

# The Constant Times

Volume 4, Issue 3

June 2015 - August 2015

## Community Land Trust Puts Down Roots Russ Johnston

Constantine Community Land Trust (CCLT) held its first Annual General Meeting and official launch on Tuesday April 28th, at the Tolmen Centre. The event began with a presentation by James Croftson of the CCLT steering group, who opened his talk with the aphorism, 'The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago; the second best time is now.'

James went on to explain the context and reasons for forming a land trust. Open market housing in the village is already beyond the reach of most first-time buyers and is likely to become significantly more expensive in the years ahead. Utility bills are also set to rise steeply as the world comes to terms with a transition to renewable energy. Unless addressed, these cost-of-living burdens will drive young people and families from the area, leading to a retirement community peppered with transiently occupied holiday lets and second homes—a pattern seen throughout Cornwall. At the same time, with housing in crisis and pressure on the planning office, some form of development in the village is inevitable; the question is whether the community takes charge to manage the situation to its own advantage or sits passively by as commercial developers step in to manage it to theirs.

At the meeting some examples were shown of what is possible, including a four bedroom house restricted to local buyers for £140,000 on the Lizard, and a scheme in England that developed energy-efficient affordable homes for £110,000 apiece, with a six-month winter fuel bill of just £30! CLTs can also be used to take over vital services such as pubs and post offices that have become unprofitable, to develop facilities for work or residential care, and to manage land for recreational purposes. (*continued p. 2*)

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The presentation was very well received. Over thirty people became members immediately, at a stroke making Constantine CLT one of the largest in Cornwall. Congratulations, therefore, to everyone who took part, and to those who have subsequently signed up.

One of the aims of the evening was to elect a board of directors to oversee operations from here on. The new directors are: James Agnew, Sandra Boreham, Richard Colbert, James Croftson (Chair), Sylvia Dunstan, Russ Johnston (Treasurer), Neil Lindsey (Secretary), and Adrian Roberts. Membership is open to all, with a £1 contribution. Members are entitled to stand for the board and vote on its composition.

Visit the website for more information and for news of the project (<http://constantinecommunitylandtrust.co.uk/>). A printable membership form and list of Constantine CLT objectives can also be found there.

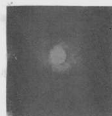
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## Note from the Editors

We're delighted to announce that Daisy Durgan Symes was born to Benjamin and Lottie Symes on April 1, 2015 at Treliske Hospital (weighing in at 6lbs 8.5oz). Congratulations to the whole family—we look forward to giving Daisy her own *Constant Times* delivery route in a few years time.

In other news, we're still in need of a volunteer to step in as Advertising Editor. This is a straightforward role which just requires you to know your way around a spreadsheet, and to be able to track a few invoices. Please contact us at [constant.times@gmail.com](mailto:constant.times@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the team.

*Benjamin, Russ, Caitlin and Elly*



**CONSTANTINE  
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# 40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EXHIBITION



**Saturday 25th July  
until  
Saturday 15th August  
10a.m. - 7p.m**

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## Lizal and Little Lamanva Cottage Gardens Open Days



11th and 12th July 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

In aid of Cornwall Hospice Care and Constantine Church

Two medium sized gardens stocked with summer flowers,  
plenty of places to sit awhile and enjoy...

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*Admission: £2 per garden*

Gardens are on the Constantine Falmouth Road, Lizal TR11 5RE by High Cross  
Garage and Little Lamanva TR10 9BJ in Lamanva.

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## Brass Band Weekend Extravaganza Dougie Down

The village of Constantine is again preparing for a busy weekend of musical entertainment when the Constantine Silver Band Holds their annual Brass on Grass weekend. This is a most popular weekend event in the Band's calendar year and begins on Saturday, 18th of July at 7.30pm. For this year's concert we have again a strong youth content, with the ever popular Constantine School's Choir, Samba Band, Orchestra and Ukulele Band, plus Constantine Silver Band and Youth, all providing a varied evening of singing and music. This evening sets the mood for the most entertaining night in the Band's year as they stage the much awaited original Brass on Grass on Sunday, 19th of July with the bands parading through the village at 6.30pm for the concert starting at 7pm in the marquee. This will be the 34th Brass on Grass and is the highlight for many supporters who have attended all the evenings since 1981. This hugely popular event has given much pleasure and enjoyment to a large section of the community, who have enjoyed the wide variations of Bands over the years.

