



Winter Festivities



Bell ringing buddies at St Sampson's



Village Green, with the pub looking inviting in the background



Carols at *The Fisherman's Arms*



We Three Kings? Oh, sorry, there is only one King!



Let the bells ring out at Christmas!



Wassailing at Golant, New Year's Day, 2018

FROM THE EDITOR

One of the best things we did when we returned 'back 'ome' to Cornwall was to enrol in what was at the time mysterious territory— how to work a computer (eg how do you switch it on?!). Eventually Gillie decided to complete the module about the *Publisher* program at some excellent local lessons, and what a boon that turned out to be! When the opportunity came for a few of us to start what became *The Golant Pill*, Gillie was all too ready to use the skills she had acquired.

Though I was named the Editor, we have always worked as we do in most things – together. We just talk about this and that in *The Pill* and make decisions. "What shall we have on the front page next month?" is often the first question, and we go on from there.

But what happened a year ago when I had a stroke? Frankly, I don't remember. I suppose we talked about the February 2017 issue but I don't recall it. Frankly, Gillie did the lot! I have always said that she does most of the work (including most of the phoning & nagging!) so, like me, Simon, our Chairman, is happy for her to become the Editor from the next issue and I'll assist her. You won't see the join, I can assure you!

About three years ago, our production committee were asked to take over the *Golant Website*. We were very fortunate that Roger Page volunteered to redesign and run this site for us, and we wish to thank him for all his hard work to keep it up to date and make it so successful. He has decided to give up, and we are lucky that Debbie Pugh-Jones has agreed to take over. (See page 6). She has lots of experience in journalism so her input, combined with the excellent *Facebook* run by Robin & Penny, will ensure that we will continue to have a great website. Debbie will join our committee (see opposite) which meets regularly.

A favourite page for readers seems to be *Gleanings*. But we don't get very many gleanings reported to us these days. We never mind a phonecall or some information on a bit of paper put into our box at the foot of the drive which we can include on the page. We love to hear the successes of our young people which should be celebrated and shared! So many of them leave school and go off somewhere for further studies and that's almost the last we hear about them!

Meanwhile, the evenings & mornings are getting lighter; the weather will improve eventually; the signs of spring are all around. Already we are chatting about the next issue which will be - EASTER!!!

Mike Harris

Bunny Minter-Kemp RIP

We are greatly saddened to hear of the death of Bunny on 28th January. She slipped away very peacefully at home after a prolonged fight against illness, surrounded by her family. Bunny enjoyed a huge circle of friends in all walks of life. She was loved dearly in this, her village.

We will devote an article about her in the next issue.

We understand that there will be a cremation, and it is hoped that a thanksgiving service will be held at St Sampson's on Saturday 24th February.

Meanwhile, please look out for a *Maurie Mail* giving the exact funeral and wake arrangements.

The Golant Pill Committee

Editor	Mike Harris	833897
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Treasurer	Tony Strachan	833259
Secretary/Typesetting	Gillie Harris	833897
Graphics/Advertising	Karen Wells-West	832104
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The committee meets regularly under the terms of the constitution which was adopted when the newsletter was first issued in 2007.

The Editorial Team reserves the right to reject material or comments considered to be inappropriate or offensive.

Views & opinions expressed in *The Golant Pill* may not be necessarily those of the Editorial Team.

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Signs of the Times

I put David Parry's new village sign up and within a few minutes it had attracted a crowd of admirers— the doggies seemed to be very pleased with it.

We have put it here (on the Green) to see what the reaction is.

Robin Anderson

Meet & Greet

Those of us who are of a certain age will recall that it used to be said that if you remember the 60s you were not there. That is probably the situation with the annual *Meet & Greet* get-together held in the Village Hall prior to Christmas every year!



The event in December 2017 was no exception. David Skerrett and his willing team of helpers did a great job in welcoming everybody and ensuring that both their stomachs and wine glasses were continually full.

It was good to see a few newcomers this year and we pass on a very warm welcome to the village to Martyn and Fayre Hardy as well as Chris and April Stead. John and Geri

Pomeroy were away on the day but I know that they would have taken full part in the festivities as well.

I look on this annual event as the start of the Christmas celebrations. The fact that it was slightly earlier this year just made carousing longer.

Thank you to David Skerrett, Paul King, Jeremy Lloyd-Evans and Peter Stone for being such able sommeliers whilst there must also be gratitude to the ladies- Mary Skerrett, Maryjean Stone, Megan Dean and others who served the food. Also thanks to all those who brought a tray or plate of nibbles etc. My apologies if I have not named some of the hard workers but I did say at the start of this article that it is hard to remember it all!

Maurie Parsons



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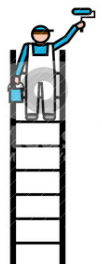
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Golant and the River

Proposed exhibition dates:
Friday 26th – Sunday 28th October
inclusive.

Early in January we held an open workshop to kick start our research for the project on **Golant and the River** and it was lovely to be able to welcome extra folk on board.

This subject offers a wide scope of areas for research, anecdotes and photographs— eg. who remembers the packed hall to discuss the proposal to build the walkways either side of the quay on the river side of the railway? The idea was to remove the, often three to four deep, upended boats which lined the road approaching the quay, and to create access to riverside frapes for mooring dinghies and tenders. The clearing of the roadside then allowed for the creation of our car park. Does anyone have photographs relating to any of this, or feel moved to write a short piece about it? We are also on the hunt for photographs and anecdotes of the many and various boating and fishing businesses which operated from Golant over the years.

A little gem of a snippet, recently passed on to us via John Jenkin, is a handwritten note (date and writer unknown) which describes a causeway across the river. “The stones were laid by the monks. Great big flat stones roughly 3ft – 6 – 3 inches thick . . . at low tide one could walk right across the flat stones to the other side of the



river.” An accompanying snapshot at low tide suggest where these slabs might have been. (*See below, left*). An early map marks a ‘priry’ (*sic*) just to the south of Clift (*sic*). Could this have been the destination for the monks? If you know any more we’d love to hear from you.

