



Lighten our Darkness



Boats on their winter moorings in the Pill lit up and twinkling to cheer the spirits



Tree lights in the darkness at St Sampson's Church



The Taylor family joining in with our kerbside carols



Glittering houses lighting up Fore Street



Welcoming lights at the Fisherman's Arms

FROM THE EDITOR

Winter into Spring; Darkness into Light;
Despondency into Hope...

As we begin to move forward from Winter to Spring, it seems that this is analogous to moving out of our dark & difficult past year into a lighter, more positive phase.

Our cover pictures in this issue, all taken just before a very strange Christmas, are symbolic of this thought, and indeed, reflect Golant's imaginative determination to 'Lighten our Darkness' and raise our spirits. This in turn should give us Hope, and the belief that 'Tomorrow will be a better day..' (well, sometime not too far away!)

There are a number of articles within the issue which will hopefully bring such cheer, and in particular, the idea of a newly crafted celebration which Penny Parsons has planned for the Spring Equinox (*page 18*), and which we aim to feature prominently in the April issue.

As always, and especially now, the natural world can help our mental well-being, and within these pages you can read about the flora & fauna within our special village. The annual Christmas in Bloom result (*page 4*) records the former, and very different fauna stories can be found (*pages 6 & 12*).

Once again, there are articles about Golant's past. As well as writing the last part of the Gundry family links with the village (*p9*), Sue Reardon has researched the parish back many centuries, and Ian has set a Quiz to get you browsing the Heritage Group's website pages! (*page 3*)

Vaccinations are gathering pace, and are one of the biggest hopes for the world to emerge from the pandemic, so here, finally, is a quote which sums up this past year:

Victor Hugo wrote, "*Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise*".

Robin's striking photograph of a new dawn over the River Fowey, as seen from *Bodriggan*, illustrates this latter thought beautifully.

Gillie Harris



Village Hall Committee

I can now happily inform you that the Village Hall heating has been mended and is now performing well. We are still working on the long awaited refurbishment of the toilets. This has been complicated once again by Cornwall Council changing its mind on the build requirements.

Once again, just as the Village Hall Committee got into stride with our social events we were thwarted by the new lockdown. We did manage the first of La Soupe Populaire events, which was a great success and well attended to full capacity. Thank you to everyone who came and for all the good feedback. We have set up a limited soup delivery to some inhabitants in the interim period.

We also managed to present two film sessions before Christmas which were well attended. We showed *Gwendra and Dorothy in Conversation* which raised many laughs, and which was followed by *Saving Grace*. Bedecked with Christmas cheer, the Village Hall then showed *It's a Wonderful Life*. The new sound system, many thanks to GRADS, was an asset to the production. Carol has been working hard on future films we could watch and has already sorted out the September showing!

We are all set and ready to invite you to social events as soon as the green light is given, so please look out for a Maurie Mail, come and support us, and most importantly of all, have a chat! (Socially distanced at whatever rule it may be).

A reminder that, as always, there are numerous books, films and jigsaws for you to borrow should you need some entertainment on these dark nights. Just ring me on 833380 and I will unlock the door for you to browse and select.

Fayre Hardy,
Treasurer, Village Hall Committee

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Whilst we are again unable to meet, there is ongoing action behind the scenes, with various people keeping things ticking over. Our AGM is normally in March. We did manage to fulfil that last year before the first lockdown, and with any luck we may be able to hold it in some shape or form this coming March, enabling us to launch a new GHG community project via the April edition of the Pill.

Sue Reardon has continued to dig deeper into historical records to uncover more of Golant's past for the House History Project. She writes:

One thing that the present lockdown has given me is plenty of time to get on with delving into the past history of the village. The changing ownership of houses and land in the last century or two was very complicated and often confusing, so I decided the only way forwards was to go backwards - in time.

The earliest I can reliably start from was the Domesday Book of 1085 when all the area we know as St Sampson Parish was part of the feudal system of land management.

I knew that Lantyan Manor, still in existence today as Lantyan Farm near Lostwithiel, covered most of the parish. It had belonged to a Saxon named Osfrith before the Normans came. The Manor was bought 500 years later by the Rasbleighs and accounts for why they owned so much property in the village, and still do even now. But they didn't own all of it.

Searching through old Documents and Wills from medieval times onward to make sense of the way the village we know today has evolved, can be baffling, intriguing and sometimes can send a shining light onto how things are as we see them nowadays.

Doing this early research has helped to explain where some of the names which appear in 19th and 20th century deeds have come from. It's a fascinating puzzle to unravel and there's much more to be done yet – onward!

Meanwhile, Ian has now uploaded a goodly amount of archive material to our website, and has created a fascinating little 'tour' in the form of a quiz (*see below*). Keep in mind that the main objective is to get you browsing, so don't worry if you end up being side-tracked by something that enthralls you, but also be prepared to think laterally!

Do remember that we also have a Face Book page which allows for some interaction, queries and discussion regarding the posts. I try to keep an eye on posts on the **Fowey Photographs the Noahs Ark Archive** and **St Austell Area in The Old Days** Face Book pages and share anything which I think might be relevant to the **Golant Heritage Group** page.

If you come across anything which you think might be of interest, then please do let us know.

Penny Parsons

Golant On-line Archive Quiz

Given our bursting social calendars here is a fiendish quiz to waste some time, stir the brain's cobwebs and dust off the Heritage Archive. All the answers are at <https://golant.omeka.net> but you will need to use a variety of the site's search facilities to get to the answers.

No winners or prizes for this Quiz, but...

