

The Constant Times

10th Anniversary edition

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APRIL/MAY 2022

Ten years of constant coverage of local news and events

Caitlin DeSilvey

With everyone focused on celebrating seven decades of royal reign, you might have missed that it's also an important decadal milestone for The Constant Times. With this issue, we mark ten years since the launch of our village newspaper. The first issue rolled off the presses in the Tolmen Centre print room in March 2012, on the run up to the Diamond Jubilee.

The original team was a group of relative newcomers to the village, keen to pitch in and recognising that with the departure of Bob Mynett, who sadly died recently, and the incomparable Gweddr Myras, there was a gap to fill. Benjamin Symes headed up the editorial team, Lottie Bowser (later Symes) gathered submissions, Caitlin DeSilvey did the copy-editing and layout and Russ Johnston was in charge of distribution. With additional support from Transition Constantine and the CEC, the paper quickly became a central feature of village life, with regular contributions from the Church, School, Parish Council, W.I., History, Arts and Garden Societies, and many others. In that first issue (as with the one you are holding in your hands) the big news was all about preparations



for the Diamond Jubilee – which included a regatta at Polwheveral and a fun triathlon. The Jubilee Memorial Park (JUMP) committee reported on their campaign to raise funds to regenerate the village play park (which had originally been created to mark the 1977 Silver Jubilee). Transition Constantine marked the one-year anniversary of the Farmers Market (which re-launches in April this year). The calendar noted the annual spring tournament of C.A.S.U.A.L. (Constantine Active Seniors Upper Age Leapfroggers) and Robert Beeman penned his first 'Night Sky' column. Some things change, and some things (Jubilees, constellations) come around again and again. Now in the able editorial hands of Peter Binns, The Constant Times is there to share it all, and hopefully will do so for another decade at least.

Also in this issue...

Your Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations pull-out colour supplement

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Cost of living increases - Cornwall Council offers support and advice

Many of us will be struggling to pay bills and to buy food soon due to increases in the cost of living and massive increases in energy bills and travel costs.

Cornwall Council has circulated a list of areas in which they can help people who are struggling. Cllr Dr Andy Virr, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Public Health, said: "Times are already tough, but they are going to get even tougher as our household bills rise significantly this year. I want people to know that they are not alone and there is a wealth of support available from many different groups and organisations.

"I would urge people to check out our 'I'm worried about money' webpage to find out what help they can receive and how to access it. Alternatively, they can call 0300 123 1118."

Some of the key help and support includes:

- Heating and energy bills advice
- Debt management
- Benefits advice and support schemes
- Crisis and care awards for people whose situations have changed suddenly
- Council tax support
- Hardship payments
- Help with childcare costs
- Free school meals
- Emergency food
- Help with employment, redundancy and skills

Cllr Richard Pears, Portfolio Holder for Customers, said: "We are committed to helping anyone who finds themselves in financial hardship and when we identify those in need, we always look at a range of different options to help them both now and in the future.

This might include referrals to employment programmes, adult education courses, skills-based training, debt management and housing support, for example.

"If you're struggling, please get in touch or use our webpage to find out what support is available to you."

People are also reminded that there is a wealth of support available for anyone struggling with their mental health. Visit Cornwall Council's mental health support pages.

If you are worried about your own or someone else's mental health call the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly 24/7 NHS mental health response line on 0800 038 5300. It's free to access by anyone, any age, any time, day or night.

Constantine Women's Institute

Liz Pearce,
President



The next committee-only Meeting will be on Monday 4 April at 7 pm.

The next full meeting will be on 11 April at 7.15 pm in the W.I. Hall with guest speaker Prof. Juliet Osborne from University of Exeter Penryn talking about the plight of the Bumblebee and other pollinators.

Non-members who might be considering the W.I. are also welcome to try us out for a couple of sessions.

May's full meeting of the W.I. is on Monday 9 May – speaker to be arranged.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 01326 340012.

Bosahan Woods - past, present and future. Open Event - Sunday 24 April

Chris Hussey

On Sunday 24 April the Bosahan Woods management group will be holding a public event in the Tolmen Centre. The aims are to:

- celebrate the community ownership of part of the woods;
- display for general interest a range of material on woods-related themes, including wildlife, education and mining history;
- introduce some of the issues around developing a long-term plan for the woods.



The event will open at 10:00am and continue through to 1:00pm. A central point in the event will be a talk (at 11:00am) by a speaker from Working Woodlands Cornwall. The talk will cover the general issues in woodland planning, touching on current issues of climate change, spread of tree diseases and invasive species, with a look at the ways communities can support 'their' woodland.

