



The Coming of Spring



The Green Man & Mother Nature with keen accompanists!



An enthusiastic crowd danced around the sundial.

Golant does love any opportunity for a fun-filled gathering, and despite a very chilly, blustery wind, the day of our Spring Equinox celebration was no exception.

With Chris Taylor most ably donning the Green Man's mantle (Martyn being off on his son's stag do!) we gathered around the human sundial to perform our first official, uniquely Golantian, Vernal Equinox ceremony. As the Green Man sang his introductory song, accompanied by Marcus (guitar) Peter (bodhran) and Henry (drum), Mother Nature (aka Penny) led a gentle circle dance around the sundial. There followed a participatory ceremony with wonderfully enthusiastic responses from the assembled crowd. Coffee and tea served by Nick and Annie provided a welcome warming drink alongside a delicious selection of donated home baked cakes.

A seed/seedling/plant share table, co-ordinated by Jackie Smith, proved popular and although originally intended as a no charge – help yourself to what you need – venture, many people felt they wished to make a donation. In all, £24 was collected for Red Cross Ukraine.

Children at the event were given sunflower seedlings to take home to nurture and grow on, and we'll wait to see whose grows the tallest. There are still some available for any other children who would like to take part. Already suggestions have been made on how to expand this event next year . . . it looks like it might become yet another regular feature on our already busy village calendar!

Penny Parsons

P.S. There are some wonderful photos, courtesy of Robin (*Goodfellow*) Anderson on the Golant Pill FB page.

FROM THE EDITOR

Celebrations – In this issue, we have the heart-warming commemoration of the life of a revered late resident (*page 13*), a christening (*opposite*) and a report on a wedding anniversary in 1989! All three, in their different ways, are celebrations.

The latter item reflects the two Diamond Wedding celebrations in our village which were reported in the October/November issue last year. We are now featuring a 'Backalong' Diamond Wedding report of a late Golantian couple, which you can enjoy reading on page 11; some villagers will remember them! It was so pleasing to have heard from a former Golant resident, who kindly emailed and sent us the article.

There are reports on other village celebrations, including the Spring Equinox Coming of Spring, once again featuring as our cover story. It is certainly a joy to see the spring flowers in all their colourful glory in our village gardens; they lift your spirits in these difficult and often worrying times. Some spring pictures may be found scattered within this issue, and I've placed some Cornish dialect words for flowers in the opposite column.

Meanwhile, we look forward to our Easter and summer celebrations, including the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – (*details on page 10*) and The Craft & Produce Show (*full details on page 6*).

It is maybe surprising how many ex-Golantians enjoy reading the digital copy of *The Golant Pill*, easily found online within the village website. On page 17 there are details reminding readers of how to access this, and do remember, there are a large number of back copies there saved for you to view.

Gillie Harris



A Keen Water Baby!



In Issue 81, we reported the happy news of the birth of Felix James, the first-born baby of Ben & Fran White, and grandson of Greg & Penny.

Now eleven months old, he is obviously fascinated by the water in the font whilst at his baptism ceremony!

Greg writes, *"This is Felix being christened in Dorchester Abbey, where Ben & Fran were married. He seems keen on total immersion!"*

Cornish Dialect Words Relating to Flowers

Antirrhinum	Calves' snout
Columbine	Stocking & shoe, boots & shoes, granny's bonnet
Cuckoo Pint	Preacher in his pulpit
Foxglove	Pop-dock, poppydock
Gorse	Furze, fuzz
Greater stitchwort	Cats' eyes
Hydrangea	Botany Bay, high angels
Periwinkle	Gweens, queens, wrinkle
Scarlet pimpernel	Poor man's weather glass
Wallflower	Bloody warrior
Willow catkins	Lambs' tails, cats and dogs

Taken from *'A Cornish Hotchpotch'* by Kathleen Hawke

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It has been calving time at *Leyonne Farm*, and at half term we took the children to witness this vital part of the milk production sequence. The atmosphere in the barn was impressively calm, and of course the new born calves incredibly cute. The children also helped to collect the eggs, and saw the pigs which had been tiny piglets when we visited in the autumn.

This experience was followed up by a workshop in the Village Hall, which included watching a short video of a calf being born, with commentary from Bridget, tasting milk from *Trink Dairy* (Bridget's sister's farm) which is pasteurised, but not homogenised, and so as close to raw milk as safely possible, and then enjoying a number of crafty activities led by Michelle Robins.

There are lots of photos of all this on our Face Book page, including these two, below. If you are wondering how this comes under the Heritage Group remit, the intention is to find out next how milking was carried out 50 plus years ago, by talking to retired herdsmen and farmers and looking at old photographs in order to make comparisons with what they now know of modern day techniques. This is all part of our ongoing Golant and the Land project.

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed Sue's talk on tracing house history, and held the first of three presentations of her research on the House History of Golant. Thank you to everyone who has confirmed or added to the information we now have. It all helps to build a very detailed picture of our village history.

Meanwhile, we are hoping to create a GHG interpretation board for the village green, on the reverse side of the proposed new village map, with an aerial photo of the village taken by H D Drone Photography and creative layout of GHG information by Karen Wells-West. Harvey has needed several attempts to capture these shots, being thwarted by adverse weather and wind. The aim is to have this installed and the U-Turn Round post in place in time for the Jubilee celebrations in June.

Owing to the recent flurry of COVID cases in the village we decided to postpone our AGM until Tuesday April 12th, 2pm in the Village Hall. Everyone welcome.

