

# The Golant Pill

taken every two months...

## Shed not a Tear...



Seen from the Middle Churchyard, on a rare sunny May day, the new shed is nicely nestled.



The partially painted shed, captured on the same glorious day, in the Lower Churchyard.

...for the old shed, for it was damp, cramped, the doors would not shut, and, although it had served us well, its time had come. The wonder was that it was still standing, as when John Varco kindly encouraged it to fall, its collapse was spectacularly rapid. The ensuing bonfire was equally impressive, and it was fortunate that we had forewarned the Fire Brigade of the conflagration.

We had been planning to replace the shed for several years, and lockdown, of course, has made fund-raising impossible. So the very generous donation by the Parish Council was greatly appreciated, and it enabled us to plan, begin and complete the project more quickly than we had dared to hope.

The real thank you, though, is to Andrew van den Broek, who turned our vague sketches into reality, enlarged the footprint, and, with his customary expertise, has given us a robust and capacious building. An interior skin will fight the damp (not that it rains much in Cornwall!), and one side is lined with shelves. We plan to fit a solar-powered light inside, which will be a huge improvement.

The painting team of Greg, Penny and Simon has been hard at work and the inside of the shed is now gleaming white, and ready to receive back the extra chairs, flower arranging equipment, churchyard maintenance tools, extra glasses, Christmas Tree base, and all the other strange items necessary for the running of a busy Parish Church.

As you will see from the photographs, the new shed nestles into the lower churchyard most satisfactorily, despite its cathedral-like interior. The dreadful May weather has delayed the painting of the outside of the whole building, but by the time you read this it should melt even more into the background, with its timbers painted a tasteful Forest Green. We hope it will adorn the lower churchyard for many years to come, and, when you are next walking by the church, do stroll down to the lower graveyard and see for yourself – it will be worth the walk.

## FROM THE EDITOR

**E**arly in May a year ago, we enjoyed the village's carefully organised and well supported celebrations for VE Day, which helped to fill the June/July issue with colour! May 2020 was also one of the sunniest on record, so different to this year. After one of the driest Aprils, we're now having one of the wettest Mays, both records, and as I write this, the rain is lashing down (again), the wind is howling and we'll be lighting our fire again this evening for warmth and cheer!!

In between the wet times, two village buildings have risen to new glory with much hard work, one having been replaced and the other renovated. Our cover story describes the new shed at St Sampson's, and on page 8 you can admire the new look of the GBOA's Boatwatch Hut.

The past two months have been quiet in Golant, apart from a virtual version of the Easter Funday, carefully organised by Maurie & Gail Parsons to be safe and socially distanced. Their report, with photos, can be enjoyed on page 9, and other pictures are scattered through the issue.

Easter eggs and Easter chicks on bonnets are not the only ovoid & avian images in this issue; on page 6, those readers interested in my continuing saga of our white pheasant can spy real ones, and in addition, there are further chicks on the church page!

The Walking Group members have again put on their boots, with the easing of restrictions, and enjoyed three varied walks (page 7).

Meanwhile, also on page 7, you can enjoy another of the entries for Maurie's 'Happiness' competition set in February. Last time, we included Greg's winning story, and promised to pop in another well-received entry within any space left this time. The real 'Miss Muddyboots' is now revealed!

Living as we personally do up at the Torfrey end of the village, Sue's continuing article, so thoroughly researched, about its owners in the 17th century, is particularly fascinating to us. (See page 10) She has included a text extract of a 1626 Century will, not easy to read, with its extremely variant spelling, but which nevertheless gives a very personal picture. The Couch family of Torfrey was certainly extremely wealthy!

And finally – our Calendar of Village Events is back!!

*Gillie Harris*

## Report from the Chairman of *The Pill*

We very much hope that this edition will be the last purely on-line version of *The Pill*, as we plan to print the August/September edition as in pre-Covid times. Sincere thanks are owing to Gillie and Mike, who, as Editor and Secretary, have steered the ship through some very uncertain waters.

We gave our advertisers a free year in 2020, and we plan to give our greatly reduced advertising income this year to a local charity, as our costs have been vastly reduced while on-line.

Nevertheless, pages that are used as a reference, such as the back page Calendar, are much more difficult to access quickly while we are in the virtual world.

We are also very pleased that at our AGM we approved a grant of £600 to the U-Turn Round Post Project, which the Heritage Group is in the process of setting up.

Thanks to all our loyal readers, and we hope that in August a hard copy of *The Pill* will be dropping through your letterbox – Indian variant permitting!

*Simon Funnell*

## A Cornish Joke

Two Cornish tin miners were hurrying in opposite directions, heads down in a wild gale, when they bumped into one another.

"Why don't 'ee look about 'ee?"; shouted one.

"You've made my head ring."

"Aw / never," said the other. "That do show un to be empty."

"Dost your head not ring then?"

"No."

"Then that do show un to be cracked!"

*Taken from 'Best Cornish Jokes' Tor Mark Press, Truro  
(Find another one on page 15)*

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It is wonderful to feel that the Golant Heritage Group (GHG) is coming back to life with our new project on Golant and the Land beginning to take shape. For the remainder of this year we plan to mainly concentrate on fact finding and collecting memories and anecdotes before launching community based creative activities early next year, working towards an exhibition in the autumn of 2022. We are on the look out for any photos, maps, documents, stories or items of interest relating to farming/orchards/allotments/woodland/common land etc which will help to build a picture of how the village has made use of the land over time and the interaction between the farms and the people.