Meanwhile, plans are afoot to create a large wooden montage picture to be mounted somewhere near the existing rowing club and close to what was once John Fuge’s boat shed. Talk to Ian Laughton if you’d like to know more.

Sue Strachan, once she has completed the mammoth task of costuming our GRADS thespians for the forthcoming Wizard of Oz, will turn her attention to the creation of an embroidered wall hanging on a river heritage theme. It will mostly comprise small embroideries around the edge, much like the cider banner but smaller, with a textile central panel. Last time the banner workshops proved to be popular, sociable times, inspiring the many participants to continue meeting for different projects.

If any of the above catches your interest, or if you have any other river related ideas or information to share, please do contact us. There is plenty to get involved in and we’d love this to be a real community project.

Our next meeting: Tuesday 13th February, 2pm in the Village Hall.

Penny Parsons, GHG Chairman

FACEBOOK

Our team members Robin Anderson & Penny Parsons produce a Facebook page for *The Golant Pill*.

Do check it out. It is designed mainly to promote village activities, including those published within our Calendar of Events page.

The immediacy of Facebook is such that Robin & Penny are able to add reports of such events as soon as they have happened.

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Village Hall Committee

Firstly, the Village Hall Committee needs a new TREASURER to join our team. Debbie, who is currently doing a fantastic job, is stepping down as treasurer following our AGM in April. If you are interested, please contact Penny or me.

We extend a big thank-you to St Sampson Parish Council for their continuing financial support for the Village Hall Broadband.

We have an *IT Computer Training Day* on Wednesday, 28th February, from 10.30am till 1.00pm. Everyone, please do come along for some tuition or just problem solving; there is always a lot to learn about security & internet shopping. Bring your tablet or laptop with you if you have one.

We now have decorative outside lights installed on our hall— a very big thank-you to Peter Edwards for his willingness to go up sightseeing over the roofs in Golant in the cherry-picker. It was a wet day, but we persevered, and were up and lit for Christmas.

Events coming up are a *Wine Night Extravaganza* on Saturday 24th March. This is a fun evening for you Golant winos to test your knowledge (consumption). We have a talk by Jeremy Pearson, wine tasting, cheese & biscuits and a simple wine quiz. Look out for the posters and then book your tables for teams of eight.

Golant C-Film Club on February 23rd is showing *Bridget Jones's Baby*. It is the start of the new year of membership,

so please bring your joining fee of £6.

GRADS performance of *The Wizard of Oz* is a sell-out, as usual. Hope you all enjoy it.

Paul Meredith, Chairman

Tel: 01726 832548 Mob: 07976757076

To book the hall, or for any enquiries, contact Penny Parsons, at:
golantvillagehall@gmail.com
or tel no 01726 832727

LOST IN FILM

Monday February 12th *The Big Sick* (15)
Monday February 26th *Dunkirk* (12A)
Monday March 12th *Daphne* (15)
Monday March 26th *Goodbye Christopher Robin* (PG)

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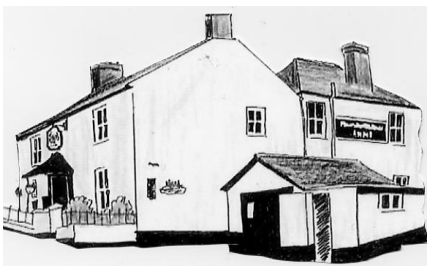
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We are hosting a **Special Deal** in February - Book any 2 of the Roast, Valentine's or Breakfast Meals and get a free drink on each event.

Book all 3 events and get 10% off the Food on these events.

As Sunday 11th March is our Sunday Roast AND Mother's Day, there will be a **Special Deal** for the Mums on that Day.

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Alternatively, send your artwork or copy as required, together with an appropriate crossed cheque made out to
The Golant Newsletter
to Karen Wells-West, Blomeys, Downs Hill, Golant, PL23 1LJ

New Village Website

Our village golant.net website has been relaunched, and has a brand-new look.

It has been designed, and will be managed, by Village Hall Committee member and Parish Councillor Debbie Pugh-Jones, who has a professional background in creating and managing websites.

The new site aims to signpost people to other sites, which will hopefully enable it to be kept up-to-date.

Village organisations who do not have their own websites have their own pages on the new site, and Debbie is relying on members of those organisations to keep her updated.

Debbie said, "The content management system on the new website has been designed to be really easy to use, and if you use Microsoft Word you will probably be able to use Wordpress.

If any organisations want to upload their own information onto the site I am happy to show a willing volunteer how to do it."

Debbie welcomes feedback on the new site, and can be emailed at debbie@golant.net Villagers who would like a free golant.net email address should contact Debbie.

Early Warning of Dates for next Summer's Fun....!!

Madness in the Pill

Sunday 12th August 2018
at about 3.30pm

Sports & Carnival

Saturday 18th August 2018
at 2pm

PE

Pasture fed beef



You are welcome to visit the farm.

Please visit our freezers by the farmhouse - they will be signed.
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New Year's Day Wassail

After many years of enjoying the traditional features of a Scottish Hogmanay (whisky, steak pie, coal carrying, fireballs, hangover, pubs shut on New Year's Day, etc.), this year Anne and I looked forward to the joys of the Golant Wassail, only about 7 years old, but clearly now a village tradition. By 2pm a merry turnout of forty plus people and many canine friends had assembled at the Church car park, to be led by Maurie, reprising his role as the (very) Green Man.

In good voice, we approached *Bodriggan* singing our good wishes to the welcoming hosts. First to the tree for Maurie to adorn it with toast (no easy task pushing twigs through toast without snapping it...) and frighten it with (non-Cornish!) cider. Waes Hael to the tree and now we all deserved some of Liz and Robin Anderson's cider cup. If you've not looked already, check Robin's excellent set of photos on the Golant Pill Facebook site to see the happy band on the *Bodriggan* veranda, and a full record of the rest of the day.



