

Issue 81 (03/20) June/July



Keep Smiling Through...



The photos shown here and on the back page are just a small selection of those taken by Robin Anderson as he traversed the village on VE Day. They say it all for that special event...

Many more of his pictures and those taken by other residents can be found on the *Golant Pill* Facebook page.

All here, safely distanced, were certainly 'smiling through', and the day did help to lift spirits at this difficult time!

FROM THE EDITOR

I make no apology for reminding us all that we should “keep smiling through” at this difficult time, and the cover, as well as other cheering photos and news, is designed to do just that. Once again, this issue will only be online.

We have been fortunate in this special village of ours, with so much help and kindness, that all have remained well, although some of us will know of relatives or friends from outside who have sadly lost their lives to Coronavirus. It is very important that we must NOT, now there is some relaxation of restrictions, become complacent here in Golant.

This issue has much variety, with articles & photos spanning extremes, from the colourful VE Day celebrations (including a special birthday) to a remembrance article about a late villager (p13) and stories from St Sampson’s graveyard (p4).

Whilst updating the records of these Golant graves with Sue Reardon, I was struck by one from 1860, where 3 young children from the Mugfur family are buried, dying within about a month of each other in April & May. One wonders why?



It reminded me of a visit Mike & I made some years ago to the village of Eyam in Derbyshire, where the Plague of 1665-6 began, brought in by disease-ridden fleas in a bundle of cloth sent from London to a local tailor. These preserved graves, in an isolated field near the village, are of the Hancock family. Six children & their father died within eight days, but the mother survived. The Rector, recognising the importance of keeping apart, placed the whole village in quarantine, so just as today with Covid-19, the villagers self-isolated, and the plague was contained within Eyam, although about three quarters of its population died. Their great self-sacrifice should be acknowledged as an echo of today.

In the previous issue, I asked for help to fill pages. Extra special is a very poignant article on page 10 sent in by a village teenager reminding us of the words- ‘Lest we Forget’. Rightly, it balances the celebratory element of this issue. There’s a competition quiz! (p15) The Andersons have sent in photos from *Bodriggan* (below) & a joke (p6) to cheer, and two great poems are on page 7. Wildlife stories have been striking, including Raj the visiting peacock (p3), and a lovely owl (p12).

A minor personal downside, having missed my hairdresser’s expertise in colouring - by the time lockdown is over, I will have joined the *GHC* (*Grey Hair Club*), but maybe that’s no bad thing, and it’s time for an age reality check & acceptance!

Gillie Harris



“Clapping for Carers takes on a whole new meaning” LA



A mistle thrush fledgling in *Bodriggan*’s garden



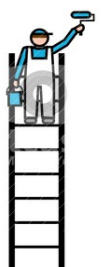
Peter Pan, aka Robin, in (s)elf-isolation!

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We are so nearly there with completing the cataloguing of material in our filing cabinet, and hopefully, once we can start meeting again, we will have got that side of things completed. However, despite no meetings over the past couple of months, things are still ticking over behind the scenes with regard to the website, and our application for the *CAN (Cornwall Archives Network) Quality Standard Mark*. I completed two of the three sections for the *CAN QS* in 2018 as part of a pilot, and now that the scheme has been officially launched, Fayre (*mostly* Fayre!) and I have been reviewing the first two sections for submission. These cover the organisational health of the group and how we manage our collections. In reviewing the documental evidence required, it has highlighted just how much we have developed and moved on with our systems over the past two years.

Meanwhile, Sue has been *extremely* busy as you will gather when you read her submissions in this issue, including working with Gillie to update the St Sampson's Graveyard Survey (*p4*) and instigating a Golant House History Project (*below*). It seems that many of you have already been busy responding to this. . . I must get going!

At the same time, Sue has been in correspondence with the granddaughter of William George Bonney, Penny Hartley, who lives in Australia and has in her possession her grandfather's diaries written between the 1920s and the 1960s. She has been diligently photographing these, page by page, and sending them to Sue. So far, Sue is receipt of some 2500 'pages', covering up to around 1938. These diary entries conjure up a wonderful image of what village life in Golant must have been like in the early 1900s, and is quite a treasure trove, especially when put alongside the information emerging from the house history project. We will need to consider carefully how we archive this material, and I plan to consult Tamsin Mallett (of *Kresen Kernow*). Once the information has all been gathered and organised, there may well be opportunities for anyone interested to become involved in finding a way to assimilate and present the bigger picture. We are indebted to Penny Hartley for her enthusiasm and willingness to share these diaries with us.

Penny Parsons (chair)

Golant House History Project

I recently asked people to share information about the history of their homes in the village, with a view to producing a timeline of how the village grew, particularly from the start of the 1900s, and possibly an exhibition in the Village Hall in the future!

A tremendous thank you to everyone who has sent information to me already; keep it coming!

If you haven't had a chance to look out old documents or family diaries, or any form of information that gives an insight into the past, please have a rummage around in the attic or the bottom drawer of your desk and see what you can find out.

A wonderful picture of life in the village over the last 100 years and more is beginning to build up, but there are still some gaps that I'd love to be able to fill. Once this phase is complete, then the fun of analysing and cross referencing all the information can begin. That should keep us busy for any number of rainy days in the Autumn!!!

Please send information to me, *Sue Reardon*:-

sue.reardon2@btinternet.com

Our Exotic Visitor



DB

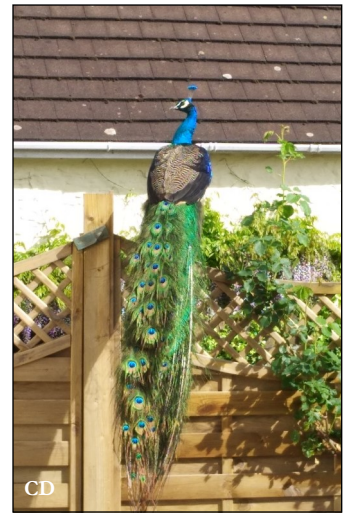
Raj, an Indian peacock, having escaped from its owner in Lostwithiel, evaded capture in Golant. He had already been missing for 3 weeks by the time he arrived here!

He explored most of the village, apparently looking for a mate, without success, needless to say...