The event will be an opportunity to learn about the natural changes in woodland and the kinds of choices that can be made in developing a long-term plan for the wood. It is essential that any plan reflects the wishes of the local community, so this is your opportunity to pitch in! As well as the information displays, there will be an area for general chat and discussion, and the speaker from Working Woodlands Cornwall will stay on to answer any queries. There will be tea, coffee and light refreshments available throughout the event.

In support of the event, in the afternoon there will be a guided tour of the woods led by Francis Gendall, who will reveal much of interest relating to mining activities in and around the woods. If you wish to join the tour, please gather at the woods end of Well Lane at 2:30pm.

Obituary - Bob Mynett 30 April 1939 - 3 January 2022

Adrian Roberts

Bob was an old friend of the village who, with his wife Sue, lived here for several years until, nine years ago, Bob's deteriorating Parkinson's disease obliged them to leave their Fore Street cottage. They moved to Bob's original home town, Stroud, to be nearer to their children.

Bob will be remembered and missed by many of us here. We will recall his unfailing good humour and generosity.

He had a huge range of interests and enthusiasms and was impressively well read over a wide range including Greek mythology, poetry, history and philosophy. He sang in local choirs and was a keen sea fisherman. Above all he was a family man

We greatly enjoyed his slightly wacky sense of humour. He edited and printed our former village newspaper, Gweddr Myras. Each issue featured more strange exploits of Sidney, the one armed projectionist at Constantine's Ritz Cinema. And who can forget the reports on the successes of Constantine's Over-70's Leapfrog Team?

Always good humoured and generous, Bob really liked people. He was well suited to his main career, that of probation officer, and many of his former clients kept in touch with him, as friends, over the years. He had many different jobs during his life; he was a dustman when Sue first met him 57 years ago!

Bob coped courageously with his progressive physical disability. He was a skilled sea angler, and my bass fishing "mentor". We spent many happy hours putting the world to rights during our many fishing expeditions around the Lizard.. Even when significantly disabled he



Bob, with his usual smile, happy, with his two daughters Tamsin and Leah

insisted on struggling down some quite exposed cliff descents to show me some of his special bass fishing marks.



Church Homes & Gardens Coffee Morning

7th May 10am – 1pm
Constantine Church

Wide variety of stalls, plus home-made refreshments and hot pasties



Lovely collection of plants for sale, craftwork, raffle, games, tombola, books, white elephant, greeting cards wood crafts



Tables are available for any organisation in the village to raise money for their group (free of charge)

If you would like a table please contact Liz Pearce 01326 40012 or Jane Mann 01326 375502



Conservation Cruise returns

The popular Helford Marine Conservation Cruise is returning this summer after a break of three years.

The boat is due to leave from the Ferry Boat Inn beach on Sunday May 15 at 4pm. There are only 60 seats available on the boat, provided by Fal River Boats, so if you don't want to miss this trip then get your tickets now!

Tickets are £15 for HMCG members, £20 for non members and £7.50 for all under 18s and can be reserved via bookings@helfordmarineconservation.co.uk



The cruise will take in the beauty and the wildlife of the Helford. A number of specialist speakers, yet to be confirmed, will be sharing their knowledge on subjects to include the birds and fish who make the Helford their home, along with observations on the surrounding landscape and the history of the river.

Speaking at the Group's annual meeting, chairman Dave Thomson said how delighted they were that the Cruise is returning and how it represented a celebration of the beauty of the Helford Estuary.

For more information go to www.helfordmarineconservation.co.uk

Constantine Foodbank

Food is available 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday – Saturday.

To obtain food in a crisis you require a formal referral voucher obtained from either:

- Constantine School 01326 340554
- Constantine Surgery 01326 340666
- Rev Stewart Turner 01326 340259

Your request will be dealt with in strict confidence.

Once you have your referral voucher you will need to call 01326 340279 to arrange a collection time.

Food can be collected from the Vestry (small cottage building) at the back of St Constantine Church or in an emergency delivery.

All paperwork needs to be formally completed before receiving your food.

Donations of food can be either dropped at the Church Vestry on **WEDNESDAYS** between 9.00am – 10.00am or by contacting Rev Stewart on the telephone number above.

*The Foodbank is run by
The Trussell Trust in association
with St Constantine Church.*

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Dear Customers,

As from the end of May 2022 I will no longer be trading as I am retiring.

Thank you for your business over the years.

Stay safe and a big thank-you.

Viv





Save the Children® NEWS



Constantine raised £7,459 in 2021. Thank you all for your support and donations.

We have a few months still in the Constantine Shop.

Leslie Silver would welcome volunteers for the Fund Raising Committee.

Ann Mullaly is retiring as the volunteer shop manager. Who would like to do it? No experience necessary.

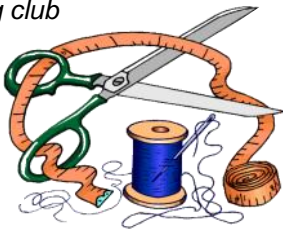
Contact 07734733338 or e-mail alec@mullaly.uk

Stitch in time

Our sewing club meets every Wednesday morning in the lower Vestry.

