

The Constant Times

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

APRIL/MAY 2018

Be part of the bigger picture this summer! Alan Pearce

Have you ever seen the photos taken in Victorian and Edwardian times of houses with the families standing proudly outside their homes, which now provide us with a wonderful glimpse back in time?

This summer, with your help, we would like to try to undertake a village photo project to recreate an up-to-date set of such photos of Constantine, hopefully with as many of its residents as possible standing outside their homes, providing a permanent record of our village in 2018. An exhibition of the collection may later be staged at the Tolmen Centre.



The Tredwen sisters of Comfort Farm, Well Lane

We have a small group of experienced photographers who have agreed to take the photos and will be seeking local residents who may be willing to help us by acting as 'local ambassadors'. They would liaise with their neighbours about participating and when their part of the village would be photographed.

If you would be interested in being involved in any way, please contact Alan Pearce on 01326 340012 or at acwpearce@yahoo.co.uk.



Tommy Vivian outside 49 Fore Street

Also in this issue...

Giant's Wellingtons found in France. - **Page 3** • *Schoolchildren turn back time* - **Page 5**
History Group speaker was mine of information - **Page 6** • *Cruise into Summer with Helford*
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Constantine Cottage Garden Society

February meeting

Charlie Pridham from Chacewater gave a beautifully illustrated, informative talk entitled 'Climbing Plants'. He now grows more than 500 types of plants, all of which are raised at his nursery. He used photographs to explain that certain plants prefer different ways of climbing.

'Hydrangea petiolaris' uses aerial roots to attach itself to walls. Of these, 'Quelpartensis' is a well behaved variety with a sweet smelling flower. Parthenocissus' has pads to cling to walls. It has good coloured leaves and includes Virginia Creeper.

'Clytostoma' uses tendrils to climb and likes a structure such as a chain link fence for support. 'Passion Flowers' may be grown outdoors but many are susceptible to cold and wet. It is helpful to plant them in a green house and allow new growth to 'escape' outside through a suitable opening.

'Vines' also use tendrils for support. Of these, 'Purpurea' produces grapes for wine or cooking and has beautiful leaves. 'Everlasting Sweet Peas' are easy to grow, but beware of slugs. He said that some modern slug baits were animal friendly.



Charlie Pridham

Honeysuckles' use twining as a method of climbing. Our native types are best because they are long flowering, highly scented and salt-proof.

Wisteria floribunda' is an easier variety to grow and produces lots of flowers. Not having long tendrils, it requires less pruning and maintenance. Hoya' is a useful house plant as it thrives on neglect. 'Jasmines' tend to be tender and make good conservatory plants.

Old type rambler roses use prickles as a climbing tool. They are much easier to grow in Cornwall than H.T. roses and Charlie recommended 'Frances Juranville'.

Some climbers, such as clematis, use leaves to help them climb. Charlie holds the National Collection of Clematis Viticella cultivars. He suggested planting them anywhere near another climber or tree and allowing them to grow through the other plant.

After his talk, Charlie and his wife Liz were answering questions about the plants they were selling.



Clytostoma callistegiodes

Reports by Howard Bolt

March meeting

Tricia Howard from the Hidden Valley Gardens gave an illustrated talk on the gardens of the Mediterranean Riviera, Loire, and Brittany.

Some 8 gardens were shown from the Riviera. They all contained plants which could survive, indeed thrive, in a lime based soil as well as a salt laden atmosphere and a limited water supply.

Because of the terrain, some plants are fastened to the vertical cliff walls, and the gardeners have to use mountaineering techniques to tend them. Of these plants there are huge cacti, many types of succulents, aloe and echiums. Terracing of some of the gardens has allowed many other types of plants to be grown such as wisteria, lilac, iris, Aubretia, fuchsia, Iceland poppies, orange trees etc. Most of these gardens were established many years ago and now require costly maintenance.

Three chateau gardens of the Loire Valley, at Rivau, Chaumont and Villandry were shown. Rivau has a 'giant' theme and included a huge mole, an enormous plant pot and an extra large pair of wellingtons in the gardens. Villandry uses a

quarter of a million plants to create geometrical shaped, 'hot'. 'cool', water and vegetable gardens.

Plantagenet Plants Nursery was also visited. It was established in 1998 by an English couple who specialize in herbaceous plants and are trying to introduce these types to French gardeners.