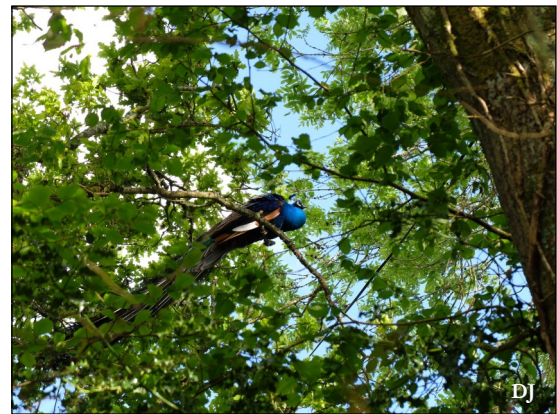
Since visiting us, Raj ventured in the direction of Fowey. Where is he now?



KR



CD



DJ



SF

Raj, displaying as a 'peacock proud,' was captured by Simon.

NEWS FROM ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH

Apart from the splendid work on the Village Graveyard that Sue and Gillie have just completed, there is little to report.

In accordance with instructions from the Church of England and our insurers, the church has been kept locked for the past two months. Obviously, by the time you read this, there might be some easing of the lockdown, and we will keep everyone informed directly there is some better news.



Lucky St Sampson!

Meanwhile Ruth (and occasionally Gill Paull) has tolled the bell for the NHS workers, and Sheila and I have exercised the handbells, although changes on four bells are pretty limited!

Bell ringing (great and small) and choir are impossible to run while the two metre rule exists, so everyone will have to be very patient.

I am sure we all hope for positive developments in the weeks ahead.

Simon Funnell

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Churchwardens

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

The Churchyard Project

Like many people at the beginning of the Lockdown, I wondered how to fill my time. Then I realised it was the perfect opportunity to undertake a local project, partly on behalf of the Golant Heritage Group, but also the church, to record the memorial inscriptions in St Sampson's churchyard before some of them are lost to time. Most of the gravestones have interesting inscriptions, and sadly some have become so weathered with the passage of many years that they are almost illegible.

Outside of the official Parish Burial Records, the first survey of the churchyard was completed in 1984 by local resident John Fenwick, who produced a map and recorded just the names and death dates of the people in the graves. Gillie and Mike Harris had taken on updating Fenwick's work from 2000.

The *Cornwall Family History Society* also made a survey of most of the memorial inscriptions on the gravestones in the early 1980s, but it seems that no copy was given to the church, as there was no local knowledge of it. I came across the survey in their office in Truro.

I got in touch with Gillie Harris, who was enthusiastic about a joint project to update and accurately record not only the large graveyard map, which she had produced some years ago and hangs in the church, along with numerical & alphabetical lists, but also to create a graves' listing with the memorial inscriptions added to each. Using all the old records as a starting point, I surveyed each gravestone's details, and combining with Gillie, we produced many draft documents, exchanged emails and phone calls and made trips up to the churchyard to check details. Finally at the end of 6 weeks' work we were satisfied we now have an accurate record.

The St Sampson, Golant, Churchyard Survey April 2020 can be viewed online on the Golant Heritage Group's website at <http://golant.omeka.net>

Sue Reardon

William Henry Soady

At the beginning of the year I received an email from Sheila Funnell asking if I could help. She had been speaking to a lady and her daughter in the church who were attempting to discover the whereabouts of her Grandfather's grave. She knew he had been buried in the graveyard in 1921 but his grave did not appear on the graveyard map drawn by Gillie Harris in 2000 which is in the church, and was the first place that Sheila directed them to. A bit of a mystery, especially as the map had originally been created in the 1980s by John Fenwick, and grave lists have been updated by Mike & Gillie Harris in recent years.

I did some investigating into his background. He was William Henry Soady, born in Nanstallon in 1893. The family moved to Treesmill where William grew up. By 1913 he was working as a platelayer on the railway, living in Woodgate.

World War One storm clouds were threatening when he enlisted in the Territorial Army in March of 1913, shortly before marrying Mabel Caust, a local Golant girl.

He fought as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers in France, before returning to his wife and family who were living in Fore Street, Golant. They had four children, with their last child being born shortly after he died.

William was working on the docks in Fowey in late June 1921 when there was an accident and William died. Or was it an accident? This begins to explain the mystery of his grave. At the time there was the thought that he might have intended to kill himself. Suicide was still a criminal offence back then, and a person who died in such circumstances was most unlikely to be buried in consecrated ground.

I found a note about his burial in our church's records saying 'in new ground immediately opposite entrance to it'. This was the breakthrough to discovering his final resting place.

The churchyard was extended in 1917 and was probably still referred to as 'the new ground' in 1921. I went to see if there was anything in that area, and sure enough, there was an overgrown unmarked grave.

The lady was delighted when I told her what I'd discovered. I was very moved to notice a little while after a vase of fresh flowers, marking this long lost but not forgotten grave.

Sue Reardon

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A Heartwarming Story



Sue Strachan sent this photo she has entitled 'Nests for Orphaned Animals', made by one or two ladies in our village sewing group. She writes:

"We were so saddened by the devastation caused by the wildfires last autumn in Australia, and the destruction caused to the animals' habitat that we wanted to find a way to help.

My niece, who lives in Perth, told me of the 'Animal Rescue Craft Guild' in Australia, and these items are on their way to them.

More are in hand, and will be sent when we meet up again once lockdown allows us to. I thought I'd send what we had ready, so the Guild have them in time for the bush fire season."

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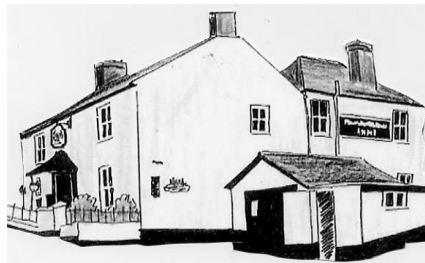
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Watch out for Maurie Mails with up-to-date details.

A copy of the menu can be found on our website:

fishermansarmsgolant.co.uk

We are also still offering a basic shop facility. Items are limited and I will continue to order stock when I can.

Please think about social distancing when collecting orders.

Call us on 01726 832453 or email for orders or details Nickobudd@hotmail.com

We are also continuing with our Games Nights on Tuesdays at around 7pm.

Village Hall Committee

We have taken advantage of the temporary Village Hall closure, giving the hall a smarten up. Andrew has fitted a needed new Velux window in the rear store room. Steve has decorated the hall and exterior porches.

