

The Golant Pill

taken every two months...

Time Passes - Season on Season



The plan was to invite you all to a newly created '**Golant Spring Equinox**' ceremony around the human sundial on the green . . . and to celebrate together the coming of Spring; new life; new beginnings; hopes for brighter days.

Sadly, the idea has to go on hold until next year. **HOWEVER**, the Green Man and Mother Earth did make an appearance to perform a small part of the ritual, much to the delight of passers-by on their permitted daily walk (all observing current COVID restrictions of course!) And flitting around the scene was Robin 'Goodfellow' (AKA Puck, the mischievous sprite), camera in hand!

Here is a snippet:

Bursts of energy, like magic fly,
to colour our world, to brighten the sky,
and blossom by blossom the Spring begins
to unlock the flowers, and prompt the birds to sing.

*Time passes -
second on second, minute on minute, hour on hour, day on day,
week on week, month on month, SEASON on SEASON.*

The village is looking particularly glorious with daffodils and blossom in abundance, and how lovely to see so many doorsteps and windows dressed in the traditional colours of Ostara (green, yellow and purple) specifically for the occasion. Our streets positively glow with Easter promise! Search for more photos scattered throughout this issue.

FROM THE EDITOR

Time Passes – Season on Season...

Once again, the cover of our village newsletter reflects seasonality. Two issues ago, it was an autumnal 'Season of Mist and Mellow Fruitfulness', and the last winter one had the somewhat deeper symbolic message 'Lighten our Darkness'.

The vibrancy, colour and sheer joy in the pictures of the Spring Equinox devised by Penny Parsons, despite it just being a 'taster' because of the lockdown restrictions, can only bring a smile to one's face!

This time last year, after the first lockdown, we were lucky to enjoy some beautiful weather, and the many signs of spring now again certainly lift the spirits.

Within this issue, there are a number of articles reflecting our natural world, including the regular Nature Notes from Karen (p12) and Uncle John's Garden Patch (p16), as well as an update on the White Pheasant (p6) and a very amusing porcine tale!! This last item is the winning entry in Maurie's 'Happiness' Short Story Competition, written by Greg White (p7). This is the first time it has been revealed. Enjoy...!

There is plenty to celebrate in our very special village. Roger Tabb, one of the members of our truly indigenous Golant families, has just celebrated his 89th birthday. Robin captured a lovely photo of him the day beforehand; you can view his smiling face on our Gleanings page (13).

Meanwhile, two of our very own village organisations – The Sanctuary & Paddle Cornwall - have recently been recognised within the *Cornish Tourism Awards*, having won Gold & Silver respectively in two different categories. (See page 12) Fantastic and well-deserved achievements.

A thought:- before the Covid-19 pandemic, the word ZOOM had little meaning to me (and I guess many others) beyond being a verb suggesting speed, such as 'buzz, flash, dart, whizz' etc. Now, it's everywhere, including in many of the reports in this issue, with a wholly different meaning! Apparently, the first version of this digital ZOOM communication was launched in 2013, and by the end of the first month had 400,000 users. After the start of the pandemic, there was a sharp increase, and by April 2020 it had 300 million daily meeting participants!!

Lastly, we are now into our second year of not printing & distributing our village newsletter. As soon as it is completely safe to do so, we will again fulfil our original promise of providing each village household with a printed copy.

Gillie Harris

The two main characters of the Spring Equinox



Penny Parsons as **Mother Earth** welcoming Spring in a beautifully decorated Fore Street.



Martyn Hardy in his wonderful **Green Man** costume, made by Sue Strachan, with a seasonal tippale?!

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The wonders of ZOOM mean that we have been able to hold our AGM and begin to plan for the coming year. Bearing in mind that physical meetings may yet be difficult, we are planning our activities cautiously. We had identified **farming and land use in Golant** as our next major project, and will begin with a focus on gathering information within living memory, in order to build a picture of twentieth century practices, how the land was used, changes and redistributions of land. It is hoped to collect this information through interviews and oral recordings, but also by asking for memories or photographs which anyone would be willing to share with us. By the Autumn we hope to have gathered enough information to be able plan a creative community project for the following year, on similar lines to our previous big projects.

The introduction of an Equinox ceremony around the **human sundial** (see photos below) has highlighted the fact that there may be many of you wondering about its origins and how it works. The brain child of the late, wonderfully creative, Phil Reardon, it was devised after much research, and upon expert advice, as a community project for the millennium. It was built in 1999 using locally sourced slate, and with all villagers invited to play their part in carving the numbers and helping to lay out the sundial. On New Year's Eve we all gathered by torchlight around the sundial to celebrate the passing of the century with song and merriment, before joyfully and noisily processing around the village! You can find a collection of photographs on our website, showing the sundial as a work in progress.

Meanwhile . . .

Want to make history?

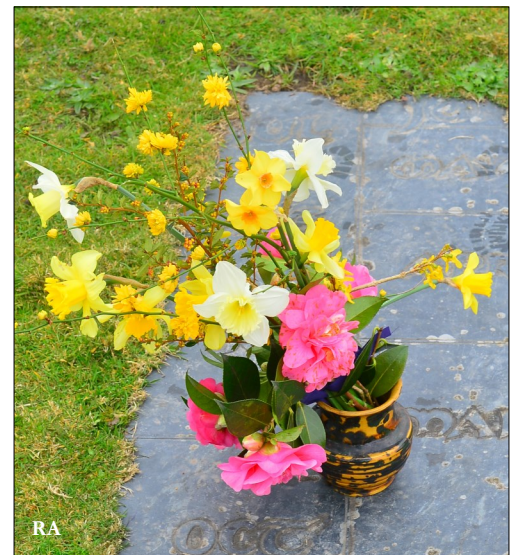
The Golant Heritage Group archive has a wide selection of old photographs of the village, mainly from around 1900. What we have realised is that we don't have as wide a selection of current photographs. In a few years time such a snapshot of the village as it is now will be of interest to future local history folk.