To join please contact

Jane Mann 01326 375502
randjmann@yahoo.co.uk



Sunday May 15
2pm - 5 pm
Navas Hill House
Mawnan Smith
TR11 5LL

8½ acre elevated valley garden with paddocks, woodland, kitchen garden and ornamental areas.

The ornamental garden consists of 2 plantsman areas with specialist trees and shrubs, walled rose garden, water features and rockery. Young and established wooded areas with bluebells, camellia walks and young large leafed rhododendrons. Seating areas with views across wooded valley. Dogs welcome. There is some wheelchair access but it is limited.

Refreshments: Home-made teas on the veranda/terrace. 'All you can eat' £5.00.

Admission: book in advance at ngs.org.uk or on the day. Adult: £5.00. Child: Free.



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Constantine Pre-School

Ella Curtis

New Year, new adventures!

Although winter is now behind us and we are welcoming Spring with open arms, the Constant Times presents a wonderful opportunity to share with you some of the wonderful things Preschool has been up to in the past few months.

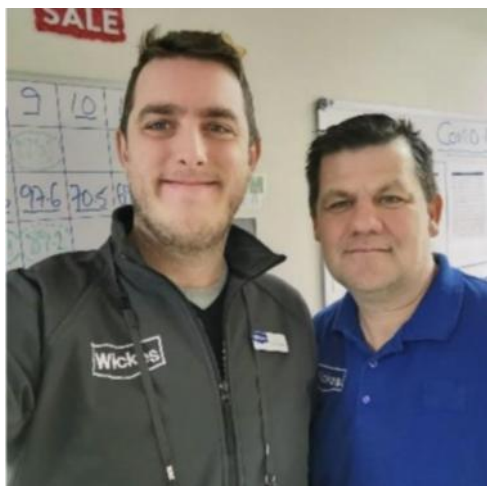
We started the year learning about different occupations and both the staff and children were thrilled to have visitors in again to share some of their knowledge first-hand. These included a visit from Sally the Paramedic, and Tom the Coastguard. The children thoroughly enjoyed getting to grips with some of the equipment that both roles involve, and even got to sit in the Coastguard van and sound the siren! We are sure you will agree that experiences like these create lasting memories, and we are very glad that the Preschool doors are starting to open up to the community again.



Ch-ch-ch-changes...

With the wonderful community in mind, there have been some exciting changes at Preschool so far this year. Indoors we have seen the addition of some snazzy new sensory lights, generously donated by Jamie Reed and installed by Rob at Cloud 9 solutions. The children absolutely love the lights and have frequently asked to "party every day!"

Outside, we have seen big changes too, with the very kind loan of some grassed space from Constantine Primary School, our neighbours! We were also lucky enough to have the support from so many members of the community to support the renovation of this area, and would like to thank so many who have made it possible. Firstly, a big thanks to Adam and Emma who arranged for our beloved Cottage to be moved to its new home. Also to Wickes who generously donated resources from paint to marine ply, which has already been transformed into outdoor blackboards! B&Q also kindly discounted the price of decking board, which allowed us to transform a wall, ready for planting!



Rob Butland and Anthony Curnow from Wickes

In a world of change

Queen Elizabeth II is one of the most iconic figures in world history: a queen whose reign has outlasted all other British monarchs and most other world leaders. But though she stands for the continuity and tradition of the English monarchy, Elizabeth II's reign has been anything but predictable. Since she took the throne in 1952, the queen has redefined what it means to be a monarch and withstood a tremendous amount of change within her family, her country and the world.

"Change is a constant," said the monarch as she addressed Parliament during her Golden Jubilee in 2002, *"managing it has become an expanding discipline. The way we embrace it defines our future."*

Here are some of the lesser known events, some of which may seem trivial set against a back drop of war, climate change, economic and social upheaval, but they have had a dramatic impact on our everyday lives and our world during Elizabeth's reign:

1953: Cambridge University scientists James Watson and Francis Crick discovered double-helix structure of DNA.

1954: Joseph Murray performed the first successful organ transplant

1955: ITV was launched

1956: First Container Ship Transforms Global Shipping Industry

1958: The dawn of cheap mass air travel

1973: April 3rd marked the day of the first ever mobile phone call;

1977: Personal home computers began to emerge in the 1970s,

1983: Birth of the Internet

1994: Amazon.com is born

2004: Facebook founded



Throughout her long reign in a world that has changed so dramatically our queen has been a shining example of duty, stability and above all faith.