We are patiently awaiting the steel fabrication worker to start back, so we can proceed forward with the toilet refurbishment.

Well done to everyone who decorated their homes & gardens and entered into the spirit of the Stay at Home VE Day Garden Party. It was a little different to the Village Picnic on the Green which we had initially planned, but nevertheless there was a superb atmosphere invading the village that afternoon, and examples of some very resourceful ways of socialising! There was certainly a good feeling of togetherness.

After a little experimentation, it was great to be able to fill the village with the wonderful big band sounds from the Forties by siting the speakers by an open front window in the hall, and lifted through the NEW Velux window onto the store roof, this background music added to the enjoyment of your tea parties!

The Book Borrowing has started up again, complying with coronavirus distancing (gloves supplied). Entrance is at the main door, and the exit is by the roadside. The hall will open for this again on Friday 5th June, from 10am to 12pm.

Paul Meredith

Received: "Thanks to Paul for spending considerable time making a well-received playlist for the VE Day music, and for calling residents outside on Thursday evenings by playing suitable music, when we clap & bang our chosen noise makers to show appreciation for the NHS. He also instigated the provision of sanitiser for all who needed it."

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HOW I LEARNED TO MIND MY OWN BUSINESS:
I was walking past the mental hospital the other day, and all the patients were shouting, "13...13...13."
The fence was too high to see over, but I saw a little gap in the planks, so I looked through to see what was going on.
Some idiot poked me in the eye with a stick, then they all started shouting, "14...14...14."

"Who is the idiot in this one?!"

Liz Anderson

Pasture fed beef



You are welcome to visit the farm.

Please visit our freezers by the farmhouse - they will be signed.
Prices are posted so put money in the box.

On the right as you go down to Golant

Victor's Happy 75th Birthday Greeting

To be born on the day that WW2 formally ended, VE Day, is quite a significant thing, and imagine the family's disappointment when they realised that their plans for a special 75th birthday celebration would have to be abandoned.

But Victor's big birthday was not going to go unmarked, and a plan was hatched. Pam had a picnic birthday tea planned for 4pm, to fall in line with the Stay at Home Garden Tea Party being enjoyed all around the village, and then she was to suggest that they took a drive around Golant to see all the decorated houses, before going to do the horses.



Little did Vic realise that en route he was to be serenaded by trumpet, cornet, handbells, the warm sounds of wonderful 1940s music emanating from the Village Hall, and to be greeted, as he passed, by waving well-wishers on their doorsteps.



Stopping briefly to speak with family (with cousin Roger Tabb, above) and friends (socially-distanced) gathered by the green, where a 'Happy Birthday Victor Tabb 75 Today' banner awaited him, Vic then drove around the square, pausing outside 2 Fore Street, the house where he was born and brought up, to point to the window of the bedroom where he made his entrance into the world, and was accordingly named Victor.

Penny Parsons

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THANK YOU

Coronavirus stalks the land;
'I'll make you people suffer.
You'll find that as I start to spread
Your lives will get much tougher.

'For all you over-seventies
The risk is pretty great;
And life will be a living hell
When you self-isolate!'

But in Golant our attitude
Is very much 'can do';
And we are all determined that
We'll see this crisis through.

So many offered help to those
Who must stay in by law;
And local shops delivered goods
To right outside our door.

The Village Hall became a Bank,
The Pub the Village Shop;
And for prescriptions, volunteers
Would organise a drop.

On Thursday nights the Church bell tolled,
With noise Golant would ring,
And afterwards young Nick would start
A Cornish song to sing.

We celebrated VE Day,
And Victor's birthday, too,
With colourful displays, and drinks –
No contact – that's taboo!

And now, on-line, we have *The Pill*,
And though we cannot meet,
We've quizzes, games and drinks, on Zoom,
To keep our mood upbeat.

And in our in-box every day
There's always something new
From Maurie-Mail – advice or news
To help us all pull through.

In lockdown in Golant we have
That gorgeous river view,
So we are lucky to be here
Among friends old and new.

So thanks to all. Our Pub and Church
May still be closed, but we
Appreciate the priceless worth
Of our community.

Simon Funnell

CIDER SONG

The barley leaves and apple blossom stretched towards the sun
In different fields for different yields and yet they stretched as one

The barley saw the blossom fall and swooned in disbelief
The orchard scoffed and waved aloft the green buds underneath

The juvenile apples saw the husky grain grow stiffer
And never cried when it was scythed for they were hard and bitter

But as the apples ripened and no autumn crop was sown
And winds blew stronger they no longer wished to be alone

And looking out across the stubbled barley, earth and rock
The apple trees felt empathy and fruit began to drop

Then to the fallen apple flesh the orchard ushered in
Menageries of wasps and bees to drink its saccharin

The straw meanwhile was thatched to make an interwoven cave
A hollowed thing resembling a bathtub or a grave

The apples, picked or plucked or caught, were taken to confess
The sun beat down on bracken brown of cider cheese and press

The straw-wrought cheese took all the fruit the barrow boy could give
And didn't warm its bristled form for barley can't forgive

And as the apples took the strain they thought their final thought
This crushing sieve and filtered pith was what they'd always sought

Thus star-crossed straw and apple fruit succumbed mid-intercourse
Their juices went to slow ferment their pomace to the horse

The farmer spreads the horse manure on fields of barley shoots
His thirst he slakes then urinates upon the orchard's roots

Hence in each cup through all the years a drinker will discern
A sweetness and a bitterness for apples never learn

A sweetness and a bitterness for apples never learn

Thomas Lloyd-Evans

Virtual Easter Fun Day

At one stage there were 21 systems logged on to Zoom, where Patrick ran the Decorated Egg and Easter Bonnet competitions. Not all entrants were from within the village— indeed, we had entrants from London, Surrey & Spain! A variety of decorated eggs were displayed, together with a couple of short videos of eggs.

Next came the Easter Bonnets. There were some lovely decorations on display, and the pièce de résistance was Jeremy Lloyd-Evans doing a catwalk to display his decoration.

Then we had the highlight of the day which was the Egg Rolling. Paul & Cris had been hard at work in the Village Hall to create a slope on which to roll 15 eggs. It worked very well; in fact, it was so good that a second run was demanded.