We are proposing to take street-side photographs of all the buildings in the village, street by street. We will then load these into the online archive so that they are available to all and be posted alongside any older pictures we have of the same houses. We would really like to involve others in this project, not least because you may have old shots that we don't know about and that you might be able to take views around a building to show aspects that can't be seen from the street.

We will have some very simple guidelines available so that we get all the pictures to the same style and standard. Our aim is to do this over the next few months. So if you would like to join in please let us know with a note of which area you would like to photograph. Send your details to Ian (ian@laughtons.org.uk) or Penny (pzparsons@yahoo.co.uk)

Let's make history!

Penny Parsons



Some Cornish Sayings

Countryside Lore

'Picking dandelions was said to induce bed-wetting. The penalty was a mouse pasty.'

'When you hear a cuckoo for the first time in spring, if it calls twelve times in succession you will not want for bread for the rest of the year.'

'It is unlucky to cut an elder tree or its blossom without first asking its permission or apologising to the spirit of the tree.'

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

NEWS FROM ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH

Carol White: Many of you will know that Carol suffered a severe stroke about a month ago, and she has now been transferred to Camborne for rehabilitation and therapy. Carol cannot speak nor swallow properly, and is paralysed down her right side. If you would like to send her a card, please address it to Bellsat, Golant, Fowey, PL23 1LA, so that it can be collected and taken to Carol by her son. Our thoughts and prayers are for her continuing recovery.

Annual Parish Church Meeting: This was held via Zoom on Tuesday 9th March, and, in view of the very sad news above, I agreed to join Greg as Churchwardens for 2021 – 2022, and we were both duly elected. Linda Brice and Alex Noble were elected on to the PCC.

Parish Electoral Roll: Carol was in charge of updating the electoral roll, and we are having to re-create the register from scratch. The qualifications for being on the Parish Electoral Roll are that the person should be baptised, and either be resident in the parish, or habitually attend public worship at St Sampson's Church. Thus second home owners who come to church when resident are eligible for the electoral roll. It is in our interests to have a healthy number on the roll, as this affects our representation at Deanery Synod, and it also make us look a thriving parish! The advantages of being on the electoral roll are the right to vote for Churchwardens and PCC members, and also the right to be buried or have ashes interred in the churchyard! If you would like to be on the electoral roll, then please email me (simon@golant.net) and I will send you the link and further (simple) instructions.

As the church begins to open for services, some volunteer cleaners would be a tremendous help. There are already several on the rota, so it is neither a frequent nor arduous task, but, as they say, many hands do make light work. Please contact either Sheila or Penny White if you are willing to help.

Choir: Our small church does not permit live choir practices, so we are continuing with Zoom rehearsals, although with the spring weather it may be possible to have the occasional outside practice. After Easter we shall be rehearsing *Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo*, an entertaining and short cantata by Michael Flanders and Joseph Horowitz. If anyone would like to join in these practices (Mondays, 5.15 – 5.55pm), please contact sheilagolant@btinternet.com

Church Shed: As I write this, the old shed is in pieces and consumed by fire (it didn't take much persuasion), and the new one about to rise from the ashes, thanks to Andrew van den Broek. Thanks are also owed to Gill Paull, who has power-washed the church path and cleared the ever-spreading moss.

Services: I have saved the best news till last: the church will be open for Sunday services from Easter Day! This service is already fully booked (socially distanced seating reduces capacity significantly), but future services are open to all. The pattern of services will be as before, namely:

First, second, fourth, fifth Sundays:	9.30am Holy Communion
Third Sundays:	6.00pm Evening Prayer

Thus, apart from Sunday 18th April and Sunday 16th May, when there will be a 6.00pm Evening Prayer (this will be a short service of 30 minutes maximum), all other Sunday services are a 9.30am Holy Communion. It will be wonderful to see people in church again, even in masks and socially distanced!

Simon Funnell



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A carpet of celandines and numerous cheering daffodils in the churchyard added to the glorious spring flowers appearing all over Golant.



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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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‘Hen Party Diaries’ ‘One and the Same, or Two of a Kind?’

Avian-loving readers may be interested in the turn of events which transpired since my article in the last issue about our visiting white pheasant at *South Torfrey Cottage*. It appeared to be an albino hen, so I had named her **Ali**.

A few days after publication, I received an email from Gill Paull, who said that her father Clarence also had a white pheasant visiting him at *Lamhibbet*. (Right)



Clarence has named his bird **White Nut**. So, are she & **Ali** ‘One and the Same, or Two of a Kind’?

A cunning plan was hatched, which I entitled ‘**Hen Party Diaries**’ (as they/she invariably appear(s) accompanied by a few girlfriends), with the idea that Gill and I would keep a shared daily record of sightings at each venue. The thought was that if we were both to get an appearance at a matching time of day, then they are indeed different birds!

Believe it or not, we have kept this up for nearly 8 weeks, and NOT ONCE have our sighting times matched! The nearest we got was once on **February 22nd**, when I spied our special bird at 5.30pm, and Clarence recorded his sighting at 6pm. So the next question was, if it was the same pheasant, could she have travelled between the two venues in 30 minutes?

The local Ordnance Survey map would suggest that the distance, as the crow flies, is barely a mile between our properties, and is mainly over fields. On Googling pheasant behaviour, I note that they can, if startled, achieve a flight speed of 38-48 mph, though there is no reference to their walking speed! So, it is a possibility...

Since February 22nd, I have had no sightings at all of **Ali/White Nut** or any other hens, and Gill and I have assumed that perhaps they have been searching for a nesting site. *Lamhibbet*, being well away from the road, would be the safer venue, and Clarence has in the past noticed a number of pheasant nests.