With the easing of restrictions and a new project about to launch, now is as good a time as any for people with an interest in Golant's past to become involved! Thus we would like to warmly invite anybody who is curious to find out a bit more about what we do, to join us at our monthly meeting on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm in the village hall** (subject to COVID restrictions having been lifted).

For those who are new to the village, and as a reminder for others, GHG seeks to provide a community-based focus of interest in the history and heritage of Golant village and its surrounding area. Whilst we have a relaxed approach, we do have a formal policy and constitution, and conform to standards and guidelines for heritage groups, with procedures set up under the critical eye of archivist Tamsin Mallett, whose current role is Activity Programme Manager at *Kresen Kernow* in Redruth and who leads the *Cornwall Archive Network* to which GHG belongs.

Although our main aims are to research and record the history of Golant, and to build and maintain an archive in a variety of formats (now mainly material to be uploaded and available through the GHG website), expertise and knowledge are not necessary requirements! We do have members who can offer advice on various skills and strategies e.g. research methods or IT if needed, but mainly all that is required is enthusiasm. It is not all about catalogues and documents; we are also keen to embrace creative opportunities and novel ideas encouraging community involvement. We hold meetings on every second Tuesday of the month where we discuss current projects and initiatives, and share items of interest. In normal times this is sweetened by a cup of coffee/tea and a piece of cake on arrival. And all for FREE!

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> of May Sue Reardon kindly delivered an on-line talk looking at the influences and experiences which led Kenneth Grahame to create *The Wind in the Willows*. Feedback was very complimentary; as usual Sue delivered an interesting and informative talk.

Many people have already generously donated money to the Golant Heritage Group, however, further donations would be gratefully received to aid us in our new project, *Golant and the Land*. These can be made by contacting Fayre Hardy at The Sunday House, tel: 01726 833380 or [fairyhardy@btinternet.com](mailto:fairyhardy@btinternet.com)

*Penny Parsons, Chairman*



GP

More pictures of the prizewinning Bonnets on Easter Sunday, including Penny Parsons wearing hers, whilst also playing safe with her colourful face mask!



GP



GP



GP

## **NEWS FROM ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH**

I am delighted to report that services resumed on Easter Sunday, and we even rang the bells in celebration! Subsequent advice has curtailed this activity, however, as our small belfry does not allow for social distancing while ringing. Nevertheless, Greg chimed the bell 100 times to mark the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh, and tolled the bell a further 100 times on the day of his funeral.

Handbell ringing is not possible, as we need to stand close together, and congregational singing is also still forbidden. Choir, however, has continued via Zoom, and, although this is not ideal, it has given everyone a chance to sing and feel that sense of belonging which this pandemic has eroded. The music Sheila has chosen has been wide-ranging, from *Captain Noah* to sea shanties, folk songs and hymns – a rich and varied diet for music-starved times.

Although congregational singing is not allowed, services have been greatly enhanced by Sheila's playing of appropriate organ music, and her judicious choice of choral and orchestral music which can now be played on CDs, via the church's recently acquired stereo equipment.

As you will have seen on the front page, the real achievement of the past two months has been the destruction of the old church shed, and the erection of a magnificent new shed, thanks to the famed skills of Andrew van den Broek, and a very generous donation from the Parish Council.

While the threat of Coronavirus still hangs over us, the church is remaining locked during the day. When restrictions are eased on 21<sup>st</sup> June, we will review the situation and hope to be able to revert to a more open door policy.

Sunday services are now definitely back, and the pattern is for Holy Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 9.30am, and Evening Prayer, taken by one of the Churchwardens, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 6.00pm. There is plenty of room for social distancing, but please wear a mask: all are most welcome.

*Simon Funnell*

### **A Religious Pheasant Family?!**

Knowing that I've been writing my white pheasant saga over the past few issues, Penny & Greg, who happened to be at St Sampson's on 24th May, spied this lovely hen pheasant (with 'ordinary' markings) and family.

Penny writes: "We saw her and three chicks on a heap of mown grass at the end of the church above the new shed".

The graveyard is naturally an ideal place for a pheasant's nest, with the temporary long grass and peace and quiet. However, the hen which nested here six years ago, mentioned in the last issue, was initially disturbed by the chap who came to strim once the flower seeding was over. Let's hope this hen is not disturbed this year, though now the chicks have hatched, she may well move on...

Have any readers observed any other pheasant families in Golant??

*Gillie Harris*



### **CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **Churchwardens**

Greg White (01726 832315)  
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Golant Website	Debbie Pugh-Jones	07984630662

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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### *Pill Paparazzi in this issue*

<b>RA</b>	Robin Anderson
<b>DB</b>	David Bonsall
<b>AvdB</b>	Andrew van den Broek
<b>GH</b>	Gillie Harris
<b>GP</b>	Gail Parsons
<b>GP</b>	Gill Paull
<b>KW-W</b>	Karen Wells-West
<b>PW</b>	Penny White

## 'Hen Party Diaries' (continued)

### 'One and the Same, or Two of a Kind?'

In the last issue, interested readers will recall that on **March 15th**, Gill Paull reported that Clarence had made an exciting observation in our white pheasant recording saga, seeing: *"Not one, but two,...and dad hadn't been drinking!"*

Gill managed to capture this image of a later return visit by the duo to his garden. So definitely 'two of a kind'.



The next exciting occurrence was recorded by me in our garden on **March 31st**. Ali appeared with a mate, tucking in to dropped bird seed together! (below)



Observing their behaviour was fascinating, as a few days later they arrived through our front gateway, and it was apparent that Ali was still quite nervous. My diary entry to Gill read: *"Her mate is very solicitous, and leads the way, seemingly checking that it is all clear, then turns and calls her forward."* So I named him Sol...