All in all, it was an enjoyable afternoon, and congratulations must go to Patrick, Paul & Cris for their efforts.

Maurie Parsons (extracted from a Maurie Mail)



I'm writing this in late May – the sun is shining, and there are boats out on the river again. A splendid sight. I hope the fine weather has lasted to the time when you are reading this.

Obviously, the normal activities of Boatwatch continue to be disrupted by the Coronavirus restrictions, but we are doing everything we can to continue our activities. Here is an update on where we are with this.

We have to keep the Boatwatch Hut closed. It would be too difficult to ensure that it remained uncontaminated if it was being accessed, so we will keep it closed unless there is any change in the guidance on the survival time for the virus on surfaces.

With the hut closed, it is not practicable to record the watches that many of you carry out. To make up for this, those of us in Golant with a good view of the river will continue to keep a good lookout, and if anyone does see anything that doesn't seem right, please let us know:

- me at david.aj.bonsall@btinternet.com or
- Robin Anderson at robin@miniature-embroideries.co.uk

In the meantime, the very successful Virtual Virus Watch will continue to be updated, and we hope that this provides those of you who can't get down here with some assurance that all remains well with your boats – the feedback has been very positive. This is due an update at the end of May, so by the time you read this, Ian Laughton will have been out with his camera again, updating the videos for the significant change in boat numbers and positions since the last update. Information on the links to access will be sent to all Boatwatch members, and are also posted on the Boatwatch Facebook site.

We received an excellent set of responses to the Questionnaire that we sent out at the end of March on what members want from Boatwatch. The responses were very positive about our activities, with some good points that we will follow up on as the restrictions allow. Many responses expressed a wish for more events on the river. In this year's schedule we had planned a flotilla outing to a suitable landing point for a picnic on the spring tide on 7th July. Whilst the landing won't now be practicable, a suitably distanced flotilla should be OK. So please make a note in your diaries of the date, and we will let you know of arrangements nearer the time. Let's hope for good weather.

Within the current restrictions, we still cannot plan for an activity to take the place of the Spring Get Together, where we could draw the raffle for the David Parry painting. As a result, I still have the pleasure of looking after it.

As the restrictions evolve, we will look at whether it will be possible to have an event during the summer, where we could assemble in sufficient numbers and have the draw.

As things evolve, we will keep members updated by email and the Facebook site on Boatwatch activities and other river related issues.

In the meantime, do all keep safe, both from the virus and on the water. Let's look forward to the time we can get together in one place again.

For those of you who have your boats back on the water, Happy Boating!

David Bonsall, Chairman, Golant Boatwatch

Golant Quay Users Association

Thank you to the kind member of the public who suggested, at the recent Parish Council meeting, that one way out of our problem with the 'derelict' boats would be to hire builders' skips and 'offer' the owner the opportunity to give up their boats.

Disposing of the boats into skips is one option that we have considered, and is apparently acceptable to the skip hire companies.

At the last count there were 14 boats in a 'derelict' condition and 8 more well on their way. However, we have had success with two of these, one having being sold and the other removed for repair.

So, the possible financial implications of not only the skip hire, but the potential labour costs, if the owners don't want to play ball, mean that we must have the opportunity to recover these costs, and that would be through legal recourse.

We have got our legal advice on the 'derelict' boats and are just finalising this. We will need to amend our Constitution and Rule Book to give us the best chance of recovering any costs for the removal of these boats that the Association might end up with. These Constitutional amendments need to be ratified by the members via an AGM. Clearly that is not currently possible via a public meeting, but by posting or emailing out the AGM documentation we might get sufficient responses to get the necessary ratification. That would allow us a reprint and posting out of the new Constitution. Only when the members have seen the new amended rules, will we be able to attempt to enforce them.

The closing of the Association to new members other than Golant residents, as mentioned in the last edition of the *Pill*, will hopefully prevent any recurrence of this problem.

Peter Edwards, Chairman GQUA

*** STOP PRESS ***

We were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Penny Gibbs, and send our heartfelt condolences to her husband, Colin, and their family.

They both enjoyed many years sailing their boat on the river, and together they worked tirelessly on the Boatwatch committee. For some years they combined their talents, working as Secretaries to the Association.

Both of them worked for many years as local representatives of *The Cats' Protection League*.

MGH

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Golant Summer Produce & Craft Show

It is with regret that the Committee have decided that this years **Show** due to have been held on **Saturday 22nd August** has been cancelled due to the current Coronavirus situation. The Village Hall is a small area where social distancing would be impossible, and with the printing of schedules etc we feel we cannot leave it until nearer the date to make the decision.

It does seem ironic that the current situation has made so many of you return to gardening, particularly with the growing of fruit and vegetables, and an expression I have heard is, "My garden has never looked so good!" However, I'm sure this enthusiasm will continue when we have next year's show.

Most of this year's schedule will be the same as published for this year's show. However, Mary Jane Hunter came up with a brilliant idea, which she explains: "Although we are unable to gather in the usual way for the F&P Show we are determined to keep alive the spirit of friendly rivalry and competition amongst all you keen gardeners and crafters, especially when so many of us have been busy during lockdown. We are, therefore, going virtual! Please send your entries (photos of your produce) to Mary Jane by 5pm on Thursday 20th August using memarchunter@gmail.com The F&P Show Committee will then convene via video link and winners announced via the *Golant Pill* Facebook page and Maurie Mail shortly afterwards."

Although we won't have the usual cups (present cup holders please keep them until 2021), rest assured that winners will enjoy the kudos of being Golant Flower and Produce show champions.

The categories are as follows:

- 1 Best bloom (any flower)
- 2 Tallest sunflower (please provide measurement alongside photo)
- 3 Longest runner bean (again vital stats needed!)
- 4 A lockdown photo (any subject)
- 5 Limerick beginning "Our neighbour insists we should weed"
- 6 For **Children** only under 16– Design the cover for the schedule of our 2021 show (any medium)

Please note that children are welcome to join in any of the other categories too.

We hope as many of you as possible will join in and share your wonderful talents with the village.

Janet Gore

Golant Sports & Carnival and Madness in the Pill

Whilst we have set the dates for the Carnival on 15th August and Madness on 2nd August because of the tides, it is perhaps obvious that we might well not be able to hold either event.

The committee would like very much to do something, but whatever we think we might like to do is totally dependent on the situation that exists nearer those dates.