Clarence & Gill have been putting out bird seed regularly near the house, and over time, the male & female pheasants have become happy visitors to this avian restaurant, often appearing for breakfast, lunch & supper. Lately, the hens have missed some of these meals. What were they up to?

March 5th:- That evening, **White Nut** appeared for supper at Clarence’s with ten of her girl friends. Gill reported,

‘We decided that they are sorting out their nests by day, not stopping for lunch. By evening they are starving! Alternatively, they are keeping out of the way from the ‘boys’ continually pestering them!’

Could this have been the ultimate Hen Party?! (below)



Pheasant breeding starts in March, and can extend into June, which was when I wrote (in Issue 58) about the hen pheasant nesting in St Sampson’s graveyard (below, left), where she was inadvertently discovered by the chap carrying out the early June strim. The area was cordoned off, and the hen spent the next 20 days sitting on her clutch, but no sighting was made of any eggs hatching.

And then, towards the end of our Diary records...

March 16th:- Gill reported, ‘*Not one, but two... and dad hadn’t been drinking!*’ Yes, two white pheasants appeared together. So where does that leave us?! **Two of a kind?**

March 22nd:- Gill wrote, ‘*They have added another conundrum to the saga.*’ She reported looking out of her bedroom window and seeing a white pheasant sitting on the hedge!!

So the question now posed is: Could this have been **Ali**, **White Nut** or a third member of the white pheasant gang? Watch this space...!!

Gillie Harris

A Grave Tale

This well-hidden hen pheasant was discovered nesting in the graveyard six years ago, having laid 13 eggs!



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The Tale or Tail of Mr Percival Pig

Thelma and Doris were two pigs who lived on Golant farm. Thelma was eating chips wrapped in 'The Western Moaning News', and spotting the 'Personal' pages she called Doris.

Western Moaning News	
<p>Personal</p> <p>GOOD looking blonde, curvy lady, mature years, NS, GSOH, seeks gentleman for walks and romantic evenings in. Maybe more. BOX 41846</p> <p>Animal</p> <p>CHIRPY chicken, nice plumage, sharp beak looking for cockerel with loud voice for early morning strutting. COOP 234567</p>	<p>BILLY well horned goat seeks nanny for discreet butting. Vegetarian; likes nibbling tasty shoots. HERD 23456</p> <p>ROGER rabbit, own burrow, enjoys digging. WLTM doe eyed doe. BURROW 21783</p>

"Curvy means fat!" giggled Doris.

"Mature means old!" squealed Thelma.

"Betcha the blonde is out of a bottle," grunted Doris.

Spotting the 'Animal' section, they wrote their advert:

Porky sisters are looking for a mate
Snorting and grunting by the five bar gate.
What we want is a cuddly boar
For love and kisses and maybe more!

They sent it to 'The Western Moaning News' and were surprised to receive a reply from Mr. Percival Pig. He described himself as a Saddle-back, GSOH and fancies the challenge of 'Maybe more'.

"He sounds like fun," they chimed.

They showed Percy around and invited him in. Percy looked at their pigsty and said,

"I'll only be able to get my snout in. I have exceptionally large shoulders."

"And quite a big backside," chuckled Thelma.

"And large dangly things," thought Doris.

Percy invited them to his sty. They "Ooohed" and "Aaaahed" over the décor but Percy tired of hearing them on 'Maximum Jaw Exercise' - MJE- and sent them packing for his afternoon snooze.

Percy loved rooting; excellent nutrition but ruins the grass. Rooting was curtailed by a nose ring; the girls were envious of Percy's new piercing.

Villagers brought apples to the farm; some past their best had fermented into cider.

"Girls," said Percy, "Fancy coming round to my place tonight? I've got some special apple juice."

They looked at each other, giggled, squealed, and said, "OK, Saturday at seven."

They applied mud make-up and curled each other's tails to look their best.

Later, squealing and grunting could be heard coming from Percy's sty. Mr. Goat gave Mrs. Goat a nudge with his horns; Mrs. Goat replied with a wink.

In the morning Thelma and Doris were woken by church bells.

"Ooh," said Thelma, "Wedding bells - I think I might have got married."

"Yes," said Doris, not to be outdone, "I think I've been on honeymoon."

The girls giggled and chatted which woke Percy.

"With you on MJE and those bells ringing, how can I get my beauty sleep?"

Thelma replied, "Who's Mr. Grumpy now? You were quite jolly last night."

"Last night was last night," said Percy grumpily. "And whoever is ringing number two bell, is making a right pig's ear of it!"

They squealed with laughter. Percy had a thumping headache and told them to leave him in peace.

Thelma and Doris grew considerably and lost interest in Percy. Three months, three weeks and three days later, the girls each had eight piglets. They were exhausted but texted Percy to tell him he was a daddy sixteen times over. Percy was some proud and texted back, "CU next summer girls; maybe more?"

Percy Thrower, alias Greg White



Well, Spring seems to be here at last, and we should soon be able to get out on the River again.

Boatwatch has been planning the activities that we believe will be possible this year, and here is a summary.

Boatwatch Hut

The failed rendering on the Hut has been replaced, and external painting is about to be done. We should also have the new roof covering in place soon. The inside of the Hut has been stripped out and the very damp furniture and wallboards, etc. disposed of. Once the Hut has dried out, it will be painted internally and equipment replaced ready for the Hut to be put back into action. The Boatwatch Committee is planning for a grand re-opening (as far as that is possible within the Covid guidance at the time) prior to an evening flotilla outing on 13th July.

Boatwatch Get-Togethers

The Covid restrictions will not, of course, allow the normal Spring Get-Together to be held, and so the first time we think we can get together will be at the Hut opening in July. We hope that the relaxation in restrictions will allow a quayside buffet, and that we can welcome those joining the flotilla and others who aren't doing that, but would normally attend our get-togethers.