Penny Parsons (chairman)



A study in concentration as various craft activities based on the farm visit were enjoyed.



'Pied Piper' Bridget, closely followed by eager children (and dog), ready to collect the eggs!

NEWS FROM ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH

On Tuesday 15th March over 160 people packed St Sampson's for a service to honour the life of Dr David Skerrett. *Jerusalem* and *Trelawny* were sung with fervour, and three excellent tributes paid proper respect to a devoted family man, GP, sailor, and so much more. Our thoughts are with Mary and her family on their great loss.

At the end of January, Michael Kibblewhite, Sheila's brother, a professional choir trainer and conductor, took the choir for an extended rehearsal. By the end of this session the volume and quality of singing was markedly improved, and the afternoon was both fruitful and immensely enjoyable.

By the time this issue is published we will have held the Mothering Sunday service, which will also include prayers for the dreadful suffering of Ukraine. The collection will go to Shelterbox for their work in helping refugees who have crossed the border into Poland.

Easter is the most important Christian festival, and there are morning services on Palm Sunday (10th April) and on Easter Day (17th April), as well as a Maundy Thursday service in the early evening on Thursday 14th April.

In May, we plan to hold a Handbell concert instead of Evening Prayer on Sunday 15th May, and later that month we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – details of both events will be published nearer the time.

The churchyard always looks its best at this time of the year, and, if you have not been up to look yet, do come and see the spring flowers appearing. It is well worth the walk up the hill!

After Evening Prayer on Sunday 20th March, the Annual Parish Meeting was held, with Greg White and Simon Funnell continuing as Churchwardens, and the officers of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) continuing in their present roles. One very welcome addition was the appointment to the PCC of Chris Taylor.

In April the church will undergo its five year inspection, the quinquennial survey, and we hope that our efforts to keep the fabric in good condition will prove to have been successful! To all who have supported the church over this past year, whether by helping in a churchyard clearance, attending services, donating to the Fabric Fund, or being part of the church opening rota, our heartfelt thanks. It is a beautiful Grade I listed building, and many visitors comment on how well kept it is. We can only continue to cherish it with the help of the village.

Simon Funnell

HELP – CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED

We have a roster for church cleaning which entails someone covering a two week period, and cleaning once a week at a time to suit them.

Some people work on their own and some prefer to work in pairs, allowing some time for conversation as well! At the moment we are using artificial flowers, so no flower arranging is required. For special occasions, like Easter, we use fresh flowers, but those are displayed by separate volunteers who enjoy doing floral arrangements – extra volunteers for that are also very welcome.

Our supply of willing cleaners has dwindled over the last few years, and the more cleaners we have the less frequently anyone is rostered. If you are given an inconvenient slot you are, of course, free to swap with other volunteers.

I would like to thank again all those who have done such an excellent job over the years, and also to thank the flower arrangers who come forward for special occasions.

Visitors often remark that the church is beautifully kept, and I am sure you will agree it is a valuable asset to the village. You do not need to be a church goer to join the roster, the more the merrier! If you are happy to take a turn, please contact me on 833072.

Valerie Russell

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Churchwardens

Greg White (01726 832315)
Simon Funnell (01726 833343)

Church Cleaning Rota

3rd & 10th April	Glynis
17th & 24th April	Linda
1st & 8th May	Mary
15th & 22nd May	Penny & Viviane
29th May & 5th June	Ruth & Gill P

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www.daltonyoung.co.uk

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The Golant Pill Committee

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Sub Editor/Secretary	Mike Harris	833897
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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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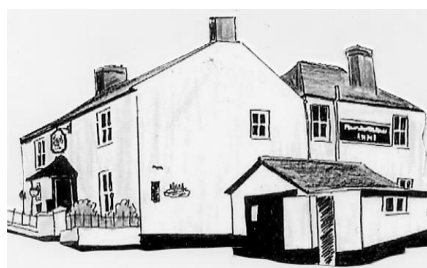
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Dave Jenkinson on;

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Email cornwall.landscaping@gmail.com

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From an original drawing by Karen Wells-West



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Pill Paparazzi in this issue

RA	Robin Anderson
AB	Anne Bonsall
GH	Gillie Harris
CL	Claire Lower
KW-W	Karen Wells-West
PW	Penny White

Golant Summer Produce & Craft Show

It is with great optimism that I write this, as the Committee are really hoping that this year's Show can go ahead on **Saturday July 30th** in the Village Hall.

Below is the schedule for this year's Show, which is based on the cancelled 2020 & 2021 Shows, but with some changes. Let's hope it will be third time lucky!

There are some lovely new people in the village, and we do encourage you to enter, and indeed, there is a special cup for the best new entrant— i.e. for an exhibit from anyone who has never entered anything in a Show before. I must stress, **"Chelsea it is not!!"**

Can I draw your attention to a few items in this schedule. In **3F) The Tallest Sunflower**. We ask you to cut off your sunflower at the base on the morning of the Show, then it will be measured by the judges. Please do not bring it in a pot, as space is very limited. You will see that there are some **Jubilee** related items to celebrate the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**.