**** Read the Editor's Word of Warning below if you are a serious contestant. ****

- 1 Where does John Lobb reside?
- 2 Use the what3words website or app and then our map to find out what building is at ///showering.snitch.skate?
- 3 Where can you find Doctors, Saffron and Short meadows? Hint: abaft whimbrel (anag)
- 4 Who gave Harold an engine, mill, chaff cutter and crusher?
- 5 Who was landlord when the pub was full of school girls on New Year's Eve?
- 6 How much is a single home from Fowey? (2nd class of course)
- 7 If bread was reduced in the Post Office window, what were candles?
- 8 Snack, cocktail, public or saloon in 1986 summer fun. Who?
- 9 What did Bill Spry use his Morris for?
- 10 Where was the yellow and black phone box?

**** Editor's Word of Warning!! ****

Just this once, I have added an extra page to this issue, where you will find the Answers to Ian's Quiz.

Thus, you can trawl through all our usual 18 pages safely without coming across these answers!

There are advantages to The Golant Pill being online!

NEWS FROM ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH

We were extremely fortunate to be able to hold some of the Christmas services before this latest lockdown. There was a full church for *A Cornish Christmas*, and although the congregation had to listen to readings and carols rather than participate, the mixture seemed to go down well, including the crackers!

Similarly, the Christmas Day service saw another full church, and the service also started with a bang as the crackers were pulled to elevate the spirits. The Rev Jake Loewendahl officiated, and Sheila provided both live and recorded music which greatly enhanced the atmosphere.

Early in the new year, though, the onset of the virus variant led us to the conclusion that it would not be safe to hold services, and so, very reluctantly, we are once again closed.

As readers will appreciate, we have been without a priest in charge for St Sampson since 2019. The Diocese is considering a re-allocation of resources, and this has been made more complex by the recent resignation of the Vicar of Tywardreath. We are, however, with the blessing of our Patron, the Bishop of Truro, exploring whether we can employ a retired priest to have oversight of our parish, and as I write this we are refining our job description and parish profile. Obviously, the field is very limited, and we may not succeed in attracting the right person, but at least we are trying!

The other on-going project is to replace the very tired shed in the lower churchyard. We plan to make the new shed larger, more rodent-proof, more attractive and more water-tight! We have just heard that the Parish Council have agreed to give a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of the re-build, which is marvellous news. Many thanks to them for this very generous donation, which is hugely appreciated, and especially at a time when fund-raising is just not possible.

In the meantime, big bells and handbells are not possible, but Sheila has a weekly choir session on-line, thanks to the wonders of Zoom. We are singing all sorts of music, from the sacred through to folk songs and sea-shanties.

Now that vaccinations are under way, there is light at the end of the tunnel, and as soon as Sunday services can safely resume we will let everyone know.

Simon Funnell

Christmas 2020 INBLOOM Challenge

Having optimistically forecast in the last issue a possible record-breaking number of Christmas blooms, 2020 turned out to be somewhat mixed, with smaller numbers down 'in the hollow' of the village, where Sarah Laughton's collection of just 14 varieties reflected, in her words "a very poor year", whilst the upper Torfrey hamlet seems to have done better! However, the final collective number was 58, more than last year.

One species that really bucked the trend was the Camellia, with many varieties in the village blossoming very early. As last year, I have disregarded the different colours (such as the camellia) in the count, to simplify the recording, as unidentified ones would probably have been duplicated between us. Had we experienced the more recently experienced hard frosts and icy conditions at Christmas time, the actual count would have been somewhat decimated.

It was great to have a new contributor to my annual challenge – Penny White, who with her sister picked and photographed their collection. The three geraniums were actually inside a shed, but although the door was left open to the elements, it was agreed not to count these within the garden blooms! Liz Anderson again took part, despite her heavy NHS workload, and recorded a new flower– Tritonia (flame freesia), a native to Cape Province in South Africa! I am grateful to them all, as it's been even more important in this last difficult year to herald the joys of our flora.

The alphabetical list of the 58 blooms found between us is as follows:

Acanthus, Ageranthemum, Amelia, Auricula, Azalea (bud), Bergenia, Blackberry, Borage, Breath of Heaven (*Diosma Ericoides*), Butterbur, Calendula (Marigold), Camellia (many), Campanula, Chaenomeles (Flowering Quince), Christmas Rose (*Helleborus Niger*), Cornish Daisy (Mexican Fleabane), Cranesbill, Cyclamen, Daffodil, Daisy (wild), Dandelion, *Diosma Ericoides*, Edible Rocket, Forget-me-not, Fuchsia, Geranium, Heather, Hebe, Heliotrope, Hydrangea (Pink & Lace Cap), Ivy-leaved Toadflax, Kaffir Lily, Lavender, Mahonia, Narcissus, Osteospermum, Pampas Grass, Periwinkle (white, blue & pink/white), Poppy (yellow), Primrose, Red Campion, Rose, Rosemary, Skimmia, Snapdragon, Snow drop, Spiraea Prunifolia, Stinking Hellebore (*Helleborus Foetidus*), Viburnum Plicatum, Viburnum Tinus, Tree Heather, Tritonia, Viola, Wild Strawberry, Winter Honeysuckle, Winter Iris, Winter Jasmine & Wintersweet.

Gillie Harris



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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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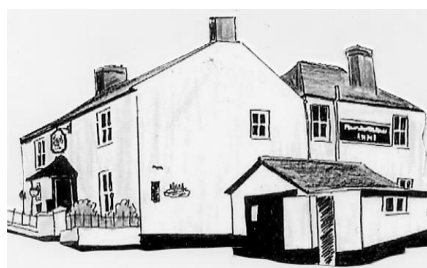
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An Avian Conundrum

Some years ago, we had a **Melanistic Pheasant** joining the 'normal' pheasants which frequently visit us. This is a mutant, with greenish-black plumage. We called him Mel, but he suddenly disappeared one day! The image here is from the internet.