Our plan for flotilla meetings is to have one on 13th July and one on 10th August, both being evenings with big high tides.

For the autumn, we are hoping that we can get together somehow for a proper face to face AGM with speaker. That, of course, is not until November, and we hope that gatherings will have become possible by then.

Boatwatching

In the meantime, we will continue to report topics of interest through the Golant Boat Owners Association Facebook site, and will continue to publish monthly videos of the state of boats in the Pill, the River and on the frapes.

Returning to the River

Many of you may not have been able to get to your boat for a long period, and it may not have been possible for you to get winter maintenance done. So please remember to check your boats thoroughly before venturing out.

Let's keep safe from all the hazards currently about.

David Bonsall, Chairman, Golant Boatwatch

Golant Quay Users Association

We have managed to get another 'derelict' boat and its dinghy that was outside the pub sold and removed from the Pill. However, with the current lockdown in place, we are having to hold off from pushing forwards with our plans to persuade other owners to remove their boats. This can only happen when it is safe for owners to travel here, and if they won't, then we will cut the offending craft up and remove them.

It looks as if we will have to hold our AGM sometime in May via emails again. This will involve sending out the relevant reports and committee re-election notices together with the accounts. It worked last year, so we hope members will participate in on-line voting again.

Happy boating.

Peter Edwards, Chairman GQUA

Golant Walking Group

With the relaxation of lockdown restrictions from the 29th March, we can resume our programme of walks.

Our first two outings are planned for the end of March and another in mid-late April.

We continue to be restricted in respect of numbers and will walk in groups of no more than 6 per group until such time as this restriction is removed.

If you would like to know more please contact us:
anne.bonsall@btinternet.com

Anne Bonsall

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

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(out of office hours transferred to Duty Officer)

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Golant Summer Produce & Craft Show 2021

It is every difficult to know in the present pandemic whether or not we shall be able to hold our annual show in the normal way. However, we are trying to remain positive and hope that we can. The date will be **Saturday 14th August** in the Village Hall.

Around June 21st the committee will decide if it is possible to do this, which will depend on Government advice at the time. If not, we plan to do a virtual 'Show' as last year, with a few categories which will be chosen nearer the time.

Below is the Schedule for this year's show, based on the one published for the 'non event' last year, but with a few changes.

Note that the limerick this year is a real fun one, "My pumpkin developed a rash....."

We would like to encourage you all to enter. Since our last show, we have had many new people come to our village and we would love to receive entries from you. There is even a cup for the best new entrant- i.e. for an exhibit from anyone who has never entered anything in the show before. Speaking of cups, could the winners from 2019 please return them to Alastair & Viviane Barr by 7th August.

When the show is confirmed, the full programme (with recipes) and entry forms will be on the village website- golant.net and these will also be delivered to each house in July.

Janet Gore

Schedule of Classes

1) Classes for Vegetables

- A) 3 Tomatoes
- B) 3 Onions
- C) 4 Potatoes
- D) 2 Cucumbers
- E) 6 Runner Beans
- F) 4 French Beans
- G) Longest Runner Bean
- H) 3 Stalks of different herbs in a vase
- I) 3 Beetroot
- J) 3 Shallots
- K) 3 Courgettes
- L) 1 plate mixed vegetables, 4 items - one of each
- M) 3 sweet peppers
- N) Heaviest Marrow

2) Class for Fruit

- A) A plate of soft fruit

3) Classes for Flowers

- A) 6 Sweet Pea stems
- B) Vase of mixed flowers
- C) 3 Dahlia stems
- D) 3 Stems of Fuchsia in a vase
- E) Foliage arrangement (no flowers)
- F) A Sunflower in a vase
- G) 3 Rose blooms
- H) 1 Hydrangea Head
- I) 1 Potted Orchid

4) Floral Art

- A) Petite arrangement in a teacup
- B) Corsage for a Wedding
- C) "Party Time" 30cms x 30cms max

5) Children's Classes - under 10

- A) Make and decorate a Bookmark
- B) Chocolate crispy cakes

6) Children's Classes - 10 to 16

- A) 4 slices of Coconut Ice, **use recipe provided**
- B) A poem titled "Inspiration in Lockdown"

7) Home Made Jams and Preserves

- A) Jams/Jellies in a clear glass jar
- B) Marmalade in a clear glass jar
- C) Chutney in a clear glass jar
- D) Lemon or Orange Curd in a clear glass jar

8) Cookery

- A) 3 Florentines, **use recipe provided**
- B) 3 Fruit Muffins
- C) A Cake to include Chocolate and Raspberries in finished product
- D) Savoury Loaf (not machine made)

9) Craft Classes

- A) A Handcrafted Wooden item
- B) A Handcrafted Metal Item
- C) An item of Patchwork, either by hand or machine
- D) An item of Embroidery, either by hand or machine
- E) A Fabric Wreath
- F) A knitted or crocheted item
- G) Something New from Old, please give details on exhibit
- H) Any other craft not included in the Craft Classes

10) A Piece of Artwork

- A) A picture of a garden, any medium except a photograph
- B) A greetings card, any medium
- C) Photograph 'Water's Edge' 7 x 5 inches max and not mounted
- D) Decorate an empty bottle

11) Booze

- A) Homemade flavoured Spirit
- B) Homemade Cider/Beer/Wine

12) Limerick

Complete the following –
 "My pumpkin developed a rash....."

17 April 2021 at 2.30pm

**AGM followed by a Talk: 'Fruit Schooners' by Roger Barrett (postponed from February 2020)
Via Zoom For members only**

Built for speed, the clipper fruit schooners of the nineteenth century were the ocean racing yachts of the day, carrying home cargoes of highly perishable fruit from the Azores, the Mediterranean and the Bahamas. For many years Salcombe and its neighbour Brixham in the South Hams of Devon, were the dominant players but, in the later days of the trade, Fowey established a reputation for producing fast fruit schooners such as the Jane Slade and Silver Spray.