This year's programme cover will be the prize winning one designed by Millie van den Broek in 2020 for our virtual show. When the show is confirmed, the full programme (with recipes) and entry forms will be delivered to each house at the end of June, and will be on the village website – golant.net

Janet Gore (Chair)

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 or 3 Chilli 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) Tallest Sunflower to be cut on day of show and measured by judges at the Village Hall
- 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) "Jubilee Party" 30cms x 30cms max

5) Children's Classes - under 10

- A) Make and decorate a Jubilee Crown
- B) 4 Chocolate Crispy Cakes

6) Children's Classes - 10 to 16

- A) 4 slices of Coconut Ice, **use recipe provided**
- B) Make and decorate a Jubilee Crown

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 Jubilee Cupcakes
- C) A Victoria Sponge
- 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; 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
- 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....."

A talk by Dr Bernard Deacon

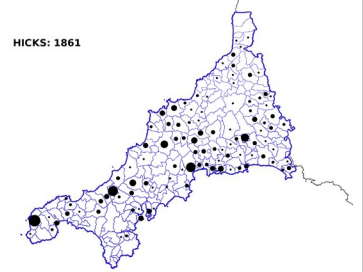
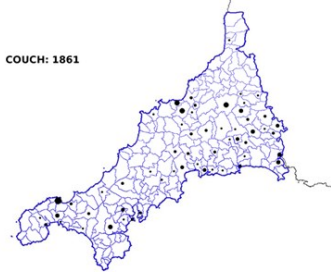
‘Surnames of the Fowey Valley’

Saturday, 23rd April at 2.30pm at **Whitecross Village Hall**

(Preceded by the FHHS AGM at 1.30pm –Members only)

What do our surnames mean? When did they appear? What can they tell us about past times in Cornwall? These questions will be answered with special reference to Fowey and district.

Bernard is a noted expert on Cornish history and recently retired from the Institute of Cornish Studies, University of Exeter.



Members £5 each (non-members £8)

Admittance will be ticketed at the door or buy via

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/foweyharbourheritagesociety/665636>

or contact our Treasurer, Andrew Gardner 07769 977116 or andrew@gardner.be

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. You will receive a copy of our annual publication, *The Barquentine*, and back copies are available to purchase for £5. An application form, and much more can be found at www.foweyharbourheritage.org.uk

(Please ensure you check publicity nearer the time just in case there have been alterations to venue or time.)

Golant Walking Group

Today, we enjoyed a splendid walk in brilliant sunshine, with fabulous views over moor and alongside sparkling rivers. (See photo) The ‘Two Valleys Walk’, a circular route starting from St. Neot, offers 5 miles, one or two demanding slopes and the occasional challenging stile – nothing to diminish our exhilaration and enjoyment. Weary feet were soon revived with a visit to the *London Inn* where cooling drinks, not to mention hearty food, rounded off a grand day out.

Early in February a large group of us were tempted by the Lerryn - Cliff circular walk. From the *Tivoli Gardens* we walked on to Cliff accompanied with lovely river views. Past Cliff we walked higher and made a little detour to take in the view over the river to Golant – a splendid panorama. From here we made our way back towards Manely Fleming from which we followed green lanes back to Lerryn, where coffee and cold drinks were popular. Another fine walk in kind weather.

Our recent shorter walk, led by Greg and Simon, took us to Charlestown – a delightful walk following the cliff with fabulous sea views. This walk has the joy of offering coffee at the halfway point, and a stop at the *Pier House* was very welcome. Our leaders had created a circular walk by returning via an inland route: the charms of Charlestown were not missed.

Now that ‘spring has sprung’ we look forward to exploring more of our local and not so local areas bedecked with daffodils, primroses and, soon, bluebells.



Anne Bonsall



By the time you are reading this we will have held the **Boatwatch Spring Get-Together**. The event was held in the Village Hall on March 25th, and took the form of a delayed AGM from 2021. We have had bookings from around 50 people, so we are hoping for an excellent event. This is the first Boatwatch indoor get-together since November 2019. Well, a lot has happened since then...

Those of you reading this who attended the event, will know who won the raffle draw for David Parry's wonderful original painting of Red Sails at Bodinnick, and also the fine prizes in the free raffle for attendees. I'm looking forward to finding out on Friday.

The recent blustery weather has caused a few issues on the river, with boats losing their moorings, becoming water filled, having covers blown off etc. We have publicised these occurrences by e-mail to members and through the Boatwatch Facebook site. We will also continue producing videos of the River Frapes and Pill after stormy periods. These will continue into April, before being suspended until the autumn. The statistics we get from Facebook and YouTube continue to show that these services are viewed by significant numbers of people.

It is getting close to the time to get our boats back out again, so a few reminders:

- Are your mooring lines and fittings in good condition and of suitable strength for your boat?
- Is your boat seaworthy and your engine(s) properly serviced and reliable?
- Are your lifejackets in good condition and are life limited components, such as the firing capsules, in date?
- If you have an outboard, is it locked to your boat with an effective locking device?
- Do you have photographs for your boats and outboards, with records of serial numbers of valuable items that could be stolen?

Here is a further reminder that we will hold flotillas this year in June and August, the first being a **'Platinum Jubilee Fleet Review'** on 14th June.

The second event, on 9th August, will be an Afternoon on the River. We will send out more details closer to the time.

So now let's look forward to the spring and getting back on the water.

David Bonsall, Chairman, Golant Boatwatch

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

Harbourmaster's Office

01726 832471
(out of office hours transferred to Duty Officer)

David Bonsall (Boatwatch)

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Village Hall Committee

This is my final Village Hall report as Chairman of the Committee for the past 7 years since April 1st (read into that what you will) 2015. It's been an interesting position.

We are very lucky to have a healthy ongoing bank account, which has enabled the Committee to improve the Hall year after year.