Thus fortified, and after chanting our support to Cornish Rugby, we headed off down the hill to Janet and Robert Gore's – more singing, more Waes Hael and then mulled wine and Janet's apple cake (mmm! Janet's apple cake!!). Onwards now to *Camellia Cottage*, and with the tree suitably wassailed we discovered the remarkable joy of Toffee Vodka, courtesy of Chris and Paul. A real treat for New Year's Day.

Continuing this year's "Pretty much downhill from the start" theme, we then moved on to Tony and Sue Strachan at *Golant Farm*. Here we found the possibility of a scientific experiment – a row of apple trees with only one wassailed. Will this one outperform the others?? Maybe an apple counting day in the autumn, Tony? Then, after cheerful refreshment from Tony and Sue, where next to go?

Well, *The Fisherman's* of course. And there we found the youngest tree of the day, a rare Cornish apple raised from a cutting and on its way to Stuart Young's garden at *Appletrees*. Let's wish it a happy and bountiful life. (* See more below).

Overall, a great day enjoyed by all – no rain and many trees helped on their way. And thanks most of all to our hosts who filled our bowls with refreshment and sustenance. We wish you all and your trees an excellent 2018, and may the proud tradition of the Golant Wassail continue for many a year!

David Bonsall

More Wassailing facts...

** Karen Wells-West introduced the idea of wassailing to Golant seven years ago, and these are her reflections on the launch & the day, taken from her 'Encounter Cornwall' Facebook page. Ed.*

This is a way of celebrating the lands and history of Golant as a vibrant apple growing area. Many houses still have 'apple' or 'orchard' in their names.

The carol we sing is apparently an old Lostwithiel tune, the nearest to Golant I could find.

This year we also toasted a tree at the pub that Stuart Young had raised from a cutting in the Boatshed garden. It is called *The Gull* and it is a rare Golant apple. Sadly, the original tip-bearing tree appears to have died, so it makes Stuart's work all the more vital. As we say, "Waes Hael"!

Karen Wells-West



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Christmas 2017 **INBLOOM** Challenge

Well, I was clearly beaten again by Liz Anderson, who found 38 different blooms in her garden over Christmas – and even a tomato! (See picture below, left).

I picked a mere 26 varieties, photographed in the basket. Surprisingly, we only had 5 exact matches – *Fuchsia*, *pink Heather*, *Winter Honeysuckle*, *Red Campion* & *Primrose* (of which there were many this year). For those keen gardening botanists amongst you, the remaining blossoms that I found were: *Osteospermum*, *Camellia High Hat*, *Lavender*, *Rosemary*, *Violet*, *Winter Cyclamen*, *Marigold*, *White Periwinkle*, *Bugle*, *Forget-me-not*, *Lobelia*, *Kafir Lily*, *Penstemon*, *Pelargonium*, *Bidens*, *Yellow Poppy*, *Syringa Microphylla* (bud), a yellow Rosebud, *Wild Strawberry*, *White Meadow Cranesbill* & a *pink Meadow Cranesbill*.

Liz's remaining 32 varieties were interesting, in that compared to her finds last Christmas, there are many new ones, whilst conversely, a large number of last year's specimens have not featured this time! Her 2017 list includes: *Mahonia*, *blue Hydrangea Macrophylla Lace Cap*, *Perpetual Rocket*, *Hazel Catkins*, *Greater Periwinkle*, *Dodridge Periwinkle*, *Cornish Daisy* (*Erigeron*), *Pansy*, *red Rose*, *peach Rose*, *white Heather*, *Germander Speedwell*, *Dandelion*, *Sow Thistle*, *Bowles Honesty*, *white Wild Mustard*, *Christmas Rose*, *Winter Heliotrope*, *Sarcocolla Winter Box*, *Abelia*, *Dianthus*, *Winter Iris* (*Turkish Blue*), 6 different *Camellias*, *white Hydrangea Macrophylla Mophead*, *Amelia Grandiflora*, *Tomato* & *Meliantus Major* (*Honey Bush*). The identification of this last plant took a bit of tracking down!

If my maths are correct, this means that Liz & I between us found 53 different varieties in bloom; last year, it was 46. In the churchyard, I spied, as extras, *Celandines*, *Winter Jasmine*, *Campanula*, *Daisies* and a lone *Crocus bud* on Christmas Day. And surely, there must have been a *Daffodil* flowering in a Golant garden...? If so, we are nearing 60; an amazing number.

It would be lovely if more villagers joined in next Christmas. If identification or even photography is a problem, I'm sure we could help.

Gillie Harris



Penny Parsons also joined in the hunt, and found 25 different varieties of bloom, which she photographed in groups, one of which can be seen in the third photograph below– a particularly fascinating collection of blue flowers.



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Golant Village Tea

Sunday 25th February from 4pm to 6pm

The traditional and popular *Village Tea* will be held in the Village Hall, and all are welcome to come along and have a good chin wag with neighbours and friends.

There will be crumpets, scones, sandwiches and lots of cakes.

Entrance will be £4 payable on the door (under 5s free).

Any excess proceeds will be put towards the collection for the Village Christmas tree.

Donations of sandwiches, cakes, biscuits, scones etc. will be greatly appreciated.

Please give Gail a ring on 01726 833475 if you intend to donate, so that we can get the balance of savoury and sweet right for everyone.

How Many Faces Can You Recognise?!



Ruth Taylor has done the most wonderful updated caricatures painting of the pub regulars.

She did the painting for free, but Nick has a collection tin in the pub for Ruth's chosen charity— *St Petroc's Society*, if anyone wishes to make a donation.

A Special Birthday

A surprise party was held to celebrate Lisa Pearson's special birthday.

Cheers!!