Roger Barrett is the curator of both Salcombe Maritime Museum and Salcombe Lifeboat Museum and the author of a number of books on local maritime history including 'Salcombe: Schooner Port', which tells the story of the Salcombe Schooners and the trades they engaged in.

Joining the Fowey Harbour Heritage Society costs just £10 and although this will be our last talk of the season, membership will allow access to this excellent Zoom talk and you will receive a copy of our annual publication, the Barquentine. Back copies of the Barquentine can be viewed on the website and are available to purchase for £5.

For further details, please visit our website or contact andrew@gardner.be; <https://www.foweyharbourheritage.org.uk>

Torfrey Owners and Occupiers

From Norman feudal times, all land was owned by the Monarch who then granted fiefs or estates to their tenants-in-chief, the nobility, who in turn granted divisions of these lands to lesser nobles and so on down to the local Lord of the Manor. It was at this level that individual farms, fields and houses were let to 'ordinary people' as tenants who in turn could sub-let as well as employ others to work on their holding.

Right up into the 1900s, it can be difficult to distinguish between ownership, tenant, and actual occupier of the land. I have tried to deduce which is which from the documents I have found – and I accept that I may have made incorrect assumptions from time to time!

The early documents referring to **Torfrey** cover a much larger area than we would nowadays recognise. For hundreds of years there were – and still are - working farms on the land between the village of Golant and the road on the high ground running past Castledore. *Leyonne, Wringford, Lawhibbet* and *South Torfrey* were all farms included in the 'Torfrey Estate'. *North Torfrey* was also listed with these until gradually over time it lost its fields and the farmhouse evolved into *Torfrey House*.

Tywardreath Prior Manor

Tywardreath Priory was established in 1088 by the Cardinham family. It received many gifts of land in Cornwall and beyond in exchange for the monks to sing Masses and pray for the souls of the Donors. Part of St Sampson Parish including **Torfrey** was just such a gift, coming from the Cardinham.

It was lumped together with sundry other places by the Priory for administrative purposes in a new Manor of Tywardreath Prior. These included tenements (a cottage usually with a small area of land, a field, a garden and possibly an orchard) in St Austell, St Endellion, St Enoder, St Sampson and Golant, Lanlivery, St Martin by Looe and Menheniot.

The first specific mention of **Torfrey** that I can trace is around the Dissolution of Tywardreath Priory in Tudor times, in 1534, when Edmund Colquyte is accused of detaining deeds to land in '**Torrfrý**'.

Sue Reardon

*This is the first of a number of articles about the history of the **Torfrey** part of Golant, thoroughly researched by Sue. More to follow! Ed*

Village Hall Committee

Committee Report 2021

The past year has been disrupted by the Government forced closure, and owing to the Coronavirus, further restricted Village Hall events. A thank you goes to the UK Government for their financial support through closure.

We had brief openings following strict rules with a couple of films at Christmas & coffee mornings. Thinking 'outside the box' and to lift our community spirits, we held our hilarious virtual egg roll on Easter Day and projected music over Golant on NHS Thursday clapping nights. Again from the Village Hall on VE Day, 1940s music sang out over the village, creating a great atmosphere.

Carol & Fayre have fronted the Village Hall Committee with organising fortnightly soup days for the over 75s, giving door-step delivery. (*See below*)

The pop-up film on the village green was much enjoyed yet again with *Pirates of the Caribbean* and villagers in fancy dress made it even more fun. GRADS Christmas performances were sadly missed. Our thriving Village Hall keeps on providing opportunities for people to get involved with.

On to the Hall itself – the building continues to be improved year on year. Fayre, our Treasurer & bookings manager has meticulously and superbly updated the Fire Risk Assessment and Health & Safety, Strategic Plans etc. We have updated our audio system and replaced the aged computer with a super new one.

In 2021 we are focusing our attention on an improvement upgrade of the toilet & kitchen facilities and to the improvement of the heating system.

So, all that is left for me to say is a HUGE thank you to all members of the Village Hall Committee and to our wonderful parishioners who so generously support all that we do.

Paul Meredith
Chairman, Village Hall Committee

Super Soupers

The Village Hall soup delivery to residents of the village was a huge success. We delivered warming soup in rain, ice, mist, wind and an occasional bright sky, 150 soups to 18 homes over the course of three months.

We had many messages of appreciation from recipients for continuing the Golant community spirit during lockdown.

It was great fun doing it, and I have taken a photo of the Super Soupers prior to their last delivery (*right*).

Well done to Carol for being Master Soup chef. Well done to the deliverers for their smiling service.

Fayre Hardy



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Nature Notes

Spring has arrived tentatively, the evenings are getting lighter, and the clocks about to go forward, and we complete an unimagined year of restrictions. I think nature has benefited greatly from our enforced confinement, with possibly the towns and cities seeing a bigger change in the variety and boldness of the wildlife. Our wildlife cams have picked up some interesting things - including a strange variety of two legged, two wheeled creatures.....

We have learnt to watch more - the very first tiny leaf coming out (hazel) the first blossoms - Almond, followed by Blackthorn. I was walking the other day and heard loud buzzing way above my head - it was bees, way up in the flowering willow, something we mostly overlook, but as valuable an early source of nectar as the flowers of ivy are a late one.



Skylarks are way up in the sky, invisible but singing almost constantly, and we have had a Thrush singing its heart out from dawn to dusk since the middle of Feb. We occasionally see the Barn Owl at dusk as it seems to commute down the barn field towards the track. There is definitely an increase in the volume and variety of birdsong - it's easy to forget that it is actually pretty fleeting - after the middle of May, beginning of June, the volume dials right down, after nesting and fledging, so it's quite a precious moment of nature's year.