On **April 6th**, the happy couple appeared here no less than four times, enjoying breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and an early supper! Ali seemed to be gaining confidence, and they visited quite often over the following days, but

### Another nest find...

Gill discovered this robin's nest, with newly hatched chicks, in her Dad's raised strawberry bed; an unusual nesting place for a robin...



towards the end of the month she & Sol suddenly stopped coming, briefly reappearing on **May 5th**.

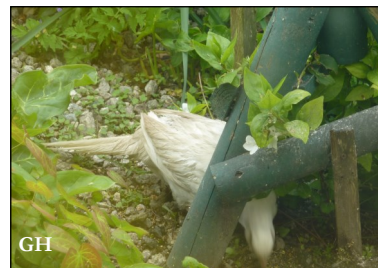
A few days before this, Gill reported that she came across a white pheasant in Clarence's polytunnel with a male, who legged it, *"...but she stood her ground and tried to have a go at me."*

Could this be our same nervous Ali, or was it Clarence's hen, who he had named White Nut?! If the former, had she been absent here whilst searching for a nesting place there? Was this sheltered venue being lined up as her 'des res'?

On **May 9th** I observed this grubby looking white hen, who was alone.

Later that day, Gill also recorded a similar *"less than Persil-white bird."*

A third white hen?



Then, on **May 16th** – Bingo! Gill spied Clarence's white hen in his polytunnel, sitting on her nest hidden amongst stinging nettles. A day later, Gill wrote: *"She's just popped out for some brunch, so I've sneaked in and taken this picture of her eggs".*



The incubation time is 23-27 days. All of us have been wondering what colour the chicks might be. In these 'woke' times, would this be deemed to be racist...?!!



However – it then turned out that this nest had been there longer than Gill had thought, as on **May 21st** she found that all but three of the eggs had hatched!! One chick, very well camouflaged against the earth, as it is not white, can just be spied here near mum.

Gillie Harris

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## The Gardeners

The dazzling light splintering off the surface of the river was at variance with her rather sombre mood. Too much division and polarisation in the world. Too much corporate avarice. Too much gratuitous discontent. Too much Covid. But then, her peripheral vision connects with some abrupt movements. The Gardeners! Just like them to arrive unannounced, unlike next door's gardener, Ollie, who obligingly attends on pre-ordained days and for a specified length of time. That's the other thing, these guys shamelessly dictate their own timings without any reference to her whatsoever. But look at them; all three bedecked in dark livery with stylish flashes of yellow-gold, their bodies taut and impressively honed. An acceptable level of arrogance informs their demeanour, something one must expect from such well-equipped fellows. A captivating sight.

The Gardeners alertly survey the scene, shrewdly assessing where to start, prioritising in what order to tackle jobs. Little time is wasted before they settle on matters and apply themselves diligently to their labours. With admirable zeal they dig and aerate the soil and re-arrange the mulch, scarcely pausing for a moment. Observing The Gardeners, she admires the precision of their movements, their dedication, their efficiency. She is privileged to have them.

Now, though, they do break off briefly, to check their progress she assumes. Oh, and now they are indulging in a bit of orchestrated jousting, each broadly and flamboyantly gesturing to the others while displaying their fine physiques. Fun over, The Gardeners resume their chores. Soon, however, they decide that enough has been achieved and they head to the sink (a rather lovely salt-glazed, rustic affair in glowing earth colours) for a much-needed drink and a wash. Such is the joyous energy of their ablutions that water splashes and cascades all around, creating an impression of there just having been a micro-rainstorm. She cannot suppress her delighted amusement.

Then, as abruptly as they arrived, The Gardeners fly off, their sleek black feathers glistening in the sunlight, water droplets poised on their bright beaks, clearly aiming to reach another lucky garden and enchant its owner with their antics. Now her mood has lightened. Now she is innocently happy. The end . . . . until another day!

Miss Muddyboots, alias April Stead

## Golant Walking Group

Since the easing of Covid-19 restrictions we have enjoyed three walks. April saw us decamp in the car park at Lerryn from which a hearty and excited group set off on a circular walk to St Winnow, a pleasant amble of about 5 miles in fine sunshine. Some of us opted for an easier option and walked along the east side of the river, from which it is possible to enjoy woodland and river views to Cliff.

*(Some happy walkers at St Winnow Point, right)*



In May we made our way to Black Head. By starting from Trenarren we avoided the very steep ascent from Porthpean beach and were in fine spirits as we took in the vistas east and west from the Black Head promontory. It was a warm and sunny day so a visit to the beach at Hallane, where we were joined by a friendly seal, was delightful – even without a swim.



For our most recent walk we travelled to SE Cornwall. The weather outlook was appalling and we drove through torrential rain and multiple floods to our starting point at Maker Church. As we walked down to Empacombe Quay, on through Cremyll and into Mt Edgcumbe Country Park we enjoyed fabulous river views, sight of the Tamar bridges and the city scape of Plymouth. (*Outlook over Plymouth Sound, left*). Walking through open woodland dressed in swathes of bluebells over the cliff above Fort Picklecombe, we watched craft ply across the Sound and looked down to the sheltered village of Cawsand. After 2½ hours and just short of 5 miles, we were back at Maker Church – warm and dry. Following lunch in the excellent café in the Orangery of Mt Edgcumbe, we set off for Rame. The short walk out to the Head took us through a small herd of ponies, and, bathed in faint sunlight, we watched the heavy, black clouds gathering, glowering and raining

down over Downderry, Looe and St Austell Bay. Our views east and west, though restricted, were enough to encourage a return to this 'forgotten' corner of Cornwall. The sun really does shine on Golant Walkers!