FOWEY HARBOUR NEWS

Review of 2017 and a Look Ahead to 2018

The plan to continue to improve the facilities available to visiting and resident leisure boats in the harbour has progressed. The new scheme of making some deep water visitor moorings available for resident yachts has been successful and we will look to see if we can extend that even further in 2018. It has been pleasing to see some much needed movement on our mooring waiting lists this year and we may, soon, be in a position to re-open the list. Keep an eye out for announcements! A planning request to build a shower and toilet block at Berrill's Yard has been submitted. This will greatly improve the facilities for visiting yachtsmen in that part of the Town and supplement the other facilities already available.

Our site at Penmarlam will have a considerable investment in repairing the road as well as starting work to provide or upgrade the electricity supply to boats both afloat at the pontoon and ashore in the yard. We will also be upgrading the existing shower and toilet facilities on site. Penmarlam users may have noticed the installation of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition entry system which has been added to improve ease of access, prevent 'tailgating' through the barrier and deter would-be thieves. We will soon be in touch to collect your vehicle registration numbers to add to our database, this in time will replace the current fob system.

We will have a facility to sell petrol to our boat users at Penmarlam from Easter, this along with the other services we provide at Penmarlam and Mixtow Marine, are all there to make your boating experience as hassle-free as possible.

The Harbour Board took the decision to lead on an attempt to bring back the Royal Air Force Display Team to Fowey. As I hope you will all realise, it was successful and we were delighted to restore the Red Arrows to the Regatta Week calendar in 2017. Visitor numbers soared for the day both afloat and ashore in the Town. The display itself was based just outside the Harbour but still provided a thrilling spectacle and 10,000 spectators enjoyed a wonderful display. We have booked them again for 2018 and, having flown the new format display, the Red Arrows are planning to move the display centre point closer to the Harbour entrance so even more will be visible from Fowey itself. The beauty of the new display format is that it is perhaps more visible to the public with many vantage points; especially popular was Alldays Fields. The Commissioners are very grateful to the public and local businesses who helped support the cost of providing the display and anyone who can help again this year should contact me as soon as possible.

We are here to help so please feel free to contact us if you have any specific queries or require any further information.

Don't forget you can get more information from our website www.foweyharbour.co.uk

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable 2018 boating season.

Capt. Paul Thomas
Harbour Master

For and on behalf of the Fowey Harbour Commissioners



The Weather

We are in the midst on winter, but funnily enough, it doesn't feel like it to me! It seems we are not destined to have many frosty mornings and heaps of snow, but instead have been given 'wind and rain' in abundance, with storm after storm coming through. (Will I ever get the grass cut before sending the mower off for its annual servicing?)

But..... I have seen daffodils and snowdrops, and now the crocuses are coming out around the war memorial and we are still only in January! All these are harbingers of Spring yet to arrive. But when IS Spring I hear you ask? Well, it depends on which specific calendar you choose to follow. The Astronomical calculation would suggest that Spring begins on the 20th of March this year, but if you look at the Meteorological calendar, then March 1st is the first day of Spring. So there you are. Early signs are there, but we are not quite in Spring just yet!

Winter jobs

So, if we are still in the Winter season, then we need to find jobs that need to be done before the new sailing/boating season gets underway. And if there was one job that I would urge anyone to undertake, it would be to ensure that you have a photograph of your boat, your engine and equipment, your trailer (if you have one) and anything else of value that you wouldn't like to lose. Put it like this—if you were to lose something and the Police asked you to describe it, what would you be able to say? A photograph and a serial number would guarantee that if found again, the Police would be able to return your stolen goods to you. Equally, if we in Boatwatch had your photograph of your lost property, then we could share that information with hundreds of other people on our Facebook site, which continues to grow, year on year.

Facebook

I know and understand why some of our community with computers are still reticent to engage with Facebook. But I can say (hand on heart) that adding Golant Boat Owners Association (Golant Boatwatch) Facebook, will only provide you with an array of interesting Maritime information that you will find interesting. And it will keep you in touch with things that may have important dates to remember, like the Lifejacket clinic later in the year as an example. Or the Spring Get Together!! So to keep informed and to remain up to date with the latest information, then saving our Facebook site to your tablet or computer will only add value to your experience! (Adding a Facebook site, in *any* sphere that you find interesting, is a great way to increase your quality of information generally.)

Reporting a Crime

If you were in the Police and were faced with a report of a theft of your 'engine' let us say; these are the likely question you will need to answer:

1. When was it stolen?
2. Were there any witnesses?
3. What was stolen?
4. Have you a photograph of the boat/trailer/engine?
5. Do you have the serial number or a receipt of purchase etc.?

As you can see, the questions suggest what you should think about when considering the potential loss of your own equipment:

1. Make sure that you can describe your lost item adequately with a photograph.
2. Ideally, have it security marked (see the previous *Golant Pill* on this subject).
3. Ensure you have taken every precaution to secure goods against loss (locks, security bars, chains etc.).
4. Report immediately any loss to the appropriate authorities.
5. Also report your loss to Golant Boatwatch, so that we may help in tracing the lost goods, via our Facebook site.
6. And finally, make sure that you have identified your goods on your specific maritime or home insurance policy.

New Members Welcome

Please join! Your community needs you and will welcome your involvement in our effort to beat Maritime and other related local crime in our area.

Spring Get-Together

As a reminder, we will host the Golant Boatwatch annual dinner on Friday 16th March in the Village Hall, when we will also raffle the David Parry limited edition print. So an excellent opportunity to join Boatwatch and get a ticket for the raffle. Any member NOT able to attend the dinner itself, can still obtain tickets from Cris Dodridge Meredith.

David Jenkinson
Chairman Golant Boatwatch

If anyone spots a problem on the river, please contact one of the following:

Harbourmaster's Office 01726 832471
(out of office hours transferred to Duty Officer)
David Jenkinson (Boatwatch) 01726 832246

To contact the **Police**, please take note of the new number **101** which you should use in a **non-emergency** situation.

