective sites for housing around the village, have been talking to, and in some cases visiting, other CLTs to gain the benefit of their experience, and we are about to become an official not for profit registered company.

Most of note to the village at large is that we're planning our Grand Launch Event, incorporating our AGM, on the 28th April at the Tolmen Centre, to enrol members and elect a board of directors. This is your opportunity, as a member of your community, to have a say in the future of housing/small business development in Constantine. It only costs a pound to become a voting member and have your opinion heard.

We are inviting nominations for the board of directors, to be elected at this event. Please let us know if you are interested in the positions of Chair, Treasurer or Secretary, or if you know of anyone else who might be. We will need a total of about 5-12 board members.

### **All Welcome at Inaugural Community Land Trust AGM**



**Please come along to join us at  
7.30pm on 28th April**

**Tolmen Centre, Constantine.**

**Refreshments will be served**

**For more information contact Simon Allen 07966906225  
or [constantineclt@gmail.com](mailto:constantineclt@gmail.com)**

## Pre-School Solar Project - Looking for Lift Off! Robin Curtis

With the sun coming out again, it's time to start making use of it to generate electricity and an ongoing revenue stream to Constantine Pre-School. We have been selected as one of a handful of UK schools in 2015 to be supported by the 1010 Solar Schools Crowdfunding Project.



At the time of the proposed solar farms in Constantine there was a strong preference for solar PV to be fitted on our community buildings. This is our first opportunity to achieve this. The solar panels could be installed tomorrow – the roof is suitable, there are no planning issues. All we need is funding and the school could join the growing number of roofs in the parish that are already generating clean, renewable electricity locally.

We are immensely grateful to those local businesses that have already responded to our recent appeal. We will be putting your name up in lights on the Crowd Funding web site. If you have been thinking of donating, please do – we would like to generate momentum behind the project.

Any contributions, whatever size, will effectively be turned into a 20 year income for the Pre-School and thus help to maintain this important centre of community life in Constantine. You can contribute as little as £5 at [www.solarschools.org.uk/constantinepreschool](http://www.solarschools.org.uk/constantinepreschool), or you can purchase vouchers at the Farmers Market or from any member of the Pre-School team.

If you are one of the many thousands of people who are changing your electricity utility, and you switch to the 100% renewable supplier, Good Energy, who generate Cornish electricity at Delabole, they will donate £50 to this project.

## Cruising Up the River Paula Evans

The annual Helford Marine Conservation Cruise takes place a month earlier this year – on Sunday June 14th – so if you want to come on board then now is the time to think about booking a place.

Last year, over 90 people joined this highly popular event which leaves from the Ferry Boat Inn jetty at 3pm, getting back at 5pm. Local experts will be on board to point out the wildlife and explain the history of the Helford, plus there will be tanks on the boat containing samples of the river's marine life.

So grab your binoculars, pack a waterproof, and join us cruising up the river. For tickets, adults £10 and children £5, send a cheque payable to Helford Marine Conservation Group with a SAE to Sue Scott, Little Helland, Treverva, Penryn. TR10 9BP.

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



Happy passengers on the 2014 Helford Marine Conservation Cruise (photo: Paula Evans).

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## **Gweek Players Perform The Cemetery Club** Linda Capone

Gweek Players will be performing The Cemetery Club by Ivan Menchell on Wednesday 3rd June to Friday 5th June at 7.30pm, as well as a matinee on Saturday 6th June at 2.30 pm, at Gweek Village Hall (next to the Seal Sanctuary).

Despite the title, The Cemetery Club is a funny and heart-warming play. Three New York widows meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husband's graves. Ida is sweet-tempered and ready to begin a new life, Lucille is the life and soul of the party, but Doris is priggish and judgmental, particularly when Sam the butcher appears on the scene. He meets the widows while visiting his wife's grave. Doris and Lucille scheme to squash the budding romance between Sam and Ida but are guilt-ridden when this nearly breaks Ida's heart.

The play is in two acts with an interval in the middle during which the audience can choose between three homemade desserts or cheese and biscuits, as well as tea or coffee – all included in the ticket price (£9 on Wednesday and Saturday, £10 on Thursday and Friday). Wine is also available. Come along and enjoy an entertaining evening out. Tickets are available from our Box Office on 0845 094 8874 or from our website: [www.gweekplayers.co.uk](http://www.gweekplayers.co.uk).