I came upon this quote from the Spectator the other day. *"The hereditary principle of the monarchy is much mocked today. It is certainly a lottery. But this country has been an incredibly fortunate winner in that game of chance since Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837, almost 200 years ago. Our monarchy has been a crucial component of the system of government that protected us, unlike almost all of our neighbours, from despotism in the last two centuries. Not for nothing did Roger*

Stewart Turner - Parish priest for Constantine with Gweek

Scruton describe it as 'the light above politics' which magically represents the spirit of England and shines upon the dead and the unborn as well as us to-day." One of the many titles held by the queen is that of 'Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England' and as a deeply committed Christian it is a role that she takes very seriously.

There can be no doubt that our Queen is a most remarkable lady, one whose sense of duty, stability and faith should be an example to us all and if ever there was a time when we needed that stability and faith it is now. We are all aware of what's happening in Ukraine, we see it every day on our TV screens. This war is being streamed directly into our homes in real time and as we witness first hand the horrors being perpetrated on the

Ukrainian people. We are also very conscious of the knock-on effect this conflict is having on our daily lives through globalisation, which means what affects one part of the world affects all of it. And then there is the very real fear that it could escalate into a third world war. So let us give thanks to God for our most gracious sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth II and let us continue to pray for the peoples of the Ukraine and for all for all victims of man's inhumanity to man, as we long for the day when *"they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."* Isaiah 2: 4

May God bless and keep you all.

Stewart



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What's on at The Tolmen Centre this Spring?

By the time this goes to press we will have had two blockbuster shows: the manically energetic Cornish-based bluegrass band Flats & Sharps, and performance poet Hollie McNeesh performing to a sellout audience. We continue with a full programme of events through the summer, starting on Friday April 8th with our local **Ukulele Orchestra of Constantine**.



We are very grateful to them for offering this as a fundraising event, with all proceeds going towards the restoration of the Tolmen's many ageing windows.

On Saturday April 23rd the renowned acoustic guitarist **Clive Carroll** makes a return visit with a varied programme from classical to blues, as well as his own compositions.



On Saturday May 7th we welcome the folk-based duo **Naomi Bedford and Paul Simmonds**, and on Saturday May



28th the versatile duo **The Blackheart Orchestra** offer up a programme of electronica/folk-rock, with a dozen instruments between them underpinning the unique voice of Chrissy Mostyn.



June kicks off with a literary event on Friday 10th, when local adventurer and author **Gail Muller** talks about the challenges and rewards of her long-distance walk in the Appalachians. The same weekend on Sunday 12th June we are lucky to catch Canadian female duo **Madison Violet** on tour: *"Heart-aching harmonies and tunes make Madison Violet a must-see act"* – *The Independent*.

Dougal Jeffries

The final musical event in our summer programme, on Saturday July 2nd, showcases the acclaimed singer **Barb Jung** with her passionate interpretations of love songs by Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan - an absolute treat, as anyone who saw her show at the St Endellion Festival last autumn will agree.



As well as these dates, our regular programme of **Tolmen movies** continues on alternate Wednesdays, and we shall be fully involved with the **Platinum Jubilee celebrations** in early June.

As always, the Tolmen Centre welcomes new volunteers. There are many roles to be filled, including helping in the kitchen, running the bar, selling and checking tickets, maintaining the garden and the building, offering hospitality to performers, and helping in administration. If you have skills to offer and might want to get involved, please get in touch. You would also be welcome at our **Volunteers Social Evening on Tuesday April 19th**, but please let Tracey (tel 340279) or Dougal (341356) know you are coming.

More information, tickets and cafe bookings via our website

www.tolmencentre.co.uk



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Constantine Cottage Garden Society

Peter Wilson

As gardeners, our excitement grows as the warmer sunnier days begin to emerge from a cold dank winter. We have been tormented recently by some tremendous storms, several days, one after the other, gave little respite to our beleaguered gardens. Hopefully, we have seen the worst of the storms and now we just have the late frosts to contend with. I for one am constantly watching the weather forecasts and receiving regular updates from my neighbour with his weather station.

The year did not start well for our society meetings, January's meeting was cancelled owing to the Omicron variant and February's did not fare much better as our intended speaker had to cancel owing to a close contact with Covid that week. The absence did however allow the AGM to continue with extra time being allocated to discuss important issues. It was agreed that membership fees would increase to £5 per ordinary member and a £2 entry fee levied. The members of the society also agreed to participate in the Jubilee Celebrations. The garden Society would like to encourage all village members to participate in having their gardens or garden planters, planted in a red/white and blue colour scheme. The participants can choose the variety of plant or plants for display and society members will walk around the village during the jubilee celebrations and assess the best garden, pots or planters. A prize will be offered for the most colourful and patriotic entry.



Our March meeting went ahead as planned and we had another enthralling talk from Roger Hooper, this time in his ornithologist role, covering West Country Birds. The timing was quite prudent as we will now start seeing many more birds arriving on our shores, as Devon and Cornwall are so popular with the returning migrating birds due to the abundant breeding grounds we have.