We anticipate a very special evening of musical entertainment as we have some of the best bands not only in Cornwall, but in the South West. Returning by popular demand are Camborne Town, Helston Town, St. Keene and Pendennis Brass, who will each play their own programme and then join together for the spectacular Massed Brass. Singing of Trelawny and Nation Anthem will be led by Melanie Uren. The evening provides musical variety that has something for everyone. Both events will be held in the marquee on the Recreation Ground (parking is free, access for disabled persons). Admissions £3.00 on Saturday night and £8.00 on Sunday for all adults. Children accompanied by an adult £1 on Saturday and £3 on Sunday.

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## Goongillings Farm Educational Visits Charlie Pugh

Many folk will be familiar with the walk down to the creek at Scott's Quay – a public footpath which starts at the centre of Constantine, runs across Polwartha Farm, crosses the little road between Nancenoy and Polwheveral, and then continues for another kilometre until it reaches the river at Scott's Quay. The last part of the walk (from where you cross the road) takes you across Goongillings Farm. The name means, as far as can be found out, 'downland near the creek' – which is pretty accurate, as the farm itself is almost a peninsula, being surrounded on one side by Polwheveral Creek and on the other by Polpenwith Creek. It is, many people agree, a most beautiful piece of landscape, with a strip of lovely beechwood running across from one creek to the other, and the rest of the land in pasture. Scott's Quay – where the farm ends and the two creeks merge – is well known as a local beauty spot, one of just a handful of places giving public access to the upper creeks of the Helford.

After running the farm for years as an intensive dairy and market gardening enterprise, using every sort of fertilisers and sprays, in 1999 we decided to convert to Organic production. We sold the dairy herd, registered with The Soil Association for Organic status, started a welfare friendly beef suckler cow system, and stopped all use of chemicals, sprays and fertilisers. For the past 15 years since that date, the farm has been devoted, as well as to organic beef production, to looking after the environment, promoting the restoration of wildlife habitats, while accepting a much less productive but less demanding sort of farming. We have allowed nearly all the pastures to revert to flower rich meadows, planted trees and new hedgerows, formed a large wildlife pond, developed areas of heathland, and restored our old orchard. Recently we have investigated the history of the old mineworkings in the valley, and restored Scott's Quay, which was in a poor state following vandalism and erosion. As a result of this way of farming, Goongillings now has an abundance of wildlife of all sorts, and a huge diversity of habitat.

As part of the Countryside Stewardship scheme we are encouraged to allow 'educational' visits to the farm, and one way we can help make this happen is to occasionally allow groups of people to camp for a night or two in the woods, using a secret location where informal camping can take place, close to the creek, but well hidden from view. The site is really just a place – quiet and beautiful, but with no facilities as such – so the camping is truly wild and natural. There has to be some sort of educational aspect – this can be anything from making art in the environment, foraging for wild food, studying the heritage of the farm, observing wildlife –

there are numerous options. We have welcomed organised groups from schools and colleges, as well as informal groups of people who just want to find out about the natural world by immersing themselves in it.

Enquiries are welcome from any groups (there needs to be half a dozen or so in a group) who might be interested in this sort of 'educational' camping experience in Scott's Wood using our secret place. (Family groups are fine, but young people must be accompanied by responsible adults.) We don't charge, but we do expect care and respect for the site and for the environment. It offers a chance to get completely immersed in nature, to spend a day or so living simply with just the countryside around you, totally 'off-grid' and self-sufficient. A truly educational experience.