The Brittany gardens included Kerdalo Botanical Gardens, the Jardin Exotique at Roscoff, Les Jardins du Botrain at Mur, and the Georges Delaselle Gardens on the Ile de Batz near Roscoff.

The Players are playing away!

Gweek Players are very proud and excited to announce their debut at Trebah Gardens Amphitheatre.



The Pirates of Trebah is a fun-filled, family-friendly adventure written and directed by David Ivall. With a cast full of larger-than-life characters and some very talented children, Gweek Players can't wait to deliver this tall tale at Trebah Garden's Amphitheatre. Pack your picnics and join in the fun!

**Performance dates: 31st May –
2nd June, 2018 at 6.30 pm.**



Big wellies at Chateau Rivau

Constantine Christmas Lights - forthcoming events

Saturday 31st March

Stall at Village Bunny Hunt on the Recreation Ground

Sunday 15th April

Duck Races at Ponjeravah, with Woodland Trail 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Saturday 19th May

Big Pre Royal Wedding Breakfast 9.30am – 11.30am

Monday 28th May

Bookstall at the village Bus Stop 10.00am - noon

Throughout the year

Weather permitting there will usually be a second hand bookstall on my drive (Quilters, Bridge) – come and browse.

We would really love you to join us at any/all of the events, look out for our usual chalk board notices and posters for more information.

Tracey Clowes

Join the friendly, relaxed KERNOW FRENCH SPEAKING GROUP



in Port Navas Village Hall

Sessions begin 25 April to the end of June (no sessions during summer)

For more information:
07931974816- frenchspeaking-
group@yahoo.com - Facebook
French Speaking Group

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Turning back time and dairy visit for Constantine School pupils

Sonya Herbert

Life at Constantine School continues to be ever eventful and fun! Despite having to close because of the snow, the children have been learning about a number of different things and have undertaken a number of different visits.

Year 5 and 6 dressed up as evacuees and visited Helston Museum and had the opportunity to experience what life was like during the war. There was an opportunity to examine rationing, education and also fathoming out old money!



'Evacuees' puzzle over pounds, shillings and pence



Finding out about milk and cream at Treleague Dairy



Working out how to manage with rationing



Tasting the end product!

Year 4 were lucky enough to visit Treleague Dairy. Some children were lucky enough to have a go at milking a cow, they also learnt how cream is separated from the milk and the final part of the visit was to taste milk out of a good old fashioned milk bottle!

If you would like to find out what else we have been up to, then please do visit our website or our Twitter account:

ConstantineSchool@ConstantineSch2

Constantine History Group

Kingsley Rickard (*right*) provided members with an interpretation of Cornwall's built environment created by mining, particularly during the 19th century, at their February meeting

The most familiar structures to us all are the engine houses designed by the engineer who was also responsible for the steam engine. Today 230 remain but there were over 1500. Most of the boiler houses have been removed; the building stone was easy to recycle whilst the stone of the engine house was too large. The substantial chimneys were built to withstand strong winds and the brick tops the result of the need for lighter material during construction at height. The larger engine houses were used for pumping and worked 24 hours per day consuming 60 tons of Welsh coal per week. The engines were able to pump 80 tons of water from a depth of 2000' The smaller houses were used for winding and powering the Cornish Stamps. Few of the latter now survive.

The headstocks with the winding gear, once common, are now limited to South Crofty and Geevor. At the Bassett Mine, around Marriotts Shaft, on the Great Flat Load the complex of buildings that formed a mine can be seen and close by the dressing floors for processing the tin. Magazines which housed the explosives also sometimes remain and a few dries where the miners were able to change and have a wash.