Just before Christmas, I noticed another interesting Pheasant visitor (from the other end of the colour spectrum) appear at the bottom of the farm field next to us.

On Googling, I identified it either as a **Leucistic White Pheasant**, or as a rarer **Albino Pheasant**. The Leucistic Pheasant has a genetic mutation which causes loss of normal pigment, but has dark eyes & legs, whilst the Albino's body cannot make colour, so has no pigment at all, resulting in pale pink or red eyes & pale legs and beak.

This striking bird, usually frequenting the bottom of the sloping corner field on the far side of Water Lane, has a number of times come across the road into our lower paddock, so not close enough to check its eyes! Occasionally, it has ventured nearer our cottage. Of late, I have seen it (him?) either accompanied by a harem of female admirers (who have now jilted the lone 'ordinary' male!) - or, if it is a hen pheasant, enjoying the company of her girlie friends!

Interestingly, this photo (*below*) of our visitor, taken by a patient Karen using a long lens, would not only appear to confirm it as a rare **Albino Pheasant**, (*see the lower internet image*) but as the latter gender, as according to the RSPB, the male Albino Pheasant keeps its red facial wattles, and our bird is definitely lacking that feature!



This internet image is entitled '**An albino hen pheasant**', which, if correct, is a close match to 'our' bird in Karen's photograph. Or is it?

On closer reflection, is this assumption correct that it is an **Albino**?! Karen's photo doesn't clearly show the eye or leg colour, but a few days later, Robin captured these two images with an even longer lens.



Dark eyes



Pale pink legs and beak

So where does that genetic mutation variance lead us?! Possibilities below-

- ◆ This bird is a cross between the two types, so perhaps we should call her a **Leucino** or an **Albinistic**!?
- ◆ She is not a true 100% **Albino**?

The conclusion to this Avian Conundrum would seem to be that our fascinating visitor is a **Hen Albino Pheasant**, though not a true one. This variation is borne out by information on the web. Should we now call her Ali?!

Can any reader corroborate this identification? Please do respond by emailing me at thegolantpill@gmail.com

Incidentally, it would seem that this article reflects this issue's theme of Darkness to Light, as our two very unusual pheasant visitors have changed from Mel the Melanistic to Ali the Albino...

Gillie Harris

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Digger Delight

My granddaughter, Evelyn, now 2 years old, has for some time held a deep fascination for construction machinery, probably since finding a book called *'Dalmation in a Digger, Duck in a Dumper Truck'* at Par library over a year ago. And so she is absolutely enthralled by all the goings on up on the *Cormorant* site, and when she is in my charge it is our duty to wander down towards the quay to inspect! In fact, we are on first name terms with some of the machine operators! One of the dumper truck drivers will quack and wave as he passes, and Sam, who until recently was keeping the road swept at the bottom of the drive, will always have a chat with her.

Watching the digger manoeuvring put me in mind of a poem I often used in my teaching called *'The Steam Shovel'*, an entertaining little extended metaphor. The name is dated of course, Steam Shovels themselves being long 'dead' and a thing of the past, but Digger fits the bill perfectly.

Penny Parsons

The Steam Shovel



The dinosaurs are not all dead,
I saw one raise its iron head
To watch me walking down the road
Beyond our house today.
Its jaws were dripping with a load
Of earth and grass that it had cropped.
It must have heard me where I stopped,
Snorted white steam my way,
And stretched its long neck out to see,
And chewed and grinned quite amiably.

By Charles Malam 1958



Twinkle Twinkle in the Pill



Golant's pill became quite magical this Christmas, as each day brought another lit-up boat, which just added to the sparkle!

From Whicker's Angels, Christmas Trees, Santa & his Reindeer, Flashing Fishing Lines and Fish! Just magical.

Our pub, houses, balconies, gardens and orchards, and even turkey topiary hedges and honey bees also twinkled!

Wonderful homemade goodies and creative crafts contributed to an assortment of hampers, all generously donated by the village.

The hampers were beautifully wrapped and compiled by Kathy Ogg, and awarded for the best and most novel lights.

Thank you so much to everyone who put on the Glitz!!

Michelle Robins



MR



Kerbside Carols

— through the rude wind's (and rain's) wild lament!

Despite incessant rain, a steadfast bunch of carollers turned out each Thursday in December to sing along to the Kerbside Carols being broadcast live from Lostwithiel, via Face Book and Radio Cornwall. This was a brilliantly co-ordinated idea by *'Really Lovely Projects'* directors Emma Mansfield and Michelle Nineham, who have initiated a wide range of community activities over time, including the popular *'Singalong the River'* concerts in Lostwithiel led by Emma's *'Lost In Song'* Choir.

It had been hoped to broadcast the music for all the village to hear, but unfortunately the technology was not available, and it did not seem feasible to hang the NEW village hall music system out of the hall skylight as had been done back in May for the VE day garden parties, especially given the awful weather. Thus, on the first Thursday, a few hardy souls stepped onto their own doorsteps to listen, but heard little! I did stand on my doorstep, complete with iPad, to sing along and was so thrilled when Clare & Alan, newly moved in to *Crosstrees*, strolled down the street, and, pulling a carol sheet from his pocket, proceeded to sing along with me!

The next two Thursdays proved to be just as wet. Trying to bring us all more together, albeit socially distanced, a goodly little number of us gathered near the Christmas Tree on the green, whilst Ian provided the live link to the music from his porch.

Christmas Eve was at least dry, and thanks to Louise's boom box stationed under the marquee on the terrace of the *Fisherman's Arms*, we were able to give a grand rendition of the final four Kerbside Carols, plus a couple more, before merrily scattering homeward to hang up our Christmas stockings!