We are planning for two walks in June – if you would like to join us or share some of your favourite walks with us, please get in touch at [anne.bonsall@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.bonsall@btinternet.com)

Anne Bonsall



As restrictions are being lifted, we can start planning for the restoration of more normal Boatwatch activities. Here is our current thinking, always subject to any changes in Government plans for relaxation.

### **Boatwatch Hut**

As many of you will have seen, the renovation of the Boatwatch Hut is now complete. The new roof has cured the problems of water ingress and condensation on the ceiling. Many thanks to Ian and Sarah Laughton for their work repainting externally and internally, and to Amanda Cross for the magnificent artwork evoking the Hut's railway heritage. Here is Amanda putting the final touches to the decoration.



We are planning a formal re-opening on the afternoon of Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June, after which the Hut will be fully available for members to use as a base for Boatwatch patrolling again. We will confirm the details of the event early in June.

### **Boatwatch Get-togethers**

Our plans for flotilla meetings are still to have the first on 13<sup>th</sup> July, with a second one on 10<sup>th</sup> August, both of these being on evenings with big high tides.

For the autumn, we are planning for a proper face-to-face AGM with speaker in November. David Parry has recently generously donated another beautiful original painting. We will be selling raffle tickets for this at the Hut re-opening and at the AGM, with the raffle drawn at the Spring Get-together next year.

### **Boatwatching**

In the meantime, we will continue to report topics of interest through the Golant Boat Owners Association Facebook site and by e-mail.

As travel is now more possible, so people can visit their boats, and river activities are back more towards normal, we have stopped publishing monthly videos of the state of boats in the Pill, the River and on the frapes. We will re-start the videos in late Autumn.

In the meantime, enjoy the river and Keep Safe.

*David Bonsall, Chairman, Golant Boatwatch*

### **Golant Quay Users Association**

On the 'derelict' boat topic, we have now issued 6 No recorded delivery letters to the owners of the boats we believe need action, giving them 3 months to act or we will, at their expense. Also, a further 4 No more polite letters to members whose boats we believe are in danger of falling into the 'derelict' category if no action is taken. One more 'derelict' boat has been removed from the Pill.

We are about to post out our AGM notification letters that will have to be held via these letters and email responses as we did last year. The main topics in the AGM are the re-election of the committee, where Harold Richards our Vice Chair has resigned after 15 years of service. Ian Barker has kindly agreed to take on the role of Vice Chair and Simon Robins has kindly offered to join the committee. That maintains our 11 strong committee who I believe fully represent our boating community with some considerable expertise.

The significant financial commitments are the £1200 cost upgrading the track, filling in the potholes and ruts and agreeing to donate £950 towards Boatwatch expenses refurbishing their Boatwatch hut, which I hope you agree looks very impressive. We thank Tony Strachan for auditing our accounts.

We continue with our policy of keeping new membership to Golant residents only.

*Peter Edwards, Chairman GQUA*

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

#### ***Harbourmaster's Office***

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(out of office hours transferred to Duty Officer)

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## Easter Funday

Isn't it just the way! We were all in lockdown (2 or 3?) and so we were not allowed to hold Easter Funday, for the second year running. What happened? The weather was beautiful and we could have had one of the best afternoons ever. Perhaps next year.

However, it did not stop Golant socially distancing enjoying itself. To make up for the festivities there were two events held.

The first was an Egg Treasure Hunt. A number of wooden eggs, bought by Carol Gabb and beautifully decorated and numbered by Graham Estlick, were hung in various locations around the village and participants were encouraged to find where they were and record their findings on an entry sheet. After a slight hiccup when some hunters did not quite get the idea and started to recover the eggs thinking that that was the idea, the event was a great success – of course after the missing eggs had been recovered and relocated. A good number of entries were delivered to the Village Green on the Sunday afternoon and all received some chocolate reward. Thanks to Penny Parsons & Carol Gabb for organising this bit of fun.

The second event, in two parts, was a Decorated Egg competition and an Easter Bonnet contest. The entries were to be left at the front of participants' houses and were judged from there. Unfortunately there was not a great take up for these events but it was still a bit of fun and, once again, all partakers received some chocolate reward.

The results from these two competitions are listed below and some pictures from the event are in this publication. *(The 1st Prize-winners from each section are seen below; other photos are scattered elsewhere in this issue! Ed.)*

The Prize-winners were:-

### Decorated Eggs

- 1st - Varieggion - the van den Broek family
- 2nd - Box of Eggs - Fayre and Martyn Hardy
- 3rd - AstraZeneggco - the van den Broek family



### Easter Bonnets

- 1st - Gone Fishing! - Annie Budd
- 2nd - Overgrown Child Pretending to be an Adult - Sue Reardon
- 3rd - Bonnet - the van den Broek family
- 4th - Bonnet - the van den Broek family
- 5th - Bonnet - Penny Parsons

Thank you to all who took part and also thanks to the judges (they know who they are!).

*Maurie & Gail Parsons*



## Golant Sports & Carnival & Madness in the Pill

We have set the dates of **31<sup>st</sup> July** for the **Children's Sports & Carnival** and **8<sup>th</sup> August** for **Madness in the Pill** and we hope that both will be able to proceed.

We have decided to wait until we know what the Government's restrictions will be after 21<sup>st</sup> June before springing into action, so that we can be clear on what will be possible. Clearly there will still be limitations on what we can put on, but fingers crossed.