Out on the water, the Curlews, Redshanks & Green-shanks have almost all disappeared to their breeding grounds - they should reappear around the beginning of July..... Serena the seal is still around -we don't see her that often now we are not on the water every day, but she seems to be okay.

We also spotted a Redshank-like bird on the way to Lerryn - it was a similar size and shape, but more grey and without the distinctive red legs. Could it be a Knot? Or a Ruff? It was too far away to get a decent picture so the mystery continues. There are a few Shelduck around; they are pairing up, and 'whistling' to each other, and some of the swans are pairing - we saw one pair building a nest alongside the office at Sawmills, but don't know how long that will last!

We also uncovered the bench at the top of the steps along the downs - just as Penny and Jago came past, so they 'reopened' it! (right)

The wood group has now stopped meeting until the autumn, although members are still welcome to help themselves - we have just got a smallish charcoal burner - in order to use up

some of the brash, and hopefully make some charcoal for summer barbecues (if that isn't optimism I don't know what is!), and possibly some artist's charcoal too. As with everything else, it's a learning curve, so don't expect too much just yet!

We had good news in February - we won Gold in the *Cornwall Tourism Awards for Ethical, Responsible, Sustainable Tourism*, which was a huge shock, considering the other amazing business taking part. Paddle Cornwall also won Silver for Best Experience, so Golant is well and truly represented!

We have just learnt that we have been put through to the finals of the *South West Tourism Awards* for the same category, which is wonderful, as we not only represent Cornwall, but are one of just three business chosen from the area which covers Bath & Somerset, across to Wiltshire and Dorset, as well as Devon & Cornwall.



Karen Wells-West



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Golant Gleanings

THANKS

Anne McLeod always knew, having lived in Golant for over 50 years, that she was living in a friendly and caring community.

However, after her recent spell in hospital over Christmas and the New Year, she had her ideas confirmed in many different ways. She would like to thank everybody who has been so very kind to her since her discharge. She has been blown away by the love, care and support that has encompassed her like a very warm blanket.

FAREWELL

At the beginning of March, we said a sad farewell to Dai & Sue Thomas, who after six happy and active years living in Golant, left our village and moved to Wales to be closer to their family.

We wish them both much happiness, and we're sure we'll hear all about their new life, as they hope to be back for holidays at some point in the future!



A sprightly Roger Tabb, the day before his 89th Birthday!

Peter Edwards' re-organised Birthday Bash

19th June at the *Fisherman's* (date for your diary)

Much against my better judgement (bah humbug!) I was persuaded to re-organise my 70th birthday bash when it had to be cancelled last year because of Covid and the then restrictions.

Little did we know, and still do not, just how long the restrictions were going to last.

So, if in the event that we are allowed to hold a birthday bash, then you are all invited and very welcome to come and help me celebrate my 70+1 birthday.

The band and food are booked, so we just have to hope and pray.

I guess we will be ready to celebrate anything by then, so if allowed it should be a great occasion regardless of my birthday.

Peter

BACKALONG

Under the 1870 Education Act, all schools had to record important daily happenings and results of school inspections in Log Books. 143 years ago this month, our village school recorded the following information, which I have taken from John Jenkin's little book ***A School with a View***, which is a short history of **St Sampson's School**.

The School's first inspection came on April 9th 1878, just over a year since it was opened on 12th March 1877:-

This little school promises well. The children are orderly and attentive and their attainments are creditable for a first Inspection. Writing is rather a weak point. A supply of maps is required. I hope that next year the school will qualify for the Grant for Music.

John confirms that the maps came in May, but no later report of a Music Grant is mentioned! He does record that the Log Book for that year reported that, prior to this first inspection, "March 1878 saw the delivery of 24 Bibles and 24 Testaments, very necessary books in a school dominated by the Church, but, one might think, of limited use by children with limited reading ability."

Related to this information, John later writes: "The annual Government Inspection was not the only examination during the year. Being a Church school, there was also the Diocesan Inspection carried out by a clergyman. Children were expected to know a fair bit about the Bible and parts of the Book of Common Prayer, especially the Catechism and the Lord's Prayer. In 1880 the Diocesan Inspector expressed some concern about irregular attendance, was reasonably satisfied about Biblical knowledge, but recorded that "... children are orderly and well-behaved but rather unintelligent."

Gillie Harris

ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings/communication:

We are still following the guidelines provided by the Association of Local Councils to hold our meetings on ZOOM. And even though we are getting better at it, there can still be issues, as we found out in the last meeting when the Councillors ‘couldn’t enter!’ But it was soon resolved, and I will try to overcome any problems for the next meeting, which may (or may not) be the last one in this format. Don’t forget, the meetings are open to the public and anyone can attend. But you will also find the detailed ‘minutes’ (covering all of the topics we discuss) on the Parish Council web site:

www.stsampsonparishcouncil.org.uk

Main Car Park:

Please ensure that you have obtained your parking permit for the year. We are currently waiting for new signage to be erected by Alliance parking, but they have confirmed that patrols will be underway shortly.

We need to upgrade the current ticket machine. This is driven both by technology and also by Cornwall Council who want any reference to them removed from the tickets. But any attempt to update the machine to recognise credit/debit cards or apple pay etc, is limited by the lack of a telephone signal. So, we need to install a Broadband ‘phone connection to the Boat Hut to link to the machine, if we are to upgrade it. We also need to review our pricing policy, to avoid Golant becoming the ‘cheap’ place to park, when we already have a space issue in the peak months of the Summer.