Charlie and Barbara Pugh

Goongillings Farm 01326 340630 [info@goongillings.co.uk](mailto:info@goongillings.co.uk)



Village children learning about crabs, down on the creek at Scott's Quay.

## Constantine History Group - Helston Folk Museum Don Garman

May's meeting of the History Group was a visit to the Helston Folk Museum. Tracey Clowes, a stalwart member of the Group, is the assistant curator at the Museum and gave the Group a warm welcome. The visit started with a demonstration of the Flora Day Clock which, built in the 1930s, had recently been restored to health just in time for this year's Flora Day.

The Museum is deceptively large and stands on the original meat market and butter market in the Market House. Over the years the museum has been extended into what was the Drill Hall. Outside, a canon from HMS Anson stands guard. The Museum offers an insight into the History of Helston and the Lizard Peninsular and has an extensive collection of mainly Victorian memorabilia.



Tracey was joined by a group of helpers, all part of the force of 50 volunteers who help to run the spotlessly clean and imaginatively-displayed collection of artefacts. The first to take us back to the 1800s was Constance Treloar, behind the counter of her corner Victorian shop, surrounded by cleaning materials, food, starch and other essentials of her time. She bemoaned the fact that there was talk of closure of the railway line, that people had started to use the newcomer shops taking her trade and generally appeared not to welcome "modern-day living"!

Following that, we were invited, as students, to the schoolhouse where we were berated for being late (!) by Charles Alexander Johns, Second Master at Helston Grammar School in 1831. He explained that although as well as being an educator he had become a priest and in 1847 became Headmaster at Helston. His priestly duties tended to play a more minor part of his life than that of botanist or "botaniser"

as he preferred. He had written a number of books on botany and he read an exciting passage from one in which he nearly fell over a cliff on the Lizard whilst collecting plants. Next, we were entertained by one of the bicycle “scorchers”, who explained how he and a friend would get into trouble with the local constable because of the speed they would ride their bicycles down the main road. He really could not see that they were more likely to cause an accident than the horse and carts which filled the streets, or even the motor car, one of which had recently been seen in Cornwall, but the magistrate had not been impressed and fined the two scorchers a hefty amount of money.

We then watched a video clip telling the story of Granny Boswell. Anne Boswell was born in Ireland and later married her second husband Ephraim Boswell, known as the King of the Gypsies. From the 1860s onwards she lived in west Cornwall, mostly on the Lizard, and ended her days a pauper at the Helston workhouse. She was feared by some but was given the name the “wise one” and people would consult her on various matters. She would carry bags of spiders to give to the sick and was said to cure ringworm in cattle. One tale involved Granny Boswell becoming very drunk in Helston Inn and, outside, seeing her very first motor car. The driver got angry at her behaviour and told her to leave. Granny Boswell told him the car would never reach the end of the street. It is said the car broke down a few yards along the road and had to be towed away by horse and cart! Granny Boswell died at age 96.

Our hosts then gave an insight into the many shipwrecks off the Lizard peninsular, sang songs and told the tale of several of the more famous incidents including the death of Lord Bellhaven on the Royal Anne. He was the new Governor of Barbados but died when his ship went to the bottom off Stagg Rocks. They told of Henry Trengrouse, born in Helston in 1772, who, having seen so many lives lost to shipwrecks, worked long and hard and finally invented the rocket line lifesaving equipment, an early type of Breeches Buoy which was to save thousands of lives. Initially ignored by the British Government, they eventually ordered twenty of Trengrouse’s rescue systems and, having examined the equipment, decided to manufacture it for themselves, giving Trengrouse a mere £50 in compensation. The Czar of Russia, however, gave Trengrouse a diamond ring in recognition of lives saved in the Baltic using his invention.

After refreshments, members of the Group spent a most enjoyable and informative time looking at the various exhibits, which were displayed according to subject. Geoff Roberts thanked Tracey Clowes and her team of volunteers for providing such a splendid entertainment and showing off their fine museum.