We will obviously communicate through 'Maurie Mail' and posters with possibly a flier drop through letter boxes. Here's hoping...

*Peter Edwards*



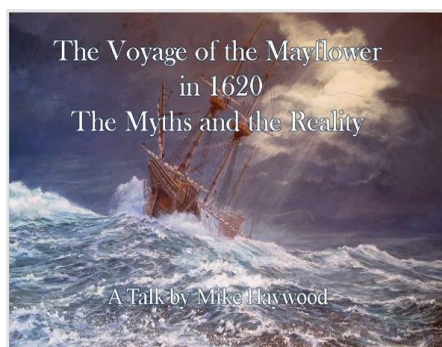
**Fowey Harbour Heritage Society** was formed in 2012 to promote the heritage of the Fowey area and to encourage more people to enjoy its rich history.

As well as our programme of talks and events, we make grants to heritage projects and work with other organisations to promote the heritage of the area. We support regular guided walks of Fowey, Polruan and Looe between Easter and October.

Membership costs £15 or £25 for two adults at the same address. An application form, and much else can be found on our website at [www.foweyharbourheritage.org.uk](http://www.foweyharbourheritage.org.uk)

**All meetings will follow the Government guidelines in force at the time so may be subject to change**

Members £5 each and non members £8



### **The Voyage of the Mayflower in 1620: Myth and Reality**

Talk by **Mike Haywood**

Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> July at 2.30pm - Fowey Church

2020 was the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflowers* historic voyage with settlers to North America. Much of it is now legendary. Mike will look at the facts we know and the Cornish connections.

Mike Haywood is an artist and oceanographer.

## **Torfrey Owners and Occupiers**

### **Hoskin and Couch families**

John Hoskin married Joane, surname unknown, here in 1576. It might have been a marriage of haste as their son John was born and christened in Golant on 20 April 1576. John senior died at '**Taffry**' (ie **Torfrey**) in 1593. His widow Joane married William Couch in St Sampson's on 20 Oct 1594. William was described as 'Gentleman' and was the son of a Bodmin tanner, baptised there in 1577.

John Hoskin junior died and was buried at St Sampson's on 8 Dec 1595 aged 19. My assumption is that in the absence of any other children, Joane had inherited the land at **Torfrey**, or the tenancy to it, which became the property of her second husband when her son John died.

Joane died here in 1620 and William in 1626. In William's will he left most of his property to James Couche, his nephew. He appears to half acknowledge a 'reputed' daughter; her mother, Martha Tome, was his servant. He did provide for Martha:-

*Item that whereas wheretofore I have by myne espycialtie and security in writing gyven and graunted unto my servant Martha Tome One hundred poundes whereof Fortie poundes is to be in hand paid and the residue at a time hereafter as by the said writings more plainly it doth and maie apeare. My will is and by theis presentes I doe give and bequeath unto the said Martha Tome Twentie pound more of good and lawfull money of England to be paid unto the said Martha at the end of two yeares next and immediately after my decease and my will is that in the meantime she shall have her habitation lodging meate Drinke and apparel at my nowe Mansion House and if myne executor faile of payment of the said some as afore-said That then my will is that the said Martha Tome shall have bould possesse manure and enjoye to her owne use and behoofe and to her best profit and Advantage all that my nowe Mansion House and all those my lands and Tenements scituate and beinge in Tallfrye Lawbippitt and Leyon for and during the terme and time of Three whole yeares and until the end of three full yeares from thence next and immediatlie following and ensuing be fullie compleatt and ended Togeather with all manner of profits easements and emoluments to the same or anie part or parcel of the same belonging or apertayninge. Item my Will is that the said Martha Tome shall two full yeares next and immediatlie following my decease have and enjoye the use and occupation of the Chamber wherein I nowe lye, soe longe as she remaines unmarried and not otherwise.*

It seems any problem of her being made homeless if she married was solved when she married the nephew, James Couch, on 4 Sept 1626, shortly before William died on 30 Dec 1626. There was a further reason as she was 5 months pregnant. James acknowledges the child as his.

It's interesting to see from the will how extensive '**Torfrey**' lands were then as they included Lawhibbet and Leyonne too.

Sue Reardon

The third article about the history of the **Torfrey** part of Golant, researched by Sue, will continue the **Couch** family's story next time ! Ed



## Village Hall Committee

### Bringing the Community Back Together

Re-opening the Village Hall is an opportunity to think about how the community can be re-invigorated. It is also an opportunity to reassure people that they can safely attend events because it is Covid-19 secure.

While some people will be cautious about re-engaging, others are keen to meet up with friends again and recent arrivals will welcome the opportunity to meet new people.

A number of halls are facing particular difficulties re-opening, owing to loss of trustees or user groups, as the usual social contacts have not taken place for such a long time.

A re-opening event is an opportunity to spread the word that village organizations are open to all, about how important the hall is to the community and that it needs, in the future, trustees and volunteers to run 'fun' community events.

Preparing for re-opening is also an opportunity to re-appraise how our Village Hall is managed, and whether the Hall could do anything more to update residents on upcoming activities and address social isolation. Are adjustments needed to booking systems, marketing; who does what among trustees and other volunteers?

As Covid grants have put the hall in a healthier financial situation, we have taken the opportunity to invest in refreshing facilities and equipment, so as to better serve our community and encourage use. *(Photos right & below!)*

I thank the Trustees and Volunteers for their hard work and flexibility where guidelines have changed; led enthusiastically by our Chair, Paul Meredith, and also our lovely members who have supported the Village Hall decisions and activities throughout these very difficult times.