Village Green Car Park:

As a reminder, the village green car park is essentially for anyone who otherwise does not have access to a car parking space at home. Very occasionally, it may also be available for staff at the pub for specific high tide days when no other village parking is available. But it is not available for the general public and we will re-instate the chain across the entrance when the season picks up again. Because of the poor state of the tarmac entrance, we are planning to re-surface the entrance to this car park, possibly as early as mid-April. More specific dates will follow shortly.

Finances:

We are in good shape, with sufficient funds for current works and still more tucked away in ring fenced reserves for projects that will be required for a variety of projects in the pipeline (like a new playground, upgraded parking machine, remodelling of the closed toilet block, repair and reconstruction of the current toilet block etc). I hope you will have noticed and appreciated the very modest local ‘precept’ on your Council Tax bill. We felt that we shouldn’t call on your natural generosity at this time. The increases were big enough from Cornwall Council anyway!

Planning Applications:

Since the last issue of *The Golant Pill*, we have reviewed and supported the following planning applications:

PA21/1195; PA21/0616; PA21/04320; PA21/01168

Future Dates for Meetings:

Tuesday April 27th & Tuesday May 25th

David Jenkinson, Chairman St Sampson Parish Council

Pill Paparazzi in this issue

LA	Liz Anderson
RA	Robin Anderson
SF	Sheila Funnell
FH	Fayre Hardy
GH	Gillie Harris
PP	Penny Parsons
GP	Gill Paull
KW-W	Karen Wells-West

Paddle Cornwall River Encounters – Getting Ready to Re-open!

With the impending reopening of The Boatshed, the team and I wanted to say hello and to let you know that from 29th March, we will be open for business.

Our café will be offering a take-away service only, from 10am to 4pm, until further notice.

SUP lessons & Kayak tours will be operational from 29th March, whilst observing the current COVID-19 rules for outdoor sporting activities, until further lockdown restrictions are eased.

We are very conscious of the potential parking issues in Golant over the summer months, and we wanted to reassure everyone that we will play our part in assisting with the monitoring of the situation.

When the team first looked at taking over Encounter Cornwall, parking challenges were firmly on our agenda, and in response to that we are in the process of adding guidance notes to our website and booking platform to advise all of our customers that parking is VERY limited in Golant, and that where possible, all guests should either arrange to car share, or plan ahead to be 'dropped off' at their destination.

As part of our business offer, we are also in the process of building car parking bays at *Orchard View* so that some of **OUR** guests can pre-book with us and park and walk down to The Boatshed. We envisage 5-8 bays, which will accommodate the majority of our business footfall, which is great news for the village and our customers.

We hope you will all take the time to stop by and say 'hi' and join us for coffee and cake. We are super excited for the season ahead, which has felt like a long time in the waiting. Clair & Phil are match fit and ready for the water! Ben is joining us full time on 1st April as an instructor, and I will continue to manage the office function.

See you all soon.

Best wishes, Jules, Clair, Phil & Ben

Jules



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Advance Notice

Golant Carnival will be on Saturday July 31st 2021

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

We can but hope...!



We managed to hold another talk via Zoom in February, with Dr Cai Ladd from *Bangor University* on the environmental benefits of Saltmarshes and The Carbon Quest Project. We have saltmarshes in the upper reaches of the estuary; they are found in the waters meandering just downstream from Lostwithiel.

Cai explained that saltmarshes are an important habitat in our fight to tackle climate change and can be up to 4 times more effective in capturing carbon than rainforests. Core samples of sediments collected from Shirehall Moor on the western bank of the river below Lostwithiel, showed over 27% carbon content - the highest found in the Cornish estuaries included in this study!

We are planning to hold our AGM via Zoom on Tuesday 30th March at 7.30pm and 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' about the impacts of plastics in our marine environment. We have already sent out the AGM reports and accounts via email and hope that members will respond via email on committee re-elections etc. so that we can get the AGM business out of the way as quickly as possible.

Long-standing committee member, Terry Eisler, has decided to resign after giving us over 15 years of brilliant service. Terry organised many memorable Xmas supper quizzes and annual boat trips and he and his wife, Sally, very kindly hosted most of our committee meetings, together with regular appearances in their back garden of 'Barry the Badger' - he will be sorely missed (and so will Terry!). If you are interested in supporting our group by becoming a committee member, please do get in touch.
friendsofthefowey@gmail.com

We plan to explore what other talks we can hold via Zoom before, hopefully, we are able to plan public meetings again.

Peter Edwards



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NB: Please note that as **Luxe Laundry** now has a new owner, the telephone number has changed from that shown in our previous issues.

Ed.



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The headings for the April & May 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

Dear old Mother Nature 'ev come up trumps again by leaving the door wide open and letting the East wind in, drying the ground up handsome. This is just what was needed to be able to turn over the vegetable plots and to prepare the ground for this seasons crops. By rights all this should 'ev bin done last backend so that Jack Frost could get to work on the turned soil and help to break up the lumps in the soil. But better late than never, 'cos there's still plenty of time for Mr. Jack Frost to have a say in what's going on.

The old saying of April showers baint always zackly true, as this month can be a brave old dry time and 'tis still plenty early enough to teel many seeds yet awhile. If'n you'm wanting early teddies then you'm able to aive in a few rows any-time now. Put the tubers about 6 inches below ground, with the cheens uppermost and 16 inches apart in the row, with the rows another 16 inches apart.

The middle of April is a brave good time to teel a few herb seeds like Chives, Coriander, Dill, Fennel, Parsley and Sage. 'Tis still plenty early enough to put any seeds outside, so put the seeds in a seed tray indoors if'n you baint got a greenhouse, and these plants if looked after will last for years, except for the parsley which is best treated as an annual.

Towards the end of the month, then those of you who do dearly like your hanging baskets and large tubs then get them filled up with bedding plants. 'Tis far too early for anything to go outside, so be sure to keep them all undercover so that when you think that all risk of frost has passed you should have a brave show to put out.