It is pleasing to hear we have an increasing bird population within Cornwall.

This meeting brought our winter meetings to a close and we will soon start developing a summer programme for visits throughout the summer months. Our 2022 winter programme will recommence in October.

Another reminder for all gardeners, its that time of year again when the 'Asian Hornet' can reappear. Overwintered queens will now be appearing and while they can be difficult to spot, we may just see one on our Camellias feeding on the nectar and pollen. For further information please visit <https://wcbka.org.uk/asian-hornet-action-team/>



CONSTANTINE BOWLING CLUB OPEN DAY

**Wednesday 20 April
2.00pm**

Everyone welcome

All ages

Come along

Give it a go

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Further information

Debbie Warren 340484

Richard Colbert 341143

Bob Long 340937



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More from Constantine down under

Dianne , whose great grandparents emigrated to South Australia from Constantine in 1864, tells us more about her quest for family history information

I began researching the story of my great grandparents Emma Trethowan and Benjamin Bowden after I inherited, from my mother, two small privately published, family history booklets.

One was called "A History of Agery", written by my grandfather, Charles Wesley Bowden. In this he told many tales of his parents, and of Constantine Farm, Agery, near Moonta, South Australia. But it was the other publication, "Descendants Of Benjamin and Emma Bowden", which sent me looking for more information.

It had been compiled after a large family reunion in 1977, where attendees were asked to bring birth, death and marriage charts, and any stories about Emma and Benjamin. The results were written up, and it is a great resource for me, but details of Emma and Benjamin's emigration were hazy, and so began months, and eventually, years of research, both in South Australia and Cornwall.

I was delighted to discover that there were books called The Log of Logs. According to the State Library of South Australia, these were catalogues of Logs, journals, shipboard diaries, and all forms of voyage narratives from 1788 to 1988 for

Australia and New Zealand. The bad news was that they were held at The Maritime Museum in Port Adelaide (below left), and on a stifling hot day, we climbed into our hot car.



On arrival, we went to the relative section, and searched, and searched and searched again, but there was no record of the journey. Eventually we discovered that the films had been damaged, and so the Eastern Empire (pictured above) log did not make it to the publishers. But, the staff said we should try the SA Archives as they might have something.

It was a long trek from Port Adelaide to Gepps Cross, but heck, put it into perspective, I told myself. There was a queue at the Archives, but we finally got the films, we just had to wait for a film reader. However, what we saw was not good. The records had been water damaged. There would be no log. But we took photos of the pages, thinking we might be able to read some of it at home. My husband and 3 almost adult children, armed with magnifying glasses, were set with the task of helping. We all soon realised it was the most exciting puzzle we had ever seen.



Letter by letter, word by word the details emerged. The Surgeon was most displeased with the behaviour of many of the passengers. The single girls had sacked the matron, and many young men had their 'meat stopped' for talking to girls, or playing cards, on a Sunday. There were also details of illnesses, deaths and storms etc.

I am a huge plot theorist, and wondered if the fact (from the newspapers) that the surgeon was taken to court for alleged misconduct, was related to the damage of the record. If found guilty he wouldn't receive the princely sum, of several shillings, for every passenger on board. Forget I said that!

In Brisbane we have recently been flooded, then no electricity, no internet.... And our internet is still down!

My book has only just gone to a pub-

lisher, and as ever, there will be a bit of work before he offers me a contract - if he offers me a contract. But I told him about the interest in the book in Constantine, Cornwall, and he was pleased!

Dianne Griffin

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Constantine School news

Wild Things fire pit



Huge thanks to the friends of Constantine school who funded this fire pit for Wild Things, our forest school club. The children love using it .

Helford class Celebration Cafe

Helford class have set up a celebration



cafe. The aim of the cafe is to for pupils to have their voice and share weekly celebrations. Whilst developing everyday life skills.

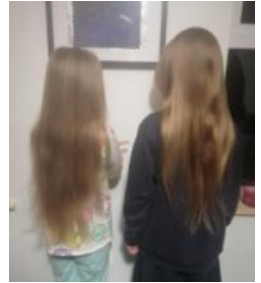
Stone Age study for Lerryn class

We have some super Historians in Lerryn class. We have spent time questioning and predicting what these Stone Age artefacts could have been used for.



Good hair day

Well done to both Layla and Mia for growing their hair and having it cut off to donate to the Little Princess Trust. What an amazing thing to do for others and raising money to donate in the process too. AMAZING!



World Book Day

Each class was invited to dress up according to their topic and the day was spent immersing the children in exciting topic activities. We saw an amazing array of costumes from the following themes:

Fal – Minibeasts

Cober – Dinosaurs

Lerryn – Stone Age

Helford – Roald Dahl

Kenwyn – Romans

Tamar – Anglo Saxons

Tresillian – Evacuees



We also held a book cover competition and Congratulations to our winners: Florence, Grace, Cecily, Jack, Rosa, Archie and Sonny.