Penny Parsons



This time last year, the Boatwatch column in the *Pill* looked forward to all the fun things we would be doing. Ah well, at least we did manage the two flotillas in the summer.

So, what will we be doing this year? Donations of crystal balls would be welcome, but, working without one, here are some thoughts of what we are hoping for:

Boatwatch Hut

The work to waterproof and prettify the Hut hasn't yet started, but will do as soon as the weather is suitable. The first task is to replace failed rendering, and the weather recently has either been too cold or too wet to do this. We have been fortunate to secure funding from both the Parish Council and the Harbour Commissioners to do the work, and we are looking forward to making the hut more usable for Boatwatch, and a more attractive building within the Village. Many thanks to both organisations for their donations.

Quay Area CCTV

Once the Hut has been made less damp, we plan to install CCTV to cover the Quay and the Hut area to assist in crime prevention. This requires us to go through the registration process for CCTV operation, and the facility will be operated on the basis that images are only viewed in the event of an incident having occurred for which the CCTV may provide useful evidence. Again, we have been able to secure funding for the installation, this time a generous donation from Golant Quay Users Association, the owners of the Quay.

Boatwatch Get-togethers

At the moment, it seems extremely unlikely that government restrictions will allow the normal Spring Get-together to be held. We will consider whether any alternative activities might be possible in spring/early summer, should the restrictions allow for meeting in the open air. We also hope that restrictions will have eased sufficiently by the summer for us to be able to hold at least two flotilla meetings.

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 Bonsall (Boatwatch)

01726 834458

Boatwatching

In the meantime, we Boatwatchers continue to keep an eye on boats on the river, and will report things that we see that need attention through the Golant Boat Owners Association Facebook site. We will also continue to post items of marine interest there to help in giving people things to look at during lockdown.

And, of course, we will continue to publish monthly videos of the state of boats in the *Pill*, the River and on the frapes to give assurance to those of you who can't get here that your boats are still there.

We will see how things develop come the Spring. In the meantime, do keep safe.

David Bonsall, Chairman, Golant Boatwatch

Golant Quay Users Association

Unfortunately, given the latest lockdown, we are not able to pursue the owners of the 'derelict' boats, as the owners should not be travelling. So, we will have to hold off on any more actions until we are out of the lockdown.

I am still attempting to sell the boat I mentioned in the last *Golant Pill*, but alas, the poor lady has had to involve her brother, who is proving difficult to persuade to continue with the sale. So, one step forwards and two back at the moment.

Other than that, it is all quiet on Quay Users front.

Peter Edwards, Chairman GQUA

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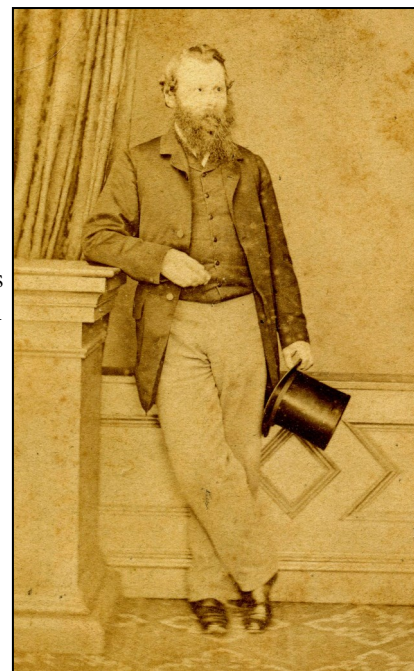
The Gundry Family - Connections with Golant, part 3

It appears that *Torfrey House* had come into the Gundry family's possession at some point between 1863 when it was advertised 'to be let and if not taken to be sold' and the census of 1871, when John Trevenen, Emma Gundry and her brother Thomas are living there. Thomas' occupation is given as 'Mining Engineer'. He retained his business interests in mining, as he is visiting a site in Wales on the 1881 census and is described as 'Managing Director of Lead Mine'.

There are numerous reports of the Gundrys of *Torfrey House* in the local newspapers of the day. They were Patrons of the Golant Regatta, sponsors of the Torfrey Cup in the Fowey Horse Races and many other local events.

In April 1881, the *Cornishman* paper reported that 'Mr Gundry of *Torfrey*, has made an offer for an eligible site overlooking the harbour for a grand hotel for Fowey'. This was the start of the *Fowey Hotel*, built by a company founded by the Gundry brothers.

Years later this company, the Cornish Hotels Company, had acquired other hotels in the county including the *Red Lion* in Truro. Although William worked as a Stock Broker in London he was also appointed as a director of the Cornish Bank. (*A very smart William is seen in this photo.*)



By 1891 it appears that William was living at *Torfrey*. In that year's census he is there with his wife Emma and their married daughter Anna Ellen, together with her husband William Gundry Mills; they were cousins. Thomas Gundry, who never married, was there too. All three men were listed as Gentlemen, Stock Brokers. William died at *Torfrey* on 20th September 1897, his wife having died 4 years before him.

Emma Gundry has moved to a cottage in Tywardreath by 1873. John Trevenen died there on 20th February of that year, he appointed his brother Henry to be his executor leaving effects of less than £2,000 value. Emma is also looking after her mother, John's sister, who died aged 88 in 1881. She had a niece living with her too. Eventually she and her brother Thomas are living together at *Emmaville* in Fowey, where she died on 14th December 1900. Thomas died there on 7th December 1903.