One little job people do tend to forget is to deadhead the daffodils and tulips. 'Tis important to leave them to die back on their own accord but if'n you'm some impatient to see the back of them once the flowering is over, then lift the bulbs and store them in a net or a pair of mother's old tights and hang them in the shed where they can dry off handsome. But do make certain sure that they tights be old ones because the missus can get a bit teasy if'n they tights be one of her better pairs!!

When we move into May 'tis a bit of a shaker to realise that 'tis only about seven weeks to the longest day, and I've only just got used to the clocks changing!! So 'tis all systems go to get the rest of the seeds planted, check to see if any of they teddies planted earlier on have surfaced, and if so, then earth them up and put some more granular fertiliser around them. Hungry things are teddies!!

Tomato plants will need potting on into their final growing spot, and if that is going to be a grow bag, why doan't ee stand the growbag on its end and cut off the end of the bag up in the air. Then plant one tomato in the bag on its own. This will give the plant plenty of room to sink its roots deep down into the bag, and believe me, 'twill by the end of the season have filled the bag from top to toe. You'll need to pierce the bag half a dozen times near the bottom to allow the water to drain.



Nort

Auntie Paddy's Recipe Corner

At last the evenings are drawing out and we will soon be in summertime. We have all had a bumpy ride this past year, and, I fear, we have not seen the end of the pandemic. Let us still look forward to warmer weather and, hopefully, being able to see our friends & families. Here, in anticipation, is a teatime treat- a recipe for Easter Biscuits.

Easter Biscuits

(makes about 16)

115g/4oz softened Butter (room temperature)
 85g/3oz/6 tbsp Caster Sugar, plus extra for sprinkling
 One Egg
 200g/7oz Plain Flour
 ½ tsp Mixed Spice
 ½ tsp Ground Cinnamon
 55g/2oz Currants
 15g/½ oz chopped Mixed Peel
 1-2 tbsp Milk

1. Pre-heat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas Mark 6
2. Line two baking sheets with baking parchment.
3. Beat the butter & sugar by hand or in a food processor.
4. Separate the egg and add the yolk to the butter & sugar mix. Scrape down with a plastic spatula to make sure it mixes well.
5. Add the flour & spices, then add sufficient milk to make a softish dough.
6. Add the currants & peel in a short burst – just enough to incorporate them, but not so much that they are too broken up.
7. Turn onto a lightly floured board and knead the dough lightly to draw it together.
8. Roll out to 5mm/¼" thick, then cut out using a 5cm/2" fluted biscuit cutter.
9. Arrange on the sheets and cook for 10 minutes.
10. Beat the egg white and brush gently on the biscuits.
11. Sprinkle with caster sugar and return to the oven for 10 minutes or until golden. Cool on a wire tray.

Paddy Shelley



RA

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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***** NB: For the present, we are not offering printed issues by post. *****

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 Safe Harbour Inn*

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THE NEXT COPY DATE

Please note that the **Copy Date** for the
June/July Issue is

Wednesday 26th May

Articles, letters & news can be sent by
 email to:

thegolantpill@gmail.com

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

VILLAGE EVENTS



EASTER FUNDAY

Sunday, 4th April



It is a great shame but, for the second year running, we will not be able to hold our normal fun and games at the *Fisherman's Arms* on Easter Sunday. This means that Paul and Greg will be like Portsmouth F C in the FA Cup and be the longest holders of the Golant Easter Egg trophy! Unfortunately, yet again, we will not be able to hold an egg throwing competition for the Ladies for a new trophy that has been kindly provided by Graham and Ellen Estlick.

However, that does not mean that we cannot get some enjoyment from the weekend.

You will see below that the Village Hall Committee will be organising a **Grand Easter Egg Treasure Hunt** and it really looks as though it will be fun.

As well as this we would like to run a **Decorated Egg Competition** and an **Easter Bonnet Competition**. Because of current Covid restrictions we will not be able to do this as a group event, so we are hoping that those who would like to participate, decorate their eggs and assemble their Easter bonnets before 2.00 p.m. on the day. We ask that when they have done this that they place their entries at the entrance to their properties and visible from the road so that Gail and I may drive around the village to take pictures of them all.

It will be important that every entry is identified as to the creator and which category (see below) that it is entered for. Please write your name, class and category on a piece of paper and tuck it underneath so that we may be able to log the details as we go round.

For those who may not be here on the day, but who would still like to enter, photographic entries will be accepted by 2.00 p.m. to the e-mail below. Please identify the entrant, category and class on submission (but, please, not in the picture).

There will be two classes in each category. The two categories are:-

1. Decorated Eggs, and
2. Easter Bonnets.

The classes will be:-

Adult and Junior (11 and under).

We will have prizes for the first, second and third in each category as decided by the judges.

Maurie & Gail Parsons

Golant Easter Egg Hunt

(organised by the Village Hall Committee on behalf of Easter Funday)

20 numbered wooden egg shapes, beautifully decorated by Graham Estlick, will appear around the village on Good Friday and remain in situ until Easter Sunday afternoon. You are invited to look out for these eggs when about on your walks, make a note of where you spot each egg, and its colours, on the entry form and then bring your completed form to the Village Green on **Easter Sunday** between 2pm & 3pm. There will be chocolatey rewards for all participants with successfully completed (or nearly completed) forms. If you can't manage to come to the green on the day, then Nick is happy for you to drop your forms through the pub letter box.

Entry forms (and a map showing the boundaries of where to look) will be sent out via Maurie Mail or can be obtained from Carol Gabb: cagabb23@gmail.com

Have Fun!

Eggs will be out for spotting between Good Friday and Easter Sunday

STAY SAFE! Please observe current COVID restrictions, and be alert for traffic at all times.



*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 June/July Issue is **Wednesday 26th May**.