# The Constant Times

## CONSTANTINE CALENDAR

### *June 2015*

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

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

**Wed 3** – Tolmen Movies. Au Revoir les Enfants. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Wed 3** – Pop-up Baby and Toddler Café. 10.30am. Potager Gardens. £3.

**Wed 3-Fri 5** – Gweek Players. The Cemetery Club. 7.30. Gweek Village Hall. Tickets £9/£10. Available on 0845 094 8874 or [www.gweekplayers.co.uk](http://www.gweekplayers.co.uk).

**Fri 5** – Mayor and James. Folk Duo. Tolmen Centre. 7.30pm. £11, £9. 341351. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Sat 6** – Gweek Players. The Cemetery Club. 2.30pm. Details above.

**Sun 7** – A Tune in June. Cream Tea and the Ukulele Orchestra of Constantine. First top on their world tour. 3pm. Port Navas Village Hall. £5.

**Mon 8** – W.I. Meeting. 7.15pm. W.I. Hall.

**Thurs 11** – Transition Constantine Meeting. 7pm. The Queens Arms. Chris Hussey 340007.

**Sat 13** – Farmers Market. 9.30am-12noon. Constantine Village Hall.

**Sun 14** – Helford Marine Conservation. Conservation Cruise. 3pm-5pm. £10/ £5. Contact Sue Scott 340961/ 07772323502. Booking and pre-

payment essential.

**Wed 17** – Tolmen Movies. The Theory of Everything. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Thurs 18** – Parish Council Meeting, 6.45pm. Parish Vestry

**Fri 19** – Constantine History Group. Bodmin Town Walk. Mark Camp. Meet at Church car park at 5.30pm. Contact Geoff Roberts 340154.

**Sun 21** – Pentabus Theatre presents 'Every Brilliant Thing'. Tolmen Centre. 7.30pm. £10 £8 £5. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Mon 22** – One and All Club. "Coastal" Trip. 8.45 Gweek. 9.00 Spar Shop. 9.10 bottom of village. Sally 340050.

**Sat 27** – Save the Children. Country House BBQ and Fete. 1-4. Longbarn, Tresahor. Contact Paula Roberts.

**Sun 28** – Helford Marine Conservation. What's in the lobster pot? With marine biologist and fisherman Phil Lockley. Helford Passage. 2.30pm-4.30pm. Free. Contact Sue Scott 340961/ 07772323502.

**Tues 30** – Ladies Circle. 2.15. W.I. Hall.

### *July 2015*

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

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

**Wed 1** – Tolmen Movies. The Guard. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

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

**Sat 4** – Carrivick Sisters. Folk Duo. Tolmen Centre. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café

Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Sat 4** – One and All Club. Summer Fayre. 10-12. Social Club. Sally 340050.

**Sun 5** – Helford Marine Conservation. Rock Pool Ramble. Prisk Cove. Meet at Mawnan Church, Old Church Road, Mawnan TR11 5HY. Free. Contact Sue Scott 340961/07772323502.

**Thurs 9 – Sat 11** Pipeline Theatre presents “Spillikin”. 7.30pm. £tbc. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

**Thurs 9** – Transition Constantine Meeting. 7pm. The Queens Arms. Chris Hussey 340007.

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

**Sat 11 and Sun 12** – Cottage Gardens Open Day. Lizal and Little Lamanva 10-4. Further details p. 3.

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

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

**Fri 17** – Constantine History Group. Visit to St Hilary Church and Heritage Centre. Meet at the Church car park. Contact Geoff Roberts 340154.

**Sat 18** – Constantine Cottage Garden Society Summer Show. Recreation Ground. Further details p. 11.

**Sat 18** – Brass on Grass. Details p. 3.

**Sat 18 OR Sun 19** – Save the Children. Tea by the water. Port Navas. Details TBC. Contact Paula Roberts.

**Wed 22** – Regatta Coffee Morning. 10-12. Port Navas Village Hall.

**Sat 25** – Helford Marine Conservation. Seaweeds and Seaweed Pressing. 10-12.30. Trebah Garden, Mawnan Smith. Booking essential. Contact Sue Scott 340961/07772323502 for more details.