These improvements under my watch started with the acoustic panels, followed by a new sound system. Thus the legendary film nights were improved; with me at the DVD controls and the old coin slot electrics, some hilarious film nights ensued. Perhaps the most memorable was the film night with no film, when everyone drank wine and ate snacks, chatting away whilst I frantically tried to start the film (which had worked perfectly on its test run that afternoon), to no avail. As always, a good time was had by all...!!

Superfast Broadband was installed and then we were able to have computer training.

There was a major transformation to the Hall when a colour redecoration took place followed by the floor renovation and splendid new stage curtains. The old ones can now be seen as the Green Man's cloak, striding about the village on New Year's Day and at the Spring Equinox.

The past two years have been surprisingly positive for the locked down Hall, allowing the Committee to reinvest their Government support into the fantastic new kitchen, toilets, heating system and electrics, making it cutting edge into 2022 and beyond.

We've had some amazing events over the years, with the Auction of Promises, Frog Racing and the legendary Murder Mystery performance. The Murder Mystery dinner is extra memorable for me, as well as the hilarious performances, I struggled with several pints of custard erupting out of the slow cooker— a speedy lesson on how cold custard expands when heated!

A huge vote of thanks must go to the most wonderful hard working Committee; they have helped to make my turn as Chairman the most enjoyable and entertaining time. Keep up the great work.

Paul Meredith

Cfylm

The film evenings are a popular event in the Village Hall, and we currently have over 35 members. The Cfylm library lists mostly films that are available via mainstream TV, Netflix or Amazon. However, it's a great experience to be in the Village Hall and hear the laughter, join in a song or share a tear.

There a couple of films that have been suggested by villagers which aren't yet available. However, as soon as they are, they will be added to this year's programme.

Carol Gabb

Advertising Rates

There are three sizes of advertisement available to you in either vertical or horizontal form.

Please note: The size may vary to fit the space available, but will be the same square area as far as possible.

A **65mm x 60mm**
@ £40 for six issues

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Additional £15 for colour for all sizes.

Preferably, Artwork/Copy should be emailed to thegolantpill@gmail.com

An invoice will then be sent to you by Karen Wells-West.

Alternatively, send your artwork or copy as required, together with an appropriate crossed cheque made out to **The Golant Newsletter**

to Karen Wells-West, Bloweys, Downs Hill, Golant, PL23 1LJ

La Soupe Populaire

The last of the season's soup will be served on April 13th and recommence in October.

It's a great way to meet up with fellow villagers over a bowl of soup and something sweet to accompany a cafetière of coffee or a pot of tea.

**Pasture
fed beef**



You are welcome to visit the farm.

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

On the right as you go down to Golant

Leyonne Farm Produce

We are offering our home-reared produce for sale (while stock available)

Beef, Pork (some bacon and ham), Eggs

Boxes of fresh meat available to order twice a year.

Or phone ahead and we'll find it!

Tel. Bridget or Martin on 01726 833068/ 07854 735205

Golant Easter Egg Hunt– Good Friday 15th April

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

20 numbered wooden egg shapes, beautifully decorated by Graham Estlick, will appear around the village on Good Friday. You are invited to look out for these eggs when out and about on your walk, make a note on the entry form of where you spot each egg, and its colours, and then bring your completed form to the Village Green on **Good Friday** between **4pm & 5pm**.

The Easter Bunny & Co, thanks to sponsorship from The Sanctuary, have a basket of chocolatey rewards for all participants with successfully completed (or nearly completed) forms.

Entry forms (and a map showing the boundaries of where to look) will be sent out via Maurie Mail, can be obtained from Carol Gabb: cagabb23@gmail.com Penny Parsons: pzparsons@yahoo.co.uk or Nick at *The Fisherman's Arms*.

Have fun! STAY SAFE! Be alert for traffic at all times.



Easter Fun Day – Sunday 17th April



All things being equal, **The Prat in the Hat** will be back to MC our usual fun events by the pub from 2.30pm (ish).

Don't forget– **Decorated Eggs, Easter Bonnets, Egg Rolling, Egg & Spoon Races**, as well as **Egg Throwing**.

This year, in addition to the competition for the prestigious **Golant Egg Cup**, we have a new competition for the **Estlick Cup**.

This will be for the **Ladies' teams Egg Throwing**.

Prizes for all, plus a **Raffle** and a **BBQ**.



Maurie Parsons (alias The Prat in the Hat)



Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Event

On Sunday 5th June from 3pm to 6pm we are having a **Village Tea Party** on the road in front of *The Fisherman's* to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 70th Anniversary.

Tables and chairs are provided, but please bring your own picnic. 70 years of music will be playing along.

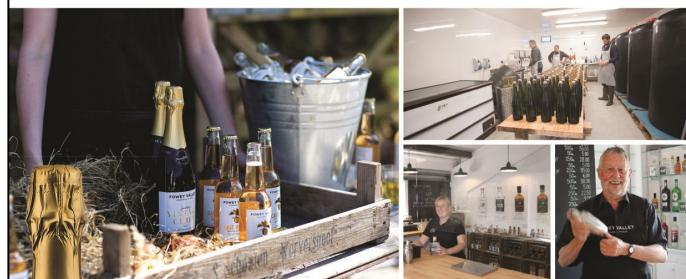
Red, white and blue dress code, with a competition for the best CROWN headdress.

Please let's have those houses decorated in **RED, WHITE & BLUE** for the Jubilee period.