So rather than cancel both events now, we thought it best to wait until nearer those dates to see what the situation is then, and make our decision accordingly.

If we were able to put something on, it would clearly not be in the same format, and we would probably want it to be restricted to villagers. We will utilise the wonderful Maurie Mail to inform you sometime in July.

Here's hoping...

Carnival Committee



Happier times...!

Pill Paparazzi in this issue

LA	Liz Anderson
RA	Robin Anderson
DB	David Bonsall
CD	Cris Dodridge
SF	Simon Funnell
GH	Gillie Harris
M-RH	Maddy-Rose Hunter
DJ	David Jenkinson
BL-E	Becky Lloyd-Evans
KR	Kate Renwick
SS	Sue Strachan
KW-W	Karen Wells-West



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Our Experience at Bergen-Belsen

I am sure we will never forget the 27th February- the day that we, two young women from Cornwall, first witnessed the site at which some of the most dystopic scenes of our near history took place.

75 years ago, Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp was liberated by the 11th Armoured Division of The British Army, and as we stepped out into the vast expanse of what remains of this site, it was inevitable that the words of some of the survivors sprang to mind. The entrance was often described by those interned as “The gates of hell” (Madeleine Weis-Bauler, Renee Salt) where “Civilisation was at its lowest point” (Sergeant Norman Turget) and for many, stepping through these gates was their last memory of life outside Bergen-Belsen. 50,000 people died in this camp. Not only was this knowledge chilling, but despite our thick winter coats, thermal gloves, hats and scarves we found ourselves shivering in the cold. It was hard to imagine the poor, poor people already weak from hunger, malnutrition or disease having to spend winters living here, in nothing but thin pyjama-like rags to keep them from freezing. I harkened back to when Mala Tribich, a survivor of this camp, told us how many people slept four to a ‘bed’, not only for the terrible overcrowding, but also in a desperate attempt to keep warm. All the history, testimonies and discussions were becoming very real...



We walked on through the entrance in eerie silence; only a faint distant rumble of the near-by army camp and intermittent yet reassuring bird song echoed. It could only juxtapose what the arrivals at the camp experienced. By 1945 it was wildly overpopulated with hundreds of thousands of people existing on top of one another. Gina Turgel stated they “were thrown in like sardines”. Carrying on past the remains of a lousing station, a heavy sense of guilt formed in my stomach; looking at my peers it was clear we already had something the people here craved beyond anything else. Food. Each and every one of us had bags on our backs packed with a meal we knew was guaranteed. This was a privilege few had in the camp, and we must therefore understand the importance of being grateful for what we do have, even in trying times.

Moving further in, the path opened up into a vast expanse framed by tall, imposing trees. The size of the site instilled a sense of individual insignificance – undoubtedly how one of the thousands interned here felt, but on an even greater scale, stripped of their identity and treated inhumanely. Not only did the colossal site allow us to empathise in one way with the victims of this atrocity, it also brought home the sheer scale of ‘The Final Solution’ as a whole. This was only one of the 110 concentration camps the Nazis established from 1933 (The Jewish Virtual Library) and yet it felt so expansive. It’s almost unthinkable how many lives were touched by the sinister hand of the holocaust; alas, it must be thought about.

To the left of us now was an image I’ll never forget (*right*). At first glance it seemed inconsequential. Then you look again- a vast bed of raised grass surrounded by a severe dark grey wall and at the front the words: ‘Hier Ruhen 1000 Tote April 1945’ translating to ‘Here lie 1000 Dead’. Timidly peering further up the site there were many, many more just like this one, each with different totals. 800. 2500. 5000. We couldn’t imagine. It was later discussed how difficult it was to visualise just 1000 people, and when comparing it to the pupil sizes of our schools, the reality of barbarism and cruelty that took place here was reinforced. When Mala spoke to us, her closing message was to remember just one victim’s name, as in this way, they regain their identities so harshly snatched from them forever. Therefore, I encourage you now to



research the incredible stories of those who had to live this reality. The events must not be forgotten, but the malevolent nature of these crimes shouldn’t dehumanise the victims any more than the Nazis already had.



As the day drew in, we continued to the Jewish memorial (*left*) where we had a moment’s silence to reflect on the scene we had witnessed and honour the victims of this regime. In this day and age, it is more important than ever to reflect on our past. An evident growth of populism has been creeping into our mainstream politics globally, and it seems as though this has created an opportunity and platform for some to unleash their linear prejudices.

We must learn from the events at Bergen-Belsen as a testament to where these prejudices, racism and discrimination can ultimately lead. Standing there, looking up at the memorial, I felt an immense sense of gratitude that we, as a succeeding generation, have been given the tools, impetus and knowledge to stand up for and give a voice for those left here. For in the words of the survivor Tomi Reichental, “The holocaust did not start with a gas chamber, the holocaust started with a whisper.” We must never forget.

Maddy-Rose Hunter

Colin Hunter explains: “Maddy-Rose was chosen as one of two students from Callywith College to attend the site of Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp in February. This was through a charity aimed at educating young people about the horrors of the holocaust”.



Since 2012 the Fowey Harbour Heritage Society's accredited guides have led walks in Fowey and Polruan during the season. These have grown in popularity and the numbers of visitors on the walks have tripled. This year in March seven more guides successfully completed their examination after six months of training. We congratulate Sue Reardon, Suzanne Goddard, Marian Cole, Kathryn Bartlett, Chris Bradish, Cecil Varcoe and Simon Cole on their achievement. They took a written exam which was externally verified and then had a one day practical exam with four external assessors. The official celebrations have been delayed but we warmly congratulate them all. All the guides leading the walks are now part of the Cornish Riviera Guides who are supported by the Fowey Harbour Heritage Society.

Looking ahead, the Fowey Harbour Heritage Society is continuing with its plans for its usual popular programme of talks beginning in September. In light of the current situation, all speakers will be local to the area to avoid disruption if changes have to be made.

We plan to hold them in the usual locations with suitable precautions taken to socially distance and to strictly follow any health advice. If, when the time comes such meetings are not advisable, we plan to provide the talks free to members of the Society via Zoom on the day. More details of the talks and the dates will be given nearer the time.

The Society's annual journal for members, *The Barquentine*, is currently being produced and has a good crop of interesting articles about local history.