These children were very pleased to receive their £10 book voucher prize! A big thank you must go to the 'Friends of Constantine School', who very kindly donated the money for these prizes.

We would also like to say thank you to all of the children who took part. The book covers were all fantastic and they are going to look really wonderful displayed around our school.

Chair of our Local Advisory Board joined us for our world book day assembly and she thought: *"It was wonderful to be back in the hall for a proper World Book Day Assembly. The enthusiasm of children and staff for the event was evident. Thank you to all the parents or helping with some very creative costumes."*

Parish Council Jubilee Logo Competition

A fabulous selection of logos were entered and the children worked so hard to come up with some very imaginative designs. Thank you for all your hard work.

A panel of three judges had a very difficult decision and shortlisted 12 designs. The winning design appears on the front page of the Platinum Jubilee pull-out supplement in this issue so congratulations to **Florence in Y6**.

The large **Helford Class** joint design will be used also to advertise the entire weekend also, so well-done Helford Class. The shortlisted designs will be laminated and displayed around the village and also in school to be viewed.

Parking

Please can we remind you about parking sensibly around the school entrances again? We have had a pupil fall due to cars parking unsafely around the junction and blocking the paving slabs which is a popular crossing point.

Cags Gilbert, Head of School

Gymnastics



Our gymnastics teams did well over two rounds of competition. Our club team came second and our 2 school teams came 1st and 4th. The winning school team were invited to a second round where they came 4th against 17 other teams.

Cross Country results

We have some amazing results from the first round (Penryn schools) of the cross country and a very well done to all who entered....it was a lot of running. The length of the course more than made up for the fact it was flat for sure!

We entered 24 pupils and had five top three positions, and these were awarded with medals.

The following children will go through to the next round (Peninsula finals): Macey, Tiggy, Matt H, Jimmy, Jack, Zephyr, Ethan, Matty, Xavier, Olly G and Immy. The round after this is the county finals and we hope to have some children qualify.



Constantine School news (Cont'd/...)

Netball League



The netball league was so exciting! After winning every single one of our matches we won overall. Well done to: Zofia, Matty, Casey, Florence, Faith W, Ruby, Lucy, Dylahn and Andrew.

play against some Truro Primary Schools. Our awesome Team includes the following children: Olly G, Xavier, Matty, Toby, Jimmy, Immy, Ethan, Henry, Dalton Matthew H and Eli. We are very fortunate to have Rob Gardner and Craig Jacka coaching our team weekly and also Mr Buckingham and Moss Puxley running a club for Y3 in school this term too.



Basketball League

We played really well in the basketball league, winning every match with our mixed team and won overall. Awesome!



Hockey League

We have recently started the hockey league and we won our first game against Stithians 7-0. We have several more games to play this term before we know our position.



Football

We have played a league which involved games against all the feeder primaries to Penryn College and we came second overall which is fantastic! Our team have also played against Truro Prep School and that was a draw. We are looking forward to the tournament that we have been invited to

Swimming

It has been great that swimming has been able to continue this school year when



some classes have missed out for 2 years now due to the pandemic. Year 5 have been doing well and all our swim teachers have so impressed with the perseverance and attitude showed by all pupils across the different groups. The children and staff alike have come away buzzing each week and excited for more.

This term Y5 have been swimming weekly at RNAS Culdrose pool and the progress and achievements are amazing. With awards ranging from water skills 1 to swim Challenge Level 2 and Bronze, as well as distances from 5m to 400m being achieved is phenomenal. Year 4 will be swimming throughout the late Spring and

early Summer term and then it will be Year 3's turn. We are very fortunate to have use of the wonderful pool facilities at Culdrose when the future of other local pools is so worrying. With our experienced staff and extended swimming slot each week we can ensure all children receive high quality swimming tuition which is paramount when we live in a county almost completely surrounded by the sea.

We teach water safety and self-rescue techniques for open water as well as water confidence and the four main strokes, from all pupils whether they arrive as non-swimmers or club swimmers.

Please ensure you fight for our local pools to stay open as any pool is such a valuable resource to schools in Cornwall. Who knows, one day Cornwall might get the Olympic sized pool it deserves!