Paul Meredith



FOWEY VALLEY CIDERY & DISTILLERY



We've moved! We still crop the orchard at Hybadore in Golant but now have a large unit on the old Dairy in Lostwithiel with room for our new Distillery. Look down on your right as you come through the gates to the estate that's us!

We have a lovely shop that's open 10 till 4 Monday to Friday, with all our products available to taste. If you're interested, and we can, we'd love to show you around and tell you how we make everything! On Fridays we do a longer tour – Book online. Or come and learn how to make Cider or Gin at one of our regular experiences. Take home a bottle of Gin you've made or a gallon of your own Cider. Book online. So come and see us or check out the website. Free delivery on orders over £50!

Fowey Valley Cider, Unit 11, Restormel Estate, Lostwithiel PL22 0HG
www.foweyvalley.co.uk

A Diamond Wedding Celebration in 1989 for a late Golantian Couple

Freedom – the key to bliss

FREEDOM is the key to a successful marriage according to Rene and Wilf Dixon, of Golant (pictured right) who celebrated their Diamond Wedding this week.

The couple, who live at The Old Post Office, Fore Street, celebrated 60 years of marriage with family and friends.

As the couple have lived all their life in the area they have become well known by friends and neighbours.

Wilf, who was born in the village, recalls a time when the place was much smaller and quieter and recollects attending the village school, which has since been closed.

During their early twenties, the couple first met and later married at Golant Church.

A former Home Guard during the war, Wilf later worked as a farm bailiff and served for 20 years with British Rail.

'Rene', as she is known to her friends, was born in Fowey and spends much of her time doing work for charity. During the war she worked for the Red Cross and in later years has worked for a local estate agent.

Now both enjoy retirement and Rene's interests include art and gardening together with her husband. He still maintains a strong interest in singing, having been a former baritone with the Fowey Male Voice Choir for ten years.



Wool appeal

St. Austell's Save the Children group have appealed for balls of wool for their contribution to the Third World. From tomorrow, Friday, they will collect balls of wool at St. Austell Library to make garments and rugs for underprivileged children.

Many present-day Golantians will remember the couple reported in this local Guardian newspaper cutting from April 1989, a scanned copy of which was thoughtfully emailed to *The Golant Pill* by a former resident, Vivienne Johnson, who lived with her husband Malcolm in *Norway Cottage* from 1977 to 1982, whilst Wilf & Rene Dixon lived at *The Old Post Office*. Rene died in November 1990, the year after their Diamond Wedding.

Vivienne wrote, "Mr & Mrs Dixon living nearby were good neighbours of ours. Mr Dixon built our boundary Cornish wall along the lane hedge up between Norway & Tinneys."

We certainly remember Wilf Dixon. When we moved here in August 1997 he had just celebrated his 90th birthday, and nearly achieved his century, passing away in November 2006. He was quite a character! The 1939 Register records the couple living in *South Torfrey Cottage* (our present home); her name was 'Lavinia I.', (short for Irene, hence the 'Rene' in the article.) Wilf was a 'Horseman on Farm', which would have been *South Torfrey Farm*, as our cottage was originally built for the farm workers. According to the late Geoff White, formerly of the farm, Wilf could still vault over a five-barred gate in his 80s!

Vivienne is happy to be remembered, and adds that having bought *Norway Cottage* in 1977, their first move to refurbish it was to "clear the 'drive-in' next to the cottage alongside the lane. In doing so, the digger cut through the main cable to the village mid cooking Sunday roasts. We met a lot of people that day!"

Gillie Harris



Spring has indeed sprung!

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Nature Notes

Spring has officially arrived-via a lovely ceremony on the Green on Sunday 20th! Being out and about every day we have noticed the tiny signs on our walks - buds becoming green, and then one leaf, and then a whole tree out. There are certain trees, even within a group of the same varieties, that come into leaf long before the others. We have a beautiful Blackthorn that is always covered in white blossom long before all the others! Interestingly, a large bank of wild Daffodils that came up 'blind' for a few years have suddenly burst out with a profusion of flowers - we wonder if it was the fact that we had more wet weather last year when they would have been taking in nutrients for the following year? It seems to be a good spring for Violets- there are lots at the edge of the top path along the Downs, along with the usual bluebell leaves and wild garlic! Primroses are plentiful too, having scattered themselves down through our woods, and there is almost nowhere without them now! Our pond appears to have some slightly larger than usual wildlife - a pair of ducks are eyeing it up - not sure it's a good idea as it's pretty open to all the other animals that might welcome a duck dinner.....

The 'wood group' have done an amazing job helping David with cutting and splitting all the wood that was blown or cut down - all the left over brash will be left in piles to rot down and provide some habitat shelter for wildlife. Some larger pieces will probably go to the charcoal kiln later on - if anyone is interested in the process and would like to help and learn then give David or myself an email and hopefully we can arrange a nice, dry day!
(thesanctuarycornwall@gmail.com)

Also, on the subject of trees, David (with his Parish Council hat on!) has received some good interest in the idea (from a parishioner) of planting Jubilee fruit trees in the village. We hope to organise a day to invite interested villagers to come and have a look at our trees and have a chat about planting/caring for them and the merits of different varieties. I believe the idea will be to put in a bulk order for delivery and planting in the autumn.