*Fayre Hardy*



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## Nature Notes

It would have been nice to report that everything is flourishing in the warmth and sun, but as we all know, that's far from the reality! Having experienced an incredibly dry April, we now almost need snorkelling gear to get outdoors; I think it is one of the coldest, wettest, windiest Mays on record! So we spent April frantically trying to keep our newly planted fruit trees alive and using all the rainwater from the water butts, and then spent May covering all the vegetables with fleece to keep them warm! At least it seems that all the trees have made it through, and the fruit and veg are growing - if not abundantly; wish we could say the same for the weeds, which are flourishing! We had a profusion of cherry & pear blossoms, but the high winds had brought many tiny fruits down, so fingers crossed that we will have enough to share around again this year.

It looks as if our Barn Owl box has a resident, but it is a Tawny Owl instead. I occasionally see it watching me from the ash trees as I go around. We did have a clutch of Pheasant eggs, but being on the ground they rarely last long. The Swallow nest is doing very well, with four chicks at the moment, and we hear Skylarks from dawn to dusk (above the howling of the wind), but have never found a nest. We rescued a Hedgehog from the parking area last weekend - it was very lethargic and didn't curl up tight when it was picked up (I used to foster hedgehogs many years ago, so fairly familiar with them). I rang the *Prickles & Paws* centre in Newquay who advised taking it to the local vets, as they believed it was pretty poorly. I haven't heard back, so not sure if it didn't survive or has been transferred to Newquay!

David, helped by Dave Goss, had his first burn of the charcoal kiln, and produced some very useful barbecue charcoal! We're hoping that if it ever stops raining, he will do some more and have it for sale, so if anyone would like some, let us know.



KW-W

We had more good news in April - after winning the Gold for 'Ethical, Responsible, Sustainable Tourism' in the *Cornwall Tourism Awards*, we were put through to the South West finals..... and won another Gold! We were so amazed, as this covers everywhere from Dorset up to Bath and Avon.



Not only that, we were also given a special award for Water Conservation by *South West Water* (which is a little ironic as we are offgrid!) But the judge commended us for having a closed, circular system - everything we use comes from the land, and goes back into the land, which is something that we hadn't considered - so nice to have it pointed out! Carol & I celebrated in true Golant style, by ditching our Zoom glad rags for padded layers outside to share Covid secure bubbles! It's a shame that this year there will be no Visit Britain awards, but we are very content to enjoy these, and hopefully help other businesses in their interests to be sustainable.



Karen Wells-West



KW-W

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# Golant Gleanings

## PROUD PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

On 7th April, Ben & Fran White became first-time parents, when their baby Felix James was born. Proud grandparents Greg & Penny have been able to see the family, restrictions safely followed! Penny's happy photo shows a smiling Felix at 6 weeks old.



## FAMILY NEWS

Alice Russell and her partner Alex have recently returned to the UK after two years working in Vancouver. They are currently living in Cardiff for work reasons, and her family is delighted that she is now a lot nearer to Bristol & Cornwall.

*Valerie Russell*

## THANKS

Ellen and Graham Estlick were delighted and surprised to receive so many cards and gifts from their friends in Golant.

Thank you so much for making their 60th Wedding Anniversary so special. They had a truly delightful day despite Covid restrictions and not the best weather.

## A STEADY RECOVERY

It is good to report that Clarence Paull is making a steady recovery at home after falling and breaking his hip in April, which necessitated a hip replacement.

## PETER'S BIRTHDAY BASH

Sorry to have to announce that due to the Covid restrictions that will still be in place on 19th June, I will have to cancel any planned celebrations.

Sad, because I had hoped that it could also have been a celebration for the end of restrictions.

*Peter Edwards*

## BACKALONG

Enjoy this look back at two village carnivals from the 1960s, just in case our 2021 one cannot take place! These photos were sent to me some years ago by Edwina Webster (née Bray), and the information given below each photo comes from her. Both images seemed relevant, with the influx of many visitors to Cornwall & this year's (possible) Olympics.



1962: 'Danged ef Golant doant get Vizzitters frum all over the World'

L-R: Dorrie Hodgetts, Freda, Esther, Edwina, anon, Lamson & Dolly ('The Gang')



1968: 'Olympics – the skiers'

James & Belinda Fuge with Edwina & Thomas Bray

## **ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Annual Parish Meeting:**

As many of you will know, we were obliged to hold the Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council meeting in a public setting this year, despite current regulations. So, to comply with social distancing, we found that the only 'safe' place in the village was the church. I am indebted to the PCC for allowing us to hold our meetings there. And it was a pleasure (and a relief on such a miserable night) to see so many of our village organisations (and the Police) represented. I would like to thank them most sincerely for their contribution to the meeting and the benefit that they bring to our village life, here in Golant. Their reports will be posted on the PC web site in due course.

### **Elections:**

We were also pleased to welcome Andy Virr, who has been re-elected as our Cornwall Councillor for a further 4 years, with extra responsibilities as a 'cabinet member'! In the Parish Council meeting that followed, I was delighted to be re-elected as Chairman for another year and very pleased that our current Councillors have all remained in post as well. This stability I think will allow us to forge ahead with the various projects that we have coming up, and I am pleased to know that we will be supported by our Cornwall Councillor who follows our activities with interest.