Count Houses, the mine offices, some of which were substantial, often remain, but are now houses or put to other use. The copper smelter remains only in name at Hayle but the scoria blocks produced from waste are to be seen in buildings,

Report by Don Garman

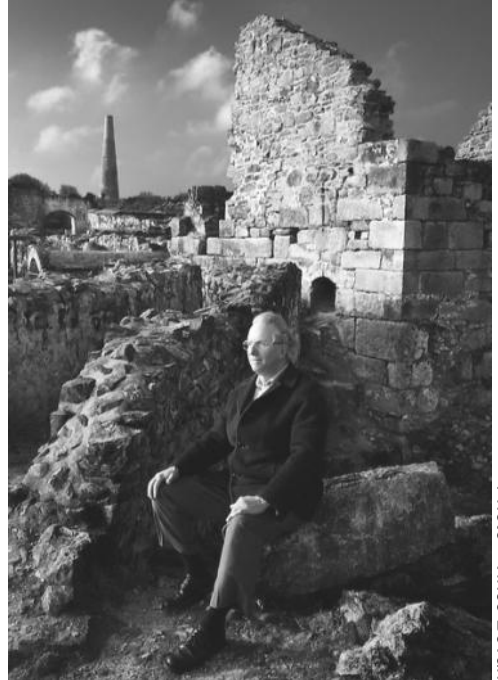


Photo - Vince Bevan

however a building which once housed The Carvedras tin smelter remains in Truro. Coinage halls where tin was assayed are few and far between but remembered in name. A commitment to educating the miners in the 1830s resulted in education facilities being constructed and some are still to be seen. Many cottages of course were built to house the mining community.

Mining required equipment and several buildings, which housed businesses manufacturing products are still apparent e.g. the Bickford Smith Fuse Works and the Perran Foundry, a producer of beam engines. The remains of tramways and rail routes, with their splendid viaducts, indicate how mines were linked to the ports e.g. Hayle and Portreath to enable coal and ore to be easily moved.



Whats On at the Tolmen Centre in April & May

Friday 20th April 7:30pm

A Cottage on Dartmoor

Wurlitza are a critically acclaimed five piece band from South East Cornwall who add live soundtracks to silent films in a way that is completely unique.

Our audiences have been amazed by their previous shows Piccadilly, Diary of a Lost Girl and Sunrise. They are genuinely unique, their shows provide a remarkable double edged experience: a classic black and white silent film worth seeing in itself, but with the addition of a unique live musical soundtrack performed in front of you by a five piece band.

Wurlitza's wide ranging repertoire includes original, pop, contemporary, classical, jazz and klezmer music. Expect the unexpected! Tickets £10 (concessions £8)

Friday 27th April 7:30pm

Leviathan

Leviathan is the critically acclaimed work by award winning Cornish choreographer James Wilton.

Leviathan follows Ahab, a ship captain hell-bent on capturing the white whale: Moby Dick, a beast as vast and dangerous as the sea itself, yet serene and beautiful beyond all imagining. Ahab's crew are drawn into the unhinged charisma of their captain, blindly following him on his perilous adventure towards almost certain destruction.

Multi-award winning choreographer James Wilton re-imagines Herman Melville's seminal novel, Moby Dick. Featuring a cast of six, Wilton's trademark blend of athletic dance, martial arts, capoeira and partner-work, Leviathan will have you on the edge of your seat. It will leave you gasping for air under the

sheer ferocity of movement, all accompanied by a powerful electro-rock soundtrack by Lunatic Soul. Leviathan is man versus nature; be careful what you fish for. Tickets £10 (£8 concessions)

Friday 11th May 7:30pm

Will Keating and Friends

Following two sell out Cornish Folk Concerts held in recent months, Will Keating, one of The Oggymen, brings his talented musician friends to The Tolmen Centre for the first time.

Award winning Banjo player John Dowling will be joining Will, along with veteran musician Claudia Colmer on her 300yr old Double Bass. Will Keating will be performing songs from his highly acclaimed debut solo album, Cornwall My Home, and other Cornish folk favourites.

Other guest performers will be announced, for what will be a fun filled evening of Cornish Folk.

Pre-show meals available from our cafe from 6pm but ONLY if pre-booked via 01326 341353.

Sunday 20th May 7:30pm

KEVOS present a concert of modern classical music

In conjunction with Groundworks and sponsored by Feast, Cornwall Council, ACE Lottery and Hinrichsen & RVW Trust Kevos is dedicated to performing contemporary classical music by new and established composers to audiences who want to hear the music of today.

Tickets £10 (children and students £5)

Box Office: 01326 341353

tolmen@constantinecornwall.com

Notes:

WI Hall bookings are currently being taken by Sylvia Dunstan 01326 340548. **Church Hall Booking Secretary** is now Lisa Sampson 01326 341113.