In an **emergency**, or if you think a crime might be in progress or pending, dial **999** for **Police** and **Coastguard**. You can say "**reference Operation Kraken**" if the incident is concerned with maritime crime or terrorism.

The **Plymouth UK Border Force** is 01752 689 200.



We are busy compiling our 2018/19 Events programme in time for our membership renewals at the end of February. The events include a trip to Looe Island, a BTO led bird survey talk and a visit to Duchy of Cornwall *Restormel Estate*, so we hope you will be as excited as we are and renew your membership.

Our recent event at Lerryn with Sara Worne – *the Bird Lady of Fowey* – was very well received, with about 35 people attending. Sara had just some of her beautiful birds- there was Peanut the tiny Burrowing Owl, Whisper the majestic Barn Owl and Loki the Harris Hawk, who some lucky folk got to hold.

Our next talk is on Tuesday 20th February at *Trennythor Manor* at 7.30pm. This is presented by Tom Daguerre from *Hydromotion Media*, who is a keen diver, zoologist and underwater cameraman, so expect to see some of the fantastic marine environment we have here in Cornwall.

We then have our AGM on Tuesday 27th March, again at *Trennythor*, and please note that this is a change of venue because the RFYC is closed for refurbishment. Once we have got the boring AGM stuff out of the way we will be entertained by Rupert Kirkwood, a well-known coastal kayaker and wildlife enthusiast. His talk covers his encounters kayaking around the entire South West coast.

We now have our supply of ReFill bottles from *Cornwall Wildlife Trust* to encourage us to use refillable water containers instead of single use plastic bottles, and these will be on sale at our events. Businesses in the area are being encour-



aged to put the ReFill sticker in their window, so you know they are happy to refill your bottle.

You can follow us on facebook or visit our web-site: www.friendsofthefowey to catch up with our latest news.

Peter Edwards

THE NEXT COPY DATE

Please note that the **Copy Date** for the April/May Issue is

Tuesday 3rd April

NB: As Easter is at the very beginning of April, the copy date & printing will be a bit later than usual, so that we can cover the Easter events.

Articles, letters & news can be sent by email to:
**** thegolantpill@gmail.com ****

or placed in the box at the bottom of the drive to South Torfrey Cottage

** PLEASE NOTE **

Our newsletter email address has changed, so please do not use the yahoo one in future. It is now:

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Tales from the Riverbank

These last few months we've mainly been on the riverbank, rather than on the water, as the weather has been awful! There have been a few lovely days, and a few people willing to go out on the river, and as the river has been quiet, the wildlife has been easy to spot. A few days ago David was returning from Fowey, and saw Serena the Seal for the first time in months. Occasionally, we think that she goes off to sea, but it was reassuring to see her well, especially as there have been seal casualties from the winter storms.

The quiet period is taken up with cleaning and rearranging the Boatshed ready for Easter, plus thinking about what changes or introductions we want to make over the coming year. As you may have seen on our social media (and elsewhere here in *The Pill*), we have joined a few schemes to help dissuade people from using single use or non-recyclable plastics, and we were delighted to see that a new group – **Paddle for Plastics** – has been set up, partly inspired, they say, by our River Clean Ups. They will get together with kayakers to pick up marine or river debris all over Cornwall – so it shows that even small gestures can make a difference.

In early December we learned that we had been chosen to represent Cornwall in the *South West Tourism Awards* final for the best 'Guided Tour' category. This is for 5 counties competing for Gold, Silver and Bronze awards, and so we will at least get bronze! We will find out on Feb 1st in Torquay. That wasn't all the news – we were then asked to represent the South West in the *Visit England Awards*, but this means a completely new entry and judging, and only one winner per category, so we will do our best against what will be stiff competition!

Karen Wells-West



DJ

Pill Paparazzi in this issue

RA	Robin Anderson
GH	Gillie Harris
DJ	David Johns
PP	Penny Parsons
RT	Ruth Taylor

Clutching at Straws.....

Many people by now will be aware of several campaigns running not just in Cornwall, but throughout the country - for banning of plastic straws and packaging, takeaway coffee cups and plastic bottles that more often than not find their way into our rivers and seas.

As our livelihood depends on the Fowey Estuary, we have always been sensitive to rubbish and waste. We have our bi-annual River Clean ups, and have always used *Vegware* compostable products if we do offer takeaways - including straws.

However, it was pointed out to us recently that even biodegradable straws won't break down in the sea as the temperatures are not high enough.

So we have spent this winter thinking about these issues, and have come up with a few changes that we hope will make a small difference.

1. We will not offer straws at Cafe Kayak - it seems to be not necessary, unless we have tiny children; then we have a stock of compostable straws that we can ensure goes into our compost bin.

2. We have joined the **Refill** scheme, so if you bring your bottle into us when we are open we will refill it from the tap for you. We have always done this, but the Refill program is spreading out around the country now. We will continue to sell bottles of water that support the RNLI, as we have found that customers return them because we donate a few pence more each time they do. Then they are collected by us for recycling. The aim eventually will be to encourage everyone to have a refillable bottle. We are trying to get hold of some of the **Refill** metal water bottles to sell.



3. Although our takeaway cups are compostable, along with bamboo cutlery, we are going to offer some bamboo coffee cups for sale at Cafe Kayak. When you buy one, we will fill it for free the first time. If you bring it in again (or your own cup) we will give you 20 pence off coffee and 10 pence off tea.

We hope by doing our little bit, it adds another link to the chain of sustainability, and slowly everyone can do just one small thing to make a big difference!

Café Kayak will open for the Easter holidays and weekends in between school holidays until September.