**Sat 25-Sat 15 Aug** – Constantine Arts Society. 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition. 10am-7pm. Contact Gill Just.

**Tues 28** – Ladies Circle. 2.15. W.I. Hall.

**Thurs 30-Tues 4 Aug** - Butterflies, Boats and Seascapes Exhibition, by Jan Robson. 10.15-4pm. Port Navas Village Hall.

## *August 2015*

**Sat 1** – Port Navas Regatta. 4pm.

**Sun 2** – Helford Marine Conservation. Rockpool Photography. 2-4. Durgan. Contact Sue Scott 340961/07772323502 for more details.

**Sun 2** – Constantine Silver Bands Carolaire. 7pm. Port Navas Quay.

**Sat 8** – Farmers Market. 9.30am-12noon. Constantine Village Hall.

**Thurs 13** - Transition Constantine Meeting. 7pm. The Queens Arms. Chris Hussey 340007.

**Sat 15** – Summer Barbecue. 6pm. Port Navas Village Hall. £7/£3.50. No booking necessary.

**Fri 21** – Constantine History Group. Visit to King Edward Mine. Tony Brooks. Meet at the Church car park. Contact Geoff Roberts 340154.

**Fri 28-Mon 31** Earth, Fire, Air and Water Exhibition, by Mel Chambers. 10-6pm. Port Navas Village Hall.

See [www.tolmencentre.co.uk](http://www.tolmencentre.co.uk) for show details.

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

## ***CLUBS, GROUPS AND GOINGS ON***

### **W.I. Report - A Journey Through China** Barabara Willoughby

Our speakers on 11th May covered 21,550 miles in one and a half hours, consisting of 12,000 miles of flights and five capital cities. China was the destination of our three speakers when, as a family group, they took on a "Grand Tour" of the highlights of this vast country. After a stopover in Hong Kong on the outward journey they were met by Lily, their guide for the duration, together with the rest of the 28 strong group also on the tour.

Highlights of the trip obviously included The Great Wall, five days on the Yangtze River with the amazing deep valley walls rising up above, the Terracotta Army, rickshaw rides, and beautiful gardens with the obligatory "Tai Chi" being practiced. They took a "speedy" trip on the Maglev Train, travelling at 420km per hour from Shanghai to the airport! Some managed the walk all the way to Station 13 on the Great Wall (over 1 1/2 hours walking) and came home with a medal to prove it.

They had a meal in the private home of Mr. Wong, seated a bit like sardines in a very confined space - the meal was excellent! The motorways are generally eight or more lanes wide, with "human" sweepers working between the lanes of traffic, each covering 500 yards of road! The Summer Palace and the Panda Foundation, caring for 105 Pandas from newborn, and the amazing Buddhas carved out of cliff walls, were all part of the experience of a lifetime. Liz, Liz and Jane gave us all a very enjoyable evening through China, which was followed by exploring all the wonderful souvenirs and keepsakes from the trip laid out on the tables.

After refreshments the National W.I. Resolution was discussed so our attending members could give our vote at the meeting. Unfortunately a decision could not be reached because of the obscurity of the wording, which called for HM Government to remove the distinction between "nursing care & personal care" in the assessment of individuals in long term care.

At our meeting on Monday 8th June we will welcome Dorothy Livingston talking about the Legal Profession, and on Monday 12th July we have a popular demonstration of "Flower Arranging". In August we have a summer break with social luncheon, with our next W.I. meeting being on Monday 13th September. All guests, visitors and members are very welcome. We look forward to meeting you.

# CONSTANTINE COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW

18TH JULY 2015

As normal this will be held on the recreation field. Classes include: flowers, fruit, vegetables, home produce, art & crafts, photography, children's sections. Prizes are also awarded for attractive front gardens and best hanging basket.