If you are interested in joining the Society see our website www.foweyharbourheritage.org.uk

Or contact our Honorary Secretary, Jane Staniland on 01726 833749

Golant Walking Group

Limited in company and confined to immediate areas, walkers developed a keen appreciation of how much our area has to offer.

A warm, sunny spring provided ideal conditions for wild flowers. Gail has been enthralled by swathes of bluebells, singing skylarks and banks of red campion. Walking towards Lantyan and Milltown Woods, Jacky was amazed by the bluebell carpet and spectacular views across the river to St Winnow Church.

An absence of human company during this period of lockdown has been mitigated for many by means of a simple walk round the village and environs. This is best described in Becky's own words:



'My walks have often been through the village and over the downs, an excellent way to keep in touch with my neighbours! After passing Terry on School Hill I often see Andrew or Estelle, swiftly followed by Martin in his garage, then Carol in her garden, Donna and Joan in theirs and Kenny, always very industrious! I pause to read the daily uplifting quote, chalked by Caroline, put the world to rights with Chris and sometimes James. With a wave up to Annie and Chris I finally reach the pretty lower path skirting the ominous builders' fencing denying me a wonderful view of the river. As we start to make proper progress, Merryn chasing leaves and squirrels amongst the bluebells, the sun slants through the leaves highlighting glimpses of the sparkling water where boats bob about unused. On to the higher path, decorated with beautiful rich purple foxgloves. We amble towards Sawmills, cross the bridge and begin the slower climb back.'

We look forward to when we can meet again as a group and explore the Cornish countryside. We might be 'physically distanced' but that will not deter us from enjoying the exercise, the views and the company.

Anne Bonsall

**Q: Who is the wearer of these
VE Day socks?!**



Answer at the bottom of p. 14

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Nature Notes

Whilst most of us have mainly been confined to our houses and gardens for the past weeks, the wildlife has been out and about, rejoicing in the incredible weather, increasing daylight hours, and revelling in the lack of disturbance by our 'normal' living patterns.

Many of us have been lucky enough to be able to get out and walk the downs - fabulous birdsong, bluebells, and watching the huge beech trees gradually filling out with leaves.

We have become more and more grateful for where we live - the space, beautiful views, and taking the opportunity to get all those outside jobs done that the wet winter put paid to.

Something I have wanted to do for a long time is start vegetable and fruit growing at *The Sanctuary*, to eventually be able to offer fresh produce to guests, and I've been experimenting with the permaculture method of no dig production. This involves much cardboard saved from our building project laid down over the grass, topped with a layer of manure (thanks to the Whells!), and then finished with a straw mulch. Everything is then planted through that - it gradually breaks down into compost, preserving the soil structure and habitats. The only thing I didn't reckon on was the plentiful wildlife - voles, pigeons, pheasants and a Heron who feeds daily - not so much at the pond, but in the field around it! So a variety of barriers, mulches made from thistles, left-over insulating wool, and the hairy contents of the Hoover box have worked fairly well!

The pond level had gone down, which I assumed was evaporation, until I started to inspect the liner under the hessian edging. Large two inch holes had been made by a family of bank voles; they were lovely and warm under the black liner, kept even cosier by chewing up the felt liner into a nest! So the liner has been mended, with an extra layer of thick butyl underneath (fingers crossed!) and the water is staying put - for now....



KW-W

We have had male & female 'chaser' damselflies, and we've also had more time to watch out for moths, bees & butterflies. I found a Long Horned Moth (*right*) with huge, over proportioned antennae, oil beetles, and a tiny wasp nest right under my fruit bed. The bats are drinking from the pond in the evening, the deer are wandering about at dusk, and the swallows have taken up residence for the third year in a row. They were particularly welcome, as the storms over the Mediterranean had dispirited the return of many.

And a real find for us - David (well, Woody really) spotted a hedgehog (*left*) - a first in nearly 20 years! Maybe they were always there, and we have had more time to look - who knows?

Just a reminder, in case anyone is interested - *Cornwall Wildlife Trust* runs a 30 days Wild Campaign in June, encouraging people to get out and about in nature and record what they find and what they do - not that many of us will need encouragement this year!



KW-W

Karen Wells-West

An Owlet named 'Bounce'

There has been great excitement at *Camellia Cottage*, as we have enjoyed watching the comings and goings of a pair of Tawny Owls nesting in the van den Broek's chimney pot. We watched as they stole the nest from jackdaws, which took a couple of days of squabbling.

On 13th May, the two chicks decided it was time to leave home. One left at lunch time, plummeting to the road, and was discovered in a little hole in the wall. Using gloves, it was placed in the enclosed garden of an empty home opposite for safety.

The owlets leave the nest without knowing if they can fly or not. Martin very appropriately named the first one to try, 'Bounce'!

Pairs mate for life and keep to a territory. We think ours might be from Robin & Liz's brood in 2019. Mum & dad came out to hunt at dusk.



CD

What an atmospheric silhouetted image. Supper delivery looks to be a juicy rodent morsel with a long tail..! Ed.



CD

Cris & Paul

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Golant Gleanings

Martin Minter-Kemp 1935-2020

The following piece was taken and abridged from Martin's Eulogy written by his son Robin. The family had intended to hold a service for Martin in the church; sadly in the current pandemic it has not been possible.

Born in Aylesbury in 1935, Martin first came to Golant in 1972 having fallen in love with Bunny (née Bredin) who lived at *Tanbay House* with her three daughters Jane, Mary and Clare. Martin and Bunny married in 1977 and lived here the rest of their lives. His being near to our salty estuary was no accident, for his love of boats shaped much of Martin's life, whether 'messaging about on the river', or sailing off into wide open seas.

It was clear from early on that Martin wanted a life of adventure. When his father was stationed in Germany after World War 2, Martin, aged 11, disappeared during a train journey to Munich. When the alarm was raised, they found him driving the train having bribed the driver with a chocolate bar!

A failed eye test thwarted Martin's dream of serving in the Navy, but aged 17 he was commissioned as an officer in the *Royal Welsh Fusiliers*. Touring with his regiment in Singapore, Germany, Japan, Korea, Malaya and Hong Kong he rose quickly through the ranks to Captain, then Major. Ever eager to be on the water, he spent a year as Ground-Serving Officer on the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal. In 1964 Martin moved to Devon with his first wife Jill and their children Emma, Robin and Claire. Always keen to sail, he walked in to a local boat yard one day where the 42ft trimaran 'Gancia Girl' was being readied for the 1966 round Britain race. Martin asked if there was any chance of crewing! He subsequently went on to win the race with skipper Derek Kelsall.