Left in the Church Hall: fabric bag containing set of matching dessert spoons. Contact Gill Just on 01326 340434 or 07773444276 or they will be disposed of after June 1st.

The Constant Times CONSTANTINE CALENDAR

April 2018

Mon (every) - Constantine Craft Club W.I. Hall. 2.00 - 4.00pm.

Tues (every) – Yoga. 6.30pm. Tolmen Centre. Contact jess@yogagrace.co.uk

Tues (every) – Zumba Class 6.30pm Church Hall, info@ruthiesfitnessclasses.co.uk

Weds (every) – Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen Centre.

Thurs (every) – Body Blitz Fitness 6.45pm Church Hall, info@ruthiesfitnessclasses.co.uk

Thurs (every) – Port Navas Art Group. 1-4pm. Port Navas Village Hall. Contact Ron Prior on 340566.

Thurs (every) - Weekly Whist Drive. 7.30 - 10.00pm Constantine Social Club. New whist players welcome. Call 07557414231 for further details or just turn up to play.

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

Mon 9 - W.I. Meeting - Mairi Dowlen on "A Guide to Posture and Health". W.I. Hall 7.15pm. Guests and prospective new members are always welcome.

Sun15 - Duck Races at Ponjeravah, with Woodland Trail 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

Fri 20 - Wurlitza - 'A Cottage on Dartmoor' Tolmen Music 7.30pm

Fri 20 - Constantine History Group 'Falmouth Artists' W.I. Hall 7.15pm

Weds 25 - Kernow French Speaking Group Sessions begin. Port Navas Village Hall (See p4)

Fri 27 - 'Leviathan'. Tolmen Theatre. 7.30pm

Sat 28 - Church Yard Clean up – 9 – 11 am Volunteers welcome. Home made cakes and refreshments.

Sun 29 - Church AGM at 12 noon after the service in the Church – all welcome.

May 2018

Mon (every) - Constantine Craft Club W.I. Hall. 2.00 - 4.00pm.

Tues (every) – Zumba Class 6.30pm Church Hall, info@ruthiesfitnessclasses.co.uk

Tues (every) – Yoga. 6.30pm. Tolmen Centre. Contact jess@yogagrace.co.uk

Weds (every) – Todlins. 9.30am Tolmen Centre.

Thurs (every) – Body Blitz Fitness 6.45pm Church Hall, info@ruthiesfitnessclasses.co.uk

Thurs (every) – Port Navas Art Group. 1-4pm. Port Navas Village Hall.

Thurs (every) - Weekly Whist Drive. 7.30 - 10.00pm Constantine Social Club.

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

Sat 5 - Homes and Garden Coffee morning in Church Hall with superb plant stall. Come early for the bargains. Plus wide range of stalls and games.

Fri 11 - Will Keating & Friends. Tolmen Music. 7.30pm

Fri 18 - Constantine History Group visit to Marconi Station, Lizard

Sat 19 - Big Pre Royal Wedding Breakfast 9.30am – 11.30am

Sun 20 - KEVOS. Tolmen music. 7.30pm.

Mon 28 - Bookstall at the village Bus Stop 10.00am - noon

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St Constantine Church Services

Sun 1 April 8.00am BCP Holy Communion

Easter Day - Mon 2 April 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Sun 8 April 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion. 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Sun 15 April 8.00am BCP Holy Communion. 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Sun 22 April 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion. 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Sun 29 April 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion. 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Sun 6 May 8.00am BCP Holy Communion 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Thurs 10 May 7.00 pm Holy Communion (CW)

Ascension Day - Sun 13 May 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion. 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Whit Sunday - Sun 20 May 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion. 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Trinity Sunday - Sun 27 May 8.00am BCP Holy Communion. 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

(* BCP – the Book of Common Prayer, CW – Common Worship)

Everyone is very welcome and refreshments are served after the 10.30am service. Thursdays 10.00am BCP Holy Communion followed by Ladies Fellowship

Cruising into Summer

*After a wet, snow bound winter and early spring, **Helford Marine Conservation Group** takes a cruise into the summer with outdoor events for April and May.*

Tuesday 10 April – Heron Count and Breakfast

Join Martin Rule from the British Trust for Ornithology for the annual heronry survey on the Helford followed by a full English breakfast at Trengilly Wartha Inn, Constantine. The nest count will be from 6.30am until 9.00am, meet at Calamansack between Port Navas and Constantine SW746281, HMCG members and children free, others £4. Breakfast costs £10. Book for food via events page

www.helfordmarineconservation.co.uk and Eventbrite, or contact Sue Scott 01326 340961.