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## **Navas Hill House & Trenarth in NGS Open Gardens** Aline Turner



Navas Hill House will open its garden on Sunday 17th May 2015 from 2pm to 5.30 pm (entrance £3.50). Trenarth, which is opposite and a lovely 15 minute walk through bluebell woods, opens from 5pm to 8pm (entrance £4).

At Navas Hill you get a kitchen garden, woods, two plantsman areas with specialist trees, a growing large-leafed rhododendron collection and beautiful valley views. Delicious cream teas and plant sales. Contact Richard Turner 01326 251233 or [rwt.turner@btinternet.com](mailto:rwt.turner@btinternet.com).

At Trenarth there are four acres around a 17th century farmhouse, 16th century courtyard, yew rooms, wild flowers and bees as well as traditional planting and much more. And a free glass of wine! Contact Lucie Nottingham 01326 340444 or [lmnottingham@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lmnottingham@tiscali.co.uk).

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## Constantine Literary Pod Welcomes Victoria Glendinning

Anne Hussey



On Friday April 10th Constantine Literary Pod will be hosting their Spring Literary Event. Join us downstairs at the Tolmen Centre to hear Victoria Glendinning talk about Anthony Trollope's life and works, with reference to her critically acclaimed benchmark biography *Trollope*, first published in 1992, which won the Whitbread Biography Award. The talk will be followed by a question and answer session.

Biographer, critic, broadcaster and novelist Victoria Glendinning is an Honorary Vice-President of English PEN and was awarded a CBE in 1998. She is a Vice President of the Royal Society of Literature and holds honorary doctorates from the universities of Southampton, Ulster, Dublin and York. She is also a regular contributor of articles and reviews to various newspapers and magazines.

Anthony Trollope is, with Dickens, by far the most enduringly popular Victorian novelist. Born in 1815, he was also a Liberal parliamentary candidate, a magazine editor, a traveller, and a devoted friend of Thackeray and George Eliot. Some of his best-loved works, collectively known as the Chronicles of Barsetshire, revolve around the imaginary county of Barsetshire. He also wrote many other perceptive novels on political, social, and gender issues.

Wine and refreshments will be available from 6.30pm. There will be new and second-hand books on sale and lots of opportunity to talk books! Tickets available from the Tolmen Centre on 01326 341353 – book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets £5.00 each (only 80 available).

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## Open Studios Cornwall 2015

Sat 23rd May - Sun 31st May.

Following a hugely successful event last year, the eleventh annual Open Studios will see artists and craftspeople throwing open the doors to their studios for a week at the beginning of the summer 2015. Six artists in the parish will be opening their studios for the event. See <http://openstudioscornwall.tumblr.com/> for details, or look out for the distinctive orange signs at the end of May.



# The Constant Times

## CONSTANTINE CALENDAR

### *April 2015*

**Wed (every)** – Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen Centre.

**Fri (every)** – Fitness Fusion. 11.30am. Tolmen Centre.

**Wed 1** – Tolmen Movies. What We Did On Our Holiday. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Wed 1** – Port Navas Sloe Gin Evening. 7pm. Port Navas Village Hall. Bring your own bottle of sloe gin to share or pay £5 to taste what is on offer. To book ring David Burke 341018.

**Wed 1** – Pop-up Baby and Toddler Cafe. 10.30am. Potager Gardens. £3 parent and child.

**Sat 4** – Stefan Grossman. Tolmen Centre. 7.30pm. £11. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Sun 5** – Port Navas Easter Sunday Service. 9.30am. Port Navas Village Hall.

**Tues 7** – Any Questions with the Candidates. Tolmen Centre. See p. 1.

**Thurs 9** – Constantine Cottage Garden Society. The History of Gyllngdune Gardens, by Jacqui Owen. 7.30pm. £1.

**Thurs 9** – Transition Constantine Meeting. 7pm. The Queens Arms.

**Fri 10** – Constantine Book Group Plus present Victoria Glendinning. 6.30pm. £5. See detail p. 7.

**Fri 10** – Four Course Taster Meal and Wine Tasting. 7pm. Waymarker.

**Sat 11** – Farmers Market. 9.30am-12noon. Constantine Village Hall.

**Mon 13** – Constantine One and All Club. Name the Singer. 2.15pm. Social Club. Contact Sally 340050.

**Mon 13** – W.I. Meeting. 7.15pm. W.I. Hall.

**Wed 15** – Tolmen Movies. Mostly Martha. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Wed 15-Sun19** – Visit to Constantine by French guests from Point-Croix. Constantine and District Twinning Society Association.