**Plant sales, Silver Band, Ice Cream, Tombola, Grand Raffle – and more.**

Schedules with Entry Forms available from the Post Office and Spar Shop, or by e.mail – [ccgardenshow@aol.com](mailto:ccgardenshow@aol.com).



**Please note:** In order to check the trophies, could last year's winners please return them to Mr and Mrs Lawrence at Porthkres, Trebarvah Lane before 9th July.

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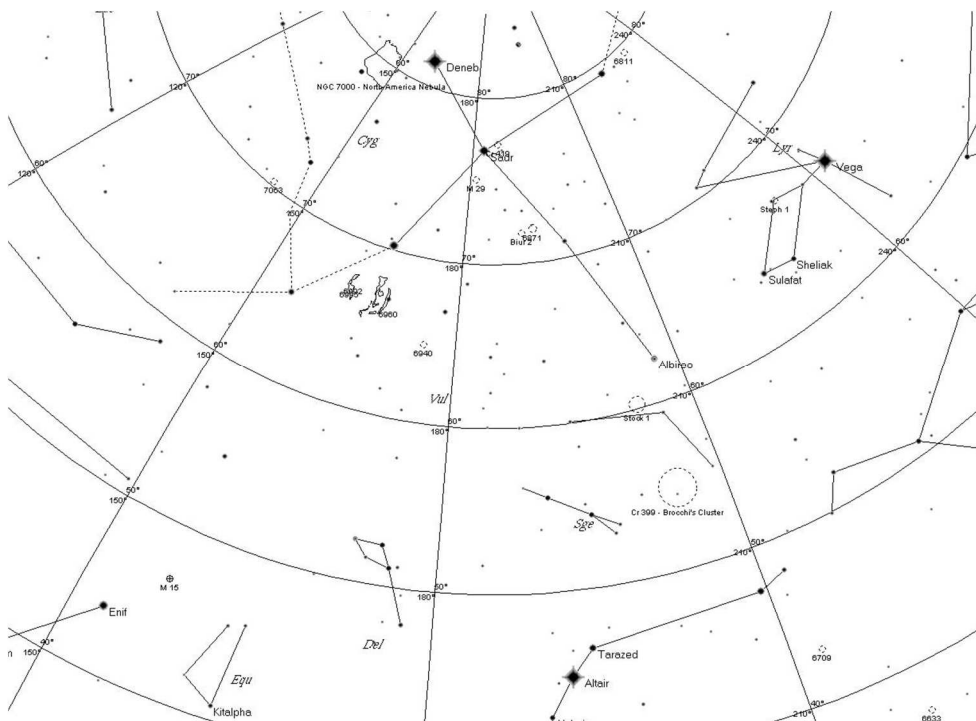
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\* \* \* **Night Sky June-August** Robert Beeman  
\* \* \*

With long days and short nights this is not ideal for observing, but at least it should be reasonably warm! Locate the constellation of Lyra (shaped like a Greek lyre) dominated by Vega, which forms the western point of the Summer Triangle. Close to Vega is a quadruple star known as the "double double". With the naked eye this will appear as a double star but a small telescope will show that each star is itself a double star. At the base of the triangle find Altair, and about halfway between these two and slightly east is Albireo, a very attractive blue and orange pair of stars. Find Deneb at the top of the triangle and then Sadr and across to the east to Gienah. Half that distance again brings you to NGC 6992 the Veil Nebula which should be visible with binoculars.

East of Altair find the tiny constellation of Delphinus the Dolphin, one of the few constellations to look anything like the name. The two brightest stars are named Sualocin and Rotanev—unusual names when compared with the Arabic and Latin names found on star charts. Read backwards they become the Latinized name of Niccolo Cattiatore, an assistant astronomer at the Palermo observatory, who named them after himself in 1814!

The Perseid meteor shower peaks 13th of August at about 6am, but any time after midnight on the 12th is best. The build up starts in late July and they will still be around at the end of August, although not so plentiful. They will appear to come from high in the North Eastern sky.

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## The Constant Times

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### 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.

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