Karen Wells-West

Golant Gleanings

BACKALONG

Gleanings from Historical Records of Golant for February & March

- “The first record of *St Sampson’s National School* is in the school Log Books, now kept in the County Record Office at Truro. The first entry reads:
‘**Monday 12 March 1877** School opened by Elizabeth Berry, Certificated Teacher.’ An important occasion, marred by the fact that, ‘as insufficient notice had been given, 3 children only put in an appearance.’”
- “**March 1878** saw the delivery of 24 Bibles and 24 Testaments, very necessary books in a school dominated by the Church but, one might think, of limited use by children with limited reading ability.”
- “In January 1896 Mr J W Burt, Certificated Teacher 1st Class, was appointed Master. In his first Log Book, Entries in **February** confirm his initial impressions:
10 February 1896 – Children are very noisy both in and out of school. They do not know what it is to sit still.
21 February 1896 - Children are totally ignorant of Geography.’”

Extracted from A School with a View by John Jenkin

- “In **March 1904**, Mr Charles Blowey, a prosperous farmer and owner of the village public house, opened a quarry on the Common with verbal permission from Jonathan Rashleigh. Blowey wanted the stone to build two cottages on land he owned lying just below the church (*Peneglos and St Cloud on Church Hill*) but he was ‘so threatened with the opposition of inhabitants’ that he asked for written permission from Rashleigh. It would appear that the villagers’ anger was directed against Rashleigh for charging dues on the stones raised and not against Blowey.”
At a subsequent parish meeting, “...matters became so heated that Mr Cooke, Rasheigh’s agent, recorded ‘the villagers’ agitation having by this time become acute, Charley Blowey, who is Innkeeper of the New Inn, Golant, became afraid of losing his customers and did nothing further in the way of raising stone.’”

Extracted from The Parish of St Sampson by John Fenwick

Cute PDF...!

When Roger Page was webmaster of the Golant website, one of his regular tasks was to place the latest copy of *The Golant Pill* online within it. For some reason only known to the quirkiness of computers, ours would never allow me to resave the copy from Microsoft Publisher onto a PDF file so that it was accessible to all. Instead, each copy had to wend its way every two months from us to Roger, saved on a memory stick. His computer (again, for no obvious reason) always happily agreed to the transition, thus allowing him to add it to the website. Technology – don’t you love it!

So Roger kindly offered to come here and try and sort out the problem. It took two visits and much trawling of the internet for him to come up with a solution. He eventually downloaded onto our computer something called **Cute PDF** (sounds like a cartoon character!). I’ve had to write down very careful instructions as to what I do to make the conversion from Publisher to save the copy as a PDF file, but it does work!

Now that Debbie Pugh-Jones has taken over the village website, I can now therefore email her *The Pill* safely saved as a PDF file, for her to place online, without sending a memory stick off round the village. Phew...!

Gillie Harris

ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL

December 2017 - January 2018

Since our last meeting in November, we have received a large volume of correspondence requiring our attention but councillors have managed to enjoy the many pleasures of life in the Parish during the winter holiday, despite the sloppy and choppy weather.

The character of this place is very special out of the sunny summer silly season and councillors continue to help keep the place in good shape all year round. No doubt many frightful and unusual shapes will be cut when the Panto performers take to the stage in the Village Hall shortly. As some councillors are involved to varying degrees in the show, I might urge you to book early to avoid disappointment (*now sold out*). It is a wonderful community event so well done to all who are attempting to remember their lines and it is great to see the village hall transformed so artfully into somewhere approximately over the rainbow or thereabouts. We are very pleased that we contribute directly and indirectly to help keep such shows on the road. Although it may be customary to say "break a leg", please do not break any more legs (or arms) anyone! May I wish a speedy and full recovery to our real life casualties in that respect.

As the Minutes of our January 2018 meeting indicate, we are now pushing ahead with business for the last quarter of the financial year and the year ahead. The finances are well up to the task with accounts balancing at £16,700 which includes our precept income and car park revenue from last year. Much of the big stuff cannot proceed without engagement from *Cornwall Council* so we are continuing to press for asset transfer of the Car Park & Toilet block which we currently lease, and creation of our own Traffic Management Order. Until this goes through we have decided to continue to operate the car park using parking contractors. May I ask residents to remind friends and visitors that the **charging regime commences again on 1 March 2018** with ticket prices unchanged. Charges are very modest and ticket revenue is invested in the Parish so it is in everyone's interests that we continue to maintain the car park. We will keep open the enhanced access public toilet. Options are still under review for what we will do with the rest of the toilet block.

May I also remind residents that those who wish to apply for a **residents' parking permit** must do so by completing an Application Form and sending it to the Clerk. Forms are available via e mail, on the web site or on hard copies from the village hall noticeboard.

We have been in negotiation with *Cornwall Council* staff over our draft Neighbourhood Development Plan and that remains a work in progress. We have not had any new Planning Applications since my last summary.

The financial position allows us to maintain a healthy cash reserve and useful working capital but beyond those requirements we have no intention of keeping funds in our bank for the sake of the banking system's health and well-being. We have agreed to pay for Super Fast Broadband for the village hall for the coming year.

This takes me to the letter in the last edition of *The Pill* which criticised the Council's decision to decline to support a request for financial help towards maintenance of the graveyard. We have since received much feedback from parishioners on this matter, and the overwhelming view of parishioners is that the graveyard is an asset which the Parish Council should help maintain. In response, councillors wish to allay concern, and re-state that although we did not support the particular proposal which was before us last autumn, we will consider all applications, including requests for contribution towards graveyard maintenance, on a case by case basis.

We are still short of one councillor on the team so can someone please step up? Your Parish needs you. Failing that, arrangements may have to be put in place dreckly to secure the services of a Press Gang!

Minutes of meetings are on our Parish Council website www.stsampsonparishcouncil.org.uk

Our Parish Clerk Sue Blaxley can be contacted on stsampsonpc@gmail.com for any further information or to raise issues of concern.

Our next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday 27 February 2018 in the village hall at Golant, commencing at 7.15pm with our usual session for the public to address us. All are welcome.