**Thurs 16** – Parish Council Meeting. 6.45pm, Parish Vestry

**Fri 17** – Constantine History Group. The Jews of Cornwall – a history by Keith Pearce. 7.15pm. WI Hall. Geoff Roberts. 350154.

**Sat 18** – Gardens and Homes Coffee Morning. Constantine Church. 10-12noon. Contact Liz Moore 340703 or Liz Pearce 340012. See p. 10.

**Sat 18** – Beach Bushcraft with Claire Scott. Helford Marine Conservation. St Anthony in Meneage. £3 (members and children free). Contact Sue Scott 340961/07772323502. Booking essential.

**Thurs 23** – Serenade. Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Wind Ensemble. 7.30pm. £8 £6. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Sat 25** – Little Soldier Theatre Company present Don Quixote. £10 £8 £5. 7.30pm. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Tues 28** – Ladies Circle. 2.15pm. W.I.Hall. Contact Fran Baecher 340859.

**Tues 28** – Constantine Community



Land Trust AGM. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre.

**Wed 29** – Tolmen Movies. A Most Wanted Man. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.



## *May 2015*

**Wed (every)** – Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen Centre.

**Fri (every)** – Fitness Fusion. 11.30am. Tolmen Centre.

**Sun 3** – Port Navas Trek. Sponsored walk organised by Save the Children Fund. 10am for 10 mile walk. 11.30 for 4 miles. Tea served in the hall from 3pm. Contact Mel 341484 or Roger 340718.

**Mon 4** – Live Jazz and Cream Tea Afternoon. 3-5pm. Waymarker.

**Wed 6** – Pop-up Baby and Toddler Cafe. 10.30am. Potager Gardens. £3 parent and child.

**Sat 9** – Farmers Market. 9.30am-12noon. Constantine Village Hall.

**Mon 11** – W.I. Meeting. 7.15pm. W.I. Hall.

**Wed 13** – Tolmen Movies. Pride. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Thurs 14** – Transition Constantine Meeting. 7pm. The Queens Arms.

**Thurs 14** – Constantine Enterprises Company and The Tolmen Operating

Company AGM. Tolmen Centre. 7.30pm.

**Thurs 14** – Parish Council Meeting. 6.45pm. Parish Vestry.

**Fri 15** – Rhum and Clay Theatre Company present 64 Squares. £10 £8 £5. 7.30pm. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Fri 15** – Constantine History Group. Visit to Helston Folk Museum. Tracey Clowes. 7.15pm. Contact Geoff Roberts 340154.

**Sun 17** – NGS Open Garden Day. Navas Hill House and Trenarth. See p. 6.

**Sun 17** – Helford Marine Conservation. Spring Flower Walk through Tremayne Woods. Led by Keith Spurgin. Contact Sue Scott 340961/07772323502. Booking essential.

**Mon 18** – One and All Club. Mevagissey Trip. Gweek 8.45. Spar Shop 9.00. Bottom of village. 9.10. Contact Sally 340050.

**Tue 19** – Bella Hardy. Folk singer. Tolmen Centre. £11/£10. 7.30pm. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Fri 22** – Sicilian Themed Evening Menu. Arrivals 6pm-7:30 pm. Waymarker.

**Sat 23-Sun 31** – Open Studios.

**Sat 23-Sun 30** – Port Navas Art Group Exhibition. 11am-4pm. Port Navas Hall.

**Tues 26** – Ladies Circle. 2.15pm. W.I.Hall. Contact Fran Baecher 340859.

*Please send calendar items to  
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**

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**W.I. Report - A Crocodile in the Garden** Barabara Willoughby

A crocodile - every garden should have one! So said our speaker Colin Andrews of Steeling Nature, a sculptor who arrived with many creations to suit all locations in the garden, or even hanging on the wall. Originally from West Midlands, he worked in engineering crafting in steel for 20 years. He re-located to Cornwall through work five years ago, but was made redundant after one year. Luckily, his wife encouraged him to continue sculpting full time and he is now based at Cury Cross Lanes on the Lizard. There were no crocodiles in the W.I. Hall but there were beautiful "courting" cranes which could bow to each other in the breeze outside, or be nudged surreptitiously by W.I. members as they passed! There were bull rushes, cow parsley, gerberas and skeleton leaves - all larger than life size and made from a combination of stainless steel and mild steel with zinc bases. Some were treated to give different colouration and some left to rust for a natural effect. Members had many questions about his ideas and helped with his concerns on his very first presentation to a group of people (especially the W.I.).