When John Trevenen retired from *Penquite Farm* another relative took it over. Back in 1847 Thomas Mills married Mary Gundry in Golant; her mother was John's cousin. At first they farmed at *Lower Bodinell*, Bodmin where their children, William Gundry Mills, Marianna Mills and Thomas Mills are born, before moving to *Penquite Farm* in Golant. They are there on the 1861 and 1871 censuses. They had retired to 22 *Harbour Terrace* in Fowey by 1881 with their daughter. Marianna married William Moon in 1889 after both her parents had died and went to live with him in Liskeard.

William Gundry Mills married his cousin Anna Ellen Gundry in London in 1879 where he worked as Stock Broker like his father-in-law. They had moved down to *Torfrey* by 1891 and continued there until his early death aged only 54.



It was through his generosity that the *Golant Reading Room* was built in 1902, given to the village, and officially opened on 12th January 1903. The Bishop of Truro came to the opening ceremony which William was too ill to attend. He died on 2nd June. (*This commemorative plaque is by the entrance to the Village Hall, formerly the Reading Room.*)

His death brought an end to the direct link between the Gundry name and *Torfrey House*. Descendants of the Gundrys and the associated Trevenen and Mills families continued in the local area for some time.

Valerie Russell, the present owner of *Torfrey House* with her husband Jim, has written a very thorough history of the house and is recommended reading for those interested in learning more.

**Saturday
27 February
2021
at 2.30pm**

Talk: 'What the Tudors did for Fowey'
by Alex Lewis
Via Zoom for members only

If you thought St Catherine's Castle is the main example of what the Tudors did for Fowey, then this talk may surprise you. Step into a world where men wore tights, jousting was the national sport, and executioners worked overtime. A light-hearted look at the personalities and politics of this iconic dynasty and the legacy it left in Fowey.

Alex is a past chairman of the Society and has a passion for medieval history. Her talks are always popular.



**Saturday
20 March 2021
at 2.30pm**

Talk: 'Mevagissey — A Virtual Tour'
by Sue Reardon, Chris Bradish and Suzanne Goddard
Via Zoom for members only

Come and join us on a virtual tour of Mevagissey. Today a pretty seaside town – visited by hundreds every summer - but over 200 years ago it was a very different story. Learn about its rich shipbuilding history, which went hand in hand with the pilchard trade and smuggling. Its craggy coastline made Mevagissey perfect territory to evade the authorities; with its concealed cellars and doors and labyrinth of paths and secret alleyways snaking up the hillside, evasion was easy.

Sue, Chris and Suzanne are accredited town guides and members of the Cornish Riviera Guides



Regrettably, under current Government guidelines, we are unable to hold meetings in person as planned. We have therefore successfully been delivering this series of talks via Zoom, free to paid up members of the society. Why not join the FHHS and enjoy this talk. Membership costs just £10 per annum and there are many benefits. For further information, please contact andrew@gardner.be or visit www.foweyharbourheritage.org.uk

Short Story Competition Reminder

If you haven't already done so, get your pen out and send me a short story of no more than 500 words, in prose or poetry.

I have had a number of entries, but more will always be welcomed.

The theme for the story is '**Happiness**', and the content may be as broad as you like, and as funny, or serious, as you may prefer.

Please send entries in Word or pdf to: MauriceParsons@btinternet.com by 4th February.

The winning entry will be published in the April edition of the *Golant Pill*.

Good writing!

Maurie Parsons

Upper Downs Clearance Sessions

In late December last year, I put out a call for volunteers to help cut back the overgrown footpath, and didn't the village do well!

It's been many years since there has been a concerted cut back; the bramble banks and thorn bushes were steadily encroaching, resulting in narrowing of the path in many places.

Thankfully, we weren't in a lockdown, so we could work socially distanced over the three days. The weather wasn't particularly kind; we had rain, hail and sleet, but still willing workers arrived with everything from power tools and garden forks. With plenty of hands pitching in, we achieved a remarkable clearing of the overgrowth, widening the path considerably along the stretch parallel to the river.

As and when we come out of lockdown, it will be great to have a go at the brambles on the stretch leading down into the stream in *Bodmin Pill*. Once done, that will really set up a user-friendly path for years to come.

My grateful thanks to everybody who joined in, and yes - didn't we do well!

Sue Reardon



Before



After

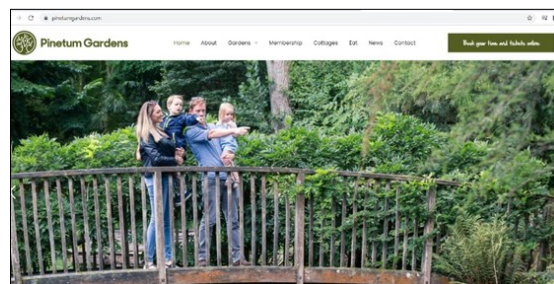
Golant Walking Group

Grounded by lockdown, we have not managed much walking as a group. Undeterred by rain whilst unamused by mud, we know that good times will come again. Meanwhile two ideas to whet the appetite and encourage the placing of one foot after another, really and virtually.

First, a real treat newly discovered by us (thank you Simon and Sheila) – *Pinetum Gardens*, close enough to be within lockdown guidelines and offering a pleasant stroll on well made gentle paths through pretty garden landscapes. Visits must be booked on-line – Covid guidelines – this can be done via an informative web site:

www.pinetumgardens.com

At £20.00 for an annual pass this is highly recommended as a variation on the village circuit.



Secondly, an idea for wet and miserable days: virtual walking. Many virtual walks are available on You Tube, just search Google 'you tube virtual walks'. You can enjoy walking the world, but I particularly like the 'Cornish Walking Trails' channel. These can be enjoyed from the comfort of



your sofa or, if you feel the need to be more active, watch whilst you step. For a 'real' virtual walk, try 'Virtual Walk to Godrevy Lighthouse.'