Sunday 6 May – Wildlife Ramble in Bosahan Woods

A guided walk through the beautiful Bosahan Woods in Constantine, from 10am to 1.00pm. Enjoy the wild flowers, this is a gorgeous location for bluebells, and look out for mammal tracks. Free for under 18s and HMCG members, £4 for others. Meet at the junction of Fore Street and Well Lane under the notice board across from Spar Shop.

Sunday 13 May – Conservation Cruise

Come with us on our annual conservation cruise down the river, in and out of every creek to take in the wildlife, geography, geology and history of the estuary with local experts. Displays and children's activities. Leaves the Ferryboat Inn jetty at 3.30pm and returns at 5.30pm. Adults £12 children £6. Booking essential – and it does get booked very quickly, via events page www.helfordmarineconservation.co.uk and Eventbrite, or contact Sue Scott 01326 340961.

More on page 13

Parish Council Update

John Andrew

Please note that full minutes can be found at www.constantinecornwall.com/council

Ordinary Meeting Thursday 18 January Public Question Time

PCSO Fuller reported that despite occasional reports of criminal damage, the area as a whole is comparatively free of criminal incidents, however he has been called to incidents of inconsiderate parking outside the school in Constantine.

Signing in to the Devon & Cornwall police alerts web-page (www.alerts.dc.police.uk) enables members of the public both to receive information from and to send messages to the police. Any items found should be reported using the 101 telephone number and arrangements will be made for the finder to drop it off at a police station or for it to be collected. Items that have been lost may be reported by using the web-site www.reportmyloss.com/uk/register

In answer to a question concerning people trafficking and the use of migrant labour in Cornwall, PCSO Fuller confirmed that checks are both by dedicated PCSOs and by the Gang Masters Licence Authority.

Cornwall Councillors Report

Cllr Bastin reported that with everything being driven and all questions being decided by the ten member Cabinet, matters are depressingly slow for individual Councillors at Cornwall Council.

The criteria for Social Housing allocations has recently changed for the majority of homes available through Homechoice in any one Parish in Cornwall. Applicants will need to have a three year connection to it.

He attended a meeting concerning Ward Boundary changes at which he

was surprised to learn that Falmouth Town Council has proposed that Budock should become part of its wider area. Falmouth further proposes that Constantine should join with Mawnan & Mabe. The final decision on these matters will be made by the Boundary Commission.

Cllr Wiseman asked if a commercial accountable organisation should take on work for the NHS and Social Care in Cornwall. Cllr Bastin agreed that this could amount to privatisation of the NHS by stealth as there is a lack of public consultation and although we have say through our Cllr's the final decision is made by the Cabinet....

In a question asked about the ever increasing amounts of fly-tipping Cllr Bastin agreed that a lot of the problem laid with Cornwall Council's charging for ordinary DIY-ers taking rubble or sanitary ware or anything of sorts to their dumps. It is costing Cornish tax payers a great deal of money to clear all the fly-tips.

Parish Matters

The Chairman reported that the weather was too wet to be able to position the Welcoming Stones and all agreed that it would be best done when the ground has had chance to dry out.

Planning Matters

6 planning applications received this month. 4 others approved, 2 refused.

Ordinary meeting Thursday 15 February Public Question Time

Members noted that Brillwater road is in a perilous state of repair, and had a report of a resident having had a broken or

severely sprained ankle. The Clerk explained that it was Cornwall Council that were responsible for the up-keep of bridleways and would report it to the Authority.

Cornwall Councillors Report

Cllr Bastin reported that The Community Charge for Cornwall Council will increase by 4.99% in the coming year. The future of an integrated Health and Adult Social Care has been thrown into doubt by Central Government which recently decided to suspend its roll-out of accountable Care.

It is important that the Parish Council has a representative on the Community Network Panel and he was encouraged to hear that Cllr Andrew had earlier volunteered his services.

Parish Council Matters

There were no expressions of interest to co-opt on to the Parish Council.