The meeting continued with the selection of one of our members to represent Constantine at the National W.I. Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in June. We also discussed the Royal Cornwall Show, where the competition will be 'A most inspirational woman'. Our next meeting on Monday 13 April will be 'Food furbelows (ornamentation) and etiquette,' with Lesley Robinson, and on Monday 11 May will be LizLiz and J on 'China: Not the Country in Asia.' All our meetings are open to visitors and new members are always welcome - you could be very surprised and very glad you came!

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**Constantine Church - Gardens and Homes Coffee Morning**  
**SATURDAY APRIL 18th 2015**  
**10 - 12 NOON**

A large selection of beautiful plants; delicious cakes; gardens and home-themed raffle; up-cycled/new handbags and scarfs; good 0-5 years children's clothes; locally produced photographic greeting cards; wide range of books; bric a brac; various games; and wonderful homemade teas/coffee/cakes to enjoy with friends and family. We look forward to seeing you. For more information telephone either Liz Moore 01326 340703 or Liz Pearce 01326 340012.



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## Constantine History Group - WWII in Cornwall Don Garman

Ivor Corkell, a long term resident of Camborne, provided members of the group with a comprehensive history of the impact of the Second World War on Cornwall and particularly in the areas of Falmouth and Camborne. Ivor pointed out that tensions were already high in Europe in the late 1920s and that two Royal Naval vessels were sunk by the Japanese. Following Churchill's plea for preparations to be made for war in 1935, gun emplacements were constructed along the north coast as this was the anticipated location for an invasion. Members were interested to see that the line of pill boxes encircling Falmouth faced west and north-west to protect the port from this expected direction of invasion.

Once war was declared Anderson and Morrison shelters were made available and the latter were free if your income was less than £250. In the towns community shelters were constructed, proving useful for courting couples, and businesses built shelters for their employees; at East Pool mine a Cornish stamp was converted. Oil tanks were placed under the surface in Swanpool (now being removed to enable house construction) whilst gas masks and ration cards were distributed and train loads of children began to arrive in Cornwall from the cities. Homed by the Women's Institute, most were well treated but some were not, one child being punished by being lowered into a well!

On 3rd September 1939 Falmouth was commissioned as HMS Forte and defence booms, and barrage balloons were soon in place accompanied by restrictions on access to the beaches. The Fal was to see much activity during the war including departure of the St Nazaire raiding party and preparations for D day, whilst in the Helford SOE established a base for clandestine visits to France. A variety of new organisations were established including the LDV (nicknamed Look, Duck and Vanish, later to become the Home Guard), Women's Voluntary Service, Land Army and Air Raid Wardens. Local factories such as Holman's, Climax and Bickford Smiths changed production from equipment for mining to support the war effort.

Cornish airspace became busy as the airfields at Portreath (commissioned in 1941), St Mawgan and Predannack became increasingly active. Ivor showed a map of allied aircraft crashes, which showed concentrations around each of the airfields. Some air crews were lucky to survive. One plane despatched to challenge an enemy aircraft off the north coast had to ditch and resort to the inflatable dinghy. After attempting to swim it ashore, paddles and clothing made a sail. On arrival on the beach a 300 foot cliff then had to be scaled to obtain help for the injured crew member. Pilot and crew both survived. Preparations for D Day saw large numbers of American troops arrive who were constantly on the move for practice. Communities found themselves subject to access controls to their own villages and became aware of segregation between black and white Americans. Some witnessed racial fights in Camborne, whilst in Falmouth the Canadians sought a fight with their north American colleagues!

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\* \* **Morning Sky on 20 March** Caitlin DeSilvey



Constantine was lucky to have a clear view of the solar eclipse on 20 March. Children at Constantine Primary School observed the event through hand-made pin-hole cameras, welding masks and kitchen colanders. Everyone noticed how cold it became during the peak eclipse - and how the local cockerels crowed when the light returned! Meanwhile, down at Polwheveral, Pete Kennedy captured the sequence above with his camera, using a solar filter he acquired to document the 1999 eclipse.

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## The Constant Times

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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 two weeks prior to the publication date. Please send to [constant.times@gmail.com](mailto:constant.times@gmail.com) or post to the addresses above.

**DEADLINE FOR JUNE-  
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MAY 22.**

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