There may be mention of it elsewhere in the Pill, but someone has reported seeing a Swallow nearby - I checked my notes from last year, and our 'gang' arrived back in our carport on 30th March, which was very early compared to the previous years. So I am now watching and waiting with fingers crossed that they will make it back again to us - it always seems nothing short of a miracle that these tiny, delicate birds can make a journey with such precision - something most of us would fail to be able to do!

Just to end - we were in Truro this week, and watched the Kestrels calling and flying to their nests somewhere around the towers of the Cathedral - you can find so much nature to see practically anywhere!

Karen Wells-West



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Golant Gleanings

DAVID SKERRETT

The village came together on 15th March to commemorate the life of our much respected, local GP - David Skerrett, known far and wide as "Doc".

David was born and bred in Bristol and studied Medicine at Bristol Royal Infirmary, qualifying in 1958. His first job was in Plymouth before joining the Fowey Practice in June 1961. David and Mary lived for a while on The Esplanade and then moved to *Toynes* at Castle Dore which had a garden suitable for their increasing family. They moved into *Drinnicks* on Water Lane in Golant in February 1967.

David was what is called today a "people person". People, whether family, friends or patients really mattered to him. You only had to see the look of delight on his face when he met one of 'his' babies. He had the great ability to explain what was wrong with you in simple terms, often with the help of a diagram drawn on a scrap of paper. Unlike a lot of today's doctors, David would turn out in the middle of the night, often crossing over to Polruan.

His main interest was sailing. Together with Mary and a motley crew of local layabouts he would cross the Channel and cruise the Brittany coast. He was a very careful sailor; always keeping a eye on the weather. The first ever crossing in *Sarifa* saw him approaching the North Brittany coast in thick fog at dawn. The entrance to L'Aberwrach can be difficult anyway. As the fog cleared we looked up and saw the tallest lighthouse in the world, looming right above us. A quick retreat was called for! French cuisine was one of his joys and he would walk miles to a new restaurant (usually at the top of a steep hill), often to find it closed!

David much enjoyed company, usually over a pint or two. He was responsible for starting the village 'Meet and Greet' - a get-together in the Village Hall with the aim of getting to know people who had recently arrived in the community.

He also was the leading light of 'Chapel,' a regular Thursday night session in *The Fisherman's* or *The New Inn*, attended largely by friends from Fowey.

He was a great one for researching deeply into subjects that interested him. He was, for example, an expert on old Cornish cider presses and on camellias. He was not a keen gardener, but one year decided to grow cucumbers in his greenhouse, with so much success that he had to give the surplus away to friends and family. In fact people used to turn and run in the opposite direction if they saw him with an ominously shaped parcel.

He was always on hand to help with village events such as the Carnival, and on two occasions acted as joint Master of Ceremonies for the GRADS review - a job he much enjoyed, as it gave him the chance to be sarcastic about people's efforts on the stage. On a more serious note, he was for several years Chairman of the then newly founded Parish Council.

A truly unique man who will be enormously missed by all who knew and loved him.

Alastair Barr

Meet and Greet - Spring Bonus!

One of the mainstays of Golant village life is back with a spring bonus **Meet and Greet** this April 24th in the Village Hall from 1pm to 3pm.

Meet n Greet is a totally *informal* gathering of villagers to welcome newcomers (well, that's the excuse). We have missed it for over two years now (Covid) and this is a chance to honour two of the stalwarts of this fest: David (Doc) Skerrett and Peter Stone. To the initiated- PLEASE spread the word and encourage newcomers to attend and have some fun. To the uninitiated- we all bring a 'bottle or two' PLUS SOME NIBBLES/ TAPAS/CAKES/PIES/.... [Subject to any Government Covid restrictions in place at the time].

Any questions or queries to jeremylloydevans@gmail.com.

ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings:

My apologies... In the last issue of *The Pill*, I confirmed that Parish Council meetings were back to our normal schedule of being held every fourth Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall, only to discover that we have had to delay our March meeting until the fifth Tuesday this month, and it will be in the Church (because the village hall is already booked!). So, our thanks to the Churchwardens for allowing us to meet in the church. At least the time is the same at 7.15pm, with the first 15 minutes available for anyone who would like to address the Councillors. When I receive the agenda from the Parish Clerk, I will post it on the Notice Board as normal.

Devolution:

I explained in the last issue that we were finally making progress on Devolution. Well, that was maybe slightly premature, as (since then) a number of the key 'officers' of Cornwall Council have recently volunteered to take redundancy, which seems to have brought the activity to a standstill.

I did in the meantime invite Network Rail to offer up the Boatwatch Hut as part of the overall devolution scheme (which of course would be ideal for the village) but they confirmed that they had no interest in giving up their freehold title to the land on which the Boatwatch Hut stands. But it was worth a try!

Yellow Lining:

This has been something of a disaster. We applied over two years ago to extend the double yellow lines just beyond *Island House* to ensure that an emergency vehicle would have the required space to get through that part of the road. The Council agreed that it would also make sense to overpaint any double yellow lines (beyond that) where they were badly worn! After many emails, a yellow lining team were finally despatched to the village, only to find that their vehicle was too large. So, they had to return to base and come back with a smaller alternative. On the second visit they then discovered that the road was too wet for the paint to dry, so had to abandon the task for a second time. We eagerly await their re-appearance on a dry day when the road is clean enough?!

Golant Apple Blossom Time:

We were particularly delighted recently, to receive the brilliant idea of trying to re-create the apple and pear tree blossom that Golant used to be famous for, many years ago. So, I do hope you have received and read David Johns' 'Maurie Mail' inviting as many people as possible in the village to take up the offer of a free apple tree or trees. We plan to have 70 trees available to celebrate the Queen's 70th Jubilee.