Robin Anderson, Chair

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News from St Sampson's Church

December is a busy month for everyone, and especially for those who sing! **The Advent Carol Service** was well attended, and among the highlights were *There is no Rose of such Virtue*, by Sheila, and *The Song of Zechariah* by Margaret Rizza. This piece contains plenty of drama, not least in the organ accompaniment, and was much appreciated.

A Cornish Christmas has built up a loyal following, and this year was no exception. Some 80 people came to sing carols and listen to readings on diverse topics (the peculiar vicars of Cornwall's past proved particularly popular), poems by Charles Causley, two groups of handbell ringers, and a lively choir item. The Meet and Greet at lunch-time ensured performers were relaxed, though not necessarily accurate. Special thanks to James Funnell, who, at the very last minute, came to play the organ when the designated organist was indisposed.

Over 130 came on Christmas Eve to **A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**; the congregation sang lustily, the choir excelled with two accompanied carols, and two unaccompanied – *Good Christians All, Rejoice* and *O Come and Join the Dance*. There was a great atmosphere for this candle-lit service, especially with such a full church. Christmas morning was also well attended, and a shortened service worked well. The handbells accompanied Simon singing *Mary's Boy Child* with the congregation joining in the chorus, and the choir reprised from the previous evening the moving *Mater Ora Filium*.

Then into 2018, with **Ring in the New Year** at noon. Well over 50 came, some visitors, some from Fowey, and many from the village, to have a go at ringing large and small bells, or have a restorative drink and a bite to eat – or to do all of those things. Again it was an excellent atmosphere, and a most cheering start to a new year.

So many people commented on the wonderful decorations in the church. The tree was one of the best we have had, the flowers were spectacular, and the support for the Christmas services most heartening. Our thanks go to all those who came, to those who decorated the church (and fetched and erected the Christmas tree), cleaned and polished, to all the bell-ringers both great and small, to the choir and Sheila, and to Mike Harris, who played masterfully at the services. Special mention also to Greg and Penny who, although away for Christmas, decorated the tree and ensured that the candles were replaced and ready to go for Christmas Eve. Thanks also to the Taylor and Connibeer families for looking after the Christmas Crib.

Isaac and Otto Fugill were the winners in the *Christmas Story* pictures, and their drawings were displayed in the church porch.

Wendy Earl has resigned, as you can see from her message below, and an appreciation of her work in the parish will appear at a later date.

As I write this, the church boiler, which has been troublesome of late, seems to be back in good health, although a new oil tank is needed. It was heartening to see so many people at the various Christmas services, and a warm welcome (especially now the boiler is fixed!) awaits everyone who comes to St Sampson in 2018.

Simon Funnell

A Message from Wendy Earl

After 14 years as Reader at St Sampson's, the time has now come to stand down, and David and I will in future worship a little closer to home.

It has been a great joy and privilege to serve you all, and to share in so many of your joys and sorrows.

I will miss you greatly, particularly the many happy encounters and banter at *The Fisherman's*!

Love and prayers,
Wendy Earl

Church Flower and Cleaning Rota

4th & 11th February	Sue S & Sue T
18th & 25th February	Jacky & Sheila
4th & 11th March	Valerie & Carol
18th & 25th March	tbc
1st & 8th April	Judy & Cynthia
15th & 22nd April	Penny & Viviane

Flowers

Look out for a *Maurie Mail* giving details of a flower demonstration at the church! Ruth Varco has kindly offered to show us how to have fun creating a simple arrangement for the altar, and we do hope as many as possible will be able to join us. We would be delighted if you can be persuaded to join the Flower & Cleaning Roster, but there is no obligation; just come for a social get-together with coffee & biscuits. If you are already involved, join us for a refresher, and to spread the word that arranging the flowers is enjoyable and easier than it looks.

Valerie Russell

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Priest-in-Charge at Golant

The Revd Philip de Grey-Warter (01726 833535)
email: vicar@foweyparishchurch.org

Churchwardens

Mrs Carol White (01726 833404)
Robert Dunley (01726 832807)

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UNCLE JOHN'S GARDEN PATCH

What wisht old weather we'm having. 'Tis like this yer rain do have put the sun out, and I d'hope that Mother Nature is able to get 'en going agin pretty sharpish, 'cos he'll be needed dreckly, if not bevore! As you d'know, I keep a record on just how much rain we d'have, and last month, December, it amounted to just short of 8 inches (old money). Now I can't tell 'ee what January's total comes to, because the month baint finished yet, but if 'twas all totalled up over these last two months, 'twould be up past me knees!! There's still some parsnips left in the ground; 'tis a brave old job to lift the little blimmers, but 'tis well worth the effort, because they'm as sweet as nuts now we've had a touch of frost; but I do put down a plank of wood to stand on to save myself getting lagged. This is essential to stop compacting the soil any worse than 'tis already, because with water standing on the surface after every shower, it just goes to show that the ground baint able to take any more.

'Tis now that the gardeners' 'comics' come out. I d'mean the seed catalogues that the seed companies send out to entice you to buy their seeds, and don't they look handsome! So now is the time to think about getting some seed into seed trays in the greenhouse, and the likes of onion, leek, tomato, peppers, cucumber and lettuce can all be sown in trays there. Onion sets can be put in 3 inch (old money again) pots with compost in them, so that when the time comes to plant they outside they will already have a brave, well developed root system, and 'tis a simple job just to transfer them without any root disturbance to their final position. Broad beans can also be set up in 'zackly the same way, as also runner and french beans can, dreckly in March.

Don't 'ee even think of teeling anything outside just yet, unless you can cover them up with cloches or a polythene tunnel. Just think on of the old saying of "as the day lengthens, so the cold strengthens", and tidn't only the temperature to think about. Plants also rely on just how much daylight there be around, so they just baint going to grow if 'tis brave and dimpsy.

Now that 'tis the dead time of the year, you can get on with the pruning of the apple and pear trees, that is if'n you'm of a mind to. Take out any of the branches that are rubbing and are showing signs of dieback. Remove those branches that are growing in towards the centre of the tree, and when you cut things out, always cut back to an outward facing bud.