Anne Bonsall

Pill Paparazzi in this issue

LA	Liz Anderson
RA	Robin Anderson
DB	David Bonsall
FH	Fayre Hardy
GH	Gillie Harris
DM-R	Debbie Marshall-Reeve
PP	Penny Parsons
SR	Sue Reardon
MR	Michelle Robins
PT	Patrick Towell
KW-W	Karen Wells-West
PW	Penny White



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Nature Notes

Happy New Year to everyone! Writing from yet another lockdown, this year may not be the year of gatherings, hugging & celebrating that we hoped for, but at least nature doesn't take any notice, and life continues as normal.

We have taken advantage of confinement, and have been working outside. We were not able to take part in the annual Wassailing this year (the first time for 10 years), but we have just started to plant the field alongside Downs Hill as a mixed orchard for the future, with cider, eating, cooking apples, pears and plums. Our hope is they will provide an excess of fruit that the village will be welcomed to pick, along with hopefully soft fruit planting next year. So we are putting in our request for a Wassailing visit now! (*The new orchard- right*)



We are also expanding our fruit and vegetable areas, with the idea that we will be able to use the produce to feed our guests. Might take a few years, but you have to start somewhere! We are using the 'no dig' permaculture method. This preserves soil structure by not digging or disturbing it in any way - layers of cardboard go directly onto the ground to block weeds, then manure and compost go on the top, and planting is straight into the compost. Interestingly, where I ran out of cardboard last year and just used manure and straw, the weeds and brambles came straight back, but the cardboard areas are still clear.... Thank you to Baileys who now not only supply me with everything I need for gardening, but send up their bales of cardboard packaging for me to use! A win, win situation for both! (*Trees just arrived- left*)

We were also gifted a power driven wheelbarrow before Christmas. I'm not sure that the person wishes to be known, but I wanted to let them know how much we appreciate their generous gift, and it is already put to good use - if they ever want to see how we are using it, please come up!

We have had some interesting footage from the wildlife trail cam that we have been lent by Exeter University - not all four legged.... We have been able to use it to monitor some of the tracks we can see in and around our patch, and it has given us an idea of which animals are going where. The Kestrel which I photographed for the last edition has become a familiar sight, becoming less wary of us when we are working, and hunting while we are there. On New Year's Day, at dusk, a Barn Owl flew silently past - startling as it seemed to appear from nowhere and passed very near to where we were sitting. This is the first time I have seen a Barn Owl since June 2016, so fingers crossed we will continue to see it.

Finally, a bit of good news for us as a business - we have made it to the finals of the *Cornwall Tourism Awards* in the 'Responsible, Ethical & Sustainable Tourism' category - a bit of a mouthful, but it is very much at the heart of what we do, so we are thrilled to be chosen - along with some very experienced and successful businesses. We won't be able to have our usual 'knees up' with all the finalists - this year it will be via the dreaded Zoom - but a great boost to our confidence!

Here's looking forward to a more promising Spring....

Karen Wells-West



A screen shot of the Barn Owl

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Golant Gleanings

THANK YOU

I would like to say, via the pages of the *Golant Pill*, a very big thank you to the many kind and caring folks who wrote letters, cards and emails or made telephone calls following Peter's death in October. Jonathan and Caitlin join me in expressing our appreciation of all the wonderful messages we received and the many offers of help. This is truly a wonderful village full of lovely people. We thank you, One and All.

Maryjean, Jonathan and Caitlin Stone

BACKALONG

The following report regarding the Gundry family, so thoroughly researched by Sue and shared in her three fascinating articles with *The Golant Pill*, was taken from *The Royal Cornwall Gazette* on 29th November, 1888.

So this event is indeed a **Golant Gleaning** from just over 132 years ago.

Terrible and Fatal Accident

On Monday morning at about 10 o'clock, three workmen were taking down a wall at the back of the stables of Mr Gundry, Golant. Henry Rowe suddenly raised an alarm that the entire wall was falling, and had only time to withdraw a pace or two before it fell upon them, an open window space falling over Rowe and thus preserving him with the exception of severe bruising. Charles Ellery, a fine young fellow, was killed outright. Richard Bartlett had one of his legs broken. The painful occurrence has spread quite a gloom over the entire neighbourhood, where the young men were known and respected, two of them being members of the St Blazey Volunteer Band.

Sue Reardon explained that the *Torrey House* stables were across the road in what is now *Hybadore*, and in her research found that there was a lot of building work going on in the house at that time.

Looking at ancestral records online, I could find none of the three young men as being from Golant families. The unfortunate Charles Ellery is recorded in the 1881 census, aged 17 years and a 'Mason's Apprentice', living in Tywardreath, and he was indeed buried there in 1888, so he would have only been 24 years old when this terrible accident occurred.

Gillie Harris

Some Cornish Sayings

'At St Just on the first of March it was the custom to brush away all fleas from the house for the ensuing year.'

'A hole must be left in one corner of the wall of a house for the piskies to come in and out.'

'The hearthstone should be swept and a basin of spring water left before it for fairies to wash their babies.'

Taken from 'Jan Bedella's Fiddle & other Cornish Sayings' by Kathleen Hawke

Our Pot of Gold – a Golant Gleaming?