Please contact David Johns with your preferences at: gogolant@gmail.com so that we can put a bulk order together.

David Jenkinson
Chairman St Sampson Parish Council
david.jenkinson01@gmail.com

Some Cornish Sayings relating to the Spring Season

If the first lambs of the season are looking towards you that is a sign of good luck.

If the first lamb of the season is a ewe, then the farmer's wife is boss for the ensuing year and vice versa.

To remove bees on Good Friday will cause them to die.

A maid-servant who brings in a branch of hawthorn on the first of May is entitled to a dish of cream.

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

GRADS Revue

The time is fast approaching for the GRADS (Golant Really Amateur Dramatic Society) Revue, and we are still looking for local talent to participate in the performances on the evenings of Friday 22nd April & Saturday 23rd April, with a run through on Thursday 21st.

We are looking for any kind of entertainment— comedy sketches, monologues, songs, poetry, music recitals – that you think will entertain the vast audiences that the Revue attracts.

Each slot should last for 5 to 10 minutes. (Past performances can be seen on You Tube).

We already have some Acts booked, but need more, so get your creative juices flowing and give either me or Penny Parsons a ring to secure your place in Golant history.

Martyn Hardy: 01726 833380 or martynhardy@btinternet

Penny Parsons: 01726 832727 or pzparsons@yahoo.co.uk



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Following on from our successful events in February, (except that is for the Beach Clean that had to be cancelled due to bad weather), we have decided to go ahead with our 2022 programme of events.

Accordingly, we have issued the membership renewals, and the Events programme cards are printed and will be posted out ASAP.

Our next event on the 29th March in Golant Village Hall at 7.30pm and is the AGM, but more importantly we have Rupert Kirkwood, also known as the 'Lone Kayaker', giving us a talk on ospreys, and in particular the ospreys that were with us in the estuary at the end of the summer last year.

This is followed by a Rockpool Ramble on Tuesday 19th April at *Readymoney Beach* between 1.00pm and 3.00pm.

Then, a bluebell walk in *Lantyan Woods*, and we will confirm the date once we know when the bluebells will be at their best. This is followed by a joint event with the 3 Bays Wildlife group on Sunday 5th June at 10.30am to go to *Dodman Point* to carry out some wildlife watching from the headland.

Recently, some Friends of the Fowey volunteers have helped with the oyster 'bashing' organised by the Fowey Harbour Office. This project is now in its fourth year and is monitoring the distribution and density of Pacific Oysters in the estuary. The culling of this invasive non-native species is being undertaken in an attempt to control the numbers that are breeding in the estuary. We are seeing low rates of re-settlement which is encouraging but there are still plenty of areas to tackle. If you're interested in helping, contact Claire at clairehoddinott@foweyharbour.co.uk

Peter Edwards & Claire Hoddinott



KW-W



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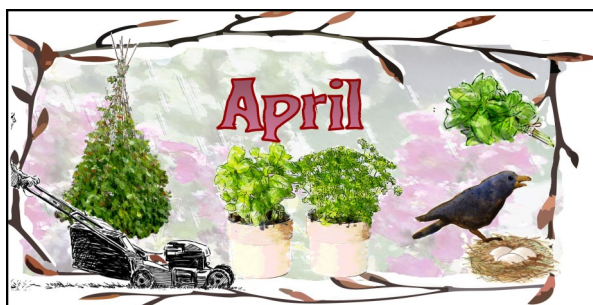
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The headings for the
April & May chapters in
Uncle John's Gardening Year Book

[Uncle John's Gardening Year
& Auntie Paddy's Recipe Book](#)

These *Golant Pill* publications are usually 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

Happiness is when you'm able to sink the shovel in the ground and be able to turn the soil over without it becoming lagged up, after a brave long spell of beastly old weather. Things are moving at last and 'tis now you'm able to see just what 'tis that 'ev survived the winter.

But I d'believe that this yer most damage 'ev bin caused to the plants be the rain and winds. There 'ev bin a brave bit more clearing up to do after they there winds and rain than any frosts this yer, which 'ev bin unusually mild. I doan't think I 'ev seen any frost so far this winter, YET!!

I d'knew that seasons bain't as they used to be, but father always used to say that the last chance of frost was the last full moon in May. So there be plenty of time left yet for Jack Frost to put in an appearance and upset the applecart!

Any first and second early teddies can go in the ground as soon as the soil be vitty enough to work. The same applies to broad beans, but they'm in need of some sort of support dreckly as they d'grow up, be it canes or strings to stop them being blawn around so bad, for they'm terribly prone to stem rot after being rubbed against the surface of the soil.

But 'tis in the greenhouse that the real work can take place with sowing seeds in pots and trays. A thought as to how things be gwain on, prhaps 'twouldn't be such a bad idea if'n they that d'have a bit of ground that they can use to grow a few vegetables for their own use. There's nort better than being able to dig up or eat your own produce as and when you want it. And when 'tis all said and done, 'tidn't rocket science to grow summat from a packet of seed and think of the satisfaction you can get from a row of lettuce, instead of having to cut the lawn! I d'knew just what I d'prefer.

'Tis time to get they tubs and pots out from wherever they 'ev bin stored, give 'em a bit of a dust off and get 'em filled with the summer bedding plants that you d'prefer. There be sloads of handsome plants now in they there plant centres if'n you doan't feel like growing from seed. The only difference be, that from seed you get to choose zackly what sort 'tis you d'want to 'ev.