After this, Martin's sailing accomplishments were famed and numerous. In his first transatlantic solo race in 1968 on 'Gancia Girl' in a bad storm, one of the hulls filled with water. With the boat listing dangerously, Martin bailed out by hand all night until the pumps could manage. Despite this he finished 7th! This painting of the incident by marine artist Laurence Bagley hangs in the *Royal Welsh Fusilier's Museum* in Caernarvon, his regiment having recorded that Major Martin Minter-Kemp's success 'ranks with the best achievements by individuals in the Regiment during its long history'. Martin went on to compete in two more Transatlantic Races: in 1972 on 'Strongbow', and in 1981 on 'Exchange Travel'.



At the age of 38, Martin then joined the Special Air Service (SAS). Though he rarely revealed his exploits, we know he played a part in counter-insurgency operations in Oman and Northern Ireland, and helped develop the stun grenade used by the SAS to rescue the hostages in the storming of the Iranian Embassy in 1980. Testing this invention caused him permanent loss of hearing, which he endured with characteristic stoicism.

After he met Bunny, Martin left the army and turned his attention to many innovative schemes, which to name but a few included - raising the Titanic, generating geothermal energy from Cornwall's hot rocks, inventing spectacles to prevent car drivers falling asleep at the wheel, and designing mini helicopter frigates to protect our fisheries during the Icelandic Cod War.

Martin was also a true mariner and proud of his skipper's licence. His journeys involved thousands of sea miles in every shape and size of hull, from swishy yachts to mail boats, square rig sailing ships and hefty old sand dredgers! On one memorable trip with Bunny and a fine local crew including John Fuge, they brought the fishing boat 'Fortuna' back from Norway. This expedition alone could take up a whole episode of the Pill! Over the years they also sailed in their own boats the length and breadth of Europe. On one rather infamous passage they sailed from Scilly to Penzance in a 14ft sailing dingy, Martin having casually told Bunny that they were just nipping out for 'a quick sail!' Half way to Lands End in a heavy sea, Bunny promised, 'If you get us home alive I won't ask you to wash up ever again.' On their safe arrival back Martin promptly went out and bought her a dishwasher!



Martin was a humble, deep, quiet man, respected for his impeccable manners, innate kindness and gentle charm. Dignified and reluctant to talk about himself, instead he would turn the tables and be curious about you. Always modest about his remarkable life and achievements, he brought a touch of mystery and magic to those who knew and loved him and we are left with many enduring memories. After Bunny died, Martin was finally content to stay on dry land, tending his pond, watching the boats on the river, and taking pleasure in Bunny's garden. She often said fondly that Martin 'danced to a different drum'. And indeed he truly did.

ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL

The ZOOM Parish Council Meeting:

As I indicated in the last issue of *The Golant Pill* (and following further guidance from Cornwall Council) we held our first ZOOM Parish Council meeting this month, which (with technical advice from David Bonsall) worked very well. I am sure that the aim was to put in place a system that allowed members of the public to take an active part in the proceedings, and having a ZOOM meeting certainly provided for that. However, I can't say that we were inundated with topics raised by the general public, and I wonder if the alternative attraction of the ZOOM quiz and bingo proved just too enticing! I am grateful however, for the emails that I did receive about various topics to do with the village, from a number of parishioners.

Developments and Builders:

There have been a number of minor issues raised recently, that have either been sorted out or will be sorted out in the fullness of time. We are advised that the Water Lane development will shortly be completed, and will therefore lead to a reduction in the number of trade vehicles being parked in the lane. Of greater importance, maybe, is the confirmation that the *Cormorant* development will not recommence until at least September at the earliest. The developer will let me know if and when that situation changes! So we can carry on enjoying the relative peace and quiet for a while longer yet!

Community Infrastructure Levy:

I am sure this has been covered before within the Neighbourhood Development Plan, but as a reminder, we will benefit from a 'payment' via Cornwall Council from any developer working in the village. The calculation can be found on the CC web site, and the specific sums linked to each development within the planning portal. Although not as much as we were hoping for, we are shortly going to receive a sum of money (in excess of £3000) which we are allowed to spend on 'worthy' projects in the village. So please consider what you think we might do with this money, and let me or any of the Councillors know by email. Eventually, we will select a project and offer the idea to Cornwall Council for their approval.

Village Toilets:

Given the sudden increase in the number of visitors, following the relaxation in rules about river activities, we have taken the decision (with advice from Cornwall Council) to re-open the toilets. Just as soon as the toilet block has had a thorough clean by our contractor, the toilets will be re-opened.

Potholes:

I know this is normally a winter topic, but nevertheless, it has been raised now, probably because some of our roads are really suffering with a multitude of potholes. As a reminder, any individual can go onto the Cornwall Council web-site and identify a pot hole needing attention, and my experience has been that this works very well. But given the number of potholes (for example on Church Hill) it may be that significant repair will be required. I have committed to contact 'Highways' to see what they might suggest, and to find out if the Highways team is back at work? But meanwhile, please feel free to identify the worst 'offenders' nearest to your specific property, to underline the issue.

Thanks:

I know that we enjoy thanking our 'nursing and caring' heroes each Thursday, but I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the OTHER people behind our continued success in beating the virus within our community:

Maurie Parsons our Covid Co-ordinator,
Robin Anderson our Medical Collector,
Nick Budd our Entertainment Host,
David Bonsall for ZOOM technical expertise, and all of our willing and committed volunteers who offer their services whenever called upon to do so.

My grateful thanks to them all.

Keep safe.

David Jenkinson, Chairman St Sampson Parish Council

Wearer of the VE Day socks? A: Mike Harris!!

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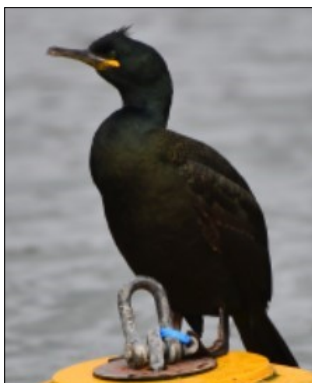
Robin's Quiz

Identify each of the pictures in order, then take the initial letter of each answer and make a topical two word sentence!