"My heart leaps up when I behold a Rainbow in the sky".
William Wordsworth

ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings/Communication:

Following the safety protocol of the Association of Local Councils, we are continuing to hold our meetings on Zoom. Any one is allowed to 'address the Councillors,' at the start of the meeting before it begins officially, and you are very welcome to stay and watch/listen in to the various deliberations that ensue. Failing that, you can catch up by reading the minutes on the Parish Council web site: www.stsampsonparishcouncil.org.uk (Next meetings below)

Cormorant Development:

We have continued to have poor weather since the last issue of the *Pill*, and we have therefore continued to suffer the effect of mud and debris coming off the site. I am pleased to report, however, that with the track being concreted now and assuming that the removal of spoil has virtually been completed, we shall endure less mud and debris on the road at the bottom of the track and elsewhere. Other individual issues are handled on a 'one at a time basis' when they occur. The latest information is that the planned completion date is Summer 2022!

Double Yellow Lines:

As part of our responsibility to examine risk areas in the village, we invited Highways to extend the Double Yellow Lines along the foreshore by *Island House*, by one car length, to ensure that any emergency vehicle would be able to get through okay. The documents relating to this are posted on the Council web site, should anyone want to respond.

Neighbourhood Development Plan:

I am delighted to confirm that Councillor Siobhan Harper has taken the Neighbourhood Development Plan through to the next stage and has achieved 'legal compliance!' We now have to wait about 10 weeks before submitting the plan to our own village referendum, to ensure that this plan is something that represents what we want for our community.

Parking Permits:

At our recent Parish Council meeting we discussed in some detail the real issues around parking generally and the permit process specifically. We concluded that although we recognise that 'in any normal year' there will be peak periods at Easter and during the summer months, there was no benefit to be had by changing any of the current and accepted rules as they apply now. Permits (held at their current prices for now) are available from the Parish Council web site. Go to the site, look for Documents, and it is the last one on the list. If anyone needs a form but doesn't have a computer or printer, then please see one of the Councillors.

Permits of any type will be issued on a 'first come first served' basis, and we ask that residents are reasonable in their requests, especially for permits for the Village Green. We also decided to hold the current parking charges for the main carpark at current prices but will review this decision in the light of obtaining a more modern and flexible machine.

Potholes:

I know that the current potholes (especially on Water Lane) are getting ever bigger and more numerous, but my attempts to encourage 'Highways' to get them repaired has not been very effective. And part of the reason is that there is already a 'pothole' reporting system on the Cornwall Council web site. So, can I encourage anyone living near to a pothole to 'report it' on the CC system, so that Highways appreciate the dilemma that we face on a daily basis.

Planning Application:

We reviewed two applications this month:

PA20/11451 and PA20/10705

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 23rd February & Tuesday 23rd March

David Jenkinson, Chairman St Sampson Parish Council



We held our first Zoom talk on Wednesday 20th January, thanks to Claire's organisational skills and the willing speaker, Matt Slater from *Cornwall Wildlife Trust*, who gave a talk on the Pacific Oyster Project, which was originally planned for an event at the *Mission for Seafarers*.

25 screens came up, and it was lovely to see some of the smiling faces again, although there were quite a few who we couldn't see, either because they didn't want to be seen or like me, not sure which icon to click on. Still, that saved everybody seeing my mug!

Matt's talk explained that the Pacific Oyster is a non-native species that is colonising our estuaries and depriving our native oysters and other species from their natural habitat. They also have very sharp edges which become uppermost when they form into reefs and this is a real danger if stood on. The problem is that there is no obvious commercial value in them and so getting rid of them is difficult. One solution is to smash them with a hammer.

Claire, in her capacity as Environmental Officer at the Harbour Office, has organised several Oyster bashing events in the Fowey Estuary, and so far over 35,000 have been culled. Matt said that Fowey was the most active area with the greatest number of volunteers, many of whom are Friends of the Fowey members, so well done to Claire and our members.

There are several projects ongoing to find ways of harvesting the oysters and using them for things like soil fertiliser/improvement, and one idea is as an ingredient to make wet-suits, hopefully without the sharp edges!

Following this successful virtual event, our next two programmed speakers have agreed to continue with their talks.

First up on Wednesday 24th February at 7.30pm, will be Dr Cai Ladd from *Bangor University* talking on Saltmarshes and The Carbon Quest Project. We have saltmarshes in the estuary; they form the water's meanderings just downstream from Lostwithiel.

Then for our AGM on Tuesday 30th March at 7.30pm we have Delia Webb from the *Cornwall Plastic Pollution Coalition* (Friends of the Fowey Estuary are members) giving a talk entitled 'Making Waves and Making a Difference'.

We very much look forward to 'seeing' as many as possible at these events.

Peter Edwards

**And now something to look forward to
and start planning for**

Advance Notice (well in advance)

Golant Carnival will be on Saturday July 31st 2021

Madness in the Pill will be on Sunday August 8th 2021

Fingers crossed..!

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The headings for the
February and March chapters in
Uncle John's Gardening Year Book

*Uncle John's Gardening Year
& Auntie Paddy's Recipe Book*

These *Golant Pill* publications are available in
the Church, Walter Baileys at Par
(Gardening Book only),
or from Mike & Gillie (833897).

£6 each or two for £10 (Mix or Match)

UNCLE JOHN'S GARDEN PATCH

'Tis a proper wisht old time we'm having at the moment. What with all these here restrictions, and being tied to home, 'tis no wonder folks be getting brave and teasy about not going out & gallivanting around as they'm used to, but t'wont be forever; just have some patience.

Now, that's summat that we gardeners know all about, because there's nort in the garden that can be finished in 5 minutes. Some seeds d'take weeks and even months to germinate afore you'm able to do summat with them, so I d'feel that we'm quite capable of dealing with any amount of drecklyism that they d'aive our way!

And, talking about seeds, now is the time to get out the gardeners' comics (seed catalogues), and make a list of things you d'want to grow this yer, bearing in mind that the show (hopefully), can be held in August.

But, just hold your foot up a minute, tidn't all beer and skittles, and a lot can happen twix now and August. But you'm in the right frame of mind, and start the planning now.