Black, red and white currants and gooseygogs can be pruned now. The likes of plum, damson, peach and all stone fruit should not be pruned in the winter because of the danger of beastly fungal leaf curl. This is when the leaves curl inwards and turn red or brown, before falling off. These have to be collected and disposed of, not on the compost heap, because the spores can linger in the soil and come back next year.

Get your early teddies set up in a box or egg tray with the eyes pointing skywards and placed in a cool, light place, away from direct sunlight.

Nort

Auntie Paddy's Recipe Corner

The Chinese New Year will be celebrated on February 16th this year, and I thought it would be a change to include a Chinese recipe in this issue of *The Golant Pill*.

SWEET & SOUR PORK (Serves 4)

225g/8oz lean Leg of Pork, or Pork Loin
1 tbsp Sherry
½ tsp Salt & ¼ tsp Pepper
½ a Stock Cube
One medium Carrot
½ an Onion
One Green Pepper
3 tsp Sugar
3 tbsp Vinegar

½ tin of Pineapple pieces *
One clove of Garlic, chopped
One Egg
3 tbsp Cornflour
Peanut or Veg Oil for frying
3 tbsp Tomato Ketchup
1 tsp Soy Sauce
150 ml/¼ pint Water

1. Cut pork into 2½ cm/1" squares.
2. Sprinkle with sherry, salt, pepper and crumbled stock cube & set aside.
3. Cut the carrot into 2½ cm/1" squares and boil until almost tender.
4. Cut the onion, green pepper & tinned pineapple into the same size.
(* The equivalent weight of fresh pineapple can be used if preferred.)
5. Beat the egg and mix with 2 tbsp of the cornflour, then coat the pork with the mixture.
6. Heat the oil (about the same amount as you would use to fry an egg), and fry the pork squares a few at a time until well done and brown on the outside. Remove from the oil and set aside.
7. Mix the tomato ketchup, soy sauce, vinegar, sugar, remaining 1 tbsp of cornflour and water together well.
8. Add the tomato mix to the oil and cook the mixture until boiling and thick. (There should be approx 4 tbsp of oil left in the pan in which the pork was fried; adjust the amount to equal that if necessary.)
9. Place the pork, vegetables & pineapple in the sauce and mix well. Cook for a few minutes to finish cooking the onion & pepper.
10. Serve with rice or noodles.

Note: Vegetarians can substitute tofu for the pork and cook in a similar way. This dish is also wheat free.

Paddy Shelley

Apologies: One eagle-eyed reader spotted an error in the previous recipe. The first ingredient should have read 2 **tbsp** Plain Flour, **NOT** 2 lbs!!
Ed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have you a friend or relative who would like a regular copy of this newsletter? It costs only £12.50 (£17.50 overseas) to have the six issues per year of ***The Golant Pill*** sent by post.

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CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Sunday 4 th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 4 th	12-12.30 & 6-8.00pm	Sunday Roast	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 6 th	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Friday/Saturday 9 th & 10 th	7.30pm	Wizard of Oz (<i>SOLD OUT</i>)	Village Hall
Sunday 11 th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 11 th	8.00pm	Folk Circle	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 13 th	2.00pm	Golant Heritage Group	Village Hall
Tuesday 13 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 14 th	6.00-8.30pm	Valentines' Dinner (<i>Booking essential</i>)	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 18 th	9.30-11.00am	Village Breakfast Club	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 18 th	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Tuesday 20 th	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 23 rd	7.30pm	C-Fylm (<i>Bridget Jones' Baby</i>)	Village Hall
Sunday 25 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (choir)	St Sampson's
Sunday 25 th	4.00-6.00pm	Village Tea	Village Hall
Sunday 25 th	8.00pm	Folk Circle	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 27 th	7.15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday 27 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 28 th	10.30am-1.00pm	IT drop in training session (<i>all welcome</i>)	Village Hall
Wednesday 28 th	7.30pm	Ladies Night	Fisherman's Arms

MARCH

Thursday 1 st	7.00pm	Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
Friday 2 nd	10.00-11.00am	Book Shelf Bring and Browse	Village Hall
Sunday 4 th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 6 th – Saturday 10 th		British Pie Week (<i>special menu available</i>)	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 6 th	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 11 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (Choir)	St Sampson's
		(<i>Mothering Sunday</i>)	
Sunday 11 th	12-2.30 & 6-8.00pm	Sunday Roast	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 11 th	8.00pm	Folk Circle	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 13 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 16 th	7.30pm	Boat Watch Spring Get Together	Village Hall
Sunday 18 th	9.30-11.00am	Village Breakfast Club	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 18 th	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Tuesday 20 th	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 23 rd	7.30pm	C-Fylm (<i>Victoria & Abdul</i>)	Village Hall
Saturday 24 th	7.30pm	Cheese and Wine Evening	Village Hall
Sunday 25 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (choir) <i>Palm Sunday</i>	St Sampson's
Sunday 25 th	8.00pm	Folk Circle	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 27 th	7.15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday 27 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 28 th	7.30pm	Ladies Night	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 30 th	12 noon	<i>Good Friday Service (choir)</i>	St Sampson's
		<i>Readings and Reflections</i>	

APRIL

Sunday 1 st	9.15am	<i>Easter Day</i> Holy Communion (choir)	St Sampson's
Sunday 1 st	2.00pm ish	Easter Fun Day	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 3rd	Copy Date	<i>The Golant Pill</i>	thegolantpill@gmail.com (<i>new</i>)
Tuesday 3 rd	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 6 th	10.00-11.00am	Book Shelf Bring and Browse	Village Hall
Sunday 8 th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 10 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms

*If you have any item you wish to be entered into this Calendar of Village Events, please contact **Penny Parsons**, the Parish Diary Member of our team, (tel: 832727) by the Copy Date shown on this page of the newsletter, and we will try to include it.*