Members considered a request from Ms Pearce for permission to use the Recreation Ground for a Bunny Hunt on March 31st 2018. The Council, acting as Trustee's of the Alice Hext agreed to grant permission on condition that the event is free of charge and open to all. Also considered was a request from the Constantine Cottage Garden Society for permission to hold their show between 19th to 23rd of July 2018. This was also agreed by the Council.

Social Club Lease

Members considered the terms of the lease with the Social Club. It was agreed that they would pay 3.75% of its gross yearly turnover, averaged out over three years with the sum being reviewed every three years. The yearly rent shall not fall

below £3,750 and is to be paid in four equal quarterly sums. The lease will last for twenty years (until 2039). After being proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Andrew and it was agreed to accept the Social Club's offer. The Pavilion will form part of this lease and will be let at a peppercorn rent if demanded.

Parish Matters

Recreation Ground - Members considered a quotation of £12,600 to rebuild the Cornish Hedge fronting Trebarvah Road. Cllr Mrs Dunstan proposed, Cllr Mrs Thomson seconded and it was agreed to accept Mr Martin Clemens' quotation.

Welcoming Stones - Once again the weather is against positioning the Welcoming Stones. Hoping for better weather next month.

Planning

2 planning applications received this month. 1 other refused, 3 approved.



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Constantine W.I.

Reports by Barbara Willoughby

February

It was a very "lively" Annual Meeting on Monday 12 February, despite the inclement weather. Although tinged with a great deal of sadness on the passing of a couple of members, there had been a full year of enjoyable meetings, speakers and activities.

Our Acting President, Sylvia Dunstan, who stepped up admirably when our President Liz Moore passed away, was elected as President for the coming year. We were then very lucky to have four of our newest W.I Members volunteer to join our Committee. After much discussion during the evening regarding our need for a new Hall Roof, they were all elected onto a sub Committee for fundraising. Ideas from members were also coming in "thick and fast" and already there are promises of various sums of money from benefactors. Our W.I certainly does prove we have 'Inspiring Women'!

March

Sylvia Harris took our members on a 'virtual' walk on Monday 12 March from Toll Point, Mawnan to Bar beach, Helford. With historical points along the way we didn't have to leave the comfort of our seats in the W.I. Hall to feel the atmosphere of the countryside walk. Past the Memorial Seats, Gun Emplacements and a 'haunted' stile, where in the 1920s a local gardener died of shotgun wounds (was it an accident or murder?). The truth was never discovered and walkers have reported their dogs are very reluctant to go over the stile!

With military landing craft loading at Trebah beach for the landing on Omaha Beaches in France in WW2 and local young girls nearly arrested after talking to the American Soldiers hiding in ditches before boarding!

More photos showed local families on Church outings travelling on horse and cart, staff from Bosahan House, the home of Lord & Lady Rendlesham, ready to welcome the Prince of Wales who was motoring up the River. Many pictures contained ancestors of several members

of Constantine W.I. so quite a lot of "Oh! That's my Grandfather, Uncle, etc" !!! A very interesting and enjoyable evening of 'local history'.

This was followed by much discussion concerning our Fund Raising for a New W.I. Hall Roof. Many new Committee and W.I. members have already obtained promises of donations, grants etc, with several fund raising occasions arranged during the next few months. Guests and visitors are welcome at all the Village dates which will be very well advertised. Even though it is only of wooden construction (built in 1953), it has been very well looked after and has survived for 65 years. Many Groups feel it is a comfortable size and space with all facilities necessary. Constantine W.I Members would be proud if it could continue in the Community.

Our next meeting on Monday 9 April is with Mairi Dowlen on "A Guide to Posture and Health", just in time for us all to Spring into action!!

Meetings begin at 7 15pm, guests and prospective new members always welcome.

Port Navas Village Hall Events

Port Navas Art Group

Every Thursday until 12th April

Kernow French Speaking Group

25 April to 27 June every Wednesday 3pm

Fern Wetzel- Harrison

Join this friendly and relaxed group

For more information: 07931974816 - french-speakinggroup@yahoo.com - Facebook
French Speaking Group -

Stingrays

Wednesday 11 April at 7pm

Molly Meadows and Ethan Wrigglesworth research stingrays in the Bahamas. This talk includes direct accounts of working with these infamous animals. Learn about basic stingray biology and why they are important.
£7 to include pasty. To book ring Tiffa on 340340.