Any actual work will be confined to the greenhouse, because 'tis far too wet and cold to even think about outside work, and when I was lifting some parsnip there last week I d'mind meself to put down some wood planking to save meself from stanking around and getting in a brave jakes, and ended up with half the garden lampered on me boots.

I'm afraid 'tis gwain to take a brave old time afore there be any hope of being able to put a shovel in the ground and make a start turning over any ground.

But I doan't think that Mother Nature hev quite finished with us just yet awhile. I can't remember a time when we had so many gales and storms, one after t'other, as what we d'hev this winter, and by the look of things, as I d'write this, there be another on its way with a gale of wind and floods of rain called Christoph. Nice!! So afore summat gets scat over, 'twould be prudent to have a wander around and check on the strings and wires that are securing some of your plants.

When you've got a large clematis or passion flower laying all to flitters on the ground, and it weighs a ton because 'tis leaking wet, then you'll need the patience of a saint to get it all back up as it was afore. 'Twill all end up looking like Jan with his shirt hanging out!

But when you'm tucked up brave and comfy in the greenhouse you'm able to listen to the rain aiving down and get on with sowing some seed in seed trays— the likes of leeks, onions, tomatoes, peppers, dwarf broad beans and early peas, but keep an eye open for any signs of mice.

These little blimmers dearly like to dig up and eat your seeds, so 'twill help to discourage them by soaking the seeds overnight in paraffin. That should put paid to their little fun and games, and allow the seeds to get going. Well, I suppose 'tis better than using a trap and killing the little blimmers.

Nort

Auntie Paddy's Recipe Corner

This time last year, Valentine's Day was very different from where we are now. We have a new number of words, and our behaviour is also very different. Let's hope we can turn the corner with the vaccinations being rolled out, and perhaps next year we will be able to have a Valentine's Evening with us all able to meet in the *Fisherman's Arms*.

Here is recipe that can be adapted for gluten free.

Valentine Cheesecake

The Base

200g/ 7oz Digestive Biscuits or Plain Gluten Free Biscuits

100g/ 4oz melted Butter

1. Crush the biscuits either by putting them in a bag and using a rolling pin, roll out and make the crumbs, or use a food processor.
2. Mix in the butter and press firmly into the base of a 20cm/8" round loose-bottomed tin. Leave to one side for a short time to firm up.

The Filling

5 leaves Gelatine

200g/ 7oz White Chocolate, chopped

6 tbs Milk

500g/ 18oz Ricotta Cheese

300ml/ 1/2 pint Double Cream

50g/ 2oz Icing Sugar

2 large Eggs, separated

1. Soak the gelatine in a little water and leave to one side.
2. Put the white chocolate in a bowl over a pan of simmering water, then add the milk.
3. Gently heat until melted and stir together.
4. Squeeze the gelatine as much as you can and add to the still warm chocolate mix. Stir until dissolved.
5. Beat the ricotta, cream, sugar & egg yolks together.
6. In another bowl, whisk the egg whites.
7. Stir the ricotta & chocolate mixture together, then gently fold in the egg whites. Pour onto the biscuit base, cover with cling film and chill in the fridge until set.
8. Decorate with any type of grated chocolate or fruit of your fancy.



Paddy Shelley

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THE NEXT COPY DATE

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

Thursday 25th March

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the drive to *South Torfrey Cottage*.

CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS

Well– there is one event planned for the next month, so here it is...!

Spring Equinox – Saturday 20th March 2021 12 noon – Village Green

Spring Equinox marks the astronomical first day of Spring, when the Northern Hemisphere begins to tilt more towards the sun. Day and night in perfect equilibrium; it is a day of perfect balance on the journey through the wheel of the year. With the long dark winter finally past, things start growing again, days start lengthening slowly toward summer. On the scheduled Spring (Vernal) Equinox, sunrise is at 06.23 and sunset 18.34 although interestingly the actual 12 hours dark - 12 hours light falls on March 17th.

Okay, so we didn't manage to wassail this year; COVID restrictions conspired against us. Martyn was particularly disappointed as Sue Strachan has made him a wonderful new Green Man costume from the old stage curtains! (*Proudly worn below*). Soooo, we need to do something else to give this costume its debut outing and to compensate for not being able to bless our apple trees this year in our now traditional way.

Mindful that we have no idea just what we may be allowed to do come March 20th, plans are afoot for a very simple Spring Equinox ceremony on the green, all carried out within whatever guidelines are in place at the time, and which can be developed in subsequent years as things open up again.

The idea is to gather around or near the human sundial on the green at mid day and to perform a simple, uniquely Golantian, ceremony with an accumulative spoken chorus for all and a little bit of fun and drama. There are a number of associated characters including Green Man, Mother Earth and Ostara (or Spring Maiden), the name of an Anglo-Saxon goddess who represents dawn and, much like at Easter, symbolises new life.

More details to follow, but meantime – think about what you could wear! The colours of the Spring Equinox are **bright green**, **purple** and **yellow** - a glorious springtime costume or a simple token gesture - anything goes!

Penny Parsons



*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 below, and we will try to include it.*

The Copy Date for the April/May Issue is- **Thursday 25th March**

You have been warned...

The Answers to Ian's Quiz can be viewed at the bottom of this page!

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Plot 14 in the Churchyard |
| 2 | Lime kiln at head of Pont Pill |
| 3 | Lawhibbet Farm |
| 4 | Father |
| 5 | Leslie and Mike Moran |
| 6 | 6d train ticket |
| 7 | Cheaper |
| 8 | The Barr Family |
| 9 | Driving his cider press's apple scratter. |
| 10 | Opposite the Art Gallery |