### **Main Carpark:**

As I mentioned in the last issue of *The Pill*, we intend to modestly increase the prices of the main carpark, to avoid Golant becoming the 'cheap place' to park, and we have targeted 1<sup>st</sup> July as the change date. So, look out for that nearer the time. And thanks to assistance from the Chairman of Boatwatch, the Boatwatch Hut has been **registered** by Cornwall Council, which should allow us to get BT to install broadband, which in turn will create the ability to upgrade the parking machine to take credit/debit cards! But these things all take time, so I cannot yet confirm when the upgrade will take place! As part of our overall strategy to manage parking generally, we shall also have a look at the rental spaces and the village carpark in due course, just to ensure that we can afford the financial liabilities that lie ahead and to adequately support any future expenditure.

### **Finance:**

We are currently well positioned to pay for most of the projects in the pipeline, including the remodelling of the toilet block, (when it is devolved to us), the upgrading of the ticket machine and the re-designing of the playground. But it has been brought to our attention that when we take over the assets from *Cornwall Council*, there will be an obligation to re-surface the main carpark, which is something that we had not been aware of. So, if this becomes necessary, (and certainly the far end of the carpark near the quay is in a poor state) then we shall need to hold back substantial reserves to pay for it. Equally, as we get ever closer to final drawings and quotations for a new playground, it has become obvious that likely costs will exceed our ability to finance the project without seeking external grant funding?

### **Donations:**

There is an established calculation that provides a 'ceiling' for any Parish Council to provide 'donations.' So, it has been a pleasure to be able to support the building of the new hut in the lower church yard; the upgrading of the Boatwatch hut; financial help to purchase a 'U Turn' device for the Heritage Group and a donation to the village hall to pay for ongoing Broadband facilities. And to make life a little safer, we have had the lane into the village carpark re-surfaced. If anyone has any good idea for a project in the village, then please let me or any of the Councillors know.

As always, you can catch up with the minutes of the PC meetings by looking on the Parish Council web site: [stsampsonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://stsampsonparishcouncil.org.uk)

### **Planning Applications:**

Since the last issue of *The Pill*, we have been pleased to receive and support the following applications: PA21/02555 and PA21/04270.

*David Jenkinson*  
*Chairman St Sampson Parish Council*



## The Fowey Grammar School Foundation

The Fowey Grammar School Foundation exists to provide financial assistance to *Fowey River Academy*, *Fowey Primary School* and also individual students who pursue higher levels of education once they leave college. This important support is available to all young people up to the age of 25 and is awarded as either grants or annual bursaries. The bursaries are typically available for young people in Higher education and the grants are available to students aged 16 or over who are pursuing a vocational programme at College. The awards are available to young people who have previously attended either *Fowey Primary* or *Fowey River Academy* for no less than three years and are resident in the Civil parish of Fowey, Tywardreath, St. Sampson, Lanteglos and the Ecclesiastical parish of St. Blaise.

Given the rising costs associated with Higher Education, the awards can provide a much needed 'extra' to enable young people to support their studies. Typically, the awards are available for every year of study and involve writing a letter yearly to the Trustees outlining what you are studying and why the award would help you.

As I am on the awards committee I particularly enjoy reading these letters; the range of programmes and the dedication the young people show towards their studies is quite humbling and is far removed from the image sometimes presented in the Press! Applications are open from September and close on October 20th - be warned, applications that are received after this point will not be considered; however the trust exists to give as many grants and bursaries as possible so please apply; we regularly give away over £50,000 in awards each year so don't miss your chance to be a beneficiary. Further information can be found by contacting the clerk:

Mr. M Kotwinski 01726 812285 or [fgsclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:fgsclerk@hotmail.com)

*Chris Taylor, Trustee, St. Sampson Parish*



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## Another Cornish Joke

Three Cornish snails were being followed by a slug.  
"Aw / never!" said one. "Don't 'ee look round, but  
we're being followed, ef you plaise."  
"/knaaw", said another, "an 'tis wan o' they nudists,  
too. Ensn't it disgraceful?"



We managed to hold our AGM via zoom where all the remaining committee were re-elected and the accounts accepted, and thank Tony Strachan for auditing them. Ian Laughton has volunteered to join the committee, so welcome Ian.

The AGM was followed by a talk from Delia Webb from the *Cornwall Plastic Pollution Coalition*, of which the Friends of the Fowey Estuary are members. Delia's talk reinforced the perils of modern-day plastics and their impact on wildlife and the efforts of the CPPC to get industry and people to minimise their use.

In April, we had another zoom talk from *Prickles and Paws*, the hedgehog rescue centre. This actually benefited by being virtual as they were able to show us all around their sanctuary and we met a few of its inhabitants. Unfortunately, the sorry tales of their patients revealed that one of the major causes of injury is from strimmers, so we were asked to inspect before we strim. Hedgehogs can roam 2-4 km at night searching for food, which includes slugs, snails and caterpillars and can eat up to 100 garden pests in a night. So, we are encouraged to allow them to wander, and a small hole in our fences will help this species, which is unfortunately in decline.

We have no more planned events, as we think that if we get released from Covid restrictions then our own excursions will become the priority. Hopefully the committee will be able to meet in the autumn and start our events planning 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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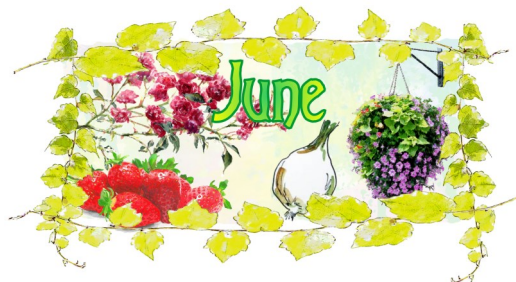
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The headings for the June & July chapters in  
*Uncle John's Gardening Year Book*

[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),  
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**£6 each or two for £10 (Mix or Match)**

## UNCLE JOHN'S GARDEN PATCH

I do believe that everyone be gwaïn around with long faces and asking just what is Mother Nature up to. Her d'just served up the hottest and driest April on record and now w'em back to January with a brave cold wind and welly boot weather! I d'naw the rain be some welcome, and she d'just villed up all the water butts and just in time too. I was about to resort to the hosepipe, but that weren't necessary thank goodness. But this 'ere wind be some cruel to any young plants trying to get going, and I've resisted the temptation of sowing any runner beans just yet. There's time enough for that because I baint dagging to be the first to pick beans; they very often catch up anyway and there's nort to be gained by being first!