Pope's Garden Squad

Monday 23 April 10.00 am - 12.00 noon

Come and give our community garden a spring tidy up. Make Pope's Garden a pleasant place to sit. Gardening and chat followed by well deserved coffee and biscuits!
Bring your own gloves, trowels etc.

Alchemy Tiles Workshop

28 & 29 April

A great opportunity to make your own Alchemy Tiles (or Encaustic tiles as they are officially known). Using ancient techniques dating back to 13th century you'll be guided

through the skills of carving, applying coloured slip and developing your own tile designs as well as understanding the history and background of this lost craft. This is a great way to hand make your own bespoke gifts or tiles for your own home, as well as relaxing and enjoying the stunning views of Port Navas and delicious vegetarian organic lunch and home made cake on both days.

You'll be making up to 6 of your own tiles; each tile is approx. 14x14cm with a RRP value of £30. The price of £150 includes full tuition, all materials, glazing, firings and lunch on both days

To book contact Mel on 07768 193848 or info@melchambers.com

Save the Children Fund Trek and Tea

Monday 7 May

This annual charity walk, organised by The Save the Children Fund local branch will start at the hall, 10am for the 8 mile walk, 11.30 for 4 miles. Tea for walkers and non walkers will be served in the hall from 3pm, for which donations will be very welcome. Further information, contact Mel on 341484 or Roger 340718.

Botany and Boats

Friday 25 May to Friday 1 June

10am - 4pm

An exhibition by Tiffa Meadows
Watercolours, Prints and Cards

HELTFORD
VOLUNTARY MARINE
CONSERVATION AREA

Continued

Join local expert Caroline Davey on a guided wild food walk to identify edible spring plants found in the hedgerows and woodland around the Helford. Learn about the culinary and medicinal uses for these legally and safely.

Tuesday 29 May – Wild Foods Walk

Meet at Helford Village car park at 10am.
Ends at 12.00pm. Free for under 18s and HMCG members. £4 for others.

Booking essential via events page
www.helfordmarineconservation.co.uk and
Eventbrite, or contact Sue Scott 01326 340961.

Night Sky

As winter moves into spring new constellations appear, some faint and empty, others more obvious with plenty to see within their boundaries.

Cygnus, the Swan moves along the northern horizon as it climbs in the east following Lyra the harp as it does so. Within this constellation is the radiant for the Lyrid meteor shower which is just to the east of Vega. The shower is due to peak on the 22nd of April and is the result of the earth's orbit crossing the path of the debris of Comet Thatcher. It is perhaps the oldest known shower; as ever, after midnight will be best and you may see up to 5 an hour. The Moon should not interfere.

The Plough is almost overhead at this time of year and by extending the line of the handle southwards you come to the fourth brightest star in the night sky, Arcturus. This is at the foot of the kite shaped constellation Bootes the Herdsman. Compare the colour of Vega, a

blue/white, with the orange of Arcturus. Between Lyra and Bootes is the constellation of Hercules which offers M13, Messier 13.

M13 is an enormous ball shaped mass of approximately a million stars, 25,000lys away and is one of the oldest objects in the Milky Way. It is easily seen through binoculars. Messier was a French Astronomer who was looking for comets but kept finding faint fuzzies which turned out not to be comets but galaxies and star clusters. He gave these numbers to avoid later confusion. In total he listed 110 objects. From the UK in late March, given a fine night, some Societies run a Messier Marathon, starting at dusk and going through to dawn. If one can stand the pace it should be possible to see at least 94 Messier objects.

On 7 May there is the peak of the Eta Aquarid meteor shower which is the debris



Robert Beeman

from Halley's comet. The radiant will be low in the South East and the best time to view will be an hour or two before dawn. The moon will be low in the South at this time so may interfere so that only the brightest are visible, you may be lucky and see up to 15 per hour so worth a try.

At the same time as you are looking out for Eta Aquarid meteors there will be a nice arrangement of planets, all low down in the southern skies. Mars will be almost directly below the Moon with Saturn and Jupiter a little bit further west.

Something interesting to say?

If you have any community news or want to talk about a particular subject, e-mail constant.times@gmail.com

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constant.times@gmail.com or deliver to the Layout Editor at Comfort View, Well Lane.

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