Send in your answer including the FULL picture details to: thegolantpill@gmail.com by **Tuesday 30th June**

If there are a number of correct answers for this Quiz, a winner's name will be pulled out of a hat.

You may win some wine to cheer your days!



Q1. Not a former hotel on the Fowey?



Q5. Often for sale at Castledore



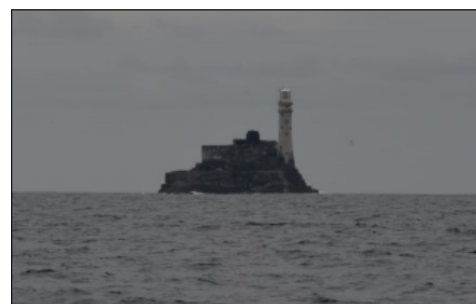
Q2. The village here is deserted but NOT because of a virus



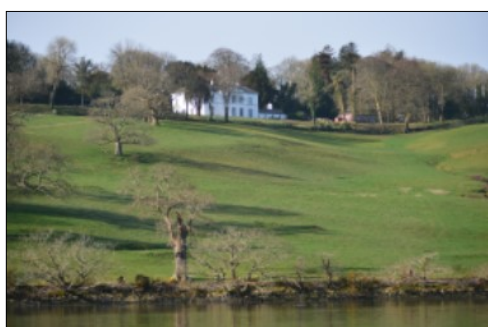
Q6. Whose docks?



Q3. Saye the name of the island



Q7. A famous racing mark



Q4. Former use?



Q8. Not Adam

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UNCLE JOHN'S GARDEN PATCH

What a change round we'm having from the last time I did this column. Back then we d'hardly seen any sunshine and just wishing the rain would stop. Now Mother Nature just baint playing the game proper, and she d'turn the tap off completely but be quite bin content to leave the door open to the North and East winds.

'Twas only yesterday I had to go out and wind the runner bean shoots back onto the canes because they had been blawed off, but thankfully they'm fairly 'lastic and nort had been broke off or scat down.

I do dearly like the garden yer, but there be beastly little blimmers that do try my patience and vex me no end and cause me problems. This yer 'tev bin aphids on the apple trees, cabbage root fly on the kohlrabi, saw fly on the goos-eygogs, sparrows and pigeons eating the lettuce, and to crown it all, Mr Mole 'ev moved in.

T'other day, Christine d'ask me if'n I wanted to read *The Wind in the Willows*. Now just think on, with this yer little blimmer merrily digging tunnels up and down the parsnip and broad bean rows, I think that you can imagine my reply baint zackly full of 'uman kindness!! So now we'm having a brave little contest at the moment, with me digging up the runs and stuffing old rags soaked in Jeyes Fluid up the holes. It seems to be working at the moment, but time will tell on this one!!

Because we'm having a brave long spell of very dry weather, and you d'want to sow some seeds to act as follow-on crops, then water the ground as you d'put the seeds in, and carry on with the watering as and when the seedlings appear. 'Tis called successional cropping, and 'tis how to keep more vegetables that you'm able to grow and call on to keep the garden producing fresh food. The likes of all salad crops, runner and french beans, beetroot, peas and carrots.

They that do 'ev tomatoes in the greenhouse, just keep an eye out for that blimmer the whitefly, a relative of the greenfly. If'n they'm left unchecked but you baint overkeen to lamper the plants in insecticides then I d'find that some french marigolds grown as a companion plant do help no end in keeping the little blimmers away.

As soon as the spring flowering shrubs, like weigela, philadelphus, forsythia and deutzia 'ev finished flowering, and you'm finding they'm getting too big for your garden, then 'tis a good time to cut them back to within a couple of inches (old money) of the old wood. Pick up some of the trimmings and tidy them up by removing some of the lower leaves of a 4 inch cutting, and put them in a pot of compost. Water them and put them somewhere out of direct sunlight in a sheltered spot, job done.

I d'spose you've yeard of the fact that there won't be a Produce Show as such in August this yer because of this coronavirus. 'Tis a brave shame, but I d'think that common sense prevailed and all we can do is plan for next year. I d'think that there is going to be summat or other done with computers, but if that be the case then there is one gardener out yer in Roche who will need a brave bit of tuition to be able to enter anything. But if that is the way to hold some semblance of a show, then that how it is. So good luck to everyone, don't be afeered to enter, 'tis gwain to be interesting, no matter how it turns out.

Nort

Auntie Paddy's Recipe Corner

This is the second issue of *The Golant Pill* which is just being produced online, not printed. We have been lucky in Golant in many ways. The village seems to be as strong as can be, and then on top of everything we were visited by Raj the peacock- a beautiful bird.

This syllabub can be kept in the glasses for several days. It can also be added as a topping for a trifle. This amount serves 6.

LEMON SYLLABUB

150ml/ ¼ pint of a Sweet White Wine
1 tbsp Medium-sweet Sherry
2 tbsp Brandy
1 Lemon or Orange
50g/ 2oz Caster Sugar
275-300ml/ ½ pint Double Cream



1. Pour the wine, sherry & brandy into a large basin.
2. Squeeze the juice from the lemon or orange and add it to the wine. Leave the mixture to stand overnight.
3. Next day, stir the sugar into the mixture until it dissolves.
4. Add the cream and whip with a hand whisk until the mixture forms soft peaks.
5. Spoon the mixture into six wine glasses, or keep some aside for topping a trifle.
6. Put into the fridge for 2 hours before serving.
7. If you have some soft fruit, such as strawberries or blueberries, they will be a nice addition spooned on top.

A Reminder of Normal Times

In Issue 68 (April/May 2018) of *The Golant Pill*, the recipe was one Gillie Harris uses for Elderflower Syrup. As the elderflowers are coming into bloom, I thought it would be a good reminder of this seasonal recipe! If you have difficulty buying citric acid, you can get it online.



Paddy Shelley

Issue 68 is still accessible online on the village website (at golant.net) should you not be one of those readers who keep all their back copies!

Ed.

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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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Safe Harbour Inn

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VE DAY



VE Day 75 years on



The stark Silhouette of a Soldier - 'Lest we Forget'



Tables set in readiness for two of the many Tea Parties held in individual gardens in our village!



Golant's very own Land Girl!



The reason why our Vic was christened Victor!