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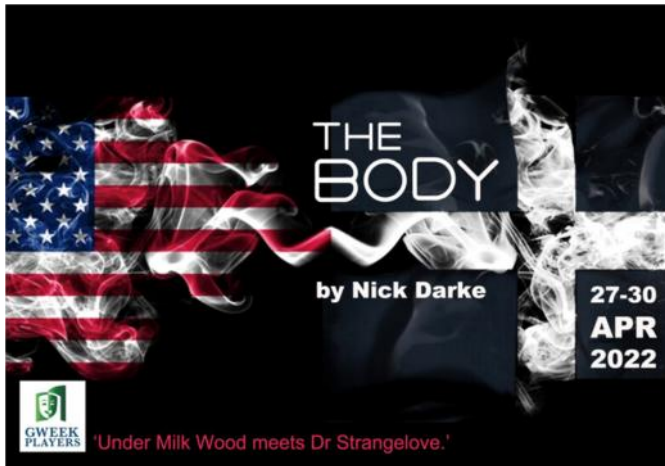
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Gweek Players' next production - *THE BODY* by Nick Darke, 26-30 April



Two rivals in a north Cornish parish separately discover a dead body while cockling under The Old Iron Bridge. But they're not the only ones to claim possession: the Rec-tor wants to bury it, the policeman wants to arrest it, and the Americans from the air baseoh, the Americans! But what is their real interest? Written by Cornish author Nick Darke in 1983 and first staged by the RSC, the play has been described as *Under Milk Wood* meets *Dr Strangelove*. Elements of both are combined by Nick Darke's extraordinary writing skills.

The Body was written around the time of the Cold War between Russia and the West. In 1983 American Cruise missiles were deployed to RAF Greenham Common in Berkshire amid protest from the Women's Peace Movement. It was high profile news material at the time. What was less well known was that American nuclear weapons, specifically US Navy nuclear torpedoes, guarded by US Marines, were deployed to RAF St Mawgan which now shares real estate with Newquay Airport. So, the setting for *The Body* is in a Cornish parish that backs onto an airbase, somewhere near the coast.

Nicholas Darke (1948-2005), was born in Wade-bridge, educated at St Mer-ryn Primary School and Truro Cathedral School and lived much of his life at Porthcothan, on the north coast of Cornwall.

His early career was as an actor in the theatre, but he also directed the work of others and later gave up acting to concentrate on writing. As a playwright he was influenced by earlier

work at the Victoria Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent where "fluidity of action, jump-cuts from location to location, short scenes, diversity of characters, music, as narrative, were the bread and butter of the Vic, and I've fed on them ever since'. Much of this is evident in *The Body*.

Every now and then you read a play that makes you go "Wow – I have to do this". Nick Darke's *The Body* was one such script. It appealed to the play's director, Mark Breach, on so many levels. On the one hand, it's a comedy that treats its Cornish characters with mischievous affection, a little like Dylan Thomas in *Under Milk Wood*, but with very Cornish dialogue. On



Linda Capone

the other, it's a surreal absurdist tale driven by existential angst, if that does not sound too pretentious. Mark found the script unputdown-able, and he has been impatiently pawing the ground all through Covid to finally bring this to the stage.

There will be evening performances from Tuesday 26 April to Friday 29 April at 7.30 pm and a matinee on Saturday 30 April at

2.30 pm. We will be offering our usual array of desserts in the interval, Covid permitting. Wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages will be available to purchase at the bar. Tea and coffee will also be available.

Tickets are on sale now on our website (gweekplayers.co.uk) or from the Cornish Riviera Box Office. Ticket price: £12 or £13 including an electronic programme.

Constantine History Group Report

Don Garman

Several intrepid Constantine History Group members braved the gale force winds to attend the February meeting of the Constantine History Group. Roger Ratcliffe, Chair of St Agnes Museum, took the group on a virtual tour of Goonglaze Downs, introducing the mining history enroute. Records show there were 800 mines operating over a long period. By 1733 tin bounds were being amalgamated and families such as the Donithornes were able to generate considerable wealth. Tin streaming was also a feature of the area. Today, the Blue Hills Stream works is still functioning

One of the most successful mines on the Downs was Wheal Kitty, named after Kitty Stevens, and opened in the 1830s, but closing in 1918 owing to a drop in the price of tin. The mine was reopened in 1925 with the introduction of modern techniques, but closed again in 1930. Recycling of equipment

had been a feature for several years with the transfer of beam engines to other mines, locally and further afield. The process was repeated when Wheal Kitty closed for the last time and equipment was moved across the valley.

The Wheal Kitty site now provides places of work and a café whilst Goonglaze Downs has largely returned to nature, making it difficult to imagine the industrial landscape of the past.