'Tis time to get around deadheading all they bulbs that 'ev finished flowering and trying to set seed, but doan't 'ee cut off the foliage, let 'en die back normal like. 'Tis nature's way of putting some goodness back into the bulb, ready for next yer.

Just keep an eye on the goosegogs. 'Tis about now when the bushes are lampered with leaves and small fruit, that beastly little blimmer the sawfly comes a visiting, and if ignored the small caterpillars can strip all the leaves and fruit from off the branches, so bang goes any chance of crumbles or jam dreckly! I'm afraid 'tis time to give a spray of insecticide over the bush, but this is best done in the evening when the sun goes down; this way you don't catch any bees or other beneficial insects going about their valuable business.

Carry on with the sowing of salad crops, and the lettuce seed is best sown out of the greenhouse. It can be too hot inside and the seeds may have difficulty to germinate, and any resulting plants prone to bolting.

Talking of inside in the greenhouse, do 'ee make certain sure that there be plenty of air circulating inside to ward off any chance of damping off happening. For 'tis a wisht old job if'n all they little seedlings just curl up and die because the humidity 'ev got too high and they just can't cope.

When it d'warm up a bit and 'tis time to get any baskets or tubs out to their summer stations, do 'ee remember to water and feed 'em regularly. Because if'n you 'ev done a brave good job and crammed as many plant into the pots as you was able, then as they d'thicken up, then the canopy that they do produce will act as a shield, and any rain-fall will simply run off! And as they plants start to look a bit wisht, then there be plenty of folks around who will take delight in soon telling you that they'm dying!

June month is known as rose month, and 'tis now that roses really do come into their own. They can really set a garden off with their brave show of colours and scents and 'tis what summer be all about. But just think on if'n you'm intending to buy some new plants. Doan't 'ee be led astray by the pretty pictures on the label. Try to find out which variety will best suit your area, because they baint cheap, and 'tis just as well to get it right. Give them as good a start as you'm able, and they will go on to reward you with years of pleasure.

*Nort*



## Auntie Paddy's Recipe Corner

### Two Chutneys for Early Summer

I'm not sure that these two recipes are really chutneys; I think they are more like salsas. Anyway, they are a bit different.

The first chutney is nice with cold meats or vegetables. The second is good with fish, especially mackerel.

### Tomato Chutney

*Two Tomatoes*

*Four small Spring Onions*

*One small Chilli Pepper*

*A small piece of fresh Root Ginger*

*1/2 teaspoon Coriander Seeds*

*One tablespoon Lemon Juice*

*1/2 teaspoon Salt*

*Generous pinch of ground Black Pepper*

1. Skin the tomatoes by dropping them into boiling water for a short time. Then deseed and finely chop them.
2. Finely chop the spring onions.
3. Deseed and finely chop the chilli pepper.
4. Peel and grate the root ginger.
5. Crush the coriander seeds.
6. Season the lemon juice with the salt & pepper and stir into the prepared ingredients.

This will keep in the fridge for up to two days.

### Gooseberry Chutney

*200g/ 7oz green Gooseberries*

*One medium green Chilli*

*One tablespoon chopped fresh Mint or 1/2 tablespoon dried Mint*

*1 1/2 teaspoons Salt*

1. Top & tail the gooseberries. Halve them and remove the seeds.
2. Deseed and chop the chilli.
3. Purée the chopped ingredients in a blender and add the salt.

This will keep in the fridge for up to three days.

*Paddy Shelley*

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The second & third prizewinners in the Decorated Egg Competition



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### THE NEXT COPY DATE

Please note that the **Copy Date** for the August/September Issue is

**Wednesday 28th July**

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

[thegolantpill@gmail.com](mailto:thegolantpill@gmail.com)

## CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS

### JUNE

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Golant Heritage Group Meeting	Zoom or Village Hall
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Sampson's
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	3.00pm	Wedding (Luke Thompson & Sarah Cave)	St Sampson's
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Formal reopening of Boatwatch Hut (See page 8)	Boatwatch Hut
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's

### JULY

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Golant Heritage Group Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Boatwatch Operations Flotilla Meeting	River
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	Wedding (Tom Parsons & Amelia Cairney)	St Sampson's Village Green
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Sampson's
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Copy Date</b>	<b><i>The Golant Pill</i></b>	<b><i>thegolantpill@gmail.com</i></b>
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>	1.30pm	Wedding (Cameron Jewel & Gabrielle Lewis)	St Sampson's
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>	2.00pm	Sports and Carnival (TBC) (See page 9)	Village Green

### AUGUST

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>		Madness in the Pill (TBC) (See page 9)	Golant Foreshore

*Whilst we are delighted to restart our regular Calendar of Village Events, please be aware that there could be updated Government Restrictions should Covid-19 again take hold, thus affecting any of the above events.*

*Therefore, please keep a watch out for Maurie Mails and/or posters for any later developments.*

*Ed.*

*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.*