When you come to plant up, then doan't ee be afraid to put they plants in brave and close together, covering the surface, because then when they d'grow up, they'll put up a brave show. 'Tis then you 'ev got to mind yourself to water and feed 'em regularly, because folks will be only too quick to let ee know that they'm looking some wished, and in need of some attention!

But 'tis too soon just yet to put them out where they'm gwain to stand all summer, they d'need to be somewhere a bit sheltered like, until dreckly on when Mother Nature decides she's gwain to turn the heat up a brave bit! Jist when that'll be is anyone's guess!!

Nort

Auntie Paddy's Recipe Corner

There are plenty of plums around to buy at the moment, and this recipe keeps well in the fridge for several days. In fact, it is a good 'make ahead' dessert. It is good with cream or ice-cream, or for a more substantial dessert, try it with a milk pudding or an egg custard.

Plums in Ginger

2 punnets of Plums

About 6 rounds of Stem Ginger

Sugar to sweeten, depending how sharp the plums are

About a glassful of Ginger Wine

1. Stone the plums by cutting all around them and twisting. Some are easier than others, but there is no need to wait until the fruit is riper.
2. Chop the ginger into small pieces.
3. Add a little sugar. More can be added after cooking to get the desired sweetness.
4. Add the ginger wine. *Crabbies* or *Stones* are two of the best.
5. Add the same amount of water.
6. Cook in a covered dish in the oven at 180°C/ Gas Mark 4 for 35 minutes. Turn the fruit, and cook for longer if you think it needs more time.

To Microwave, obviously use a micro-proof safe container and micro-wave on high for about 6 minutes. Gently turn the fruit and return for another 3 minutes. If you prefer the fruit softer, cook for a further few minutes, but you don't want the fruit to break up too much.

Paddy Shelley



Three to One?!!



For those readers who enjoyed following last year's 'Hen Party Diaries', recording the white hen pheasants here at our cottage and at Clarence Paull's home, here is a brief 2022 update.

Firstly, neither Gill Paull nor I have had ANY recent sightings of Whitenut or Ali, as we named them. Where have they gone?

Here, this season, we have a splendid cock pheasant, who has been visiting most days with 3 females (ordinary plumage) in tow! In the photo above, you can't easily spot the third hen, who, believe me, is just beyond him.

Hence my title, in case you were wondering?!

Gillie Harris

THE NEXT COPY DATE

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

Wednesday 25th May

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

thegolantpill@gmail.com

FINDING *The Golant Pill* ONLINE

If you prefer not to have a hard copy of our newsletter, or would like to catch up with previous PDF copies online, just go to our village website at

golant.net

Below the lovely image of our river, click on **Golant Pill**, where you will find copies going as far back as the April/May Issue for 2017.

CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS

APRIL

Friday 1 st	10.30am	Book shelf/coffee, tea and chat	Village Hall
Sat 2 nd /Sun 3 rd	10.00am-4.00pm	GHG Presentation 1: House History Golant (North)	Village Hall
Sunday 3 rd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 10 th	9.30am	Palm Sunday Communion Service	St Sampson's
Tuesday 12 th	2.00pm	Golant Heritage Group AGM	Village Hall
Wednesday 13 th	12.15pm	La Soupe Populaire	Village Hall
Thursday 14 th	6.00pm	Service for Maundy Thursday	St Sampson's
Friday 15 th	4.00pm-5.00pm	Easter Egg Hunt rewards from Easter Bunny (See page 10)	Village Green
Saturday 16 th	2.30pm	Afternoon tea	Village Hall
Sunday 17 th	9.30am	Easter Day Communion Service	St Sampson's
Sunday 17 th	2.30pm	Easter Fun Day (See page 10)	By the Pub
Fri 22 nd /Sat 23 rd	7.30pm	GRADS Revue	Village Hall
Sunday 24 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 24 th	1.00pm-3.00pm	Meet and Greet –Spring Bonus! (See page 13)	Village Hall
Tuesday 26 th	7.15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Friday 29 th	7.30pm	Cfylm Night 'Le Mans 66'	Village Hall

MAY

Sunday 1 st	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Friday 6 th	10.30am	Bookshelf/coffee, tea and chat	Village Hall
Sunday 8 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 10 th	2.00pm	GHG meeting	Village Hall
Sunday 15 th	6.00pm	Handbell hymns and folk tunes (See page 4)	St Sampson's
Saturday 21 st	2.30pm	Afternoon tea	Village Hall
Sunday 22 nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 24 th	7.15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Wednesday 25th	Copy Date	<i>The Golant Pill</i>	thegolantpill@gmail.com
Friday 27 th	7.30pm	Cfylm Club	Village Hall
Sunday 29 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's

JUNE

Friday 3 rd	10.30pm	Bookshelf/coffee, tea and chat	Village Hall
Sunday 5 th	3.00pm-6.00pm	Platinum Jubilee Street Tea Party (See page 10)	Roadway along foreshore
Tuesday 14 th	5.00pm-8.00pm	Platinum Jubilee Fleet Review	

AUGUST

Advance notice for your Diaries:

Saturday 6 th	Golant Sports and Carnival	Village Green
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If you have any item you wish to be entered into this Calendar of Village Events, please contact

Penny Parsons,

the Parish Diary Member of our team, (tel: 832727) by the Copy Date shown on this page of the newsletter, and we will try to include it.