Contact Don Garman 01326 250604



Night Sky

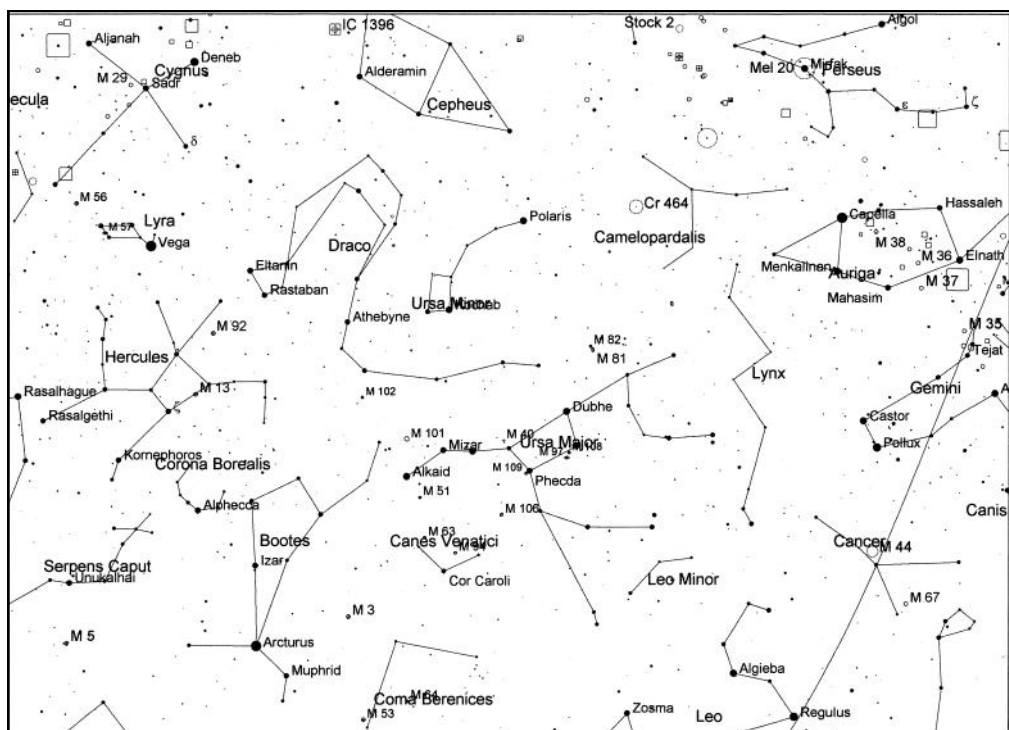
At this time of year the Milky Way is just appearing in the early part of the night parallel to the Northern horizon. High above at the zenith is an upside down Ursa major.

In the southern part of the sky Leo is the most prominent constellation, a constellation which looks vaguely like the Lion after which it is named. Regulus a bright star at its front paws can also be looked at as the point at the end of a question mark.

Bootes and Arcturus are prominent in the eastern sky and between Leo and Bootes is the constellation of Corona Borealis. This is the home of an open cluster Melotte 111 and the Coma cluster of galaxies, Abel 1656. There are about 1000 galaxies in this cluster which located close to the North Galactic Pole where we are looking into the plane of the Galaxy and able to see deep into space. Sadly only about 10 of the brightest galaxies in the Coma Cluster are visible in even the largest amateur telescopes.

As we move into May two of the stars which form the Summer Triangle, Vega and Deneb are clearly visible whilst Altair, third star, is just beginning to climb above the horizon. Vega appears steely-blue, its colour representing a high surface temperature of $10,000^{\circ}\text{C}$. Vega was the first of the night sky's stars to be individually photographed from the Harvard Observatory in 1850 by William Bond and John Adams Whipple.

Ursa Major has now swung round into the western sky with Alkaid the last star of the 'tail of the bear' being close to the zenith. The orange red star Kocab in Ursa Minor is now



Robert Beeman

seen above Polaris in the late evening sky and is sometimes referred to as the Guardian of the Pole, circling it closely throughout the night.

Around midnight Virgo is due south with Leo now to the west. Virgo is a galaxy hunters paradise, the brightest are visible in amateur telescopes.

The planets in this period are early morning objects in the dawn twilight. The 5th of April sees Venus, Saturn and Mars quite close together at 0500 BST low in the ESE. On the 1st of May at 0500 BST they are joined by Jupiter which will be seen very close to Venus, all being low in the E to ESE.

April sees the Lyrid meteor shower which begins on the 14th of April. The shower peaks on the 22nd/23rd April with a forecast of 18 per hour but conditions will not be favourable as Full Moon is on the 16th of April and last quarter Moon on the 24th April.

There is another stronger shower, the n-Aquariids which begins on the 19th of April when the Moon is a waxing gibbous. The shower continues past the New Moon on the 30th April to a maximum on the 6th of May. The Moon this time is co-operating!. The only downside is that the radiant is not particularly well placed for viewers in the northern hemisphere as it is below the NE horizon until around an hour before dawn. The maximum hourly rate is about 50 per hour and sometimes a quarter of these can leave persistent trains.

Wishing you clear skies and warm evenings

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Submission Deadlines:

Deadline for news items, event dates and other submissions for the

June/July/August 2022 issue is

15 May 2022. Please send to :

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

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